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Drugs found in loch plunge car

A CAR that veered off the road and into Loch Fochan, was found to contain more than just four fishermen from Paisley. The car came off the A816 a few hundred metres beyond Kilmore and landed upright on the marshes unable to move. When police were called to help the stranded vehicle, little did they know they were about to find a cocktail of drugs and offensive weapons. Police who attended the incident made a check of the car. Finding a cocktail of A, B and C Class drugs and offensive weapons, the driver declined to take a breath test at the scene and was detained. The driver was later charged with possession of the drugs and offensive weapons and a report was made to the procurator fiscal.

Oban advert an internet hit

A COMMERCIAL advertising the beauty and perfection of Oban, has become an internet hit. The Oban.Perfect. campaign was the brainchild of Oban Phoenix Cinema and was made by James Grey at Kinetic. The commercial had 1,000 hits within its first 24 hours and it is now hitting the 5,000 mark. It shows local characters going about their daily work. Highlighting the freshness of the produce of Oban, Lorn and the Isles, it was funded by the Community Food Fund. Eleanor MacKinnon, community outreach manager at the cinema, said: 'We are delighted the advert has been such a big hit. We want everyone to use it and share it.' For a digital version of the advert, contact Eleanor at admin@obanphoenix.com.

Weatherman takes up games challenge

WEATHER presenter Sean Batty has confirmed he is swapping an umbrella for a heavy-weight hammer at this year's Lorne Highland Games. The Paisley-born STV meteorologist will be raising funds as part of a Scottish wide challenge and hopes to join organisers for their second annual event on Sunday, June 22.



Fundraiser Cameron visits Oban Times

Oban High School pupil Cameron Allen visited The Oban Times as part of his Job-a-thon fundraiser, which has already raised more than £1,000 for the Brittle Bone Society. The Appin boy, who suffers from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (or Brittle Bone Disease) attempted to do as many different jobs as he could, including farming, fire fighting and sports coaching, in 12 hours. While in our office, he wrote his own story for The Oban Times, which can be read on page 2. 16_119cameron01

Police target residents' areas of concern

TWO MOTORCYCLISTS face losing their licences after they were caught speeding in and around Oban. One biker was travelling at 110mph in a 60mph zone while the other was travelling at 94 mph in a 60mph area. Both were charged with dangerous driving and reports made to the procurator fiscal. Police say they are focusing their activity on dangerous driving, anti-social behaviour and breaches of the licensing laws in a focused attempt to disrupt crime over the coming month. They say these are by far the biggest concerns

local residents bring to them. Police have launched Operation Myriad, which will last throughout May with extra resources tackling the dangerous driving witnessed by residents on an almost daily basis alongside other major concerns. Inspector Julie McLeish and Sergeant Mike Wood, of Oban Police, explained the concerns of residents will be targeted. 'Operation Myriad will be in addition to our normal policing,' said Inspector McLeish. 'We have a commitment to disturbing crime and focusing on the behaviour that causes most concern to our communities.'

Demolition the only way forward for old school site

Thirty seven flats planned for former Rockfield

THE OLD Rockfield Primary School should be demolished. That's the finding of a confidential survey prepared for housing association Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), giving the strongest indication yet that demolition is the only realistic option for the council. The document was presented to ACHA board members last month, but it will be another month before it is discussed by councillors in Oban. An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman confirmed a report will go to members of the Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee on Wednesday June 11. ACHA's preferred option is

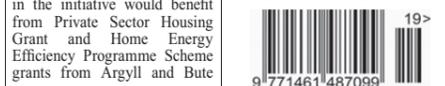
to demolish the building and it is understood the housing association hopes to build 37 flats on the land. The town centre building has lain empty for almost eight years, after pupils moved to Oban Primary School Campus. For a number of years councillors have expressed concerns about slow progress in moving matters forward for the site. A group was set up to save the school for community use. But it didn't note an interest in the building when it went onto the open market in 2012. ACHA then stepped in with a plan for a feasibility survey in January 2013. The £50,000 options appraisal

Work starts on Soroba roughcasting project

PROBLEMS with a lack of roughcasting work in part of the Soroba area of Oban look to have been alleviated after the scheme's social housing provider began works costing £1m. On Tuesday Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) started a major roof and roughcast project in the Soroba estate. There are seven tenement blocks involved and 56 homes, of which 13 are in owner occupation. The contractor appointed is CCG (Scotland) Ltd from Glasgow and the work is scheduled to last for five months. ACHA said the owner occupiers in the initiative would benefit from Private Sector Housing Grant and Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scheme grants from Argyll and Bute Council. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Anyone who has visited Soroba recently will have seen the need for the external improvements to the properties. I am particularly pleased that in an estate with a 50/50 split between ACHA and owner occupied properties we have been able to take this forward and secure grants to assist owners.' There are more than 300 properties in the Soroba estate, half of which have been sold under Right to Buy. The other half are owned by ACHA and rented.

Crisis as care provider withdraws service

A CRISIS in adult care services in Oban, Lorn and the Isles is being managed by a 'contingency' plan, says Argyll and Bute Council. A spokeswoman said: 'We are in close contact with the providers who are withdrawing their services, and we have contingency plans in place. The lead in time given by the providers has allowed for alternative arrangements to be made with no disruption to the care provided. 'Care at home provided by external providers was introduced in 2012, and the council is continuing to develop relationships with care providers as well as increasing the number of providers with whom we work.'



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Campaign to reinstate maternity scanning in Oban gains ground with online petition

CALLS to reinstate maternity scanning at Oban are gaining momentum after an online campaign received more than 250 signatures from as far afield as New Zealand. The scanning services were removed from Lorn and Islands Hospital in 2013 and pregnant mums say they are starting to feel the strain. A group has been commissioned within the NHS to look at the specific issues of travelling mums. The campaign, led by Mull Community Council chairman Michael Shilson, said: 'Please reinstate the maternity scanning facilities at Oban hospital, as it causes undue stress and financial cost to our mums-to-be to travel to Paisley hospital'. It is on the influential change.org website. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, policy lead at Argyll and Bute Council for children and families, said: 'Not only is it costing the public purse by having to send all our mums away to Paisley for

scans, but it is causing undue stress to mum-to-be and unborn baby. Alison Dugdale from the Isle of Mull writes, 'You wouldn't treat cattle the way expectant mothers are treated'. Catherine McGarva, a retired midwife from Fionnphort, said: 'I feel strongly that this service should be reinstated as soon as possible for the benefit of mothers and babies. A NHS spokesman said staff in Oban didn't have sufficient training to carry out the scans. 'Recent guidance requires professionals carrying out scans to undertake a one-year accredited post graduate certificated course. 'A review of our service in late 2013 indicated that there was a level of risk in not complying with these standards and a decision was made to suspend scanning in Argyll and Bute until the right training and supervision were in place to

ensure the delivery of safe and effective scanning services. 'As a result of these changes women are now offered scanning services in Glasgow. 'At the same time we are committed to where clinically appropriate delivering services as close to home as possible and have established a local review group to explore and identify the best option for renewing local scanning services. 'The group has met twice and is due to meet again in May to review the options for the delivery of local scanning services. 'These options will consider workforce and training requirements, equipment needs, development of clear patient pathways and guidelines and the establishment of strong links with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. 'It is anticipated that proposals on the best way forward will be finalised by July this year.'

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Pensioner pleads guilty to fire charges

A PENSIONER pushed burning paper through the letter boxes of neighbours' homes, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Gordon McQuarrie, aged 76, who used to live at Lynn Court in the town, pled guilty to wilfully setting fire to a quantity of paper and placing it through the letter box of a neighbouring flat on January 7 whereby the fire took effect and damaged the premises to the danger of the occupants and adjoining properties; and also to the same actions the following day at another flat.

Duncan Durbin, McQuarrie's defence agent, said he had been found to be sane and fit to plead.

'Obviously this is a case where I need to have reports,' said Sheriff Douglas Small, who asked for psychiatric and social reports on McQuarrie and deferred sentence until May 27.

Argyll no place for debris

ABANDONED fish farm cages on the shores of South Sian are blotting the landscape, says Oban community councillor George Berry.

The intrepid campaigner for a cleaner area says it is 'unacceptable for companies to come to Argyll, take all they can from the sea then just abandon their debris.'

George saw the fish cages while he was making his way to a pipe band practice in Fort William. He immediately got in touch with various business and local councillor Elaine Robertson to sort out the mess.

George said: 'After my investigations it seems the cages belong to an operator who has moved away from the area. While they look abandoned, they may still belong to someone and that is why no one has moved them.'

'I have been in touch with the Crown Estates in Edinburgh. We can not have this mess left lying around.'

Councillor Robertson has reported the matter to council officials to investigate the matter.

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Councillor Robertson has reported the matter to council officials to investigate the matter.

Early guilty plea in drink driving case

SHERIFF Douglas Small told a man he had saved himself £150 in fines and three months of driving disqualification when he appeared before him in court last week.

The discounts were for pleading guilty to the first available opportunity.

Sean Paul Nicholas Perry, who lives in the staff quarters at Taycraggan Hotel, Kilchrennan, admitted drink driving on April 22 on a road near the hotel; his breath test reading was 52 and the limit is 35.

Perry, aged 32, who works in the housekeeping and maintenance department at the hotel, was not legally represented.

He told Oban Sheriff Court: 'I made a bad decision on the day, I am 100 per cent guilty. I do not make a habit of it. I'm here to take whatever punishment I get.'

The court was told Perry put his car off the road. A concerned motorist found it abandoned and called the police. Perry was subsequently traced and breathalysed.

Sheriff Small fined him £300 and disqualified him for 12 months.

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Real or surreal: a photograph reportedly from Kilchoan on May 2. Sent to The Oban Times by a worried reader, it allegedly shows the raptor taking a lamb.

Sensational photograph fuels sea eagle lamb debate

THE DEBATE on whether live lambs or dead prey are taken by sea eagles have been fuelled by sensational photographs, reportedly taken in Kilchoan.

One photo, shows four sea eagles flying together in the air, before one flies overhead with a lamb in its grip, pictured above.

Hill farmers, already at their wits end over lack of power when it comes to the sea eagles are hitting out. Claiming the photos prove lambs are taken, one North Argyll farmer, who did not want to be named, said: 'There is absolutely no way that anyone can say that the numbers of these birds are under control. The more of them there are, the bolder they are. There is no common sense. If a dog came into my field and stole, or worried, our stock we would be within our rights to humanely shoot it. But these predators can come into our land and do what they like.'

'They are stealing lambs. You only need to look at this photograph to see that.'

While experts looking at the photograph question its validity, another said: 'I would be very wary of making a statement one way or another.'

'The prey is very small, so could conceivably be a stillborn.'

'I suppose it's possible. Would anybody be upset if it was a fox, or any other scavenger? I don't think the birds would take live lambs - they're quite hard to keep under control.'

Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB Scotland head of species and land management, said: 'Clearly, many west coast sheep farmers are concerned that the long-term success of the Scottish sea eagle reintroduction will come at a cost to them.'

'The current scientific evidence on sea eagle ecology in Scotland shows that only small numbers of live lambs are killed by sea eagles, although some farm businesses may be impacted more than others. This situation is by no means uniform with many sea eagle pairs having no impact on lambs at all.'

Join the debate on *The Oban Times* Facebook page.

Donald Stewart Memorial Awards

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has encouraged secondary schools in the Western Isles to nominate pupils for the annual Donald Stewart Memorial Awards.

The award, which is made in memory of the islands' MP from 1970 to 1987, recognises outstanding achievement in any field.

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Crew step up preparations for 100-mile row

EIGHT Skymen crewing a wooden boat for a charity row 100-miles from St Kilda to Skye are to undertake a 30-hour training trip to prepare for the daring challenge.

The amateur rowers had been practising in another boat while their 120-year-old larch skiff Aurora underwent a painstaking refurbishment to make her seaworthy for the perilous journey. Sea trials are underway in the 18-foot vessel. This weekend the team will row 70 miles around the south end of Raasay, north to Gairloch, then west to the island of Trodday at the north end of Skye and back to Portree.

The trip is being seen as an essential endurance test for the St Kilda row later this month or in June. Timing will depend on when the crew is ready and fair weather conditions.

The crew began their last phase of training on Friday, embarking on a 12-hour night journey from Portree Harbour north to Brothers Point, then east to circumnavigate the Isle of Rona, and south back to Portree.

Previous preparations for the attempt, in aid of the RNLI and Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers, were beset by bad weather and equipment failure. Row St Kilda team leader Donnie Nicolson, 40, is confident they are now on the right track.

He said: 'The overnight row has given us more experience of night rowing, as well as giving us the chance to practice the routines that have to be in place to make sure everything goes to plan.'

The trip involves 22 people including the back-up team. Support vessels sailing to St Kilda will be the Broadford-registered fishing boat Dunan Star II and Portree cabin cruiser the Aimee-Louise.

The skiff will be lashed to the fishing boat's foredeck on the way out before being lowered into the water off St Kilda for the long row home.

The eight men will take turns at the four oars throughout the non-stop journey, which is expected to take two days.

Portree girls Rosie McDaid and Cathryn Baillie, together with Gill Houlsby from Carboist will share the coxswain's duties using a rota system.

Looking forward to this weekend, Mr Nicolson said: 'If we can pull that row off, incident free, we'll be ready to go.'

Dog owners warned after lamb killer destroyed

Farmer forced to shoot terrier

A WARNING has been issued to dog owners after a Staffordshire Terrier that killed 19 newborn lambs had to be shot.

The dog was found running loose on farmland near to Oban and attacking the newborn lambs last Tuesday.

Oban Police said the shepherd of the flock attempted to capture the dog but was unsuccessful and left with no option but to shoot the animal.

The dog's owner, who is aged 29 and understood to live locally, has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

In light of the incident Oban Police and John McAvoy, Argyll's Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) officer, have urged dog owners to keep their animals under control.

Sergeant Mike Woods of Oban Police said: 'Police Scotland and the SSPCA want to stress the importance of keeping dogs under control in the proximity of livestock, including cattle, sheep, horses and poultry.'

'Notwithstanding the stress caused to the livestock, the loss has considerable financial implications.'

'Owners of dogs found worrying livestock will be reported for a contravention of the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.'

Mr McAvoy admitted it was frustrating that the message had not got through to many dog owners, adding: 'People should have their dogs under control at all times but especially during lambing.'

'Once a dog has chased sheep once, it will do it again.'

'Quite often we get instances of dogs worrying sheep, rather than going for the kill but sheep can still die from the stress of being chased, they can suffer heart failure. Sheep can also abort unborn lambs if they are chased and lambs that are already born can get caught easily, especially in enclosed spaces.'

Sergeant Wood added: 'The bottom line is this, the onus is on the dog owner to control their animal.'

Anyone who is concerned about sheep worrying should contact Police Scotland on 101.



Argyll's SSPCA officer John McAvoy with PC Graeme McNiven. 16_118sheep01

Mull man admits drink-driving

A YOUNG man from Mull 'made one of the biggest mistakes of his life' when he decided to drive home after drinking.

Steven Edward O'Donnell, aged 23, of 36 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, admitted drink-driving in the town on March 21.

Earlier in the night he had met and talked to police officers in a bar, where they formed the impression that he was under the influence of alcohol. So when they saw him driving later on they pulled him over.

His breath test reading was 100, the legal limit is 35.

'That's nearly three times the legal limit,' said Sheriff Douglas Small at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

O'Donnell's defence agent, Gordon MacNab said: 'He accepts he is the author of his own misfortune.'

O'Donnell had phoned for a taxi, but it was out on another call and he decided to walk home; it then started to pour with rain so he decided to drive.

'One of the biggest mistakes of his life,' said Mr MacNab.

References on behalf of O'Donnell's behalf were presented to the sheriff.

O'Donnell has a young family and had started his own business recently.

Sheriff Small fined him £400 and disqualified him from driving for 16 months, the maximum discount which can be given for pleading guilty at the first available opportunity.

Concern over wildlife photographer

MULL Eagle Watch flew into action at the weekend after concerns about a bird photographer.

The Visitor Information Centre at Craignure alerted island volunteers when a man asked staff how to get close-ups of eagles.

The man was described on social media as 5'8" tall with grey wispy hair and a goatee beard and talking with a foreign accent. Police were informed.

It is a crucial time of year for the protected birds as both the white-tailed and golden eagles are in the nesting season when their young are particularly vulnerable.

National park elections

ELECTIONS for positions on the Loch Lomond and Trossachs national park authority are due to take place in all five wards on July 3.

Nominations are being invited from people over the age of 21 before May 28.

Candidates do not have to live in the national park boundary - but they do need to have their nomination paper subscribed by two electors and eight other electors living in the ward they wish to be elected to.

For more information contact Bob Jack on macleans2@stirling.gov.uk

Residents back Pairc estate community buy-out

THE PEOPLE of Pairc have voted and they said yes. Now the community buy-out of Pairc Estate on Lewis will be completed this summer after more than a decade of often bitter wrangling.

The decision, says the trust behind the scheme, will help reverse a century of population decline and bring more than 26,000 acres into community ownership at a cost of £500,000.

The votes were counted on May Day after the postal ballot carried out by Comhairle nan Eilean Sair under an amicable estate transfer agreed between landowner Barry Lomas and the Pairc Trust. The council's returning officer, Derek Mackay announced the results at Pairc School, Gravir that evening.

In a turn-out of 62.7 per cent of those eligible to vote, 166 people said yes with 77 no votes, giving a 68.3 per cent in favour of the single question ballot paper: 'Do you agree to the Amicable Estate Transfer of the Pairc Estate to Pairc Trust on behalf of the Pairc Community on the terms negotiated between Pairc Trust and Pairc Estate?'

Pairc Trust chairman Angus McDowall welcomed the decision. He said: 'Now that the terms negotiated with the landlord for an amicable transfer of the estate have been endorsed by the community, we will proceed to conclude missives and register title to the estate as soon as possible.'

'We have all the funding for the purchase in place, but it will take several weeks before we can take ownership because of the need for a detailed map of the estate to be finalised so that title can be registered by Registers of Scotland.'

Negotiations have been complex and started as a hostile buy-out bid until at the end of 2013 the trust negotiated a deal with Mr Lomas. The move defused a row which looked certain to end in a bitter and costly court battle.

The deal sees the Pairc Trust take over most of the estate with more control of the lease of renewable energy on the land. However, the trust will not take over not take over a site in Gravir proposed for an electricity subsea cable converter station, while neighbouring Eishken Estate is also to buy part of the Pairc Estate.

Alasdair Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar offered his congratulations to the trust.

He said: 'With funding in place and the legal processes to recognise purchase underway I hope this finally opens up a new chapter in the story of this community which many people have been working for, for so long. The challenge now is to make use of community ownership in a way which benefits this fragile community.'

The trust now plans to convene meetings over the summer on its plans for developing the estate to create more local jobs and improve community facilities.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Exciting Times (Part II)

Last month I travelled to Chicago to the only conference in the world to deal entirely with preventing and controlling myopia. It is an area of practice I find incredibly exciting.

While not all the answers about the cause of myopia are known we, as parents, can do lots to limit the development of myopia. The main causes appear to be genetic and environmental. Limiting, or even better, stopping the development of myopia is important for the long term health of our children's eyes. Research has conclusively found very strong links with childhood myopia and a variety of sight threatening eye diseases and disorders in adulthood.

There were two very important messages about myopia prevention coming out of the conference. The simplest form of prevention parents can take is to ensure our children spend much more time outside playing. We still don't have figures for the ideal amount of time to spend outdoors but at least one hour per day seems to be a minimum. The other message is to catch myopic children at a very early stage. The sooner a treatment programme is started the better the outcome.

As parents we are concerned for our children's future well-being. All school age children should have regular eye examinations. If your child shows a tendency to becoming, or already is, myopic a treatment programme should be begun immediately. Using standard single vision glasses or contact lenses should not be an option. They have been shown to have no effect on reducing the rate of myopic development. Orthokeratologists can dramatically reduce the rate of development of childhood myopia and in many cases can stop any further myopic development. Orthokeratology is not appropriate for every child. Alternative myopia control programmes are available although they are not nearly as effective in slowing myopic development.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

RIBs descend on Easdale ad Seil

FORTY rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) will descend on Easdale and Seil Islands this weekend, May 10 and 11.

The adventure weekend based on Easdale Island, under the umbrella of Seafari and organised by volunteers is a free event.

Tony Hill, from Easdale, said: 'This year, we are hoping to go around the island of Jura, and explore the coast of Islay. On the Sunday, we are landing on the slate island of Belnahua in the Firth of Lorne as well as exploring the many islands and sea lochs around Easdale Island.'

'It is a weekend of exploring with the added bonus of safety in numbers. RIBs go at their own pace with a set route on the Saturday meeting for lunch at a chosen destination, and exploring at your own will on the Sunday.'

'The 'Cruise in Company' event attracts experienced RIBsters and those who are wishing to expand their cruising horizons in the knowledge that other RIBs are nearby.'

Young Appin fundraiser Cameron Allen took part in a Job-a-thon last Friday and visited The Oban Times to write his story for the paper:

My charity Job-a-thon

MY NAME is Cameron Allen and I suffer from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI or Brittle Bone Disease) which means that my bones break a lot easier than anybody else's.

Last Friday I raised money for the Brittle Bone Society by doing a sponsored Job-a-thon between Oban and Appin, where I attempted to do as many different jobs as I could.

Some of the jobs were: farmer, cafe worker, gardener, fire fighter, air traffic control, butcher, sports coach, journalist, receptionist at school and many more.

Because May 6 is Wishbone Day, a day to raise awareness of the condition, I decided to coincide my fundraising with this day. After this Job-a-thon my class at Oban High School will be doing a sponsored walk and I will be holding a village cake sale.

The Brittle Bone Society is a charity organisation which helps people like me with OI to get wheelchairs and equipment to help with our condition.

The last three years I've raised money for the Brittle Bone Society, and this year so far I have raised about £600. I would like to thank all the businesses that have let me work in their workplaces because without them this year's fundraising would not be possible.

My favourite jobs have been fire fighting at the airport, where I also worked as a receptionist, air marshaller, runway maintenance, and sent the weather to the met office. Some more of my favourites have been writing my own piece for *The Oban Times*, and being a guest presenter for Oban FM.

Overall I have carried out about 20 different jobs in about 12 hours. Farming was physically tough but marshalling the fire engine at the airport was scary in case I caused it to crash.

This is my third year of fundraising and in total I have raised about £7,000 through a sponsored silence, cake sales and friends fundraising on my behalf.

Lorn Lines

ONLY four weeks to go until Oban celebrates its volunteers at the Oban and Lorn Lions Club's annual charities day. The street fair will be held at Station Square on June 7 and sees community and volunteer groups set up fun stalls, make money and raise awareness of what they do. To take a stall contact John Lloyd on 01631 562762 or email: oban3108@aol.com.



THE GENEROSITY of humanitarian groups based in Oban has boosted the fortunes of one of the area's most loved charities this week. Mary's Meals was presented with £500 by the Rotary Club of Oban and Inner Wheel.

The rotary club had originally donated £250 to the Inner Wheel after its members assisted at the Oban Sportive Cycle event. But, the group chose to forward the cheque to Mary's Meals and inspired the rotary to match the donation.

Ursula Parry and Fiona Innes from Inner Wheel are pictured with Alan Johnston and Walter Burton from the Rotary Club presenting the cheques to Marie Rowan and Maureen Drummond of Mary's Meals.

THE LOCAL committee set up to organise the Queen's Baton Relay have named Ian Blair-Simmonds as the chairman.

Former Royal Artillery soldier Ian, a member of the Royal British Legion Scotland and comes with plenty of experience as the annual organiser of the town's Remembrance Day Parade.

The relay is likely to make its way along The Esplanade on Sunday July 13 with the baton being carried by local people.

The baton will arrive from Appin before making its way through Oban, to Lochgilphead, Inveraray and ending the journey in Dunoon.



OBAN Bridge Club members held their annual general meeting at The Olive Garden in the town last week.

The committee for the coming year was elected with Agnes MacFadyen as the new president and the trophies for 2013 were awarded.

The winners this year are, left to right: John Raymond, Nina Graham, Kieron Green; main prize winners David and Sue Pollard; Ann Kersley, Iain McNelly, James McLellan who is the club's oldest member, Alison Dunn, Pam McGuire, Joey Duncan and Roman Capocci. The club meets every Monday and Wednesday evening at St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 6.30pm to 7pm, new members always welcome.



Neil McGougan takes a break during one of his Bolivian climbs last year.

Neil steps out on marathon sponsored trek to help young Bolivians build a better future

THE OWNER of an Argyll building firm - and keen hill climber - is putting both skills to good use to help young people in a rural area of Bolivia.

Neil McGougan, managing director of Neil McGougan Ltd, is taking on a gruelling sponsored trek from the most southerly Munro, Ben Lomond, to the most northerly, Ben Hope.

His aim is to raise at least £2,000 to help support the work of the Manos Abiertas Mission in Peñas, near Lake Titicaca, a place he visited last June to help locals build and repair homes and school buildings.

And ahead of a return visit to the mission this summer, Neil is about to embark on his 320-kilometre walk from Munro to Munro. The Tainui man said: 'My route between

the two Munros will basically be in a straight line, keeping within one kilometre either side of that line, regardless of the terrain.

'I'll be doing it unsupported with just a tent on my back and I have placed food boxes at various stages along the way.'

While most people would require months of training for such an arduous trek, for Neil, who is a member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team, he has been through worse - he has already crossed the Pyrenees, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean over 42 days.

Although Neil admits his main reason for travelling to Bolivia last year was for the challenging and spectacular hill climbing, his priorities for the 2014 trip are very different. 'I want to raise money for the further education of children who attend the

mission,' said Neil. 'There is a reasonable education system in Peñas for these children until the age of 14 or 15, then they tend to fend for themselves. The foundation that runs the mission helps to get them into further education and that is what I want to support.'

'When I was over last year I put in concrete floors, taught the locals how to level things out and tile and I fitted solar panels to give buildings hot water. I also fixed a couple of roofs.'

'I would work for four or five days and go climbing for two or three days with a couple of guys from the mission.'

'The people at the mission welcomed me with open arms and I'm looking forward to going back there.'

Grateful troops thank Islay postmaster and islanders

A POSTMASTER from Portnahaven on Islay has received a parcel of his own from grateful soldiers after he sent his 3,000th gift box to frontline troops in Afghanistan.

Alastair Redman, who is also an island community councillor, has posted the boxes filled with chocolate, sweets and even toilet paper to the soldiers since 2007. And Mr Redman was shocked to receive his own ration pack from the soldiers as a thank you.

Many of the items sent to Afghanistan are from people in Portnahaven. Mr Redman said reaching parcel 3,000 was 'an impressive feat for such a small place'.



Departing Northern Lighthouse chief Roger Lockwood, left, and newly appointed chief executive Mike Bullock shake hands on the pier in Oban. Mike is no stranger to the sea. As a naval officer for the last 25 years, he knows the seas better than most. Mike is keen to get to know Oban and the area better. He is aware of all the potential in Oban Port for future development. He thanked outgoing chief executive Roger Lockwood for all his hard work and for a positive introduction to his new job. 15_119(northern)

Woman denies drug charges

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman denied four drug related offences when she appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Arlene Agnes Clarke, whose address was given in court as care of 114 George Street, Oban, pled not guilty to possessing herbal cannabis and cannabis resin at 8H Scalpay Terrace, Oban on April 8.

She also pled not guilty to being the occupier of 8H Scalpay Terrace and knowingly permitting or suffering the premises to be used for smoking cannabis, a controlled drug, on April 7 and at the same date and place to using a controlled drug and permitting others to use controlled drugs within her home in the presence of a young person under the age of 16, in such a manner likely to cause them suffering or injury to health.

A trial date has been set for June 25.

Police files

POLICE are calling for witnesses to a housebreaking on Combie Lane in Oban.

The incident took place last Saturday evening into Sunday morning. The housebreaking with intent caused substantial damage to the property.

The house holder, who was in the property at the time, was unharmed. Witnesses should contact Oban CID on 101.

POLICE have reported a number of men to the procurator fiscal as a series of unconnected drugs offences were detected over the weekend in Oban.

The first man, aged 22, was caught with Class A drugs last Wednesday evening and a report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

The second man, aged 31, was reported to the fiscal after being found in possession of Class C drugs on Friday evening in the town centre.

North Connell residents up in arms over tree felling

NORTH Connell residents are up in arms after 50 trees were felled on Friday evening, they say without permission.

The trees were taken down by a contractor, allegedly on behalf of the property developer.

When asked why, the contractor is reported to have said to neighbours: 'To give the flats a better view.'

The work was done without permission, it is understood, of the landowner and has destroyed the natural habitat of at least 50 pairs of birds and has taken away an informal path residents used to the shore, locals claim.

One resident who contacted The Oban Times said: 'It is ironic these trees are being chopped down before the houses

are even built to give people a better view.

'Apart from anything else, why on earth would you chop down trees at such an important time of year for nesting birds?'

'No one I know of had been given any notice of the trees being felled. We have reported the matter to Historic Scotland, because of the cairn on the site. The RSPB and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) are also investigating.'

The developer was contacted by The Oban Times for a comment, but was unavailable for comment.

Historic Scotland, the RSPB and the FCS said that complaints would be dealt with through the proper channels.

New jobs at Stramash

OUTDOOR adventure specialist Stramash has created 13 new jobs.

The opportunities are between its base in Oban and the new campus in Fort William.

The jobs have been created within the adventure and the outdoor nursery area of the business and includes apprenticeships for 16-19 year olds.

Niall Urquhart from Stramash said: 'We are delighted to have created these jobs, which reinforce the aims and objectives of Stramash, by creating exciting opportunities for local people to stay and work in the unique environment of the west coast of Scotland.'

'Mike Story, company director, said: 'This is a fantastic example of how a local company can become a national centre of excellence in a fast growing field and show a great return on investment.'

Police investigate Easdale holiday home break-in

POLICE are investigating a break in on the tiny island of Easdale.

A couple were seen in the garden of one of the island's holiday homes on Monday afternoon by one of the islanders.

Later it was found that there had been a break in to the vacant property. The male

and female used equipment from an adjacent shed to break into the house.

The male is described as between 22 - 25 years of age with dark brown hair and thick black-rimmed glasses and wearing a blue hooded top. Anyone with information should contact Oban CID on 101.

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Appeal for World War One mementoes

TREASURES and mementoes from attics and the back of drawers are being sought to tell Argyll's story in World War One.

Argyll and Bute's librarians will be gathering the materials to commemorate the Great War over the next four years.

People willing to share family photographs, stories, diaries, medals, documents, memories and other memorabilia are being asked to loan them to the council so they can be recorded, scanned or photographed and returned. The memorabilia collected will form a record of the impact of the war on the people and communities of the west coast.

Librarian Eleanor MacKay is also looking for volunteers who are willing to devote time to collect and research information from local war memorials, rolls of honour and wartime services such as auxiliary hospitals.

Eleanor MacKay can be contacted by telephoning 01369 708663 or email Eleanor.mckay@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Housing association wins healthy work award

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has received an award for promoting healthy work for people with chronic illness.

The organisation received the award from the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion after evolving good practices and policies over three years, from 2007-2010.

Marina MacArthur, ACHA's human resources and training manager who led the wellbeing and performance project, said: "We are absolutely delighted. We have created an organisational culture where health issues can be identified, minimised and managed before they affect the long-term wellbeing of our staff."

