

# The Oban Times

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## Spotlight ON Mull

SCOTTISH SERIES 2013  
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### 'Greed' at root of council woes

New Way group will attempt to form new style of administration

'GREEDY' councillors desperate for more money have been blamed for Monday's collapse of Argyll and Bute's SNP-led administration.

James Robb resigned as council leader on Monday after the local SNP members asked him to step aside. The move came after the SNP's National Executive Committee (NEC) suspended membership of its Argyll and Bute Councillors until such time as a 'secret' alliance with the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives - announced on Thursday - was disbanded.

The deal was unpopular with those within the now disintegrated administration. One SNP member shouted and swore at Mr Robb after discovering the reshuffle to incorporate the Lib Dems and Tories would see them demoted.

Meanwhile a New Way group is attempting to form a different style of administration to run the council following a lengthy meeting on Tuesday afternoon. In a bid to eliminate money 'envy' among members vying for lead councillor roles, such positions will be disbanded.

Instead, areas such as education and roads could be overseen by small groups of councillors; meaning pay parity for those in the administration. A consensus for a new approach could be agreed in principle by the end of the week, with councillors led by Dick Walsh understood to be receptive to the plan.

Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor is acting as the new leader

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

of the SNP group, although some councillors who joined with them to form the failed administration just one year ago say 'some considerable work' would be required to restore confidence in the party.

Any new administration will have to be ratified at next week's full council meeting.

At the fore of the New Way group is Oban independent councillor Iain MacDonald. He said: 'I'm rather hoping it will find consensus. It requires quite a lot of give and take. The feedback we're getting is that the proposal has been very positively received.'

'The feeling is the information being provided by council officers is too much for one councillor to process; that much has been made clear at the budget.'

Adding his belief that the previous administration collapsed because of 'greed', he said: 'People who I thought were pretty solid said to me if they didn't get that extra money they'd be getting divorced. If that's the driver for them being involved with the

council, it's the wrong driver.'

Argyll First councillor Donald Kelly, who supports the New Way model, said: 'We have to remember we're doing the job for the people, not for ourselves. It can't be about money.'

Speaking a day after his Monday resignation, former leader Mr Robb - who remains an SNP councillor - said everything he did was with democratic approval from his local party colleagues.

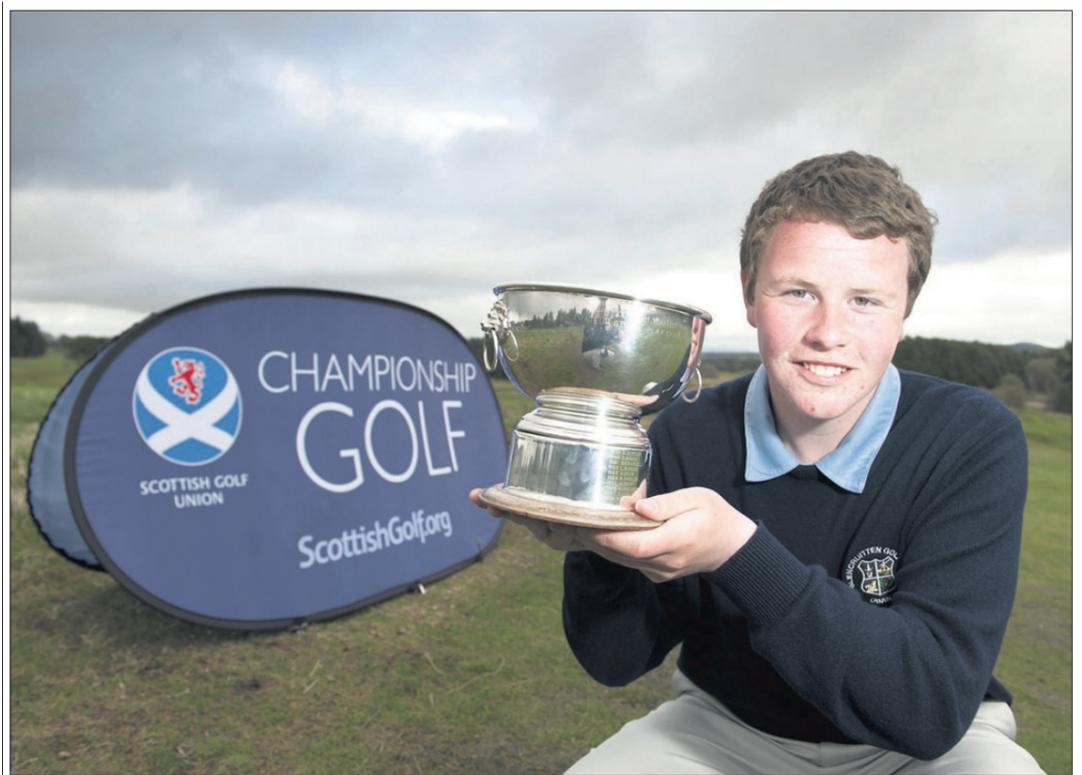
'There was no pressure to quit,' he said. 'All it would take for me to stand down as leader was for the SNP group to say they didn't think I should be leader anymore.'

'There was a meeting of the group on Monday, which I didn't attend, after which members decided to ask me to step down.'

Asked if he was undermined by infighting within the administration, he said: 'It would have been nice to have had more support. I had the support from within the group until yesterday.'

'The support from the party officials and branches was apparently not there.'

Continued on Page 7



Sixteen-year old Bob MacIntyre joins a list of prestigious former winners such as Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinlay, Martin Laird and Stephen Gallacher.

### Sixteen year old wins U21 Scottish title

A YOUNG Oban golfer has joined an illustrious group of winners of the Golf Data Lab Scottish Youth Championship after taking the title on Sunday night at Lanark Golf Club.

Sixteen-year-old Robert MacIntyre is one of the youngest players to have ever lifted the open under-21 trophy, which

is adorned with names such as Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinlay, Martin Laird and Stephen Gallacher.

The win - by far the most impressive of his fledgling career - was all the more remarkable as Robert has missed the past two months recovering from a broken elbow, sustained while

playing five-a-side football. The teenager, who is in the middle of his school exams, said: 'It was a bit of a blur when I won the competition because I really didn't expect it.'

'It was such a shock that it has been difficult to explain how I felt about it. It is just sinking in now. I had missed the Scottish

Boys Championship and other ranking competitions because of my elbow, so I knew I had to put in a big score.'

'I just set out to make the cut on Sunday but by then I was only five shots off the lead, so I was a bit more direct and took a few chances.'

The tactic paid off and he

carded a final round three-under-par 67 to win by three shots.

Robert, a member of Oban's Glencruitten Golf Club, has his English exam tomorrow (Friday) but will travel down to Craik, Fife, the same day to represent Argyll and Bute in the Men's Area Team Event.

### Major west coast offshore wind farm developments face delays

TWO major offshore wind farm developments proposed for the west coast have been delayed, it has been confirmed.

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) has confirmed to *The Oban Times* that it will not submit a detailed planning application for its proposed Argyll Array - just off Tiree - until the end of 2015 at the earliest.

SSERenewables, a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern En-

ergy, has confirmed it will not apply for permission to build its Islay Array until next summer - 12 months later than previously thought. However, the company's project manager, Charley Rattan, refused to describe the move as a delay, saying it was a 'scheduled realignment'.

SSE has also pulled out of the NorthConnect project to build an interconnector between Norway and Scotland, casting

doubt over their commitment to renewables projects.

Robert Trythall, who leads the No Tiree Array campaign group that is opposed to both developments, said: 'It's brilliant. Both have been put back but it's not the end yet.'

'Both pulled back very discreetly but things are still going on and we'll keep working away. We've got a year now to keep on it.'

A SPR spokesman said: 'SPR is currently reviewing data gathered as part of our environmental assessment studies of the potential Argyll Array windfarm site. We are also monitoring technological developments in the offshore wind industry in relation to technical issues linked to physical conditions at the site.'

'These reviews are being completed with a view of sub-

mitting a planning application to the Scottish Government towards the end of 2015.'

Mr Rattan said: 'It's not a delay. We might not do things in the current order. There has been a scheduled realignment - the offshore submission element has been pushed back. You do need that for construction, but you can do other things first.'

'When it was put to him that the 'scheduled realignment'

could only be described as a delay, he said: 'It's not. There are elements of the national grid we're not comfortable with. I can't say what they are as there is a confidentiality clause.'

The developments come after Princess Anne was quoted in a national newspaper denouncing the application for the Argyll Array site, which falls within the boundary of the Grade A listed lighthouse, Skerryvore.

The Princess Royal, a regular visitor to Tiree and Coll, said 'They gave planning permission for 700 windmills on the reef around Skerryvore - they did the same at Bell Rock but rescinded it - and these are Grade A listed buildings. You'd never get away with that onshore.'

Mr Trythall said: 'The Princess hit the nail on the head. If this proposal was onshore it wouldn't get past first base.'

### Trio walk to Glasgow for charity

'A UNIQUE' opportunity to walk Glasgow Celtic's team bus to Celtic Park ahead of the club's title winning celebrations capped an 'incredible' week for three Oban fundraisers.

Roddy MacIsaac, Archie MacDonald and John Christie, of the Oban Celtic Supporters' Club, walked 100 miles from Oban to Glasgow, initially to raise £125 each for the Celtic charity, 1254125 - a celebration of the club's 125th anniversary. However, the trio also decided to raise funds for local charities and quickly gathered pledges of more than £2,500 to be split among groups such as Mary's Meals, Oban Hospice, Soroba Young Family Group and Riding for the Disabled.

First though, they had to

complete the walk and setting off a week last Sunday, the hardy trio left Oban in a journey they'll never forget. Roddy said: 'It was certainly unique, a great experience.'

Rain blighted much of the journey, but the group were lucky with the weather when they decided to go off-road between Dalnally and Inverarnan. Not only did the trip cut out many miles but the sun shone to let the trio enjoy the west's wild side in all its natural beauty.

'It was great to see this part of the world as a tourist sees it. It was very heavy underfoot though and hard, but really enjoyable.'

Roddy, Archie and John arrived in Glasgow on Friday and on Saturday there was a big surprise. Glasgow Celtic, who recently

gave money to Oban High School for its music department, had arranged for the trio to walk the bus containing the title-winning side to the stadium - with Gavin McMillan from the school there to lead the way as a lone piper.

Roddy said all three were humbled by the experience. 'It's something I've never seen done before and probably something that will never be done again,' he said. 'It was a great feeling.'

Thoughts are already turning towards repeating the walk next year - although involving more people. 'If we can do it again next year maybe we can raise £2,000 a year for local charities.'

Donations are still being accepted for this year's charity effort at Roddy's Garage, Mill Lane, Oban.



Oban piper Gavin McMillan leads the way to Celtic Park Picture - Kevin McGlynn



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**Oban train station on track with recycling**

OBAN train station is one of the first in Scotland to trial colour coded recycling bins in an effort to reduce waste.

The initiative, supported by a £37,000 grant from Zero Waste Scotland, will see bins for items such as plastic bottles, paper and tin cans installed at 19 train stations.

Volunteers from local community groups are visiting the stations at peak times to encourage customers to make use of the new facilities.

**Police name death crash biker**

POLICE have named the motorcyclist who died after an accident on the A830 Road to the Isles last week as James Dobson from Lincolnshire, England.

The 57-year-old crashed at the Callart railway bridge, around a mile and half east of Glenfinnan Monument on Sunday May 5. He suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Belford

**YES Campaign elects convener**

THE SKYE, Lochalsh and Raasay YES campaign was formally established last week at a meeting in Portree attended by a large number of supporters.

After electing Gaelic singer Arthur Cormack as campaign convener, the assembly agreed to set up local groups in Duirinish, Trotternish, Portree, Sleat and Strath and Lochalsh 'to promote the positive vision of an independent Scotland' in those places.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Cormack said YES Scotland drew its strength from being a community-based campaign of non-party and all party individuals.

He said: 'This is the right time and we look forward to engaging with the electors throughout our communities.'

'We are excited by the opportunities there could be for Skye, Lochalsh and Raasay post-independence.'

'We look forward to discussing the hopes and aspirations we have with all in our communities and to hearing from them what kind of future they would like for this area and for Scotland.'



Arthur Cormack: heading Skye, Lochalsh and Raasay YES campaign.

**MSP gives his voice away**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has donated his voice to an initiative helping patients whose speech has been damaged through Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

The MND Voice Bank Project, organised by the Euan MacDonald Centre and Edinburgh University Informatics team, will be in the Scottish Parliament for the next two months.

It aims to collect a database of voices so MND sufferers' speech can be reconstructed as near to their original voice as possible.

Mr Thompson said: 'A person's voice is a large part of their identity and the loss of it can leave patients feeling frustrated and isolated.'



**Park Primary School celebrates 40th birthday**

Children at Park Primary in Oban celebrated a special birthday last week as the school turned 40. A series of events will be held throughout the year to mark the anniversary with a concert first up in June. The youngsters will be singing songs from the past four decades to commemorate the age of the school. Celebrations will conclude in August with the opening of the new pre-five unit at the school.

**Show off hometown on a postcard**

OBAN pupils are being given the chance to show how proud they are of their hometown as part of a national competition - by designing a postcard.

Schoolstickers.co.uk is asking local pupils to create designs showing off landmarks and places of interest or beauty in the Oban area, such as McCaig's Tower, the famous bay or Ganavan Sands. The best entries from Oban will compete nationally to have their designs printed up as proper postcards. The Pride of Place Pupils' Postcards competition is open to Oban school children from four to 16 years of age.

Managing director of schoolstickers, Neil Hodges, is hoping for a great response from Oban pupils. He said: 'This is a chance for Oban pupils to show off the best bits of their area. The design of the postcard is up to them, whether it's a great drawing, collage or photo. The landmarks they choose can be somewhere less-known nationally but important locally.'

Entries must be received by midnight on June 14, with the winners announced on June 21. For more information and entry details, log on to schoolstickers.co.uk/postcard-competition.

**Call to protect freshwater pearl mussels**

THE PLIGHT of Scotland's endangered freshwater pearl mussels has been raised in the Scottish Parliament.

A debate secured by Highlands and Islands MSP Mary Scanlon heard the country has 72 of the world's 200 rivers known to host breeding populations of the molluscs, whose numbers have been decimated by illegal fishing and pollution.

Ms Scanlon said: 'There needs to be more rigorous enforcement of current laws protecting the freshwater pearl mussel and greater deterrents to those who pollute rivers or illegally fish this species.'

'The Minister [Paul Wheelhouse] offered a meeting with me about the impact of hydro schemes on the species and I will be taking him up on that offer.'

In the last century, more than one third of Scotland's rivers that previously contained colonies no longer do so. In a further third, only non-reproductive animals exist - leaving just one third with a productive population. Several West Highland rivers harbour freshwater mussels.

**More live music lined up in Jura concert series**

THE SOUND of Jura concert series is continuing with live music from Chasing Owls and Abigail Grey.

Acclaimed as one of Scotland's hottest folk prospects, Edinburgh folk group Chasing Owls first played on Jura in 2011 and took the place by storm. Abigail Grey is the work of Claire Campbell from Inverness. A singer, pianist and songsmith, she was recently described by the Sunday Mail as 'elegant, simple and emotive'.

The concert, which continues the sequence of successful promotions put together by the island music studio, takes place on June 22.

Giles Perring, of Sound of Jura, said: 'We are really excited by the reaction to these concerts in Craighouse - especially from the musicians.'

'They love to play the Jura Hall. So many have described the unique atmosphere of the place.'

'It's a night of music in a traditional village hall that is right on the water in Craighouse and you can be sure of a great welcome from the island.'

Jura Passenger Ferry, Jura Hotel and Jura Island Tours are backing the event, which takes place in Jura Hall, and are offering deals on travel and overnight stays.

**Spitfire pilot death marked**

THE DEATH of a World War II pilot who crashed his Spitfire into the foothills on Ben Nevis will be marked at a ceremony today (Thursday).

Exactly 70 years to the day Canadian Jack McDonnell died, a commemorative plaque will be unveiled in Glen Nevis followed by a parade, wreath laying and a two-minute silence.

The event is being organised by Lochaber Archaeological Society. Chairman Robert Cairns has spearheaded efforts to mark Mr McDonnell's death over the

last nine months after hearing about it while researching a 'Lochaber at War' project.

Representatives of Highland Council, Fort William Royal British Legion and the RAF will be in attendance, with the wreaths being laid at 2.20pm.

As well as the Lochaber ceremony, wreaths will be laid at Mr McDonnell's grave at Tomnahurich Cemetery in Inverness and his home town of Smithers, British Columbia is also planning a ceremony to mark the occasion.



Glorious weather prevailed for a recent Lochalsh Dirty 30 Challenge - but participants should come prepared for the conditions.

**Six new paths for cyclists and walkers**

NEW PATHS for cyclists and walkers are to be created across Argyll.

Six projects will be undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council as part of the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets programme, funded by the Scottish Government.

The work will include paths in Oban, Connel, Islay and Mid Argyll. The council is now inviting consultants to tender for the work.

A route for pedestrians and cyclists is to be developed between Dunollie and Ganavan in Oban.

A 90-metre path is also to be created in Benderloch between a residential area and the school and village services. This will avoid pedestrians having to use a

narrow hump backed bridge with poor visibility. Construction is expected to cost £25,000.

A new path, for use by both walkers and cyclists on Islay, will stretch from Port Ellen to Lagavullin, at a length of 2.3km. The work is being undertaken as the existing road is used by heavy vehicles and has no pedestrian or cyclist provision.

The path, which will benefit Port Ellen Primary School pupils, is estimated to cost £170,000. The second phase of the work will see the path extended to Ardbeg.

Brian Palmer, a member of Velo Club d'Ardbeg - the island's cycle club, said: 'It's going to make a difference on the Port Ellen to Ardbeg road by

effectively removing pedestrians from the equation.'

'At present, if we're cycling to Ardbeg distillery you effectively have three speeds: cars, bicycles and pedestrians. If all three meet at the same point it's a train wreck waiting to happen.'

A £130,000 project linking Glassary and Bridgend in Mid Argyll will also take place and a route will be developed between Oban Airport and North Connel station.

Two school routes in Kintyre are also to be designed, leading to Drumlemble and Southend Primary Schools.

Work is expected to start on June 1 and all projects will be complete by the end of March 2014.

**Top crime writer praises Colonsay Book Festival**

AN ISLAND'S second annual book festival has been declared 'magical' by a top crime writer.

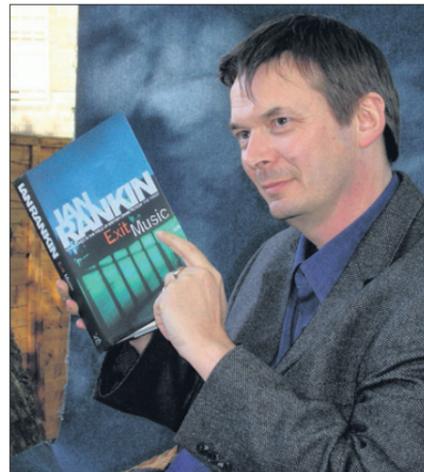
Scots author Ian Rankin brought Colonsay Book Festival to a close by reading an excerpt from his forthcoming novel Saints of the Shadow Bible.

He told the audience: 'It is no mystery - take a wonderful island, add readers and writers, sprinkle the whole event with outstandingly good organisation and a magical festival results.'

The weekend was declared a success by audience members and participating authors, with visitors coming from as far afield as Germany and Canada to attend.

Mr Rankin's appearance at the festival coincided with his birthday and organisers presented him with a birthday cake inspired by the Rolling Stones' Let It Bleed album cover, together with 12 special bottles of Colonsay IPA, labelled 'Ian Rankin's Birthday Brew'.

Also appearing at the festival were Candia McWilliam, Sara Sheridan, Ron Butlin, Maggie Fergusson, Angus Peter Campbell, Mairi Hedderwick



Ian Rankin led tributes to the organisers of Colonsay Book Festival.

and Tom Pow. Mr Pow added: 'The expert organisation was accompanied by genuine warmth and interest from organisers,

helpers and audience. This is definitely a festival that has so many reasons for the book lover and book writer to attend. All

that and in the beautiful island of Colonsay.'

Dilly Emslie, director of the Colonsay Book Festival (CBF), said: 'We really couldn't be happier with how the second CBF went. It was just brilliant. The hall was full or nearly full for every single event and the feedback we've had from audience members was absolutely fantastic.'

'We couldn't do this without the tireless hard work and enthusiasm of our festival committee, who should be very proud of what they have achieved. Huge thanks must also go to all our supporters, especially Caledonian MacBrayne, who entertained the authors royally on their voyage from Oban to Colonsay.'

'Plans are already afoot for next year's CBF - it'll be the last weekend of April again, so save the date.'

Last year's inaugural festival saw Colonsay play host to Scotland's Makar Liz Lochhead, Alexander McCall Smith, James Robertson, Margaret Elphinstone, Kenneth Steven and Sophie Cooke.

**Countdown to seventh annual Lochalsh Dirty 30 Challenge**

PREPARATIONS for the seventh annual Lochalsh Dirty 30 Challenge on June 8 are complete following months of hard work by organisers.

And the popular event - a rough 30-mile hike from Glenelg Hall along the shores of Loch Alsh and Loch Duich to Shiel Bridge then back through the hills to the start - is a real community effort.

Local volunteer groups combine to make 'The Dirty 30' a friendly event and entrants can look forward to a great day's walking or running.

Refreshments will be laid on at Glenelg Hall and Shiel Bridge, sweets and drinks at the Jelly Baby Pitstop, while Ratagan Youth Hostel will be open for those wanting to take the weight off their feet while enjoying a cuppa.

With the help of Forestry Commission Scotland and Highland Council, the route will be marked by green discs with white footprints on road-side signs and marker posts.

Meanwhile, Lochalsh Trailway markers have been organised so the route can be easily navigated and walked at any time of the year.

Margaret Arscott, Lochalsh Trail secretary and event committee member, said that last

year around 170 people took part in the challenge, or the shorter 12-mile alternative route 'The Dirty Dozen', with many raising cash for local good causes.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'With the planning done, and the registrations building up it is good to see runners and walkers out and about training for the event.'

'If anyone wants to do it for charity they can, but if they simply want to do it for themselves that's fine. There is no profit motive in this for anybody - that's why we set it up in the first place.'

'For those who have not tried it or the shorter Dirty Dozen it is a great way to achieve a personal challenge, helping the committee raise funds for the local community and perhaps raising money for one's favourite charity.'

She added: 'One cannot plan much for the weather and this year, unless it stops raining soon, it certainly looks as though the Dirty 30 will live up to its name!'

The area gained valuable publicity when Time Team presenter Tony Robinson walked part of the Lochalsh Trail for 'Walking Through History', which was broadcast a couple of weeks ago.

**Centre backs Apprenticeship Week**

ST LENNAN'S Youth Services Centre in Stornoway is to host a series of events for Scottish Apprenticeship Week from May 20-24.

Western Isles Council will hold a 'how we can help' information session each afternoon from 2pm to 5pm in the centre at 22-24 Point Street.

The informal events will outline services available through the comhairle's (council's) accredited training and skills service.

The initiative will highlight the advantages of taking on apprentices and encourage local employers to get involved in Scotland's Modern Apprenticeship programme, which is delivered by Skills Development Scotland and its partners.

**Wild Lochaber Festival**

TV PRESENTER and author Muriel Gray will officially open the second annual Wild Lochaber Festival in Ben Nevis Distillery tomorrow evening.

The full festival programme, including films, awards and illustrated talks, will be unveiled at the 7.30pm event.

Also featuring will be the launch of the exciting new Wild Lochaber Trails guides, an award ceremony for the Wild Lochaber photography competition and a short film about the festival.

The Nevis Partnership, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust will give short presentations.

**Commemorative battle painting tours Argyll libraries**

A PAINTING which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Battle for Longstop Hill in Tunisia will be visiting Oban as part of an Argyll tour.

The committee of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum commissioned renowned military artist Stuart Brown to create the painting in honour of the soldiers of the 8th Battalion who fought in the battle.

Campbeltown veteran Major Duncan McMillan, who is the last surviving Argyll who fought in the battle, attended the unveiling of the painting.

The battle took place after strong enemy resistance on Longstop Hill had blocked the Allies advance on Tunis, but the 8th Battalion captured Longstop Hill on April

23 1943 under heavy enemy fire and despite losing their commanding officer at the outset.

Many of the battalion were lost but the battle was one of the concluding actions in the fight for North Africa in World War II. The victory opened the route to Tunis for the Allies and hastened the surrender of the Axis forces.

Councillor Maurice Corry, Argyll and Bute armed forces champion, said: 'It is an honour for Argyll and Bute Council to display this painting of The Battle for Longstop Hill.'

'This April the 8th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders marked the 70th anniversary of the battle

and I am delighted that it has been recognised in this way.'

'The painting will travel around some of our libraries during the summer and I would urge everyone to go along to their nearest library to see it.'

The painting will tour libraries and can be seen at Campbeltown Library until May 23 before visiting Helensburgh, Dunoon and finally coming to Oban from July 6 until July 25.

The painting will then be on display at Inveraray Castle before going on permanent display at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum in Stirling.

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# 17 men arrested in Oban during immigration crackdown

Illegal workers face deportation while employers may be fined £10,000 per guilty employee

IMMIGRATION officials have issued a warning to anyone working illegally in Oban that they will be caught and deported.

The move follows raids on restaurants and fast-food outlets in Oban which resulted in 17 workers being arrested.

All the men arrested in Oban are Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Chinese nationals.

A joint operation between

Police Scotland and the Home Office's Scotland Immigration Enforcement Team saw teams swoop on five food outlets in the town last Thursday night.

At the Light of India restaurant, on Stevenson Street, five Bangladeshi men aged between 26 and 64 were arrested.

Another five Bangladeshi men aged between 22 and 36 were also arrested at Taj Mahal restaurant on George Street

while at Kebabish on the same street a 32-year-old Pakistani man was arrested.

But Shaikat Chaudhry, owner of Kebabish, told *The Oban Times* his employee does have all of the necessary documentation and a valid visa until 2014.

He added: 'He is allowed to work here, he is not an illegal, I would not employ illegal workers - I would never take a

chance like that.

'He came through a recruitment agency in Glasgow.

'They took him to a detention centre on Sunday night, he had been kept in very bad conditions for three nights with no proper food.'

At Crystal Palace restaurant, also on George Street, two Chinese men aged 43 and 45 were arrested and detained while a third Chinese man was

arrested but later released pending further enquiries.

And at the Coriander restaurant, on Oban's Soroba Road, three Bangladeshi men aged between 31 and 39 were arrested.

The 16 detained men are now facing deportation.

All of the businesses will be served with civil penalty notices for employing the illegal workers and face fines of up to

£10,000 per worker if they cannot prove checks were carried out before giving them a job.

Adam Scarcliffe, assistant director of the Home Office's Scotland Immigration Enforcement Team, said: 'The message for anyone living and working in Scotland illegally is clear - it doesn't matter where you are, we will track you down and remove you from the country. 'We're undertaking operations

like this throughout the country on a regular basis, and more are planned.

'We're happy to work with businesses to let them know what checks need to be made on staff, but those who break the law should know that they will face heavy fines.

'I would urge members of the public with detailed information about suspected immigration abuse to get in touch.'

## Islay preacher jailed for 10 months

A LAY Baptist preacher on the Isle of Islay who interspersed internet searches for bible passages with searches for child pornography has been jailed for 10 months.

James Sutherland, 62, of 12 Mansfield Terrace, Port Ellen, had collected 266 images of children on his computer - including one image of a baby.

Some of the images found by police were on the most serious end of the scale.

Sutherland had previously admitted creating or permitting to be taken the images at his home over a two year period.

Sentencing of Sutherland was delayed a number of times as criminal justice social work reports carried out suggested he was 'categorically denying involvement' in the charges despite his guilty plea.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Friday, Sutherland's defence agent asked Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC to consider a retrial on the grounds that he was 'labouring under the misapprehension of what he was admitting to'.

She suggested it was more likely Sutherland had a change of heart.

She said: 'The report by social work caused serious concern. You have pled guilty to a serious crime and in my view custody is the appropriate disposal.'

Sutherland has also been placed on the sex offenders' register for 10 years from May 10.

## Celebration of life aids wildlife charity

A 'CELEBRATION of life', held in memory of former Oban Rare Breeds Park owner Duncan Strachan has helped to raise more than £500 for an international wildlife charity.

The gathering at Skipinnish Ceilidh House was well attended by many of his friends in the town and from further afield, who contributed £519 to the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

Duncan died last month at the age of 66 in Sella, Spain, when he rolled his digger while working on his terraced house.

His partner, Kay Simpson, said: 'There were a lot of people there for his celebration and that helped me a lot.'

The funds raised will go towards WSPA's efforts to rescue China's 'bile bears'.

## Court correction

THE OBAN Times would like to point out that Iain Cruikshanks pled guilty to possessing the Class A drug cocaine and not heroin as reported last week in error.

We would like to apologise to Mr Cruikshanks for this error and any inconvenience or confusion caused.

## Argyll Riding Club postponed due to bad weather

ARGYLL Riding Club's annual show, which was due to take place at Lunga Riding Stables, Ardfirn, has been postponed and is changing venue.

Weather has forced the show to move to Long Walk in Kilmartin and will now be held on June 29.

# 400 sign petition in Soroba Young Families group rent fight

MSP pledges support after ACHA withdraws peppercorn rent rate

MORE than 400 Oban residents have signed a petition in support of the Soroba Young Family Group (SYFG) as it fights for its future.

Michael Russell MSP has also pledged to support SYFG as pressure mounts on Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to revisit a decision to impose a new rent 36 times the previous peppercorn annual fee of £100.

While ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor says the suggested fee of £3,600 a year is fair as it represents the value of the property if it were to be leased as a home, the charity warns the increased cost could force it from its home or even cause it to close its doors.

Now parents, former attendees and supporters of the charity are rallying round to call on ACHA to reach - or at least begin negotiations to reach - a compromise before the community charity holds its AGM on May 20.

Julie McKenzie, whose children attend SYFG's nursery and who is a member of the fundraising committee, said: 'We've got quite a few names now and some high profile supporters. Michael Russell has pledged to support us. There's a lot of good feeling towards SYFG in the community.'

'SYFG has been running for the best part of 30 years and it's for people all across Oban, not

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

just Soroba. 'ACHA haven't been forthcoming; they've just not negotiated and the volunteers, parents and staff are panicking over what might happen.'

Among those to sign the petition is Jamie Houston, a consultant paediatrician at Lorn and Islands Hospital, and Nicola Kemp, who works with Argyll and Bute's local social work department.

Mr Houston said: 'They provide great support especially for the under threes, which our council nurseries in Oban do not provide.'

Nicola Kemp, meanwhile, said: 'I work with Social Work and we use this service a lot. It helps the most vulnerable families and children in the area and the children come on leaps and bounds after going there and getting opportunities that they may not otherwise get.'

Julie added: 'This is a huge thing for the community. We don't want to antagonise ACHA, but I think they've gone into this without realising what they're doing.'

Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, said: 'Yes, I'm raising it with Alastair MacGregor. I do think there needs to be some



Children, parents and supporters of Soroba Young Families gathered at the building on Monday to plead with ACHA to review plans to increase the community charity's rent by 36 times. 16\_1209obayoungfam1

special consideration given. 'I will be happy to help SYFG, I think they are doing a good job.'

Among those supporters to sign the petition urging ACHA to review its rent decision is proud grandmother, Evelyn Gibb.

She said: 'I would have been lost without the help of SYFG. I have kinship care of my granddaughter and the nursery helped and supported my grand daughter and through the last

three years through a lot of tough times.

'There will be so many families who will be lost without this nursery.'

Mr McGregor confirmed he is due to meet with the Soroba Young Families Group on Monday, but said accounts lodged with the Scottish Charities Register informed ACHA's position.

He said: 'SYFG has indicated concerns about affordability and

the petition refers to the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery being affected.

'The extract from the Scottish Charities Register show the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery, for the last two years of submitted accounts, having income of £85,287 and expenditure of nil for the year ending March 2011 and income of £101,785 and expenditure of £72,608 for the year ending March 2012.

'I am sure you will understand that the Association will wish to clarify with the Soroba Young Family Group and with the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery their concerns about affordability and the resources they have to pay their rent.

'The Association is committed to working with both groups and we hope that agreement can be reached for the way forward.'

You can find the SYFG petition by searching for Soroba on change.org.

## Police appeal for two after Oban station assault

POLICE have issued descriptions of two men accused of assaulting a man at Station Square in Oban last weekend.

The victim is a 23-year-old builder from the Preston area, who was working in the town. He was approached by the two men at 2am on Sunday morning and one of the men punched him to the ground. The second man then stamped on the victim's head.

The first man, who was wearing a black t-shirt, is described as 20 - 30 years old, 5'8" - 5'10".

The second man is aged between 30 - 35 and of heavy build. He wore a green t-shirt with a black design and blue jeans. He is bald on the crown of his head and had a goatee beard.

Any witnesses should contact Oban Police on 01631 510500.

## Playpark vandals

EXTRA police patrols have been allocated to the Soroba area of Oban after the playpark there was vandalised between May 3 and 7. Oban Police are seeking any information regarding the incident.



The family's Taynuilt home was gutted by the fire. 16\_120fire01

## Two escape as fire destroys family home at Taynuilt

A FAMILY of four avoided injury in a fire which destroyed their Taynuilt home last week.

The blaze, thought to have been caused by an electrical fault, started on Friday morning while a mother and her teenage son were in the mid-terrace property.

The pair managed to quickly escape the house on Lochandhu Road after hearing a loud bang - estimated to have come from the electricity board.

The house rapidly filled up with smoke and crews from Oban Community Fire Station were called to the scene at 10am.

Martin Hill, station commander, said: 'Two appliances

from Oban Community Fire Station responded to reports of a house fire within a property in Taynuilt.

'On arrival, fire crews were met with a well developed fire and personnel wearing breathing apparatus and carrying charged lengths of hose were immediately deployed into the property.

'The fire was safely extinguished by the breathing apparatus crews and the property was also systematically searched to ensure no persons were present.

'No one was injured in the course of the incident and the cause of the fire is still being established at this time.'

## Iona ready for a triple celebration to mark arrival of St Columba

THE ISLE of Iona is gearing up for a triple celebration this weekend as it welcomes visitors coming to mark the arrival of Saint Columba 1,450 years ago. The event, which also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Iona Community and the 25th anniversary of the MacLeod Centre, will be attended by senior church lead-

ers from across Scotland. But Alex Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland, and Enda Kenny, the Taoiseach of Ireland, have confirmed they are unable to attend. Mr Salmond will visit the new facilities at Iona later in the year.

Martin McGuinness, deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, had also been expected

but it is understood he will no longer attend.

A reception is planned for special guests who arrive on Iona at 12pm on Sunday before a thanksgiving service takes place at Iona Abbey.

The service will be led by Reverend Joanna Anderson, centres director of the Iona Community and will feature

contributions from Mull Gaelic Choir and the children of Iona Primary School.

Michael Russell, the MSP for Argyll and Bute, will open the new Historic Scotland Abbey Museum at 3pm before the party departs the island in late afternoon. Other events will take place between May 19 and June 9, Columba's Day.

## Unique Licensed Restaurant Opportunity in Argyll



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

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

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- Off-sales service
- Kitchen includes separate prep area and walk-in cold store

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



The lorry left the A85 at Achnacloch. 15\_120lorry2

## Driver reported after accident

A LORRY driver has been reported to the procurator fiscal for careless driving after his vehicle left the road at Achnacloch near Connel.

The 44-year-old driver, who escaped serious injury, was travelling west on the

A85 at around 8am on Monday when his vehicle left the road and tumbled down the embankment into a field.

The road was closed for an hour while the lorry, which was delivering ice cream to Oban, was recovered.

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Morvern Lines



Lochaline port is steeped in history.

JUDGING by the comments and emails which come in about Morvern Lines, it seems there is still a keen interest in local history, although it is more so from furth of the parish boundary these days.

Here, in response to many requests, are a few more snapshots of life in old Morvern.

In the days before heavily chlorinated water arrived in every household by pipe and tap from man-made storage tanks, fresh water was drawn from wells.