The association was awarded the Healthy Working Lives bronze award and is now working towards silver.

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Auchindrain saved

THE FUTURE of Auchindrain Museum has been secured this week after it received financial support from Historic Scotland.

Auchindrain Trust, which runs the open air museum, has been in discussions with Historic Scotland since June last year, when a financial crisis meant closure was imminent.

The cash injection comes in the 50th year of Auchindrain being classified as a preserved site; it is Scotland's only remaining 18th century rural settlement which shows how people lived before the Highland Clearances.

The amount of money provided

by Historic Scotland has not been revealed but a spokesman for the national agency said: "We have worked closely with the trustees to secure the immediate future of Auchindrain with a view to the township becoming financially stable and self-sustaining by the end of the two-year period."

"It is now vital for the trust to use this period to implement a development strategy that will secure them longer term through new income sources and increased footfall."

Alison Hay, convenor of Auchindrain Trust, said: "This funding will help considerably.

We are not going to be worrying about whether or not we will be open. We have to produce a forward plan which will give some indication of how we see fundraising going and how we manage the buildings."

"We are working with Museums Galleries Scotland to do that."

"We have to try and broaden the talent within the trust, look for people with skills in fundraising, marketing and promotion... and while doing that raise our profile and become more well known."

"We are pleased with the confidence there seems to be within Historic Scotland that we

are worthy of the support and over the next two years we will work really hard to justify that support."

The funding also secures the future of the museum's two full-time members of staff, while people from a range of backgrounds continue to gain valuable work experience at the museum.

Mrs Hay also expressed her thanks to Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, for his support and Argyll residents who have made donations to the trust and written kind letters of support.



Law Society of Scotland president Bruce Beveridge, third left, met members of the Lochaber Faculty of Solicitors as part of his fact finding tour. 20.191aw01

Law society president meets solicitors on tour of Argyll and the Highlands

FORT William was the latest port of call last Wednesday for Law Society of Scotland president Bruce Beveridge on his tour of Argyll and the Highlands.

Mr Beveridge previously met solicitors in Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Oban before coming to the Lochaber town.

The fact-finding mission was part of his aim to get out and about and to meet solicitors practising law in different areas of Scotland, to advise on what was happening within the Law Society and to learn at first hand the hopes and concerns of country practitioners.

A lively discussion was enjoyed at the Alexandra Hotel with topics ranging from legal aid, the

closure of courts and the geographical problems caused as a result, training and the future of the profession.

Mr Beveridge told *The Oban Times*: "Solicitors up and down Scotland perform a critical role in society day in, day out, especially at a time of such change in the economy, public sector financial constraints and with the upcoming independence referendum."

"Rural solicitors, in particular, have a great role to play in shaping how the profession needs to change."

"We want to hear about the things that are of greatest interest to them and the communities they serve."

UHI scores well in first review

WEST Highland College UHI has received high marks in its first external review.

Education Scotland assessors found learners were achieving 'significantly better' performance than the sector average.

The report also praised the college's programme of expanding learning opportunities to those in remote locations. Strong links with the community and partner agencies to help shape the curriculum and boost local communities' sustainability also earned plus points.

Holding regular meetings with local employers to tailor courses to match the future jobs market was another positive step.

High standard

The report also noted a college survey showing 90 per cent of students felt they were learning 'extremely well' while 95 per cent felt they were being taught to a high standard. Areas of future focus included the need to support the remote delivery of education through video link and invest in continuing professional development of staff.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson visited the college to congratulate staff and said: "I am particularly pleased to see one area of excellent practice by the college which was identified was that of engagement with local communities and that this has been highlighted as a model of practice for other colleges."

Michael Foxley, chairman of the board of management, said: "This is a superb result. We are doing exactly what we set out to do."

Morvern Lines

IF I WAS asked to name Morvern's number one hotspot I would have to say it is the area around Loch Teacuis.

This comes not only through a personal affinity with the place, but from the volume of mail I receive about it from many exiles at home and abroad.

Rich in wildlife, archaeology, moorings, history, song, scenery and parking, Teacuis is popular with walkers, cyclists, canoeists, pony-trekking and yachting. As there is no resident livestock, obedient dogs are welcome.

There was once a high population here - 112 souls in 1841, to be precise. The clearances removed some but enough of them managed to hang on, obliging the old Argyll County Council to build a new school for 34 scholars and a teacher's house at the head of the loch in 1879.

It is still standing but the original school where Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy, the famous Gaelic bard and physician, received his early education has, unfortunately, disappeared under a recent development.

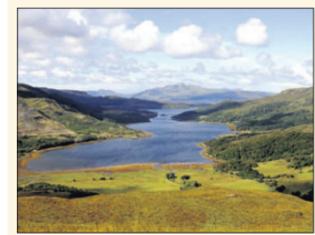
Today the resident population in the area can be counted on one hand. Little wonder MacLachlan wrote: 'The ancient customs and clans are banished; no more are songs in the breezes swelling, our Highland nobles alas! are vanquished, and worthless upstarts are in their dwelling.'

The early history of the Loch Teacuis area lies in the ancient kitchen middens of Barr and the nearby island of Risga, the easily accessible 4,000 year-old chambered burial cairn at Carnliath near Rahoy House where MacLachlan was born in 1804 and the vitrified Iron Age dun standing on top of the 'Giant's Knoll' overlooking the narrow entrance to the inner loch.

For people to survive they need food. Sheep and cattle once roamed the hills and deer still do, which is why the Highlands and Islands Development Board established an experimental deer farm here in 1977.

It was a financial disaster and the tangled wire and rotting fence posts live on as a reminder. The sea loch has been a source of nourishment for generations and can still produce the occasional salmon and sea trout, cockles, mussels, scallops, razor-fish and samphire - a sea vegetable that grows abundantly on the beach, in marshy shallows and on salty mudflats.

Samphire has a crisp texture and tastes of asparagus when cooked and is eagerly sought



Loch Teacuis: a walkers' paradise.

after by the local 'food for free' enthusiasts. In the old days, when the White House in Lochaline was the parish poorhouse, the residents regularly walked over to Kinloch to collect skate wings left out for them by the local farmer/fisherman to dry on the fences at the head of the loch.

FROM Kinlochteacuis, a well-recognised, public right of way leads past the old schoolhouse and Ardantiobairt (Gaelic: 'headland of the well'), through woods - both centuries-old and post-war - to Barr and its spectacular waterfall.

Thereafter the track splits and then it's a case of 'You take the high road and I'll take the low road and I'll be in Drimmin before you', to parody the old song.

The first leads over the hill to Mungosdail passing a large natural rock with a crevice in it which was once a mail-box and then up to an ancient cross-crowned cairn, said to have been erected at the time of St Columba.

The second, built by the Forestry Commission, meanders westwards above the rugged shore. This is seal, otter and sea eagle country and the commission has erected a hide near the former school and inn at Dorrin - from where visitors may occasionally spot all three.

Both tracks eventually end at Drimmin where there is a restored Roman Catholic chapel and a ferry over the Sound of Mull to Tobermory where John MacLachlan died.

TOBERMORY, or Balamory if you prefer, has its place in the history of finance apart from the lost Spanish ducats allegedly still lying on the harbour bottom.

It also has a connection with Loch Teacuis. John MacLachlan's sister Catherine, married John Sinclair, the local entrepreneur, distiller and merchant who issued his own banknotes.

One of these neatly lithographed and signed notes reads, 'Tobermory, Island of Mull, 9th January 1825. For want of change I owe you five shillings and for four of these tickets I will give you a £1 note' and was mentioned in evidence before the Small Note Commission of 1826.

As it was illegal since 1765 to issue notes of less than 20 shillings value or to give them out as specie, they were cleverly worded.

ACCORDING to local tradition a Highland bull, of his own accord, regularly made the 300-yard crossing between Rahoy and the Island of Carna at the entrance to Loch Teacuis to discharge his duties.

It so happened that John MacLachlan, the bard and local GP at the time, was courting a girl on the same island.

When there was no boat to be had, the story goes that this Highland Poseidon would cross the icy narrows on the bull's back remarking once to some awestruck English visitors, not used to seeing passenger-carrying bulls, that their missions could be described as being somewhat similar.

Now wouldn't that have been a fine logo for John Sinclair's five shilling notes?

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Drunk man admits biting glasses and possessing knife

A DRUNKEN man was biting into glasses and spitting out pieces of broken glass at customers in a bar in Tobermory, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Tomasz Grzegorz Biedka, aged 40, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to shouting, swearing, biting into a quantity of glasses, spitting broken glass within a public bar, knocking against people, challenging a man to fight and uttering threats of violence.

He also admitting having a knife with him in McGochan's Bar on February 15.

'I need to get reports on this case,' said Sheriff Douglas Small, who deferred sentence on Biedka, of 31G Ailsa Tower, Glasgow, until May 27.

Kinlochleven trust photo calendar competition

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust has launched its 2015 photo calendar competition.

An overall first prize of £150 worth of photography-related prizes awaits the winner. Ten runners-up prizes and a 'trials' prize will also be awarded.

Each of the 12 scenes chosen will represent a month in the 2015 calendar.

Amateur photographers are invited to submit entries on the theme 'around Loch Leven' by Friday June 20.

Photos and the signed entry form should be sent to Kinlochleven Community Trust, Unit 4A, Kinlochleven Business Park, Kinlochleven, PH50 4SH or emailed to jayne@kinlochleven.co.uk.

Mallaig lifeboat takes sticken yacht under tow

MALLAIG lifeboat was called out on Sunday afternoon after a chartered yacht broke down with engine failure outside Mallaig harbour.

It is understood the French crew of six called the coast-guard after being unsure about sailing the vessel back into port.

The lifeboat took the 40-foot vessel under tow and had the yacht back at Mallaig marina within 10 minutes.



Colin Renfrew, chief executive of Fyne Homes Housing Association, left, and Murdo MacLeod, director of MacLeod Construction Limited of Lochgilphead.

First Ardfern social housing in 50 years

FOR THE first time in more than 50 years, social housing is being built in Ardfern.

Not since the post-war building boom for council housing, has there been any such work in the village.

The first sod has now been cut on the site, which overlooks the small island of Eilan

Mhic Chrion, on the shore-side of Loch Craignish.

Six affordable family homes are to be built on the site, which was acquired from the Church of Scotland; allocations will be made through a local letting initiative for people looking to live and work in the

Ardfern area. The venture is being funded with help from Airdrie Savings Bank and the Rural Housing Development Fund of Argyll and Bute Council.

The work is being carried by MacLeod Construction; 21 tradesmen and two apprentices will be employed on the project.

Dream come true for ballet dancer Andrew



Andrew McFarlane, a new recruit for the English National Ballet.

IT'S A story straight out of Billy Elliot - a ballet-mad boy teaches himself to dance and ends up on stage with a national ballet company.

That's the dream come true for Andrew McFarlane of Ballet West.

Andrew, a third-year student with the Taynuilt-based school, has been offered a contract to dance with the English National Ballet at the age of 19. He only decided to take up ballet at the age of 15 and had very little formal dance training when he auditioned for the school.

Andrew, from Aviemore, gained a distinction in the Advanced 2 Royal Academy of Dance examinations and was a semi-finalist in the 2013 Genée International Ballet Competition; his BA Honours degree course ends this summer.

'Andrew demonstrated that he was passionate about dance, specifically ballet. The panel was particularly impressed that he had taught himself mostly from books and videos,' said Gillian Barton, principal of Ballet West.

Andrew said he was 'thrilled' to be joining the English National Ballet. 'Thanks to the exceptional tuition and enormous support from staff at Ballet West, I am able to achieve my ambition,' he said.

Andrew took part in a successful Scottish tour of Swan Lake with Ballet West earlier this year and has also toured with the Ballet West company in The Nutcracker.

Ballet West is currently in the midst of a £600,000 appeal to support the building of a new studio in the grounds of its home, Ichrachan House.

Joy on Jura as island shop re-opens

THE COMPLETION of a two-year project to save Jura's only general store from closure was completed last week as the refurbished community shop was re-opened.



Jura islander Carol Wright cuts the ribbon to officially open the refurbished community store.

Residents of Jura gathered to celebrate the opening and Carol Wright, whose grandfather John McKechnie started the first Jura Stores, cut the ribbon to declare the premises open once again.

Ms Wright gave a fascinating account of the shop's history, adding: 'It is hoped that the enterprise which my grandfather began more than 130 years ago will continue to grow and flourish and serve the island for many years to come.'

Over the last six months, McEachern Brothers of Islay and CP Architects of Oban have worked together with Isle of Jura Development Trust to repair and extend the community shop, which was funded by The Big Lottery Fund.

Since the beginning of the project in 2012, more than 2,000 volunteer hours have gone into making the community shop a reality.

The shop came into community ownership in March 2013 when Isle of Jura Development Trust used funding from The Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for the purchase.

John Potts, chairman of Jura Development Trust, said: 'Had the Jura Store closed or continued to decline it is hard to describe

how negative the impact on this fragile community would have been.

'Instead the transfer of ownership to the community gave people the opportunity to take control of their own future and has delivered a positive result. It's impossible to even imagine without the transfer of ownership, the efforts of many in the community and the support received from HIE, The Big Lottery and many others.'

Sarah Compton-Bishop, project officer, said: 'Support from residents and visitors has been overwhelming, and it's exciting to think how the business will continue to develop with the changing needs of the community.'

Jura Stores Community Interest Company was founded in December 2012 to run the shop business on behalf of the community of Jura.

There are currently eight volunteer directors and 90 members of the Community Interest Company.

The first AGM will be held on June 4 2014.

RSPB Scotland launches 2014 wildlife walks programme for Western Isles

RSPB SCOTLAND has launched its wildlife walks programme in the Western Isles as the charity looks to build on record attendances in 2013.

Last year almost 1,000 people attended the walks on North Uist, Benbecula, Lewis and Harris and they proved so popular that the season was extended by a month. Now RSPB staff leading excursions across the Uists and in Harris and Lewis are hoping even more visitors grab the chance to view the Outer Isles' spectacular wildlife.

The RSPB's reserve at

Balranald and the Langass Lodge area on North Uist will again feature on the itinerary in 2014. The former boasts a rich variety of machair wildlife, while the walks at Langass offer the chance to see otters, seals and both species of eagle.

There will also be evening walks to hear and, with luck, see the corncrake - a species high on most birdwatchers' tick-list.

On Harris and Lewis, walks led from the Loch na Muilne RSPB reserve will provide a opportunity to view another rare bird, the red-necked Phalarope,

in its breeding finery. RSPB species officer Stuart Taylor said: 'Very few other places, if any, offer the chance to see otters, seals, eagles, corncrakes, scarce insects and a wonderful array of beautiful flowers, like the Western Isles. They are on every naturalist's list of places to visit. And because of the locations, visitors tend to stay in accommodation not too far away and always use local facilities such as campsites, and shops, bringing a sizeable amount of income into the local community.'

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ARDGOUR

WATERCOLOUR Music Studio in Ardgour will open its summer series of house concerts with guest artist Nuala Kennedy on Sunday.

Adopted Scot Nuala, who hails from the Irish city of Dundalk, will bring her blend of Scottish and Irish trad music to the intimate venue on the shores of Loch Linnhe.

Nuala will be joined by one of Cape Breton Island's finest musicians - multi-award-winning Troy McGillivray, an internationally recognised virtuoso of the Cape Breton style of fiddling and piano.

The band line-up is completed with Highland guitarist Michael Bryan and one of Scotland's most imaginative percussionists Donald Hay.

INVERGARRY

THIRTEEN guides and brownies from Invergarry, Fort Augustus and Invermoriston enjoyed a weekend at PGL Dalguise outdoor activities centre in Perthshire last weekend.

The girls and parents part-funded the trip while Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company chipped in with a grant of £1,150 to pay for the minibus.

The money will cover transport costs for another trip to Fairburn Activity Centre on the Black Isle on May 25.

Guider in charge Linda Stewart said activities at PGL Dalguise included a zip wire, canoeing and archery.



Ardnamurchan pupils keep up hoodie tradition

Senior pupils at Ardnamurchan High School (AHS) began study leave last week and, as has become tradition, the 56 group organised their own AHS leavers' hoodies. Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig wished all students well for their forthcoming exams.

GLENORCHY

GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Orchard held a successful day in the garden in spite of the rain.

On Sunday May 4, the team at the Glebe managed to clear the old wire and fence away from the roadside and continued to move the old wood from the wooded area.

The next work party day is on Sunday June 1 at 2pm. Everyone welcome.



Inverlochty bike festival dance fun

Children from local primary schools took centre stage in Inverlochty Square last week when they performed a 'flash mob' dance led by instructor Jasmine Adams to Queen's famous song 'I want to ride my bicycle'. The fun activity was part of the opening night's events programme of the inaugural West Highland Wheelers bike festival, which concluded on Saturday. 20_1191fla302

MULL

A MULL scallop diver is one of 23 'ambassadors' promoting Scotland to the world.

Guy Grieves, of the Ethical Shellfish Company, based at Aros Mains, near Salen, was in New York as part of Scotland Week promoting the 'pull of Scotland' for overseas visitors.

Each ambassador has been chosen as a 'real-life' Scot, who is able to add their own authentic touch to present inspiring themes that are important to them.

Juliet Grieves said: 'We are very chuffed that Guy has been asked to be part of VisitScotland's 'Meet the Scots' campaign for Homecoming 2014.'

'Along with some other fine individuals, Guy's job is to help spread the word about the Scotland's fantastic food producers and our first class natural produce.'

Designed to ensure that international visitors are aware of all the great reasons to visit Scotland in every single month of the year, Guy will appear as Mr September.

IONA

IONA Housing Partnership is awaiting the outcome of a funding application to Argyll and Bute Council.

The item will be heard at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee and will either make or break the project as it will see councillors decide on further funding for the project.

If the project gets the go-ahead, it may mean work starts as soon as this summer. If not, it may be another year - or until funding is secured - before it can go ahead.

The partnership was set up in 2003 to secure and develop the last appropriate site on the island for a multiple build of several homes for affordable housing.

The West Glebe Field, near the St Columba Hotel and parish church, was purchased

from the Church of Scotland in September 2011 after a long and successful fundraising programme.

AN ISLAND baker and fairy cake maker is departing Iona this week to take up a position in a prestigious Michelin starred restaurant on the continent.

Pam Brunton and her partner Rob Latimer have been involved in island life for some years.

FOLK from Iona travelled to Tiree last Saturday to take part in the 10k run.

Islanders unable to make the trip to Tiree took part in a simultaneous 10k walk on Iona.

Mhairi Killin organised the event in aid of the Beatson Clinic in Glasgow.

For those less fit a pub quiz was also held on the island.

SEIL

IT WAS paradise island at the weekend on Seil as the first wedding took place in the garden of the island's hall.

Catherine Critchley, owner of Paradise Kitchen, and John Lee, a fireman, both of Seil Island, took their vows in front of family and friends. The garden was designed by the Beechgrove team a few years ago.

Islanders agreed that it made for a wonderful setting for the vows. Assistant registrar Jean

Campbell, also of Seil, took the short service before a party in Seil Island Hall.

CULLIPOOL

ISLE of Luing Community Trust is pleased funding has been secured to increase the number of moorings at Cullipool.

In addition, a grant of £13,611 towards the cost of the project has been awarded by FLAG.

The bid was one of only nine successful bids made to the funding programme. Working in partnership with Luing Moorings Association, the trust can now progress to obtain the necessary formal approvals from Marine Scotland and Crown Estates. The project will provide a small number of summer moorings for visiting yachts at Cullipool.

JURA

THE ISLANDS of Jura and Scarba will feature on a BBC documentary filmed from the island of Easdale.

The BBC2 Landward programme on Friday May 9 features Jura and Scarba. The footage also includes the Corryreckan Whirlpool. Presenter Dougie Vipond and the BBC team visited the island last month and made the trip with Seafari from Seil.



Dunvegan art prize winners

G1-3 Gaelic medium pupils at Bun Sgoil Dhunbheagain (Dunvegan Primary School) took first prize in the recent Skye Gardening Society art competition to illustrate spring. The children are pictured above with their winning entry.



Lochside RC Primary School's Fairtrade committee with John Finnie and Mr Blake during their tour of the Scottish Parliament.

Youngsters enjoy insight into Scottish Parliament

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School's Fairtrade committee members were guests of Highlands and Islands MSP John Finnie at the Scottish Parliament recently.

Mr Finnie issued the invitation after attending a Fairtrade coffee morning at the school during Fairtrade Fortnight.

The seven children on the committee were given a guided tour of the building, including the debating chamber and the MSPs' private offices.

They learned about the history of the parliament and the design features of the architecture.

Mr Finnie answered the children's questions and spoke

frankly about the ups and downs of his job. He said that he enjoyed being able to make a difference in people's lives and that was one of the reasons he supported Fairtrade.

Meanwhile, Mr Blake, the catering manager, was on hand to explain that the Scottish Parliament uses Fairtrade foods as much as possible. 'It was a brilliant day,' said Ellie MacLellan of PS. 'Mr Finnie was so kind to us and he treated us the issues and the everything.'

Lochside Fairtrade committee chairperson Cody McSorley thanked Mr Finnie for giving up his valuable time and for his kindness and hospitality.

SCARBA

A SINGLE white-tailed sea eagle chick has hatched successfully on the small uninhabited island of Scarba, off the coast of Luing.

It is believed to be a first. Bird-watchers from neighbouring islands and sea trips saw the bird on the island. They were delighted when one chick was seen in the nest.

TIREE

FOLLOWING the recent failure of the Tiree to Coll section of the sub-sea cable, which links Tiree to the mainland, Tiree Community Development Trust has written to Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism and Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment to highlight the issues and the impact on the Community Renewable Project.

To see a copy of the letter visit the community website at www.tireetrust.org.uk.



Friends of Nevis volunteers on their litter pick.

Friends of Nevis on annual curling ponds clean up

FRIENDS of Nevis did their bit for the local environment when they held their annual spring litter pick and tidy up of the curling ponds in Glen Nevis.

Volunteers, including some of the organisers of the upcoming Caledonian Challenge on June 14-15, recently collected large amounts of rubbish from the riverbank to improve the appearance of the

glen ahead of the main tourist season. Next event is Beautiful Butterflies and Magical Moths, led by Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation, on Saturday May 17.

Ramble

The free event, part of the Wild Lochaber Festival, begins at An Drochaid in Claggan at 10am for an indoor session, before an outdoor ramble in the afternoon.

Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch and suitable clothes.

Meanwhile, the Friends have organised path maintenance work on May 24 and May 25.

For further details of either event or to register for path maintenance email Diane at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or phone 01397 701088 or 07770 648330.

LUING

THE LUING island skiff is ready to be launched on May 24 at 12.30pm at Cuan.

It is hoped plenty people will come along to see the launch of the wooden boat that has been lovingly made by islanders.

Other skiffs are also welcome as are people from Seil, Kilmelford and Ardfern.

In the evening a BBQ and ceilidh will be held in Toberonochy Hall.

THE SUMMER ferry service to the Isle of Luing has been confirmed.

The MV *Bellnahua* will run into the evenings for 12 weeks from June 1 to August 24.

The car ferry service allows islanders and visitors to use vehicles to and from the island into the evening.

The rest of the year a small passenger only service takes customers back and forward to the island on request in the evenings.

TOBERONOCHY

TOBERONOCHY Hall was packed with people as Isle of Luing Rowing Club opened the doors to its second fundraising soup lunch.

Homemade soup, filled rolls, home baking and plenty of tea and coffee kept customers happy and volunteers from Luing very busy.

There was an Easter egg hunt for children and a decorated egg competition, which was won by Lauren and Cameron MacKenzie.

The raffle featured many fantastic prizes.

The afternoon raised £500 for Isle of Luing Rowing Club funds.

All 64 shares in the skiff are sold, and the St Ayles skiff is now complete, thanks to the skill and dedication of David Mawson and Robert Benn who are taking a lead on the building of the skiff.

They have been delegating tasks to other members of the community and committee.

The painting has started on the vessel, with a name still to be voted on.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

KYLE and Lochalsh Community Trust has taken over ownership and operation of the public toilets and the mooring pontoons at Kyle of Lochalsh.

The trust financed the move with Community Challenge Fund cash from Highland Council, the previous owners and operators.

Under a service level agreement with the council, the trust aims to attract more visitors to Kyle by improving the public toilets with enhanced showers and laundry facilities.

The trust will also provide additional berthing space at the pontoons for yachts and fishing vessels after securing European Fisheries Fund and council funding.

Director and secretary Fiona Begg said: 'The community trust is looking forward to taking over the public toilets and pontoons.'

'As part of our development plan, we identified important facilities - like the toilets - which had the potential to be developed and improved to a high standard and offer a better service.'

'The trust is also currently working on the Plock of Kyle creating a new road access at the old toll office and making a network of paths to connect the village to the viewpoint.'

Local councillor Audrey Sinclair said: 'I wish Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust well with this project. The economy of Kyle will benefit from the undoubted increase in number of visitors to Kyle, especially by sea.'



The classic cars lined up for a treasure hunt in Benderloch.

Classic cars join in the fun on primary schools' treasure hunt

SEVEN classic cars joined eight other cars on a treasure hunt to raise funds for Lochneil and Dunbeg primary schools' P7s' week-long trip to Lochgoilhead Outdoor Centre.

Seven cars from Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club took part, ranging from a 1919 Model T Ford through to a 1994 ex-London Taxi which has covered more than 250,000 miles.

The day was also designated 'National Drive It Day', and this enabled members to take part and help a local cause at the same time.

The cars met at the Victory Hall in Benderloch before heading off down the Moss Road at North Connel, on to the Bonawe road, up over Glensalloch, through Barcalidne up to the head of Loch Creran and Glen Creran, back round the loch to Benderloch.

Refreshments and home baking were served while the prizes, including hampers, bottles of spirits and, of course, a ride in a classic car were given out.

A total of £207 was raised for the schools' trip.

CARBOST

CARBOST Primary School on the Isle of Skye has joined Highland Council's 'Go For It' travel initiative to encourage children to walk or cycle to school.

Pupils taking part earn ticks for each journey they make on bike or foot and are awarded prizes once they have reached 50 points.

The work has been supported by Allan Bryce of Safer Routes to Schools as well as the school travel plan committee.

Left: the children launch their 'Go For It' challenge at the school's new cycle shelter, which was installed recently as part of the Highland Council Safer Routes to Schools programme.



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Man due in court following boat accident

A MAN is due to appear at Portree Sheriff Court on Monday following an incident near Kyle early on Saturday morning when a rigid inflatable boat hit the perimeter fence of a fish farm cage and landed inside.

The boat vaulted over the hand rail and got tangled up in the net covering the circular pen at Marine Harvest's Lochalsh fish farm. The four men and one woman aboard alerted Stornoway coastguard after failing to cut themselves free.

Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat was called out at 1.39am and was on the scene within 15 minutes.

The crew got a line to the eight-metre vessel and pulled it to the perimeter to bring the passengers aboard. The rib remained trapped in the cage with the salmon.

All five casualties were transported to a waiting ambulance at Kyle at 3.05am. One man had a suspected broken ankle. It is unclear how he sustained the injury.

Kyle lifeboat spokesperson Andrew MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It was one of the more unusual incidents we have been called out to. They were going from Kyleakin to Glenelg. I do not know why at that time of the morning. I think they just got disorientated. The important thing is that nobody was seriously injured because it could have been a lot worse. They all had lifejackets on. They landed on top of the net over the cage and could not get themselves free.'

He added: 'The police were waiting at the quayside.'

Marine Harvest business development officer Steve Bracken told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a very unfortunate accident for everyone concerned with the boat. The farm has navigational markers in line with Northern Lighthouse Board regulations.

'The pen had only slight damage to the outside ring and pen rail but we did sustain a loss of around 200 fish in the pen when the boat brought the net down. There was no escape of fish.'

A police spokesperson said: 'A 57 year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged offences under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.'

It is understood the man comes from Scotland but is not local to the Highlands and Islands.



Fans enjoy Fort fight night success

Stephen 'Stepi' Cameron, right, returned to the ring after a gap of three years to post a fine win over Northwest's Paul Hope at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club boxing show in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday night. The event proved the club's most successful to date as local fighters won 10 of the 11 bouts in front of 500 noisy fight fans. And in an emotional moment after the action in the ring was over, 12-year-old Cameron Whyte was presented with the Bryan Whyte Memorial Young Boxer of the Season Award by his mum Dawn (inset). See full coverage of the exciting fight night, back page. 20_1956002



Kinlochleven rider climbs trial leaderboard

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald climbed up the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) leaderboard on Tuesday night after two days of tough competition.

The 30-year-old joiner lay in

Gary MacDonald waves to the crowd during the traditional cavalcade of SSDT bikes along Fort William High Street on Sunday afternoon. 20_1956002

13th place in the 272-strong field with nine faults, just one behind a clutch of riders sharing joint eighth spot.

MacDonald claimed a superb third on the podium in last year's event but will have his work cut out to match that performance this time.

Clear

Leader Dougie Lampkin went clear in the first two days and Sam Connor and James Dabill

Fort William drug dealer jailed for 27 months

Claggan man snared following police crack-down

A FORT William drug dealer has been jailed for 27 months after being snared by police in an intelligence-led drugs crack-down.

John Hutton, of Polmona, Claggan, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff court last Thursday for sentencing after previously admitting supplying cocaine.

Hutton pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to being concerned in the supply of the class 'A' drug on the A82 at Achtriochan in Glencoe, at his home and elsewhere on May 15 last year.

The court heard from defence solicitor Stephen Paterson that Hutton was merely a hard-up courier rather than a major player in the drugs ring.

Hutton, he said, 'got in with the wrong crowd' after a relationship ended and he turned to drink and cocaine.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

He soon found himself £1,500 in debt and unable to pay an £86,000 loan taken out to buy more cars for his failing taxi firm. 'He was effectively a one-man band saddled with indebtedness,' said Mr Paterson.

'He has cut himself off from the ties that brought him here today. He is ashamed of what he has brought to his family.'

Sheriff Davidson told Hutton he was due 'severe punishment' for his role in distributing illegal drugs knowing the harm they caused to communities.

Jailing Hutton for two years and three months, he told the 52 year-old: 'There was a substantial amount of cocaine in your possession on that day. Cocaine is highly addictive and leads users into committing crime to support their drug habit and in a sense that's why you are here today.'

Penalty point
Each foot down costs the rider one penalty point and the top

of money from Hutton under the Proceeds of Crime Act, Sheriff Davidson said: 'It's not indicative to me this is someone living an extravagant lifestyle or who is heavily involved in the drugs scene and making a lot of money from it.'

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Sutherland said: 'Today's sentencing acts as a deterrent to those who are tempted to become involved in dealing drugs, particularly within the Highlands and Islands. The public have and can continue to provide us with invaluable assistance.'

'Tell the police if drugs are being dealt where you live. The information you have can help to take action against those very individuals who are hurting your communities.'

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Award for Recovery Working Group

Members of the Recovery Working Group at Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership have been awarded at the annual Mental Health Nursing Conference. This year's event, held in Edinburgh, had the largest number of submissions ever and the Argyll and Bute group's award was for their contribution to practice excellence within inpatient services. 'Achieving this award is a real recognition of the commitment that the group has to supporting recovery within mental health care,' said Gillian Davies, of practice education. Pictured, left to right, are, back: Sara Heath, Tina Jordan; front: Teresa Sinclair and Gillian Davies.