Some are still to be found, albeit covered in vegetation, a few are in use, while others have disappeared altogether as a result of forestry plantations and modern drainage.

There were four serving Lochaline village. The principal one was the 'Soldier's Well' below High Street and opposite Rowanbank. Who the soldier was has not been recorded but according to local tradition he was a deserter, probably from the Napoleonic wars, who lived rough in the vicinity and visited the well for his daily requirements.

Others could be found below the village war memorial, by the Old Pier at the entrance to Loch Aline, and behind High Street.

There is a particularly fine one still in use above Knock called the 'Bishop's Well' named after Hector Maclean, Bishop of Argyll who later had to move to Achadun Castle on Lismore.

All over the Highlands and Islands there are wells to which powers for healing diseases and other illnesses were ascribed.

Sometimes, but not always, they were called after saints and became places of pilgrimage. A well near Savary was popular for curing stomach ache and another by the roadside half a mile west of Finuary, was associated with a mysterious rite of passage sun-wise through a hole in 'Clach na Criche' - the boundary stone.

Although most of these wells are now little used, they are still part of our rich heritage which is why there is now widespread concern about the future of an old Appin well from as far away as America.

St Cyril's Well below the ancient McColl burial-ground on the lower south slopes of Beinn Churalain above Loch Creran, is dedicated to St Cairrell and has been visited on St Patrick's Day for its waters for hundreds of years by people from all over Scotland.

A new woodland regeneration scheme, approved by Forestry Commission Scotland, is set to encroach on the well, the graveyard and a rock slab with a galley on it which is thought to have been carved in medieval times.

CHURCHES are not usually associated with high drama, however, there was an occasion at Kiel, Morvern, when one of the parish ministers was almost murdered in the pulpit.

The Rev Daniel MacNeil (1664-1724) always used to open his Sunday services by praying for the Hanoverian King George I - much to the annoyance of Allan Cameron of Glendessary, a local laird and a fervent Jacobite. Glendessary sent word to MacNeil that if he continued this practice he would shoot him dead.

When the minister got into the pulpit the following Sunday he quietly pulled a brace of loaded pistols from under his cloak. He cocked them and laid one on each side of the Bible and according to an eye witness, prayed with his eyes wide open.

After the final blessing Alan came up and shook hands with him saying that 'he had in him the stuff out of which soldiers are made. A friendship was formed and later Allan's daughter Mary married the minister.

All three lie together under two finely inscribed table-tombs a few yards from the church.

THIS year is the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival in Scotland.

Local tradition has it the first church at Kiel was dedicated to St Columba, or Choluim Chille as he was known in the Gaelic world, when he founded the famous monastery on Iona.

The story goes that he crossed Loch Linnhe with St Moluag from the Island of Lismore and, landing together on the Garbh Shios, they climbed to the summit of Glas Bheinn, with its commanding views of the Morvern coastline.

St Columba planted his foot on a flat rock and, pointing to a green knoll a little way above the entrance to Loch Aline, exclaimed: 'There is the place where we will build our next church.'

It is said the indelible footprint of the saint is still to be seen on the hilltop. A special exhibition celebrating St Columba's visit to Morvern will be held in Kiel Church in July during Morvern Gala Week.

Iain Thornber.

# 'Free running' across Oban rooftops 'an accident waiting to happen' say police

ROOFTOP parkour is proving a headache for local police after struggling to stop Oban youths 'free running' across the town.

Constable Andy Simpson made an appeal at Oban Community Council for warnings to go out and ward children off the dangerous sport after several were seen running across Park Primary School's roof both

without permission and relevant safety precautions.

The sport, made famous by the French and popularised by the James Bond film Casino Royale, sees participants run through urban areas, leaping over and under obstacles in as spectacular and rapid a style as possible.

However, Constable Simpson adds that the sport - a combina-

tion of athletics and gymnastics, is also 'extremely dangerous'.

He told Oban Community Council: 'The kids have started doing free running. It's an accident waiting to happen. They started doing it at Park Primary School. There was a container next to the school for some work there and the kids were using that as a ladder to get onto the

roof. They do have CCTV there but it's not up and we're working with the council to get cameras up there. Hopefully we can get the message across before there's an accident. The free runners you see on TV have been injured and that's with them being well trained. If they want to do it they should be doing it with permission and a lot of training and

experience.' Not all the youths running on the roofs were of primary school age. 'A couple of years ago we did have a kid go through a roof,' he added. 'It is a huge risk.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she was particularly concerned by anyone running along rooftops. 'It's extremely dangerous,' she said. 'I've

treated people who have come through rooftops in the past and it fills me with horror that this is happening.'

Injury is common among amateur free runners who have not had the training to deal with the physical challenges the sport presents or who take risks to practise the sport in unsafe areas.



Frank Chambers plans to climb Ben Nevis after suffering years of breathlessness and exhaustion.

## Frank drops more than 10 stones in 12 months

Smoked salmon, prawns and power walks replace large chocolate bars

A BALLACHULISH man is a shadow of his former self after losing over 10 stones in 12 months in a get-fit drive.

And thanks to the life-changing slim down, Frank Chambers is planning to climb Ben Nevis after suffering years of breathlessness and exhaustion.

Mr Chambers, operations manager at the Ballachulish Hotel, knew he had a problem when he fell on ice last winter and couldn't get up. The humiliation was the last straw for the 51 year-old, who weighed in at a roly-poly 26 stone. Out went extra-large bars of chocolate - and in came smoked salmon, prawns and power walks round the hotel.

Some of his colleagues had started losing weight with Scottish Slimmers, and when class manager Jo Watt popped in, Mr Chambers joined up. The classes, regular exercise and a healthy diet paid off - and his waistline shrank from 60 to 40 inches.

Now, at a svelte 15 stone four pounds, six-foot Mr Chambers has less than two-stone to go to reach his target weight.

None of his old clothes fit him any more - but that has been a small price to pay for a new lease of life.

Mr Chambers said: 'I know I had been lucky that I'd never had any

health scares despite my weight but now I am slimmer, I realise how difficult life had been.

'As soon as I started the positive eating plan, something clicked in both my head and my heart, and I knew I could do it.

'I spend a lot of time walking around the hotel - miles and miles every day - and as the weight came off, I found myself able to breathe properly for the first time in years.

'I am planning to climb Ben Nevis soon and I have also signed up for a [children's charity] Kiltwalk in the summer. Losing almost a whole person in weight has meant a whole new wardrobe, which has been fun. But the best reward has come from some of the hotel's regular customers, who, having not seen me since I lost weight, ask me, 'Where's the big bloke? Well, he's here, I tell them - but he's not so big any more.'

He added: 'Losing 20 inches from my waist feels like it's added another 20 years to my life. But I need to start toning up my upper body which is my mission for the summer.'

Asked what advice he would give fellow slimmers, he said: 'Keep going and don't lose heart if you only lose half a pound or so.'



At 51 years-old and 26 stone, Frank Chambers decided to change his lifestyle.

## Lochaber Rotary Club to host annual charity am-am golf competition

THE Rotary Club of Lochaber's popular charity Am-Am golf tournament will be held at Fort William Golf Club on Sunday May 26.

Money raised will go to local charities, with more than £40,000 donated over the past 12 years. Teams of four come from across Lochaber and the rest of Scotland to compete.

Club president Sheana Fraser said: 'Our Am-Am tournament has become a regular event that grows in popularity year on year.

'The course is in great condition and visiting teams can be assured of a warm welcome. 'There are still some sponsorship slots available - it's a great showcase for local businesses.'



Aileen Binner, right, and Gill Cadzow, second left, of Homestart Lorn, thank solicitors Kath McMahon and Kelie Cooper for selecting the charity as the Will Month beneficiary. 15\_118W1102

## Homestart Lorn gains financial boost from Will Month

THE TWO organisations may share a building, but Homestart Lorn was still shocked when neighbour MacPhee and Partners announced the charity would benefit from its fundraising event, Will Month.

During May the solicitors at MacPhee's are offering to prepare wills in exchange for a donation to the charity, which offers advice and practical support to families in the area.

Both organisations are based on the first floor of MacPhee's offices on the corner of George Street and Stevenson Street.

Homestart Lorn co-ordinator Aileen Binner said: 'We share a building with MacPhee and Partners but this was a big surprise. We didn't even know we were being considered.'

'We were absolutely thrilled when we were told we would

be the charity for Will Month. To have someone say they will raise money for us, instead of us filling in forms for grants, was tremendous news.'

Will Month has already been a successful fundraiser for Care Lochaber in Fort William during April.

Kelie Cooper of MacPhee and Partners said: 'The staff and partners here put suggestions forward for local charities that could benefit from Will Month and Homestart was the one we wanted to support. Because we share a building we see how the charity does such great work with so many people.'

To make an appointment to write a will, update an existing will, or add a codicil to your existing will, contact Kelie on 01631 562308, or email kelie-cooper@macphee.co.uk.

## Inverness traffic problems to be cleared by end of June

PEAK time traffic management restrictions on the Kessock Bridge in Inverness are due to be lifted by the end of June, Transport Scotland has confirmed.

The first phase of the £13.2m project to modernise the bridge is almost complete and drivers should see all lanes re-opened to traffic again by the end of the month.

The carriageway works have led to average delays of 30 minutes during the morning and evening rush hour but no major improvements will now be needed for 30 years, a Transport Scotland spokesman said.

Some additional work on the bridge will be carried out in July but this will be done outwith peak times.

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## Electric car points for west coast harbours

CHARGING points for electric cars are to be installed at harbours across the west coast of Scotland at a cost of over £200,000.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) are installing the points as part of its Plugged-in Places programme, funded by the Energy Saving Trust.

The project, which is estimated to cost £220,000, will see charging points installed at harbours in Oban and Kennacraig on mainland Argyll, Tarbert on Harris, Port Ellen on Islay and Brodick on Arran.

Andrew Flockhart, head of business development at CMAL, said: 'Here at CMAL we are committed to Scotland's aim to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainability.'

'The new charging stations are the latest initiative to enhance our harbour facilities for the communities that they serve.'

## 'Fighting' fisherman fined £440 at Oban court

A FISHERMAN who challenged people to fight in Oban's Station Square has been fined £440.

Andrew Goldie, 30, of 10 Dove Croft, Kirkcudbright, admitted the offence when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The court heard Goldie was in the middle of the road around 1.30am on Sunday morning shouting at a man that he was going to 'smash' his face. Goldie was arrested and continued his abusive language towards police.

Describing the incident as 'unremarkable', defence agent Gordon Seaton said Goldie had been out drinking and his behaviour 'was out of order'. He added: 'He apologises for that.'

## Homeless man jailed for 60 days after taking 'battered' bike

A HOMELESS man has been jailed for 60 days after stealing a mountain bike from the doorway of an empty Oban shop.

Marc Smith, 34, of no fixed abode, admitted taking the bike from George Street when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Smith claimed he thought the bike had been abandoned.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said he knew the court's options were limited as his client had no home and asked that his sentence be as lenient as possible. He said: 'He saw an old battered bike that he thought

had been abandoned.' While accepting in the eyes of the law Smith had committed a crime, Mr Macleod added: 'There's no suggestion he overcame any security issues - he

thought he was taking a bike that no-one had any use for.' Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'There really is only one sentence I can impose and that is one of custody.'



Martin Litherland examines one of the more promising rocks sampled at Benderloch's railway cutting with Lochnell Primary pupils Rachael Stewart, left, Charlotte George and Euan Strathern 16.1201litherland1

## Pupils search for early life in Benderloch

BUDDING archaeologists from Lochnell Primary School were looking for the earliest signs of life last week - in Benderloch.

Retired geologist Martin Litherland returned to Lorn on Sunday to retrace the steps that led him to finding a fossil that could have indicated the earliest living organisms may have come from the west coast of Scotland.

The fossil, which he called Beregonia, has since been discarded as part of a clearout by the University of Liverpool and

light acid mixture over the rock, which would fizz when it came into contact with carbonate - which can indicate the presence of fossilised tissue.

## 'Deadly' golf balls rain down on Oban housing estate

YOUNGSTERS firing golf balls into an Oban housing estate are in danger of killing someone, it has been claimed.

Golf balls being struck from an elevated position on Gillies' Rock in the Soroba area have been described as 'deadly' and 'as serious as someone sniping with an air rifle.'

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish made the comments as youths continue to deliberately launch the projectiles from high above houses in the Dalintart area saying he has become 'deeply concerned' by the disregard the culprits have for the residents of the area.

Last month a pensioner had her window smashed by a golf ball. Mr McCuish added: 'These golf balls are being deliberately hit into a housing scheme.'

'If there's someone hanging out their washing, I don't want to think about what could happen if they were hit.'

'It's been happening for years but if there was someone up there with an air rifle it'd be a major incident.'

'I'm absolutely convinced this is as bad as an air rifle.'

He urged people to contact police if they see people with golf clubs approaching the area. Oban police constable Andy Simpson said it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt. He said: 'Any projectile hit with velocity and height is as bad as an air rifle.'

'We would take that very, very seriously and I'll be asking for officers to go up there often to try and cut this out.'

## Lorn Lines



The youngsters show off their sandcastle building skills at Ganavan.

DRAGONS were being hunted by school children at Dunollie recently on a day out organised by Stramash.

Gaelic primary one and two pupils from Rockfield Primary School started their day with a scavenger hunt at Dunollie, collecting materials to make crowns, and creating dragon potions. The children, whose day out was linked to their Knights and Castles topic, then travelled to Ganavan where they worked together to make a huge sandcastle and a giant picture of a dragon using materials from the beach.

Class teacher Joanie Garvin said: 'The children really enjoyed the activities Stramash organised, and had a fabulous day developing their learning and working together outdoors.'



Angela Guy and Margaret Whitton were showing off their green fingered skills at the fundraiser. 16.1201flowers01

A FLOWER demonstration was held at Oban High School last week to raise funds for the Friends of Oban Hospice.

Angela Guy, a florist from the Flower House, and flower arranger Margaret Whitton shared their skills with the audience as a way of supporting the organisation.

Margaret MacLean, chairwoman of Friends of Oban Hospice, said: 'This is the first time we have done this and ticket sales have gone well. We're very grateful to the ladies for giving up their time and talents.'



The picture of the napping seafarer that was drawn by artist Alex Halliburton in the 1980s. Do you recognise the man?

A PRINT of a seafaring man on a pier in Oban is being offered to the family of the subject - if they can be traced.

Kirkcaldy man Jim Duffy made a special journey to Oban in an attempt to trace the man's relatives, as he has two of the 75cm X 61cm limited edition prints and wishes to donate one of them.

The original pastel painting is by Jim's former work colleague, the accomplished artist and inventor Alex Halliburton, who moved to Canada from Glasgow in 1965. It was on a homecoming tour of Scotland in the 1980s that he drew the man napping on the pier. Jim said: 'I think the man in the picture may have been running boat trips in Oban but I know nothing about him. I need to find out who he is and if he has any family, particularly any still in Oban.'

Anyone who recognises the man can contact The Oban Times newsdesk on 01631 568000 or Jim on 07854 272474.



Members of Oban's Scottish Women's Rural Institute learned about photography

## Oban SWRI learn tricks of photography

THE OBAN members of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) met a week earlier than usual in April to enable entries from the Lorn Rally to be returned to members.

The chair of Oban thanked everyone for the tremendous number of entries they submitted and the excellent standard reached.

The group had photographer Kevin McGlynn as guest for the evening and he brought a vast array of photographs with him which covered a wide range of topics; the accompanying commentary was informative,

educational, humorous, and extremely entertaining.

No-one present has any excuse for producing a bad photograph if they follow his generous advice.

The results of the photography competition were; Margaret Devine, gold; Jenny Miller,

Ruth Russell and Ann Malloch, silver. The butterfly cakes competition results were; Ann Malloch and Jenny Moody gold; Jenny Miller and Ruth Russell, silver.

The next meeting of Oban SWRI will be the AGM on Tuesday, May 28.

## Calmac told to clarify RET advertising

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has been told to alter its timetable advertising to better explain how Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) works after a complaint by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid was partially upheld.

indicating it would not be appropriate for the agency to judge government policy.

Mr Reid said: 'So called RET fares are far more than the cost of driving the same distance by road which is what Road Equivalent Tariff is supposed to stand for.'

Misleading Mr Reid complained to the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) that Road Equivalent Tariff was misleading customers, as the charges were greater than the equivalent journey by road.

The RET formula for calculating fares is a combination of a fixed element to cover maintenance costs for piers and vessels plus a rate per mile.

But while the ASA stated CalMac should clarify its description of RET, it refused to be drawn on the debate over how the ferry fare was calculated,

Ferry fares are set by the Scottish Government. A CalMac spokesman said: 'We welcome this guidance and have agreed with Transport Scotland the wording to be used in future.'

## Driver charged after Cruachan crash

A YOUNG driver has been charged with dangerous driving following a head-on collision on the A85 near to Cruachan Power Station. There were no injuries sustained in the incident, which happened on Sunday at around 6.30pm.

As a result, a 19-year-old student has been charged.

## Three jailed following station incident

A MAN and woman were arrested for impeding police officers following an incident at Station Square in Oban.

At around 1.30am on Sunday, police arrested a 45-year-old man and a 38-year-old woman for obstruction.

## Diver airlifted to hospital from the Sound of Mull

A DIVER off the Isle of Mull was airlifted to hospital in Oban on Monday morning following a suspected case of the bends.

and Islands District General Hospital in Oban for treatment. As The Oban Times went to press, his condition was unknown.

The 52-year-old man was in Tobermory Bay when he surfaced too quickly, it is understood.

The bends, also known as decompression sickness, is when bubbles form inside the body during desaturation. It can cause joint pain, paralysis or death.

A call for assistance went out to Oban lifeboat but it was stood down as the man was picked up by a Scottish Air Ambulance helicopter. He was then taken to Lorn

Treatment is carried out in a recompression chamber and one is based at SAMS in Dunstaffnage.

## Street advertising boards causing increasing problems

INCREASING numbers of sandwich boards and pavement mounted advertising signs on Oban's streets are causing problems.

Oban Community Council has once again raised its voice over the number of boards blocking the path, particularly on George Street, saying those with disabilities in particular are impeded by the boards.

Their call comes as Argyll and Bute Council continues to work towards preparing a report on the issues with advertising boards after setting up a dedicated working party earlier in the year. Led by the planning team, the council is looking at existing policies and controls in consultation with councillors, local business representatives, tourism organisations and trunk roads operator, Transport Scotland.

But Oban Community Council is to suggest to BID4Oban that it could take on the role of policing advertising signs.

Community councillor Andy Birnie, who is partially sighted, said: 'There's more now than ever. I've actually had to move a couple myself.'

Fellow member Duncan Martin said he would raise the issue with BID4Oban.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We recognise the need to balance the needs of the local economy with issues like road safety and environmental impact and any future proposals will seek to address this.'

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**COLL**

COLL was awash with creative talents and colour this week as part of celebrations for Voluntary Arts Week.

Ending on Sunday, the celebration of arts and crafts on the island saw a plethora of events throughout the week including a 'Crafty Tea' at Tigh na Mara on Sunday, allowing locals to try their hand at cake decorating, making paper flowers, knitting and tapestry.

Wednesday saw the Island Café host an open session of the island's U3A art group for a morning of themed painting and drawing on the subject of food. It later hosted a craft evening with demonstrations of marbling, wood burning and needle felting on hand.

The Art Den, meanwhile, hosts an exhibition of work by artists on the island until Voluntary Arts Week ends this Sunday.

The event was hosted and sponsored by the Art Den and U3A with support from the library, the Island Café and Tigh na Mara.

**STORNOWAY**

THE FAMOUS Stornoway black pudding has been given protected geographical status by the European Commission - putting it in the same league as champagne, Parma ham and Camembert.

The new status means only black pudding produced in the town or parish can be sold as Stornoway black pudding.

A campaign for the status was launched by four local butchers with help from MSP Rhoda Grant after concerns about puddings being sold bearing the name Stornoway despite being produced elsewhere.

Ms Grant said: 'This helps put Stornoway on the map as a producer of high quality produce and ensures the unique black pudding cannot be replicated anywhere else.'

'Now when you see Stornoway Black Pudding you know that it is the genuine high quality product, you know where it has been produced and you know it is directly benefiting the island's economy.'

Other Scottish products with protected status include Shetland lamb, Arbroath smokies and Scotch whisky.

**TREE**

TWO BANDS will share teaching duties during this year's Tree Feis, with Trail West and the Scott Wood Trio leading the line.

Tutors Ian Smith, on accordion, and Ander Findlater on drums, will be joined by Aileen Campbell on guitar and pipes and Scott Wood on pipes and whistle.



Mr Harris and Ms Martin with some of the youngsters who are part of the club.

**Parents praised for getting pupils active**

PARENTS who organise an orienteering club for youngsters in Ballachulish have been congratulated by sportscotland officials.

The five volunteers received training earlier this year to enable them to run the classes for P2-P4 pupils before they

**BALLACHULISH**

set up the after school club. sportscotland chief executive Stewart Harris and chairwoman Louise Martin were given a demonstration of the skills the

youngsters have learned during a visit to Ballachulish Primary School last week.

Local active schools co-ordinator Tracey Jeffrey said: 'This highlights the important role parents can play in enabling their children to take part in sport and physical activity.'

**PLOCKTON**

THE AGM of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council was held at Portree High School on April 29.

The attendance of 13 was disappointing.

The chairman and secretary gave their annual reports and treasurer's report was passed. Office bearers Charlie M MacRae, chairman, and Peter Gordon, secretary/treasurer, were re-elected. Councillor Drew Millar is vice chairman and Bob Anderson the auditor.

In the past year 30 clubs were members covering 10 sports, while 17 grants were made totalling more than £4,000. The level of grants for the next year will be decided at the next meeting in Kyleakin Hall on June 17.

**DURING** April seven inches of rain fell in Plockton after



**Loch Shiel Spring Festival**

Lochaber High School teacher Mark Reynolds was among the star performers at the recent Loch Shiel Spring Festival. He is pictured with percussionist Simone Rebello after wowing a packed crowd at Glenfinnan Church with his tuba playing.

January, February and March had only eight inches in total. Warmest April day was 14°C and coldest was -2.9°C, and eight nights registered below zero.

**SEIL**

THE SAILING season got underway at Plockton on Tuesday April 30 when seven boats went out in strong winds under the instruction of John Leiper. Children are taught every Tuesday throughout the summer. CM MacRae.

**SEIL**

ROWERS are being sought for the soon to be completed Seil skiff, named *Selkie* by locals.

A skiff is a lightweight rowing boat which is increasingly owned - or currently being built - by many communities in Scotland. The crew is normally four oarsmen and a coxswain.

The community-owned boat on Seil island has been funded by locals who bought shares but you do not have to have purchased one to be involved - anyone interested in rowing can register at www.seilskiff.org.uk

A two-day event has been organised for June 1 and 2 with skiffs from other areas paying a visit. A ceilidh is also to be held on the Saturday night.

**SPEAN BRIDGE**

APRIL was a month of contrasts at Achnabobane near Spean Bridge, with normal temperatures and rain replacing the cold dry conditions which prevailed in the first few days.

No measurable rainfall was recorded at amateur meteorologist Andrew Bootman's weather station from April 1-10, but the month still ended up with 158.7mm (6.24 inches) - almost twice the 84.5mm (3.4 inches) recorded in 2012. Wettest day was the 13th, when 26.9mm (1.06 inches) fell.

The average monthly temperature was 6.7°C, well below the 10-year average of 8.1°C, and on a par with April 2012.

Warmest day was the 14th which saw the mercury rise to 14.1°C (57.4°F), while the coldest night came on the 1st, when a chilly -2.8°C (27°F) was measured. Air frosts were recorded throughout the first five days, with the exception of the 4th.

**ISLAY**

AN ISLAND community hub has undergone a vital upgrade 22 years after first being established.

The Mactaggart Leisure Centre, based at Bowmore on Islay, is a former whisky bond converted into a swimming pool and leisure centre for community use in 1991.

But three years ago the facility was showing signs of age including a leaky roof, tired and worn fabric and ageing and unreliable plant.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises, the organisation behind the '91 conversion, decided the leisure centre would become unfit for purpose unless

action was taken. A total of £600,000 was raised from a variety of funding sources to undertake the upgrade including new external signs, paint work, roof tiles and ventilation turrets.

The new ventilation system means plant breakdowns are no longer the norm and the fabric of the building was given a makeover with new flooring and decoration.

The installation of an internal lift enables access to the first floor for elderly and disabled people.

Gary Scott, general manager of Islay and Jura Community Enterprises, said: 'It has been a remarkable achievement and a roller coaster of emotions, firstly in raising the necessary funding and then organising and managing the programme of works and associated cash flow, enabling us to achieve our dream of upgrading this vital community facility to a very high standard for future generations to benefit from.'

Funders for the project included sportScotland, Crerar Hotels, EB Score and Bank of Scotland, Trusthouse, Schroder, Hugh Fraser, Rank and Open Work Foundations.

**KILCHUIMEN**

APPLICATION forms are now available for Feis an t-Samraid (Summer Feis) at Kilchuimen Academy in Fort Augustus from July 15-19.

The main feis caters for eight to 18-year-olds and is on daily from 10am-3.45pm. The feis bheag (wee feis) runs from 10am-12.30pm

Classes will focus on traditional music instruction in a fun environment.

For more information contact feis organiser Tracey MacCallum on 01809 501468.

**WESTERN ISLES**

RSPB Scotland has launched its most ambitious programme of wildlife walks yet in the Western Isles.

Working with partners including the North Harris Trust and the Conserving Machair Life+ Project, RSPB staff and volunteers will lead walks the length and breadth of the islands.

The programme offers the chance to spot golden and sea eagles on Harris, the red-necked phalarope - one of Britain's rarest birds, at Loch na Muilne on Lewis, corncrakes on the Balranald nature reserve on North Uist and crofting-themed walks at the Howmore machair on South Uist.

Meanwhile on Benbecula birds of prey will be the target species in a special series of evening walks.

Western Isles conservation officer Robin Reid, who will guide some of the walks, said: 'We hope local people and visitors will join us on the walks and enjoy the spectacular and unique wildlife heritage of the Outer Hebrides.'

Details of the walks in Lewis and Harris are available at: www.rspb.org.uk/lochnamuilne and those in the Uists and Benbecula at www.rspb.org.uk/balranald.



**Top Taynuilt bowlers**

The season's prizewinners were announced as Taynuilt Bowling Club held its annual dinner and prize giving in the village hotel. D MacCallum won the club singles and V Shaw and M Livingstone took club doubles, while S MacFarlane won league singles and D MacCallum and C Reid took league doubles. The ladies singles went to C Reid and best rink was won by D MacCallum, C Campbell, K Clayton, C Reid and A Gray.



**Science time at Easdale**

Things were going fizz, boom, bang at Easdale Primary School thanks to some budding young scientists. Generation Science, part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival, visited the school recently as part of its educational tour. The school children 'thoroughly enjoyed' testing out hands on science experiments, making concoctions of all different colours.



Glen spring clean: Friends of Nevis volunteers during their litter pick on Sunday.

**Volunteers out in force to clean up Glen Nevis**

VOLUNTEERS did their bit for the Glen Nevis environment recently with a 'litter-pick' around the scenic area near Fort William.

And Friends of Nevis collected an 'amazing' amount of rubbish during the six-hour clean-up.

Chairwoman Joy Biggin said the operation would make the glen much more attractive for locals and visitors and thanked Ben Nevis Highland Centre and Lidl for supporting the event with refreshments.

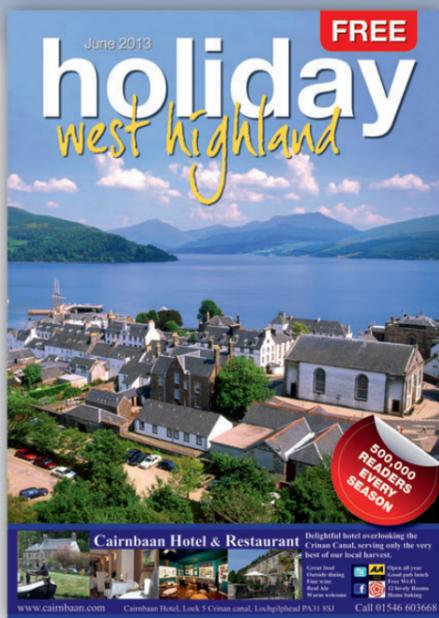
She said: 'Friends of

Nevis organises regular path maintenance days, the next of which are May 25 and 26.

A wide variety of path related jobs can be tackled by anyone who would like to help.'

Ahead of that, 'Spring Butterflies', an introduction to Lochaber's butterflies, will take place on May 12 followed by 'Wandering Water Voles' on May 20 as part of the Wild Lochaber Festival. For more information or to book for any of these events telephone 01397 701088 or email info@friendsofnevis.co.uk.

**June Edition**



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**Down Your Way - Brae Lochaber**

**Laggan Dam back to full capacity following heavy rain**

LAGGAN Dam, located above Roy Bridge, is back to full capacity following heavy rain in the Lochaber area over the past few weeks.

A dry period through March and April led to water reaching critically low levels at the reservoir, which provides power for Rio Tinto Alcan's Lochaber Smelter.

The lack of water forced the company to consider a partial shutdown of its aluminium production, as revealed by *The Oban Times* in April.

However, several inches of rain have since fallen in the area, providing plenty of water to power the hydro-electric scheme.

**Roy Bridge plant sale**

A PLANT sale will be held in Roy Bridge Village Hall on Saturday June 1.

All sorts of vegetables, herbs and flowers will be on sale from 11am to 1.30pm.

**Youngsters enjoy 'spy camp' weekend**

AROUND 125 youngsters enjoyed two days of espionage and intrigue at Insh Scout Camp near Spean Bridge last weekend.

Scouts and cubs from Sixth Lochaber The Braes organised the weekend, setting the children tasks of collecting clues, taking finger prints and breaking codes during the 'spy camp' weekend.



ROY Bridge has a new café and public toilets after work to expand the village store was finished.

The new Cup 'n' Cake Coffee Shop, above, was officially opened by local priest father Tom Wynne on Saturday and so far is proving popular with locals and visitors.

Owners Ray and Lorna Weir considered closing the shop last year after a downturn in business, but with help from their son Christopher and his

partner Claire the expansion looks to have given the shop a new lease of life.

Ray told *The Oban Times* reaction had so far been very positive. He said: 'It's been great. Locals have been talking about how great it is to have something like this on their doorstep. I think the village has been under catered for for a while. The feedback for the toilets has been fantastic. There's a lot of people using it who get caught a bit short on the

A86. Ray and Christopher have done much of the renovation work themselves, and although the café is now open, the hard work is set to continue.

Ray said: 'Me and my son Christopher have been doing most of the work and I'm happy with how we've progressed. It's not finished yet, there's still a bit of cosmetic work to do and I'm hoping to put in a seating area at the back as well. It's been a lot of hard work, but I'm glad we've got it open.'

**Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council**

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met last week.

Among the issues discussed were:

□ The secretary wrote to TEC Services as requested to ask if there was any surplus product from the Bohemie Surface

Dressing Programme that it be laid down in Bunroy Road. The request was rejected due to financial cutbacks.

□ A request from the Braes for an award of £100 to sponsor an issue of the magazine was unanimously agreed on.

□ An application for felling

and restocking of Bohenic Woodland from the Forestry Commission was received and noted.

□ The Highland councillors' ward discretionary fund awarded £250 to the Roy Bridge Village Gardens Project.

□ The secretary was asked to make enquiries about whether

the community council area was to be included in the broadband development in which 84 per cent of properties will have fibre broadband with speeds up to 80Mbps by 2016.

□ Killichonate Woodlands will be contacted seeking an explanation regarding the closure

of a number of paths and tracks.

□ The secretary will write to BEAR Scotland asking them to repair the 30mph flashing sign east of Roy Bridge which has not been working for some time.

The next meeting will be at Spean Bridge Primary School Tuesday June 4.

**Future of Arisaig Post Office to be discussed at public village meeting**

THE FUTURE of Arisaig Post Office will be discussed at a meeting in the village tomorrow afternoon (Friday). The Post Office Ltd have confirmed the village is no longer a viable stand alone office and are looking for local businesses to take a sub post office into their premises. A spokesman has reassured locals there will be no compulsory redundancies. Arisaig Community Trust is hosting the meeting at 1.30pm at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre with members of the public welcome to attend.

**Police search team recovers missing man's body**

THE BODY of a man was found by a police search team near Roy Bridge on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased man, named locally as Maurice Cameron of Roy Bridge, was found in the Inverroy area. The 61-year-old had been reported missing after not being seen since last Friday. Police Scotland said a report would be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**End of an era for sixth year students**

SIX LEAVERS and their families will be main guests at Plockton High School's end of session ceremony on Friday June 14. Principal guest and speaker for the whole school event will be Calum MacSween, head of education services at Highland Council. The full list of prizewinners will be published on the school website.

**Girls pitch in at first football festival**

FIVE teams are pencilled in so far for the first P4-7 girls' football festival to be staged in Lochaber. Fort William, Oban, Inverness City, Merkinch and Mallaig will take part in the Claggan Park event, which kicks off at 11am. A P1-3 girls match at 10.30am will precede the tournament.

**Construction giant moves into Lochaber**

ONE OF Scotland's largest construction groups has opened an office in Fort William as it continues to expand projects in Lochaber and Argyll. Robertson, which has recently worked on construction projects including the new BSW sawmill at Corpach, a new Marine Harvest salmon hatchery at Lochailort, and marine research facilities at Dunstaffnage, opened its new office on Belford Road in the town. Projects manager Allan Macleod said: 'Lochaber has great potential and it is hugely rewarding to be delivering major construction projects for both public and private sectors. 'We are one of the Partners in Enterprise with Fort William Chamber of Commerce and are excited and encouraged about the opportunities and potential that the area has moving forward. 'We have a strong team of people focussed on our work in Lochaber and Argyll and are currently considering a number of exciting future opportunities.'

**Couple in jail after Oban disturbance**

AN OBAN couple spent the night in police custody after a disturbance in their home. Charlene MacDonald, 27, and Iain MacIntyre, 39, both of 21 Combie Court, Oban, denied charges when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. The couple are expected to face trial on July 10 and will appear again on June 25.



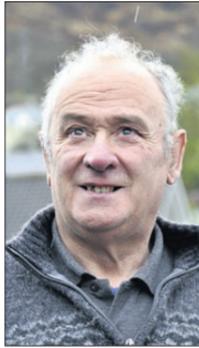
Flower power: PCA Chair Helen MacKenzie, right, mum Kizzy Bruce, left, and Kidz Club members Chantelle Bruce, Campbell Calder-Kerr and Lewis Bruce helped making up hanging baskets for sale. 20\_f20hanging01

**Flower power brightens the Plantation**

YOUNG people in the Plantation area of Fort William are using more than 500 flowers to brighten up the area in a hanging basket project. The initiative, dubbed 'Green Fingers', aims to give local youngsters a greater sense of community spirit while bringing a splash of colour to their part of town. Local families dropped into Plantation community hall on Saturday morning to collect planters made up by Kidz Club members to hang over their front doors. Plantation Community Association (PCA) believes the scheme is an ideal way of giving local children more skills and confidence. Chairperson Helen MacKenzie said: 'It's great fun for everyone involved, we all get our hands mucky and end up with lovely flowering baskets all round the estate. 'We have had support from the council and local residents to put our Green Fingers event together.' Also on Saturday, the PCA hosted a home baking stall on Fort William High Street to raise funds for the development of a play park at Pine Grove in Plantation. Sales of planted baskets boosted proceeds. The ambitious project, earmarked for land on the former Fort William golf course, will cost an estimated £180,000. The PCA has already secured an initial £10,000 Lottery grant.

**Prominent Gael criticises declining Mod standards**

A PROMINENT Lochaber Gael has criticised declining standards at the Royal National Mod as he bids farewell to the local committee after 29 years. Charlie MacColl this week quit as chairman of Meur Lochabair, the local branch of Mod organisers An Comunn Gaidhealach. Native Gaelic speaker Mr MacColl, who was instrumental in organising the highly successful 2007 Mod in Fort William, claims proficiency in Gaelic at the showpiece event has since dipped just as money has become more important. He told The Oban Times: 'I have had enough. I have seen so many changes over the years and it's time to go. 'I feel the Mods have been going down over the years - and gone down too - you can just walk in off the street now and compete.' Mr MacColl added: 'The highlight for me was the 2007 Mod in Fort William, which was well run and well-supported. 'At the opening of the Mod at Dunoon last year you would be lucky if you had 40 people there whereas at Fort William we had 500.' He added: 'People can win top awards knowing only two or three Gaelic songs whereas before these singers would know 50 or 60 through growing up with them.' No one was available for comment from An Comunn Gaidhealach at the time of going to press. See Charlie's farewell party, page 14.



Charlie MacColl: unhappy at decline of Gaelic tradition and culture. 20\_f20charlie01

**Decrofting bid on hold**

North Ballachulish couple face wait

A NORTH Ballachulish couple must wait a month to find out whether their controversial bid to turn their croft over to housing development is successful. Donnie and Liz MacGillivray already have planning permission for 10 houses on a three-acre field in the township. But Crofting Commission consent is also required - and at a special hearing a Ballachulish Village Hall on Monday night Mr MacGillivray pleaded his case. Addressing commissioners Colin Kennedy, Murdo MacLennan and I.G. MacDonald, the 57-year-old said the croft had been in his wife Liz's family for many generations and until the 1950s most crofts at North Ballachulish were actively worked. In 2002 the couple obtained planning permission for a new house on the croft, their present home. On applying for another house site in 2006, Highland Council planners advised the area could become 'a key development site' and therefore 'more than one house was preferable'. A revised application for 10 houses, including three 'affordable' was lodged, but rejected by planning committee councillors on a 7-6 vote in May 2010. In October 2010, the Scottish Government Reporter upheld the couple's appeal, ruling the council had provided no evidence the development constituted a loss of valuable agricultural land. The scheme would bring 'nothing but social and economic development' to the area, claimed Mr MacGillivray, and the local primary school would benefit through young families moving in. There would be no adverse effect on the viability of crofting locally as only 'only a handful' of people undertook any crofting activity at all. Angus Cameron at No 27, he said, was the most active crofter and the only one who used the common grazings. 'I do not see the loss of this particular area as having any impact on the sustainability of crofting in the locality,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'I am approaching retirement age and our daughter hopes to return to settle at Ballachulish and hopes to inherit the croft.' Commissioner I.G. MacDonald rebuked Mr MacGillivray - and his neighbours - for not working the land properly as laid down in law. He said: 'Crofters are very privileged people who have statutory duties...to live within 16km of the croft, not to neglect that croft and to cultivate it and maintain it. 'But from what I saw this afternoon there were breaches of duties for every crofter in that township other than Mr Angus Cameron.'

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorrish@obantimes.co.uk

Continued on page 9.



Donnie MacGillivray makes his plea to the commission as his wife Liz and Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill look on. 20\_f20croft01

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**'Greed' at root of council woes**

Continued : Addressing allegations there was interference from MSPs or the party as a whole, he said: 'In my view, when you are elected as councillor you are elected to perform a particular role. MSPs are elected to perform a particular role. If you're elected as a councillor for Argyll and Bute your duty is to serve the interests of the people of Argyll and Bute. 'It is apparent that some people appear not to understand that their role is not to serve the interests of the MSP or the branch.' Michael Russell MSP would not comment on allegations that he interfered with Mr Robb's leadership, but said: 'I'm very pleased that the council group has accepted the NEC's decision. I look forward to working with the council in the future for the benefit of the people of Argyll and Bute. 'My job is to represent the people of Argyll and Bute and I look forward to working as closely as possible with everyone but I very much realise the job of the council is one for councillors to do.'



Lochaber Housing Association staff members Steve MacDonald, Margaret Macdonald, Sheena Coull, Robert Drain, (back) and Kirsty Burns, Aileen Duncan (front) with their award

**Lochaber Housing Association first to gold**

LOCHABER Housing Association (LHA) has become the first in the Highlands to receive gold accreditation for consistent investment in its staff. LHA, marking its 25th anniversary this year, was given the award by Investors in People Scotland, specialists in staff management. LHA chief executive Blair Allan said the award was 'a magnificent way' to mark their anniversary year. He said: 'Only 10 other housing associations in Scotland have been recognised at this level. So, to be awarded this accreditation at this level is a tremendous achievement and a testament to how all the people in this group of companies work together through change, growth and improvement to deliver success.'

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# Spotlight ON Mull



## Iona Primary School pupils reach out across the world

PUPILS at Iona Primary School are making contacts all over the world thanks to the upcoming St Columba celebrations. The youngsters looked up other schools with the word Iona in the name and got in touch with six from America, Australia and New Zealand. Head teacher Liz Kennedy said: 'We have had replies from most of them. We've sent them the book we made about Columba and it was really nice to hear back from these people. One girl from Brisbane has sent presents to all the children and one school in America is celebrating its 20th anniversary. They want us to make a video for them to show on the day so they can say to the children 'this is the real Iona.'

## Island theatre group marks Refugee Week Scotland

THE ISLE of Mull is to play host to a special performance to mark this year's Refugee Week Scotland. Some Other Mother tells the story of a 10-year-old girl and her mother in Glasgow waiting to find out if they have been granted asylum. It is showing at Mull Theatre on June 23. Refugee Week Scotland is part of a UK-wide arts and cultural festival that celebrates the unique skills and talents refugees from around the world bring to Scotland. Proceeds from events during the week will go to the Scottish Refugee Council and the British Red Cross to help support refugees struggling to find safety in Scotland.

## Late summer Zumbathon

THE ANNUAL Zumbathon in Tobermory is to be held in late summer this year - in an attempt to avoid the downpour that hit the event last year. The energetic event brings together people of all ages in raising money for cancer charities. Last year Cancer Research UK was the beneficiary. The Oban Times had mistakenly reported the Zumbathon was to be held this weekend and apologises for any confusion caused.



The First Tobermory Guides acted in Hogburn High, The Night of the Long Words.

## Two-night island drama festival sees powerful plays and comedy gold

A TWO-night drama festival on the Isle of Mull featured powerful plays acted out by school children alongside comedy gold from adults in the drama community. The festival, which took place in Tobermory's Aros Hall, saw drama from local Mull groups with Douglas MacNeilage and Janet MacDonald as master of ceremonies. The adjudicator was former English teacher Jane Russell. Entries from youngsters included The Nosey Prince, written and directed by local teacher Karen Durie and performed by children from Tobermory Primary School. Canada was performed in Gaelic by the children of Bun-Sgoil T-Sailein. Set in 1815, the play followed a family leaving Mull during the Clearances. The First Tobermory Guides acted in

Hogburn High, The Night of the Long Words, by local writer Juliet Antill. The sets were painted by the Guides and the entire group earned badges for drama. During the intervals on both evenings, ladies from the Aros Hall committee, dressed as usherettes, carried illuminated boxes selling ice creams to the sound of a mighty Wurlitzer organ. On the second night audiences were treated to a youth production of a Reduced Romeo and Julie, performed by impACT and directed by Kate Stevens. The group is planning to take a new piece to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. There were four monologues before the second half which featured a darkly comic play called An Embarrassing Odour, by Andrew Biss. This two-hander was performed by

Graham Alexander and Barbara White, who were awarded silver salvers for best actress and best actor. The evening closed with Para Handy, originally adapted by Andrea MacPhail and Mary-Jean Devon and directed by Margaret Campbell-Fenhoulhet. Gill Govan, from the Aros Hall, said: 'All the cast gave great character performances, their collective comic timing was spot on and it deservedly took the trophy for best play. Jane Russell provided insightful and encouraging adjudication on each of the drama nights. For more than 50 years there has been a drama festival on Mull and next year we hope more schools, groups and individuals will join us and give acting a go. Let's aim for three nights.'



## American pastors step in as search goes on for permanent minister

Church congregations in Iona, Bunessan and Crieich have welcomed two American pastors to lead worship while the search for a permanent minister goes on. Rose Taul and Diane Shields, from Chicago, have stepped in to cover all three churches until June. The pair arrived just after Easter following the previous minister's departure last November. It is hoped an interim minister can be found soon.

## Holiday job lasts 45 years

AN ISLE of Mull woman headed off on a summer holiday only to find a job in which she has spent the last 45 years. Jacqueline Farquhar, better known to Muileachs as Jacqueline McFadyen, is now the longest serving female employee of Chivas Brothers in Dumbarton after joining the company in 1968. She said: 'My sister and her husband lived in Dumbarton, and when I left school at the age of 15 I went to stay with them for the summer. My brother-in-law asked what I wanted to do with my life and I admitted I didn't know so he suggested I go to the local distillery and enquire about vacancies. I filled in an application and by the time I arrived back on Mull there was a letter waiting for me, inviting me to an interview with Hiram Walker, as the company was then known. Jacqueline began working in the mail room at the company's High Street offices but after three months took up the role of lab technician. She has worked in quality control ever since, nosing and

testing samples of spirit before it is bottled, and checking all labels and packaging are correct. She added: 'I enjoy my work - that's why I've stayed all these years. Even now every day is different. One of my fondest memories is the time I went to South Korea to help test samples out there. I also remember when we won the Queen's Award for Industry in 1968 and were each given two half-bottles of whisky as a present. I've seen a lot of changes over the years, but they've all been for the better. I'm a whisky drinker myself - Scapa 16 Year Old is my favourite - so it's amazing to see how whisky has grown and how many countries our products are shipped to now. As well as being a member of the Chivas Brothers sailing club, Jacqueline has been a Scout leader for 40 years, is a church elder at the West Kirk in Dumbarton, an RNLI volunteer and Christian Aid fundraiser. She also enjoys helping out on her brother Iain's farm on Mull, particularly during the lambing season and at harvest - when she drives tractors.



Jacqueline with her original job offer letter from 1968.

## Revellers stop off at The Station



A free service on offer at this year's Mull Music Festival saw revellers take up the offer of 75 cups of tea and more than 300 condoms. The Station, a youth sexual health drop-in clinic in Tobermory, had staff out in force during the festival with a stall set up on the Main Street. Natasha Astill, who set up The Station, was running the stall alongside community nurse Joyce McIntyre, left. The pair are pictured braving the weather during the festival. The Station is open every Wednesday from 12pm until 2pm in Tobermory Community Fire Station.

## Amateur radio enthusiasts descend on Mull in the hope of speaking to thousands

A GROUP of amateur radio enthusiasts descended on the Isle of Mull this week in the hope of speaking to thousands of people. A total of 13 members of Camb-Hams, from near Cambridge, are tackling the islands challenge in which they attempt to speak to other radio users in as many island groups around the world as possible. The members of Camb-Hams were on Mull from May 10 to 16, staying on the Auchnacraig Estate, near the village of Lochdon, where they say there is 'plenty of space to put antennas up'. Organiser Rob Chipperfield said: 'Within amateur radio there are a number of award schemes available. One of these involves speaking to other amateurs in as many different countries as possible, with certificates for 100, 200, 300 and so on different countries. For those who have ticked all 340 off the current list, or prefer something different, there's another challenge: islands. From Friday May 10 until Thursday May 16, 13 of us from near Cambridge headed up to Mull with the intention of speaking to as many people as possible in that time. Some will want to speak to the Inner Hebrides for the Islands on the Air award, some probably to speak to Scotland for the first time and others just to say hello and find out what we're up to. On HF (shortwave), we'll be speaking to people from all around the world - obviously all around the UK and Europe, but also the USA, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries. The group visited Mull last year where they made more than 10,000 contacts in the week - a figure they will try and better this year.



## Tiroran House

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## Islay Letter

### Country dancing

COUNTRY dancers from all airts, including an enthusiast from the USA, descended on the island for the local branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's annual weekend of dancing and entertainment at Bowmore. Calling the dances and putting the members through their paces at the branch's 31st annual get-together was tutor Anne Robertson, no stranger to these shores, and providing the music was Prestwick musician Iain Muir and his Scottish dance band who were making their Bowmore debut. The packed out open ceildh on the Friday evening produced a varied programme compered by branch chairwoman Margaret Aitchison. Providing the entertainment was piper James Carmichael and his pupils from the island's high school and guest vocalist Sheena Swanson. Further songs came from Louis Davey and Hannah Gillies who provided her own clarsach accompaniment. Emily Gray also sang and joined with Abby Morris, a fellow pupil from the Ella Edgar School of Dance, in some spirited Highland dances. Raffle prizes, many donated by distilleries in Islay and Jura, made for an eagerly awaited draw resulting in the 'spirit of the isles' going to local homes and faraway places. The tastefully decorated village hall enhanced the Scottish theme of the evening and everyone who contributed to the success of the event were warmly commended by branch secretary Gina MacAuslan. The country dance weekend is now deeply woven into the social fabric of the island and is regarded as one of the most enjoyable and successful events of its kind in the country.

### Wedding blessing

JAPANESE couple Yoshika and Tatsuya Kobayashi love all things Scottish and Scotch whisky in particular. This was more than evident when they tied the knot in their native Japan on Burns Night in January of this year. They also have a close affinity with Islay. Yoshika is a member of a prestigious

whisky club, and decided to have their marriage vows blessed at the Round Church in Bowmore. Carrying out the blessing was parish minister the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, the piper was James Carmichael and the floral arrangements were provided by Fiona Doyle. Formalities over, the couple enjoyed hospitality at Bowmore Distillery, cut their wedding cake at Ardbeg Distillery and were also well entertained at Bruichladdich. Other distilleries also pulled out the stops and the newly blessed couple also enjoyed hospitality at the Islay, Port Charlotte and Lochside hotels. Carrying out the local arrangements was the one and only Christine Logan of the 'Lady of the Isles' fame who caters for many overseas visitors, including a large percentage from the far east. The Kobayashis enjoyed an action packed weekend on the island and everyone wishes them many happy years together.

### Top manager

EDDIE MacAffer, manager of Bowmore Distillery, is walking proud after being named manager of the year by Whisky Magazine and now joins the publication's annual icons of whisky. With more than 40 years' service at the distillery, he has steered Bowmore through good times and bad and his pride in and passion for the distillery is evident to everyone who comes into contact with him. In a long distilling career, he has worked in the warehouse, the malt barn, the still and mash houses. He also served as head maltman, brewer and distillery before taking up the managerial reins. Eddie is exceedingly proud to have been honoured in this way and was delighted that his colleague and fellow Ileaich John MacLellan, manager of Kilchoman Distillery, was runner up in the whisky icon awards. 'This goes to show,' said Eddie, 'how well we look after our distillery visitors here on Islay.' And who would argue with that? Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

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Mull & Iona's local community magazine

**New date for Morar Gala Day**

ORGANISERS will try for a second time to stage Morar Gala Day at the Lovat Memorial Field, Morar, on Saturday. Bad weather and poor ground conditions forced the cancellation of the community event on May 6.

**Road works in the Uists for two weeks**

WESTERN Isles Council's roads surface dressing programme is underway with two weeks of work in the Uists. The mobile works will transfer to Harris on or around May 27 for around a week then move to Lewis for a further three-week period. All works are weather dependent and may be subject to delays and alteration. The comhairle thanks the public for their patience and co-operation and drivers are advised to note signs, speed limits and traffic management.

**Free public talk on Lochaber**

'LOCHABER: The Last Bandit Country or Jacobite Heartland?' will be the topic of the next Royal Society of Edinburgh's free public talk on Tuesday. Professor Allan Macinnes will deliver the lecture in the Sunart Centre, Strontian, at 7pm. The event will finish in time for people to catch the Corran Ferry back over the loch.

**Annual netball tournament**

THE ANNUAL Fort William primary schools netball tournament is being held at Lochaber High School this afternoon (Thursday). Schools taking part include Banavie, Caol, Upper Achintore, Lochside RC, Inverloch and Fort William RC.

**Lady golfers compete in inter-club match**

THE ANNUAL ladies inter-club match up saw golfers from Fort William, Spean Bridge and Triagh competing at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday. The home side ran out winners with a total of 77 points to take home the Inverloch Castle Tray. Spean Bridge finished runners up with Triagh third.



Top Scot: Gary MacDonald, left, celebrates his podium place at the awards ceremony with winner Dougie Lampkin, centre, and runner-up James Dabill. Photo: Donald Young

**Gary's delight at trial podium place**

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald is the pride of Lochaber after claiming a superb third place in the Scottish Six Days Trial. The 29-year-old joiner sprung into contention by completing all sections clean on day two and was always in with a chance of a podium spot as he battled it out with the world's best. MacDonald, riding for MRS on a Sherco, posted another strong performance throughout Saturday and had dropped just a single penalty point before the difficult Glen Nevis section. Five faults there meant he ended the trial with a total of 32 - but other top riders also slipped up, making the contest for third too tight to call. In the end, MacDonald edged out Ross Danby by a single mark and when he was announced as third best rider and top Scottish performer just before midnight it was the biggest cheer of the night at the awards ceremony in the Nevis Centre. A delighted Gary told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a whole weight off my shoulders and the roar and cheer I got was amazing. I could not be happier. It has been brilliant, especially because it has been a decade since I was on the podium. It is definitely nice to be up there among the best in the world and beat some of the full-time professional riders. I'm absolutely delighted. It was great to get something out of it because I really dedicate myself to the sport. The entire week went extremely well even if the weather was really rotten at times. At no point did I feel tired or sore. I did make a few silly mistakes, especially on Friday, but I really could not have ridden any better.'

He added: 'I'd like to thank my local business sponsors and especially my parents and my uncle James, who were my support team. They went round in the van the whole week with supplies and spare parts.' Dougie Lampkin dropped only 11 points to win by 15 from James Dabill in second, with MacDonald a further six points back. Roy Bridge teenager Jack Dignan won the best Scottish newcomer award, coming a highly creditable 99th out of 265 starters.

**Bid for extra trains boosts ferry hopes**

HOPES for the re-establishment of the Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry link have been rekindled following a new move to increase Sunday rail services to Arisaig and Mallaig.

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

Leading the drive is Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, who wants extra trains laid on to west Lochaber from Fort William so passengers can connect with new Sunday sailings to the Small Isles and Knoydart. Should that happen, Councillor Henderson believes the general uplift in traffic would give new impetus to the stalled South Uist ferry link campaign.

In a reply last week, Mr Montgomery said: 'The rail services operated by ScotRail are specified by Scottish Ministers - including rolling stock and any significant changes to the timetable are also subject to Transport Scotland's consent. We will therefore pass on your request to Transport Scotland and will arrange to discuss this with them to determine if they would wish us to consider some additional services and, if so, provide the additional funding required to support these services.'

In a letter to ScotRail, the provost told managing director Steve Montgomery that linking up trains and ferries makes good business sense. He said: 'Now that the Small Isles have a new Sunday service to Rum and Canna at 9.40 and a 14.55 [sailing] to Eigg and Muck, and Knoydart also has regular departures leaving Mallaig from 10.30 and 12.30 on, and the original 11am from Arisaig to Eigg and Muck continues, it is surely time for ScotRail to do their bit for public services, which we are all trying to encourage. This surely should mean that you have a good case for expanding the franchise from Transport Scotland by allowing passengers to get to Mallaig/ Arisaig to catch these services. 'Please consider this, at least on a summer basis, so that we can have a joined up service in the west.'

develop Scotland's railways. Councillor Henderson told *The Oban Times*: 'If ScotRail are able to put on this service I can see it as a catalyst to CalMac securing the Mallaig to Lochboisdale ferry - a least for the summer season.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'Any decision to increase the frequency of train services will be dependent on demand and affordability. We look forward to discussing these proposals with ScotRail and other key stakeholders, including HITRANS. The discussions will also consider the issue of connectivity with ferry services.'

She added: 'The Scottish Government recognises the importance of rail in developing tourism in the Highlands. That is why, from May 2014, the number of trains between Oban and the Central Belt will be increased to six trains a day during the summer and five services a day in the winter. This service enhancement will not only improve connections to and from the islands served by one of Scotland's busiest ferry ports, but will also boost the tourism industry in the Oban area and in Scotland as a whole.'



Fort William Rangers supporter Bradley Flannigan, centre, with John Brown and Mark Hateley at the BA Club.

**Ex-Rangers football stars guests at Fort fundraiser**

EX-RANGERS football stars John Brown and Mark Hateley were celebrity guests at a charity fundraiser in Fort William on Saturday night. Around 130 people attended the 'Blue Do' at the BA Club and raised £3,400 for the British Heart Foundation, the Beatson cancer treatment centre in Glasgow and the Rangers Supporters' Erskine Appeal. Former Kinlochleven head teacher John McGilp helped organise the event after a similar fundraiser in his home town of Kilmours last year, held following the death of his father, raised £3,800. A raffle and auction of items including a Northern Ireland shirt signed by David Healy and an Everton strip signed by Nikica Jelavic, Stevie Naismith, David Weir and Chris Woods boosted the total, Mr McGilp told *The Oban Times*.



Commissioners Colin Kennedy, Murdo MacLennan and I G MacDonald hear evidence. 20\_120crof02

**North Ballachulish couple face wait**

**Continued from page one** Andrew Murchison, agent for North Ballachulish grazings committee, who oppose the decrofting bid, put it to Mr MacGillivray that profit was his sole motive. 'It is not the case that apart from three homes any economic benefit will go to one place - your pocket?' 'Yes, but the people will use the local shop, buy petrol and help the local economy,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'You have not worked this croft for many, many years. This development leaves the croft without a natural house site, making it a less attractive proposal for a new crofting entrant to come in. The Crofting Commission want to rejuvenate this crofting community and find someone that has drive and really get this croft going. It would be far more attractive let as it stands.' 'I suppose that's true, but take a look at the other crofts,' Mr MacGillivray replied. Mr Murchison asked: 'How would you describe crofting in North Ballachulish?' 'It's not a community - it's a gathering of crofts that are not well worked if worked at all,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'A community is supposed to live together, but I don't see that down there.' Proceedings took a dramatic turn when Mr Murchison suggested Mr MacGillivray's decrofting bid was 'incompetent and void' because it did not match his owner-occupied croft boundaries and partly covered land of a neighbouring tenanted croft. The applicant's title does not appear to include the full area to be decrofted,' he said. Commissioner Colin Kennedy asked Mr MacGillivray's agent Jeremy Benfield: 'Do you accept that there is a potential discrepancy and that part of the croft is part-owned and part tenanted. What are the implications if that proves to be the case?' Mr Benfield replied: 'It is not accepted at this stage that the decrofting subjects do not coincide. The intention in submitting the decrofting application is that the subjects comprising the application come under Donald MacGillivray's title. If there are any discrepancies then that is inadvertent and is the result of the poor quality of the title plan but in the meantime if there are material discrepancies then the rest of the hearing could be taken under that once the position has been clarified.' Concluding proceedings, Mr MacLennan said: 'In three or four weeks we will come to a decision and any decision we do reach can be appealed to the land court.'

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The fun run gets underway from Inverloch Primary School on Saturday. 20\_120fun01

**Inverloch pupils quick off the mark**

INVERLOCHY Parent Council staged a fun run on Saturday morning to help raise funds for the school. Pupils encouraged their friends and family to sponsor them to run or walk from Inverloch Primary School gates to Old Inverloch Castle and back again - a distance of approximately two miles. All cash raised goes towards regular extra-curricular activities and school trips Inverloch pupils enjoy throughout the year.

**Club stages tough hill race**

SKYE AND Lochalsh Running Club is staging a tough hill race along the Trotternish Ridge in North Skye on Saturday. The 17.5-mile route, which starts at Flodrigarry and ends at the Storr, involves 7,500 feet of climbing among magnificent scenery such as the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr. The course is unmarked and competitors are required to carry a map and compass. Event organiser Neil Turner said: 'We have 50 runners registered but still have a few places left for experienced hill runners due to drop outs.' Anyone interested in taking part can enter via sientries.co.uk or contact Neil at neilturner@btinternet.com. Registration is at Portree High School between 9am and 10am on race morning.

**Views sought on forest**

FORESTRY Commission Scotland and Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) are holding drop-in events next week to get the public's views on how Leanachan Forest near Fort William could be developed for tourism and recreation. Ideas gathered from the sessions at the Pinemarten Café Bar at Nevis Range on Tuesday between 4.30pm-7pm and Wednesday between 10am-3.30pm will go towards shaping a 'masterplan' for developing 60 hectares near the ski resort. The blueprint will focus on attracting private sector investment for a new sustainable leisure and accommodation development.

**Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's £1.9m European cash boost for business centre**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig has received £1.9 million European development cash from the Scottish Government to develop a business centre. The new building at Skye's Gaelic college will house up to 20 new businesses and offer accommodation for 20 staff on its Kilbeg Village site. The development will support up to 60 new construction jobs, including six youth apprenticeships, and more than 20 full time positions in the new centre. Work on the £6.1 million project will get underway this month and is due for completion in early 2015. The project forms the keystone of a long term-project to build a new conference centre, community sport facility and a mixed tenure village at Kilbeg. Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the funding at a European Structural Funds event at Glasgow Caledonian University on Tuesday. She said: 'Investment in projects like the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye is absolutely key for stimulating economic growth throughout Scotland. This new building will provide much-needed new facilities for the people of Skye, which will boost its reputation on a national level and help to attract more investment to the area. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig chairman Sheriff Roddy John MacLeod said: 'It is not every day an institution gets the opportunity to pursue such an iconic development which will not only 'future-proof' Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's own estate development needs but will also, in partnership with the local community, create the first new village to be built on the island in more than 100 years.'

SNP MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Dave Thompson said: 'As Sabhal Mòr Ostaig celebrates its 40th anniversary, this funding will make a major contribution to the future of the college, as well as delivering an economic boost to Kilbeg and the Skye and Lochalsh community.'

**Turning back time in Newtonmore**

THE CLOCKS will be turned back to the late 1800s in Newtonmore this Sunday when Badenoch and Brae Lochaber re-enact their first meeting. Players and spectators will be dressed in Victorian garb for the replay of a 16-a-side 0-0 draw played out at Dalchully on January 16, 1889. The match will mark the completion of a two-year project on the history of shinty which has been led by Newtonmore Camanachd secretary Ian Gibson. A report of the original game from Brae Lochaber captain J McDonald reads: 'Played Badenoch and District on 16th Janry '89 at Dalhullie (sic), had the best of it nearly all through, very bad luck in not scoring. Ground poor and small. Played ½ time with bad hair ball which spoilt our play altogether. They were pretty rough and hails [goals] were only 9ft square. Result - No hails by either.' Two Brae Lochaber players on the day, brothers Jack and William McDonald of Keppoch, both later held the position of president at the Camanachd Association. The day will begin with the teams piped onto the pitch at The Eilan at 2pm before the referee reads out the rules for the day, which will not include the offside rule. Throw up is at 2.30pm.

Lochaber currently sit second bottom of shinty's premiership and is still looking for its first league win of 2013.

**Shinty club confirms new manager**

LOCHABER Camanachd has confirmed Callum Cameron as its new manager following the recent departure of Michael Delaney. Cameron worked as assistant manager at the Spean Bridge club before Delaney stood down in April and has taken charge of the team in recent weeks on an interim basis.

Cameron told *The Oban Times* he was 'excited' about his new role. He said: 'We've got a lot of hard work to do, but we're starting to see green shoots coming through.'

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Will much of the 'Iona' message be missed?

THIS weekend marks the start of a triple celebration on the Isle of Iona.

A thanksgiving service within Iona Abbey will mark the arrival of Saint Columba 1,450 years ago, an arrival which placed the small island of Iona firmly at the forefront of the Christian map of Europe and which shaped much of the history, both socially and politically, of the west coast of Scotland and beyond.

To emphasise that point, the event also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Iona Community by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace; and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Iona Community's island hub, the MacLeod Centre.

This weekend's initial celebrations will be attended by senior church leaders from across Scotland and will include the official opening of Historic Scotland's new Abbey Museum.

However, it is unfortunate that leading political figures from both sides of the Irish sea will be missing from the invited party.

The offices of the First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond and the Taoiseach of Ireland, Enda Kenny, have confirmed they are unable to attend, although Alex Salmond has indicated his intent visit Iona later in the year.

Neither the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson, nor the Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness will attend the celebrations and the absence of this line-up of modern day Celtic power lords will greatly reduce an aspect of media coverage that would have heightened diverse international interest in an event which is in danger of slipping under the radar.

In his day, Saint Columba proved an effective and influential politician in altering the attitude of the people he met. Perhaps today's politicians can only look back on his achievements with wonder and envy.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain

FOR THE third date of their current tour, one which will take them to Spain as well as many village halls, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain enthralled a packed Oran Mor in Glasgow as they talked and played their way through the evening.

Indeed, there may have been some in the audience left wondering if they had booked tickets for a comedy show such as the quality of the entertainment provided by this duo.

It is now more than 25 years since they started playing together but they play with the same enthusiasm and enjoyment as if they were just starting out. From the moment they came on stage they were totally relaxed. The tunes varied from slow airs to some which Phil himself admitted were faster than they had intended and with suitable explanations of the origins of the tunes the audience had the perfect lift during miserable spring weather.

Oran Mor will host the Montreal-based group Genticorum on Wednesday June 5 and the following evening Breabach will be playing there.

#### Ceol's Craic

THE FINAL meeting of the popular Gaelic Club will take place on Saturday May 25 in the usual venue, the CCA on Sauchiehall Street, when the theme will be ballads, love and murder.

The concert will feature Kathleen MacInnes, Alasdair Whyte and Mischa MacPherson. I will provide full details next week.

#### Showcase concert

STUDENTS of the Traditional Music Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will stage their end of term concert this evening (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

With the full array of traditional instruments and, of course, vocals these concerts, featuring some of our best young musical talent, are well worth attending.

#### Fintray Music Festival

THIS annual festival will take place in Fintray Sport's Club from tomorrow evening, Friday May 17, until Sunday evening May 19.

The programme will be

as follows: Friday: Johnny Lee Memphis as 'Elvis' supported by Acoustic Station at 8pm. Saturday: Hue and Cry supported by Dodgy Characters at 8pm. Sunday: Blazin' Fiddles supported by the Duncan McCrone Band at 7.30pm. For tickets telephone 01360 860205 or booking@fintraysportsclub.co.uk

#### Grand Ceilidh Ball

TO RAISE funds for this year's Royal National Mod and to celebrate the first visit of the Mod to Paisley, the organising committee is holding a Grand Ceilidh Ball in the Glynhill Hotel on Friday May 31 at 7.30pm.

Music for the dancing at the black tie event will be provided by Deoch'n Dorus, the 2012 winners of the Scottish Dance Band of the Year, and tickets will cost £35. For tickets contact modphail-sig@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07535 514385.

#### New AGM date

THE DATE of the AGM of Comunn an Taobh an Iar has been changed from that published last week.

It will take place at the Ellangown Social Club, Milngavie, at 7.30pm on Thursday May 23.

#### Diary dates

Thursday May 16: Showcase Concert - see above.

Friday May 17 to Sunday May 19: Fintray Music Festival - see above.

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

Tuesday May 21: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, Jennifer Crook.

Thursday May 23: Comunn an Taobh an Iar AGM - see above.

Saturday May 25: Ceol's Craic - see above. British Pipe Band Championships, Meadow Park, Bathgate, West Lothian. Donnie Munro, Mauchline - free open air concert.

#### Pub scene

TRAIL West will play in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday while Micky McMichan will be there on Friday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Black Velvet on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

### YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

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

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



## Oban Post Office football team 1963-64

Ken Ross of Inverness submitted this week's flashback photograph which features the Oban Post Office football team from 1963/64. Included in the line-up are: Ken Ross, Ewan McFarlane, John Morrison, Jim Black, Neil ?, Alex Shairp; Pingie Robertson, Johnny ?, Jackie McInnes, Billy Cooper and Wilson Scott. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Islanders pay the same towards Oban Airport

Sir,  
Presumably Mr Ian Reid's letter headlined 'Should islanders pay for Oban Airport?' was published for the sake of balance.

In his letter Mr Reid asserts that 'the cost of the facility is borne by mainland taxpayers' and wonders 'whether these three island communities should dig into their own pockets'.

Clearly it is going to come as quite a revelation to Mr Reid that Tiree, Coll and Colonsay are not independent republics, nor even UK or Argyll and Bute Council Tax exempt zones.

We pay the same rates of local and national taxes as the mainlanders from whom he seeks to divide us.

The Argyll islands may be an inconvenient and expensive fact to Mr Reid but clearances have gone right out of fashion since St Kilda and note, Oban is not exactly the centre of the universe from a Glasgow or Edinburgh point of view so his regressive ideas could equally be applied on the next scale up.

It might also surprise him to learn that the original idea to set up the Oban/islands air service came not from the islands but from the mainland, probably with a view to ensuring funding for the upgrade of Oban Airport so that the much sought after direct connection with Glasgow - the indirect connection now exists via Tiree - might be attained in the long term.

Improving the connections to further flung outposts was in all likelihood just an unavoidable necessity; a European funding stipulation that had to be met to achieve a quite different aim.

Reading between the lines Mr Reid's real concern seems to be the threat of closure of Oban's Atlantis Leisure Centre and he sees other local services as competitors for the same funding stream that might avert that closure.

Anyone who has dabbled in the art of fund sourcing knows it's a wee bit trickier than that. Peter Isaacson, Coll.

### Divided opinion

Sir,  
Oban Airport seems to divide opinion more than the Berlin wall used to and, to some extent, this is understandable.

What is not understandable is how people seem to react to every single story printed in your pages about the great white elephant/saviour of the isles.

Not a few weeks ago, your paper carried a story about the plans for the airport and how the council was keen on enhancing this service it described as a lifeline to the isles, if memory serves.

Days pass and, lo and behold, letters appear decrying the story as unfair and inaccurate - the airport is a joke, they say.

And as soon as night becomes day, we have the opposite, a letter appears accusing your paper of having a downer on the airport because people dare express a contrasting opinion.

What is the missing link? People on the islands love the airport and with good reason.

They're getting a service they could never have dreamed of - nor can they justify financially. People on the mainland, meanwhile, see all this money being spent on the airport and see very little back in return.

Where is the extra tourism? Where are the routes to Glasgow or Inverness the Oban economy so desperately needs? Where is the profit and revenue such an investment should surely demand?

There is no question; the airport has been mismanaged - this is exemplified neatly by the polarised views either side of the runway. It's about time this venture was run with a commercial mind as much as it is an emotive one.

A Rodger, via email.

### Mere mortals have no control over weather

Sir,  
I could not believe the sensationalised heading in *The Oban Times* of May 9, regarding the *PS Waverley*.

Yes, it was disappointing not to be able to sail to and land on Iona, but the alternative was more than acceptable despite the mist and rain and all the people on board that we chatted to seemed quite happy.

The majority of passengers book to travel on the *Waverley* for the experience of sailing in a piece of history and to support the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society and not necessarily for the destination which is an added bonus in good weather conditions.

However, weather conditions were poor on Monday and small boat transfer to Iona for the 395 passengers onboard was deemed unsafe by the experienced operators of that craft in the conditions prevailing on that side of Mull.

Therefore, the sensible alternative decision was made to visit Tobermory, as the Sound of Mull was in a more protected sea state and also the pier was available for disembarking.

At 83, I would have expected the angry lady from Caol to be a little more tolerant and realise that mere mortals have no control over the elements.

There are other ways of visiting Iona at any time of the year without expecting perfect conditions on one particular day especially when travelling by sea.

If the lady had stayed on board, she would have known that passengers were offered vouchers towards future sailings on *Waverley* as compensation for an altered programme.

Doreen Evans, Port Appin.

### Rent increase a mistake

Sir,  
Regards the article about the hugely increased rent for Soroba Young Families Group in last week's *Oban Times*, I believe Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is making a great mistake.

As a parent and grandmother, I am upset at the potential loss of a wonderful facility.

My two younger children attended it in its early years in the last century when it occupied one converted flat and later a small extension.

Now in the 21st century, my grand daughter attends the nursery at Soroba Young Families Group and I am thrilled that from such small beginnings it has gone from strength to strength.

My grand daughter loves it there, as do many other children who come from Soroba and all over Oban.

As a result of its success and popularity, the group has now expanded into the adjoining flat. At the time it was owned by Argyll and Bute Council, which converted this facility. They evidently saw the value of Soroba Young Families.