Trophy amnesty offered by Oban Mod

THE ORGANISERS of this year's Oban Provincial Mod have set up a trophy amnesty in a bid to retrieve some of its valuable silverware.

The committee has discovered many of the prizes have not been returned - in some

cases this has been over a number of years - and is encouraging former winners to hand them in at the Oban Gaelic Centre, Furan, in the Corran Halls.

As a change to the schedule this year, junior in-

strumental competitions are being moved to the Saturday morning.

There is still time to enter for this year's Mod, with entries being taken until next Monday. The competition will run on June 20 and 21.

Stroke victims to benefit from new technology

ULTRASOUND scans transmitted over the airwaves may hold the key to better outcomes for stroke victims in rural areas.

A new technology being investigated in a research supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Aberdeen University may increase survival rates and minimise disability.

The ultrasound scanner connected to a state-of-the-art communication system will transmit images of the patient's brain in real time to centrally based specialists.

The technology could be a lifeline for people living in remote parts of the country, where it can take several hours to travel to a city hospital for brain scanning and diagnosis.

If testing is successful, local ambulance crews could carry the new device, and once on the scene would remotely link to the stroke specialist's computer using a 2G, 3G, 4G, WiFi or two types of satellite connection.

The specialist will then check the images and could in the future advise paramedics whether or not they should

administer life-saving 'clot-busting' drugs.

'Ideally, stroke patients should receive these clot-busting drugs within 90 minutes of the onset of the stroke, but they can still be administered up to four-and-a-half hours later. Every 15 minutes of delay counts,' explains Dr Alasdair Mort from the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Rural Health based at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. 'This can be difficult in urban areas, in rural areas it is almost impossible.'

Currently, someone who is having a stroke would have to be brought into hospital to be scanned and examined by an expert. This new technology could see the ambulance staff carrying out an ultrasound examination at the scene of the stroke, and the hospital expert could watch the output in real-time thanks to a new piece of technology called the Omni-Hub, currently being tested with healthy volunteers.

The project, partly funded by HIE, aims to prove that the devices can work in remote parts of the country.

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One of the larger Hebridean islands, its eight working distilleries - soon to be nine - are its heartbeat and are a must see for anyone with an interest in whisky.

Whisky enthusiasts from around the world make the pilgrimage to this Mecca of malt whisky, giving the island an almost year-round tourism industry.

But the island has much more to offer than just 'uisge beatha'.

Islay is well known for its wonderful all-year-round bird watching, with tens of thousands of geese migrating to and from the island. There are also more than 100 breeding species and spring and autumn migration.

The island also enjoys fine displays of wild flowers, a rare butterfly and a wealth of seashore life.

Albeit a fairly flat island, Islay has around 20 walking routes for those keen on the outdoors, while there is lots to do for families too.

Jura, on the other hand, has a more striking landscape dominated by its famous Paps, the scene of a popular race on the island every year.

Jura, it is well documented, has a deer-to-people ration of 30:1 but you might not know that the island has just opened its village shop under community ownership and is bustling with enterprise and energy.

And, just in case you think the island's industry cannot compete with the big brother across the water, Jura has its own world-famous distillery too.

This thriving and enterprising community of only 190 people, ensure there is always plenty to do, especially over the summer.

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ra and the Isle of Skye



FROM THE jagged peaks of the Cuillins to the Coral Beaches near Dunvegan, from the sheltered coves of Sleat in the south to the northern bleak ruin of Dultulm Castle, the Isle of Skye has it all.

With breathtaking scenery, vibrant culture and heritage, and incredible wildlife, Skye offers the visitor a limitless choice of things to see and do by foot, bike, car or public transport.

By day, the many wonders of the island unfold, with the famous Trotternish ridge running from Portree north to Flodigarry offering spectacular views and walks.

Its centrepiece, a crooked pillar of stone named The Old Man of Storr, is a must for those fit enough to hike the two miles up a good path from the main Portree-Staffin Road.

Skye has also built itself a deserved reputation for a superb choice of places to eat out, with local produce a strongpoint on most menus.

At night, stargazers can enjoy no fewer than nine Dark Sky Discovery Sites. Little wonder - away from the main settlements such as Portree and Broadford, light pollution is amongst the lowest in Europe and the wonders of the heavens are revealed for all to see.

For the walker and climber, the Cuillin range is home to 12 Munros and mountaineers from across the world come to pit their wits against Scotland's most Alpine of ranges.

Known in Gaelic as Eilean Sgitheanach (The Winged Isle) or the more recent title Eilean a' Cheo (The Misty Isle), Skye is steeped in history and romance, and is unrivalled in its offer to the modern day visitor.

Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald are woven into the folklore of the island, Talisker Distillery produces its famous malt at Portnalong, while the Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig stands proudly over the Sound of Sleat as testament to the bold bid to revive the ancient language, which is still widely spoken on Skye.

In the far north, Uig is home to the ferry to the Outer Isles and a start point for a stunning drive round the coast to Portree.

In the south, the mainland ferry service between Mallaig and Armadale in Sleat runs eight times a day Monday to Saturday, and six times daily on Sundays. And for those looking for a different way to go 'over the sea to Skye', a tiny turntable ferry runs during the summer months between Glenelg in Lochalsh and Kylesha.

By road, the famous Skye Bridge, a graceful arc over Loch Alsh, provides a spectacular entry point to the island.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Action better than inaction

THE PROPOSED demolition of the former Rockfield Primary School will undoubtedly bring with it some opposition from those who would protect Oban's history.

But if the building was worth keeping, would it not have been bought over by now?

The situation raises a question faced by communities the length of the UK - how can we best preserve our historic buildings and when is it time to let them go?

The former tourist information centre on Oban's Argyll Square had to be vacated because of structural problems and the Argyll Hotel was demolished after falling into disrepair.

If the Rockfield building is left to the elements, then surely it will go the same way.

Since 2007, when it ceased to be a school, the building has been empty and the few offers made for the building have, for reasons only fully known by owners Argyll and Bute Council, been short of the mark.

Various options for the future of the building have been mooted but the most serious seems to be: demolish the building and build flats on the land. The make up of these flats - most likely for affordable rent or sheltered accommodation - is not clear yet, but whatever the future for Rockfield, surely action is better than inaction in this situation.

What's the future for island services?

DOCTORS resign and expectant mothers rally to demand better maternity services - what is to become of healthcare on the Isle of Mull?

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon has described the situation in the Ross of Mull, where two doctors have given notice to quit the island practice, is at breaking point.

The importance of medical cover to the Argyll islands, populated by thousands of people, can not be overstated.

It was once the norm that these islands had their own on-call doctor and a locum doctor was just that.

Now, islanders are grateful for having a resident doctor.

We live in an age when we are relying more on third sector services and are asking communities to do more for themselves.

But this is not gritting a road, or running an after-school club. The skills of our medical practitioners cannot be replicated and where someone lives should not be a disadvantage.

GLASGOW LETTER

New composition showcase

SINCE its inception all those years ago the Traditional Course at the now named Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has produced a multitude of talented musicians and while we are well acquainted with their excellent performances we do not have the same opportunity to witness their very own compositions.

The National Piping Centre was the location recently to rectify this when six third-year students showcased their work as produced for their composition module.

The six participants were Mairi Marwick from Fochabers, a finalist earlier this year in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year Competition, Marie Murdoch from the Inverness area, Aly Forsyth from Aberdeenshire, David Shedden from Glasgow, Callum Moffat from Lockerbie and MyungShin 'Peter' Daramy from Bradford.

On stage for each performance the students were assisted by fellow students and friends so that well over twenty musicians took part in the evening and with each of the composers specialising on different instruments during their studies, one fiddler, two pipers and three keyboard players, there was plenty of variety with the numbers on stage ranging from a maximum of 13 at any one time.

This was an evening of excellent musical entertainment with our visiting student from Bradford, normally more used to playing classical music, showing that in his short time in Scotland he has well and truly absorbed our traditional music. Indeed he managed to compose music based on his observing supporters of Rangers from his Ibrox home.

This he did rather skilfully ending the piece very pensively which might well be the way in which supporters are currently viewing the future for their team.

If there was a downside to

this concert. It was the rather poor attendance. There is an opportunity to perhaps hear some of this music again when the Royal Conservatoire students host their end of term concert in the Stevenson Room in the Conservatoire on Thursday May 15th. Prior to this on Friday May 9 first year students will, in the Mitchell Theatre, showcase their Gaelic skills after their sojourn to Sabhal mor Ostaig in Skye.

Gaels ri Cheile

As part of Glasgow Southside Fringe Festival there will be Language classes for Beginners in both Gaelic (Scottish) and Gaelige (Irish) from 7pm to 9pm on Thursday May 15th in the Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, 6-8 Daisy Street, G428JL. The cost is £3. For more information contact linda@anlochran.com or telephone 0141 341 1025 or 0141 433 9495.

Correction
The piper at the Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert, in last week's edition, was wrongly named and should have been Sandy Campbell.

Diary dates

Friday May 9: Traditional Students' Gaelic Showcase, Mitchell Theatre, 7.30pm.

Tuesday May 13: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association AGM, An Leann, Mansfield Street, Partick, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm-Flossie Mallavialle.

Thursday May 15: End of Year Show-Traditional Music Course, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 7.30pm. Gaels ri Cheile-see above.

Saturday May 17: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm-Susan MacFadyen's Band.

Pub scene

Trail West will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger there on Friday while in the Ilay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Ragaels on Saturday.

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



Bunessan Local Mod Committee - June 1983

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and features members of the successful 1983 Bunessan Local Mod Committee. The line-up includes Attie Mackecknie, third right. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Garden centre deserves backing

Sir,
I refer to the headlines in last week's paper regarding the garden centre at the Dragon's Tooth Golf Club in Ballachulish.

I visited the centre the other day and was pleasantly surprised at the lovely set up and the vast array of garden plants and supplies.

The buildings have brightened up a drab area at the rear of the golf club and enhanced the area.

The rubbish put forward by the two objectors is absolute nonsense.

How Grant Stuart says he was horrified by the buildings defies logic.

The entire area has been transformed and the buildings blend in beautifully with the surroundings.

To leave the area with fallen trees and branches was most unsightly.

There is still ample room for wildlife, in fact, when I was there the birds were singing beautifully in the trees.

I do hope the planners will see sense and grant this enterprising young couple full planning permission in their business venture, and let folk attempting to improve the area get on with their business.

Tom Kirsop, Brudair, North Ballachulish.

Unique character of Oban being eroded

Sir,
I am dismayed to hear that another high street cafe/restaurant chain is planning to open at Station Square (one of the focal points of our small town), with the likelihood that trade for our local businesses will diminish yet further.

Costa is Britain's largest coffee chain offering identikit coffee shops wherever you might be in the UK.

Whilst every new business that opens always creates new jobs, Costa don't care whether or not they recruit local workers, use local suppliers or their negative impact upon a community in general.

They are solely interested in crushing competition, thereby maximising returns for their shareholders.

Last year the FSB reported that every £1 spent with a local supplier was worth £1.76 to the local community as against a mere £0.36 if spent elsewhere.

I feel genuinely sad that the unique character of Oban is now being slowly and irrevocably eroded, reducing it from a vibrant tourist destination to nothing more than a 'clone town'.

Visitors come here on holiday often to escape such soulless corporations and to experience instead the best that authentic

and independent food and drink establishments have to offer.

I would urge the town's planners and councillors to do everything in their powers to protect what makes us special.

Wake up and smell the generic coffee before it's too late. Otherwise, who knows what's next - McDonald's running the new Oban High Campus canteen?

Name and address supplied.

Fish and mussel farm debris spoiling Loch Etive

Sir,
I spent Saturday and Sunday with four friends kayaking from Taynult to the head of Loch Etive.

It is five years since I have been on the loch and it was distressing to see the accumulation of fish and mussel farm debris on the loch and the shores.

There were large accumulations of debris on the shore at Rubha Barr and across the water at Ardmaddy Bay.

The rubbish included large square floats for walking platforms, three walking platforms and numerous oval floats from mussel farms.

Why is the body responsible for this area allowing this to happen?

More to the point why on earth have another fish farm here when the ones already there are spoiling the area with apparently no efforts to make them responsible for cleaning up.

Christobel Fallon, North Killlearn, by email.

Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum

Sir,
I wish to clarify a few points in connection with the opening of the Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum.

The museum was the brainchild of Miss Barbara Fairweather who had taken up residence in Invercoe House in 1963.

A few years later she bought an old cottage sited in the main street of the village with the intention of establishing a museum.

This was officially opened in June 1968 by Donald John Macdonald of Castleton, president of Clan Donald, Edinburgh.

I quote from *The Oban Times* June 27 1968: 'A party of members of Clan Donald Societies were invited by Miss Barbara Fairweather, secretary and curator of the Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum, to visit the area and meet with Mrs Jean Macdonald, Clarke Patron of the Museum.'

'After lunch at Invercoe gifts were handed over to Miss Faithweather for the museum and the party was then conducted on a tour of the museum.'

C WH Aikman, Ardour.

Oil and gas revenues worth a lot if independent

Sir,
Gordon Brown recently tried to tell us we had the best pensions in the world, but our pensions are the worst in Western Europe at £113.10, beaten by Ireland at £180 per week.

Over the last year the number of people using emergency food banks has tripled to more than 900,000. It's worth remembering only two Scottish Labour MPs out of 41 voted against the ConDem benefit caps.

In the 2010 General Election I had hoped Labour would unite with the SNP, a party now standing for some of the things Labour once did, but sadly Labour wasn't interested. Full of blind hatred for the SNP, they preferred Tory rule to home rule.

Bizarrely 'Better Together' does not even address the fact that our share of oil and gas revenue would make us the sixth richest country in the world under independence.

Harness that resource and anything is possible.
J MacFadyen, Polvinister Road, Oban.

Bring out the barbecue for charity action

Sir,
I am writing to invite your readers to get their grill on to support people with epilepsy and take part in the first ever Epilepsy Action Big BBQ, from June 9 - 15.

Statistics show that the average British family will have nine barbecues a year. Why not use one of yours to help people with epilepsy?

Whether it's a barbecue with friends and family; a grill up at the local sports club; or an American style cookout with your local community group, all you need to do is get grilling and get giving.

Every year, around 32,000 people are diagnosed with epilepsy, that's 87 every single day.

All the money raised from this event will help us to continue our vital work in supporting the 600,000 people with epilepsy across the UK. It is estimated that around 53,000 people in Scotland have epilepsy.

Everyone who registers to hold a Big BBQ event will receive a grill-tastic fundraising toolkit. It contains a collection box, invitations, posters, recipe cards and even a branded chef hat for the king or queen of the barbie.

To register for a free Big BBQ fundraising pack, visit epilepsy.org.uk/bigbbq or call the fundraising events team on 01132108800.

Yours, Carl Foster, Fundraising events officer, Epilepsy Action

A respite lifeline

Sir,
Following last week's Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Week, did you readers know this disabling neurological disease is most commonly diagnosed in young people aged 20 to 30?

At Vitalise - the national charity that I work for - we understand the importance of being able to get away from the stresses of daily life, if only for a short while.

Vitalise provides a respite lifeline for people with many different disabilities and their carers at our three accessible UK centres, enabling them to restore their strength and face life's daily challenges with renewed hope. While at present there remains no cure for MS - or even a proper idea of what causes it.

It's very simple: take a break with us, relax - and remember you're not alone. We simply wouldn't be able to continue giving our guests the breaks they so desperately need without the help of our wonderful supporters.

To find out more about our breaks or ways to support us, please visit: www.vitalise.org.uk or call us on 030 303 0147.

Stephanie Stone, Vitalise.

Looking to trace relatives

Sir,
I am looking for any relatives of Archie and Marion McCallum from Campbeltown and Southend. Their children were Jessie, Archie (my dad) Duncan, Margaret and Iain.

As one of Archie's daughters, I would love to get in touch with any of my relatives.

I would also like to get in touch with Jean McGowan who will now be 53 or 54 years old. I started Millknowe Primary School with her.

Lynda McCallum, lynda1910@gmail.com

A great visit

Sir,
I have recently enjoyed a holiday in Oban. It is amazing that such a small town can offer so much to the tourist.

In the matter of one week I saw three white-tailed sea eagles, a golden eagle, took a trip with SeaFari to the Corryvreckan and Coastal Connections around the islands, I watched a west-end theatre production of King Lear in a world-class cinema, I enjoyed a number of long walks - including Kerrera and Ganavan Sands. The 1745 House at Dunolzie showed off what I understand is only a small part of what it has to offer, and I had a great swim in the pool at Atlantis.

I will recommend a holiday in Oban to anyone who asks. I hope that people in the town will talk up what they have to offer - and not as one local man said to me 'there is nothing to do here - you should go to Piltchroy.'

Yours, Philip Walker, Polmont

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA MI beò an dòchas nach robh mi ceàrr ann a bhith ag ràdh nach leigeadh an dàrna cuid An Ruis neo dùthchannan an taobh an iar le cùisean Na Ucràine a dhol ro fhada.

Tha Putin a' cumail a-mach gum feum ean luchd-labhairt cànan An Ruis, agus feadhainn a bhuineas do dhualchas na dùthcha sin, a dhion fìù 's ged a bha iad taobh a-staigh dùthaich eile. Ged a ghabhadh cuid ris an argamaid sin, aig an aon àm tha aithne ann gum bheil làn-chòraichean cuideachd aig muinntir Na Ucràine mar dhùthaich neo-eisimeil, agus aig an t-sluagh a tha ag iarraidh taobhadh ris an Roinn Eòrpa agus dùthchannan an iar.

Ged a dhùthchannan an iar oidhirpean làidir a dhèanamh gus aonta a dhealbhadh eadar An Ruis agus An Ucràin, chan eil iad air soirbheachadh fhathast, agus chan eil mar a ghabh An Ruis sealbh air a' Chràimea idir air cuideachadh. 'S e tha draghail, is mi a' sgrìobhadh seo mar a tha an sluagh san Ucràin a tha a' taobhadh ris An Ruis a sior fhàs nas dàine, agus gum bheil ar-a-mach an aghaidh riaghaltas na dùthcha a' dol am meud agus a' sgaoileadh.

'S e culaidh-thruais a th' ann a bhith a' faicinn arm is poileas gan ruagadh thall 's a-bhos le an sluagh fhèin, agus ged is dòcha gum bheil An Ruis a' brodanachadh an t-suidheachaidh 's ann taobh a-staigh Na Ucràine fhèin a tha an trioblaid. Dè ghabhas deànadh?

Ged a ni dùthchannan an iar maoidheadh de chaochladh sheòrsa, cha dèan gus aca gluasad ro ghrad air eagal 's gum faodadh cùisean spreadhadh a-mach gu cogadh. Aig am sam bheilcar a' comharrachadh ceud bliadhna bho ghairm a' Chogaidh Mhòir tha sith na h-Eòrpa ro phrìseil, agus cha tèid na dùthchannan sin ach an sàs ann am modh dioplòmasach fìù 's ged a tha cuid a' fulang ana-ceartas agus ag iarraidh cobhair.

Nach saoilmaid gum biodh Putin a cheart cho mothachail air a' cheann-bliadhna sin oir gu deimhinnte dh'fhuiling an dùthaich aigean call do-chreidsinneach cuideachd anns a' Chogadh sin, agus anns an fhear a lean. An e an fheallsanachd a th' aige leigeil le luchd-taice

Na Ruis san Ucràin cùisean a thoirt gu ìre airmhreach a chiallaicheas gum bi leigseul aig An Ruis smachd a ghabhail air caoban eile den Ucràin? Ged a tharraingeadh e a chuid armachd air ais a-màireach bhiodh annas, le adhbhar, air a chuid rùintean!

Mar a dh'èirich dha Caidreachas Gniomhachas Bhreatainn, aon uair 's gun nochd beachd buidheann neo dùthaich, tha e doirbh tilleadh bhon t-suidheachadh sin!

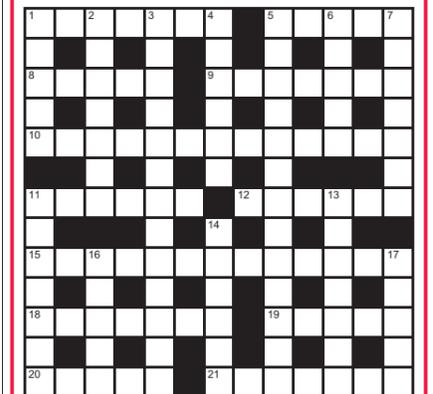
THE UKRAINE faces a serious political challenge; with its population apparently divided in seeking cultural and political aspirations to east and west.

When the outbreak of the Great War and its horror is being remembered across Europe, and Russia, we must hope that a compromise can be agreed in the Ukraine very soon.

President Putin's aspirations will remain suspect from now on.
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

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- Across**
- Spirited music (7)
 - Brim (5)
 - Sleep later than normal (3-2)
 - Authoritarian (7)
 - Appear again as someone else (13)
 - Exit (6)
 - Display (6)
 - The name given for the reason the ice fields are melting (6,7)
 - Spoken in Northumbria and Mercia (7)
 - Said as one thing, meant as another (5)
 - Cheap looking (5)
 - Expand (7)
- Down**
- Making blocks of hay (5)
 - Studio (7)
 - Not a matter of compulsion (13)
 - Able to pay for (6)
 - Six priestesses in Rome (6,7)
 - Out of this world subject (3-2)
 - Woo (7)
 - Implant (7)
 - Harmful (7)
 - Intervoven (6)
 - Should (5)
 - Gave someone the slip (5)

LAST week's SOLUTION

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Minority language expert to deliver Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI lecture

AN INTERNATIONAL expert on minority languages and rights is to deliver the 2014 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) UHI lecture.

Rita Izsák will speak in the TV studio in the Fàs building on the Gaelic college's campus near Armadale on Skye on Monday afternoon.

Ms Izsák, who is from Hungary, is the special rapporteur for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

SMO principal, Professor Boyd Robertson said the college was 'honoured' that she had agreed to come to Scotland.

He said: 'As an international consultant to the United Nations, Ms Izsák travels extensively to theatres of conflict such as Ukraine and Nigeria and has gained an extensive overview of the issues facing minorities and minority languages throughout the world.'

'We look forward eagerly to hearing her insights into the minority condition and the challenges confronting minority languages such as Gaelic.'

Phone stolen

A MOBILE phone was stolen from the office of the Blackwater Hostel, Kinlochleven between 4pm and 6pm on Friday, May 2.

In a similar incident, a mobile was stolen from a silver Volkswagen Golf parked in Lidl's car park in Fort William the day before between 4.30pm and 4.45pm.

Door damaged

DAMAGE was caused to a conservatory door in Blar Mhor Road in Caol on Monday, April 28. At lunchtime the same day, items were thrown towards the school crossing patroller from a passing vehicle on North Road, Fort William.

Quad taken

A QUAD bike was taken from a compound used by 'West Coast Paintball' next to the B885 around one mile from Portree sometime between 9pm on Sunday April 27 and 7am the next day. The bike was found nearby but significant damage had been caused.

Underpass vandalised

GRAFFITI was written on the walls of underpass in Ballachulish between 12pm on April 23 and 7pm on April 26.

Anyone with information on the above incidents should contact local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

James takes early darts league lead

JAMES Whyte came out on top in the week one of the Tradewinds Singles Darts League in Corpach on Friday when he beat John Woods 4-0 in the final.

Semi-finalists were Paul Shearer and Craig Howden and best leg of the night was a 15 darter by John Woods, starting with five consecutive treble 20s.

Paul Shearer, Curly Cameron, David Fairgreive, Alex MacInnes and James Whyte also scored 180s.

Highest finish of the night was John Matheson with a 107. Week two is tomorrow night, all players are welcome.



Caol pupils enjoy tour of new police HQ

Caol Primary School P6 pupils ended up behind bars at the new police and ambulance HQ at Fort William on Friday. The 'punishment', however, was just part of a fact-finding tour to find out about possible future careers with the emergency services. PC Emma Holgate, police liaison officer for Caol Primary School, took the children round the building.

Memorial trip sets sail from Fort William

A MEMORIAL boat trip around the UK began in Fort William this week, to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of D-Day.

The 'voyage of remembrance' commemorates when hundreds of thousands of Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy to begin the liberation of Western Europe.

Replica pipes of those played by late Fort William war veteran Bill Millin during the first landings were presented by his son John on Tuesday and will be toured around Britain by soon-to-be soldier Karl Wainwright. When the voyage ends in Portsmouth 23 year-old Wainwright, who will join the Black Watch regiment in July, will hand the instrument back to Mr Millin who will then present the pipes to the mayor of Coleville-Montgomery, France, at a civic reception on the anniversary on June 6.

Mr Millin, who died in 2010, was trained at Achnacarry Estate and subsequently became the personal piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat and commander of the 1st Special Service Brigade. A chanter from Mr Millin's original instrument was included in the replica which was played by his son at memorial services at Achnacarry Castle and the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial on Sunday.

Speaking from Souter's Lass, which followed the coastguard cutter carrying the pipes along Loch Linnhe, Lt Col Kevin Lane, vice chairman of the Fort William Branch Royal British Legion Scotland, said: 'The



Karl Wainwright (centre) tried out the replica of pipes played on D-Day. Back from left Kevin Lane, Doneda McKay, Danny Munro, Jimmy Smith, Patrick Churchill and John Millin.

events of D-Day in 1944 are an incredible feat in their own right but the actions of individuals such as Bill Millin are an inspiration to us all and we are privileged to have his son John on board Souter's Lass with us today. I am certain that I speak for us all in wishing the pipes God speed, fair winds and calm seas on their journey.'

Adventure begins at Ben Nevis

AN AWARD-winning expedition created by students at West Highland College UHI begins with an ascent of Ben Nevis next Wednesday.

The West Highland Adventure Trail (WHAT) will see third year adventure tourism management students tackle the mountain by various walking and climbing routes.

Over the following 24 days, the group will be joined by fellow students and staff members on

various sections linking college centres from Kinlochleven to Ullapool, where the challenge will finish on June 6. Getting from A to B will involve a combination of hill walking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing and mountain biking. Other keep fit activities are planned for local communities at each centre on the itinerary.

Meanwhile, each location has been invited to put a 'message of aspiration' from the com-

munity inside a specially-designed baton being carried en route.

Adventure tourism lecturer Paul Kelly said: 'We want to provide opportunities for members of our remote communities, young and old, to experience healthy, active and challenging activities.'

The WHAT won gold and silver awards at a recent College Scotland event in Glasgow.

Case against dog owner thrown out

A FORMER Glencoe woman accused of letting her dogs upset two children on holiday with their parents in Lochaber had the case against her thrown out at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Eleanor Slaughter was cleared of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm by refusing to take control of four Labrador dogs at Hospital Lochan near Glencoe.

Ms Slaughter was also cleared of shouting at the children's father when he demanded that she control the dogs on October 16 last year.

The 50 year-old, previously of Lorn Drive in Glencoe but now living in Frizington, Cumbria, was not required to give evidence after Sheriff Richard Davidson ruled there was no case to answer and found her not guilty.

The verdict came after the children's father told the court he 'gave as good as he got' during a heated argument with Ms Slaughter.

He denied defence lawyer Edward Thornton's suggestion that he and his wife were dog haters and that he was the one giving verbal abuse.

The father said: 'I am not anti-dog. She stood within my close personal space and accused me of being rude and aggressive. I gave as good as I got. It was a heated discussion.'

'She did not utter one word towards the dogs and was more interested in me.'

'She said she was going to phone the police and I said great

- can you please because by this point we were intimidated by the dogs.'

He added: 'With four dogs milling around us we did not feel safe. We herded together for safety.'

Earlier in the trial, the mother told how the family had been on a mountain bike outing round the lochan when four Labradors ran up with the owner nowhere to be seen. Her eldest son, she claimed, was 'very scared' of dogs after two jumped on him in the past.

She said: 'He was in distress and trying to run away from the dogs. We were still trying to work out who they belonged to. One dog in particular was growling at us.'

'A lady came in sight with a mobile phone. My husband was shouting at her to get her dogs back. He got the usual answer that they are friendly and they like children.'

She added: 'It just turned into

a big shouting match. She did not tell her dogs to come to her. She was getting angry with my husband. One dog was growling and showing its teeth. I was feeling a bit scared myself.'

'Labs are a breed which are known as friendly dogs,' Mr Thornton suggested.

'You can never tell when a dog is friendly or not,' she replied. 'I don't think they should come up to a stranger at all. You should not get any unwanted attention from a dog. I am not a dog-hater.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after the trial, Ms Slaughter said she was relieved at the verdict but had lost two stone through stress and had quit Lochaber.

She said: 'I had to move over this. My partner and I have split up. I have had to have therapy because of the way that man behaved towards me in those woods.'

'I am not an aggressive person and I was intimidated by his behaviour towards me.'



Cleared: Eleanor Slaughter with three of the dogs involved in the incident in Glencoe woods last October. f19dogs1no

By-election win for Ben

THE NEW councillor for the Caol and Mallaig ward will get his political baptism at a full meeting of Highland Council in Inverness today (Thursday).

Ben Thompson will join Lochaber colleagues Allan Henderson, Andrew Baxter and Thomas MacLennan on the opposition Independent group benches. Last week, Mr Thompson defeated four other candidates in a by-election held to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Eddie Hunter.

The 37-year-old, elected under the single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation, topped the poll at the count in Kilmallie Free Church on Friday.

Mr Thompson gained 932 of the 2,391 first preference votes and was elected at the fourth



Ben Thompson: the new Highland Council member for Caol and Mallaig with his papers for his first council meeting today.

round of counting. A total of 23 votes were rejected. Turnout was 34.4 per cent.

SNP candidate Willie 'Keelie' MacDonald polled strongly to claim second place, with 726 first preference votes. Caol man Sandy Watson scored a creditable 537 first choice votes but UKIP candidate Liam Simmonds (133) and Susan Wallace of the Scottish Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's Lordship' (63) failed to make an impact.

Banavie man Mr Thompson, who is married to Fiona with a 20 month-old daughter Thea and runs Inverlochly bike shop Nevis Cycles, told *The Oban Times* after the count: 'I am proud to get the chance to represent the ward and will do my best to live up to the trust the people have put in me. I have spent five

weeks talking to folk and their main priorities are safer roads and tidier streets. I did not stand because I had some burning issue or personal goal. I am a local man who wants to look after local folk.'

Runner-up Mr MacDonald said: 'I am a bit disappointed but best of luck to Ben and I hope he does well in representing the ward. 'I would like to thank my family and all my supporters who voted for me. I will consider standing again in three years time.'

Defibrillator volunteers needed

LIFE-SAVING equipment could be given to the residents of three Lochaber villages - if they attend a training course.