The planned huge rent increase is not only a massive threat to the existence of the group but is also a major death blow to the whole of Soroba. If the group is forced to relocate or even shut down because no alternative premises are found, they will leave a great gaping hole in the community.

The focal point of Soroba will be extinguished.

Over the years I have seen Soroba housing estate scheme improve, largely due to the existence of Soroba Young Families.

From being a place with hard to let houses it is now perceived as a desirable place that people include in their list of choices when applying for social housing.

Would ACHA want to lose out on this good reputation? ACHA should see Soroba Young Families as an investment. Good infra structure to support social housing!

Sarah Swain-Nisbet.

### Late Lord would have been amused

Sir,  
The announcement that the famous Book of Kells is being brought to Oban from the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, as part of the St Columba celebrations next month would have amused the late Lord Macleod of Finlary.

When George Macleod was Leader of the Iona Community Dr Eamonn de Valera, the prime minister of Eire, arrived unannounced on the island.

Greatly impressed by what he found he asked his host if there was anything he could do for him.

'You can return to us the Book of Kells which was printed here' was the swift response.

There was a slight pause followed by the retort, 'you can have the Book of Kells if you agree to bringing Iona into the Irish Free State'.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

### Loss of lambs to eagles and foxes

Sir,  
A most lively and cogently felt debate, this issue of the loss of lambs to eagles and to foxes.

The latter can be dealt with by a lead injection.

Flock masters feel the loss of lambs deeply both from a commercial viewpoint and the distress caused to ewes.

Those with little knowledge of animal husbandry can certainly agree with shepherds on this emotive issue.

It is hoped that redress is extended generously to cover the losses which involve months

of care and at times work of a strenuous nature.

Shepherds have deep feelings for their charges. Farming exists under great pressure.

Is there another aspect of the conservation of eagles? Is there empirical evidence that eagles control numbers of huddies, foxes, rabbits, gulls, even small deer?

Is it known that eagles can at times drive deer over a precipice and consume the carcasses. Does a case exist for the defence of eagles acting as nature dictators?

Doubleless controversy is ongoing.

Are there any answers which meet the demands of both sides of this dilemma?

Captain John S Colman, Ardentinny, Argyll.

### MP's outrage at savage island cuts

Sir  
The independent review of the SNP's decision to scrap Road Equivalent Tariff ferry fares for commercial vehicles being carried to and from Tiree and Coll highlighted the devastating effect that decision has inflicted on these islands.

Ferry carryings have been cut by more than a sixth.

While Liberal Democrats at Westminster have helped our islands by cutting fuel duty by five pence a litre, it is outrageous that the SNP at Holyrood has caused so much damage to island businesses with the huge fare increases they imposed on hauliers.

Islanders are also paying far more in the shops because of the SNP's meanness.

This year, the UK Government is giving the Scottish Government £1,600 more to spend per person than is spent in England, so I'm outraged that the SNP chose to make these savage cuts to fragile island economies.

The SNP must reverse these disastrous fare increases and do as they promised before the election and allow our islands to benefit from RET on commercial vehicles.

### Dogs Trust summer warning

Sir,  
With the Great British summer hopefully on its way soon, Dogs Trust would like to remind people taking their four-legged family members on excursions not to leave dogs alone in cars.

Our advice is to never leave your dog in the car alone - with temperatures easily reaching more than 40 degrees in some parked vehicles, dogs could die within minutes. Parking in the shade with the window down does not make it safe.

Ensure you keep your dog as cool as possible when driving, avoid travelling during the heat of the day, use sun blinds and open a window to allow for a cooling breeze.

Ensure you have a supply of water as dogs can suffer from dehydration very quickly and if you do see a dog in distress please contact your local police station or the SSPCA.

Anyone wanting advice about travelling with their dog should visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) or contact 020 7837 0006.

Paula Boyden, Dogs Trust Veterinary Director.

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

BHA MI Tàmailteach nach b' urrainn dhomh bhith aig an Ughaidh faisg air Poll Iù Diardaoin seo chaidh nuair a bhathas a' cuimhneachadh na chaidh a chall air conbhoighean dhan Ruis aig àm an Dàrna Cogaidh.

Tha Loch Iù sònraichte dhomh fhìn air sgàth 's gun do sheòl m' athair a-mach à sin iomadh uair aig àm a' chogaidh is e na mharaidhe sa Chhabhlach Mharsanta. Ged nach do dh'innis e mòran riamh mun àm sin, chuala mi e caochladh uairean a' bruidhinn air an fhuachd uabhasach ann an raointean tuath a' Chuain an Iar agus mar a dh'fheumte a dhòl air deic a bhriseadh na deighe is a cuideam an impis car a chur den t-soitheach. Cha chreid mi gun robh m' athair air conbhoighean dhan Ruis idir, 's ann a bha e san a' siubhal tarsainn gu ruige Canada agus Ameireagaidh. Leanaidh cuimhne dhomh air àm greiseag mun do chaochail e, bha e tinn is troimh-a-chèile is cuimhneachain a rèir coltais a' dèiligeadh às ùr na intinn is thug e iomradh air an eagal a bh' orra uile air na bàtaichean sin. Bha e san air tancairean ola agus glè mhòthachail air cho beag dòchais 's a bh' aca nam bualadh urchar de sheòrsa sam bith orra! Agus cionnas nach biodh eagal air neach ciallach sam bith a' cur aghaidh ri gàbhadh cogaidh agus gu sònraichte balach òga air an togail gu blàr 's gun iad ach an ìre mhath air an sgoil fhàgail! Chailleadh na mìltean ach chan eil dearbhadh gun do dh'ionnsaich mac an duine luach an t-sìth.

Bha beagan an làthair am Poll Iù Diardaoin a fhuair dhach-aigh sàbhailte agus mu dheireadh thall, chaidh comharradh oifigeil a dhèanamh air an cuid gaisge. Tha mi air mòran de na bha an sàs sa chogadh a chluinntinn ag ràdh gun do thilg iad bhuapa na buinn a fhuair iad airson sabaid agus tuigidh mi sin. Ach cha tuig mi idir carson a thug Breatann faisg air seachd bliadhna gus aithne a thoirt dha na seòladairean a dh'fhuiling air na conbhoighean dhan Ruis. 'S e masladh a bha seo agus, a' nochdadh air an aon seachdain ris an aithne air Balach Bevin a chuireadh dha na mèinnichean-guail, cha b' iongnadh ged a bhithge ga fhàgail air ceannard nam feachdan dìon nach b' fhaicheadh ach feadhainn air an robh trusgan oifigeil.

...THOUSANDS at his bidding speed, and post o'er land and ocean without rest; they also serve who only stand and wait.'

Milton was writing of his impending blindness, but he could well have been describing some experiences of World War 2 and recognising that virtually everyone in Britain played a part. It is shameful that it has taken successive governments almost 70 years to acknowledge the courage of the merchant seamen who served on the Arctic convoys to Russia, and equally sad that the Bevin Boys' contribution is only now being recognised. Bravery doesn't always wear a uniform.

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

## Times Diary

COOLIO, Oban's favourite snowman, is making the most of the summer weather - if *The Oban Times'* mailbag is anything to go by.

So far, our intrepid reporters have received two postcards from the jet-setting Oban Winter Festival mascot - one from James Bond Island in Thailand and the other from Australia's Great Barrier Reef. With the mercury tipping 35 degrees, the beaches were more a *Gangsta's Paradise* than the arctic conditions Coolio is used to. Thankfully the friendly snowman has found himself a freezer to sleep in - and promises he'll be back in time for this November's winter extravaganza.

DIARY was surprised to learn that men on the west coast of Scotland are being offered a cheeky way to make extra money.

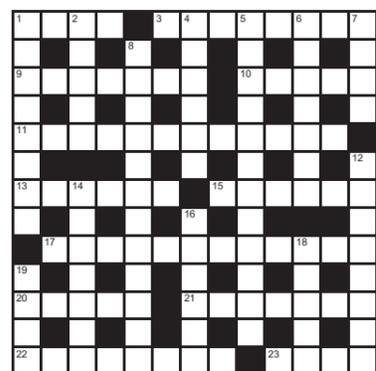
Butlers in the Buff are looking to recruit 'gorgeous men in the Oban & West Highland area to serve drinks and nibbles with a cheeky twist'. Apparently it pays £25 per hour with the women ordering paying £55 per hour for the service - we can only see one problem, there's not many men walking down George Street like this.

INVENTIVE scientists have set up with a unique new way to make yourself attractive at the beach - bacon sunscreen.

That's right, if you love the smell of a fry up in the morning this lotion is ideal to protect you from the sizzling hot weather. Apparently 100 per cent of people prefer the smell of bacon to coconuts - *Diary* isn't sure these people knew what their opinions would be used to promote! And the sunscreen also comes with a health warning: 'please note that while pigs are not natural prey for sharks, we can't guarantee that they won't be ravenously hungry after smelling you.'

Diary doesn't like to think of itself as turning its back on new things but in this case we'll be sticking with good old Ambre Solaire.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Across  | Down                         |
| 1 Bore (4)  | 1 Set off (8)                |
| 3 Heavier than (8)                                  | 2 Acquired relative (2-3)    |
| 9 Get ready for the off! (5-2)                      | 4 Underwater vessels (1-5)   |
| 10 Allowed (5)                                      | 5 Polite (4-8)               |
| 11 The most-read history book - part 2? (3,9)       | 6 Burn up (7)                |
| 13 Clothing which sound uncomfortably clingy... (6) | 7 Dislike (4)                |
| 15 ...clothing line (6)                             | 8 Raised blood pressure (12) |
| 17 Maddening curve! (5,3,4)                         | 12 Just a touch (8)          |
| 20 One who gives a way out (5)                      | 14 Venerate (7)              |
| 21 Warm-up (7)                                      | 16 Daze (6)                  |
| 22 Parting word (8)                                 | 18 Avoid (5)                 |
|   | 19 Scottish girl (4)         |
|   | 23 Beach bird (4)            |

## Last week's solution



# Sky's the limit for Mary's Meals' marvellous makers

A GROUP of women are raising thousands of pounds for charity by creating unique and imaginative items when they meet round a kitchen table in North Connell.

Dorothy Hitchin, Heather Morrison, Cathie Miller, Sara Hiam, Angela Coletta and Jenny Macdonald get together to make and sell items for Mary's Meals, the Dalmally-based charity which feeds children in schools around the world.

But the difference between things you would normally see on sale for charity and what these ladies create is sheer innovation. A handbag made out of old cassettes, a mobile phone cover from old carrier bags or tissue cases from poly pockets. The sky really is the limit when this group of women gather round Dorothy's kitchen table and get cracking.

One of their best selling products is bags made from bubble wrap and old copies of *The Oban Times*. Jenny's daughter came up with the idea but according to the ladies Dorothy has taken it to a 'new

level'. Dorothy's house is full of things that can be made into something to sell for Mary's Meals. There are piles of bubble wrap and boxes of previous creations lying around.

'These are really special,' exclaims Dorothy as she pulls out a board game resembling a nautical version of snakes and ladders. 'Angela is very artistic.' As well as creating the game itself, Angela went beachcombing to get items to use as players' tokens - seaglass, coral and shells among her finds.

Angela is also the one quietly in the corner trying new things - until Sara lets loose that she's making a pocket for a shopping list to match the *Oban Times* bag.

'I'm not ready yet,' scolds Angela. 'I'm not sure if this will work.' But she returns to her bubblewrap determined to create something anyway.

Meanwhile Dorothy is back in her box of tricks. 'Cathie has the most wonderful collection of beautiful shells, we make jewellery with them,' she says as she pulls out a variety of shell-

laden creations. There are candle holders, picture frames and of course the promised jewellery.

'We like doing things that are novel, but it is hard to tell what sells best. The plastic stuff gets people's imaginations going,' added Dorothy.

The women started fundraising for Mary's Meals around five years ago when the nearby St Oran's Church took part in the charity's sponsor a school initiative.

Once the school kitchen was built the ladies decided to carry on fundraising to help feed the pupils who attend. 'It cost £7,000 to build the kitchen and we did it,' said Dorothy. 'But now it is £7,000 a year for the food. If we make £200 in a day we're happy, if we make £400 in a day we're very happy - we aim for £1,000 in a year.'

The ladies made £1,250 through their innovative work last year but they readily admit they enjoy the social side too - both while making the items and selling them at the LORN Community Producers' Market at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.

While the group visit a few summer markets they say it is 'mainly a winter occupation' for them.

'We all like making things and this gives us an outlet,' Dorothy says.

And the women seem to have their own niches within the group. Sara proudly displays her Harris tweed brooches, an absolute bargain at the few pounds the group ask for them. 'I pick up ideas out of magazines,' she says. 'It is good to make things out of rubbish.'

These women make beautiful trinkets out of things other people would throw away. Angela presses flowers to make stunning gift cards and Dorothy crochets with the tape from old cassettes to create surprisingly strong handbags.

She said: 'We are constantly coming up with new things. If

you can work out new things to do that is half the battle.

'We are good value too - I'd rather be cheap and sell a lot than charge boutique prices but not sell very much.'

'We all have different takes on things, I find it fascinating - I'll put out all the things but we'll all create something different - we think in different ways.'

The ladies also create small items that children can afford including animal finger puppets. 'The exchange of ideas is good,' says Dorothy, 'I'm happy for someone to buy something and take it to bits to see how it's done.'

And that's whether it's necklaces made out of old magazines, needle cases out of bubble wrap or candle holders from plastic bottles.

'Mary's Meals is worth doing it for,' the ladies all nod along to Dorothy's statement. 'You do get carried away though,' says Sara with a glint in her eye.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the founder and chief executive of Mary's Meals, said: 'The wonderful stories we hear of people fundraising and generating awareness on our behalf never cease to amaze and inspire me.'

'Schemes like our Sponsor a School initiative play a vital role in helping us reach more queues of children waiting to receive Mary's Meals.'

'This kind of support is absolutely vital to us and helps us grow the number of hungry children receiving their life-changing meal each day.'

'We must celebrate the advances we have made while remembering that there are many millions of children who still miss school as a result of poverty.'

If you would like to own a little piece of the ladies' wares for yourself visit Kintaline Farm on July 18 between 10am and 3pm where they will have a stall at the Woolfest.



Heather Morrison, Dorothy Hitchin and Cathie Miller display the different bags the group make, including *The Oban Times* on the left. 16\_119marysmeals04



Jenny Macdonald irons the *Oban Times* bag together. 16\_119marysmeals01



Some of the items the ladies make around Dorothy's kitchen table. 16\_119marysmeals05



Sara Hiam with her Harris tweed and tartan brooches. 16\_119marysmeals03



Angela Coletta shows off her Regatta game. 16\_119marysmeals02



A shell photo frame and necklace made from magazines. 16\_119marysmeals06

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

May 20 1993



St Columba's Primary School, Oban, celebrate their win in the national indoor six-a-side shinty championships. 120twenty06

## St Columba's are top of the shinty class

PRIMARY school six-a-side shinty teams from all over the north and west of Scotland converged on Mid Argyll Sports Centre on Saturday to compete for the Gleaner Trophy at the National Indoor Primary Championships.



## First aid winners

Rosemary Hancock and Lindsay Welsh, of Lochaber High School, won second prize in a Highland Health Board first aid competition. 120twenty03



## Close shave for charity

STAFF at Oban Wet Suits hold a fundraising event every year for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

This year Stewart Kennedy had his hair shaved off. Helping with his 'all off' was Vivienne Hopperton from Top Style hairdressers. He has collected £138. 120twenty04



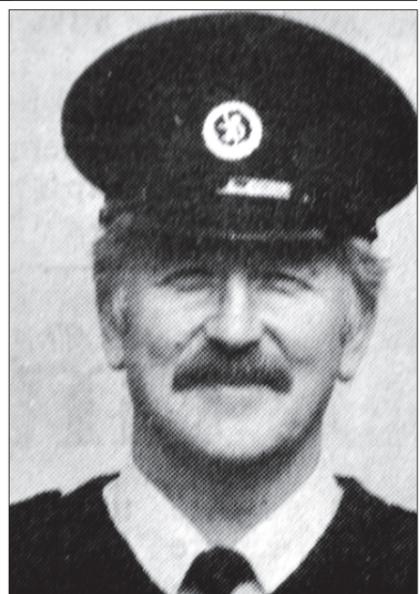
## Portree Primary sweeps the board at Skye Mod

Portree Primary School's Gaelic choir, which won the most competitions in the recent Skye Mod. 120twenty02



## Oban High School swimmers cash in for ARMS

First year pupils from Oban High School swam for 30 minutes to raise funds for the local branch of ARMS. The children chose the method of raising funds, and the charity that would benefit, during a school project called Helping Others. 120twenty05



A South Uist man has become the first fully trained auxiliary inspector of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA). Phil Jubb, a crofter from Lochboisdale, is to be the 'right arm' of SSPCA senior inspector Calum Watt, based in Stornoway. 120twenty01

# Hidden Treasures



WHILE out and about at the weekend many of us will go for a wander down our local high street and enjoy a spot of shopping or some lunch.

But this can become a bit mundane after a while and seeing the same thing all the time is less than inspiring.

Things needn't be this way though, the west coast of Scotland has a huge array of different shops, restaurants and

attractions on offer in places you might not expect.

You can make a day of it and head off to visit one of the many breathtaking castles or gardens that abound in this area.

If you are green fingered and inspired by these beautiful places there are plenty of garden centres on offer, both in and out of town, to recreate the scenery at home.

If adventure is more your style why not grab the kids and head off to an activity centre or hill walking. Just remember to stop off at one of the more remote cafes, pubs or restaurants. It's bound to taste better if you've earned it after a long walk.

You could even head off on the ferry for a day out. There are lots of islands within easy reach of Oban, why not try Lismore or Mull. Once there you'll find plenty of hidden

treasures to explore.

But don't forget there are probably lots of places in your very own town that you don't even know are there.

Instead of taking your usual route and sticking to the main thoroughfare head off down side streets and go into centres or stations you wouldn't usually visit. You never know what you might find.



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# Only girls aloud!

## Ladies' night raises funds for Soroba family group

HUNDREDS of pounds were raised for Soroba Young Family Group at the annual ladies' night fundraiser held in the Palace Hotel, Oban.

Dozens of ladies enjoyed being pampered with treatments for nails and eyes and various types of massage available.

There was also a range of jewellery and beauty products there and a buffet provided by Heart and Soul Food as well as plenty of wine and cocktails available.

A total of £328 was raised on the night from ticket sales and a raffle - donations for which came from the community.

Jayne Donn, chairwoman of the group's fundraising committee, said: 'Everyone is giving their time for free and the food was given for free too.'

'We're holding this to raise funds for the nursery, we always struggle but with the rent increase but it is a real problem now.'

'We have been very successful fundraising this year and last. It has been a lot of hard work but a lot of fun.'

Businesses that gave their time or products for free to make the evening a success were Aromatics Health and Beauty, Tan...fastic, Boafrosh, Oban Bay Handcrafted Jewellery, The Studio, Beknix Jewellery, Heart and Soul Food, Saint Saviour, Millstone Wholefoods and Forever Living products from Dee Rudiger.



Event organiser Jayne Donn with daughters Rebecca and Siobhan who helped on the night. 16\_120ladies05



Left: Mags Fitzpatrick, Lindy Veitch, Janet Cameron, Morvern MacLeod and Cathie Cameron with the array of prizes they won in the raffle. 16\_120ladies04



Eleanor MacIntyre and Caroline Laird were supporting the fundraiser. 16\_120ladies01



Dawn from Saint Saviour provided some of the treatments available on the night. 16\_120ladies06



Left: Julie MacInnes and Justine Swann enjoyed their night at the Palace Hotel. 16\_120ladies03



Right: Catherine Hall of Oban Bay Handcrafted Jewellery and Sally Weaser from Boafrosh display some of the jewellery available at the ladies' night. 16\_120ladies02

## Mànran put international credentials to *The Test*

MÀNHRAN'S highly anticipated second album 'The Test' will hit the shops next month.

And the traditional music combo will be hoping to avoid 'second album syndrome' with the follow up to their multi-award winning eponymous debut, which was released in 2011.

The six piece - featuring Lochaber pair Gary Innes and Ewen Henderson, and Norrie MacIver from Carloway in Lewis - are giving their fans the chance to hear the new tunes on their current tour, which includes a gig in Portree on Saturday night.

'The Test' was engineered by Stuart Hamilton and produced by Phil Cunningham, as the band look to build the success they have found around Europe over the past two years.

They will again be appearing at festivals throughout the continent this summer, as well as fitting in their first tour of USA.



Mànran: second album looks sure to be a hit. 20\_f20manran01

## Renowned landscape photographer given Sabhal Mòr Ostaig residence

TALENTED Scottish photographer Alex Boyd is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI's new visual artist in residence.

The prizewinning Ayrshire snapper has won widespread acclaim in recent years and is perhaps best known for 'Sonnets', a series of large format landscapes featuring a lone figure in remote Scottish locations.

He replaces Mhàiri Killin, the Iona-based artist who recently completed her six-month residency.

Boyd joins the writer, musician and Gaelic drama artist as part of the residency programme at Sabhal Mòr



Alex Boyd: new visual artist in residence at SMO.

Ostaig, which is funded by Creative Scotland and supported by the Royal Scottish Academy.

He said: 'Skye is where my photographic career began almost a decade ago, and to be able to return here to develop a new body of work is very important to me.'

'The chance to learn the language of the land I will be working in will give me a new perspective on not only how I view Scotland, but the people who live here.'

Boyd will work with communities on Skye and the Western Isles to compile a pictorial record of life there.

## BBC Alba films Skye 'pub' quiz

ENTERTAINMENT, live pub music and quiz team rivalry are all part of the mix in BBC ALBA's new *Gun Sgot* (Clueless) series, which begins tonight (Thursday).

Set in the lounge of their local - in reality the Fàs studio at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye - three teams compete each week to see who can call time on the competition and claim ownership of the *Gun Sgot* pub bell.

Journalist and sports commentator Derek MacKay takes up the role of barman and host as he tests the knowledge of the punters while keeping them in order, and wel-

comes some of the best singer-songwriters in Scotland to the music snug.

Musicians featured throughout the series will include established and up and coming talent including Miss Irene Rose (Lewis), Sorren MacLean (Mull), Willie Campbell (Lewis) and Rachel Cormack (Skye).

On the pub's opening night, Derek welcomes singer Dòmhnall Eòin MacKinnon, with Terry Balfour, to the pub, whilst teams from Glasgow, Skye and Aberdeen take up the challenge of finding out who really has their wits about them.

Tonight's programme starts at 9pm.

|                        |                                |            |                    |          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|----------|
| Oban Phoenix Cinema    | <b>Robot and Frank</b>         | Thurs 16th | 14:00 2D           |          |
|                        | <b>Oblivion</b>                | Thurs 16th | 17:45 2D, 20:30 2D |          |
|                        | <b>Star Trek into Darkness</b> | Fri 17th   | 17:45 3D, 20:30 2D |          |
|                        |                                | Sat 18th   | 17:30 2D, 20:30 3D |          |
|                        |                                | Sun 19th   | 17:30 2D, 20:30 3D |          |
|                        |                                | Mon 20th   | 17:45 3D           |          |
|                        |                                | Tues 21st  | 17:45 2D           |          |
|                        |                                | Wed 22nd   | 17:45 2D           |          |
|                        |                                | Thurs 23rd | 17:45 2D           |          |
|                        |                                | Thurs 23rd | 17:45 2D           |          |
|                        | Sat 18th                       | 13:00 3D   | Sun 19th           | 15:30 3D |
| <b>Monsters Inc</b>    | Sat 18th                       | 15:30 3D   | Sun 19th           | 13:00 3D |
| <b>Finding Nemo 3D</b> | Mon 20th                       | 20:45 2D   |                    |          |
| <b>21 and over</b>     | Tues 21st                      | 20:45 2D   |                    |          |
|                        | Wed 22nd                       | 20:45 2D   |                    |          |
|                        | Thurs 23rd                     | 20:45 2D   |                    |          |

**Robot and Frank (12A)**  
ROBOT & FRANK is a buddy caper. Set in the near future, aging curmudgeon and retired jewel thief Frank lives a solitary life until his son installs a caretaker robot, against her and his daughter's wishes. The robot upends Frank's lonely life with a strict regimen of exercise, diet and gardening. Stubborn at first, Frank soon realizes Robot has the ability to pull off the most calculated of heists. An unlikely friendship, and crime duo, is born.

**Oblivion (12A)**  
Tom Cruise stars in Oblivion, an original and ground-breaking cinematic event from the director of TRON: Legacy and the producer of Rise of the Planet of the Apes. On a spectacular future Earth that has evolved beyond recognition, one man's confrontation with the past will lead him on a journey of redemption and discovery as he battles to save mankind.

**Star Trek into Darkness (12A)**  
When the crew of the Enterprise is called back home, they find an unstoppable force of terror from within their own organization has detonated the fleet and everything it stands for, leaving our world in a state of crisis. With a personal score to settle, Captain Kirk leads a manhunt to a war-zone world to capture a one man weapon of mass destruction. As our heroes are propelled into an epic chess game of life and death, love will be challenged, friendships will be torn apart, and sacrifices must be made for the only family Kirk has left: his crew.

**Monsters Inc (U)**  
The lovable, confident, tough, furry blue behemoth-like giant monster named James P. Sullivan (better known as Sulley) and his wisecracking best friend, short, green cyclops monster Mike Wazowski, discover what happens when the real world interacts with theirs in the form of a 2-year-old baby girl dubbed 'Boo', who accidentally sneaks into the monster world with Sulley one night.

**Finding Nemo 3D (U)**  
Finding Nemo follows the comedic and eventual journeys of two fish - Marlin and his son Nemo - who become separated in the Great Barrier Reef. Buoyed by the companionship of a friendly-but-forgetful fish named Dory, the overly cautious father embarks on a dangerous trek and finds himself the unlikely hero of an epic journey to rescue his son.

**21 and over (15)**  
Straight-A college student Jeff Chang has always done what's expected of him. But when his two best friends Casey and Miller surprise him with a visit for his 21st birthday, he decides to do the unexpected for a change, even though his critical medical school interview is early the next morning.

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Thursday 16th May > REE JUKE BOX ALL DAY

Friday 17th May > TIM O'CONNOR starts 9.30pm

Saturday 18th May > FRASER JAMES starts 9.30pm

Sunday 12th May > QUIZ starts 9.30pm

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.95 (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.

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**THE SCOTTISH POTATO FAMINE: Alex du Toit**  
Saturday 18 May  
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm  
ALL WELCOME!  
www.appinhistorical.society.co.uk

North Connel & District Horticultural Show  
**PLANT SALE**  
Saturday 18 May  
Victory Hall, Benderloch 2.00 PM  
Admission (Includes teas) Adults £1 Children £1

Oban Bowling Club  
Dalriach Road, Oban  
**OPEN WEEK 20 - 26 May 2013**  
An invitation to all ages.  
Mon - Thurs 2.00 - 4.30pm and 6.00 - 8.30pm  
Fri 2.00 - 4.30pm  
Sat/Sun 10am - 12.30pm  
Sessions are free - bowls and shoes supplied  
For more info tel. 01631 570988 or www.obanbowlingclub.com

**MARY'S MEALS OPEN DAY**  
Craig Lodge, Dalraddy  
Sun May 26th  
1 - 4 pm  
Plants for sale, Stalls, Games & Cream teas.  
All proceeds to Mary's Meals

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Issue 83

# what's on

## THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

### THURSDAY - May 16

11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.  
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.  
7pm, Community Concert, Corran Halls, Oban.  
8pm, Mull Film Club, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

### FRIDAY - May 17

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.  
9.30am, Ramblers Scotland, Kinlochleven walk, meet Glencoe Village.  
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.  
Mull Rugby Sevens, Garmony, Mull.  
2.30pm, Exclusive distillery tour, Oban Distillery.  
7pm, Beetle drive, Bunesan Hall, Mull.  
8.30pm, Trevor Loughrey with Baton Rouge Band, BA Club, Fort William.  
9pm, Oban Mic night, O'Donnell's, Oban.  
9.30pm, Tim O'Connor, Markie Dan's, Oban.

### SATURDAY - May 18

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.  
9.15am, Ramblers Scotland, Lismore walk, meet Ballachulish Tourist Info or 10am at Port Appin Pier.  
9.30am, Oban Walkers Loch Avich walk, meet Lochavoullin Car Park, Oban.  
Mull Rugby Sevens, Garmony, Mull.  
11am, Loch Fyne Food Fair, Cairndow.  
2pm, Plant sale, Victory Hall, Benderloch.  
2.15pm, Roller disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.  
2.30pm, Appin Historical Society, The Scottish Potato Famine, Port Appin Hall.  
7pm, Whisky tasting, Isle of Eriska Hotel, Benderloch.  
7pm, Fun night, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.  
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.  
9pm, Hootenanny Ceilidh Band, O'Donnell's, Oban.  
9.30pm, Fraser James, Markie Dan's, Oban.

### SUNDAY - May 19

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.  
11am, Loch Fyne Food Fair, Cairndow.  
2pm - 4pm, Producers' market, Craignure Village Hall, Mull.  
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

### MONDAY - May 20

2pm and 6pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.

### TUESDAY - May 21

2pm and 6pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

### WEDNESDAY - May 22

2pm and 6pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
Basil Forgrieve, Royal Hotel, Oban.  
7.30pm, Melfort Ukuleles, Kilmelford Village Hall.  
8pm, Unusual Places to Dance Part 2, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.

### THURSDAY - May 23

2pm and 6pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
9am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Noe walk, meet Ballachulish tourist info or 9.30am at Oban's Longdale Road car park.  
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.  
9am, Sugarpaste Craft, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.

### FRIDAY - May 24

2pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.  
11am, Arts and crafts producers' market, Bunesan Hall, Mull.  
2.30pm, Exclusive distillery tour, Oban Distillery.  
7.30pm, Best of the West, Corran Halls, Oban.  
8pm, Ceol an Aire album launch, Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban.  
9pm, Oban Mic Night, O'Donnell's, Oban.  
9.30pm, Blair McLeod, Markie Dan's, Oban.

### SATURDAY - May 25

10am, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
10.30am, Great Scottish Tapestry viewing, Port Appin Hall.  
11am, Flower Festival, Kilmore Church, Dervaig, Mull.  
12pm, Oban sevens rugby tournament, Glencruitten, Oban.  
1pm, Kilmartin Gala Day.  
2.15pm, Roller disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.  
7.30pm, Best of the West, Corran Halls, Oban.  
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.  
8.30pm, Nuala Kennedy and AJ Roach, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.  
9pm, Bruce and the Beard, O'Donnell's, Oban.  
9pm, Psychedelic 60's night, Paparazzi, Oban.  
9.30pm, C-Red, Markie Dan's, Oban.

### SUNDAY - May 26

Sounding Dunadd walk, Kilmartin Museum.  
9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glencoe walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.  
10am, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.  
11am, Lip na Cloiche charity opening, near Ulva Ferry, Mull.  
1pm, Mary's Meals open day, Craig Lodge, Dalnally.  
2.30pm, Producers' market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.  
7pm, Carvery, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.  
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

## LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

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Davey Walker playing John Muir at the performance of Seonaidh a' Mhonaidh in Portree Primary School. Photo: Gordon Willoughby

## Gaelic production tells the story of John Muir

A NEW Gaelic production marking 175 years since the birth of the naturalist John Muir and the Year of Natural Scotland arrives at Lochaber's Gaelic medium primary schools next week. Seonaidh a' Mhonaidh (John

of the Moors) will go on stage at Fort William RC on Wednesday, and at Acharacle and Mallaig primaries on Thursday. Performers Daibhidh Walker and Debbie Mackay have already taken the play to schools

in central Scotland, the Outer Hebrides, Skye and the Highlands. The five week tour ends at Salen Primary on Mull next Friday. The play tells the tale of a ghostly and eccentric old man who turns up on a Scottish

mountain top and befriends Eilidh, a teenager doing a project on John Muir. Before she knows it she is away accompanying him on his travels across North America to discover how Muir became a

great nature conservationist and began to influence US environmental policy. Children in P4-7 will get the opportunity to be involved in practical workshops as the play progresses. Fèisean nan Gàidheal develop-

ment officer Dougie Beck, who developed the idea, said: 'The play is very interactive, and is a fun and thought-provoking introduction to the life and work of one of Scotland's most influential sons.'



## Glennelg girls raise £530 for MS Society

Glennelg girls Skye Scobie, left and Jordan Lane raised £530 at a 'Cake Break' coffee morning in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society at the Glennelg and Arnisdale Community Hall on Saturday. Skye's dad Craig said: 'We would like to thank everyone who came along to lend their support and those who helped out with donations of baking and raffle prizes, and help. 'We would also like to thank the businesses who donated to the day.'

## Lochaber Gaels set to gather in Fort William for Charlie's farewell

FORT WILLIAM High Street will resound to music and Gaelic song on Saturday afternoon in an event to celebrate the contribution of local man Charlie MacColl to Gaelic language and culture.

Mr MacColl, 67, has been an active member of Meur Lochabair, the local branch of Royal National Mod organisers An Comunn Gàidhealach, for 29 years, and has decided to call it a day.

Charlie took over as Meur Lochabair chairman from Archie Kennedy of Glencoe 15 years ago and was instrumental in organising the highly successful 2007 Mod in Fort William. Entertainment at Saturday's

event, informally entitled 'Gaelic on the Street' gets underway at 2pm.

Music will be provided by the Edinburgh and District Postal Pipe Band, Lochaber Pipe Band and the Robert Nairn Highland Ceilidh Band.

Singers will include Norman MacKinnon (Campbeltown), Calum Ross (Skye), Morag Smith (Oban), Margaret MacLellan (Mingarry), Maggie MacDonald (Inverness), Freddie MacKenzie (Harris) and Murdo MacDonald (Barra).

A 'Charlie's Farewell Ceilidh' will follow in the West End Hotel at 7.30pm. Highland Council has contributed £500 towards the event.

## Inveraray warm up for the competition season with 'sneak peak' gig

MEMBERS of Inveraray and District Pipe Band gave residents in Strachur a sneak peak at their new material over the weekend as they gear up for a busy season.

The band hosted a warm up gig at Strachur Memorial Hall on Saturday night to a packed-out audience.

Working hard Members of the grade one pipe band have been working hard over the winter months as they hope to have a successful season, which kicks off later

this month at the British Pipe Band Championships.

Jim McMillan, band secretary, said the concert was the perfect way to prepare for the season ahead.

'The concert on Saturday was a recital for the coming months,' he said. 'Strachur residents have always been really supportive.'

'Everyone is really looking forward to start of the season and there is the added pressure of performing at the prestigious pre-worlds concert at Glasgow.'



## Southampton boys Coast embrace Hebridean culture

COAST, a band inspired by the music and culture of the Outer Hebrides entertained an enthusiastic crowd at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls last week.

The band, who hail from Southampton, are touring ahead of the recording their new album and their trip to Argyll comes months before they tour Denmark and Norway.

Pictured are, from left, Andy Davey, guitar, Andrej Chernjanskij, drums, Chris Barnes, percussion, lead singer Paul Eastham and bassist Hamish Ferguson. 07\_120coast1



Rockfield's Julia Gorecka, Calum McLuckie and Holly Robertson show off their bowling skills. 17\_120bowling01

## Bowling club outreach work gets rolling

PRIMARY school children in Oban were getting to grips with bowls this week as part of a taster session organised by Active Schools.

The youngsters from primary six in Rockfield and Park primary schools visited Oban Bowling Club on Monday and Tuesday to learn the basics of the sport.

The club's Helen MacLean was putting them through their paces and some of the children got into the swing of things easily.

She said: 'We're desperate to get youngsters involved in the game, it is so difficult as they have so many opportunities with other sports.'

'It is not an old person's sport - it is a sport for everyone, for the family - you can play competitively or for fun.'

If you fancy trying your hand at bowls the club is hosting an open week next week. There are free afternoon or evening sessions available, starting at 2pm or 6pm.

## Administration students support rural lifesaving charity

FULL time NC Administration students at West Highland College UHI - Auchtertyre dressed up as pirates on Saturday to celebrate their qualification with a charity event on Saturday.

More than £400 was raised for 'Lucky 2b here', which provides

lifesaving training and equipment in rural areas.

The students organised a raffle, soup and sandwiches and a baking stall to raise money while local children enjoyed a pirate-themed day. Thanking all who supported

the event, curriculum manager Tracy Matheson said: 'Part of the NC Administration course is to plan and run an event. The students put to good use all the modules they have studied and skills developed throughout their year to create a fun-filled day.'

# A wee bit of advice



AT SOME point in your life everyone will need a little bit of advice. Whether you would like to lose some weight, shape up your finances or plan for old age this guide is an invaluable list of services provided right on your doorstep in Argyll that can help organise your life. It doesn't matter if you need a business plan or a life plan there are experts in every field out there that can help you along. Even if things are looking dull right now if you make the call today there will be a brighter tomorrow.

## ANNE LAIRD

For the last 14 years Anne Laird has used a range of skills including NLP, hypnotherapy, mindfulness, and CBT to work with individuals and couples to control stress, change unwanted behaviour, overcome anxiety and depression, improve health and wellbeing, build confidence, communicate more effectively, recover from ME and other mind body illnesses, be free of phobia. Anne sees her role as being a catalyst in helping clients to make the changes that are needed to live the life that they want.

## ARGYLL INSURANCE

Argyll Insurance is a long established family owned and run business. Our company's business philosophy is to treat our clients the way we like to be treated ourselves, and to spend our clients' money as if it was our own.

## AUCHINLEE

Auchinlee is a beautiful Victorian mansion house situated on the outskirts of Campbeltown. Our aim is to provide a quality of care to those with dementia that incorporates dignity and independence. With over 60 years of experience we tailor an individual care plan that meets your care needs and wishes and also assists you in keeping active and involved in the local community. Our residents have the use of our own minibuses which is used for trips and outings and also a fully qualified activities coordinator to undertake a range of activities such as craftwork, gardening, baking and keep fit.

## BEFRIENDERS

BEFRIENDERS is a voluntary organisation covering the whole of Argyll and Bute. We offer 1:1 befriending to vulnerable children and young people aged 6 to 16 years. To provide this service we recruit and support adult volunteers to be matched with someone in their own area. We are currently recruiting in YOUR area, if you can spare a few hours each week to make a real difference to someone's life please give CATHI BERTIN a ring for an informal chat, on 01546603144/07918601567. No particular qualifications are required; all you need is patience, time and understanding. Thank you.

## BOWMAN STEWART

Established in 1984 by Martin Stewart, the practice was renamed in 2012. The practice includes a Chartered Building Surveyor, Chartered Architect and Chartered Civil Engineer as well as support staff and is therefore well placed to provide a full architectural, structural and building surveying service to our clients.

These services include initial feasibility studies, build cost information and advice on planning and building regulations through to architectural and structural design and specification; negotiating planning and building warrants as well as tendering, contract administration, periodic inspections and providing certificates for mortgage providers. Design projects range from extensions and conversions of existing buildings to complete new buildings for clients such as homeowners and property developers, as well as local community groups, business owners and hoteliers; landowners and farmers.

## BUSINESS GATEWAY

Supporting businesses in Argyll and Bute – what Business Gateway can do for you. Business Gateway are here to help support individuals and businesses with quality, practical advice and guidance. Whether you are a new business looking to create your first business plan or an existing business thinking of expanding into new markets or taking on staff, Business Gateway can offer:

- Free business skills workshops – start-up workshops covering the essentials before you launch your new venture, to specific workshops to help your business grow including website building, social media, online trading and bookkeeping.
- A network of experienced business advisers who can work with you, in confidence, to help reach your full potential. Advisers are happy to meet you locally or support you by phone or email.
- Signposting useful contacts and other support – helping you identify the right local resources
- Access to useful guides and document templates – covering a wide range of topics from choosing the right insurance or IT equipment for your business, to pro-formas for legal and policy documents such as terms of conditions for contracts or health and safety policies.

## CITY MOBILITY

We are the local agents for the Motability Powered Wheelchair and Scooter Scheme for both the Highlands and Islands and Grampian. We also undertake mainstream car adaptation work for the Motability car scheme as well as private individuals and act as service agents for wheelchair lifts and similar supplied from outside the area. We are always happy to help out visitors to the north of Scotland in the event of breakdown, and can often hire out a scooter or wheelchair for short term requirements. For a no obligation discussion, please make contact by phone, e-mail, fax, or drop in to one of the showrooms.

## DEREK MCGILLIVRAY

Learn to succeed through life's challenges and find that happy medium in your life.

'You live for today, yesterday is gone and tomorrow hasn't come yet. So forget the past, learn from it, do today what you couldn't do yesterday and change what could happen tomorrow, only you can change your mind set no one else. Life coaching is not counselling and it's not therapy. Life coaching is a practical, forward way to gain clarity on what you don't like and what you can do about it. It's also a powerful support system to keep you moving in the right direction.'

## ENCOMPASS

With four offices across Argyll and Bute: Oban, Ardrishaig, Islay and Bute, we support and assist Argyll and Bute residents who are experiencing problems due to their own, or someone else's, alcohol and/or drug use. You may not necessarily have a problem yourself, but maybe someone close does – perhaps your partner or family member. We can provide information as well as counselling and other support services. All services are free and strictly confidential.

## GRAHAM SCOTT

As a financial adviser it is my job to help my clients by guiding them through the 'minefield' that their investments, pensions, and insurance needs can become and offering an ongoing service for the years ahead. Many of my existing clients had concerns regarding what happens to their assets once they are gone, they want the wishes in their will to be carried out. That's where my association with the long established firm of solicitors WW&J McClure comes in. They have particular expertise in the area of care cost and inheritance tax planning. McClure's and myself can ensure that you can get the advice you need on the best way to protect your hard earned assets, and your family's inheritance. I can call when it suits you, if you wish to know how McClure's or I can assist with your financial planning. Graham Scott.

## RELATIONSHIP SCOTLAND

Are you experiencing a problem with a close personal relationship? We can help you work through problems in your current relationships, explore the effects of past relationships or look at improving and enriching relationships for the future. We work with both individuals and couples across a wide range of difficulties including communication breakdown, conflicts and rows, drifting apart, life events, dealing with affairs, sexual problems and also dealing with the end of a relationship.

## SLIMMING WORLD

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# Business

## Wind turbine jobs boost for Kintyre

CAMPBELTOWN'S wind turbine manufacturer is taking on new staff - with the strong hope of dozens more jobs to come.

Machrihanish's Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd has improved its efficiency after a management shake up and, with the order book full for 2013, the company is looking to expand into the offshore turbine market.

Managing director Dennis Breugelmans said: 'We are now looking for a handful of production operatives for our fabrication department, but if our expansion plans go ahead we could create another 70 jobs within two years.'

## West coast brewery urges change of duty rules

A GROWING west coast brewery is lobbying for a change in duty rules to allow small breweries a duty cut.

Arran Brewery believes producers should not have exported beer count towards the 500,000 litre cap to qualify for a 50 per cent cut in duty.

By allowing exports - which are duty exempt in any case - not to count towards the total production for UK duty, the brewery says it could sell a further 2,200,000 bottles of Arran Blonde overseas without penalising its UK duty position.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'There are over 1,000 craft breweries in the UK and if we could all export our beers without incurring a duty penalty here in the UK it would give UK exports a boost with no penalty to the treasury. It's a win-win situation. I will be writing to the Chancellor Mr Osborne and asking him to consider this idea.'

The craft beer market is growing rapidly around the world and demand for UK craft beers is growing globally. Mr Michaluk believes this idea, if adopted, would give a real boost to the UK craft brewing industry, UK employment and the UK's balance of payments.

## Five from west on shortlist for Scotland's food industry 'Oscars'

'50 finalists illustrate tremendous quality of products.' - James Withers

WEST coast food producers could be in line for a clutch of awards at this year's Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards - dubbed the food industry's 'Oscars'.

Five local businesses have been shortlisted for prizes at this year's competition, which this year saw 165 submissions from 100 businesses across Scotland.

**Kintyre**  
MacMillan Foods has been nominated for two awards for its Kintyre Smokehouse range, in the export fish and seafood category and in the marketing category.

Nominated for three awards is Taste of Arran, two in the dairy category, for Arran's Cheese Shop mustard cheddar and the Arran Dairies rich

dark chocolate ice cream. The other nomination is for its Arran Berry honey and honeycomb ice cream.

**Aberfeldy**  
Charlotte Flower Chocolates, of Aberfeldy, is shortlisted in the confectionery and snacking category for her single origin Java chocolate with smoked Hebridean sea salt, while near neighbour Iain Burnett - the Highland Chocolatier, just outside Aberfeldy, is nominated for two awards, in confectionery and snacking for his velvet truffles and spiced pralines, and in foodservices for his velvet truffles.

Writer, broadcaster and all-round foodie Hardeep Singh Kohli will host the event at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh.

Dubbed the Scottish food and drink 'Oscars', the ceremony will be bigger than ever before with 400 guests attending.

Chief Executive of Scotland Food and Drink, James Withers, said: 'Our 50 finalists illustrate the tremendous quality of products and strength of our companies in fields ranging from skills to research, sustainability and exports.'

**Reputation**  
'It is these companies who contribute to and build our reputation of Scotland as a Land of Food and Drink.'

'We wish all our finalists good luck and look forward to revealing the winners.'

The winners are announced at the end of the month.

## Barcaldine company appointed distributor for innovative new oyster farming system

BARCALDINE-based aquaculture equipment specialist Fusion Marine has been appointed as the UK distributor and support company for an innovative new oyster farming system.

The Ortac Oyster System, which has been developed by Jersey-based shellfish farmer Tony Legg, dramatically reduces labour costs in comparison with conventional oyster bags and trestles, and has a sophisticated through-flow system that improves growth rates without compromising shell quality.

Recent commercial trials with native oysters, *ostrea edulis*, have been extremely successful and have led to the establishment of inter-tidal farms in a number of locations.

Now, Scottish oyster farmers also stand to benefit from the advantages of Ortac following the appointment of Fusion Marine as a supplier and support company.

Rhuaraidh Edwards, development engineer for Fusion Marine, said: 'Our centralised location in the main Scottish oyster growing areas combined with our extensive experience in plastic products makes us ideally suited to supply and support this innovative shellfish

growing system. We can now service the oyster farming community with cultivation equipment and provide technical and other support to help the industry grow and develop.'

In particular, Ortac will aid Fusion Marine in combining different parts of the aquaculture industry with integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) systems to achieve a greater natural balance in the management of water areas.

As well as having a positive effect on water quality, IMTA has the potential to create new business opportunities through the development of poly-culture operations.

Further trials and development of the Ortac Oyster System are ongoing and Fusion Marine is looking to develop a complete farming solution for oysters and associated aquaculture operations.

Tony Legg of Jersey Sea Farms said: 'I am delighted Fusion Marine has been appointed to supply and help support the Ortac system on the Scottish west coast.'

'Their immense knowledge in plastics technology and their ability to innovate will prove a real boost to Scotland's oyster farmers.'

## Living Lochaber aims to bring BIDs benefits to local area

'We think this is the most ambitious BID to ever hit Scotland'

THE GROUP behind plans to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for Lochaber are hoping to have a business plan drawn up by the end of July.

Living Lochaber has just finished the first consultation period for the project, which included a series of public information events across the region.

The BID aims to improve tourism marketing in Lochaber using funds gathered from a small tax on every business in the area.

After the business plan is circulated, a further consultation process will be held, with a final ballot due to be held in November.

Living Lochaber chairman Frazer Coupland told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a massive opportunity for Lochaber. We think this is the most ambitious BID to ever hit Scotland, and we think a strong visitor economy is beneficial to every business across Lochaber.'

'We've got support from the council, from HIE, from the Chamber of Commerce and the Outdoor Capital of the UK.'

'A lot of influential people in the business world have told us they think this is a really good idea.'



Living Lochaber vice chairman Laurence Young, chairman Frazer Coupland and BID project manager Helen MacGillivray. 20\_120bid01

## RECRUITMENT

**Expression of Interest**

West Argyll Forest District  
Rhododendron Control  
Framework Agreement

The Forestry Commission is inviting tenders for a Framework Agreement for Rhododendron Control in West Argyll Forest District.

Rhododendron Control including cut and burn, stump treatment, foliar chemical application and other treatments as agreed with the Forestry Commission is required across the whole of West Argyll Forest District. The district will be split into geographical lots and bidders may bid for as many or few as they choose. These lots will be: Mull, Lorne, Kilmicheal & Glen Orchy, West Loch Awe, Knapdale, Tarbert and Kintyre. All work is required to be completed to a very high standard with particular attention to Health and Safety, environmental sensitivity, and coverage of the treatment sites. This will be achieved by applying industry best practice in line with the UK Forestry Standard and thorough contract management by the Contractor.

Successful bidders must have adequate insurance, be licenced by the Gangmaster's Licencing Authority (unless exemption can be shown) and all operators must be appropriately trained and qualified.

The estimated total value of the contract is £400,000 per year for 2 years with possible extension for a further 2 years.

To express your interest and to request tender documents please contact West Argyll Forest District no later than **5pm on Thursday 6th June**

There will be a MANDATORY Briefing Day for all wishing to bid held in Lochgilphead, Argyll on **Wednesday 19th June 2013. PLEASE NOTE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BID FOR THIS FRAMEWORK WITHOUT ATTENDING THIS BRIEFING DAY.** Details will be provided to all those who express an interest in the tender.

The deadline for returns from the Invitation to Tender will be 5pm Monday 15th July 2013.

The anticipated contract start date will be 19th August 2013 to be completed by 18th August 2015. There will be the possibility of extension for a further 2 years.

For further enquiries regarding this contract please email: [waprocurement@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:waprocurement@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or write to: West Argyll Forest District, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RS

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The successful candidate will have experience in driving a passenger-carrying vehicle, possess a good understanding of the routine maintenance of vehicles and be able to demonstrate awareness for the safety and well being of passengers. You should have a D1 certificate. An awareness of health and safety legislation relating to passenger transport is essential and a current first aid certificate would be an advantage.

For further information and to apply online please visit our website: [www.redcross.org.uk/About-Us/About-Us/About-Us](http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-Us/About-Us/About-Us) or email [wrk4us@redcross.org.uk](mailto:wrk4us@redcross.org.uk). Quoting reference Rural Driver/West. Please note that we do not accept CVs for any of our positions.

**Completed applications to be submitted no later than Friday 31 May 2013.**

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**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

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[www.windtowersscotland.com](http://www.windtowersscotland.com)

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**Closing date 31st May, 2013**

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# Anti-fish farm campaigners aim for US export ban

## UK supermarkets urged to stop stocking Scottish salmon after seal cull claims

'This is entirely legal and necessary to protect our fish welfare,' say SSPO

THE FISH farming industry in the west coast of Scotland could be dealt a damaging blow if US officials ban exports to America when new rules are introduced.

The US Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the intentional killing of marine mammals in commercial fishing operations, including fish farms.

Anti-fish farm campaigner Don Staniford, from the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA), has written to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the United States Department of Commerce, to demand it bans the import of Scottish farmed salmon from sites which shoot seals.

**Information report**

The move comes following revelations last week that fish farms in the north and west of Scotland have the worst records when it comes to the legal killing of the marine mammals.

Figures released by the Scottish

Information Commissioner show 346 seals were legally killed during 2011 and the first four months of 2012.

The sites with the highest numbers of seal deaths have been dubbed the 'seven deadliest salmon farms' by Mr Staniford.

**'Legal and necessary'**

These include Loch Melfort, operated by Lakeland Marine where 14 seals were killed, 13 seals were shot at Loch Roag in the Western Isles, at a site operated by the Scottish Salmon company while Marine Harvest killed 10 seals at its Loch Sunart site.

Scott Landsburgh, chief executive of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO), said: 'We stand with salmon netmen in our commitment to exclude and deter seals and to shoot only when all other measures fail.'

'This is entirely legal and necessary to protect our fish welfare.'

Nina Young, a foreign affairs specialist with NOAA, told *The Oban Times* the US 'could take action to ban

imports of Scottish salmon products'.

She said: 'There is a provision in Marine Mammals Act that allows the US to ban products where they violate US standard.'

'The current US standard is we do not allow the shooting of marine mammals in aquaculture but we are in the midst of developing regulations which will apply globally to all fisheries and aquaculture.'

'We are establishing a clear set of standards which have to go through rule making. We hope to get something published this year, that would be a proposal which would go to public consultation.'

'As we move forward our clear standard is that we do not allow the intentional killing of marine mammals in aquaculture. We would expect that our trading partners would take a similar stance.'

Mr Staniford is also petitioning British supermarkets to stop stocking the product and said: 'GAAIA is calling on the general public and

retailers to stop sourcing from all seal-killing farms.'

'Companies selling seal-unfriendly farmed salmon have blood on their hands. GAAIA, along with other groups, wrote to the US Government back in 2011 calling for a ban on imports of lethally farmed salmon under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.'

'In light of the damning new data released this week we reiterated our call for a ban and hope that seal-unfriendly Scottish farmed salmon joins dolphin unfriendly Mexican tuna in the supermarket trash bin.'

Scott Landsburgh of SSPO added: 'When campaigners get their facts right about the deterrent measures used and the most effective approaches under different local circumstances they will perhaps recognise we can have sensible reporting about the success of seal management and the falling numbers of seals shot.'

SSPO members employ more than 2,000 people in Scotland.

## Fishing boat skipper left wheelhouse unattended hears Irish courtroom

Fine after vessels run aground near Davaar Island

A FISHERMAN who grounded his boat off the coast of Campbeltown after leaving the wheelhouse when the vessel was moving has been ordered to pay £925.

Ferguson Hughes, 58, was told he had 'no excuse' for leaving the wheelhouse of the *Elegant II* on July 7 last year, when it ran aground a mile south of Davaar Island.

He pleaded guilty to failing to keep a proper lookout at Downpatrick Magistrates Court in Northern Ireland last week.

Captain Bill Bennett, the Coastguard's area operations manager, said: 'This was a very serious incident which could have had much more serious consequences.'

Mr Hughes had just set sail from Campbeltown towards fishing grounds off the Kintyre peninsula when the boat ran aground.

He had previously reported problems with the automatic pilot and received spare parts for the steering motor, which he fitted when in Campbeltown. After the problem recurred at sea, he went into the engine room to make adjustments when the vessel grounded.

A mayday call was answered by the *Argent*, which also ran aground.

The *Argent* came off as the tide rose, but the *Elegant II* did not and needed a lifeboat to pull it clear.

Captain Bennett added: 'There was no excuse for leaving the wheelhouse unattended while the vessel was underway.'

'He could have stopped the engines and anchored, or called one of the five crew members who were sleeping on board to come to the wheelhouse while he went to the engine room.'

Mr Hughes was fined £850 plus £75 costs.

### RECRUITMENT

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To apply, please send your CV to: **Zaneta Korzeniecka, Group HR Administrator, BSW Timber Ltd, Carlisle Sawmill, Cargo, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4BA.**  
Email: [zaneta.korzeniecka@bsw.co.uk](mailto:zaneta.korzeniecka@bsw.co.uk)  
Closing date: 27th May 2013

**BSW Timber**

### PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

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

| Reference Number | Development Address                                     | Proposal Description  |
|------------------|---|---|
| 13/01623/FUL     | Allt Na Criche, 140M North East of Craiglea, Lochailort | Installation of hydro-electric scheme   |
| 13/01624/PIP     | Land 120 Metres SW of 2 Bohenie, Roy Bridge             | Proposed house site & demolition of existing storage building (Renewal of 10/01164/PIP) |

Time period for comments is 14 days.

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

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

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

| Ref          | Proposal  | Site Address   | Location of Plans         |
|--------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 13/00470/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank and biotise          | Land South East of Sunipol Calgary Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute        | Tobermory Area Office     |
| 13/00877/PP  | Demolition of existing byre, erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank                        | Garden Ground of 1 Salam Ruajig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6IR | Tiree Area Office         |
| 13/00903/PPP | Site for the erection of dwellinghouse  | Land South West of Ceran Cottage Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute       | Sub Post Office Ledraig   |
| 13/00906/PPP | Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 10/00994/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse) | Land North of Sunnybrae South Cuan Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute  | Sub Post Office Cullipool |

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

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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

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**Management Opportunity**

Hawco Group, the leading name for Volkswagen and Audi in the Highlands and Argyll, are currently seeking a candidate to take up a Sales Controller position at their Volkswagen branch in Fort William.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record in selling and in a supervisory role. They must be self-motivated, target driven, and able to lead a team of experienced Volkswagen staff. Automotive Sales experience is essential. A competitive remuneration package with car and fuel benefits is available.

Please send or email your CV to:  
**Joe Farrell, Hawco Group,**  
48 Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UF  
[joe.farrell@hawcogroup.co.uk](mailto:joe.farrell@hawcogroup.co.uk)

**Bell Ingram** 01631 566 122  
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# Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk  
01631 568021

## West interest in Crown Estate Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards 2013

A HOST of fish farming companies with interests in the west coast have been shortlisted in the 2013 Crown Estate Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards.

Scottish Sea Farms has been shortlisted in six categories this year, including the community initiative for the SSF Heart of the Community fund, innovation award for staff safety, the stewardship award for the use of wrasse as cleaner fish and the aquaculture supplier of the year for Orbit GMT.

The company's David Mealand has been shortlisted in the farm manager of the year for his work at the Fishnish marine site, Mull.

Its M&S Lochmuir Oack and Applewood smoked salmon has been shortlisted as a seafood product of the year.

Scottish Sea Farms managing director Jim Gallagher said: 'We are delighted to have been short-listed in so many categories.'

### Pride

'It is recognition of the pride we take in our operations and in nurturing both our customer and supplier relationships. It's wonderful that not only are our own efforts recognised but also those of Orbit GMT as a crucial supplier to SSF and the industry.'

Marine Harvest has been shortlisted twice in the innovation award category and in the community initiative category, also receiving a nomination for the stewardship award.

The company's Ross Curtis has been shortlisted in the farm manager award category.

The Scottish Salmon Company, meanwhile, has been nominated in the community initiative, stewardship and farm manager awards, the latter for Alasdair MacDonald.

Smoked Gigha Halibut has also been nominated in the seafood product of the year category.

Meanwhile, Dawnfresh's Alastair Salvesen CBE has been shortlisted in the outstanding contribution to the industry category.

The winners will be announced on June 13.



The cruiser Ros Crana was a novel sight at Muirtown locks.

## Lochaber cruising company invests in second canal barge

LOCHABER-based boating company Caledonian Discovery has launched its second holiday barge on the Caledonian Canal.

Ros Crana, the new vessel, set sail with her first customers on Saturday May 4 from Muirtown locks in Inverness.

The newly decked out barge and her sister ship the Fingal of Caledonia climbed the locks at Muirtown together, providing a unique spectacle

for the many passers-by. Caledonian Discovery Ltd managing director Martin Balcombe said: 'Launching a new boat is an exciting step forward

for our company. Bookings are already up year on year and we are on target to double our customer numbers.'



## Mid Argyll mother brings maternity and baby clothes with an alternative edge via new website

BEING pregnant might change your body, but an enterprising goth mum from Mid Argyll is making sure it doesn't have to change your style.

Lauren Rutherford is the driving force behind Wham Bam Glam Clothing, a new website where maternity and baby clothing has an alternative edge.

Catering specifically for frustrated goth, punk and emo mums-to-be who

might struggle to find clothes which accommodate their distinctive look - as well as their bump - the website steers well clear of fluffy rabbits and pastel shades.

Instead, the range features tattoo motifs in strong colours and black romper suits complete with skeletons and other gothic imagery.

Lauren, who set up the company in

her hometown of Lochgilphead after studying fashion in Glasgow, received a start-up grant from the Prince's Trust to kick start the business said: 'Your body might change when you're pregnant but your sense of style doesn't.'

'Women who have developed an alternative look - whether it's tattoos, goth, emo, punk, skater, rockabilly or rock n roll - don't want to wear florals

and pastels while they're pregnant - and they don't want to spend their pregnancy in shapeless t-shirts either.'

'I wanted to find comfortable clothes that would fit and flatter and reflect the distinctive look of these women. Now they can maintain their identity and look great throughout their pregnancy. And they can give their babies a similar look too.'

## Top chef praises Argyll and Bute salmon

A TOP international chef has praised farmed salmon from Argyll and Bute, describing it as a 'fantastic, high quality product'.

Gissur Gudmundson, president of the World Association of Chef Societies, said the waters around Argyll and Bute were the ideal environment for farmed salmon, saying the result is a product of 'supreme quality'.

Speaking from Hong Kong at HOFEX, Asia-Pacific's largest food and hospitality tradeshow, Mr Gudmundson said Argyll's salmon was 'sustainable, healthy and one of the tastiest seafood products I work with'.

Scott Landsburgh, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) said: 'We would like to thank all of those skilled and committed local workers in Argyll and Bute who work to the most exacting standards.'

'They deserve all the praise they get and more. Scottish farmed salmon is simply an iconic product. When people here in Hong Kong think of Scotland, one of the first things that comes to their mind is salmon.'

Recent figures show exports of Scottish Salmon to the far east have increased 64 per cent between 2011 and 2012.

## Ring of Breadalbane Explorer bus service to boost tourism

FUNDING has been found by the Breadalbane Tourism Co-operative to provide a Ring of Breadalbane Explorer bus service from June 29 to October 20.

The bus will link Killin with Aberfeldy and Crieff to boost tourism to the areas during the peak season.

The area's MSP Bruce Crawford said: 'Killin is a great tourism destination, with the spectacular Falls of Dochart and many fine tourist businesses offering a warm welcome to visitors to the area. This bus link makes it easy for tourists to reach Killin and I congratulate everyone involved in this project for their vision and efforts.'

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
COMISEAN NA CROITTEARACHD  
**FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS**

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Ardnastain Common Grazings, Ardnarnachan and Sunart  
Registration Number: CG1

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofting.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofting.gov.uk/register/home)

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**Proposed let of five crofts**

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancies of the crofts at Langamull Woodland, Klininian and Kilmore to

**Croft 1,** Andrew Robinson, Coorann, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, PA66 6BL.  
**Croft 2,** Neil Munro, The Sheiling, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QR.  
**Croft 6,** Alex Duncan, 2 Monadhbeg Houses, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QJ.  
**Croft 8,** Gregor Munro, 30 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6AD.  
**Croft 9,** Jamie and Catriona Laurie, Ard na Mara, Penmore, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QS.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

## MOTORS

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| <b>SUBARU S &amp; S Services</b><br>Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr<br>Tel: 01292 880080/880440  | <b>W.D. SEMPLE</b><br>www.wdsemple.com<br>Inveraray - Shore Street<br>Tel: 01499 302150<br>Lochgilphead - Highbank Park<br>Tel: 01546 606767 / 01546 606272 |

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| 2004 Honda Jazz 1.4, 5dr, blue, customers car.....      | £3,100 |
| 2006 Skoda Fabia 1.4, 5dr, blue, customers car.....     | £2,995 |
| 2003 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2, 3dr, 48,000 miles, silver..... | £2,175 |
| 2002 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2, 5dr, 76,000 miles, blue.....   | £1,975 |

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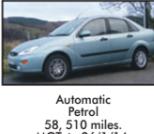
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# New legislation aims to correct decrofting legal loopholes

'I hope by taking these steps crofters, lenders and others are reassured'

NEW LEGISLATION to correct difficulties faced by owner-occupiers seeking to decroft their land has been introduced to the Scottish Parliament.

The move follows environment minister Paul Wheelhouse's pledge that the government would bring forward a Bill to amend crofting law.

Currently, tenant crofters have the absolute right to de-croft under Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, whereas the legal position on whether owner-occupiers have similar rights is less clear.

**Equality**  
Both government and parliament want tenant and owner-occupier crofters to be treated the same way.

Decrofting land can enable a house to be built on the land and make it easier for crofting land to be passed from one generation to the next.

Mr Wheelhouse said: 'It came to light recently that there was an issue with the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Scottish Government, along with the Crofting Commission, has been working extremely hard to resolve these issues as quickly as possible to ensure that the Scottish Parliament's intent can be delivered.'

'There are, clearly, different legal opinions on this issue, and this Bill will provide legal certainty for all involved in the process on the competency of owner-occupier crofter applications to the Commission to decroft their land, including those already in receipt of a decrofting direction or those whose application is currently held in abeyance.'

'I hope by taking these steps crofters, lenders and others are reassured that the necessary action is being taken.'

He added: 'I will be working to secure support from across the Scottish Parliament as the Bill goes through the parliamentary process, with a view to resolving the matter before the summer recess.'



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**Achnaba**  
**Limousins sell to £900 at Oban**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 262 store, breeding and OTM cattle, plus 464 store sheep at Oban last Tuesday.  
Bullocks averaged 233p per kg and sold to 272p for a 265kg Limousin from S H Troughton, Ardachy, North Connell and to £900 for a 360kg Limousin from A Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connell.  
Heifers averaged 211p per kg and sold to 262p per kg (twice) for a 290kg Limousin and a 295kg Limousin from S H Troughton, Ardachy and D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch and to £770 for the same two heifers.  
Breeding cattle sold to £740 for a Highland bull from N MacLeod, Ballimore, Taynait and to £740 for in-calf Shorthorn cows from D Buchanan, Shenevallye, Benderloch.  
OTM cattle averaged 124p per kg and sold to 184p per kg for a 490kg Simmental from F Lyon, Fernoch, Lochgilphead and to £1210 for a 730kg Limousin from D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch.  
Hoggs sold to a top of £88 for Texels from Dunach Estates, Kilmore while cast ewes and tups sold to a top of £105 for Texels from C Campbell and Son, Fidden Farm, Isle of Mull.

**Young Kintyre bulls sell to £1200 at Stirling**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 797 store cattle and 23 young bulls at Stirling on Monday.  
Bulls averaged 199pand sold to 237p per kg two 295kg Limousins from Macrindolston Farm, Girvan and to £1200 for two 550kg Limousins from No.8 Killeonan, Campbelltown.  
Bullocks averaged 223p (+5p) and sold to 272p per kg for a 335kg British Blue from Shutterflat, Beith and to £1260 for a 595 kg Aberdeen Angus from Addiewell, West Calder.  
Heifers averaged 209p per kg (-3p) and sold to 286p per kg for a 245kg British Blue from Taylor-ton, Stirling and to £1090 for two 520kg Aberdeen Angus from West Kirkland, Newton Stewart.  
The sale included a special section for native bred cattle which sold exceptionally well and proved short of buyers requirements, 36 Aberdeen Angus bullocks sold to a top of 250p per kg for two at 365kg from West Kirkland, Newton Stewart to average 233p per kg; 34 Luing bullocks averaged 210p per kg and sold to 218p per kg for seven at 365kg from Woodend, Armadale and to £950 for a 450kg from Wester Hassockrigg, Harthill.  
Hereford bullocks sold to 216p per kg from Shutterflat, Beith, Shorthorn bullocks sold to 220p per kg from Wester Pirleyhill, Falkirk, while Belted Galloway bullocks sold to 207p per kg from Knockraith, Fintry.  
Aberdeen Angus heifers averaged 207p per kg and sold to 220p per kg from West Kirkland and to £1070 for a 36-month old at 550kg from Knocknaha, Campbelltown.  
Shorthorn heifers averaged 172p per kg and sold to 207p per kg from Woodend, Crossgates.

**Dingwall prime sale**  
DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 63 prime cattle and 379 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.  
Prime bullocks averaged 231.8p (-2.0p) and sold to 249p per kg for a 610kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,725.20 for a 760kg Charolais cross from Findon Mains, Culbokie.  
Prime heifers averaged 228.3p (-10.1p) and sold to 257p per kg for a 520kg Limousin cross from Udale, to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall, and £1,445.25 for a 615kg Charolais cross from The Cloy, Fortrose.  
New season lambs averaged 225.9p and sold to 229.3p per kg and £94 for 41kg Charollais crosses from Garfield, Dingwall, to John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

**Cows with calves at foot sell to £3,000 at Dingwall**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 174 breeding cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when strong, well bred units met an excellent demand for a good show on offer.  
Heifer with male calves sold to £2,750 for a Limousin cross from Redhill Farm, Mosstownie.  
Heifer with heifer calves sold to £2,800 for a British Blue cross from Smallburn Farms, Duffus.  
Cow with male calves sold to £2,950 for a Limousin cross from the dispersal of the summer calving cow herd from Lochbuie, Newtonmore.  
Cow with female calf sold to £3,000 for a British Blue cross from the Lochbuie dispersal.  
Cow with twins sold to £2,000 for an Aberdeen Angus from Culrain Mains, Ardgay.  
In calf cows sold to £1,280 for a Limousin cross from the dispersal of the cow herd from Lower Milton Farm, Drumadrochit.  
Bulling heifers sold to £1,500 twice for a British Blue cross from Essich Farm, Inverness, and a Simmental cross from Redhill Farm, Mosstownie.

**Market reports**

**OBAN Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd**  
Bullocks 250kgs - £650 Airds; 275kgs - £650 Balure of Shian and Glencloy (Spean Bridge) 280kgs - £700 Ardnacloch (Mc-Millan) and Upper Largie 300kgs - £760 Shenavallie; £690 Achaleven; 305kgs - £760 Stroneskar; 310kgs - £780 Tyree; 320kgs - £770 Moneydrain; 345kgs - £790 Ardachy; 370kgs - £850 - Achnaba; 380kgs - £800 Mains (Car-radale); Heifers 265kgs - £650 Ardachy; 285kgs - £520 Balure of Shian 290kgs - £760kgs Ardachy 295kgs - £710 Upper Largie; 300kgs - £700 Tyree; £560 Shenavallie 320kgs - £690 Rhuilios 325kgs - £660 Mains (Car-radale) £740 Achnacreebeag and Mains 360kgs - £760 Achnaba; Breeding cattle Shorthorn Cow In Calf - £740 Shenavallie; Highland Cows with Calf - £660 & £620; Limousin Cow In Calf - £680 Achnacreebeag; OTM 480kgs - £850 Ardachy; 490kgs - £900 Fernoch; 500kgs - £760 Shenavallie; 515kgs - £700 Rhuilios; 555kgs - £770 Rhuilios; 610kgs - £930 Dunach Estate; Fernoch Breeding cattle In-calf cows Shorthorn - £740 Shenavallie Limousin Cow - £680 Achnacreebeag Cows with calf at foot Highland - £660 & £620 Bulls Highland - £740 Ballimore Sheep Hoggets: Texel: £88 Dunach Estates; Suffolk: £85, £80 Ardshellach; Cheviot: £81 Strongorm; SuffolkX: £79 Mains, Carradale & Ballimackillchan, Lismore; Cheviot: £74 Knock, Mull; Blackface: £64 Kilbride; Ewes: Texel: £90, £81 Barcaldine; Suffolk: £88 Barcaldine; Continental: £80 Culbhuirag, Iona; TexelX: £70 Mains, Carradale; Blackface: £59 Ballimackillchan, Lismore, £51 Strongorm, £50 lochdar, Mull

**DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
Heifer with male calf: LimousinX: Muirton Mains, Urray, £2550; SimmentalX: 4 & 5 Totescore, Isle of Skye, £2450; ShorthornX: Smallburn Farms, £2000.  
Heifer with heifer calf: LimousinX: Muirton Mains, £2600; SimmentalX: Smallburn Farms, £2400; BSH - Smallburn Farms, £2400; SallerX: - 4 & 5 Totescore, £2100.  
Cow with male calf: LimousinX: - Lochbuie, £2800; ShorthornX: - Lochbuie, £2300; SimmentalX: - Lochbuie, £1900; SallerX: - Treton, Culloden, £1800; British BlueX: - Lochbuie, £1700; Aberdeen AngusX: - Culrain Mains, £1500.  
Cow with heifer calf: LimousinX: - Lochbuie, £2500; British BlueX: - Lochbuie, £1900; LuingX: - 3 Totescore, Isle of Skye, £1850; SimmentalX: - Lochbuie, £1800; Aberdeen Angus: - Lochbuie, £1700; WSHX: - 68 Foindle, Lairg, £1300; CharolaisX: - Achilty, Contin, £1300.  
Bulling heifers: SimmentalX: - Redhill Farm, £1450; BRB - Essich Farm, £1400; Aberdeen AngusX: - Mid Fearn, Ardgay, £1220; LimousinX: - Easter Hardmuir, Nairn, £1180; BSH - Smallburn Farms, £1040



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# Commercial Property Review Spring 2013

## Bell Ingram Oban Complete a Flurry of Commercial Deals

Much like winter, the downturn in the Commercial Property Sector seems to have gone on forever, but with Spring tentatively approaching, the market is finally coming to life at last. Proof, if proof were needed, comes from Bell Ingram's Oban office, where Commercial Property Consultant, Gregor King, has been working to expand the company's share of the non-residential market over the last twelve months.