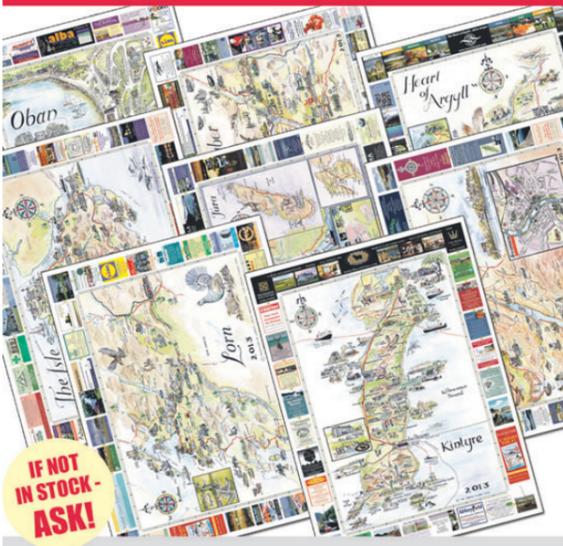
Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has been looking for a defibrillator for the area and charity Heart Start said they would provide one - if 18 people from each location train in first aid and using the equipment.

But at the community council meeting on Tuesday night, members agreed that was a lot

of people to ask from areas with such small populations. Chairman John Fotheringham said: 'They want us to show commitment to the scheme by attending the training courses but they are looking for a lot from us.'

The community council agreed they would try to enlist 18 people from across the three places and install the defibrillator in Roy Bridge as Lochaber Shinty Club already has the equipment at its Spean Bridge clubhouse.

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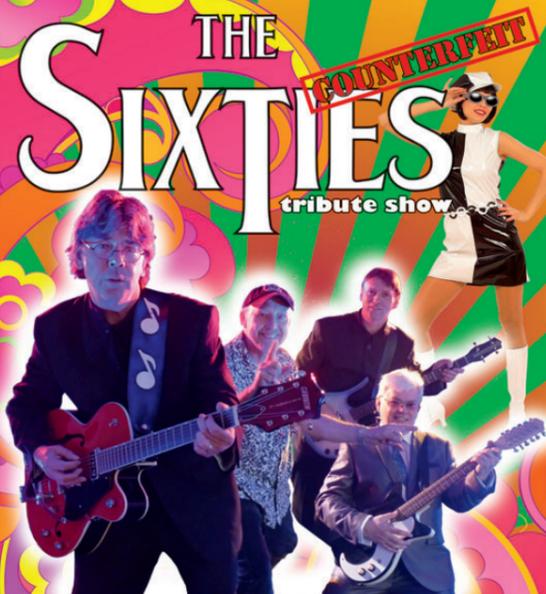
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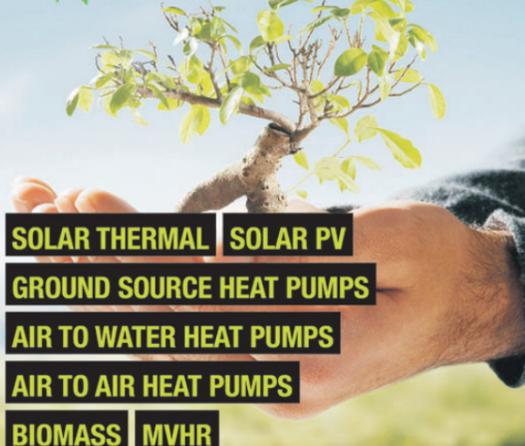
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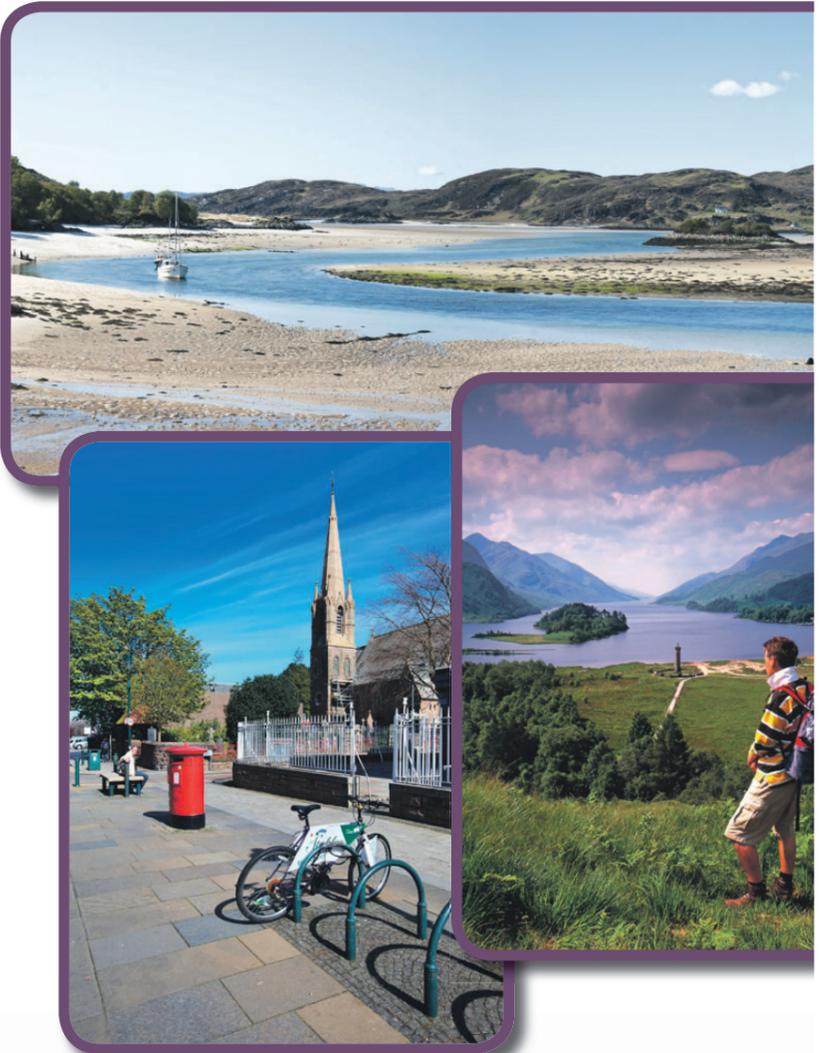
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achievable experience for keen hill walkers.

Tranquility

For those who prefer a more sedate but equally spectacular journey, the tranquillity of Glen Nevis and the historic and atmospheric Glencoe are nearby whilst Mallaig and Morar offer some fantastic sea views.

Spectacular landscapes

The area features some of Scotland's most spectacular and recognisable landscapes for those who want to explore the great outdoors. The highest peak in the UK, Ben Nevis, towers over Fort William and Loch Linnhe and offers a challenging but

Amenities

But Lochaber also offers all of the services, shops and other amenities one might expect in the central belt.

Services

Local workmen and companies offer first-class services at reasonable rates, whether you are looking to improve your home inside or out.

Local food

Numerous cafes, bars and restaurants serve everything from international cuisine to locally-caught fish and home baking from across Lochaber.

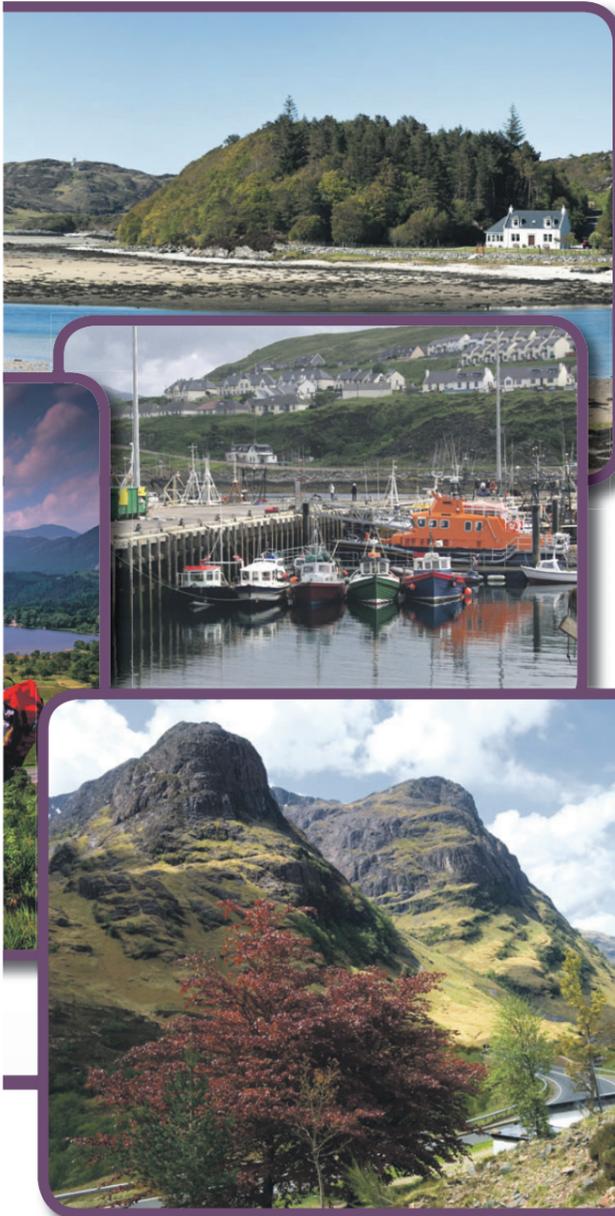
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railway viaducts as well as the monument which marks the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard before the 1745 Jacobite revolution.

Meanwhile, one of modern Scotland's greatest engineering feats, the Caledonian Canal, starts at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie and meanders through Loch Lochy and Ness.

Sports

Anyone looking for a bit of sporting fun will not be at a loss in Lochaber, with mountain biking, golf, snow sports, bowling, angling and a range of water sports all readily available.

Lochaber has it all!

With such a wide variety of places to visit, stay, eat out and enjoy, Lochaber truly has it all.

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The Susie Simpson Trio were a big hit at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's last meeting of the season.

Superb sounds in Skye at Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE FINAL monthly meeting of the current season of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club took place in their usual venue of the Royal Hotel in Portree last week, with M.C. Jim Campbell welcoming music enthusiasts from near and far.

First to take the stage were members of the club's own band in the shape of Caerina Campbell and Chloe Urquhart on fiddles and John MacGilvary and John Cameron on piano accordions, with the latter moving to piano for part of the performance.

They were followed by the

ever-popular Sandy Ross from Lochcarron who gave some excellent selections on his three-row button-box, accompanied by Donald John Campbell on drums and John Cameron on piano.

Delightful strings
Skye Strings, a group of four young fiddlers and a cellist led by their tutor, Laura Harrington, gave two excellent sets much enjoyed by the audience.

Later in the evening Laura went on to play solo fiddle, the highlight of which for many in the hall was her moving version of the slow

air, The Heroes of Longhope, with sympathetic accompaniment on piano from John Cameron.

Guest band
Caerina Campbell, leading the club's band in a second session, was followed by the evening's guest band, the Inverness based Susie Simpson Trio.

With Susie from Inverness leading on piano accordion, Gillian Stevenson of Culbokie on fiddle and Sheena Kelman of Nairn, they provided superb entertainment with an excellent choice of tunes, great arrangements and a first class sound.

The trio brought the evening to a rousing close by inviting the local players to join them for a traditional 'stramash'.

All thoughts are now turning to the 10th Skye Accordion Fiddle Festival which kicks off in the Royal Hotel, Portree on the evening of Thursday, May 22 with the fantastic Iain MacPhail Band, together with many visiting and local players promising a sensational start to a weekend of live music.

For more information visit www.skyemusic.co.uk.

John Grundy

Ballet West students prepare for end of year shows

Ballet West dancer Sarah Mortimer will appear in Dance! at the Corran Halls.

BALLET WEST students are presenting their end of year shows, Dance! at the Corran Halls on May 15 and 29.

The HND students are performing on the first date with an eclectic programme of dance including an excerpt from the West End and Broadway show Chicago.

Several new works have been created for the students. One, by Belgian

choreographer Daniel Job, is a humorous interpretation of the music of Stravinsky.

Ballet West graduate, Duncan Saul, has also produced a dance piece for the students. Since leaving the school Duncan has been working as a ballet dancer in Germany and has just begun working with Ballet Hoffman.

The degree students take to the stage on May 29

with a completely different programme of dance.

The show is the culmination of three years of work and is the final assessment that the students will take before graduating with a BA(Hons) in Dance from Northumbria University.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see these talented students before they leave to work as professional dancers.

The show demonstrates

the breadth of experience the dancers have gained from classical ballet, modern ballet and contemporary. New work has been created for the students by Daniel Job and Andrew McNicol, and will be showcased alongside work that the students have devised themselves as part of their degree studies.



Oban and Lorn is an ideal place for food production

Businesses are waiting to buy local fayre

OBAN and Lorn is an ideal place to provide perfect food, a conference heard on Monday.

The Food and Film Festival at Oban Phoenix Cinema hosted the day-long event looking at increasing food production in the area.

Funded by the Community Food Fund the event brought together specialists from throughout the UK in order to develop markets within the area.

Sustainability
Helen Woodcock, of the Kindling Trust said that Oban and Lorn had all the special 'ingredients' to build a sustainable local food co-operative.

She said: 'I can see that

you have everything in place to build an incredible product that would be world-renowned.'

'But at the moment there is no one who is able to join up the dots and bring the producers together with the buyers at the micro and macro levels.'

'People do not have grow or farm on a huge scale to make food sustainable, but they do need to come together to plan the food that the buyers want.'

Gary Goldie, renowned forager and chef at garygoldie@thequeens, the restaurant at the Queen's Hotel in Oban, talked about the need for people to rethink attitudes to finding food.

Gary also spoke about the food chain for mushrooms into Oban at present.

He said: 'Mushrooms that come from America are bought and sold in Canada, in France, in the UK and then in Scotland.'

'We cannot continue to by-pass the foods that we have on our doorstep because we don't understand how to pick them or use them.'

Collaborate
Gregor Wood, of Good Times Scotland at Leduc Farm in Kinlochard, asked participants to think carefully about collaborations between organisations in order to build the product for the tourist market.

As a hill farmer, his farm has diversified into hospitality offering an authentic Scottish experience. Gregor said: 'With out local support we would not be able to do what we do in Aberfoyle.'

Working together
'By working together we bring employment to the area. It also allows us to seize opportunities for building a bigger and better offering for tourists.'

Food on film
Fergus Murray, representing Food from Argyll, showed one of the films produced by the organisation.

The film focused on cheese production throughout the area

and can be viewed on YouTube.

David Lamb, one of the funders, said that the festival was a great success. He hoped that next time, organisers would link the films with food.

He said: 'After watching the film about cheese I think we all wanted to taste it. Wouldn't it be good for the cinema to allow people to taste unusual, but local, products?'

Jill Bowis, of the Lorn Market, put out a call to all local producers to come up with ideas for products available to the cinema that would allow people to taste something different to the normal fayre available in cinemas.



Fort William Table Tennis Club held its annual prize giving awards night in the Nevis Centre on Saturday. From left are open championship runner-up John Grant, best newcomer Kasia Ploch, division two winner and doubles runner-up Richard Blakey, division one winner, open championship winner and double winner Steve Crook, doubles winner Joe Robson and doubles runner-up Angus MacDonald. Not pictured is most improved player and division one runner-up Kohaleth Bailey. 20_19101

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!

A family ticket to Singing Kettle PLUS goodies!

The Singing Kettle Saturday May 31, Corran Halls, Oban

TWO PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

The Singing Kettle's most amazing adventure yet is coming to Corran Halls, Oban on Saturday, May 31 at 2pm.

Set in the neon-coloured world of Big Wheels, Merry-go-Rounds and Helter Skelters, join Anya, Kevin and Gary as they take a trip round the Fantastic Funfair.

Packed with colourful costumes, crazy characters and lots and lots of surprises, expect rip-roaring fun for both kids and adults alike. Bonzo the Dog wins a prize at the fair and thinks he's a pop star!

Singalong with Singing Kettle favourites Baby Bumble Bee, Favourite Colours' and Billy Goats Gruff, as well as brand new songs like Roller Coaster Ride. There's even a chance you could be picked to help out on stage during the show. Dress in bright colours from head to toe for the Funfair.

Visit www.singingkettle.com.

For your chance to win a family ticket plus a fun pack and DVD, simply answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to Oban Times, Singing Kettle Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

QUESTION: What is the name of the Singing Kettle dog?

a) Bob b) Bert c) Bonzo

Answer.....

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Please post your entries to Oban Times, Singing Kettle Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday May 20, 2014.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Entrants under 16 must get permission from an adult before entering. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in the newspaper.

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY MAY 8
Ramblers Association guided walk, Beinn Fhada and Stob Coire Sgreabhach, Glen Coe
Whisky Galore, Mull Theatre production, Bunessan Hall, 8pm

FRIDAY MAY 9
Argyll Animal Aid fund raising, Pets at Home, Oban
Whisky Galore, Mull Theatre production, Oban Phoenix Cinema, 7pm

SATURDAY MAY 10
Argyll Animal Aid fund raising, Pets at Home, Oban
Coffee Morning in aid of Alzheimer Scotland, Glencruichten Church Hall, 10am
Coffee Morning, Oban Congregational Church, 10.30am
Whisky Galore, Mull Theatre production, Appin Village Hall, 8pm

SUNDAY MAY 11
Ramblers Association guided walk, Beinn Chaorach, Tyndrum
Table top sale, bouncy castle and facepainting, Play park fundraiser, Atlantis Leisure, 10-1pm
Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn, Appin
Historical walk, Kilmartin & Carnasserie castles, Meet at Kilmartin Museum 2.00pm
Whisky Galore, Mull Theatre production, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY MAY 14
Whisky Galore, Mull Theatre production, Ben Nevis Distillery, 7pm

THURSDAY MAY 15
Ramblers Association guided walk, Beinn Leamhain, Glen Gour
Ballet West Dance HND showcase, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm

FRIDAY MAY 16
The Counterfeit Sixties tribute show, The Nevis Centre, Fort William, 7.30pm

Email details of your event to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

Whisky Galore on tour!

Mull Theatre's hugely successful Whisky Galore tours Argyll and Scotland from this week.

This hilariously funny version of the classic novel by Compton Mackenzie was first toured by Mull Theatre in 1996, and has played throughout Scotland since then, appearing in venues as small as Mull Little Theatre and as large as Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum.

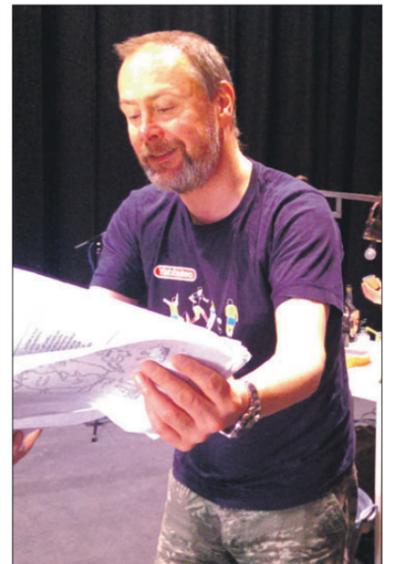
Now part of Comar, Mull Theatre is touring the show in association with Whisky Month, and this time there will be performances in Ben Nevis Distillery, Campbeltown Picture House and Oban's Phoenix Cinema - as well as village halls and theatres.

The show is an evening of riotous comedy as three hapless but frightfully nice actors in evening dress gather in a 1940s BBC drama studio and attempt to recreate the hilarious story of the valiant people of the Island of Todday, using their skills, wit, ingenuity, 100 unlikely sound effects - and one very overworked and exasperated studio manager. It's WW2 and due to rationing, there is not a drop of whisky to be had. Then the SS Cabinet Minister runs

aground and the crew has to abandon the cargo - 50,000 cases of the best quality export whisky.

As a Scotsman review of the 2004 production put it, 'The idea works brilliantly in four ways. First, it delivers the story in fine style, with the whimsical voice of the Mackenzie intact. Second, it perfectly captures the spirit of the age, the moment of post-war celebration when the British truly were in love with themselves as the nation that both won the war and spawned the beloved BBC. Thirdly, by sending up the BBC actors even more than the Todday characters, it offers the audience a fine sense of ironic distance from the whole cultural phenomenon without missing a comic beat. And finally, by recruiting the theatre audience to play the role of a live studio audience, it quietly celebrates the whole business of live performance and offers an experience no other art-form could imitate.'

The tour visits Oban Phoenix Cinema on Friday May 9, Appin Village Hall on Saturday May 10, and Three Villages Hall, Arrochar on Sunday May 11. Details of all dates on www.comar.co.uk



Members of Mull Theatre have been busy rehearsing for the May tour of Whisky Galore.



Winner Gregor MacGregor, left, and runner-up DJ Barr, centre, with first male veteran Alasdair Hall.

Annual ABCD 10k run a great success

THE ANNUAL Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10k and Fun Run attracted 41 adults and 38 juniors this year.

The course starts at Lorn and Islands Hospital and takes runners to the top of Glenshellach and back along Gallanach to the hospital.

Winner, and first male, was Gregor MacGregor in a time of 37.50, followed by DJ Barr in 41.29 and Daniel Booker in 43.00. First male veteran was Alasdair Hall in a time of 43.37.

Paula Laidler was first lady home in a time of 47.03, followed by Kathryn Campbell (48.52) and Helen Chong (52.30). Doreen Henderson was first female veteran in 54.20.

Fastest junior in the 10k was Doreen's grand-daughter Helen Chong, who came in on 52.30.

In the Fun Run Daniel Teape was first boy in a time of 9.51 and Calan Chong was runner-up after completing the course in 10.15. Rory Dowd was third in 10.20.

Eva Chong won the girls race in 10.11, ahead of Zoe Brown (11.42) and Amy McGhee (12.25).

James sparkles amongst diamonds

ARGYLL'S Ceilidh Trailers are all women, bar sixth-year pupil James MacPherson, and they are all from Oban High School's Traditional School of Music.

The annual concert tour of traditional music sees pupils from the town's school being selected to represent Argyll.

This year's group are Hannah Gillies, Kirsty Campbell, Anna Garvin, Merle Harbron, Kimberly Campbell, James MacPherson and former Oban High School and Traditional School of Music pupil Rebekah MacPherson. Niamh

MacKaveny from Tarbert is also joining the group on fiddle and vocals.

As the only male on the group James MacPherson will still have his sister and many of his good friends for company. Many of the pupils have also come through Feis Latharna.

The ceilidh trail is a fortnight-long tour of Argyll taking in the islands, normally including Islay and Iona. Musicians will also have the opportunity to take part in a week-long music development course with performers from throughout the Highlands and Islands.

Tesco managers pay forfeits to raise funds for Diabetes UK

TESCO workers had a chance to get their own back on their boss, last Friday, in order to raise 'as much money as possible' for Diabetes UK.

Managers from throughout the Oban store were put through the mill as workers set them up to pay a forfeit for bossy behaviour.

The top brass took part in busking outside the store, working as the skivvie in all departments, dressing in

drag, being gunged and, for the most talkative manager, working in silence for the day.

A great day was had by everyone, apart from the six managers, and by lunchtime the fearless fundraisers had already raised their target of £500.

The fundraising campaign for Diabetes UK is Tesco's nominated charity of the year donations are continuing to be collected in the store.

Alma College Choir soak up the Gaelic culture of Argyll



The Alma Choir visited Cruachan Visitor Centre as part of their trip to Tainuill.

AFTER an absence of four years, the Alma College Choir from Michigan, USA, once again visited the Oban area last weekend as part of its Scotland Tour 2014.

The choir has made four previous trips to Scotland and its young singers are all

students at the college.

Along with conductor Will Nichols and pianist Tony Patterson, the 40 young choristers visited Cruachan Visitor Centre amongst other local attractions.

Last Saturday evening, the

choir performed at a concert in Tainuill Village Hall, singing a wide selection of beautiful songs and even joined up with members of Cruachan Visitor Centre to sing a Scottish Gaelic puirt a beul (Maioleas Mor na Guailne) which they had

learned in only three days. Following the concert, the youngsters enjoyed learning a few Scottish dances during an impromptu ceilidh.

The following day, the party travelled across to Iona where they performed in Iona Abbey.

ing, featuring Benderloch's Angus MacColl senior and junior, is on Thursday September 5 in Inverness. It is understood that events will also take place in Oban during the festival.

Blas Festival runs between September 5 and 13, 2014.



Pictured is Neil Armour, Tesco's store manager, who serenaded customers on the way into the supermarket in order to raise money for Diabetes UK.

Blas Festival tickets now on sale

TICKETS for the Gaelic Blas Festival have gone on sale. While the full programme is not announced until June 5 events such as the 10th Anniversary Celebration, the Highland Homecoming and the Grand Finale are on sale.

The Highland Homecoming, featuring Benderloch's Angus MacColl senior and junior, is on Thursday September 5 in Inverness. It is understood that events will also take place in Oban during the festival.

Blas Festival runs between September 5 and 13, 2014.

West Highland College music students set to perform in Fort William next week

MUSIC students from West Highland College UHI are to showcase their talent at a concert in Fort William.

Two bands from the college will be joined by groups from North Highland College to perform in The Basement next Thursday (May 15). This is the first year the annual event will be held in Fort William and forms part of the students' final assessment to gain a National Certificate in music.

West Highland College UHI live performance lecturer Jason Thurston said: 'This is a great opportunity for our students to show off the results of their efforts and at the same time be evaluated for their live performance assessment.'

Doors open at 7.45pm for

ing, featuring Benderloch's Angus MacColl senior and junior, is on Thursday September 5 in Inverness. It is understood that events will also take place in Oban during the festival.

Blas Festival runs between September 5 and 13, 2014.

Archway Gallery offers Achnamara artist exhibition space

THE ARCHWAY Gallery in Lochgilphead is providing the opportunity for Achnamara artist Kerrien Grant to hold her first solo exhibition in May.

Inspired by the landscapes, light and ever changing weather of the west coast, Kerrien has been painting for a number of years and is delighted to be exhibiting in Lochgilphead.

'Wilma at the Archway has been incredibly supportive over the last few years and it is a pleasure to be working with her,' said Kerrien. 'She has encouraged me as I have developed my painting style and subject matter - and has challenged me to paint on larger canvases too, which has been a revelation.'

Wilma Meikle, owner of The Archway Gallery, said: 'Often the first steps into exhibiting are the hardest for an artist and we aim to provide the support and encouragement they need to ensure that the arts sector in this area continues to grow and develop.'

'Providing a quality gallery in Lochgilphead is very important to both the local community and for the visitors who seek out local art and are keen to learn more about our artists.'

Kerrien's exhibition runs from Saturday, May 17 to Saturday, June 7 at The Archway, Lochgilphead, with a preview from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday, May 17.

Fantastic turnout for Mallaig fundraising half marathon

THE MALLAIG and District Swimming Pool Half Marathon and Walk on the Wildside walking half marathon on Saturday raised over £1,000 for pool funds on Saturday.

Around 30 walkers set off from Beasdale Station on the A830 near Arisaig at 10.30am followed by a field of 34 half-marathon

runners at 11am.

Homemade soup and baking awaited all participants at the finish next the pool in Mallaig.

Event organiser, Mallaig and District Swimming Pool assistant manager Sarah Boyce, was delighted to see how many people had travelled to take part.

She told *The Oban Times* at Beasdale: 'It is a fantastic turnout - we are really pleased about the numbers. It is the highest attendance we have had for seven years.'

Mallaig team The Chlachain Inn, comprising John McLellan, Yvonne Dempster and Margaret MacPhee, won the relay

event in a time of 2hrs 3mins. The Golden Girls, local lassies Caroline Schonevald, Jennifer MacDonald and Gillian Richmond, came home in 2hrs 14mins 36secs.

Paul Arcari of Kilbarchan AAC won the half marathon with a time of 1hr 20mins 2secs.



They're off! The field sets off from Beasdale Station on the A830 in the Mallaig and District Swimming Pool Half Marathon on Saturday, 20. f19mar01

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Tarzan	Thurs 8th	16.00 2D	
The Love Punch	Thurs 8th	18.30	
Pompeii	Thurs 8th	21.00 3D	
LIVE THEATRE EVENT			
Mull Theatre Whisky Galore	Fri 9th	19.00	
The Amazing Spider-Man 2	Fri 9th	17.00 (Screen 2)	Sat 10th 15.30 2D, 21.00 3D
	Sun 11th	15.00 2D, 18.00 3D	Mon 12th 21.00 2D
	Tues 13th	18.00 3D	Wed 14th 15.30 3D
	Thurs 15th	21.00 3D	
Khumba: A Zebra's Tale	Sat 10th	13.00 3D	Sun 11th 13.00 3D
	Mon 12th	16.00 2D (Screen 2)	Tues 13th 16.00 2D (Screen 2)
	Wed 14th	16.00 2D (Screen 2)	Thurs 15th 16.00 2D (Screen 2)
Calvary	Fri 9th	20.00 (Screen 2)	Sat 10th 18.30
	Sun 11th	21.00	Mon 12th 18.30
	Tues 13th	21.00	Wed 14th 19.00 (Screen 2)
	Thurs 15th	18.30	
LIVE STREAMED EVENT			
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Henry IV Part I			Wed 14th 19.00

Tel: 01631 542905 • Box Office: 08719 025752

LIVE THEATRE EVENT

Mull Theatre Whisky Galore
By Compton MacKenzie adapted by Paul Godfrey. Directed by Alasdair McCrone. A night of riotous comedy as four hapless but brightly nice actors gather in a 1940s BBC drama studio to recreate the hilarious story of the valiant people of the Island of Today. It's WW2 and due to rationing, there is not a drop of whisky to be had. Then the SS Cabinet Minister runs aground and the crew has to abandon the cargo - 50,000 cases of the best quality export whisky! (Part of Homecoming Scotland 2014 Whisky Month)

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (12A)
It's great to be Spider-Man (Andrew Garfield). For Peter Parker, there's no feeling quite like swinging between skyscrapers, embracing being the hero, and spending time with Gwen (Emma Stone). But being Spider-Man comes at a price: only Spider-Man can protect his fellow New Yorkers from the formidable villains that threaten the city. With the emergence of Electro (Jamie Foxx), Peter must confront a foe far more powerful than he.

Khumba: A Zebra's Tale (U)
When Khumba, a half-striped zebra is blamed for the lack of rain by the rest of his insular, superstitious herd, he embarks on a daring quest to earn his stripes. In his search for the legendary waterhole, Khumba meets a quirky range of characters. It's not all black and white in this colourful adventure with a difference!

Calvary (15)
After being told he will be murdered in one week's time Father James Lavelle (Brendan Gleeson) finds himself with seven days to determine his would be killer and put his affairs in order. Prevented by the 'seal of confession' from going to the police, Father Lavelle opts to engage with and tries to understand his small minded and morally scurrilous parishioners with the hope of dissuading the one amongst them intent on his death.

LIVE STREAMED EVENT

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY - Henry IV Part I
With his crown under threat from enemies both foreign and domestic, Henry IV prepares for war. Meanwhile in the taverns and brothels of London, Prince Hal is reveling in the company of the notorious Sir John Falstaff. With the onset of the war, they are thrust into the brutal reality of the battlefield.

This is a live screening which plays in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

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The Singing Kettle
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Corran Halls, Oban
Saturday 31st May, 2pm
Box Office: 01631 567 333

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £15.71 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details.

Alzheimer Scotland Oban and Lorn Branch Coffee Morning
Glencruitten Road Church Hall
Saturday 10th May 10am - 12 noon
All the usual stalls
Any donations gladly accepted.

OBAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Coffee Morning
Saturday 10th May 10.30am - 12.30pm
Tea or Coffee & Cakes £2.50
All proceeds to church funds

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COMPETITION WIN A KID'S RACE CAR BED! WORTH £399

To help raise awareness of local charity Friends of Oban Community Park, Mathesons Furnishing store in Oban is offering Oban Times readers the chance to win a kid's race car bed, including mattress and linen, worth £399.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark are aiming to replace and extend the playpark outside Atlantis Leisure Centre in Oban with a toddler area, an older children's area and a sensory garden. The new playpark will cater for children of all ages and disabilities. The charity need to raise £400,000 in total for the project to happen.

DONATE TODAY!
To donate online, visit www.justgiving.com/obanplaypark
To donate by mobile phone, text OBAN14 followed by a space then the amount you wish to donate to 70070. For example, to donate £10 text OBAN14 £10 to 70070.
Stay in touch on www.facebook.com/obancommunityplaypark

To enter this fantastic competition, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and hand it in to Atlantis Leisure Centre, Dalriach Road by Tuesday, May 20. An entry box and the Race Car Bed will be on display at the centre until May 20, 2014.

How much money does Friends of Oban Community Playpark need to raise?
a) £100,000 b) £200,000 c) £400,000

Answer
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone
Email

Terms and conditions: Prize package does not include delivery. The winner will need to collect from Mathesons in Oban. By entering this competition you agree to be contacted by Friends of Oban Community Playpark, Atlantis Leisure, Mathesons and The Oban Times. The prize is as stated. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyrex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyrex Media and associated company employees and their families. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent.

OBAN COMMUNITY PLAYPARK
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Penne and Brian Askew presented the Tommy Askew Memorial Trophy for under-15 Strathspey and Reel to Harry MacLachlan. The couple donated the trophy this year in memory of Tommy, who was very prominent in the piping scene in the Oban area.



Aimee Butler from Oban, a young flautist, took part in the competitions on Saturday.



Calum Warnock, aged 11, of Ardmaddy. The young trombone player took part in the brass competitions on Saturday morning.



Emma Dickson, left, aged 16, from Biggar and daughter of well-known Scottish box player Keith Dickson and Maggie Anderson from Lerwick, who is studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, were winners of the accordion and fiddle masters on Friday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

Talent on show at festival

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Music and Dance Festival again put on an extraordinarily good weekend of competitions.

They even managed to get sunshine out of what was expected to be a rather soggy weekend.

Organisers should be praised for the hard work and dedication that year-after-year puts on an outstanding showcase of talent. At the same time showing the town of Oban off to

its very best. This year there were hundreds of competitors taking part in all areas of the event. As chairman Donald MacLean said in his welcome, 'the event is built on the inspiration and dedication of its founders, Jim Cooper and Neil and Sheila Sinclair to become a major cultural event'.

People from all over Scotland, and some from beyond, came to take part in the dancing, singing and instrumental competitions. The

dedication of the volunteers on the committee and the organisers clearly paid off.

Mr MacLean said: 'It is genuinely humbling and affirming to see so many people volunteer major contributions and commitments of time so as to help make the event what it is - and guide it towards a very exciting future.'

See next week's edition for full results.



Benderloch singers taking part in the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, from left, Lauren MacDonald aged 14, Eilidh Munro aged 13, singing teacher Janet Fergusson and, front, Karyn Black, aged nine.



Christy Harkins, Alexandria, with the Jimmy Feighan Trophy for best performer at the concert of champions. She was presented with her award by Alan Kitchen, who accompanied the performers. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



Chelsea McNab, Ganavan, winner of the woodwind solo playing at the concert of champions. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



Duncan Forthergill, aged 11, from Cuan Ferry attended the brass competition on Saturday morning with his mum. Duncan, a pupil of Luining Primary School, is admired by his classmates for his skill with the trumpet.



Brodie Sloss, aged nine, joined her mum Lorna Stewart on the roll call of singing champions at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Brodie's name was added to the annuals of the primary singing competition on Saturday morning. The first person to receive the trophy was Lorna, back in 1990. Mum-of-three Lorna said: 'There is still room on the trophy for nine-month-old Charlotte to get her name on the trophy when she is a wee bit older as well.'



Erin McLellan aged 11, from Campbeltown, took part in the primary brass competitions held in the Congregational Church, Oban.



Blair MacFarlane from Inverawe. The young saxophonist had a devoted family following including two aunts in the audience.



Runner-up in the woodwind competition was Katie MacCorquodale from Appin.



Laura Robertson, Fort William, who won the Argyll Print trophy for chanter (under-12).



Molly Gregory Beard aged 11 from Appin took part in the singing competitions.



Winner of the woodwind competition was Rowan Chisholm, aged 11 'nearly 12', from Tainuill.



Flautist Eliza Cox from Tainuill competed in the primary competitions on Saturday.



Little Learners Nursery sang an impromptu rendition of Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer, before performing on stage in the action song performances at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. 15_1191111

Busy Friday morning competitions

FRIDAY morning's competitions at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival were extremely busy with children and young people from all over the area taking part in the showcase.

The day was testament to the hard work of children of all ages concentrating long enough to remember their timings and

their words. The dedication and commitment of children paid off as they put on a spectacular performance and music teachers from all over the area could breathe a sigh of relief.

Friends and families of performers also turned out in numbers to take part in the well organised and successful morning.

Hotel award winners crowned

FOR THE second year in a row Mull's Tiroran House Hotel has won Country House Hotel of the Year in the Scottish Hotel Awards.

Tiroran House Hotel, owned by Laurence and Katie Mackay, was chosen from eight short-listed entries including Glenfinnan House Hotel, which was the Highland Region winner in the category.

The judges said of Tiroran: 'The elegant yet worldly wise house is not at all stiff, but all is done properly, somehow.'

'Beautiful bedrooms; a plush drawing room with fire, big books and squishy sofas; dining room with growing vine canopy and loch view.'

'Food is by an award-winning chef; kilted Laurence is a droll, perfect host. And breakfast is superb.'

The awards, held in Edinburgh on April 28, saw 26 hotels, guest houses and restaurants and spas crowned national winners in a variety of categories.

Among the regional winners was Duisdale Country House Hotel, Isle Ornsay, Skye, which picked up the regional islands winner for romantic hotel, style hotel and wedding hotel of the year.

Duisdale, which won best hotel in Scotland at last November's VisitScotland Thistle Awards, is owned by Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn, who also own Toravaig House Hotel at Sleat on Skye.

In the Rural Hotel of the Year section Toravaig was awarded Island Class Winner. This is given to the hotel which has



Ken Gunn and Anne Gracie of Duisdale Country House Hotel and Toravaig House Hotel on Skye.

a real sense of the island on which it is, from decor and art to using local produce and links to local firms. 'We are delighted to have added to the notable list of honours which Duisdale and Toravaig have achieved,' said Anne Gracie. 'We go to exceptional lengths to make sure every guest's experience is perfect and these latest awards are a tribute to the hard work and dedication of staff, most of whom are from Skye.'

Glengarry Castle Hotel at Invergarry was awarded Hotel of Charm in rural hotel section. Ardanaisg Hotel at Kilchrean

Orchy was named Central and Fife winner in the Small Country Hotel of the Year Category.

In the bed and breakfast and guest house of the year category an Oban guest house and a Barcaldine B&B won significant accolades.

Oban's former maternity hospital in Dalriach Road, now Greystones guest house, was awarded style class winner, while Ardtorna B&B, which won the over-all category last year, this year picked up the innovation class award.

Colintraive Hotel on the Kyles of Bute was recognised in the awards. Patricia Watt, owner of the Colintraive Hotel, proudly received two accolades for her team.

First, was a commendation in the 'Rural Hotel of the year' category. Secondly, Patricia was presented within the 'people of excellence' category with a silver medal for her chef skills.

As well as the establishment award winners, there were a number of medals and certificates given out to individuals.

These included Marcello Tully from Kinloch Lodge on Skye, who won Hotel Chef of the Year and head chef at Inverloch Castle Hotel, Philip Carnegie, who was awarded Hotel Senior Chef Fellowship.

Among those receiving chefs hotel chef médailles d'or were Laura Milne from The Pierhouse and Duncan Gibson of Glenfinnan House, while a chefs hotel chef médailles d'argent was given to Calum Montgomery from Kinloch Lodge.



Strath of Appin Primary School were singing Kenny the Kangaroo at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival on Friday morning. 15_1191111



Easdale Primary School sang for the choir competitions in the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in the Corran Halls on Friday morning. 15_1191111



Rockfield Gaelic Medium pupil Daniel Campbell Hill, from Kilmore, was Old MacDonald in the primary 2/1 and Sgoil Araich performance of Seo a' chroit aig Calum Ruadh. 15_1191111

The organising committee reflects on another great year at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

THE 31st Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival was another resounding success. Building on last year's landmark event, it included all of the familiar competition classes, with the added attraction of some pilot activities to test the water for a festival fringe - The Highland Fringe.

The competitions ran from Friday throughout the weekend, from the primary school children's events at the start through to the final dance events on Sunday and, again, it really was brimming with talent - in singing, dancing, piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, woodwind and brass.

It was an incredible array of art and culture - traditional and contemporary, Gaelic, Scots and English. We also had the accordion and fiddle masters event which showcases the very highest standards of musicianship in the country, and, of course, the pipe band parade, the winners concert in the Corran Halls and the dance in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

In addition to the cultural riches of the festival, it is important for the town and local area in economic terms: with somewhere between 1,100 and 1,200 competitors, which, with families, translates to something like 3,000 visitors for two to three days. The festival represents a boost to the local economy of £2.3 million each year.

The aim now is to build on this foundation with an enhanced festival feel, and make more of the event for locals and

non-competing visitors through the idea of the Highland Fringe.

So this year, as part of a small fringe experiment, many young local musicians showcased their talents in the Oban Chocolate shop throughout the festival and, on Saturday night, Seilas Sinclair and Liam Stewart entertained - and were joined by - diners in Cuan Mor. The atmosphere in both venues was excellent - demonstrating the scope for, and benefits of, expansion. In the fullness of time, the plan is to develop the fringe and spread the festival atmosphere throughout the town and surrounding villages for the weekend, with many more local venues and businesses getting involved and sharing the benefits. It's so encouraging to see so many people - young and not quite so young, 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!

All in all another real success in its 31st year - and, again, a tremendous team effort; massive thanks are due to everyone - literally hundreds of people and organisations - who help to make it such a resounding success: participants, supporters, audience members, announcers, MCs, stewards, adjudicators and, last but not least, members of the organising committee - who are now having a short breather before starting to prepare for 2015.

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Dalmally Mart May sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual May Sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday, when 258 cattle were sold and 165 sheep.

A good offering of grazing type cattle sold readily and to a packed ringside of buyers. Sheep sold in keeping with current trends.

Bullocks sold to a top of £1125 for Limousin Crosses and Heifers sold to a top of £1075 also for Limousin Crosses with both lots being consigned by Messrs MacNeill, Tiraghoil, Mull.

Duncroisk, Killin led the top prices per kilo for bullocks at 307 pence and Tulloch, Killin led the heifers per kilo at 273 pence, both lots being Limousin Crosses.

The bullocks sold to average 250.7 pence per kilo against 226.5 pence per kilo at the corresponding sale last year whilst the heifers averaged 229.4 pence per kilo against 201.1 pence last year.

Principal lots and prices - top prices per head

Bullocks
BSHx: £790 - Knock-Dhu.
CHARx: £1120(3), £1070(4), £1020(3) - Auchlyne Farm : £820(2) - Barnakill.
HEX: £850 - Knock-Dhu.
LIMx: £1125 & £1065 - Tiraghoil: £970 & £960 - Knock-Dhu : £955(5) - Tiraghoil: £940 - Balliemanoach : £930 - Auch Estate : £905(2) & £895(2) - Tiraghoil.
SIMx: £950(2) - Knock-Dhu: £935(2) - Tiraghoil : £920 - Knock-Dhu & Carnoch 16: £905 - Tiraghoil: £890 - Knock-Dhu.
Heifers
CHARx: £955(4), £920(4) & £810(3) - Auchlyne.
LIMx: £855(7), £825(11) & £815 - Tiraghoil.
SHOX: £745(2) - Torran.
SIMx: £1075 & £825(2) - Tiraghoil : £815(3) - Keilator.
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks

BSHx: 230p - Knock-Dhu.
CHARx: 278p(2) - Barnakill : 275p(2) - Dunans : 248p(3) - Auchlyne : 243p - Colintrave : 238p(4) - Auchlyne : 238p(2) - Dunans : 236p - Colintrave.
Hex: 227p(2) - Laggan Farms.
LIMx: 307p(2) - Duncroisk : 292p - Tiraghoil : 285p & 284p - Tullochcan : 282p - Tiraghoil: 281p(2) - Achnacarron : 280p - Craig Farm : 276p(7) - Dall Farm : 275p - Tiraghoil : 274p(2) - Dall Farm : 264p - Dall : 259p & 253p(2) - Tiraghoil : 252p - Knock-Dhu & Tiraghoil : 250p - Tullochcan : 249p - Dall Farm : 247p(5) & 245p(2) - Tiraghoil : 244p - Balliemanoach: 241p - Knock-Dhu : 237p - Dall Farm : 233p - Tiraghoil.
SIMx: 289p(8) - Tiraghoil : 277p(2) - Keilator : 264p(2) - Tiraghoil : 262p(6) & 257p(7) - Keilator: 253p - Tiraghoil : 252p - Knock-Dhu : 250p - Tiraghoil : 244p(2) - Auch Estate : 233p - Carnoch 16.
Heifers
CHARx: 239p - Dall Farm : 237p(2) - Dunans : 235p(3) - Colintrave : 229p(5) - Auchlyne.
LIMx: 273p - Tullochcan : 263p(2) & 262p(2) - Dall Farm : 244p - Tullochcan : 238p(2) - Dall Farm : 236p(11) - Tiraghoil : 236p - Craig Farm : 234p(2) - Tiraghoil : 228p - Balliemanoach : 226p(7) - Tiraghoil : 224p(2) & 223p - Duncroisk : 223p - Clachan Farm.
SALx: 228p - Balliemanoach.
SHOX: 227p(2) - Torran Farm.
SIMx: 266p(4) - Keilator: 256p - Tiraghoil : 252p(8) - Keilator : 250p - Dunans : 248p(3) - Keilator : 246p - Morenish : 235p(3) - Keilator : 234p & 230p - Tiraghoil.
Sheep
Hoggs BF: £54.50 - Lurignish
CROSS: £55.00 - Castles Estate
WEDDERS: £57.00 & £55.00 - Torran : £50.00 - Castles Estate.
EWES: £45.00 - Torran.



A good offering of grazing type cattle sold readily and to a packed ringside of buyers at United Auctions' May Sale in Dalmally.

United Auctions Tiree
ON TIREE last Thursday United Auctions held their second spring sale of all classes' cattle at Tiree Auction Mart and also held a sale of all classes' sheep.

Cattle sold in keeping with current trends and sheep sold at keen rates.

Principal lots and prices/Top prices per head

Bullocks
HERx: £1080(2) & £920(2) - Clachan.
LIMx: £1080 - Sandaig.
HEIFERS
HERx: £1000(2), £980(2), £920(2) & £900(2) - Clachan.
SHx: £760, £700(2) - Grishipol, Coll.
LIMx: £1100, £1070 & £1020 - Sandaig.
OTM COWS: £900 - Vaul
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks
HERx: 208p(2) - Clachan.
LIMx: 251p, 228p & 213p - Hough.
Heifers
HERx: 216p(2) - Clachan.
SHx: 205p - Grishipol, Coll.
LIMx: 215p & 211p - Hough.
Sheep, Hoggs SUFFx: £87.00 - Druimfhrao-

ich TEXx: £78.00 - Hillcrest MULE: £73.00 - Druimfhraoich.
Ewes SUFFx: £95.00 & £90.00 - Heylipol Farm : £90.00 - Drumagla.
TEXx: £105 - Drumagla: £92.00 - Heylipol Farm: £86.00 - Drumagla: £80.00 & £76.00 - Benview: £73.00 - Mannal House: £70.00 - Vaul.
MULE: £68.00 - 12 West Hynish
BF: £40.00 - 24 Balephetrish
BELTx: £81.00 - Heylipol Farm.
Rams
TEX: £87.00 - Heylipol Farm.
SUFF: £85.00 - Heylipol Farm.

Caledonian Marts Stirling
CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 257 live cattle at their weekly Primestock Sale last Thursday, comprising 124 Bullocks and Heifers, 17 Young Bulls, 13 OTM Clean and 103 Cast Cows and Bulls.

64 Bullocks averaged 203.5p per kilo and sold to 241.5p per kg 664kg British Blue Learielar, Broxburn or to £1604 per head for the same animal.

60 Heifers averaged 211.5p per kilo and sold to 245.5p per kg 498kg British Blue

Brockwoodlees farm, Canobie or to £1483 per head for 630kg Limousin Kaemuir Farm, Avinbridge.

29 Butchers Cattle sold in excess of 225p per kilo to average 233p per kilo for Limousin Heifer Mains of Cultmalundie Farm, Perth.

17 Young Bulls sold to 207.5p per kg for 646kg Charolais Haughhead Farm, Balerno.

13 OTM Under 36 month Cattle sold to 215p per kg for Charolais Heifer, Borland Farm, Aberfoyle or to £1256 per head for 724kg young cow Blairsgreen farm, Saline.

Also forward were 116 cast cows, bulls and OTM cattle.

Leading Prices
Cows: Sim- 144p £1095 east Gormyre, 146p £1075 Blairsgreen; Lim- 143p £1075 Lochfield, 147p £1065 Mains of Throsk; Fr- 121p £975 glennig, 118p £965 Holton, 119p £975 Hillend, 120p £915 Ladehead; Her- 122p £915 Middelrigg, BDA- 141p £935 Blairsgreen; Ayr- 106p £715 Badenheath.
Cast Bull: Fr- £1045 Balnagleck.
OTM: Sim- 174p £1256 Blairsgreen; Lim- £177p £1171 Aitkenhead.
Calves: Fr- £110, £105 Barbeth, £100 Graystale; Ayr- £180 Graystale

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LOCAL SERVICES

The Oban Times
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You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wvexmedia.co.uk

THE Airs
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★★★★

Ever thought of a career in hospitality?

Come and join our young and dynamic team at The Airs. Due to increased business levels we have a number of positions available both part time and full time:

Duty Manager Part Time Laundry Person (Thu & Sun mornings)

For the Duty Manager position you will need to be fluent in spoken and written English and enjoy working with a wide variety of people.

Please apply to Kathy Beattie or Graham Steven, General Manager
Email address: airds@airds-hotel.com
Tel No: 01631 730236

LOOKING FOR INTERESTING WORK?

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.

You will need:

- To be able to work at least 2 days per week, preferably more
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- A car is essential unless you live in London
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Visit www.ipsos-mori.com/interviewers to apply online quoting reference number 245 when prompted

Ipsos MORI

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

QUALIFIED REPORTER OBAN

We want to hear from you if you have:

- > The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
- > Shorthand
- > Ambition and enthusiasm
- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

Competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

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HygieneTeknikk
Commercial Manager

Hygiene Teknikk Ltd is a specialist engineering company based in Oban with its Head Office in Lillehammer, Norway. We are currently seeking a Commercial Manager to come and help our young team of local Technicians as they continue with their rapid expansion of services to the aquaculture industry.

Our working culture will suit you if you are ambitious, self-motivated and enjoy working as part of a small team with varied skill-sets and a shared determination to succeed at the first time of asking.

You will possess a commercial or financial background and be comfortable working within a technical environment, including dealing with a wide range of suppliers. You will have a key role in delivering our business development strategy.

In return we offer appropriately qualified candidates a competitive package of benefits including our support for you to fully develop your potential.

Please send a brief CV together with a short email explaining why you are interested in this opportunity to ian@aquatic.as Interviews will be held mid/late May.

Sales Manager OBAN

£30k-£35k Basic plus £10k bonus potential
Audi A3/Golf Full benefits package

We are seeking an individual to manage a small sales team. This position is ideal for someone seeking to develop their management career. Training will be given as we believe the right person with the right attitude and skill set is as important as industry sector knowledge.

All applications treated in strictest confidence. Submit letter of application and C.V. to BOX No 94, The Oban Times Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email recruit2049@outlook.com

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Must hold 17th Edition, ECS, SJIB and Grading Card Commercial & domestic work. Driving licences essential. Starting Salary £31,000 Per annum. Includes company van as part of terms and conditions.

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Please contact us on 01855 831900 or email levenhomes@btinternet.com

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Class1 HGV Driver required for 3 runs per week to Glasgow/Oban

Approx 28hrs.
Phone 01631 566275 or 01879220555 for details.

Ross Electrical

At Ross Electrical Oban Branch we are looking for an Internal Sales Supervisor to join our busy team.

Whilst knowledge of the electrical industry is beneficial, it is not essential. Working in a business to business environment, you will be enthusiastic with a can do attitude and have the ability to lead sales strategies and work as part of a team in order to help the branch meet and exceed its targets and KPI's.

We offer first rate benefits and a competitive salary package.

All applications to be sent in writing in the first instance to David R Hamilton Branch Manager Oban david.hamilton@rosselec.co.uk
Ross Electrical, Lochavullin Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL
Closing date 22nd May 2014

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times

Argyll Resources Group

West Highland Gas Ltd
Customer Service Agent/ Delivery Driver

Based at our Lochgilphead Depot
Responsible for delivery of bottled Gas, LGV or able to drive 7.5 ton vehicles.

ADR required although training can be provided. Excellent customer care skills, basic computer literacy and a conscientious, self motivated approach to work.

Submit C.V. or download application form from www.argyllresources.co.uk under people and vacancies section.
Email: susan@macclachlan@gmail.com or post to: Argyll Resources Group, Torrangorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL. Tel 01631 566370

Bell Ingram
Estate Agent

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our team based in Oban. You will be responsible for delivering and expanding Estate Agency services throughout the West Highlands and Islands while managing a team of property sales professionals.

You will be a highly organised individual with excellent communication skills. Qualifications and/or experience essential. Car owner/driver essential plus flexibility for island travel.

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Hugh Nicol on 01631 567794. Please forward your CV and covering letter to Bell Ingram Ltd, 2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, PA34 4AY or email hugh.nicol@bellingram.co.uk.

Closing date for applications is Thursday 15th May 2014.

Bell Ingram is an equal opportunities employer.

YEAR-ROUND, PERMANENT POSITIONS AT THE ISLAND BAKERY, TOBERMORY

We have several vacancies in production due to increasing demand. These are permanent, year round positions, and at all stages of production from mixing to packing.

Good rates of pay and 5 day Monday – Friday working week. If you're relocating we will help with accommodation.

Please ring Willie on 01688 301033 or email willie@islandbakery.co.uk

Abbeyfield BALLACHULISH OFFICE MANAGER

Abbeyfield Ballachulish is looking to enhance the administrative support for its corporate operations and wish to recruit an experienced and flexible individual to plan, organise and manage our administrative functions.

To be part of a successful team that provides excellent services for older people and have a strong administrative background with good organisational skills we would like to hear from you.

This is a full time position and attracts a salary of £17,000 pa
Please contact Monika Kondziela Tel 01855 812950 or email monika.kondziela@btconnect.com. Closing date Friday 23rd May 2014

APPRENTICE BOATMASTER

We are currently recruiting for an apprentice Boatmaster to be located at our base in Greenock.

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working onboard small vessels up to 24m.

This is a varied and interesting position offering a combination of practical experience and college based training leading to MCA Boatmaster Licence qualification.

To apply, please forward your CV by post or email to: Clyde Marine Services Ltd, Victoria Harbour, Greenock, Renfrewshire, PA15 1HW
admin@clyde-marine.co.uk

Volunteers wanted in Oban, Lorn and Mull

Do you have parenting experience and 3 hours a week to spare?

We are looking for volunteers to visit families with young children in their own homes.

Home-Start provides support, friendship and practical help to families.

Training and expenses are provided.

All volunteers must be PVG members or be willing to join the PVG scheme.

For more information contact Aileen Binner (scheme coordinator) 01631 566749

campbeltown argyllshire
courier advertiser

QUALIFIED REPORTER LOCHGILPHEAD

We want to hear from you if you have:

- > The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
- > Shorthand
- > Ambition and enthusiasm
- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@wvexmedia.co.uk

Crossroads Caring SCOTLAND

Crossroads Caring Scotland are looking to recruit male and female Care Attendants

to work across Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Islay and Jura, providing care for individuals regardless of age, disability or location. Experience of Care work desirable but not essential. All training will be provided. Use of a car is preferable, mileage allowance provided.

Work hours are variable with the opportunity of contracted hours.
£7.25 per hour. Equivalent to £8.12 per hour when inclusive of holiday entitlement.

For further information or application pack please contact:
Catriona Gorrie, Service Manager, Dalriada & The Isles 01546 603082 or Dalriada@crossroads-scotland.co.uk
Closing date for application is Monday 19th May 2014.
We are an equal opportunities employer. Scottish Charity No: SC013081

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Full/Part-Time

Please write enclosing C.V.to :-
The Castle Manager
Inveraray Castle, INVERARAY PA32 8XF
or E-Mail – manager@inveraray-castle.com

Keyline

Yard Sales Assistant/ Relief Driver Class 2
Oban Branch (Salary + benefits)

A buzzing atmosphere, great benefits and plenty of opportunities for career progression - join Keyline as a Yard Sales Assistant and share our success and good times with a hard-working, friendly bunch of people.

This is a key customer-facing role, so your people skills will have to be razor-sharp. As a Yard Sales Assistant you will service all our customers with a smile and complete all necessary paperwork accurately to make sure they are absolutely satisfied with the products they buy and the service they receive. Full product training will be provided so the most important thing is that you have a flexible and can do approach.

Keyline is the UK's number one supplier of civils, heavy building materials and drainage solutions, with a nationwide network of branches and our aim is to be 'Best in Town' for product knowledge, availability and customer service. We're part of the Travis Perkins Group a FTSE 100 Company that's been recognised as one of Britain's Top Employers since 2010. If you aim to be the best you can be, then we'd like to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered for these positions please apply online, alternatively you can apply in writing to: Iain Hunter, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HQ. No agencies please

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension

Based in Oban and reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Vacancy
Acharacle Village Store
 We have a position available for seasonal work. Hours will be 29 per week. Rate of pay will be negotiable. Applicants must be over 16 years old, hardworking, reliable, trustworthy and get on well with people. You will be required to work 4 days per week which includes every weekend. Mid-May to Mid-October. **Please apply within or call 01967431257**

JEWSON

Tool Hire Assistant Required

FULL TIME

As a vital part of our Tool Hire team, you'll ensure we stock the right tools and equipment to meet demand. You'll also sell and hire out great products. And every time the hire products come back to us, you'll make sure they're fit for the next customer. This will involve repairs, servicing and maintenance of numerous forms of plant equipment, so it's important that you know your technical stuff, as well as having a friendly, positive attitude at all times.

In all of our roles we'll need you to have great team spirit, and be prepared to help out colleagues elsewhere in the branch when required. To support this you will have a strong customer service ethic, preferably gained in a sales environment, and ideally have some experience of the Tool Hire industry. Driving is required with all roles therefore you must have a full driving licence.

Competitive salary available, for more information please contact Kevin Orr on 01397 700744 or email kevin.orr@jewson.co.uk

SALES EXECUTIVE

We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

forteith

FOODSERVICE

BUTCHER ASSISTANT - SEASONAL

A Seasonal position working in a busy butchery facility. Both applicants must be able to demonstrate the following: Keenness to learn, Quality conscious, Presentable, Hardworking and work as part of a team, Reliable, Numerate, Customer aware. Catering/Food experience preferred. Current Basic Health & Hygiene Certificate preferred.

-Immediate Start Available-

For further details and an application form please contact
John Forteith - Depot General Manager on 01631 569100
 Forteith Foodservice, Glegollain Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. email: john@forteith.fs.com
 www.forteith.co.uk

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Family Mediation Argyll & Bute

Specialist Supervised Child Contact Centre Worker.

20 hours per week
 (flexible to Service Needs including weekends, evenings and occasional overnights)
AP4 £23,232 PRO RATA
 Case Load across Argyll & Bute, PVG required, SVQ Level 3 Childcare/Social Care or Minimum 3 years' experience of working with fractured families.
 Training will be given
 Access to car and clean driving licence essential
 Closing date 22nd May 2014
For application pack please contact 01631 570101
Or email: fms.argyll-bute@btconnect.com

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out Distillery Tours.

Our Client is looking for confident individuals with a high standard of communication and customer service skills.

The ability to work within a team and a flexible approach to hours of work are integral to this role. Hours will be on a rota basis of any 5 days over 7 with possibly some evening work.

Positions will be from end of May/beginning June until the end of September.

Interested candidates should call Andrea Verrall on 0141 272 8104 or email CV to andrea.verrall@brightworkltd.com. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Senior Tourshop Assistant

Salary: £21,440 (Grade 1) Ref 599-5B

38 hours per week
 Fort William

Responsible to the Area Operations Manager for the efficient and safe operation of the Fort William Tourshop, ensure that all customer, business partner relationships and operational service requirements are delivered in accordance with the Company's specifications and obligations.

For a full job description please visit our website at www.calmac.co.uk/corporate-calmac

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number no later than 16th May 2014 to: e-mail: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or **David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited**
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650144 f: 01475 650268
 CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

public notices

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 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 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
14/01222/FUL	Land 1740m NE of Munerieg, Invergarry	Development of a run-of-river hydropower scheme including the construction of three intakes, a buried pipeline and a powerhouse
14/01619/FUL	Beachview, North Ballachulish, Onich, Fort William	Erection of Hairdressing Salon

Time period for comments is 14 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION

GEASGILL MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH NA KEAL, ISLE OF MULL

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by the Scottish Salmon Company to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1000808 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Geasgill Marine Cage Fish Farm, Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Increase in maximum biomass with corresponding amendments to chemical treatments. Changes to cage equipment.	Loch na Keal	NM4363 3763

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any 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). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected, or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application, 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/1000808:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, 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 interest 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 either grant or refuse to grant the application.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. 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
14/00982/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West of The Brambles North Corrie Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/01050/PP	Removal of caravan and erection of replacement log cabin.	Kames Fish Farm Kilmelford Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00709/PP	Erection of conservatory	Glenrigh Cottage Carran Esplanade Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5AQ	Oban Area Office
14/00942/PP	Change of use from class 1 (retail) to combined class 1 and class 3 (retail, food and drink) including external seating area.	Unit 1 Kilmartin Court Station Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4NU	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times 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.

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, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

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.

The Scottish Government

Riaghatais na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2014

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road from its junction with the roundabout opposite the Corran Halls at the northern end of Dunollie Road, Oban southwards to its junction with George Street, Oban, a distance of 210 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to allow for resurfacing works, will be in operation from 14th May 2014 until 23rd May 2014 and will only have effect in relation to such length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in connection with the works 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.

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at BEAR Scotland, BEAR House, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3TW.

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk
 A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy
 legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROs

G EDMOND
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
 58 Port Dundas Road Glasgow G4 0HF

CROFTING COMMISSION

COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
 DECROFTING APPLICATION

Mrs S Cameron
 70 & 71 Camagheal, Kilmallie
 0.1 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.49082

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number

Mrs S Corns
 Broils Croft 3, Ardochattan & Muckairn
 0.15 ha - Site for a dwelling house (amended Direction)
 4.81.48447

Conditions: 1, 2, 3b and 4
 Miss G M McTaggart
 24b Carnach, Lismore & Appin
 0.033 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
 4.85.46859

Conditions: 1, 3c, 4
 Conditions
 (1) Purchase area within 5 years of the date of direction.
 (2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
 (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
 (b) the proposed development completion
 (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.