The most obvious sign of his success in this endeavour is the increased number of For Sale and To Let signs bearing the Bell Ingram logo, going up on everything from town centre shops to development sites, and with the geographic spread now extending from Campbeltown in the south to Fort William in the north, there aren't too many parts of Argyll and Lochaber where Bell Ingram are not currently marketing property.

Significant new instructions have included the former Harbour Bowl in Shore Street, Oban, which has attracted substantial interest and has already been the subject of offers, with detailed negotiations continuing. In Fort William, Bell Ingram has replaced Allied Surveyors as agents on a parade of three prime shops in the heart of High Street on behalf of Manchester-based clients, with a good level of enquiries already reported. And in George Street, Oban, Bell Ingram has been instructed on the disposal of the former Pancake Place unit, with the property already under offer.

Recently completed deals have included the successful re-letting of units 1 and 2, MacGregor Court, to Al's Nuts and Scotch Corner respectively; securing a tenant at 23 Argyll Square on behalf of Black's Town & Country within three months of commencing marketing; and leasing a self-contained office building at 120 George Street to Mears Care Plc the day after the previous lease expired, on behalf of a Dundee-based property investment company. All of these deals were struck at, or above, asking terms.

Bell Ingram has a number of new instructions coming to the market, including modern office premises, and a variety of retail units in the centre of Oban, development sites in Oban and Tarbert, a leasehold delicatessen business in Inveraray and a bar/restaurant/residential refurbishment opportunity in Carradale. And with the level of activity picking up across all sectors, including business sales and the hospitality sector, Gregor is confident that it will not be long before all the new marketing boards that are going up, are coming back down again.



### FOR SALE - Development Site Mossfield Drive, Glencruitten, Oban PA34 4EN

Level, south-west facing plot in a desirable residential area close to the town centre and within walking distance to supermarkets, local amenities and facilities

Suitable for a variety of uses, including residential development, subject to consents

Site extending to approximately 0.19 Hectare (0.47 acre)

**Offers in excess of £200,000**



### TO LET - 112 George Street, Oban PA34 5NT

Attractive, traditional shop unit in a prominent town centre location extending to 45.8m<sup>2</sup> (490 sqft) approx.

Suitable for a variety of uses and available at a competitive rent and on flexible lease terms

Immediate entry available

EPC Rating: G

**Rental: £10,000 per annum**



### TO LET - Combie Street, Oban PA34 4HT

Individual, first floor, offices with shared facilities, flexible showroom/commercial units and stores/workshops in a prominent, central location close to Argyll Square

Competitive, all-inclusive rental terms and flexible lease

EPC Rating: F

**Offices from £100 per calendar month**

**Commercial units from £200 per calendar month**



### FOR SALE - Development Site Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll & Bute PA29 6TT

Prominent location adjacent to A83 (T) at main entrance to village

Former garage/petrol filling station site, suitable for a variety of uses, including retail, residential or commercial development, subject to planning consents

Site extending to approximately 0.3 Hectare (0.75 acre)

**Price on Application**



### BUSINESS FOR SALE (Leasehold) - Cockles Fine Foods, 11 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8LZ

Established and profitable retail delicatessen business specialising in wholefoods and fresh fish located in the heart of Lochgilphead's main shopping thoroughfare with ample scope to expand the business and increase turnover and profitability

As recommended by Delia Smith and Rick Stein.

EPC Rating: G

**Offers over £40,000 + SAV  
(Vendor finance available subject to terms and conditions)**



### BUSINESS FOR SALE (Leasehold) - Eden Deli Main Street East, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8TP

Established and profitable, leasehold, delicatessen business

Located in the heart of Inveraray's main shopping thoroughfare

Opportunity to expand and develop the business

EPC Rating: G

**Offers over £20,000 + SAV**



### FOR SALE - Refurbishment Opportunity The Glen Bar, Carradale, Argyll PA28 6QG

Extensive bar and restaurant premises with attached, three-bedroom, owner's accommodation, in need of refurbishment in a peaceful rural location in popular tourist village

Large site with car-parking and further development potential, subject to planning consent

EPC Rating: Commercial - G/Residential - E(49)

Open Viewing - Saturday 18th May 1pm - 4pm  
(See website for details)

**Offers over £70,000**



### TO LET/MAY SELL - 61, 61a & 65 High Street, Fort William PH33 6DH

Three, traditional shop units in a prominent location in the heart of the town centre from 36.4m<sup>2</sup> - 103.3m<sup>2</sup> (390 - 1,100 sq ft)

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** We offer a full range of services to landlords and tenants in respect of rent reviews and lease renewals.

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GIRLS BIKE 18 gears, would suit 8-12 year old, mud guards fitted, good condition, £30 Telephone 01546 602253.

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE 18 gears, good condition, £40 Telephone 01546 602253.

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE never used, £49 Telephone 01546 603308.

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BOOK WANTED Will Pay £100 for good copy of Kipper House Tales by Forsyth Hamilton ring mobile. Telephone 07810 600767.

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LADIES SUPERDRY JACKET size medium, grey shell with light blue fleece lining and logos. Three zips and a fixed hood, very good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 563466.

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**BIRTHS**

**CAMPBELL** - Proud parents Shiona and Arlene are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Alice Shiona Campbell, born May 2, 2013. We feel totally blessed and are now complete.

**FORBES** - Michael and Pasiphae are delighted to announce the birth of their son Christian on April 23, 2013, a wee brother for Matthew, grandson for Mike and Grace.

**MACGREGOR** - Murray and Fiona (nee MacKenzie) are delighted to announce the early arrival of Emma and Hollie on March 22, 2013. Granddaughters to Andrew and Mary-Joan MacKenzie and the late Alister MacGregor. Special thanks to SCBU, RAH and Oban Maternity.

**DEATHS**

**BAIN** - Peacefully at Eader Gilin Oban on May 12, 2013. Jessie beloved wife of the (late) Nicol. Dearest mum of Donald and Ann, son-in-law Colin, granny to Kathleen and Kenneth, and great-gran to Ewen and Jamie. Loving memories.

**DANDO** - Nicola. May 2, 2013, at her home in Glasgow, aged 28 years. Formerly of Drishag, Inveraray. Daughter of the late Douglas Dando and the late Mitzi Dando, sister of Douglas and partner of Alison. Also remembered with great affection by her extended family. Loved by all and now finally at peace. Funeral on Thursday 16 May, 3.30pm at Craighton Crematorium, Berryknowes Road, Glasgow.

**KENNEDY** - Suddenly at home in Bowmore, Isle of Islay, on May 11, 2013, Margaret Mary (nee Caskie) aged 74 years. Beloved and much loved wife of Peter, mother of Loret and Lorne, mother-in-law of Robert and Jane, grandmother of Ciara, Ila, Lorne, Dasha and Caskie and sister of Donald, Fiona, Tom and the late Nigel. Will be loved and remembered every day by those who's lives she touched. Interred in Bowmore Cemetery Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Donation in lieu of flowers will be forwarded to the British Heart Foundation.

**WYLIE** - Peacefully in his sleep with his faithful dog Dileas by his side, on Friday May 10, 2013, aged 54 years, Alexander Ross Wylie (Alistair), only son of the late Alec and Morag Wylie, 2 Edendonich, Dalmlaly, Alistair will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**KING** - The family of the late Hugh King would like to thank all friends and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy, to D & A Munn for their excellent care and professionalism, to Rev Anne Winning for her comforting service and to everyone who attended at church and graveside. A generous donation of £734 was made to Cancer Research UK.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMERON** - Cherished memories of a dear wife and mother Nina who died May 20, 2011. When thoughts go back as they often do We treasure the memories we have of you. - Inserted by her loving husband Iain and family Kenneth and Alison, Isle of Jura

**CAMPBELL** - In memory of a loving father and grandpa Alasdair, died May 18, 1988. Loved and remembered everyday Never more than a thought away. - Lorn and Kathy and Alasdair, Christine and family.

**MACCOLL** - In fond memory of my dear friend Neillie who passed away on May 13, 2003. Time changes many things But not the sadness this day brings A broken heart and tears unseen Wishing your absence was only a dream - Margaret, Torloisk. Mull

**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of our dear sisters, Hersey who died on May 18, 1986 and Nan who died May 18, 2006. Also loved ones gone since and before. - Inserted by their sister and brother and families.

**MACDOUGALL** - Dougie. Treasured memories of a loving husband, dad and pop died May 2007. - Emma, Shona, Jamie and Hazel.

**MACFARLANE** - In loving memory of my mum May who died May 17, 1993, 20 years has passed. Loved and remembered always - Marion and boys x

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (DA) a dear husband, dad and seaniar who died May 16, 2005. Always beside us Loved and remembered every day. - Rachel and family.

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana, Duncanina, who passed away on May 20, 2007 and dear father and grandfather Hugh who passed away April 6, 1985. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard, but always near

Still loved, still missed and very dear. Also remembering dear loved ones gone before and after.

- Elizabeth, Iain, Iona and Ewan.

**MACKINNON** - Loving memories of our dear auntie Dunkie who passed away on May 20, 2007. - The Omand family, Trec, Renfrew and Lewis.

**MACLEAN** - In memory of a wonderful father and grandfather Calum MacLean, who passed away May 19, 1984. Forever in our thoughts. - Ian, Roddy and families, Kinlochleven.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012. To have, to hold and then to part Is the greatest sorrow of our heart. - Donald, Marie, Donna and Andy, Lorna and Lee, (Trec and Somerset).

If roses grow in Heaven Lord Please pick a bunch from us And place them in our granny's arms And tell her they're from us. - Daniel, Laura, Cameron and Connor. x

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of my dear sister Annie who died on May 16, 1994 and other loved ones before and after. Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever - Margaret, Torloisk

**MACQUARRIE** - In loving memory of our dear father Donald John, who died May 21, 1989, also remembering our dear mum Agnes, who died December 14, 2008 and loved ones gone before. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Inserted by their loving daughter Ann and son-in-law Cameron, Erskine.

**MCQUEEN** - In loving memory of my darling Fraser, Dad and Grandpa who passed away on May 18, 2010. Precious memories woven in gold these are the thoughts we tenderly hold Deep in our hearts his memory is kept, to love, to cherish and never forget. Frances, Gael, Kenneth, Helen, Fraser, Irene and all the grandchildren.

**MORRISON** - Mary. Always remembered every day. - Your loving husband Hector.

**MORRISON** - Treasured memories of our loving mum and granny, Mary who died May 17, 2004. Loved and remembered every day. - Teeny and family.

**MORRISON** - Treasured memories of a darling mum and granny Mary, who died May 17, 2004. Loved and remembered always. - Love from Angus, Margaret, Kirsteen, Ronnie, Richard and Carrick and Lily.

**MORRISON** - Mary In loving memory of a darling mum, granny and great-granny who passed away on May 17, 2004. May the winds of heaven blow gently And whisper for you to hear That we still love and miss you Always wishing you were here. - Love Christina, Banny, Laura and Martin.

Gentle Jesus up above Please give our great granny all our love. - Sinead and Lewis.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny Mary, who died May 17, 2004. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day. - Lorraine, Paul, Jill and Kyle.

**TURNER** - In loving memory of my wife, Margaret (nee MacInnes) died May 18, 2012. The grass that grows upon your grave May wither and decay But fresh and green your memory within My heart will stay - Kenny

**TURNER** - In loving memory of a dear mother, Margaret. When someone you love becomes a memory The memory becomes a treasure. Miss you always - Tracey and Cooley

You were the best nana in the world. - Ryan and Jamie

**TURNER** - In loving memory of Margaret, who died May 18, 2012. If only we had one wish We'd only wish for you If only we had one dream We'd only dream of you If we could bring one person back We'd only ever pick you One in a million is what you were Miss you everyday Mum. - Kathleen

Loved and remembered. - Lovi

**Heavy horses return to plough on Isle of Gigha**

HEAVY horses were back on Gigha last Friday, working the land as in years past, and taking 81-year-old John McNeill on a trip down memory lane.

He was the last man to work the plough on the island - at the shore field at Tarbert Farm in 1953. However, he discovered he had not lost his touch behind the plough when Neil McPhail and Michael Mayberry of Skernish brought their horses to the site of Gigha's new turbine, to help carry out re-instatement works on three kilometres of underground power lines laid in January.

While the bulk of the work was carried out by tractor, the final stages were left in the capable hands of Tommy and Poacher - the award-winning Skernish Clydesdales.

Gigha Green Power Limited (GGPL) is a community-owned company which is installing a fourth turbine on Gigha providing more income to the island for all its projects, including housing improvements.

Neil and Michael also brought a display of agricultural equipment - some originally from Gigha - they had restored.

They gave displays of harrowing and ploughing and many folk on Gigha had a go under the guidance of the experts.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

Sunday 19 May 2013 Pentecost

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 McNeilly, Provost. (01631) 562323

St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich Holy Eucharist..... 15.00

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08.00 Evensong..... 20.15 Holy Eucharist..... 22.00 Wed 22 May 14.30

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**Oban Hospice**

CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

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The WEST2EAST convoy leaves Oban.

**Bikers revved up for church charity challenge**

A GROUP of 30 leather clad bikers descended on Oban's Corran Esplanade Church of Scotland last Saturday, but all in a good cause.

Two charities, Stretch a Nickel Foundation (SANF) and the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA), got together for a sponsored motor bike ride from WEST2EAST across Scotland with the start point at Oban.

All funds raised are going to a specific cause - the purchase of pedal cycles for church pastors in Mozambique.

The two charities learned through family and friends who had been in Mozambique that the pastors walked for hours in hot and humid conditions, as

they visited outlying villages.

The Iris Ministries Organisation, which promotes the work of these pastors - they have set up between 12,000 and 14,000 churches since 2001 - was approached by SANF and the CMA who offered to raise some much needed funds for bicycles, hence the motorbike run.

It is hoped that their efforts might purchase 200 bicycles.

Helen Clark and Sandra Clark of Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland were delighted to provide hospitality to all the bikers. Teas, coffees and home baking were greatly appreciated by the participants especially on an unseasonably cold and wet May morning.



The WEST2EAST's Stig and Martin White with Helen Clark and Sandra Clark of Kilmore and Oban Church.

**Thought for the Week**

**Who do we trust?**

OVER the last week or so a huge amount of media coverage has been given to the impending retrial of Sir Alex Ferguson after 27 years of multiple trophy successes as manager of Manchester United.

Meanwhile the blue half of Manchester has had to come to terms with losing their manager, the Premier League crown to their near neighbours and a shock FA Cup final defeat to lowly Wigan.

Unlike Sir Alex, Roberto Mancini's departure was rather less

glorious. The man entrusted with delivering ongoing success at Old Trafford is another Scot, David Moyes, 11 years managing Everton.

One of the banners seen at Goodison Park read IN MOYES WE TRUST, a declaration of faith, of implicit trust.

Depending on which crowd you are watching you can substitute various names of either players or managers for MOYES.

A huge burden of expectation rests on these folk and as any football fan knows at painful

cost inevitable disappointment.

Now you might well be seriously underwhelmed by the fanatic football supporter but issues of trust to a greater or lesser degree impact all of our lives as we interact with others.

One of the great themes of the Bible is that only God is worthy of our ultimate trust, only he is 100 per cent reliable.

Earlier we used the expression 'a declaration of faith'. What would ours be?

Paul, one of the early leaders in the Christian church, affirmed

emphatically, 'I know whom I have believed ...'

He was talking about Jesus Christ, who reveals God to us, and as the one given all power and authority in heaven and on earth, as he himself said, is infinitely more worthy of our trust than any mere mortal however gifted.

And regardless of our successes or failures he won't give up on us if we trust in him.

James Beaton, Oban Free Church



Eco champions! Kinlochleven Primary School and Nursery children celebrate achieving their second Green Flag. 20.12.001

**Second eco green flag for Kinlochleven primary and nursery 'We are all very proud and delighted'**

KINLOCHLEVEN Primary School and Nursery has further boosted their environmental credentials by achieving a second Eco-Schools Scotland (ESS) Green Flag.

The coveted educational award was presented to pupils and staff following an evaluation visit by ESS lead assessor Rachel Avery.

Ms Avery was 'hugely

impressed' by the application, especially the 'Eco Stuff' updates on the school blog.

She said: 'I think this is the strongest application I have received all year.'

'All the evidence points to a strong whole school approach to sustainable development education, outdoor learning and global citizenship, embedded in the everyday life and ethos

of the school. If we had a Green Flag Plus award I would give you one.'

Head teacher Cheryl Allan said: 'We are all very proud and delighted at the children's achievement in getting this award.'

Class teacher Fiona McSorland and nursery assistant Val Heskey supported pupils in their efforts.

**The Oban Times**  
 & West Highland Times  
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# SCOTTISH SERIES 2013

## TARBERT LOCH FYNE 24 MAY - 27 MAY



**With only a week to go, the village of Tarbert on Loch Fyne is all set to welcome this year's Scottish Series that takes place from May 24th to 27th 2013.**

Organised by the Clyde Cruising Club, this will be the 39th running of this prestigious racing event that attracts competitors from all over the world including a strong Irish contingent.

Sailing the challenging waters of Loch Fyne against a backdrop of stunning scenery, the Scottish Series offers a blend of the best of racing in UK waters alongside a varied and hectic social programme ashore - the perfect stage for a fun filled event and spectacular for both competitors and spectators alike. Nearby Portavadie Marina also plays host to some of the fleet.

The event format with a mix of coastal races and windward/leeward or triangle races is designed to attract a wide range of entries from high-tech IRC yachts to CYCA handicap cruiser/racers and one designs, including Sigma 33s and Sonatas. The 'Round Inch' Race on Sunday May 26 for the CYCA classes is also open to yachts wishing to race this day alone. A special trophy is awarded to recognise the winner's outstanding achievement.

Many of the renowned names in yacht racing return this year with a splash of newcomers, attracted by the reputation of this famous event with great sailing and close competition.

**Olympic Ambassador**

One famous face on the water will be Luke Patience, 2012 Olympic medalist and the ambassador for this year's Scottish Series. He competes on a Bavaria B/one sports boat, supplied by DDZ Marine. Luke is enthusiastic about his involvement: 'The Scottish Series is such an important and fantastic event. It brings together hard racing in a challenging and scenic venue and the chance to meet up with the some old friends for a wee dram after a long day. I hope I can inspire youngsters to take part in sailing and this event.'

Scottish Series Chairman, Stephen Bennie said: 'Luke's recent success at the Olympics is a great encouragement to young sailors of the future. It will be great to have Luke out on the water as well as being around to meet people and lend support off the water.'



Tunnock's is once again on board as a sponsor along with Bowmore Islay Single Malt Whisky, Tarbert Enterprise Company and Tarbert Harbour Authority. Argyll and Bute Council, Hyde Sails, the Crown Estate and Highland Spring are also supporting the event along with Malin Waters. Luke's involvement is supported by EventScotland through the 'Year of Natural Scotland' in 2013.

**Something for all ages and interests**

In addition to the action on the water, a variety of activities in the village of Tarbert will be a huge draw for families and visitors to the area with something for all ages and interests. Tarbert Enterprise Company has arranged live bands playing in the marquee on Saturday and Sunday evening, with Stramash kids' sailing in the harbour during the day, a Highland Dancing competition, Pipe Bands, Water Waltzers, an Art Fair, Workshops, Face Painting and various Stalls. With the new amenity area adjacent to the pontoons decked with marquees for indoor events, there

will be a tremendous buzz about the harbour. One of the highlights is the fireworks display at Bruce's Castle on Sunday night lighting up the whole of the village.

John Hardie of TEC said: 'We are hugely excited at the prospect of this year's event. We have fantastic locations for all our activities both onshore and on the water for excellent racing.'

The Scottish Series attracts around 100 visiting yachts with around 750 crew and guests bringing the normally quiet village of Tarbert and nearby Portavadie Marina to life over the racing weekend. With hoteliers seeing one of their busiest times of the year, the event is of major economic importance to the area. Further details are available from the Clyde Cruising Club website: www.clyde.org

**'Local' Runners and riders**

Pitting their sailing skills against seasoned campaigners at the Scottish Series, James Hardie of Oban Sailing Club competes in his Grand Soleil Taz in CYCA Class 5 and will race against regular SS competitor Brian Robertson of Mid Argyll with his X332 Celtic Spirit.

In CYCA 6 Joey Gough's Tangle o'the Isles, a former SS class winner, will be raced by Twig Olsen of Oban. Owner Joey, fresh from a stunning OSAKA double-handed race win in Japan, may also join as 'guest' crew.

Afloat or ashore, Tarbert is certainly the place to be to enjoy this year's Scottish Series.

All images by kind permission of Clyde Cruising Club

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### EVENTS DURING THE TARBERT SCOTTISH SERIES 2013

Each morning the Lone Piper from 8.30am

**Friday 24th May**  
Event Marquee Bar from 4.30pm to 8.00pm approx.  
Prize giving 6.30pm.

**Saturday 25th May**  
Stramash with Kid's Sailing from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Harbour.  
Highland Dancing Competition 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Village Hall.  
Water Walkerz by the Mid Argyll Swimming Pool 11.30am to 3.30pm  
and Face Painters 12.00pm to 2.00pm by Event Marquee.  
Art Fair and Workshop Event Marquee 11.30am to 4.00pm.  
Event Marquee Bar 4.30pm to 8.00pm approx with music from Scott MacDonald.  
Prize giving 6.30pm.  
Bowmore Whisky Tasting 6.00pm.

**Saturday 25th May**  
Shady Rip Chord  
Marquee 10.00pm to 1.00am

**Sunday 26th May**  
Stramash with Kid's Sailing from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Harbour  
Event Marquee Bar from 4.30pm to 8.00pm approx  
Pipe Band Harbour Street 5.00pm  
Prize giving 6.30pm

**The Democrats**  
Marquee 10.00pm to 1.00am

**Monday 27th May**  
Event Marquee Bar 2.30pm to 8.00pm approx  
Prize giving TBA  
The bar in the Event Marquee will open after racing each day and close 30 minutes after the end of the prizegiving  
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# Fort come out on top in local derby

'If we want to get anywhere this is the level we have to get up to - Duncan Kelly

REPORT BY  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A GARY INNES double sealed a 4-1 win over local rivals Kilmallie as a much-improved Fort William marched into the Artemis MacAulay Cup quarter-final.

Truth be told, the final scoreline did not tell the whole story but the An Aird men ran out deserved winners after finding their scoring touch in the second 45.

In a scrappy first half both teams struggled to find a rhythm with clean hitting the exception rather than the rule, and true chances few and far between.

Kilmallie opened the stronger and the home defence was hard put to clear Shorty Graham's 12th minute corner before Innes flashed a drive past Kevin Toye's right hand post at the other end.

Young Fort defender Cammy Grant earned himself a 16th minute booking for a wild swipe on Michael Rodger as tempers frayed.

And it was Rodger who almost opened the scoring moments later but he failed to get a clean contact on the ball and his shot trundled harmlessly past as MacKay rushed out to block.

Mark MacPherson was fortunate to escape a yellow card for bringing down Innes but Kilmallie continued to have the edge, and MacKay did well had to block John Stewart's shot after the international forward got away from Niall MacPhee.

**Smart stop**  
Kevin Toye pulled off a smart stop from Gordie MacKinnon then MacKay turned another Stewart effort round the post as half-time loomed.

Kilmallie replaced Graham with Martin Munro, who moved up to full forward with Rodger switched to half back to bolster the defence - but it was Fort who grabbed the initiative on 49 minutes.

Daniel Stewart looked to have carried the ball too far, but his deflected shot sailed past Kevin Toye high into the net for 1-0. The home defence was conceded-

## SHINTY

ing nothing, with Stevie Stewart in particular outstanding and Duncan Rodger's arrival on the park further cemented Fort's superiority.

Cammy Grant was lucky not to be sent off for a blatant trip on Munro before Daniel Stewart almost made it two after fine play by MacKinnon, who required seven stitches after the game for a head wound.

Robertson cleared just in time from Innes on the hour mark, but seconds later Fort went 2-0 ahead when Robertson inadvertently deflected a corner into his own net.

By now Innes was finding more space and the Fort man had his goal on 70 minutes, turning smartly away from MacAllister to fire a glorious 25-yard shot high past Toye.

Kilmallie briefly threatened a comeback when Mark Graham made it 3-1 but Innes had the final say, cracking home from a similar angle after being set up



Grant MacKenzie, left, and Stevie Stewart go head to head in a battle for possession 20. f20shinty05

by Josh Magee.

'Innes' shot tore through the rigging - but after a short debate between the match officials the goal was allowed to stand.

Kilmallie coach Duncan Kelly was disappointed with the result - but far from downbeat.

He told The Oban Times: 'In the end the took their chances and we did not, but Fort William were the better team on the day.'

'If we want to get anywhere this is the level we have to get up to. It is a good learning curve for us - now we just have to pick ourselves up.'

Winning Fort co-manager Adi Robertson told The Oban Times: 'It was a good performance especially given the last few performances we have had.'

'Some of the enforced changes worked out really well - I thought

Niall MacPhee at full back and Stevie Stewart at half-back were both excellent.

'The team had a better balance and really took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half. Once we got a goal in front we never looked like losing.'

## Conlon's men travel to face big spending Brora Rangers

FORT William take on one of the Highland League's most expensively assembled sides this Saturday knowing they need at least a point to have a chance of avoiding another last place finish.

Brora Rangers boast the likes of ex-Inverness Caley players Ross Tokely and Stuart Golabek and former Canadian international Richie Hastings in their line up, and were recently linked with a move for Scotland international Derek Rioridan.

Fort manager Danny Conlon can only dream of such resources, and told The Oban Times his squad will again be stretched thin for the trip to Sutherland.

He said: 'I think we'll be doing well to get a squad together. We'll have to try and get a team together and put in a decent performance, but it's going to be a difficult match.'

'When you look at their finances, it's a different world to us. They are full of quality players, and they have a lot of good individuals.'

'Maybe they will be switching

## FOOTBALL

off a bit as it's the end of the season, or the manager might try out some of the younger boys, we'll just have to wait and see.'

Fort lost 5-1 when the sides met at Claggan Park last month, but Conlon said the scoreline did not reflect the game.

**Reasonably well**  
He said: 'We played reasonably well for the first 60 or 70 minutes, but then we fell apart a bit.'

Darren Quigg is suspended for the final two games of the season, giving Conlon another defensive headache. Ryan MacDonald is a candidate to drop into the centre of the defence in Quigg's absence.

Forwards Davie Forbes and Iain MacLellan will also miss the game due to work commitments.

Fort's home game against Lossiemouth last weekend was postponed due to heavy rain. The tie between the Highland League's two bottom sides will now be held at Claggan Park on Saturday May 25.

## Lochaber lose to Ross Sutherland

LOCHABER under 16's played their last game of the season on Saturday when they hosted Ross Sutherland at Banavie.

The home side started strongly against the physically bigger Ross side and the score stayed 0-0 until half way through the first half when the visitors broke through to score.

The Lochaber side did not let this stop them from playing some good handling rugby and they promptly scored a try through Finn Munro which was converted by Rory Bell to make the score 7-7 at half time.

Unfortunately Lochaber lost a player at half

## YOUTH RUGBY

time as he had to go to play music at a wedding. This loss took its toll and Ross scored a couple of quick fire tries.

Despite this the young Lochaber side had their chances and very nearly scored a couple of tries of their own but were just thwarted by some last ditch tackling by Ross-Sutherland.

Lochaber were now trying to run everything and Ross-Sutherland pounced on a mistake to take the final score to 7-24.



Lochaber's Rory Bell breaks away from Ross Sutherland's Connor Fraser 20. f20rugby01



Ross Sutherland's Calum Sangster wraps up Lochaber's Ruairidh MacInnes 120. f20rugby02

## Igor prepares for championships with victory in Aberdeen

LOCHABER's national champion Igor Sliwinski prepared for the upcoming British championships with a confident victory in Aberdeen last Friday.

The 16 year old Scottish youth light-welterweight title holder took on Eddie Copland, with the home fighter starting well in the first round.

Sliwinski started the second by throwing combinations off the jab and starting to work to the body, and moved through the gears in the final round to take a unanimous points decision.

Sliwinski's Lochaber Phoenix clubmate Ryan Watson also took part in the Aberdeen show, and the senior fighter maintained his recent good form with a well deserved victory against Bill Ramsey.

Dan Nixon took plaudits from all the coaches present after defeating the taller and heavier Dean Castle. The 11 year-old dominated the fight on his way to victory.

Lightweight James Aitchison went into his bout with current Scottish champion Paul Greenhorn carrying a hand

## BOXING

injury, and was left with only one hand to box with for much of the match after mistiming an early effort.

Despite the handicap, the 15 year-old kept the scoring tight and only lost by a split decision.

**Vying for titles**  
Club official Steve Docherty said: 'Winning the Scottish title has shown Igor he has a chance to do a lot in the sport, Ryan has come on in leaps and bounds since the turn of the year. Dan only had his first contest in February but already looks like he could be vying for titles next season and I'll be shocked if James doesn't regain his Scottish title that he last held a couple of years ago.'

Meanwhile, Docherty's hard work has been rewarded with a promotion to head of the Referees and Judges Commission for the North of Scotland District.

He will now oversee the testing of any new referees or judges and monitor the performance of the existing ones.

# First Argyll showjumping contest hailed a great success

THE FIRST open showjumping competition hosted by the recently formed Argyll branch of the British Show Jumping (BS) Academy has been declared a great success.

The Argyll academy was established last year with the aim of attracting BS coaches to the area in a bid to ensure young riders improve their riding skills and equestrian knowledge.

The academy, which is completely self-funded, hosted an open competition to give its young members experience of competing in a formal British Show Jumping competition whilst raising funds.

Held at Lettershuna Riding Centre in Appin, the competition was judged by international show jumper and official BS junior academy coach Nigel Springer.

The renowned coach has been visiting Argyll to deliver training sessions for the last year and

has been a huge supporter of the Argyll academy.

Commenting on the event, which saw Nigel and BS development officer Lucy Brindley offer advice and encouragement, Sara Qualter from BS Argyll Academy said: 'The support and encouragement of members and local businesses was astounding and we are proud to say that the BS junior academy Argyll is now able to continue to train our local young people in the discipline of show jumping.'

'We have some very talented young people right here in Argyll and their talent certainly deserves to be supported and nurtured.'

**Results:** 60cm Pony class: 1. Jodie Baillie on Barney, 2. Rebecca Scot o Brewster, 3. Steffie Brown on Ruby, 4. Amber Cameron on Cassie. 70cm pony class: 1. Rebecca Scot on Brewster, 2. Amber Cameron on Cassie, 3. Steffie Brown on Ruby, 4.

Beth Qualter Buncall on Bertie. 80cm pony class: 1. Jodie Baillie on Barney and Jodie Sloss on Roany, 3. Beth Qualter Buncall on Bertie, 4. Steffie Brown on Ruby. 90cm pony class: 1. Beth Qualter Buncall on Barney, 2. Jodie Sloss on Roany, 3. Aimee Johnston on Puzzle, 4. Steffie Brown on Ruby. Pony 1m class: 1. Aimee Johnston on Puzzle, 2. Jodie Sloss and Roany. 70 cm horse class: 1. Fiona Montgomery on Sidney, 2. Ethel Johnston on Bo, 3. Bethany Wade on Charlie, 4. William Addison on Sandy. 80cm horse class: 1. Shannon Addison on Mac, 2. Fiona Montgomery on Sidney, 3. Bethany Wade on Charlie, 4. William Addison on Sandy. 90cm horse class: 1. Lindsay MacDonald on Pye, 2. Yvonne Sloss on Essi, 3. Emma Smith on ML, 4. Shannon Addison on Mac. 1m horse class: 1. Yvonne Sloss on Essi, 2. Emma Smith on ML, 3. Lindsay MacDonald on Pye.



Grant Cairns, left, came first in the Inveraray Trial Run and was followed closely by his twin brother Iain, right, with Martin Cornish finishing third. 06. a20run06

## Inveraray run has largest entry

INVERARAY Bluebell Trial Run, which broke free from Inveraray Jail on Sunday, enjoyed the largest field of entries in its four-year history with runners coming from across Argyll, Glasgow and further afield.

The inaugural children's race was supported by a small but select group of runners who all tackled the rough trail course with enthusiasm and energy.

Joseph Harper from Lochgilphead, a seasoned athlete,

stormed around the 3km course in 14 minutes, 5 seconds, followed by Lochgair's Rachael Johnston, the first girl to finish and second overall in 16.59.

Ormsary's Ruby Bosomworth was third in the youth race, second in the 10-13 female category in 18.00. Ben Davidson, also from Ormsary, took first place in the 6-9 years category, with a time of 20.17. He was closely followed by local runner Tilly Cunningham, first girl.

The hill run, featuring a 236m high climb, was soon underway and was dominated by twin brothers Grant and Iain Cairns from Springburn Harriers.

Grant was the overall winner, crossing the line on 31.33 and Iain second on 32.39. Lochgilphead runner Iain Mac-Nicol was the first runner home in the male veteran category and took the first jogsotland finisher prize.

Bill Halliday was the first to cross the line in the trial's first ever super veteran category. Bill from Mid Argyll Triathlon Club was named the male super veteran champion with a time of 40.13.

The female race was heavily dominated by the ladies from SOS Fitness but locals did manage to keep them from the most coveted first over the line prize as Ormsary's Dinah Bosomworth finished the course in 39.53.

## Paterson wins Roy Bridge to Laggan Dam round route

### CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers held a race from Roy Bridge to Laggan dam and back, with Donald Paterson the first home and his partner Biff Gow the fastest female.

Paterson finished the 15 mile course in a time of 38 minutes and 51 seconds, while Stephen Burns was one minute and 17 seconds behind in second. Doc Shirley crossed the line 12 seconds after Burns to take third.

Gow's time of 46 minutes and 22 seconds was more than two minutes quicker than her nearest challenger Kim Cameron. Marie Meldrum was the third fastest female with a time of 51 minutes and 35 seconds.

## Highland Stag Triples held at Kinlochleven

### BOWLING

KINLOCHLEVEN Bowling Club held its Highland Stag Triples, the first open competition in the club's centenary year, on Sunday, May 5.

The weather was good to start with, blue skies and bright sunshine, but by lunchtime the rain arrived and showers continued for the rest of the day. It did not dampen the spirits of the players however.

Winners were Tam Rodgers, Margaret MacPherson and Barney O'Shaughnessy with David Wilson, Eddie Downs and Jimmy Miller the runners-up. The prizes were presented by the sponsors, Peter and Helen Banfield.

## Wolverton Trophy win for Neil

### GOLF

FORT William Golf Club hosted the Wolverton Trophy on Saturday, with Neil Feggins taking a two stroke victory.

Andrew Brown finished runner up, with his net round of 65 good enough to hold off John MacPhee.

On Sunday, Steve Jamieson and William McCann teamed up to take top spot in the Cranog two person Texas scramble. Alec Stewart and Dougie Duncan were second with Mark MacDonald and Andrew Brown in third.

Results: Wolverton Trophy - 1. Neil Feggins 75-12=63; 2. Andrew Brown 77-12=65; 3. John D MacPhee 81-15=66.

Cranog two person Texas scramble - 1. Steve Jamieson and William McCann 67-5=62; 2. Alec Stewart and Dougie Duncan 70-6=64; 3. Mark MacDonald and Andrew Brown 73-8=65.

## Murdo wins Skye Cup by four shots

### GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club held the second round of the Skye Cup on Saturday and Sunday, with Murdo Gordon taking a four shot victory.

Gordon shot a net round of 60 to finish clear of Mike Williams in second. Craig Irvine-Smith was third with a net 65.

Last week, the club hosted the first round of the Strath Cup, which saw Jamie Beaton finish first with 40 points.

Beaton's better inward half gave him the win after he finished level with Mike Mace. Martin Bird was third on 38 points.