HIGHLAND WELCOME (UK) LTD
 (In Liquidation)
 Company No. SC417222
 Registered Office: Woodland House,
 Happy Valley, Torquay, Fort William,
 PH33 6SW

I, David K Hunter of Campbell Dallas LLP
 Titanium 1, King's Inch Place, Renfrew, PA4
 8WF hereby give notice pursuant to Rule
 4.19 of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986
 that I was appointed Liquidator of Highland
 Welcome (UK) Limited by resolution of the
 creditors present at the meeting of creditors
 held on 24 April 2014. A Liquidation
 Committee was not formed. I do not intend
 to summon another meeting to establish a
 Liquidation Committee unless requested to
 do so by one tenth, in value, of the
 Company's creditors.
 Dated: 28 April 2014
 David K Hunter, Liquidator

Oban & Lorn Riding For The Disabled AGM

Monday 26th May 2014
 12 noon at
 Golf Club, Oban
 All welcome

69%

of the business community read the regional press

PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

Regional Press closer to home

SSE Renewables Developments (UK) Limited (the Developer) acting on behalf of SSE Generation Limited, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to the relevant determining authority for a prospective development to repower and extend the existing Tangy Wind Farm.

Two public information events will be held to give you a chance to view the proposals and ask any questions you may have. The details of these events are as follows:

Macrihanish Village Hall
 Bayview, Macrihanish, PA28 6PX
 Date 14 May 2014
 Time 10am-2pm

Aqualibrium
 Kinloch Park, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6EG
 Date 14 May 2014
 Time 4pm-8pm

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting:
 Noel Cummins
 SSE, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ
 Tel: 01738 516901
 Email: noel.cummins@sse.com
 Website: www.sse.com/tangyll

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at SSE (address as above) no later than 13 June 2014.

The Developer would welcome the submission of comments in response to the proposal, however please note that persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that the prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to the relevant determining authority at that time.

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3.2 manual, 58 plate, MOT'd
6/2/15, taxed Mar 15, service
history (serviced Feb 14), 17"
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£10,000 + VAT o.n.o.

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S&S Services support

An initiative to help raise the valuable funds needed to enable the Lifeboats of the RNLI and its volunteer crews to continue 'Saving Lives at Sea' has become a reality at the S&S Services showroom in Ayr with the delivery of a BRZ suitably liveried. S&S Services, as continuing supporters of this charity, were approached earlier this year by members of the Fundraising Branch of Troon Lifeboat Station. Their enquiry was to the possibility of a vehicle being supplied and used as product placement to promote a 'Grand Prize Draw' was tabled. As a result this Subaru BRZ will be used as a promotional point of sale for the generation of funds for the RNLI throughout Ayrshire and Argyll in Scotland. The RNLI founded

by Sir William Hilary in 1824 as a lifeboat service came into being relying, as it does to this day, wholly on voluntary contributions. Today, a modern and technologically advanced, lifeboat fleet operate a twenty four seven rescue service from over two hundred lifeboat stations around the coast of the United Kingdom and Ireland and are manned by over six thousand volunteer crew members both male and female. Last year lifeboats were requested to launch 8,304 times 3,069 being during the hours of darkness, which resulted in 8,384 people being assisted/rescued with 325 of these being designated as lives saved. To allow for this charity to continue this service, a country wide



army of over 36,000 volunteer fundraisers ensure that the money required and the need for public awareness to allow the RNLI to

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The Bistro facility within the Aqualibrium leisure complex is being offered for lease and interested parties are invited to submit offers. The Bistro comprises a fully fitted kitchen with serving/seating area all extending to 264 sqm and is located on the second floor of the Aqualibrium leisure complex, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown. The length of lease available is negotiable but is expected to be for minimum period of 3 years. Offers over £7,000 per annum are being sought.
Closing date for offers is 12:30pm on Friday 30th May 2014.
For an information pack please contact:
Estates Office, Argyll and Bute Council, Blairvadach, Helensburgh, G84 8ND, Tel: 01436-658957

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• McCaigs Tower, Oban
Offers over £40 per week are invited for the McCaigs Tower site
• Fionnphort Car Park, Isle of Mull
Offers over £65 per week are invited for the Fionnphort Car Park site
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4 PIECE SUITE GREAT CONDITION pristine condition, 2 seater sofa, 2

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HOMEDICS FULL-LENGTH HEATED Massage mat which, when placed on the floor or on a bed becomes a heated, vibration massager with many different programs, £85 Telephone 01631 720751.

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TOYS AND GAMES

THOMAS TANK TRAINS AND TRACK large box of mixed Thomas Tank trains and track good condition, £25 Telephone 07789 228628.

Caitlin Rose Cluckie
Born 30th April, 2014
Stuart and Donna (née MacDougall) are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Caitlin Rose. First grandchild to Donnie and Andrea and Gordon and Irene.

Mary Ann May
would like to thank everyone including nursing staff for their kindness and Get Well cards during her stay in hospital. Also special thanks to all family who gave loving support.
Many thanks. x

Happy birthday
I'm Pretty Nifty For a Man of Fifty
Happy Birthday x

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- ✓ Product title i.e acoustic guitar
- ✓ Product description (approx 15-20 words)
- ✓ Selling price
- ✓ Contact telephone number
- ✓ Item location (as we cover a fairly large geographical area it is helpful if buyers know where the item is located)

ACOUSTIC GUITAR
Yamaha acoustic guitar in good condition. Built in tuner, new strings, comes with padded gig bag. In Oban.
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Share your celebrations with our announcements adverts - starting next week!
5x2 colour ads with artwork, a photo and your own personal message.
Let everyone know about an engagement, birthday, anniversary or new arrival in your family!
Call us now to book your space!

Michael and Sophie got engaged on 1st January
Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Michael and Sophie. Congratulations from all family and friends.
(sample ad - not to scale)

Annie Birthday: 25th January
Look who's all grown up! Happy 21st birthday! Have a brilliant day. Lots of love from all the family xxx
(sample ad - not to scale)

Pauline Born: 9th January 2014
Bob and Lesley are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Pauline, a little sister for Susie and Gillian.
(sample ad - not to scale)

ONLY £25 + VAT

call us today on 01631 568000

BIRTHS

BARR - Donald John, Kirsten (nee Crooks) and Derek John are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Jamie Duncan Alexander, born on the 24.04.14, weighing 7lb 2oz. Second grandson for Peter and Joan Barr of Benderloch and for Derek and the late Vera Crooks of Oban. Special thanks to the midwives at Oban and Paisley.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, Amelia Arnot, (Emma), "High Tor", Laurel Crescent, Oban, beloved wife of the late Duncan, much loved mum of Morven and Gordon, mother-in-law of Murdo and nana of David. A dear sister of Willie, Roy, Jean, Betty and the late Peter, a very caring aunt and very special friend. Sadly missed.

DOUGLAS-REID - Peacefully at home after a short illness, on May 4, 2014, Marion nee MacKenzie, beloved wife of the late Hamish Douglas-Reid, a dear mum, sister and grandmother.

MACCOLL - Peacefully, with his family at home, Kilbride Croft, Isle of Seil on April 30, 2014, John (Iain) MacDonald MacColl aged 85 years, beloved husband of Janet, much loved father of Morag and Mary, father-in-law to Brian and Iain loving Seanair to Sarah, Katherine, Gordon and Grant. Memorial service at Kilbrandon Church, Isle of Seil on Thursday May 8, at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only please. Collection, if desired in aid of Kilbrandon Church and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MACINNES - On May 4, 2014, peacefully at home, Angus, in his 84th year, beloved husband of the late Mae Morton, much loved father of John, Colin and Isobel, dear father-in-law of Jane, Lynda and Michael, and dearly loved papa of Eilidh, Alasdair, Mhairi, Cara, Sarah and Angus. Funeral service at Tayvallich Church, on Monday, May 12, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Carsaig Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

MACDONALD - Peacefully in Belford Hospital, on Monday, May 5, 2014, Theresa, aged 97 years, a much loved aunt who will be sorely missed. Funeral service at St Mary's R.C.Church, Fort William on Saturday, May 10 at 10.15am, followed by interment at Glen Nevis Cemetery.

MACDOUGALL - Annabella Mary. Sadly, on Saturday, May 3, at Glenrothes Hospital, Fife, after a long illness fought with great dignity and courage, Anna 85 years, dearly loved wife of Charlie, loving mother of Ann and Elizabeth, and mother-in-law of Jim and John, loving granny of Susan, Fiona, Andrew, Libby and Alistair, great granny of Charlotte. Funeral ceremony, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at Kirkealdy Crematorium on Wednesday, May 14, at 11 o'clock. Family flowers only please, but if desired, there will be a retiring collection taken at the Crematorium for Macmillan Cancer/Ward 2, Glenrothes Hospital, should you wish to contribute.

MACNAB - Peacefully with his family at his side, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness borne with great courage, on May 2, 2014, in his 52nd year, Nicholas James, beloved husband to Linda, devoted father to Matthew and Pamela, son of Renee and the late James Macnab and brother of Isobel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SUTHERLAND - Ian and family wish to thank all relations, friends and neighbours for their sympathy and support following the sudden loss of Catherine. I would like to express my thanks to all who cared for her at the Belford Hospital, your cheerfulness and kindness was wonderful. Thanks to the Tweeddale Practice for their attendance to Catherine throughout her short illness. The Handyperson team provided a very efficient and caring service as did the Day and Night Owl service. Thanks to Mike McFall Funeral Directors for kind words and professional funeral arrangements and also to Ellen Duncan for the flowers. The West End Hotel coped admirably with the huge number of friends who came to give us support. Thanks to all who attended the Duncansburgh Church and Rev Dr Adrian Varwell and organist May MacIntyre. Your donations to The Macmillan Unit at the Belford Hospital raised the fantastic sum of £2200.

WEIR - Sheila, Calum, Jacqueline, Colin, Peter and families wish to thank all family and friends for their cards letters and messages of support after the sudden death of Charlie. Thanks to Rev Johnny Paton for an uplifting

service, Billy McClymont for his advice and attention to detail, Mike Swift for flowers and to the Isle of Mull Hotel staff for their service at a difficult time. The retiring collection of £1300 has been donated to Motor Neurone Disease Scotland.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear father Duncan (Master Mariner) of Acharacle, who died May 8, 1994. Always remembered, never forgotten. - William.

CLARK - Thomas Gracie. In loving memory of my Uncle Tom who died suddenly on May 4, 2009. A finer man never lived, may those who knew him well remember him well. He was always there for his family and those who needed him. - With love from Mary and Bobby.

KENNEDY - In everlasting memory of Margaret-Mary a much loved wife, mother, mother-in-law and granny, who passed away suddenly on May 11, 2013. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there Very sadly missed by all. - Peter, Lloret, Lorne, Robert, Jane and grandchildren.

KENNEDY - In loving memory of Margaret Mary a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt, who passed away May 11, 2013. Treasured memories - From Tom, Rena and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Marilyn Margaret MacDonal (nee MacArthur), passed away May 10, 1998. Beloved wife and devoted mother. Always remembered and never forgotten. - Love Billy, William, Morven, and Andrea.

MACINNES - Donald (Dan). In loving memory of my husband and our dad. Loved and remembered always. - Nana and family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of my mum and gran Nan MacKay, died May 10, 2012. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Violet, Hugh and family.

MACLEOD - Treasured memories of a special son Donald MacLeod, died May 9, 2012. A special person, a special face Someone we love and cannot replace. Never selfish, always kind These are the memories that Don left behind. No matter how life changes, no matter what we do A special place within our hearts is always kept for you. - Your loving mum Peigi, sister Cairn and brother Martin

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin Donald, who died May 9, 2012. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day. - Cathie Ann, Ray, Isla, Craig and families.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of our dad Alexander MacPhee (Sandy), who died at his home, Coire-Leis, Camaghael, 40 years ago 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 darling wife Betty, who passed away on May 11, 2008. It's been so long my love since God took you away I love and miss you just as much as on that fateful day Remembering the years we had, the love we had together Keeps me thinking of our life and thanking God forever. - Steve.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents Donald who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan who died May 6, 2003. We cannot bring the old days back Your smile we cannot see We can only treasure the memories of days that used to be. - Love from grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all the family. xxx

STEELE - Loving memories of our dad Ian who died May 9, 1984. - Morag and Alan

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny, Christina, who died May 6, 1987. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. - Inserted by Rosemary, Ewen, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Maimie), who died 30 years ago on May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Catherine and family, Tobermory and Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

WYLIE - Alexander Ross (Alistair), taken from us May 8, 2013. Gone but not forgotten. - Lorraine, Kevin and Craig.

Bagpipes tour the UK as part of D-Day memorial boat trip



Karl Wainwright plays the replica D-Day bagpipes on Oban's North Pier. 16_t19p1pes01

A SET of replica D-Day pipes were played on Oban's North Pier on Monday, as a memorial boat trip around the UK that began in Fort William this week, made its first port of call. The 'voyage of re-

membrance' commemorates the hundreds of thousands of Allied troops who stormed the beaches of Normandy beginning the liberation of Western Europe. The pipes were played by

Liverpool's Karl Wainwright, who will join up with the Black Watch regiment in July. The pipes were brought from Fort William by Oban coastguard sector manager

Kenny Devine on board a coastguard cutter Hunter. From Oban, they went to Ardrishaig by car as, disappointingly, no-one in Oban had volunteered to transfer the pipes by boat.

McCaig's Tower provides stunning setting for sunrise Easter service



Worshippers at an early morning Easter Vigil at McCaig's Tower.

AN EARLY morning Easter Vigil at McCaig's Tower brought home the message of the Easter story to Christian worshippers.

An open invitation to the service was given by the congregation at St. John's Cathedral for the 5.30am Dawn Service at McCaig's Tower.

The Very Revd Nicki McNelly, provost of the Cathedral led the service with worshippers who gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

One of the worshippers reflected on the service: 'This was a very special and moving service in a stunning setting, the birds giving us an enthusiastic dawn chorus as a most beautiful morning dawned on Oban. More than 50 people gathered to share the joy and hope of Easter. The young musicians coped with cold hands and instruments, managing to accompany our singing. Afterwards the children hunted for Easter eggs and people stayed and chatted over a bacon roll. All agreed that this had been a great success and I am sure will be repeated in years to come.'

Rev Bill Gray Lorn and Isles Hospital Chaplain

Thought for the week

International Nurses Day - Monday May 12

WELL-MEANING folk were eager to give me advice and useful insights when I first started out as a Parish Minister some 45 years ago.

One elderly lady, born and reared in a Manse observed: 'Every new Minister can do no wrong in their first year and then do no right in their second year and after that you come to terms with each other.' She was so accurate. As I walked across to the church

to celebrate my first anniversary, happy and enthusiastic, I received resignations from almost a quarter of my office-bearers. Independent circumstances brought this about but it did have a profound impact.

Another perceptive person mused 'Ministers see the best-side of folk, lawyers encounter the worst side and only doctors see folk as they really are.' Ministers and hospital chaplains, just like everyone

else, can find themselves as a patient needing help and support. How often the calm, caring assistance, or simply the presence, of a nurse has been a timely and effective intervention, day or night.

It was a district nurse who literally saved my life in my early years and it was a retired nurse who certainly saved it in later years. Exactly the same stories can be heard in households across

the land. We salute our nurses in whatever branch of the NHS they serve in. Theirs is a caring and compassionate role, as part of a fine profession, who we so often take for granted. Please share a kind word with the next one you encounter for we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
 Sunday 11 May 2014
 4th of Easter
 St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion..... 08:00
 Sung Eucharist..... 10:15
 Children's Corner Loop System
 Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome
 Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323
 St Columba, Gruinle, Mull Holy Eucharist..... 11:00
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08:00
 Evensong..... 20:15
 Holy Eucharist Wed 14 May 14:30

WEDDING

MACLENNAN - GRAHAM
 On Thursday, April 17, 2014 at Heyllop Parish Church, Isle of Tiree, Ross, younger son of Harry and Catriona MacLennan (Tiree), married Caroline, only daughter of John and Sharon Graham (Linnlithgow). A wonderful week of wedding celebrations was enjoyed by the happy couple and their delighted family and friends.

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Tobermory

MENS' Section - May Medal, 1 Iain Wilshire 76-16-60; 2 Shaun Fisher 79-17-62; 3 Ewan MacCrone 74-09-65.

Ladies - May Medal, 1 Kathy McAdam 99-21-78; 2 Olive Brown 113-35-78; 3 Margaret Ingram 102-24-78.

Junior/Senior Competition - 1 Murdo MacLennan/Graham Davidson 86-29.5-56.5; 2 Scott Paterson/John Weir 75-16.0-59; 3 William MacCrone/Peter MacCrone 75-07.0-68.

Grandparents Trophy (9 holes) 1 John Weir 18 points; 2 Donald Brown snr. 18 points; 3 Graham Davidson 17 points.

Glencruitten

INNES Clark is the leader in the first round of the Terry Ng Trophy with a score of 83 - 24 = 59. In second place is John Gibb with a score of 69 - 8 = 61. In third place is Stephen Lockhart with a score of 62 - 8 = 63.

Saturday is the second round of the Terry Ng Trophy and a Stableford will be held on Tuesday.

Isle of Skye

ISLE of Skye Golf Club played the RNLI Trophy at Seconer over Saturday and Sunday.

Returns: 1 Alasdair Grant 40pts (bh); 2 Iain Lewis 40pts; 3 Alex Munro 38pts.



Taynuilt

LADIES Club Championship 1st round (Handicap) + Medal played 29 April - 1 Sandra Elliott 68 (26); 2 Moira MacVicar 71 (27); 3rd: Alice MacCalman 72 (26).

Mixed Open played 4 May Handicap Category - 1 Grace Petrie and David Currie (Taynuilt GC) 61 (21); 2 Carol and Robert MacLarty (Taynuilt GC) 65 (17); 3 Coleen Brown (Dalmally GC) & Harold Farquhar (Udan Tani GC) 66 (17).

Scratch Category 1 Margaret and Wyndham Tranter (Raglan Parc GC) 77; 2 Eive Brown (Dalmally GC) and Richard Bergant (Taynuilt GC) 82; 3 Ann MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) and Iain MacCalman (Clobber GC) 83.

Longest Drive: Ladies - Lily MacKay (Dalmally GC) Gents: Donald MacVicar (Glencruitten GC).

Nearest the Pin: Ladies - Margaret Gallacher. Gents - Jim Gallacher (Both Blairmore & Strone GC)

Call offs fail to dampen the spirit at Lochaber Sevens

LOCHABER RFC's Annual 7s tournament did not all go to plan on Saturday at Black Parks in Fort William after a number of teams dropping out in the run up to the day. However the tournament was reorganised into a league of five, consisting of Lochaber 'A', 'B' and 'C', Oban Lorne and Quintin, a touring team from London.

Due to the tournament being played away from Banavie because of pitch works, a team of volunteers worked throughout the week at Black Parks, with tents and marquees set up in order to accommodate spectators.

The tournament kicked off with the A team playing the Bs in a competitive which saw the As run away with the result in the second half.

Arguably the game of the tournament was between the B team and Oban, who looked like they had clinched victory as the clock ticked into overtime but a great solo try from Callum Macdonald tied the scores at 12-12. His kick in front of the posts skewed agonisingly wide,

ending the game in a draw. As the final round of fixtures began, the A team were comfortably sitting top of the league and guaranteed a place in the final.

However, with the B team and Oban neck and neck, the A team had to defeat the Argyll side, whilst the B team had to overcome Quintin if they wanted to draw level on points with Oban.

As a result of the number of tries scored, the B team would progress to the final under this scenario.

The A team helped out their friends by disposing of Oban and it was up to the B team to then defeat Quintin to ensure they would contest the final.

It didn't get off to a good start, with the London team racing into a 12-0 lead. However, their legs began to tire and the younger B team started to assert authority on the game.

Strong running from Findlay Ireland and Jocky McCook turned the game on its head and they were soon celebrating a place in the final.

Lochaber C and Oban contested the 3rd/4th play-off, with Oban coming out on top 36-17.

With pride and bragging rights at stake, the A and B team played

RUGBY SEVENS

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With pride and bragging rights at stake, the A and B team played

an entertaining final with the A team playing impressive sevens rugby to prevail 36-0.

Euan Larter was instrumental throughout which resulted in him being awarded the player of the tournament. The winners' quich was presented to the A

team by Katy Campbell from MacPhee and Partners.

With spirits high, players and spectators headed back to the clubhouse at Banavie for a ceilidh and refreshments to celebrate a successful sevens.

Thanks go to all the sponsors who provided equipment and support to enable the tournament to go ahead, as well as to the volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the week to set up Black Parks. A great day was had by all and the club is already looking forward to next year.

The 12th Annual Fraser MacPhee seven-a-side primary school shinty tournament will take place on Sunday 15 June at An Aird, Fort William

The tournament will have a BBQ with food for all players and coaches. There will also be the trophy and medals, a speed hitting competition, and player of the tournament. The throw up is 11 am, please enter at the latest Friday before the event. (13th June)

For further information please contact Niall MacPhee on 07957 166152 or by email at niall4fort@hotmail.com

South Primary Sixes at Taynuilt

SCHOOL SHINTY

THE South of Scotland Primary Schools 6-a-side Shinty Championship will be held on Sunday 11 May 2014 at Taynuilt Playing Field starting at 11am.

For further details contact Euan McMurdo, Argyll and Bute shinty development officer on 07824 367996

Fort William FC 300 Club draw

LOTTERY

FORT William FC 300 Club draw March winners were: £200 - R S Drummond; £50 - A Collins; £25 - M Foggo; £25 - J MacMillan.



Oban Lorne finished in third place

Adrian Duthie Trophy

LOCHABER S6 boys' football team ended their school careers in style by defeating an S5 select 6-2 to win the Adrian Duthie Memorial trophy.

In a close first half Neil Gillanders saved a penalty to prevent the S6 side from taking the lead but it proved to be a temporary reprieve as Dylan Fraser opened the scoring.

Patrick MacDonald quickly equalised and the score remained level at 1-1 at half time. In the

second half S6 scored two quick goals from Arran MacPhee and Ciar Kennedy opened up a 3-1 lead.

As S5 pushed forward they were hit on the counter-attack and Dejan Watson added a further two goals before Fraser struck again to make it 6-1.

Aaron Sandison did manage to score a late consolation goal but by then the game was over.

With the course set on the new dry and dusty downhill trail, 53 riders from Scotland and Northern Ireland had two timed runs aiming to complete the course in the quickest time they could manage.

The under 10s were first out the gate with Emily Carrick-Anderson of Peebles CC winning the girls race.

Zander Millar-Todd of Highland Bikes Race Team took the boys' event with Douglas Goodwill of Black Isle MTB Club in second and Ryan McGuire in third.

In the under 12s, Corran Carrick-Anderson was the clear

winner by 10 seconds with Fraser Kelly of Black Isle MTB second and James Wilson of Wolfpax Riders third.

In the girls race, Lucy Edmondson of Wolfpax riders took the win with Fiona Millar of Spean Speedy Bikers in second.

In the under 14s, Callum Galloway Black Isle MTB took the honours with Jamie Edmondson of Wolfpax and Northern Ireland rider Ben Cleicklin (East Coast MTB NI) in third. Tea Jensen of Leslie Bike Shop won the girls' race.

In the under 16s, the Irish were again prominent with East Coast MTB NI riders Chloe Cumming and Jack Devlin setting the fastest times of the day. Mathew MacDonald of Highland Bicycles Race Team followed close behind in second, with Spean Bridge local Jack McCallum of West Highland Wheelers in third.

Event organisers Scottish Cycling thanked Wolfpax Riders and volunteers for all their

help with running the event and Nevis Range for hosting.

Events development officer Bob MacFarlane said on the day: 'With quite a number of local

riders doing well in today's racing it's been a fantastic day.'

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Youth Mini Downhill Series at Nevis Range

FOOTBALL

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Oban Pool League

POOL

MARKIE Dans A won the final game of this season's Oban Pool League 6-4 against Lancaster A to consolidate second place.

The Oban Pool League thanked the league sponsors Creagan Inn for financial support this

Oban Pool League final table - Sponsored by The Creagan Inn

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Cellar	21	19	1	1	163	47	39
2 Markie Dans A	21	19	0	2	148	62	38
3 Lancaster A	21	17	2	2	159	51	36
4 Lancaster B	21	12	2	7	118	92	26
5 Lochnell	21	9	4	8	106	104	22
6 Markie Dans B	21	8	5	8	106	104	21
7 Gluepot	21	7	5	14	90	120	14
8 Claredon	21	4	6	11	85	125	14
9 Foley's Bar	21	6	1	14	87	123	13
10 Lochavullin	21	6	1	14	76	134	13
11 Creagan Inn	11	2	1	8	24	86	5
12 Outreach	21	0	1	20	48	162	1

Oban Pool League

MARKIE Dans A won the final game of this season's Oban Pool League 6-4 against Lancaster A to consolidate second place.

The Oban Pool League thanked the league sponsors Creagan Inn for financial support this

season and is delighted to announce that D & G Flooring has retained its sponsorship of the upcoming Shoot-Out Shield.

Now moves are underway to set up a new organisation, Boghadairachd na Gaidhealtachd (Highland Archery), to guide development of the sport as it continues to grow in popularity in the north.

SLB president Dubh Irbhinn told The Oban Times: 'This means we can concentrate on building archery clubs in our area without the financial restraints this would normally entail if we went further afield.'

Members from all our three clubs have already been helping Kilchoan and Lochaline set up archery clubs and there has been a lot of interest from these two communities.

Mr Irbhinn said: 'This is a great achievement for our local archers. All club categories aged nine to 12 received gold, silver and bronze.'

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Lochaber Archery clubs split from national association

ARCHERY

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Prizewinners at the Taynuilt Mixed Open played on Sunday 4 May.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN £900

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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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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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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.

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The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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E Cameron, Banmaglaster, Spean Bridge

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Address

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.....

.....

Tel No.

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)



Fixtures

Saturday 10 May

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round
 Strathspey v Kyles Athletic
 Calum Girvan - 1.30pm
 Kilmallie v Kingussie
 Iain Kennedy
 Lovat v Skye
 Ronnie Campbell
 Glenurquhart v Col Glen
 Andy MacLean
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel
 John MacGregor - 12pm
 Inverness v Lochbroom
 Robert Morrison - 12pm
 Bute v Lochside Rovers
 Lachie Wood - 12pm

Balliemore Cup

Quarter Final

Aberdour v Aberdeen Uni
 Neil MacDonald
 Inverness v Oban Celtic
 John Matheson - 2.30pm
 Strathglass v Skye
 Archie Ritchie
 Taynuilt v Ballachulish
 Ron Kennedy

Orion Group Premiership

Kingussie v Inveraray
 Graham Cameron
 Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
 Evan MacRae
 Kyles Athletic v Lovat
 David Mitchell
 Lochaber v Newtonmore
 John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest

National Division

Beaulieu v Caberfeidh
 Colin McDonald
 Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Innes Wood - 3pm
 Fort William v Kilmallie
 Billy Waterspoon - 3pm
 Oban Camanachd v Glenorchy
 Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest

North Division 2

Glenarry v Lochcarron
 Alex MacVicar

Marine Harvest

South Division 2

Ballachulish v Inveraray
 Martin MacLean
 Glenorchy v Glasgow MA
 Euan Pearson

(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Results

Friday 2 May

Strathdearn Cup 1st Round
 Newtonmore 5 - 0 Kingussie

Saturday 3 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round
 Ballachulish 5 - 0 Oban Celtic
 Beaulieu 5 - 1 Oban Camanachd
 Bute 4 - 0 Taynuilt
 Caberfeidh 3 - 1 Kilmory
 Glasgow MA 2 - 3 Fort William
 Glenorchy 2 - 6 Skye
 Strachur 4 - 7 Kilmallie
 Strathglass 2 - 3 Inverness

Orion Group Premiership

Glenurquhart 2 - 1 Lovat
 Inveraray 4 - 1 Kyles Athletic
 Kinlochshiel 3 - 2 Lochaber
 Newtonmore 5 - 2 Kingussie

Marine Harvest

South Division 1

Aberdour 7 - 0 Lochside Rovers

Marine Harvest

North Division 2

Boleskine 4 - 2 Skye
 Fort William 5 - 1 Kinlochshiel
 Lochaber 2 - 5 Glenarry
 Lochcarron 2 - 2 Aberdeen Uni

Marine Harvest

South Division 2

Aberdour 0 - 1 Inveraray
 Bute 1 - 1 Col Glen
 Glasgow MA 0 - 3 Tayforth
 Glenorchy 0 - 1 Ballachulish

Marine Harvest

North Division 3

Inverness 0 - 1 Lochbroom
 Lewis P - P Strathspey
 Strathspey unable to field a team points to Lewis

South teams struggle against the north in Camanachd Cup ties

Orion Group Premiership

KINGUSSIE were left rueing lapses in defence after losing 5-2 to local rivals Newtonmore on Saturday.

Coach Russell Jones said: 'We were really disappointed, we actually played pretty well for long spells but the bottom line is it doesn't matter, it's the score line that counts.'

'We had a bad five to 10 minutes and lost three goals just before half time but I couldn't ask any more from the team - they really gave it their all. Ryan McWilliam and Savio Genini really stood out, they're only 17 and 18 so they're playing really well for such young players.'

Despite Saturday's defeat Jones is hopeful about this weekend's home game against Inveraray.

He said: 'We've just got to take the positives out of the last game and get back to winning. We're always hoping to win every game but the opposition is usually very strong.'

It is hoped 17-year-old defender Robbie MacEachan will be fit to play after missing a few weeks due to an ankle injury.

INVERARAY reversed a 5-1 humiliation at home to Kyles Athletic the previous week by hammering the visitors 4-1 in the second meeting of the sides at the Winterton in successive weeks.

A Roberto Zaveroni goal for Kyles within the first minute looked ominous but the Royal Burgh dug in a got their reward with a reply from Euan McMurdo.

Further goals came from Peter MacIntyre, Grant Griffin and Neil Campbell.

Inveraray player-manager Garry MacPherson, who was sidelined with a hand injury, said: 'I was confident that someone would get it from us one of these days because we have been playing well.'

'We stayed strong after losing the early goal, the attitude was magic. The boys stuck in and deserved the win.'

'Thank God this result came at last and I hope it can kickstart the season for us.'

MacPherson said he hoped confidence would be high for this weekend's trip to The Dell.

He added: 'Everyone in this league is at a good level, so we will need to show the same effort we did last week in every single game.'

KINLOCHSHIEL snatched a vital 3-2 win over Lochaber at Kirktown to improve their position in the Orion Group Premiership - now they will seek to do the same against visitors Glenurquhart this weekend.

David Falconer came on in the second half appearance since breaking his shoulder in the opening game of the season against Glenurquhart, but will be a welcome addition to coach

Colin Fraser's squad. Jordan Fraser is also likely to make a return to the forward line for what the manager knows will be a stern test of his team's mettle.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Glenurquhart don't give much away and it will be a difficult game for us because they are very solid at the back.'

'But we a starting to play a bit better now and more importantly beginning to score goals from all different players, so I'm happy with that.'