## Rollover jackpot

### LOTTERY

A BUMPER rollover jackpot of £800 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 2, 9 and 10.

## Oban league win

### SQUASH

OBAN Squash Club won the latest round of league matches against Fort William.

After a fiercely fought match in Fort William the month before, which Oban won, Fort William brought a strong team to Oban's Atlantis Leisure.

In another heated encounter, Oban won 15 games to 10, giving them a 12-point lead overall.

## Laggan race return

### RUNNING

THE POPULAR annual Laggan 10k road race and one mile fun run will be held on May 25.

More than 50 runners entered last year's event, starting at Laggan Village Hall and heading along the road to the Corrieyariack Pass.

The race starts at 2pm, with the fun run getting underway at 2.10pm. Teas will be served in Laggan Hall after the finish.

All proceeds from the day will go to Gergask Primary School.

# Oban Saints reach another cup final

## Good performance sees Saints defeat Haldane in Marshall semi

Jimmy Marshall Trophy  
Semi Final  
**Oban Saints 2**  
**Haldane United 0**

OBAN Saints reached their second cup final of the season after they defeated Haldane United in the semi final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy at McKenna Park, Govan, on May 8.

The Oban side have already appeared in one cup final, the Centenary Trophy, which unfortunately they lost on penalties to Alba Thistle, so the local lads were determined to reach their second final and did so with an impressive display against their Balloch opponents.

effort saved by Daniel Cassells in the 26th minute, then at the other end Myles McAuley had a shot that flew inches past the post and just before half time Craig MacEwan crossed for Donnie Campbell but his header flew over the bar.

The half time interval arrived with the scoreline blank in a fairly evenly contested first 45 minutes.

The Oban lads knew that if they wanted to reach the final they would have to increase the pace of the game in the second half and this they did, creating several chances in the opening minutes through Craig MacEwan, Donnie Campbell and Dene Cassells.

Saints had a great chance to take the lead in the 44th minute when a mistake by Haldane skipper Michael McIlmun allowed Donnie Campbell a clean run

through on goals but his shot hit the post then five minutes later Ross Maitland had a fine effort that crashed off the bar.

**Deadlock**

It looked as though it was going to be one of those days for Saints with chances going begging, but thankfully the deadlock was finally broken in the 69th minute after some good play between Donnie Campbell, Keith Millar and Myles McAuley resulted in the ball being played to Dene Cassells who slotted the ball past United keeper Chris Connelly.

Saints were playing good football and had Haldane on the rack for most of the second half.

The Oban lads killed the game off in the 80th minute when Donnie Campbell got on the end of a loose ball to hammer it past the helpless goalkeeper to make the score 2-0.

The Oban side played out time



No way through for Mattie Rippon against the Haldane defence. Photo: Stephen Lawson

fairly comfortably to march into their second cup final of the season.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We played some good football, were the better team for the majority of the game, hit the woodwork three times and scored two good goals so we deserve to be in the final.'

The final against Hillington will be held on Sunday 2 June at Sommerville Park, home of Cambuslang Rangers.

Last Saturday Saints got back to league duty with a tough away fixture against Finnart and a Ross Maitland strike in the first minute of the match was all that separated the teams after a hard fought game.

The Oban lads played their third game in five days when they took on Rolls Royce EK last Sunday. The game was

switched to the 3G pitch at Oban High School when the grass at Glencruitten was unplayable following heavy rain.

**Surprise**

Saints thought they had taken the lead in the 11th minute when Mattie Rippon beat his marker and cut the ball back from the byeline for Craig MacEwan to knock the ball home, but to the surprise of the home contingent referee Peter Laing ruled the goal out for a foul by Mattie Rippon, when it was clear the Rolls Royce defender slipped when going for the ball.

The Oban side should have taken the lead when Craig MacEwan was clean through, but his shot was saved by the keeper.

Saints eventually took the lead with 14 minutes remaining when Keith Millar headed the ball home from close range.

The home side looked to have a stone wall penalty turned down when Asen Gaydardzhiev was clearly brought down in the box. It should have been a penalty and the Rolls Royce player could easily have been shown the red card.

With time almost up Rolls Royce were awarded a corner and as the ball was crossed into the box the referee blew his whistle and awarded a penalty to much to the surprise of the Oban team.

The spot kick was converted to make the final score 1-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was not a happy man after the game. He said: 'We didn't play all that well but vital refereeing decisions went against us.'

Saints play two games again this weekend. On Saturday they travel to take on Castlemilk and on Sunday are at home to St Joseph's. Sunday's game will take place at Glencruitten or the 3G with a 2.30pm kick-off.

**James Maitland Charity Run - Saturday June 15**

OBAN Saints senior team players along with friends and family will be running the West Highland Way to raise funds for Vasculitis UK in memory of James.

Oban Saints will also be holding a race night the same evening in Glencruitten Golf Club, the proceeds of which will be divided equally between the club and Vasculitis UK. The club ask that players old and new come along to the golf club on June 15 to support this worthwhile cause.

Sponsorship forms are available locally and from the family. You can also donate at [justgiving.com/jamesmaitlandcharityrun2013](http://justgiving.com/jamesmaitlandcharityrun2013).

### Silverware for Saints Under 14s

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

CONGRATULATIONS to Oban Saints Under 14s who defeated Lochgilphead Red Star 4-3 in the final of the DFDL League Cup, played at the Bet Butler Stadium, Dumbarton, last Sunday.

Scoring for Saints were Jay Cooper, Evan MacLellan, Patrick McIntyre and Zander Kilmurray.

Weekend fixtures:  
Saturday - League Cup Final - Ardencaple v Under 13s, Millburn Park, Vale of Leven, kick-off 10.30am. Ardencaple v Under 16s, Sunday - Under 14s v Milngavie; v Under 15s v Dalvait.

### Taynuilt Golf Club

#### GOLF

LADIES: Duncarden Cup + Medal played May 7: 1 Jill Stewart 67 (21); 2 Sheena Ambrose 71 (36); 3 Sandra Elliott 73 (27). Duncarden Cup Winner - Sheena Ambrose.

Gents: Club Championship 1st round played May 12. Handicap: 1 Mark Henriksen 60 (7); 2 Andrew Diggory 63 (6); 3 David Howie 65 (2). Gross: 1 David Howie 67; 2 Mark Henriksen 67; 3 Andrew Diggory 69. Inter Club Match with Tobermory held on Mull - Tobermory 2, Taynuilt 3.

### Islay Golf Club

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club Mrs McIntyre Trophy played Friday May 10 - 1 Norman MacDonald lrp; 2 Nigel Carmichael lrp; 3 Alistair Livingstone lrp.

The Laddie Trophy played Sunday May 12 - 1 Norman MacDonald 35pts; 2 Neil Johnston 35pts; 3 Sam Johnston 34pts.

### Oban Hockey Club holds AGM

FOLLOWING its first competitive season, Oban Hockey Club will hold its annual meeting today (Thursday).

The meeting, at Oban Lorne Rugby Club, Glencruitten, will begin at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend.



Keith Millar's diving header opens the scoring against Rolls Royce EK at the 3G pitch last Sunday, but the visitors levelled the score with a last minute penalty. Photo: Stephen Lawson

### Bruce wins Killin Senior Open

#### GOLF

HOME favourite Bruce Ford won the Killin Senior Gents Open last week by recording the best inward half.

J Innes of Glenrothes was unlucky to find himself in second in the category one section with a round of 66 but was bettered by his Killin counterpart last Wednesday.

Colin Simmons, also of Killin, won the category two section with a round of 68.

The full results are: Category One, 0-14: 1 Bruce Ford, Killin 66; 2 J Innes, Glenrothes 66; 3 Glenn Marshall, Rye Hill 67.

Category 2, 15-28: 1 Colin Simmons, Killin 68; 2 Ronnie Findlay, Dalmally 69; 3 M Newton, Helensburgh 69.

Nearest the pin 15-28: H Ardbuckle, Crief.

Nearest the pin 0-14: Glenn Marshall, Rye Hill.

Nearest the pin in two: Alan Reid, Callander.

Handicap winner, Kiltirie Trophy: Bruce Ford, Killin 66. Mactaggart Trophy, Best Local handicap 15-28: Colin Simmons, Killin 68.

Lix Toll Trophy, Best Local handicap 1-14: Bruce Ford, Killin 66. Magic twos: Billy MacKay, Dalmally; H Ardbuckle, Crief; Glenn Marshall, Rye Hill; I Graham, Bishop Auckland. CSS: 67.

## New strips for Mull rugby youngsters

ISLE of Mull Rugby Club has bought specially-designed strips for its four mini and youth age groups thanks to a two-year sponsorship from island-based builders TSL Contractors Ltd.

The financial backing has also allowed the club to move forward with its coaching structure and involve the children from around the island by running a competition to design the strips.

From more than 70 entries, three winning designs were selected by a panel from the club and TSL.

**Design**

The under-10 design was won by Rio Brown, age six from Tobermory, the under-12 by Harry Corbett, also six, from Lochdon and the under-14 and under-16s by Tobermory High School pupil Martha Charrington, aged 12.

All the winners received a personalised jersey of their design on the last Saturday at the Isle of Mull RFC Youth festival, featuring teams from Kelso, Lenzie and local Dalriada Cup teams Oban, Taynuilt and Mid Argyll.

Etive Vikings ran out as win-



Isle of Mull Rugby Club youth and mini players with their new strips.

#### YOUTH RUGBY

ners in the P4/5 and P6/7 age groups while hosts Mull won the triangular S1/2 tournament, also involving Kelso and Lenzie.

The three winners could also return for this weekend's Mull Rugby Sevens, sponsored this year by Tobermory Distillery, the club's main sponsor for next season.

The sevens tournament at Garmony, nicknamed the world's most sociable sevens, will see the return of the curtain-raising Friday night game with a President's Select against the visiting Stirling County side.

The local school tag finals kick off events in the morning, before the main event gets underway.

This year the club aims to receive its accreditation in Bill Maclaren Positive Coaching Scotland, a coaching framework which is heavily influenced by Bill Maclaren's values both in rugby and life. In doing so, the club would become the 17th and first island club to be accredited.

SRU president Alan Lawson and his wife Linda, the daughter of Bill Maclaren, will be on hand during the day to witness all the fun first hand and present the prizes. This will be followed by the Sevens Dance held in the clubhouse, which is themed 'Vampires & Victims'.



### Portree dominate cross country event

PORTREE Primary dominated the Skye schools cross country championships, winning both the boys and the girls team events.

Hallie Miles Shinnie of Portree was the quickest girl on the day, while Dunvegan's Cameron Campbell repeated his success last year to win the boys' race.

Staffin Primary School took home the small schools trophy for a fifth year in a row, with Dunvegan second and Broadford third.

Staffin pupils are pictured celebrating with their trophy.

### Two out of three good enough for Billy

#### GOLF

BILLY McKay won Dalmally Golf Club's first big event of the year, coming from behind to claim the McLure Cup.

Despite only playing in two of the three rounds, a battling performance during the final round saw him edge out overnight leader Des McNulty by three strokes.

McKay continued his good form into the first Medal Qualifier of the year, shooting the first sub 70 gross round of the season, a superb 69 (net 60), to tie with newcomer Andy McMaster, whose first competitive round at the Orchy club saw him rewarded with an immediate handicap reduction.

The club was due to hold its first open event of the season, the Gents and Ladies Senior Opens, yesterday (Wednesday).

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

### COMpetition

WIN £650

**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:**

**M MacDougall, Gylan Close, Oban**  
**B Galbraith, West Loch, Tarbert**

**LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...**

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here

# MacTavish and Celtic cup ties this weekend

## 'We have home advantage and not lost at the Canal yet - Duncan Kelly

**NEWTONMORE** will take on Glenurquhart on Saturday for a place in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final.

The cup holders will be favourites for the semi final clash, especially with home advantage, but manager PJ MacKintosh will be aware of the danger a full strength Glenurquhart side can cause.

The Drumnadrochit men ran 'More close at The Eilan on the opening day of the season, with the home side running out 3-2 winners.

Last weekend, 'More moved into the second round of the Macaulay Cup with a 5-0 win over Lochaber. Newtonmore struggled to break through a stuffy Lochaber defence in the first half.

But after the break Fraser MacIntosh made the breakthrough before Danny MacRae helped himself to a hat trick.

With the result already beyond any doubt, Glen MacIntosh scored in the last minute to send his side comfortably through.

**GLENURQHART** face the daunting prospect of a trip to Newtonmore this Saturday, with a place in the MacTavish Cup final up for grabs.

Glen manager Drew McNeil said if his side played to the best of their abilities they could book their place in the final.

He said: 'We know it'll be a tough game, they'll have a good support. But I don't mind it when it's backs against the wall to start off.'

'We'll go there and play our shinty and hopefully that will take us far enough.'

Andrew Corrigan will return to a full strength Glen squad after missing last weekend's Macaulay Cup loss to Lovat because of work commitments.

After twice being ahead, the cup holders were hit by three quick fire Lovat strikes in the second half to go down 4-2.

McNeil told *The Oban Times* he was 'disappointed' in the manner his side lost the game.

He said: 'Take nothing away from them, they are a good side, but it was a game we lost. We threw it away.'

'We lost three bad goals. We still had plenty of time left, but they lost their composure a little bit.'

**KILMALLIE** are one game away from a Co-operative MacTavish Cup final against either Newtonmore or Glenurquhart - but first must overcome a Lovat side yet to taste defeat in any competition this season.

The Caol outfit has home advantage and defeated Saturday's opponents in the premiership last year. However, Lovat have emerged as genuine title contenders in the top division and defeated Glenurquhart 4-2 in the Macaulay last weekend.

The Caol men, meanwhile, went down 1-4 to derby rivals Fort William at An Aird in the same competition but will be boosted by the return of Martin Stewart from suspension.

Martin 'Shorty' Graham, who took a bang on the knee against the Fort and was withdrawn as a precaution, could also figure.

Coach Duncan Kelly said: 'Lovat are definitely one of the teams who are really on form just now. The boys will know what Lovat are capable of and they will have to raise their form and play at their best to get anything out of the game.'

'But we have home advantage and have not lost at the Canal yet. Hopefully we will make a game of it.'

**LOVAT** stand unbeaten in all competitions this season and are one game away from a Co-operative MacTavish Cup final against Newtonmore or Glenurquhart.

To win through the Kiltartney men must get the better of Kilmallie at Canal Parks and the Marine Harvest North Division 1 leaders will prove stern opponents on their home turf, where they have yet to lose in 2013.

Coach Allan MacRae said it would be 'a difficult tie'.

He said: 'We are away from home and Kilmallie are going well in North Division 1 - it's always a hard ground to go to. We have a few knocks but hopefully they will be cleared up for Saturday. Kilmallie are quite sharp but we will play our own way.'

'They beat us 1-0 at Balgate last year and we won 2-1 down but there's a lot of water flowed under the bridge since then.'

Lovat once again showed their never-say-die spirit on Saturday, coming from 2-1 down to defeat Glenurquhart 4-2 in the Artemis Macaulay Cup courtesy of three late goals in as many minutes from Greg Matheson (2) and Kevin Bartlett. Martin Mainland opened Lovat's account while Neale Reid and David Smart scored Glen's goals.

**OBAN CAMANACHD** could gain a timely morale boost with victory over Inveraray at Mossfield this weekend in the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup.

Putting their league woes behind them, the Oban side would dearly love to pick up some silverware this season and the Celtic Cup could be their best chance.

Manager Gussie Campbell, who will miss the game on Saturday, said: 'You know what you are getting with Inveraray,' he said. 'It will be a hard, but fair game and we will have to cope with their very mobile midfield and forward line.'

Last weekend, Camanachd progressed in another competition, the Artemis Macaulay Cup, with a 4-0 win over Glenorchy in Dalmally.

Goals came from Andrew

'Papa' MacCuish, Lewis Cameron and Gavin Stobart, who came on as a second half substitute.

Campbell said: 'I was really pleased with the way our forwards and wingers linked up and we always looked like making chances.'

'In the second half our fitness told but Glenorchy are a very plucky side and didn't make it easy for us.'

**INVERARAY** have an away game for their Celtic Cup clash with Oban Camanachd but Mossfield has been a happy hunting ground for the Royal Burgh in recent times.

Despite being knocked off their perch at the summit of the Orion Group Premiership duty this weekend in better spirits after their morale-boosting Macaulay Cup win over Kilmallie.

The visitors warmed up for the encounter with a 3-0 win in Glasgow against GMA in the Macaulay Cup, with goals from player-manager Garry MacPherson (2) and Euan McMurdo.

**FORT WILLIAM** return to Orion Group Premiership duty this weekend in better spirits after their morale-boosting Macaulay Cup win over Kilmallie.

Kingussie at The Dell will be a difficult proposition but Fort William are in no position to contemplate defeat as their



Kilmallie's Aaron Sandison shields the ball from Chris Johnson of Inverness. Photo Donald Cameron.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** may have to look to the cups for silverware this season as their league title challenge stutters.

And the first of these could come in the Celtic Cup, if they can navigate past GMA this weekend.

The Tighnabruach men travel to Glasgow as favourites, but without having played a match last weekend after their Macaulay Cup tie with Bute was postponed.

**KINGUSSIE** and Fort William will meet at The Dell this Saturday, with both sides looking for a win to propel them up the table.

The two teams have dominated the sport in the recent past, but are currently going through rebuilding periods, making each week's results difficult to predict.

Kings manager Russell Jones told *The Oban Times* he expected a tough game, if Fort had their strongest side out.

He said: 'If they have everyone available they'll be a very difficult side, as they always are. Both clubs are in the same boat really, up one week and down the next. It all depends on who we can call on to play each week.'

**LOCHABER** will be looking to move out of the relegation zone with a win against Kinlochshiel on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side are still looking for their first league victory of the season, but recent

### SHINTY

Kings lost a topsy-turvy tie with Kinlochshiel 4-3 last weekend, with the winning goal coming with virtually the last hit of the game.

Jones said: 'It was a pretty even game, we were probably a bit better in the second half. It was a pretty sore one to lose a goal in the last seconds, but we did it against Skye in the MacTavish so what goes around comes around.'

'It was a good game. The pitch at The Dell was good, it was just the result that wasn't good for us.'

good displays against Lovat and Kyles have given manager Calum Cameron hope.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Kinlochshiel had a good result against Kingussie, but at home we'll be looking to have a go at them and get the two points.'

'If we get two points the league starts to look a lot different.'

Cameron expects a full squad to chose from, including Jack Dignan, who missed last weekend's 5-0 loss to Newtonmore to take part in the Scottish Six Days Trial.

Despite the loss, Cameron was happy with aspects of his team's performance.

He said: 'We knew we'd have to be really resilient in defence going up there and in the first half we did really well. We had a good shout turned down for a penalty but it got turned down so we could have gone in at half time in the lead.'

'People could look at 5-0 and think it was a thrashing, but we actually competed well.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** go into their Orion Group Premiership match at Lochaber in great spirits after Saturday's epic 4-3 Macaulay Cup win over Kingussie at the Dell.

Squad absentees include Fraser MacVicar, who is working offshore and Calum MacLean, who is studying for exams in Glasgow.

Those two apart, 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill will have a full squad for what is a vital game for both sides. Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'Lochaber is a big one for us - if we were to lose we would be right down in the relegation battle but if we win we would put a wee bit of daylight between ourselves and the bottom two.'

'We have to win - although Lochaber did get beat by Newtonmore they seem to be rejuvenated by having a new manager and scored three against Oban the week before. They will be a hard team to beat.'

Against Kings, Gordie MacDonald completed his hat-trick in the last seconds to win the game. Keith MacRae had levelled Louis Munro's opener and a Fraser Munro double put Kings 3-2 up before MacDonald's late show.

**SKYE CAMANACHD** face a test of their mettle on Saturday at joint leaders Beaulieu - but a win would give Willie MacRae's men a real chance of claiming the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title.

The islanders have scraped through against lesser opposition in recent weeks but in their 5-0 win at Inverness last weekend showed flashes of the form required to mount a real championship challenge.

Danny Morrison opened the scoring on eight minutes but it took Skye until early in the second half to double their lead through Jordan Murchison, who later blotted his copybook by getting sent off.

Morrison notched his second



Oban Camanachd's Ian 'Gussie' Campbell and Glenorchy's Graham Morrice fight for the ball during last Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup tie which had to be transferred to Ballachulish after the Mart Park in Dalmally was declared unplayable following heavy rain. The Oban side came out on top 4-0. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

would be absent.

**TAYNUILT** were scheduled to take on Bute at home, as *The Oban Times* went to press.

It had been mooted that the postponed fixture against Oban Celtic, due to be played last weekend, would be played this Saturday.

But the Camanachd Association's fixture list indicates the islanders will be the visitors to Taynuilt this weekend.

**GLENORCHY** must focus on their South Division One title challenge this weekend after being knocked out of another cup competition by Oban Camanachd.

The Dalmally men play Strachur at the Mart Park on Saturday, as they look to catch the high-flying GMA.

But a victory on Saturday will also go some way to healing wounds of defeat last weekend in the Macaulay Cup to the Oban side, who also knocked Glenorchy out of the Celtic Cup.

Not only did Glenorchy go down 4-0 last Saturday but they also had Alex MacPherson and John McNulty sent off towards the end of the match.

One positive from the defeat was the performance of goalkeeper Andrew Smith, who helped to ensure his side was only 1-0 at half time.

Taynuilt manager Willie Gillies is glad to be back on South Division One duty. He said: 'We need to start climbing the league.'

**LOCHSIDE** Rovers manager Andrew Pearson admits this weekend's Bullough Cup opponents, Ardnamurchan, are a bit of an unknown quantity but he expects his side to progress.

Pearson said: 'The Bullough is a cup we like to do well in, so the boys will be up for it on Saturday.'

**STRATHDEARN** Cup 2nd Round Aberdeen Uni v Skye John Matheson Fort William v Lochearnon John Sloggie Lochbroom v Beaulieu Willie MacRae Glenorchy v Inverness Donald MacRae Strathglass v Kinlochshiel Calum Girvan 12pm Glenurquhart v Kingussie Archie Ritchie Ardnamurchan v Boleskine Ronnie Campbell - 12pm

**ORION GROUP** Premiership Kingussie v Fort William Evan MacRae Lochaber v Kinlochshiel John MacLeod

**MARINE HARVEST** North Division 1 Beaulieu v Skye Neil Ferguson Strathglass v Inverness John Angus Gillies

**MARINE HARVEST** South Division 1 Aberdeen v Kilmory Ted McDonald Glenorchy v Strachur Lachie Wood Taynuilt v Bute Daniel MacRae

**MARINE HARVEST** South Division 2 Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish Euan Pearson

**MARINE HARVEST** North Division 3 Kilmallie v Lochaber John MacGregor - 12pm (All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

on 63 minutes to make the game safe before Neil MacVicar and Will Cowie bagged a goal apiece to complete a comprehensive victory.

**GLENGARRY** welcome Inverness in the second round of the Strathdearn Cup this Saturday.

Manager Ewen Cameron told *The Oban Times* he was confident about getting a result against the north division three side.

'I've not seen them play recently, but they are a division below us, and they are below Strathpey who we beat.'

Cameron was far from happy with the performance of referee Willie MacRae during last weekend's 3-2 defeat against Beaulieu. MacRae gave Garry player Scott Johnston his second yellow card for swearing in the 35th minute, putting the home side down to 10 men. Cameron said: 'It was the worst refereeing display I've ever seen. Some of the decisions going against us were laughable. We're going to be putting in an official complaint.'

Daniel MacLennan and Martin Cameron had put Glenorchy 2-1 up early in the second half, but two goals from Beaulieu in the last 25 minutes secured the win.

The loss sees Garry stay sixth in north division two.

**OBAN CELTIC** will make the long journey to Caberfeidh in the only Camanachd Cup tie this weekend.

Celtic president David Hamilton has warned his players to expect a tough game against the North Division One side.

He said: 'They lost Kevin Bartlett to Lovat but they are still a formidable side.'

'There is no reason we can't win the match but the boys will have to be on top form.'

Hamilton said he would have a few players missing for the trip north but could not confirm who

Beaulieu's Calum Morrison is beaten to the ball by Josh Fraser of Strathglass. Photo Donald Cameron



### Results

Friday 10 May

**Marine Harvest North Division 2** Kingussie 0 - 4 Newtonmore

Saturday 11 May

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round** Beaulieu 5 - 2 Strathglass

**Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round**

Bute P - P Kyles Athletic Unplayable Field Glasgow MA 0 - 3 Inveraray Glenorchy 0 - 4 Oban Camanachd Oban Celtic P - P Taynuilt Unplayable Field Fort William 4 - 1 Kilmallie Kingussie 3 - 4 Kinlochshiel Lovat 4 - 2 Glenurquhart Newtonmore 5 - 0 Lochaber

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**

Inverness 0 - 5 Skye

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**

Aberdour 7 - 1 Strachur Kilmory P - P Lochside Rovers Unplayable Field

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**

Kinlochshiel P - P Aberdeen Uni Unplayable Field Glenorchy 2 - 3 Beaulieu Glenurquhart 0 - 0 Lovat Skye 8 - 1 Fort William

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**

Bute P - P Taynuilt Unplayable Field Col Glen P - P Ballachulish Unplayable Field Glasgow MA P - P Aberdeen Unplayable Field Inveraray P - P Kyles Athletic Unplayable Field

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**

Boleskine 4 - 2 Lochbroom Inverness 2 - 4 Kilmallie Lewis 3 - 4 Caberfeidh Lochearnon 8 - 0 Strathpey

### Fixtures

Wednesday 15 May

**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round** Lovat v Caberfeidh Willie MacRae - 7pm

Friday 18 May

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round** Caberfeidh v Oban Celtic Graham Cameron - 1pm

**Co-operative MacTavish Cup Semi Final**

Newtonmore v Glenurquhart Innes Wood - 3pm Kilmallie v Lovat Colin MacDonald 3pm

**AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Semi Final**

Oban Camanachd v Inveraray Deek Cameron Glasgow MA v Kyles Athletic David Mitchell

**Bullough Cup 1st Round**

Bute v Col Glen Duncan Freshwater Oban Celtic v Aberdeen Alex MacVicar Inveraray v Glasgow MA Dunkie Kerr Ardnamurchan v Lochside Dougie Cameron Tayforth v English SA Neil MacDonald

**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**

Aberdeen Uni v Skye John Matheson Fort William v Lochearnon John Sloggie Lochbroom v Beaulieu Willie MacRae Glenorchy v Inverness Donald MacRae Strathglass v Kinlochshiel Calum Girvan 12pm Glenurquhart v Kingussie Archie Ritchie Ardnamurchan v Boleskine Ronnie Campbell - 12pm

**Orion Group Premiership**

Kingussie v Fort William Evan MacRae Lochaber v Kinlochshiel John MacLeod

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**

Beaulieu v Skye Neil Ferguson Strathglass v Inverness John Angus Gillies

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**

Aberdour v Kilmory Ted McDonald Glenorchy v Strachur Lachie Wood Taynuilt v Bute Daniel MacRae

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**

Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish Euan Pearson

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**

Kilmallie v Lochaber John MacGregor - 12pm (All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)



Kilmallie's John Stewart drives in on goal with Fort William's Niall MacPhee in pursuit. 20. f20shinty04

### League Tables

**The Orion Group Premiership**

|                | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Lovat          | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 6  | 12  |
| Newtonmore     | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 7  | 11  |
| Inveraray      | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 9  | 11  |
| Kyles Athletic | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 8   |
| Kingussie      | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 8   |
| Glenurquhart   | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 8   |
| Kinlochshiel   | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 18 | 6   |
| Fort William   | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6  | 19 | 4   |
| Lochaber       | 7 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4  | 13 | 3   |
| Oban Camanachd | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 23 | 3   |

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**

|             | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Kilmallie   | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 7  | 12  |
| Beaulieu    | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 9  | 12  |
| Skye        | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 11  |
| Caberfeidh  | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 16 | 4   |
| Inverness   | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 7  | 40 | 2   |
| Strathglass | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 8  | 19 | 1   |

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**

|                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Aberdour        | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 16 | 9   |
| Lochside Rovers | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 9   |
| Glasgow MA      | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 1  | 8   |
| Glenorchy       | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 6   |
| Bute            | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 7  | 5   |
| Oban Celtic     | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 5   |
| Kilmory         | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6  | 10 | 4   |
| Taynuilt        | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7  | 16 | 3   |
| Strachur        | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6  | 18 | 3   |

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**

|      | P | W | D   | L | F | A | Pts |
|------|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| Skye | 9 | 6 | 2</ |   |   |   |     |

## Green Machine celebrate in style at end of season club dinner

### Coach Corrie Louw named Clubman of the Year

OBAN Lorne RFC brought the curtain down on its 50th and most successful season with the annual club dinner and prize-giving at the clubhouse.

Among the speakers last Saturday were Peter Wright, former Scotland and British Lions player, comedian Les Peters, SRU Women's Representative Kath Vass and SRU president Jim Stevenson, who had earlier in the day presented the West Division Three trophy to club captain Robin MacQueen following a 28-8 away win over Lanark.

The first team had already won the RBS National Bowl at Murrayfield and the West Regional Bowl.

At the club dinner every first team player was presented with commemorative club medals and a framed team photo from Murrayfield in recognition of their historic season. For his part in the success, player-coach Corrie Louw was named Clubman of the Year.

Twins Cameron and Struan Smith were jointly awarded the player of the year prize, while Craig Wright received recognition as the top points scorer.

Best trainer was Connor Ferris, while Ryan Jackson was named most improved player.

The 2012-2013 season was also a successful one for the women's team, which finished third at the recent international Majorca

#### RUGBY

Beach Rugby Tournament and was runner-up in the Women's National League.

Donna Smith was awarded player of the year, as well as top points scorer, while players' player of the year was shared by Karen MacCorquodale and Audrey Barr.

Most improved was Camilla Lesley and best trainer was Laura MacCormick.

Two framed prints of the men's team's Murrayfield triumph, donated by photographer Stephen Lawson, made £220 each in an auction in aid of club funds and Yorkhill Children's Foundation.



From left: Clubman of the Year Corrie Louw, president Dee Bradbury, captain Robin MacQueen and team manager Darrell Williams at the Oban Lorne RFC club dinner. 16.12.09/01

### Fifteen teams for Green Machine 7's

#### RUGBY

OBAN Lorne host its annual 7's on Saturday May 25 from 12pm with 15 teams confirmed for what is shaping up to be one of the club's biggest tournaments.

The Oban side will be taking part in the Mull 7's this Saturday with 7's captain Craig Wright hoping for a big squad to choose from.

### Tarbert bowlers win in Oban

#### BOWLS

THERE was an Argyll derby at Oban Bowling Club green last Saturday when 15 players from Tarbert were the visitors.

On a very wet and cold day, Tarbert came out victors winning three out of the five games played.

The following day saw 14 pairs taking to the green for the annual Dalriada Trophy, which allows players only two bowls each.

Through the knockout stages emerged finalists Donald MacLean (skip) and Sandy Carr playing against Janet Campbell (skip) and Maureen Goldie.

After a close fought final, the ladies were the victors.

### Golf news from Glencruitten

#### GOLF

ARVID Fagervold won the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten over two rounds at the weekend with a score of 124 (65, 59). Angus John MacNeil was second with a score of 128 (62, 66), and Eric Deverill was third with a score of 130 (66, 64).

Also on Sunday, Save The Children was played and the winners of the mixed competition were Stuart and Christine Cameron with a score of 91 - 19.5 = 71.5. John and Mary Plunkett were second with 88 - 15.5 = 72.5.

Tuesday there is a Stableford and on Wednesday Glencruitten Open Seniors is to be played. On Saturday the Pickfords Qualifier and Monthly Medal are to be played.

### Oban S1s go down to Kelso

#### YOUTH RUGBY

OBAN S1's hosted Kelso at Glencruitten last Sunday in what is now an annual fixture between the teams. Kelso were very impressive on the day running out 36-12 winners against an Oban side who played very well despite the scoreline.

### West Coast Massive are cup winners

#### OVER 35s LEAGUE

SEMI final results: Trialists awarded game over Sail Trim Coach who had too many injured players. West Coast Massive beat Clements 4-2. Final: West Coast Massive beat Trialists 3-2.

Thanks go to John Scott for refereeing the semis and final.

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### Rebecca wins schools event at Ingliston

YOUNG Oban rider Rebecca Scott took home the Working Hunter Championship from this year's Scottish Schools Equestrian Extravaganza at Ingliston Country Club.

Eight young riders from Argyll took part in the championship, run in partnership with Kelvin-side Academy.

Representing Lochgilphead High School were Karen Dixon on Into The Red IV, Alexis Stewart on Kenna's Pride and Fabienne Renfrew on Mystic Harlequin.

The Oban High School team consisted of Aimee Johnston on Puzzle of Glendhu, Stephanie Brown on Glenfyne Princess Alarabi, Kathryn Henderson on Burnbank Millennium, Jodie Sloss on Barrdene Razzle Dazzle and Park Primary School was represented by Rebecca Scott on Fenmawr Brewster.

As well as the title of Working Hunter Champion, Rebecca won

#### HORSE RIDING

both the Nursery Novice and Intermediate sections and the Working Hunter Pony class up to 133cm.

Results for Argyll riders: Nursery Novice - 1 Rebecca Scott; Intermediate - 1 Rebecca Scott; Open - 6 Jodie Sloss, 12 Aimee Johnston.

Blue Riband - 4 Karen Dixon, 7 Jodie Sloss, 11 Aimee Johnston

Senior Team Challenge - 4 Lochgilphead High School, 9 Oban High School, Working Hunter Pony up to 133cm - 1 Rebecca Scott; Working Hunter Pony up to 143cm - 1 Jodie Sloss; Working Hunter Pony up to 153cm - 1 Aimee Johnston, Working Hunter Champion - Rebecca Scott.

Dressage - 3 Karen Dixon, 6 Fabienne Renfrew, 7 Rebecca Scott. Best Turned Out - 2 Rebecca Scott.



Rebecca Scott on Fenmawr Brewster was named Working Hunter Champion.

### Midnight League - a big success

ARGYLL and Bute Council in partnership with the SFA, Bank of Scotland, local football clubs, youth work and local community police officers ran a Midnight League coaching programme throughout Argyll and Bute recently.

The Midnight League programme was aimed at youths aged between 12 and 16 years old and

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

offered them an opportunity to play free football on either a Friday or Saturday night to combat a variety of social issues.

The programme was run in Oban, Lochgilphead, Rothesay, Helensburgh and Campbeltown.



Some of the older group of youngsters along with Oban Saints youth coaches Alan MacLeod and Iain Alexander who attend the Midnight League in the town.

### Athletic lose out in semi final

Thompson Cup semi-final  
Cardross 2  
Oban Athletic 3

OBAN Athletic was hoping to cap off its first season with a place in the Thompson Cup final but it wasn't to be, thanks to a freak goal that sealed the win for their opponents.

The match was meant to be played at Maryhill Juniors' stadium, but due to adverse weather on Friday the match was moved to Nethercraigs upon arrival.

The game started well for Athletic, who won a penalty for a foul on Dean Smith, and his namesake, David, slotted home.

But a 15-minute spell was to change the game and prove

costly for the Oban boys as Cardross grabbed three goals in this time.

The first was a well-worked goal down the right hand side where a cutback was met with a fierce shot into the bottom corner. The next two would leave manager Calum Fox very disappointed as a speculative effort was deflected to a Cardross forward to rifle home, quickly followed by a freak goal with a long clearance bouncing over young goalkeeper Craig Maitland into the net. The second half was gamely fought, with chances rare, however young James Ford came on for Athletic and within seconds danced passed two Cardross

#### FOOTBALL

defenders before playing in Iain MacInnes to thump home the goal of the game.

However, it was too little, too late, as Athletic fell short on the day. Manager Fox said: 'Concentration is vital in any sport. We lost ours for 15 minutes and it cost us a place in the cup final.'

'Craig was disappointed at losing the third goal but I reminded him and the rest of the boys that he has saved us on many occasions this season. I think our lads are too nice when playing games. I think they need to be a little more gallus and street smart.'

### Puncture robs rally ace of podium finish

MULL rally ace John MacCrone refused to be deflated after a puncture robbed him of a podium finish on the opening round of this year's British Rally Championship.