He added: 'Lochaber was a very hard game and there was not much in it. If both teams had gone away with a draw I think both would have been happy. It was a big game for us because if we had not won we would be at the bottom of the league.'

GLENURQUHART were delighted with a 2-1 victory against local rivals Lovat on Saturday.

Coach Billy MacLean said: 'We were very pleased, it was a really good result for us. It's always nice to beat our rivals but it was a very close game, either side could have won. The boys put in a good effort, I was really pleased with their performance.'

MacLean highlighted wing-centre Euan Lloyd's effort in the game.

He added: 'The whole team played really well so I don't like to really mention one but Euan in particular had a really good game. He had a few games last year and more this season and he just did really well the whole way through on Saturday.'

This weekend Glenurquhart will travel to Kirktown Park for their fixture against Kinlochshiel.

MacLean said: 'We know it's going to be a bit of a struggle. Andrew Corrigan is offshore and Ally MacIntosh was just back from injury and he was hit on the knee on Saturday so I don't think I'll have him. Kinloch are a strong team and they've won both their home games this season so we'll just need to go and do what we can.'

KYLES ATHLETIC suffered at the hands of a vengeful Inveraray, having dismantled the Royal Burgh in their own back yard just a week before.

Roberto Zaveroni looked to have given Kyles the perfect start when he scored in the opening minute but this served only to anger the home side, who replied with four goals of their own.

The Tighnabraich side face a tough fixture this weekend as they look to bounce back against Lovat.

Orion Group Premiership leaders **LOVAT** surrendered their 100 per cent record in all competitions last weekend courtesy of a shock 2-1 defeat at Glenurquhart - now coach Allan MacRae is preparing for another tough away match, this time at Tighnabraich.

Kyles crashed 4-1 to rivals Inveraray last time out but inconsistency has been their

SHINTY

watchword this season and MacRae is wary of catching the backlash from that result.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is not a place you want to go to after your first defeat. But if you had offered me the chance to go undefeated this season until May I would have bitten your hand off.'

'It is a long trip down there and it will be a hard game because they will be smarting from last week's match. Both of us will be looking to get back on track.'

Defender Dan Grieve sustained an ankle injury against Glenurquhart and is unlikely to play but Lewis Tawse, who came off with a head knock in the same game, should be fit.

MacRae said of the defeat: 'I am a bit disappointed. I think maybe more of our boys were playing slightly below par than normal. But that's not to take anything away from Glenurquhart - they battled hard and got the goals.'

LOCHABER will have to put Saturday's 3-2 loss against Kinlochshiel behind them and concentrate on moving up from the bottom of the Orion Group Premiership.

The Spean Bridge team have yet to win a game in the league but are likely to struggle when they take on second place Newtonmore at home this weekend.

In their recent 1-0 victory over Glenurquhart in the Artemis Macaulay Cup the Fort looked every bit a premiership side.

But on Saturday they had to rely on a Gary Innes hat-trick to squeeze past Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2 in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup.

Innes struck twice inside the first quarter of an hour but goals from Dalgety and Anderson either side of the break put the tie on a knife edge until Innes' late strike.

Fort co-manager Adi Robertson said his team was looking forward to the Kilmallie clash but Neil Robertson, Innes, Sean Cameron, Niall MacPhee, Chris Bamber and Jamie Cruickshank will all be missing from the line-up.

He said: 'This is always a game everybody wants to be involved in. It will be competitive and there's not much between the teams.'

KILMALLIE cross the river Lochy to play local rivals Fort William on Saturday for a game in which something has to give.

Both sides have a 100 per cent record in the National Division so the stage is set for an An Aird cracker.

Kilmallie had 11 players missing last weekend for the Camanachd Cup clash with Strachur - most of those were attending player Peter Carmichael's stag do in Newcastle - but still managed to come from behind to score five goals in the last 15 minutes to win 7-4, with 17-year-old Craig McIsaac netting four.

The only doubt for Kilmallie is Martin Stewart, who sustained a broken thumb against Newtonmore in the Macaulay Cup two weeks ago.

Coach Duncan Kelly said: 'Fort William are on a high right now and their results have been brilliant.'

'A lot depends on the first 15 minutes, which are vital. We always seem to start slow but on Saturday we will have to get going from the first whistle.'

'If we get Liam MacDonald, Martin Stewart, Peter Carmichael and Michael Rodger in form I think we can get a result.'

BUTE return to National Division duty this Saturday after a morale-boosting victory over Taynuilt to progress in the Camanachd Cup.

But the islanders face a much tougher task this week in the shape of Glasgow Mid Argyll.



Kyles Athletic keeper Kenny MacDonald is left stranded as Inveraray's Peter MacIntyre celebrates scoring in the Orion Group Premiership match played at the Winterton, Inveraray. The Royal Burgh side won 4-1. Photo: Stephen Lawson

The Fort have managed just one match league match this season but the comparative lack of games has proved no impediment to a team built on youth plotting its return to the top flight.

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STRACHUR failed to keep Kilmallie at bay in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, losing a two-goal lead to crash out after an 11-goal thriller.

The Cowal side had the home advantage for the first round encounter against the National Division outfit, but went down 7-4.

But the young Strachur side quickly levelled the playing field with an equaliser on 25 minutes through Rhys Campbell, after the Lochaber side had taken the lead on 20 minutes.

Strachur were handed the lead on the half hour mark thanks to a Kilmallie own goal.

Lewis Montgomery then scored to give Strachur a two-goal lead, but Kilmallie came back fighting in the second half.

The away side proved too powerful for the young Cowal team, scoring six goals to progress to the next round. Strachur have no game this weekend.

North Division Two

GLENGARRY continued their winning streak on Saturday, securing a 5-2 victory against Lochaber's second team.

Daniel MacLellan's performance stood out for coach Euan Cameron after he scored all but one of the team's five goals.

Cameron said: 'They all played well, I was quite happy but Danny did great to score four of the goals.'

But the Glengarry's good run could be about to come to an end as they take on Lochcarron at home this weekend.

Cameron added: 'I don't know what to expect because we played them last year and they beat us 8-0 so we're a bit wary of them.'

'We were quite short on players that weekend so hopefully if we lose again it will be a lot closer this time.'

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 2nd Round Draw

THE 2nd round draw for shinty's most sought after prize, The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, was made on Tuesday 6 May at Dalmally Community Centre, Dalmally by Camanachd Association President, Archie Robertson, and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE, former shinty star and founder of international children's charity Mary's Meals. The 2nd round brings together the eight Premiership heavyweights along with the eight sides who won through from the first round.

The draw was as follows: Lovat v Kingussie; Bute v Skye; Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore; Inverness v Inveraray; Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel; Lochaber v Glenurquhart; Kilmallie v Ballachulish; Fort William v Caberfeidh.

Ties will take place on Saturday 31 May.

Balliemore Cup

TAYNUILT are hoping they can field something resembling a first time as they host Ballachulish in the Balliemore Cup.

Last weekend, Taynuilt travelled to Bute with five first team players missing and suffered a 4-0 defeat.

Manager Davy Thomson believes his team can progress to the next round but is hoping to get some players back in action.

He said: 'Ballachulish are going really well but the last time we played them we gave them a real game.'

Despite the 4-0 scoreline last weekend, Thomson believes his side played well enough to get something from the game.

'It was the old problem of not scoring goals when we have the chances. In the first half we were every bit as good as them and in the last 20 minutes we had them under a bit of pressure.'

Thomson said he was looking at two new players as he tries to bolster his forwardline but refused to reveal who his targets were.

BALLACHULISH returned to Scottish Cup action with a home fixture against Oban Celtic and continued their recent fast starts by pressing the Oban team back.

It was no surprise when top scorer Lorne Brown scored two goals inside 12 minutes to almost kill the match straight away.

The game continued mostly in the Celtic half and Balla went further ahead through David Grant in the 40th minute.

The score would likely have been more but for good goal-keeping from Allan 'Spider' Duncan in the Celtic goal.

The second half was a slightly more even affair.

Ballachulish scored further goals through David Grant in the 80th minute and John MacDonald in the final minute of the tie to make the final score 5-0 to the home team.

OBAN CELTIC'S David Hamilton admits his team will

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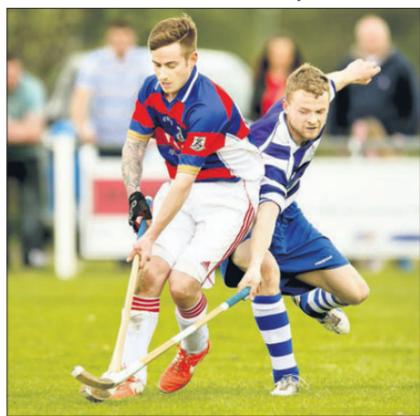
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OBAN CELTIC'S David Hamilton admits his team will



A duel between Fraser Munro, Kingussie and Ackie Macrae, Newtonmore during last Saturday's Orion Group Premiership match played at The Eilan. Newtonmore won 5-2. Photo: Neil Paterson

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	7	6	0	1	19	6	12
Newtonmore	6	5	0	1	19	7	10
Glenurquhart	6	3	1	2	11	7	7
Kingussie	6	3	1	2	12	12	7
Kinlochshiel	7	2	0	5	11	17	4
Kyles Athletic	6	1	2	3	7	14	4
Inveraray	6	1	1	4	7	15	3
Lochaber	4	0	1	3	7	14	1

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Caberfeidh	3	2	0	1	15	5	4
Kilmallie	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Beaulieu	5	2	0	3	10	11	4
Fort William	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Glasgow MA	4	1	0	3	9	11	2
Glenorchy	3	1	0	2	4	9	2
Bute	2	0	0	2	1	10	-2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	4	4	0	0	12	0	8
Newtonmore	6	3	0	3	18	8	6
Strathglass	3	2	0	1	13	5	5
Glenurquhart	5	2	1	2	12	12	5
Kingussie	6	2	1	3	14	17	5
Beaulieu	6	2	1	3	9	19	5
Inverness	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Lovat	5	1	0	4	7	22	2

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	5	2	2	1	13	7	6
Ballachulish	3	2	1	0	14	3	

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John fails to recover after a poor start

MOTOR CYCLING



John McPhee in action

A POOR start consigned John McPhee to a race-long, mid-field dog fight for 13th place and three championship points in the Moto3 race at the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez.

The RSF-backed SaxoPrint RTG Honda rider dropped from ninth on the grid to 18th on the opening lap where he became embroiled in the time-consuming, seven-rider battle, finally securing the place with two laps to go.

But the eventual escape from the lengthy dispute - which enabled the Connell teenager to latch onto the rear of the scrap for ninth place - left insufficient time for further gains.

McPhee's disappointing 13th position drops him two places in the rider standings to 15th overall.

His next race is the French Grand Prix at Le Mans on May 18.

Milkmen have no answer to five-goal Saints

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Castlemilk 1
Oban Saints 5

BARLIA 3G pitch in Castlemilk was the venue for this premier division league match last Saturday and it turned out to be a good day for the visitors returning home with a convincing 5-1 win under their belts and three valuable away league points into the bargain.

Saints were without injured trio Marc MacCallum, Allan MacKay and Colin Carswell for this game and Castlemilk weren't at full strength either due to injuries and suspensions.

The visitors started well and Craig MacEwan had a header sail inches over the bar in the second minute of the game then Myles McAuley and Donnie Campbell set up Ross Maitland but his shot was well saved by

Castlemilk keeper Craig Lowe. Things settled down and the home side came more into the game forcing a couple of corners, but the Saints defence dealt with them fairly easily.

At the other end Lewis Cameron was unlucky when he cut inside his marker, but his shot flew inches past the post.

The visitors should have taken the lead in the 20th minute when Ross Maitland raced up the right flank before firing a neat cross into the box, but Myles McAuley mistimed his header from six yards and a glorious opportunity was missed.

Saints finally broke the deadlock in the 36th minute when they were awarded a penalty after Donnie Campbell was fouled in the box. Mattie Rippon stepped up and thumped the ball home.

The Oban side increased their

FOOTBALL

lead three minutes before the interval when Myles McAuley sent Lewis Cameron through with great pass and Lewis unselfishly cut the ball back for Donnie Campbell to slot the ball home to make the half time score 2-0.

Saints killed the game off right at the start of the second half with two goals in the first three minutes, the first through Donnie Campbell and the second from Mattie Rippon.

Credit to Castlemilk they never gave up, but they had no answer to the slick moving Oban outfit who should have increased their lead when Myles McAuley made a great run through the middle of the Milk defence but he fluffed his chance allowing Craig Lowe to make a save.

Then Craig MacEwan had a net bound header deflected for a corner.

Donnie Campbell netted his hat-trick when he was played through by Roy McLuckie and he cleverly dinked the ball past the Castlemilk goalkeeper.

Young substitute Shaun McIver was unlucky to see a 25 yard shot crash off the post with the keeper stranded in the 77th minute.

Castlemilk came close near the end of the game when they hit

Scottish Amateur Football League - Premier Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
1 Oban Saints	13	9	4	0	39	15	31		
2 St Joseph's	16	9	4	3	48	30	31		
3 Haldane United	14	9	3	2	39	23	30		
4 Finnart	15	9	3	3	44	29	30		
5 Busby	17	7	2	8	35	44	23		
6 Inverclyde	15	4	4	7	30	33	16		
7 Castlemilk	17	3	7	7	38	49	16		
8 Thorn Athletic	13	4	3	6	18	21	15		
9 Alba Thistle	16	5	0	11	28	47	15		
10 Kilbowie Union	16	1	2	13	28	56	5		



Donnie Campbell netted a hat-trick against Castlemilk on Saturday

the bar as Saints took their foot off the pedal and they scored a consolation goal in the final minute when they were awarded a rather soft penalty after Dene Cassells was adjudged to have held a player back in the box. Shawn Murray stepped up to drill the ball home to make the final score 5-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with his team's performance. He said: 'Some of the football we played today was excellent. We scored five goals

and probably should have scored another two or three. Barlia is not the easiest of places to come to and get a result so we are delighted with all three points.'

We've edged to the top of the table just at the right time and hopefully we can keep our good form going. If we win our remaining games we win the league, but every match will be difficult.'

Saints travelled to take on Jamestown in the quarter final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy

last Wednesday and returned home with a hard-fought 2-1 win under their belts thanks to two goals from Craig MacEwan.

The Oban side were due to play old rivals Thorn Athletic in the semi final last night.

Saints play host to Busby in a premier division league game at Glencruitten on Saturday. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Stuart Agnew in charge. Then they travel to Clydebank to take on Kilbowie Union on Wednesday, May 14 in another league game.

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST Wednesday's result: Jimmy Marshall Trophy, quarter final - Jamestown 1, Oban Saints 2

Saturday's results: Premier Division - Castlemilk 1, Oban Saints 5; Premier Division One - Dunoon 1, Rutherglen 2; Paisley 0, Campbeltown Pupils 2. Division 1A - Tarbert v Millerston Thistle postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Oban Saints v Busby; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Kings Park Rangers; Dunoon v Shawlands; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Easthall Star; Division 1A - Millbeg Villa v Tarbert.

Rugby sevens and hockey tournament

RUGBY / HOCKEY

OBAN'S Glencruitten pitches will host a big day of sport on Saturday, May 17, as rugby and hockey teams from around the country visit the town.

Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club hosts its annual rugby sevens tournament and Oban Hockey Club will welcome around nine teams for an invitational tournament at Glencruitten 2.

Last gasp winner for Coasters

FOOTBALL

OBAN'S Coasters Bar took on Queens Park Supporters Club in a friendly match at Glencruitten last Sunday.

The game was level at 2-2 until the last minute when Ally MacAuley headed home a last gasp winner for the Oban side.

Macaulay Sixes

SCHOOL SHINTY

THE Macaulay Sixes for Primary Schools will be held on June 7 at Mossfield Park, Oban.

For further information and entry forms please contact David Hamilton on davidb51@btinternet.com or 07771700664

Athletic through to cup semi final

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic booked their place in the Thomson Trophy semi final with an emphatic 6-1 win over Minorities Youth Foundation last Saturday thanks to goals from Sean Ford, Dean Smith, Dougal Graham, Mark Robertson, David Smith and an own goal.

Athletic's next game is at home to Bellaire on Saturday, May 17.

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Donna, left, and Fiona get to grips with each other at Quarry Green in Campbeltown last week. 20_c18wrestle01

Twin chance at gold

Campbeltown sisters chosen to wrestle at Commonwealth Games

CAMPBELTOWN twins Donna and Fiona Robertson are set to attempt to defy their age and having to switch sports in their bid to win Commonwealth gold.

The 45 year olds, now based in Hamilton, will be the oldest wrestling competitors in Glasgow in July.

However, they still fancy their chances in 48kg category freestyle - and both know what it is like to win a Commonwealth Games medal.

Fiona won a judo bronze in Auckland and Donna won bronze in Manchester.

And the sisters may even have to fight each other at some point in the competition.

Donna said: 'With two competitors from one country allowed in each weight category, we won't be drawn against each other early on. If we did meet then it would be about who performs on the day, and there would be no hard feelings regardless of the result.'

The duo, who were relaxing in Campbeltown this week ahead of a training camp in Moldova,

both gave up their jobs in a leisure centre in February to concentrate on their Commonwealth Games bid.

Officially selected last week, they will now intensify their preparation and have training camps in Sardinia and Austria as well as Moldova to look forward to.

Fiona said: 'We are not fazed by the competitors we are likely to meet. I fought the 2008 Olympic champion, Carol Huynh of Canada, in the semis in Delhi in 2010. She beat me but it was

WRESTLING

close and she went on to take gold.

'If you want to be the best you have to take the best on.'

'We hope to find extra inspiration through competing in front of a home crowd. We are proud Scots.'

The twins agreed: 'It is lovely to be back in Campbeltown in the clean air for a few days. When people ask where we are from we always say Campbeltown.'

Oban Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game.

Milngavie 0 v Under 14s 7.

Scoring for Saints were Martin Rennie, Ruaridh Horne, Lewis Buchanan, Daniel McCuish (2), Craig Easton and Coupe Munt.

Ardencaple 2, Under 15s 5. On target for the Oban side were Ross MacMillan (3) and Liam Higgins (2).

Under 17s 2, Lochgilphead Red Star 2. Saints goalscorers were

Jamie MacPherson and Alan Buchanan and

This weekend's fixtures: Drumchapel United v Under 13s (Thursday); Broomhill SC v Under 13s; Renton Craigandro v Under 14s; Under 15s v Drumchapel United (Saturday); Under 15s v Goldenhill (Sunday); v Under 17s v Milngavie.

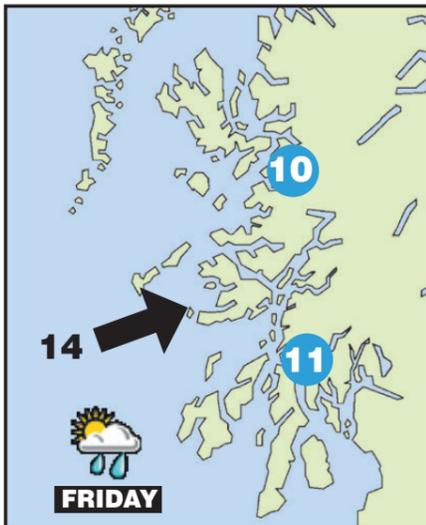
Weather

Thursday Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°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 8, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	13.30	2.8	18.42	1.8	***	**
Thur	06.53	2.0	13.30	2.8	18.42	1.8	*** **
Fri	01.11	2.9	08.21	1.8	14.29	2.9	19.45 1.7
Sat	02.24	3.1	09.14	1.6	15.11	3.1	20.44 1.6
Sun	03.13	3.3	09.52	1.4	15.49	3.3	21.33 1.3
Mon	03.55	3.5	10.26	1.2	16.25	3.5	22.16 1.0
Tues	04.34	3.7	10.58	1.0	17.00	3.7	22.58 0.8
Wed	05.10	3.8	11.31	0.8	17.33	3.8	23.39 0.7

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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Man due in court following boat accident

A MAN is due to appear at Portree Sheriff Court on Monday following an incident near Kyle early on Saturday morning when a rigid inflatable boat hit the perimeter fence of a fish farm cage and landed inside.

The boat vaulted over the hand rail and got tangled up in the net covering the circular pen at Marine Harvest's Lochalsh fish farm. The four men and one woman aboard alerted Stornoway coastguard after failing to cut themselves free.

Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat was called out at 1.39am and was on the scene within 15 minutes.

The crew got a line to the eight-metre vessel and pulled it to the perimeter to bring the passengers aboard. The rib remained trapped in the cage with the salmon.

All five casualties were transported to a waiting ambulance at Kyle at 3.05am. One man had a suspected broken ankle. It is unclear how he sustained the injury.

Kyle lifeboat spokesperson Andrew MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It was one of the more unusual incidents we have been called out to. They were going from Kyleakin to Glenelg. I do not know why at that time of the morning. I think they just got disorientated. The important thing is that nobody was seriously injured because it could have been a lot worse. They all had lifejackets on. They landed on top of the net over the cage and could not get themselves free.'

He added: 'The police were waiting at the quayside.'

Marine Harvest business development officer Steve Bracken told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a very unfortunate accident for everyone concerned with the boat. The farm has navigational markers in line with Northern Lighthouse Board regulations.

'The pen had only slight damage to the outside ring and pen rail but we did sustain a loss of around 200 fish in the pen when the boat brought the net down. There was no escape of fish.'

A police spokesperson said: 'A 57 year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged offences under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.'

It is understood the man comes from Scotland but is not local to the Highlands and Islands.



Fans enjoy Fort fight night success

Stephen 'Stepi' Cameron, right, returned to the ring after a gap of three years to post a fine win over Northwest's Paul Hope at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club boxing show in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday night. The event proved the club's most successful to date after local fighters won 10 of the 11 bouts in front of 500 noisy fight fans. And in an emotional moment after the action in the ring was over, 12-year-old Cameron Whyte from Spean Bridge was presented with the Bryan Whyte Memorial Young Boxer of the Season Award by his mum Dawn (inset). See full coverage of the exciting fight night, back page 20. [f19b0x02](#)



Kinlochleven rider climbs trial leaderboard

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald climbed up the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) leaderboard on Tuesday night after two days of tough competition.

The 30-year-old joiner lay in 13th place in the 272-strong field with nine faults, just one behind a clutch of riders sharing joint eighth spot. MacDonald claimed a superb third on the podium in last year's event but will have his work cut out to match that performance this time.

Clear Leader Dougie Lampkin went clear in the first two days and Sam Connor and James Dabill

share second place with just two faults. The Lochaber and District Motorcycle Club (LDMCC) man, who is riding at No 269 for MRS on a Sherco, was 18th after the first day with five faults but scored just four over Tuesday's sections.

He told *The Oban Times* ahead of the start that he would prefer a bit of rain - and that duly arrived yesterday with a heavy

penalty point. Each foot down costs the rider one penalty point and the top

men aim to complete as many sections 'clean' as they can. The SSDT will finish on Saturday with the traditional final section up the Town Brae from High Street to Fassfern Road.

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Green light for Sunart hydro-electric scheme

A COMMUNITY-run energy scheme in Sunart is a step closer thanks to a grant of over £40,000. Sunart Community Company plans to build a hydro-electric system to generate income but needed a project officer to fundraise and oversee the development.

Now, after receiving £43,245 from SSE's Highland Sustainable Development Fund the SCC has hired two people to share the role and set the wheels in motion.

Once running, the hydro-electric system will 'borrow' water from a disused dam on Allt nan Cailleach, feed it into a turbine and put it back into the river, generating energy to be sold to the main UK grid system.

SCC treasurer James Hilder said: 'We are absolutely delighted to receive the grant. It covers around two thirds of the project officer's wages so it means we don't need to borrow that money and can focus on fundraising the scheme itself.'

The job will be shared between Dale Meegan from Kilchoan and Ian Leaver from the Isle of

Eigg. Ms Meegan will work to raise the £500,000 needed, potentially through a community shareholder scheme or loans. It is hoped that the 100 kilowatt plant will earn Sunart around £90,000 a year for community projects.

A report on ideas to improve Sunart, released this week, will be discussed at public meetings in Strontian Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday and again at 7pm.

Mr Hilder said: 'Everyone gets a say on what improvements can be made and it also means when the scheme starts making money we have a clear-cut plan on how we want to spend that money.'

Meanwhile, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC) got £87,250 from SSE towards funding local apprenticeships in partnership with Glengarry Trust and Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. The cash will allow local small businesses to hire young people.

FAGCC chair Harry Whiteside said: 'We are

really pleased to get the money, it really makes a difference to the youth in the area because it's so difficult for young people in the area to get stable work. The directors are delighted that SSE feel this is a worthwhile project to invest in.'

Eslewhere, Knoydart Renewables were awarded £75,000 from the fund for improvements to the community's hydro scheme and £225,000 was given to Scottish Canals to redevelop the visitor centre in Fort Augustus.

Also, The Staffin Trust received £38,000 for an outdoor eco-museum project connecting local sites and townships.

Newly-appointed local development officer, ex-journalist Hugh Ross, succeeds Marion Beaton in the job. Mr Ross, 34, who is originally from the area, said: 'I look forward to continuing Marion's good work on behalf of the community.'

'Staffin has a huge amount going for it like our world-renowned scenery at the Quiraing and rich history - but we want to see more permanent jobs and retain our younger people so our community

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Minority language expert to deliver Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI lecture

AN INTERNATIONAL expert on minority languages and rights is to deliver the 2014 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) UHI lecture.

Rita Izsák will speak in the TV studio in the Fàs building on the Gaelic college's campus near Armadale on Skye on Monday afternoon.

Ms Izsák, who is from Hungary, is the special rapporteur for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

SMO principal, Professor Boyd Robertson said the college was 'honoured' that she had agreed to come to Scotland.

He said: 'As an international consultant to the United Nations, Ms Izsák travels extensively to theatres of conflict such as Ukraine and Nigeria and has gained an extensive overview of the issues facing minorities and minority languages throughout the world.'

'We look forward eagerly to hearing her insights into the minority condition and the challenges confronting minority languages such as Gaelic.'

Phone stolen

A MOBILE phone was stolen from the office of the Blackwater Hostel, Kinlochleven between 4pm and 6pm on Friday, May 2.

In a similar incident, a mobile was stolen from a silver Volkswagen Golf parked in Lidl's car park in Fort William the day before between 4.30pm and 4.45pm.

Door damaged

DAMAGE was caused to a conservatory door in Blar Mhor Road in Caol on Monday, April 28. At lunchtime the same day, items were thrown towards the school crossing patroller from a passing vehicle on North Road, Fort William.

Quad taken

A QUAD bike was taken from a compound used by 'West Coast Paintball' next to the B885 around one mile from Portree sometime between 9pm on Sunday April 27 and 7am the next day. The bike was found nearby but significant damage had been caused.

Underpass vandalised

GRAFFITI was written on the walls of underpass in Ballachulish between 12pm on April 23 and 7pm on April 26.

Anyone with information on the above incidents should contact local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

James takes early darts league lead

JAMES Whyte came out on top in the week one of the Tradewinds Singles Darts League in Corpach on Friday when he beat John Woods 4-0 in the final.

Semi-finalists were Paul Shearer and Craig Howden and best leg of the night was a 15 darter by John Woods, starting with five consecutive treble 20s.

Paul Shearer, Curly Cameron, David Fairgrieve, Alex MacInnes and James Whyte also scored 180s.

Highest finish of the night was John Matheson with a 107. Week two is tomorrow night, all players are welcome.



Caol pupils enjoy tour of new police HQ

Caol Primary School P6 pupils ended up behind bars at the new police and ambulance HQ at Fort William on Friday. The 'punishment', however, was just part of a fact-finding tour to find out about possible future careers with the emergency services. PC Emma Holgate, police liaison officer for Caol Primary School, took the children round the building.

Memorial trip sets sail from Fort William

A MEMORIAL boat trip around the UK began in Fort William this week, to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of D-Day.

The 'voyage of remembrance' commemorates when hundreds of thousands of Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy to begin the liberation of Western Europe.

Replica pipes of those played by late Fort William war veteran Bill Millin during the first landings were presented by his son John on Tuesday and will be toured around Britain by soon-to-be soldier Karl Wainwright. When the voyage ends in Portsmouth 23 year-old Wainwright, who will join the Black Watch regiment in July, will hand the instrument back to Mr Millin who will then present the pipes to the mayor of Coleville-Montgomery, France, at a civic reception on the anniversary on June 6.

Mr Millin, who died in 2010, was trained at Achnacarry Estate and subsequently became the personal piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat and commander of the 1st Special Service Brigade. A chanter from Mr Millin's original instrument was included in the replica which was played by his son at memorial services at Achnacarry Castle and the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial on Sunday.

Speaking from Souter's Lass, which followed the coastguard cutter carrying the pipes along Loch Linnhe, Lt Col Kevin Lane, vice chairman of the Fort William Branch Royal British Legion Scotland, said: 'The



Karl Wainwright (centre) tried out the replica of pipes played on D-Day. Back from left Kevin Lane, Doneda McKay, Danny Munro, Jimmy Smith, Patrick Churchill and John Millin.

events of D-Day in 1944 are an incredible feat in their own right but the actions of individuals such as Bill Millin are an inspiration to us all and we are privileged to have his son John on board Souter's Lass with us today. I am certain that I speak for us all in wishing the pipes God speed, fair winds and calm seas on their journey.'

John Phipps of D-Day Revisited, organisers of the trip, said: 'I feel that a main purpose of this remembrance voyage is to bring awareness of the D-Day story to a wider public and especially to young people whose understanding of their own history is often limited.'

For Fort William, Spean Bridge and the surrounding rugged highlands, local contribution towards the liberation of Europe was massive and well beyond reasonable expectations of the small population. As the Voyage moves across the UK, there is an opportunity for communities to learn more of their involvement and to be proud of their part played.'

The event was attended by members of the Fort William Branch Royal British Legion Scotland and war veteran Patrick Churchill, who trained at Achnacarry with Mr Millin and travelled from Oxford to be present.

Case against dog owner thrown out

A FORMER Glencoe woman accused of letting her dogs upset two children on holiday with their parents in Lochaber had the case against her thrown out at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Eleanor Slaughter was cleared of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm by refusing to take control of four Labrador dogs at Hospital Lochan near Glencoe.

Ms Slaughter was also cleared of shouting at the children's father when he demanded that she control the dogs on October 16 last year.

The 50-year-old, previously of Lorn Drive in Glencoe but now living in Frizington, Cumbria, was not required to give evidence after Sheriff Richard Davidson ruled there was no case to answer and found her not guilty.

The verdict came after the children's father told the court he 'gave as good as he got' during a heated argument with Ms Slaughter.

He denied defence lawyer Edward Thornton's suggestion that he and his wife were dog haters and that he was the one giving verbal abuse.

The father said: 'I am not anti-dog. She stood within my close personal space and accused me of being rude and aggressive. I gave as good as I got. It was a heated discussion.'

'She did not utter one word towards the dogs and was more interested in me.'

'She said she was going to phone the police and I said great

- can you please because by this point we were intimidated by the dogs.'

He added: 'With four dogs milling around us we did not feel safe. We herded together for safety.'

Earlier in the trial, the mother told how the family had been on a mountain bike outing round the lochan when four Labradors ran up with the owner nowhere to be seen. Her eldest son, she claimed, was 'very scared' of dogs after two jumped on him in the past.

She said: 'He was in distress and trying to run away from the dogs. We were still trying to work out who they belonged to. One dog in particular was growling at us.'

'A lady came in sight with a mobile phone. My husband was shouting at her to get her dogs back. He got the usual answer that they are friendly and they like children.'

She added: 'It just turned into

a big shouting match. She did not tell her dogs to come to her. She was getting angry with my husband. One dog was growling and showing its teeth. I was feeling a bit scared myself.'

'Labs are a breed which are known as friendly dogs,' Mr Thornton suggested.

'You can never tell when a dog is friendly or not,' she replied. 'I don't think they should come up to a stranger at all. You should not get any unwanted attention from a dog. I am not a dog-hater.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after the trial, Ms Slaughter said she was relieved at the verdict but had lost two stone through stress and had quit Lochaber.

She said: 'I had to move over this. My partner and I have split up. I have had to have therapy because of the way that man behaved towards me in those woods.'

'I am not an aggressive person and I was intimidated by his behaviour towards me.'



Cleared: Eleanor Slaughter with three of the dogs involved in the incident in Glencoe woods last October.

By-election win for Ben

THE NEW councillor for the Caol and Mallaig ward will get his political baptism at a full meeting of Highland Council in Inverness today (Thursday).

Ben Thompson will join Lochaber colleagues Allan Henderson, Andrew Baxter and Thomas MacLennan on the opposition Independent group benches. Last week, Mr Thompson defeated four other candidates in a by-election held to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Eddie Hunter.

The 37-year-old, elected under the single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation, topped the poll at the count in Kilmallie Free Church on Friday.

Mr Thompson gained 932 of the 2,391 first preference votes and was elected at the fourth

round of counting. A total of 23 votes were rejected. Turnout was 34.4 per cent.

SNP candidate Willie 'Keelie' MacDonald polled strongly to claim second place, with 726 first preference votes.

Caol man Sandy Watson scored a creditable 537 first choice votes but UKIP candidate Liam Simmonds (133) and Susan Wallace of the Scottish Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's Lordship' (63) failed to make an impact.

Banavie man Mr Thompson, who is married to Fiona with a 20 month-old daughter Thea and runs Inverlochly bike shop Nevis Cycles, told *The Oban Times* after the count: 'I am proud to get the chance to represent the ward and will do my best to live up to the trust the people have put in me. I have spent five



Ben Thompson: the new Highland Council member for Caol and Mallaig with his papers for his first council meeting today.

weeks talking to folk and their main priorities are safer roads and tidier streets. I did not stand because I had some burning issue or personal goal. I am a local man who wants to look after local folk.'

Runner-up Mr MacDonald said: 'I am a bit disappointed but best of luck to Ben and I hope he does well in representing the ward. 'I would like to thank my family and all my supporters who voted for me. I will consider standing again in three years time.'

Adventure begins at Ben Nevis

AN AWARD-winning expedition created by students at West Highland College UHI begins with an ascent of Ben Nevis next Wednesday.

The West Highland Adventure Trail (WHAT) will see third year adventure tourism management students tackle the mountain by various walking and climbing routes.

Over the following 24 days, the group will be joined by fellow students and staff members on

various sections linking college centres from Kinlochleven to Ullapool, where the challenge will finish on June 6. Getting from A to B will involve a combination of hill walking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing and mountain biking. Other keep fit activities are planned for local communities at each centre on the itinerary.

Meanwhile, each location has been invited to put a 'message of aspiration' from the com-

munity inside a specially-designed baton being carried en route.

Adventure tourism lecturer Paul Kelly said: 'We want to provide opportunities for members of our remote communities, young and old, to experience healthy, active and challenging activities.'

The WHAT won gold and silver awards at a recent College Scotland event in Glasgow.

Defibrillator volunteers needed

LIFE-SAVING equipment could be given to the residents of three Lochaber villages - if they attend a training course.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has been looking for a defibrillator for the area and charity Heart Start said they would provide one - if 18 people from each location train in first aid and using the equipment.

But at the community council meeting on Tuesday night, members agreed that was a lot

of people to ask from areas with such small populations. Chairman John Fotheringham said: 'They want us to show commitment to the scheme by attending the training courses but they are looking for a lot from us.'

The community council agreed they would try to enlist 18 people from across the three places and install the defibrillator in Roy Bridge as Lochaber Shinty Club already has the equipment at its Spean Bridge clubhouse.

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Drugs found in loch plunge car

A CAR that veered off the road and into Loch Feochan, was found to contain more than just four fishermen from Paisley.

The car came off the A816 a few hundred metres beyond Kilmore and landed upright on the marshes unable to move. When police were called to help the stranded vehicle, little did they know they were about to find a cocktail of drugs and offensive weapons.

Police who attended the incident made a check of the car. Finding a cocktail of A, B and C Class drugs and offensive weapons, the driver declined to take a breath test at the scene and was detained. The driver was later charged with possession of the drugs and offensive weapons and a report was made to the procurator fiscal.

Oban advert an internet hit

A COMMERCIAL advertising the beauty and perfection of Oban, has become an internet hit.

The Oban.Perfect. campaign was the brainchild of Oban Phoenix Cinema and was made by James Grey at Kinetic.

The commercial had 1,000 hits within its first 24 hours and it is now hitting the 5,000 mark. It shows local characters going about their daily work. Highlighting the freshness of the produce of Oban, Lorn and the Isles, it was funded by the Community Food Fund.

Eleanor MacKinnon, community outreach manager at the cinema, said: 'We are delighted the advert has been such a big hit. We want everyone to use it and share it.'

For a digital version of the advert, contact Eleanor at admin@obanphoenix.com.

Weatherman takes up games challenge

WEATHER presenter Sean Batty has confirmed he is swapping an umbrella for a heavy-weight hammer at this year's Lorne Highland Games.

The Paisley-born STV meteorologist will be raising funds as part of a Scottish wide challenge and hopes to join organisers for their second annual event on Sunday, June 22.



Fundraiser Cameron visits Oban Times

Oban High School pupil Cameron Allen visited The Oban Times as part of his Job-a-thon fundraiser, which has already raised more than £1,000 for the Brittle Bone Society. The Appin boy, who suffers from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (or Brittle Bone Disease) attempted to do as many different jobs as he could, including farming, fire fighting and sports coaching, in 12 hours. While in our office, he wrote his own story for The Oban Times, which can be read on page 2. 16.119cameron01

Police target residents' areas of concern

TWO MOTORCYCLISTS face losing their licences after they were caught speeding in and around Oban.

One biker was travelling at 110mph in a 60mph zone while the other was travelling at 94 mph in a 60mph area.

Both were charged with dangerous driving and reports made to the procurator fiscal.

Police say they are focusing their activity on dangerous driving, anti-social behaviour and breaches of the licensing laws in a focused attempt to disrupt crime over the coming month.

They say these are by far the biggest concerns

local residents bring to them. Police have launched Operation Myriad, which will last throughout May with extra resources tackling the dangerous driving witnessed by residents on an almost daily basis alongside other major concerns.

Inspector Julie McLeish and Sergeant Mike Wood, of Oban Police, explained the concerns of residents will be targeted.

'Operation Myriad will be in addition to our normal policing,' said Inspector McLeish.

'We have a commitment to disturbing crime and focusing on the behaviour that causes most concern to our communities.'

Demolition the only way forward for old school site

Thirty seven flats planned for former Rockfield

THE OLD Rockfield Primary School should be demolished.

That's the finding of a confidential survey prepared for housing association Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), giving the strongest indication yet that demolition is the only realistic option for the council.

The document was presented to ACHA board members last month, but it will be another month before it is discussed by councillors in Oban.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman confirmed a report will go to members of the Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee on Wednesday June 11.

ACHA's preferred option is

to demolish the building and it is understood the housing association hopes to build 37 flats on the land.

The town centre building has lain empty for almost eight years, after pupils moved to Oban Primary School Campus.

For a number of years councillors have expressed concerns about slow progress in moving matters forward for the site.

A group was set up to save the school for community use. But it didn't note an interest in the building when it went onto the open market in 2012.

ACHA then stepped in with a plan for a feasibility survey in January 2013.

The £50,000 options appraisal

was funded by Argyll and Bute Council's strategic housing fund.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'We have worked very closely with Argyll and Bute Council to develop a feasibility study for the future of the Rockfield Primary School building. We have met with both Historic Scotland and the council to discuss the findings.'

'ACHA's preferred option is for demolition and new build on housing and economic terms.

The association awaits a council decision on the way forward and we hopefully look forward to working with the local authority and Historic Scotland to develop a viable housing future for

the Rockfield site.' Councillor Roddy McCuish was pleased to hear that the project at Rockfield was finally moving on.

He said: 'I am delighted with this option - because it gets the whole town moving. I'm 100 per cent in support of the results of the survey and options appraisal.'

'I would urge Historic Scotland to consider the demolition proposal as quickly as possible. It has been on the agenda for some time.'

'No one can afford to do anything with it.'

'The partnership working between the council and ACHA has been very good and I hope a decision on this matter will be dealt with as soon as possible.'

Crisis as care provider withdraws service

A CRISIS in adult care services in Oban, Lorn and the Isles is being managed by a 'contingency' plan, says Argyll and Bute Council.

Social care provider the British Red Cross has given notice that it is pulling out of the tender to provide care services in the area.

The company explained the reason for leaving the town was the difficulty in recruiting adequate levels of staff.

Families of patients say they are concerned about the lack of carers. Mary McGuire, of Oban, said: 'I am concerned the lack of carers will delay discharges from hospital and limit the choices of people who want to move home. There are simply not enough people to care for all the people who

need help at home.'

Argyll and Bute Council said the notice given by the care provider has allowed for other arrangements to be made.

A spokeswoman said:

'We are in close contact with the providers who are withdrawing their services, and we have contingency plans in place.'

'The lead in time given by the providers has allowed for alternative arrangements to be made with no disruption to the care provided.'

'Care at home provided by external providers was introduced in 2012, and the council is continuing to develop relationships with care providers as well as increasing the number of providers with whom we work.'

Work starts on Soroba roughcasting project

PROBLEMS with a lack of roughcasting work in part of the Soroba area of Oban look to have been alleviated after the scheme's social housing provider began works costing £1m.

On Tuesday Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) started a major roof and roughcast project in the Soroba estate.

There are seven tenement blocks involved and 56 homes, of which 13 are in owner occupation.

The contractor appointed is CCG (Scotland) Ltd from Glasgow and the work is scheduled to last for five months.

ACHA said the owner occupiers in the initiative would benefit from Private Sector Housing Grant and Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scheme grants from Argyll and Bute

Council. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Anyone who has visited Soroba recently will have seen the need for the external improvements to the properties.'

'I am particularly pleased that in an estate with a 50/50 split between ACHA and owner occupied properties we have been able to take this forward and secure grants to assist owners.'

There are more than 300 properties in the Soroba estate, half of which have been sold under Right to Buy. The other half are owned by ACHA and rented.

NEWSDESK 01397 703003



Award for Recovery Working Group

Members of the Recovery Working Group at Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership have been awarded at the annual Mental Health Nursing Conference. This year's event, held in Edinburgh, had the largest number of submissions ever and the Argyll and Bute group's award was for their contribution to practice excellence within inpatient services. 'Achieving this award is a real recognition of the commitment that the group has to supporting recovery within mental health care,' said Gillian Davies, of practice education. Pictured, left to right, are, back: Sara Heath, Tina Jordan; front: Teresa Sinclair and Gillian Davies.

Trophy amnesty offered by Oban Mod

THE ORGANISERS of this year's Oban Provincial Mod have set up a trophy amnesty in a bid to retrieve some of its valuable silverware.

The committee has discovered many of the prizes have not been returned - in some

cases this has been over a number of years - and is encouraging former winners to hand them in at the Oban Gaelic Centre, Furan, in the Corran Halls.

As a change to the schedule this year, junior in-

strumental competitions are being moved to the Saturday morning.

There is still time to enter for this year's Mod, with entries being taken until next Monday. The competition will run on June 20 and 21.

Stroke victims to benefit from new technology

ULTRASOUND scans transmitted over the airwaves may hold the key to better outcomes for stroke victims in rural areas.

A new technology being investigated in a research supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Aberdeen University may increase survival rates and minimise disability.

The ultrasound scanner connected to a state-of-the-art communication system will transmit images of the patient's brain in real time to centrally based specialists.

The technology could be a lifeline for people living in remote parts of the country, where it can take several hours to travel to a city hospital for brain scanning and diagnosis.

If testing is successful, local ambulance crews could carry the new device, and once on the scene would remotely link to the stroke specialist's computer using a 2G, 3G, 4G, WiFi or two types of satellite connection.

The specialist will then check the images and could in the future advise paramedics whether or not they should

administer life-saving 'clot-busting' drugs.

'Ideally, stroke patients should receive these clot-busting drugs within 90 minutes of the onset of the stroke, but they can still be administered up to four-and-a-half hours later. Every 15 minutes of delay counts,' explains Dr Alasdair Mort from the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Rural Health based at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. 'This can be difficult in urban areas, in rural areas it is almost impossible.'

Currently, someone who is having a stroke would have to be brought into hospital to be scanned and examined by an expert. This new technology could see the ambulance staff carrying out an ultrasound examination at the scene of the stroke, and the hospital expert could watch the output in real-time thanks to a new piece of technology called the Omni-Hub, currently being tested with healthy volunteers.

The project, partly funded by HIE, aims to prove that the devices can work in remote parts of the country.

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Lorn Lines

ONLY four weeks to go until Oban celebrates its volunteers at the Oban and Lorn Lions Club's annual charities day. The street fair will be held at Station Square on June 7 and sees community and volunteer groups set up fun stalls, make money and raise awareness of what they do. To take a stall contact John Lloyd on 01631 562762 or email: oban3108@aol.com.



THE GENEROSITY of humanitarian groups based in Oban has boosted the fortunes of one of the area's most loved charities this week. Mary's Meals was presented with £500 by the Rotary Club of Oban and Inner Wheel.

The rotary club had originally donated £250 to the Inner Wheel after its members assisted at the Oban Sportive Cycle event. But, the group chose to forward the cheque to Mary's Meals and inspired the rotary to match the donation.

Ursula Parry and Fiona Innes from Inner Wheel are pictured with Alan Johnston and Walter Burton from the Rotary Club presenting the cheques to Marie Rowan and Maureen Drummond of Mary's Meals.

THE LOCAL committee set up to organise the Queen's Baton Relay have named Ian Blair-Simmonds as the chairman.

Former Royal Artillery soldier Ian, a member of the Royal British Legion Scotland and comes with plenty of experience as the annual organiser of the town's Remembrance Day Parade.

The relay is likely to make its way along The Esplanade on Sunday July 13 with the baton being carried by local people.

The baton will arrive from Appin before making its way through Oban, to Lochgilphead, Inveraray and ending the journey in Dunoon.



OBAN Bridge Club members held their annual general meeting at The Olive Garden in the town last week.

The committee for the coming year was elected with Agnes MacFadyen as the new president and the trophies for 2013 were awarded.

The winners this year are, left to right: John Raymond, Nina Graham, Kieron Green; main prize winners David and Sue Pollard; Ann Kersley, Iain McNelly, James McLellan who is the club's oldest member, Alison Dunn, PamMcGuire, Joey Duncan and Roman Capocci. The club meets every Monday and Wednesday evening at St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 6.30pm to 7pm, new members always welcome.



Neil McGougan takes a break during one of his Bolivian climbs last year.

Neil steps out on marathon sponsored trek to help young Bolivians build a better future

THE OWNER of an Argyll building firm - and keen hill climber - is putting both skills to good use to help young people in a rural area of Bolivia.

Neil McGougan, managing director of Neil McGougan Ltd, is taking on a gruelling sponsored trek from the most southerly Munro, Ben Lomond, to the most northerly, Ben Hope.

His aim is to raise at least £2,000 to help support the work of the Manos Abiertas Mission in Peñas, near Lake Titicaca, a place he visited last June to help locals build and repair homes and school buildings.

And ahead of a return visit to the mission this summer, Neil is about to embark on his 320-kilometre walk from Munro to Munro. The Taynuilt man said: 'My route between

the two Munros will basically be in a straight line, keeping within one kilometre either side of that line, regardless of the terrain.

'I'll be doing it unsupported with just a tent on my back and I have placed food boxes at various stages along the way.'

While most people would require months of training for such an arduous trek, for Neil, who is a member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team, he has been through worse - he has already crossed the Pyrenees, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean over 42 days.

Although Neil admits his main reason for travelling to Bolivia last year was for the challenging and spectacular hill climbing, his priorities for the 2014 trip are very different. 'I want to raise money for the further education of children who attend the

mission,' said Neil. 'There is a reasonable education system in Peñas for these children until the age of 14 or 15, then they tend to fend for themselves. The foundation that runs the mission helps to get them into further education and that is what I want to support.'

'When I was over last year I put in concrete floors, taught the locals how to level things out and tile and I fitted solar panels to give buildings hot water. I also fixed a couple of roofs.'

'I would work for four or five days and go climbing for two or three days with a couple of guys from the mission.'

'The people at the mission welcomed me with open arms and I'm looking forward to going back there.'

Fears over GP crisis on Mull

Councillor claims medical services are at breaking point

A LOCAL councillor claims medical services in the Ross of Mull are at breaking point.

Two doctors, based in Bunessan, have given notice to quit the island practice in the Ross of Mull on September 30.

A public meeting held in Bunessan Hall heard from NHS Highland officials that it may take 'many months' to replace the GPs. The meeting heard that the NHS was hoping to improve the quality of life for doctors living on the island, in order that the job was 'sustainable'.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, from Tobermory, said: 'We need to push and push to make sure we get these jobs filled as soon as possible.'

'The people of Mull want a guarantee that the posts will be filled and that NHS Highland is doing everything it can, as quickly as it can to find a new GP. Locums are no replacement

for the kind of care a permanent GP gives to the people of the islands.

'I sometimes think that professionals wish the people of Mull would just fall into the sea. We have the same rights to good quality health provision as anywhere else in Scotland. We won't take second best. We need to get the doctor replaced as soon as possible and NHS Highland has to do what it will take to get them into post.'

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'We recognise that the provision of GP services is very important for local communities and can assure the public that a temporary arrangement will not lead to a reduction in the level of services they receive.'

'At the same time we are also working on a plan for the future to ensure that a permanent arrangement can be put in place.'

Grateful troops thank Islay postmaster and islanders

A POSTMASTER from Portnahaven on Islay has received a parcel of his own from grateful soldiers after he sent his 3,000th gift box to frontline troops in Afghanistan.

Alastair Redman, who is also an island community councillor, has posted the boxes filled with chocolate, sweets and even toilet paper to the soldiers since 2007. And Mr Redman was shocked to receive his own ration pack from the soldiers as a thank you.

Many of the items sent to Afghanistan are from people in Portnahaven. Mr Redman said reaching parcel 3,000 was 'an impressive feat for such a small place'.



Departing Northern Lighthouse chief Roger Lockwood, left, and newly appointed chief executive Mike Bullock shake hands on the pier in Oban. Mike is no stranger to the sea. As a naval officer for the last 25 years, he knows the seas better than most. Mike is keen to get to know Oban and the area better. He is aware of all the potential in Oban Port for future development. He thanked outgoing chief executive Roger Lockwood for all his hard work and for a positive introduction to his new job. 15_119northern

Woman denies drug charges

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman denied four drug related offences when she appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Arlene Agnes Clarke, whose address was given in court as care of 114 George Street, Oban, pled not guilty to possessing herbal cannabis and cannabis resin at 8H Scalpay Terrace, Oban on April 8.

She also pled not guilty to being the occupier of 8H Scalpay Terrace and knowingly permitting or suffering the premises to be used for smoking cannabis, a controlled drug, on April 7 and at the same date and place to using a controlled drug and permitting others to use controlled drugs within her home in the presence of a young person under the age of 16, in such a manner likely to cause them suffering or injury to health.

A trial date has been set for June 25.

Police files

POLICE are calling for witnesses to a housebreaking on Combie Lane in Oban.

The incident took place last Saturday evening into Sunday morning. The housebreaking with intent caused substantial damage to the property.

The house holder, who was in the property at the time, was unharmed. Witnesses should contact Oban CID on 101.

POLICE have reported a number of men to the procurator fiscal as a series of unconnected drugs offences were detected over the weekend in Oban.

The first man, aged 22, was caught with Class A drugs last Wednesday evening and a report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

The second man, aged 31, was reported to the fiscal after being found in possession of Class C drugs on Friday evening in the town centre.

North Connell residents up in arms over tree felling

NORTH Connell residents are up in arms after 50 trees were felled on Friday evening, they say without permission.

The trees were taken down by a contractor, allegedly on behalf of the property developer.

When asked why, the contractor is reported to have said to neighbours: 'To give the flats a better view.'

The work was done without permission, it is understood, of the landowner and has destroyed the natural habitat of at least 50 pairs of birds and has taken away an informal path residents used to the shore, locals claim.

One resident who contacted The Oban Times said: 'It is ironic these trees are being chopped down before the houses

are even built to give people a better view.

'Apart from anything else, why on earth would you chop down trees at such an important time of year for nesting birds?'

'No one I know of had been given any notice of the trees being felled. We have reported the matter to Historic Scotland, because of the cairn on the site. The RSPB and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) are also investigating.'

The developer was contacted by The Oban Times for a comment, but was unavailable for comment.

Historic Scotland, the RSPB and the FCS said that complaints would be dealt with through the proper channels.

New jobs at Stramash

OUTDOOR adventure specialist Stramash has created 13 new jobs.

The opportunities are between its base in Oban and the new campus in Fort William.

The jobs have been created within the adventure and the outdoor nursery area of the business and includes apprenticeships for 16-19 year olds.

Niall Urquhart from Stramash said: 'We are delighted to have created these jobs, which reinforce the aims and objectives of Stramash, by creating exciting opportunities for local people to stay and work in the unique environment of the west coast of Scotland.'

'Mike Story, company director, said: 'This is a fantastic example of how a local company can become a national centre of excellence in a fast growing field and show a great return on investment.'

Police investigate Easdale holiday home break-in

POLICE are investigating a break in on the tiny island of Easdale.

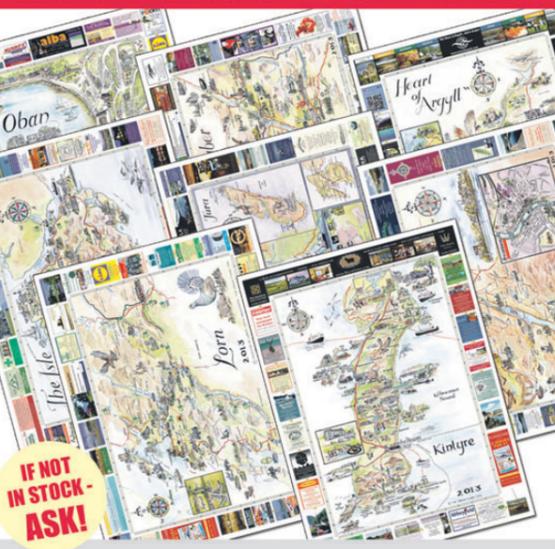
A couple were seen in the garden of one of the island's holiday homes on Monday afternoon by one of the islanders.

Later it was found that there had been a break in to the vacant property. The male

and female used equipment from an adjacent shed to break into the house.

The male is described as between 22 - 25 years of age with dark brown hair and thick black-rimmed glasses and wearing a blue hooded top. Anyone with information should contact Oban CID on 101.

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Lochaber Phoenix coach Niall Clark congratulates Adam Watson after his demolition of Patrick Coates. 20_191box06



Stepi Cameron catches Paul Hope with a right on his way to victory. 20_191box01



Dan Nixon, left, lost narrowly to James McCool in a split decision. 20_191box13

Feast of action for Phoenix fight fans

LOCAL fight fans had plenty the cheer about at the Nevis Centre on Saturday night when Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club scored an incredible 10 winners out of 11 contests.

The club's most successful show to date began in style with 12 year-old debutant Leon Smith outpointing Marek Wolecki of Dundee's St Francis Club over three rounds.

Next up was Scottish champion 12 year-old Cameron Whyte, who posted a textbook performance against Swindon's Horseshoe club's Luke Scott Brown to earn a unanimous win on the judges' scorecards.

Dan Nixon, also aged 12, fought a very evenly matched contest against James McCool of Kincorth but lost on a split decision in what was his best performance to date.

The Lochaber club has a quintet of active 12 year-olds and Kein Johnstone proved he can learn from setbacks by defeating Keiron Swanson of Highland Boxing Academy, who beat him in the North of Scotland championship final.

The Lochaber boxer ran out a convincing winner to earn the best young boxer of the night award.

The final 12 year-old on the bill, Robert MacDonald, was looking for revenge against Jimmy Laing of Inch who outpointed him last year. With his job a telling factor, Robert made the points decision in his favour a formality.

Fourteen year-old Robbie Hall showed his pedigree to win against Sam Varis of the



Lochaber's Kein Johnstone, right, trades blows with Keiron Swanson of Highland Boxing Academy but the Lochaber boy went on the score a fine win. 20_191box12

Horseshoe club in Swindon with typical bravado, boxing behind a guard that was sometimes too low but with the confidence to score on the counter.

In the first senior bout of the night, Igor Sliwinski had his fan club on their feet in dominating every round against Adam Dey of the St Francis Club in what was another fine performance from the talented 17 year-old.

Next up was heavyweight Ewan Donnelly, who won the battle of the jabs against Kevin Mappleback of Highland Boxing Academy in a cagey contest.

Powerhouse middleweight Adam Watson kept Lochaber on the victory trail when he proved

too strong for Kincorth's Patrick Coates.

Watson stalked Coates menacingly in the first and he found the opening he was looking for in the second to drop Coates with a powerful left hook.

Following the count Watson would not be denied and after Coates' legs wobbled again the referee had no option but to stop the contest. Watson also won best senior boxer of the night.

Middleweight in Liam Jordan showed a talent that belied his experience to outbox teak-tough Kevin McCool from Kincorth in an exciting contest that won best bout of the night. Jordan has

BOXING

a touch of class about him and his wide points decision was an excellent victory.

Top of the bill was welterweight comeback kid Stephen 'Stepi' Cameron and the Lochaber man did not disappoint when he overcame Northwest's Paul Hope on points in a finely contested match.

In an emotional moment after the bouts, Cameron Whyte was presented with the Bryan Whyte Memorial Young Boxer of the Season Award.

Igor Sliwinski was awarded the Senior Boxer of the Season Award.



Ewan Donnelly connects with a left in his bout with Kevin Mappleback. 20_191box04



There's no escape for Patrick Coates against Adam Watson. 20_191box07



Robbie Hall gets the verdict over Sam Varis of Swindon's Horseshoe Club. 20_191box10

Fort William gain a precious point against Wick Academy

Manager praises young Glenelg goalkeeper

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM grabbed a precious point against Wick Academy to give themselves a decent shot at escaping bottom spot in the Highland League.

The Fort lie just three points behind Rothes with a superior goal difference and must win one of their two remaining games to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon.

It will be a tough ask for Calum MacLean's men to defeat Cove Rangers away on Saturday but Clachnacuddin at home the following Friday presents a more likely opportunity for claiming those vital three points.

Their cause will not be helped against Cove by the absence of Keith Millar, Darren Quigg and Andy Martin - who was red carded against Wick - but for manager MacLean hope springs eternal.

He told The Oban Times: 'We

will be going all out for it and I know we will probably have a better chance next Friday - but we will go up to Cove and have a right good go at them as well.

'We have nothing to lose and lots to gain and I know it will be difficult but we need a win - and if we can get it on Saturday so much the better.'

Against Wick, the Fort were unrecognisable as the side which crumbled 3-1 at home to Keith on Wednesday night and almost took the lead on 10 minutes through Iain MacLellan's flick header from a James MacKay corner.

Two minutes later Fort midfielder Willie Gemmell was lucky to get just a yellow card after pushing over Sam MacKay, although the Wick man's impression of a dying swan was not fooling ref Douglas Ross.

Young Fort keeper Robin Harvey pulled off a brilliant save on 21 minutes to deny Mackay from 20 yards.

But in first half stoppage time

FOOTBALL

Wick went ahead through Richard McAdie's spot kick after Iain Foggo was adjudged to have handled in the box.

Fort came out after the break fired up - and took just four minutes to level when James MacKay latched on to Duncan Campbell's knockdown and fairly rattled the ball home past More from 25 yards.

MacLellan fired just past from a similar distance before Harvey again performed heroics to block McAdie's point blank header.

With 90 minutes up Martin blotted his copybook by upending Gary Weir to earn a second yellow card and an early bath.

Speaking after the match, MacLean praised 16 year-old Glenelg lad Harvey, who increasingly looks like a real find.

He said: 'Robin has had a great start and is playing really well. He has certainly stepped up to the plate and I thought the whole team played well.'



James MacKay and Alan Farquhar get in a tangle. 20_191foot003

Results from Fort William Golf Club

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club returns:

Thursday, May 1 - Summer league back nine; 1 Marc MacDonald 21pts, 2 Neil Young 20pts, 3 Andrew Brown 20pts.

Friday, May 2 - seniors' front nine stableford: 1 Kevin Hickman 16pts, 2 Keith Sangster 12pts.

Saturday, May 3 - Cameron Trophy; 1 Rosemary Macintyre 35pts, 2 Kay Jerram 30pts, 3 Helen Brian 30pts. Monthly medal; 1 Neil Feggans (bih) 80-11=69, 2 Davis Matheson 74-5=69, 3 Donald MacInnes 81-11=70.

Sunday, May 4 - May senior medal; 1 Frank Sweeney 82-15=67, 2 David J Cameron 87-16=71, 3 Ian Robertson 86-14=72.

Dewar's Doubles at the Railway Club

DARTS

THE ANNUAL Dewar's Doubles competition held in the Railway Club on Friday, 25 April was won by Maurice Wells and David Fairgrieve, who defeated Gordon MacDonald and Martin Keenan in the final.

Beaten semi-finalists were Paul Shearer and Alex MacInnes, and James Whyte and Martyn Cameron.

Darts returned to Tradewinds in Corpach on Friday with the start of a singles league that will run for 10 consecutive Fridays with the top eight players getting through to finals day.

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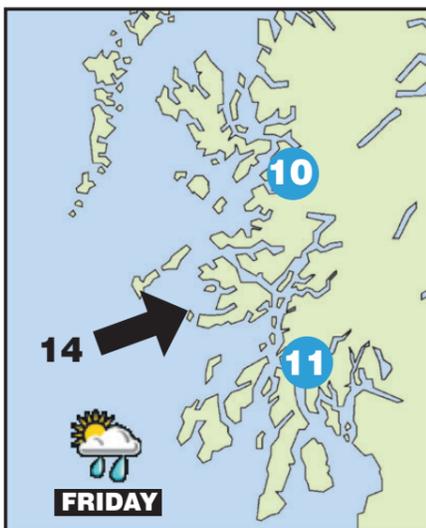
Weather

Thursday Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°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 8, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	***	**
Thur	06.53	2.0	13.30	2.8
Fri	01.11	2.9	08.21	1.8
Sat	02.24	3.1	09.14	1.6
Sun	03.13	3.3	09.52	1.4
Mon	03.55	3.5	10.26	1.2
Tues	04.34	3.7	10.58	1.0
Wed	05.10	3.8	11.31	0.8

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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