#### RALLYING

The 23-year-old islander, making his debut for the newly-formed Culina Palletforce Racing team, stormed back from 14th to finish fifth in the Pirelli Rally.

And in his first event, MacCrone set the fastest time in the 10th and final stage of the rally. The damage though had been done earlier in Kielder Forest.

Lying a comfortable third as he headed into stage five, the second run through 8.75-miler at Archy's Rigg, he dropped four minutes when his Citroen DS3 R3 clattered a rock.

The impact lifted the rubber from the wheelrim, forcing MacCrone and his new co-driver, Phil Pugh, to stop and change the wheel.

The delay relegated them from third, to 14th, and the pair dropped a further 11.5 seconds on the next stage as the car struggled with a broken front right

damper. One of the cars in front of me had obviously pulled a big rock into the middle of the forest track,' MacCrone explained.

'We took exactly the same line through the corner as we did in the first run. I didn't see the rock, but I certainly heard the impact.'

'The day had gone as we'd planned and yet, because of one corner, we'd been punished severely.'

#### Repaired

With the car repaired overnight, MacCrone set about climbing back through the field over the closing four stages in Kershope Forest.

But he kept his best until last, topping the timesheets on the rally's final stage, the second run through Glen Dhu, where he was 0.9s quicker than the rest of the field.

'I don't think there's any doubt, if we hadn't had the rock problem on stage five, we'd have finished on the podium.'

The next round is the Jim Clark Rally, Duns, between May 31 and June 1.



John MacCrone and co-driver Phil Pugh in their Culina Palletforce Racing Citroen DS3 R3.

## Weather

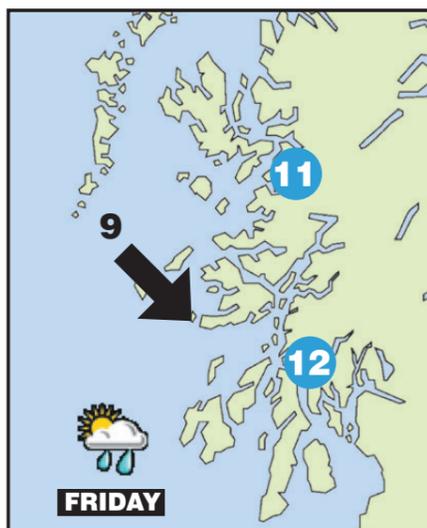
**Thursday** Rain showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

**Friday** Light rain showers  
Winds light, north westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy  
Winds moderate, north westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Oban to Barra/South Uist | Moderate |
| Oban to Coll/Tiree       | Moderate |
| Kennacraig to Islay      | Moderate |



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from  
**Thursday, May 9, 2013**  
are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date       | am        | pm                      |
|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Thur 05.08 | 3.7 11.25 | 0.9 17.19 3.7 23.54     |
| Fri 05.42  | 3.8 11.59 | 0.9 17.52 3.8 *** **    |
| Sat 00.29  | 1.0 06.15 | 3.8 12.35 0.9 18.24 3.8 |
| Sun 01.04  | 1.1 06.49 | 3.7 13.11 1.0 18.57 3.8 |
| Mon 01.39  | 1.3 07.24 | 3.6 13.47 1.1 19.31 3.7 |
| Tues 02.14 | 1.4 08.00 | 3.5 14.24 1.3 20.06 3.6 |
| Wed 02.52  | 1.6 08.36 | 3.3 15.02 1.4 20.43 3.4 |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

|                  |       |           |       |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Ardishaig        | -5.35 | Mallaig   | +0.25 |
| Campbeltown      | -5.30 | Portree   | +0.55 |
| Crinan           | -0.47 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00  | Dover     | +5.30 |
| Lochboisdale     | +0.30 |           |       |

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

Established 1861 No 8147

Thursday 16 May, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



### Anti-fish farm campaigners aim for salmon ban

Page 17

### SCOTTISH SERIES 2013

#### TARBERT LOCH FYNE 24 MAY - 27 MAY

### Future of Arisaig Post Office to be discussed at public village meeting

THE FUTURE of Arisaig Post Office will be discussed at a meeting in the village tomorrow afternoon (Friday). The Post Office Ltd have confirmed the village is no longer a viable stand alone office and are looking for local businesses to take a sub post office into their premises. A spokesman has reassured locals there will be no compulsory redundancies. Arisaig Community Trust is hosting the meeting at 1.30pm at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre with members of the public welcome to attend.

### Police search team recovers missing man's body

THE BODY of a man was found by a police search team near Roy Bridge on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased man, named locally as Maurice Cameron of Roy Bridge, was found in the Inverroy area. The 61-year-old had not been reported missing after not being seen since last Friday. Police Scotland said a report would be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### End of an era for sixth year students

S6 LEAVERS and their families will be main guests at Plockton High School's end of session ceremony on Friday June 14. Principal guest and speaker for the whole school event will be Calum MacSween, head of education services at Highland Council. The full list of prizewinners will be published on the school website on June 7.

### Girls pitch in at first football festival

FIVE teams are pencilled in so far for the first P4-7 girls' football festival to be staged in Lochaber. Fort William, Oban, Inverness City, Merkinch and Mallaig will take part in the Claggan Park event, which kicks off at 11am. A P1-3 girls match at 10.30am will precede the tournament.



Flower power: PCA Chair Helen MacKenzie, right, mum Kizzy Bruce, left, and Kidz Club members Chantelle Bruce, Campbell Calder-Kerr and Lewis Bruce helped making up hanging baskets for sale. 20\_120hanging01

### Flower power brightens the Plantation

YOUNG people in the Plantation area of Fort William are using more than 500 flowers to brighten up the area in a hanging basket project. The initiative, dubbed 'Green Fingers', aims to give local youngsters a greater sense of community spirit while bringing a splash of colour to their part of town. Local families dropped into Plantation community hall on Saturday morning to collect planters made up by Kidz Club members to hang over their front doors. Plantation Community Association (PCA) believes the scheme is an ideal way of giving local children more skills and confidence. Chairperson Helen MacKenzie said: 'It's great fun for everyone involved, we all get our hands mucky and end up with lovely flowering baskets all round the estate. 'We have had support from the council and local residents to put our Green Fingers event together.' Also on Saturday, the PCA hosted a home baking stall on Fort William High Street to raise funds for the development of a play park at Pine Grove in Plantation. Sales of planted baskets boosted proceeds. The ambitious project, earmarked for land on the former Fort William golf course, will cost an estimated £180,000. The PCA has already secured an initial £10,000 Lottery grant.

## Decrofting bid on hold

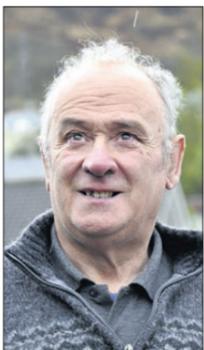
North Ballachulish couple face wait

A NORTH Ballachulish couple must wait a month to find out whether their controversial bid to turn their croft over to housing development is successful. Donnie and Liz MacGillivray already have planning permission for 10 houses on a three-acre field in the township. But Crofting Commission consent is also required - and at a special hearing a Ballachulish Village Hall on Monday night Mr MacGillivray pleaded his case. Addressing commissioners Colin Kennedy, Murdo MacLennan and I.G. MacDonald, the 57 year-old said the croft had been in his wife Liz's family for many generations and until the 1950s most crofts at North Ballachulish were actively worked. In 2002 the couple obtained planning permission for a new house on the croft, their present home. On applying for another house site in 2006, Highland Council planners advised the area could become 'a key development site' and therefore 'more than one house was preferable'. A revised application for 10 houses, including three 'affordable' was lodged, but rejected by planning committee councillors on a 7-6 vote in May 2010. In October 2010, the Scottish Government Reporter upheld the couple's appeal, ruling the council had provided no evidence the development constituted a loss of valuable agricultural land. 'The scheme would bring nothing but social and economic development' to the area, claimed Mr MacGillivray, and the local primary school would benefit through young families moving in. There would be no adverse effect on the viability of crofting locally as only 'only a handful' of people undertook any crofting activity at all. Angus Cameron at No 27, he said, was the most active crofter and the only one who used the common grazings. 'I do not see the loss of this particular area as having any impact on the sustainability of crofting in the locality,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'I am approaching retirement age and our daughter hopes to return to settle at Ballachulish and hopes to inherit the croft.' Commissioner I.G. MacDonald rebuked Mr MacGillivray - and his neighbours - for not working the land properly as laid down in law. He said: 'Crofters are very privileged people who have statutory duties...to live within 16km of the croft, not to neglect that croft and to cultivate it and maintain it. 'But from what I saw this afternoon there were breaches of duties for every crofter in that township other than Mr Angus Cameron.'

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorrish@obantimes.co.uk

Continued on page 3.

### Prominent Gael criticises declining Mod standards



Charlie MacColl: unhappy at decline of Gaelic tradition and culture. 20\_120charlie01

A PROMINENT Lochaber Gael has criticised declining standards at the Royal National Mod as he bids farewell to the local committee after 29 years. Charlie MacColl this week quit as chairman of Meur Lochabair, the local branch of Mod organisers An Comunn Gaidhealach. Native Gaelic speaker Mr MacColl, who was instrumental in organising the highly successful 2007 Mod in Fort William, claims proficiency in Gaelic at the showpiece event has since dipped just as money has become more important. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have had enough. I have seen so many changes over the years and it's time to go. 'I feel the Mods have been going down over the years - and gone down too - you can just walk in off the street now and compete.' Mr MacColl added: 'The highlight for me was the 2007 Mod in Fort William, which was well run and well-supported. 'At the opening of the Mod at Dunoon last year you would be lucky if you had 40 people there whereas at Fort William we had 500.' He added: 'People can win top awards knowing only two or three Gaelic songs whereas before these singers would know 50 or 60 through growing up with them.' No one was available for comment from An Comunn Gaidhealach at the time of going to press. See Charlie's farewell party, page 14.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorrish@obantimes.co.uk



Donnie MacGillivray makes his plea to the commission as his wife Liz and Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill look on. 20\_120croft01

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### Fort nightclub avoids being stripped of late night licence

A FORT William nightclub has avoided being stripped of its late night licence after a man was attacked with a glass bottle inside the venue. Ossiain's Hotel and Nightclub on the town's High Street was given a written warning by Highland Council's licensing board after the assault in the early hours of March 24. Police said the incident was a 'direct breach' of the club's licence conditions, which require all drinks to be served in plastic glasses after 9pm. Hotel owner Janice Wallace appeared in front of the licensing board in Inverness on Tuesday afternoon, and told them selling bottles of beer had been an oversight. She said: 'No glasses have gone out, but I just didn't think about bottles. They make up a very small amount of sales. 'As soon as we were notified this had happened, we stopped selling bottles instantly.' Mrs Wallace, who has owned the hotel since 1994, said her staff had been retrained since the incident. She continued: 'I do apologise for having sold bottles for a short time. It has been rectified and won't happen again.' Lochaber councillor and licensing board member Allan Henderson said a written warning would 'more than suffice'.

### End of rugby club's long-term pitch problems in sight

LOCHABER Rugby Club's long-term pitch problems may soon be coming to an end with the contract for drainage repairs at their Banavie home going out to tender. The club have regularly postponed and cancelled games in recent years due to rain leaving the surface muddy and unplayable. Club president Alistair MacKinnon said similar works at Jubilee Park in Ballachulish and An Aird in Fort William had proved successful. He said: 'We've not been given a date yet, but its going out to tender and hopefully it will get underway in June. That would give us plenty of time to get ready for the start of the season next year.' The pitch is owned by Highlife Highland, with Highland Council footing the bill for the works. The work will take approximately a month with the ground then out of action for one year. Lochaber are planning to be based at Black Parks in Inverlochry for the 2013/14 season. Meanwhile, Lochaber have been given the Positive Coaching Scotland award in recognition of the club's work with youth sides. Youth coach Gary Hendrie said: 'We want to build and sustain Lochaber Rugby Club for future generations through commitment and hard work. 'In the future we aim to set achievable goals and work hard to achieve these, then set new targets, but never forget where we have come from.'

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**New date for Morar Gala Day**

ORGANISERS will try for a second time to stage Morar Gala Day at the Lovat Memorial Field, Morar, on Saturday.

Bad weather and poor ground conditions forced the cancellation of the community event on May 6.

**Road works in the Uists for two weeks**

WESTERN Isles Council's roads surface dressing programme is underway with two weeks of work in the Uists.

The mobile works will transfer to Harris on or around May 27 for around a week then move to Lewis for a further three-week period.

All works are weather dependent and may be subject to delays and alteration. The comhairle thanks the public for their patience and co-operation and drivers are advised to note signs, speed limits and traffic management.

**Free public talk on Lochaber**

'LOCHABER: The Last Bandit Country or Jacobite Heartland?' will be the topic of the next Royal Society of Edinburgh's free public talk on Tuesday.

Professor Allan Macinnes will deliver the lecture in the Sunart Centre, Strontian, at 7pm. The event will finish in time for people to catch the Corran Ferry back over the loch.

**Annual netball tournament**

THE ANNUAL Fort William primary schools netball tournament is being held at Lochaber High School this afternoon (Thursday).

Schools taking part include Banavie, Caol, Upper Achintore, Lochside RC, Inverloch and Fort William RC.

**Lady golfers compete in inter-club match**

THE ANNUAL ladies inter-club match up saw golfers from Fort William, Spean Bridge and Triagh competing at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday.

The home side ran out winners with a total of 77 points to take home the Inverloch Castle Tray.

Spean Bridge finished runners up with Traigh third.



Top Scot: Gary MacDonald, left, celebrates his podium place at the awards ceremony with winner Dougie Lampkin, centre, and runner-up James Dabill. Photo: Donald Young

**Gary's delight at trial podium place**

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald is the pride of Lochaber after claiming a superb third place in the Scottish Six Days Trial.

The 29-year-old joiner sprung into contention by completing all sections clean on day two and was always in with a chance of a podium spot as he battled it out with the world's best.

MacDonald, riding for MRS on a Sherco, posted another strong performance throughout Saturday and had dropped just a single penalty point before the difficult Glen Nevis section.

Five faults there meant he ended the trial with a total of 32 - but other top riders also slipped out, making the contest for third too tight to call.

In the end, MacDonald edged out Ross Danby by a single mark and when he was announced as third best rider and top Scottish performer just before midnight it was the biggest cheer of the night at the awards ceremony in the Nevis Centre.

A delighted Gary told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a whole weight off my shoulders and the roar and cheer I got was amazing. I could not be happier.'

'It has been brilliant, especially because it has been a decade since I was on the podium.'

'It is definitely nice to be up there among the best in the world and beat some of the full-time professional riders. I'm absolutely delighted.'

'It was great to get something out of it because I really dedicate myself to the sport. The entire week went extremely well even if the weather was really rotten at times.'

'At no point did I feel tired or sore. I did make a few silly mistakes, especially on Friday, but I really could not have ridden any better.'

He added: 'I'd like to thank my local business sponsors and especially my parents and my uncle James, who were my support team.'

'They went round in the van the whole week with supplies and spare parts.'

Dougie Lampkin dropped only 11 points to win by 15 from James Dabill in second, with MacDonald a further six points back.

Roy Bridge teenager Jack Dignan won the best Scottish newcomer award, coming a highly creditable 99th out of 265 starters.



Fort William Rangers supporter Bradley Flannigan, centre, with John Brown and Mark Hateley at the BA Club.

**Ex-Rangers football stars guests at Fort fundraiser**

EX-RANGERS football stars John Brown and Mark Hateley were celebrity guests at a charity fundraiser in Fort William on Saturday night.

Around 130 people attended the 'Blue Do' at the BA Club and raised £3,400 for the British Heart Foundation, the Beatson cancer treatment centre in Glasgow and the Rangers Supporters' Erskine Appeal.

Former Kinlochleven head teacher John McGilp helped

organise the event after a similar fundraiser in his home town of Kilmours last year, held following the death of his father, raised £3,800.

A raffle and auction of items including a Northern Ireland shirt signed by David Healy and an Everton strip signed by Nikica Jelavic, Stevie Naismith, David Weir and Chris Woods boosted the total, Mr McGilp told *The Oban Times*.

**Bid for extra trains boosts ferry hopes**

HOPES for the re-establishment of the Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry link have been rekindled following a new move to increase Sunday rail services to Arisaig and Mallaig.

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

Leading the drive is Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, who wants extra trains laid on to west Lochaber from Fort William so passengers can connect with new Sunday sailings to the Small Isles and Knoydart.

Should that happen, Councillor Henderson believes the general uplift in traffic would give new impetus to the stalled South Uist ferry link campaign.

In a letter to ScotRail, the provost told managing director Steve Montgomery that linking up trains and ferries makes good business sense.

He said: 'Now that the Small Isles have a new Sunday service to Rum and Canna at 9.40 and a 14.55 [sailing] to Eigg and Muck, and Knoydart also has regular departures leaving Mallaig from 10.30 and 12.30 on, and the original 11am from Arisaig to Eigg and Muck continues, it is surely time for ScotRail to do their bit for public services, which we are all trying to encourage.'

'This surely should mean that you have a good case for expanding the franchise from Transport Scotland by allowing passengers to get to Mallaig/ Arisaig to catch these services.'

'Please consider this, at least on a summer basis, so that we can have a joined up service in the west.'

In a reply last week, Mr Montgomery said: 'The rail services operated by ScotRail are specified by Scottish Ministers - including rolling stock and any significant changes to the timetable are also subject to Transport Scotland's consent.'

'We will therefore pass on your request to Transport Scotland and will arrange to discuss this with them to determine if they would wish us to consider some additional services and, if so, provide the additional funding required to support these services.'

He added: 'We continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and other stakeholders to support the increasing number of services we provide and to

develop Scotland's railways. Councillor Henderson told *The Oban Times*: 'If ScotRail are able to put on this service I can see it as a catalyst to CalMac securing the Mallaig to Lochboisdale ferry - a least for the summer season.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'Any decision to increase the frequency of train services will be dependent on demand and affordability. We look forward to discussing these proposals with ScotRail and other key stakeholders, including HITRANS. The discussions will also consider the issue of connectivity with ferry services.'

She added: 'The Scottish Government recognises the importance of rail in developing tourism in the Highlands. That is why, from May 2014, the number of trains between Oban and the Central Belt will be increased to six trains a day during the summer and five services a day in the winter. This service enhancement will not only improve connections to and from the islands served by one of Scotland's busiest ferry ports, but will also boost the tourism industry in the Oban area and in Scotland as a whole.'



Commissioners Colin Kennedy, Murdo MacLennan and I G MacDonald hear evidence. 20\_120crof02

**North Ballachulish couple face wait**

**Continued from page one** Andrew Murchison, agent for North Ballachulish grazings committee, who oppose the decrofting bid, put it to Mr MacGillivray that profit was his sole motive.

'Is it not the case that apart from three homes any economic benefit will go to one place - your pocket?'

'Yes, but the people will use the local shop, buy petrol and help the local economy,' said Mr MacGillivray.

'You have not worked this croft for many, many years. This development leaves the croft without a natural house site, making it a less attractive proposal for a new crofting entrant to come in. The Crofting Commission want to rejuvenate this crofting community and find someone that has drive and really get this croft going. It would be far more attractive

let as it stands.' 'I suppose that's true, but take a look at the other crofts,' Mr MacGillivray replied. Mr Murchison asked: 'How would you describe crofting in North Ballachulish?'

'It's not a community - it's a gathering of crofts that are not well worked if worked at all,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'A community is supposed to live together, but I don't see that down there.'

Proceedings took a dramatic turn when Mr Murchison suggested Mr MacGillivray's decrofting bid was 'incompetent and void' because it did not match his owner-occupied croft boundaries and partly covered land of a neighbouring tenanted croft. The applicant's title does not appear to include the full area to be decrofted,' he said.

Commissioner Colin Kennedy asked Mr MacGillivray's agent Jeremy Benfield: 'Do you accept that there is a potential

discrepancy and that part of the croft is part-owned and part tenanted. What are the implications if that proves to be the case?'

Mr Benfield replied: 'It is not accepted at this stage that the decrofting subjects do not coincide. The intention in submitting the decrofting application is that the subjects comprising the application come under Donald MacGillivray's title. If there are any discrepancies then that is inadvertent and is the result of the poor quality of the title plan but in the meantime if there are material discrepancies then the rest of the hearing could be taken under that once the position has been clarified.'

Concluding proceedings, Mr MacLennan said: 'In three or four weeks we will come to a decision and any decision we do reach can be appealed to the land court.'



The fun run gets underway from Inverloch Primary School on Saturday. 20\_120fun01

**Inverloch pupils quick off the mark**

INVERLOCHY Parent Council staged a fun run on Saturday morning to help raise funds for the school.

Pupils encouraged their friends and family to sponsor them to run or walk from Inverloch

Primary School gates to Old Inverloch Castle and back again - a distance of approximately two miles. All cash raised goes towards regular extra-curricular activities and school trips Inverloch pupils enjoy throughout the year.

**Club stages tough hill race**

SKYE AND Lochalsh Running Club is staging a tough hill race along the Trotternish Ridge in North Skye on Saturday.

The 17.5-mile route, which starts at Flodrigarry and ends at the Storr, involves 7,500 feet of climbing among magnificent scenery such as the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr.

The course is unmarked and competitors are required to

carry a map and compass. Event organiser Neil Turner said: 'We have 50 runners registered but still have a few places left for experienced hill runners due to drop outs.'

Anyone interested in taking part can enter via sientries.co.uk or contact Neil at neilturner@btinternet.com. Registration is at Portree High School between 9am and 10am on race morning.

**Views sought on forest**

FORESTRY Commission Scotland and Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) are holding drop-in events next week to get the public's views on how Leanachan Forest near Fort William could be developed for tourism and recreation.

Ideas gathered from the sessions at the Pinemarten Café

Bar at Nevis Range on Tuesday between 4.30pm-7pm and Wednesday between 10am-3.30pm will go towards shaping a 'masterplan' for developing 60 hectares near the ski resort.

The blueprint will focus on attracting private sector investment for a new sustainable leisure and accommodation development.

**Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's £1.9m European cash boost for business centre**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig has received £1.9 million European development cash from the Scottish Government to develop a business centre.

The new building at Skye's Gaelic college will house up to 20 new businesses and offer accommodation for 20 staff on its Kilbeg Village site. The development will support up to 60 new construction jobs, including six youth apprenticeships, and more than 20 full time positions in the new centre. Work on the £6.1 million project will get underway this month and is due for completion in early 2015.

The project forms the keystone of a long term-project to

build a new conference centre, community sport facility and a mixed tenure village at Kilbeg.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the funding at a European Structural Funds event at Glasgow Caledonian University on Tuesday. She said: 'Investment in projects like the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye is absolutely key for stimulating economic growth throughout Scotland. This new building will provide much-needed new facilities for the people of Skye, which will boost its reputation on a national level and help to attract more investment to the area.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig chairman Sheriff Roddy John MacLeod

said: 'It is not every day an institution gets the opportunity to pursue such an iconic development which will not only 'future-proof' Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's own estate development needs but will also, in partnership with the local community, create the first new village to be built on the island in more than 100 years.'

SNP MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Dave Thompson said: 'As Sabhal Mòr Ostaig celebrates its 40th anniversary, this funding will make a major contribution to the future of the college, as well as delivering an economic boost to Kilbeg and the Skye and Lochalsh community.'

**Turning back time in Newtonmore**

THE CLOCKS will be turned back to the late 1800s in Newtonmore this Sunday when Badenoch and Brae Lochaber re-enact their first meeting.

Players and spectators will be dressed in Victorian garb for the replay of a 16-a-side 0-0 draw played out at Dalchully on January 16, 1889. The match will mark the completion of a two-year project on the history of shinty which has been led by Newtonmore Camanachd secretary Ian Gibson.

A report of the original game from Brae Lochaber captain J McDonald reads: 'Played Badenoch and District on 16th Janry '89 at Dalhullie (sic), had the best of

it nearly all through, very bad luck in not scoring. Ground poor and small. Played ½ time with bad hair ball which spoilt our play altogether. They were pretty rough and hails [goals] were only 9ft square. Result - No hails by either.'

Two Brae Lochaber players on the day, brothers Jack and William McDonald of Keppoch, both later held the position of president at the Camanachd Association.

The day will begin with the teams piped onto the pitch at The Eilan at 2pm before the referee reads out the rules for the day, which will not include the offside rule. Throw up is at 2.30pm.

**Shinty club confirms new manager**

LOCHABER Camanachd has confirmed Callum Cameron as its new manager following the recent departure of Michael Delaney.

Cameron worked as assistant manager at the Spean Bridge club before Delaney stood down in April and has taken charge of the team in recent weeks on an interim basis.

Cameron told *The Oban Times* he was 'excited' about his new role.

He said: 'We've got a lot of hard work to do, but we're starting to see green shoots coming through.' Lochaber currently sit second bottom of shinty's premiership and is still looking for its first league win of 2013.

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**Unique Licensed Restaurant Opportunity in Argyll**

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

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

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

# 'Greed' at root of council woes

New Way group will attempt to form new style of administration

'GREEDY' councillors desperate for more money have been blamed for Monday's collapse of Argyll and Bute's SNP-led administration.

James Robb resigned as council leader on Monday after the local SNP members asked him to step aside. The move came after the SNP's National Executive Committee (NEC) suspended membership of its Argyll and Bute Councillors until such time as a 'secret' alliance with the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives - announced on Thursday - was disbanded.

The deal was unpopular with those within the now disintegrated administration. One SNP member shouted and swore at Mr Robb after discovering the reshuffle to incorporate the Lib Dems and Tories would see them demoted.

Meanwhile a New Way group is attempting to form a different style of administration to run the council following a lengthy meeting on Tuesday afternoon. In a bid to eliminate money 'envy' among members vying for lead councillor roles, such positions will be disbanded.

Instead, areas such as education and roads could be overseen by small groups of councillors, meaning pay parity for those in the administration. A consensus for a new approach could be agreed in principle by the end of the week, with councillors led by Dick Walsh understood to be receptive to the plan.

Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor is acting as the new leader

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

of the SNP group, although some councillors who joined with them to form the failed administration just one year ago say 'some considerable work' would be required to restore confidence in the party.

Any new administration will have to be ratified at next week's full council meeting.

At the fore of the New Way group is Oban independent councillor Iain MacDonald. He said: 'I'm rather hoping it will find consensus. It requires quite a lot of give and take. The feedback we're getting is that the proposal has been very positively received.'

'The feeling is the information being provided by council officers is too much for one councillor to process; that much has been made clear at the budget.'

Adding his belief that the previous administration collapsed because of 'greed', he said: 'People who I thought were pretty solid said to me if they didn't get that extra money they'd be getting divorced. If that's the driver for them being involved with the

council, it's the wrong driver.'

Argyll First councillor Donald Kelly, who supports the New Way model, said: 'We have to remember we're doing the job for the people, not for ourselves. It can't be about money.'

Speaking a day after his Monday resignation, former leader Mr Robb - who remains an SNP councillor - said everything he did was with democratic approval from his local party colleagues.

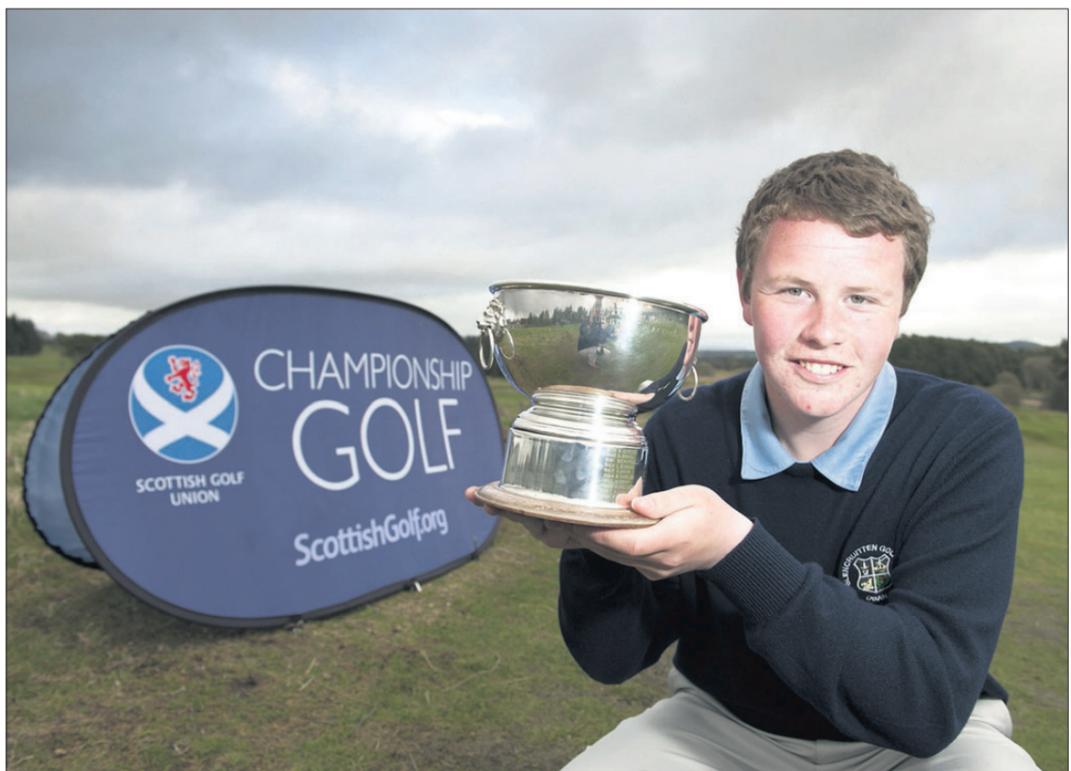
'There was no pressure to quit,' he said. 'All it would take for me to stand down as leader was for the SNP group to say they didn't think I should be leader anymore.'

'There was a meeting of the group on Monday, which I didn't attend, after which members decided to ask me to step down.'

Asked if he was undermined by infighting within the administration, he said: 'It would have been nice to have had more support. I had the support from within the group until yesterday.'

'The support from the party officials and branches was apparently not there.'

Continued below



Sixteen-year old Bob MacIntyre joins a list of prestigious former winners such as Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinlay, Martin Laird and Stephen Gallacher.

## Sixteen year old wins U21 Scottish title

A YOUNG Oban golfer has joined an illustrious group of winners of the Golf Data Lab Scottish Youth Championship after taking the title on Sunday night at Lanark Golf Club.

Sixteen-year-old Robert MacIntyre is one of the youngest players to have ever lifted the open under-21 trophy, which

is adorned with names such as Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinlay, Martin Laird and Stephen Gallacher.

The win - by far the most impressive of his fledgling career - was all the more remarkable as Robert has missed the past two months recovering from a broken elbow, sustained while

playing five-a-side football.

The teenager, who is in the middle of his school exams, said: 'It was a bit of a blur when I won the competition because I really didn't expect it.'

'It was such a shock that it has been difficult to explain how I felt about it. It is just sinking in now. I had missed the Scottish

Boys Championship and other ranking competitions because of my elbow, so I knew I had to put in a big score.'

'I just set out to make the cut on Sunday but by then I was only five shots off the lead, so I was a bit more direct and took a few chances.'

The tactic paid off and he

carded a final round three-under-par 67 to win by three shots.

Robert, a member of Oban's Glencruitten Golf Club, has his English exam tomorrow (Friday) but will travel down to Craik, Fife, the same day to represent Argyll and Bute in the Men's Area Team Event.

NEWSDESK  
01397 703003

## Major west coast offshore wind farm developments face delays

TWO major offshore wind farm developments proposed for the west coast have been delayed, it has been confirmed.

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) has confirmed to *The Oban Times* that it will not submit a detailed planning application for its proposed Argyll Array - just off Tiree - until the end of 2015 at the earliest.

SSERewables, a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern En-

ergy, has confirmed it will not apply for permission to build its Islay Array until next summer - 12 months later than previously thought. However, the company's project manager, Charley Rattan, refused to describe the move as a delay, saying it was a 'scheduled realignment'.

SSE has also pulled out of the NorthConnect project to build an interconnector between Norway and Scotland, casting

doubt over their commitment to renewables projects.

Robert Trythall, who leads the No Tiree Array campaign group that is opposed to both developments, said: 'It's brilliant. Both have been put back but it's not the end yet.'

'Both pulled back very discreetly but things are still going on and we'll keep working away. We've got a year now to keep on it.'

A SPR spokesman said: 'SPR is currently reviewing data gathered as part of our environmental assessment studies of the potential Argyll Array windfarm site. We are also monitoring technological developments in the offshore wind industry in relation to technical issues linked to physical conditions at the site.'

'These reviews are being completed with a view of sub-

mitting a planning application to the Scottish Government towards the end of 2015.'

Mr Rattan said: 'It's not a delay. We might not do things in the current order. There has been a scheduled realignment - the offshore submission element has been pushed back. You do need that for construction, but you can do other things first.'

When it was put to him that the 'scheduled realignment'

could only be described as a delay, he said: 'It's not. There are elements of the national grid we're not comfortable with. I can't say what they are as there is a confidentiality clause.'

The developments come after Princess Anne was quoted in a national newspaper denouncing the application for the Argyll Array site, which falls within the boundary of the Grade A listed lighthouse, Skerryvore.

The Princess Royal, a regular visitor to Tiree and Coll, said: 'They gave planning permission for 700 windmills on the reef around Skerryvore - they did the same at Bell Rock but rescinded it - and these are Grade A listed buildings. You'd never get away with that onshore.'

Mr Trythall said: 'The Princess hit the nail on the head. If this proposal was onshore it wouldn't get past first base.'

### Construction giant moves into Lochaber

ONE OF Scotland's largest construction groups has opened an office in Fort William as it continues to expand projects in Lochaber and Argyll.

Robertson, which has recently worked on construction projects including the new BSW sawmill at Corpach, a new Marine Harvest salmon hatchery at Lochailort, and marine research facilities at Dunstaffnage, opened its new office on Belford Road in the town.

Projects manager Allan Macleod said: 'Lochaber has great potential and it is hugely rewarding to be delivering major construction projects for both public and private sectors.'

'We are one of the Partners in Enterprise with Fort William Chamber of Commerce and are excited and encouraged about the opportunities and potential that the area has moving forward.'

'We have a strong team of people focussed on our work in Lochaber and Argyll and are currently considering a number of exciting future opportunities.'

### Couple in jail after Oban disturbance

AN OBAN couple spent the night in police custody after a disturbance in their home.

Charlene MacDonald, 27, and Iain MacIntyre, 39, both of 21 Combie Court, Oban, denied charges when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The couple are expected to face trial on July 10 and will appear again on June 25.

## 'Greed' at root of council woes

Continued : Addressing allegations there was interference from MSPs or the party as a whole, he said: 'In my view, when you are elected as councillor you are elected to perform a particular role. MSPs are elected to perform a particular role. If you're elected as a councillor for Argyll and Bute your duty is to serve the interests of the people of Argyll and

Bute.

'It is apparent that some people appear not to understand that their role is not to serve the interests of the MSP or the branch.'

Michael Russell MSP would not comment on allegations that he interfered with Mr Robb's leadership, but said: 'I'm very pleased that the council group has accepted

the NEC's decision. I look forward to working with the council in the future for the benefit of the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'My job is to represent the people of Argyll and Bute and I look forward to working as closely as possible with everyone but I very much realise the job of the council is one for councillors to do.'



Lochaber Housing Association staff members Steve MacDonald, Margaret Macdonald, Sheena Coull, Robert Drain, (back) and Kirsty Burns, Aileen Duncan (front) with their award

## Lochaber Housing Association first to gold

LOCHABER Housing Association (LHA) has become the first in the Highlands to receive gold accreditation for consistent investment in its staff.

LHA, marking its 25th anniversary this year, was given the award

by Investors in People Scotland, specialists in staff management.

LHA chief executive Blair Allan said the award was 'a magnificent way' to mark their anniversary year.

He said: 'Only 10 other housing associations in Scotland have been

recognised at this level. So, to be awarded this accreditation at this level is a tremendous achievement and a testament to how all the people in this group of companies work together through change, growth and improvement to deliver success.'

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# 17 men arrested in Oban during immigration crackdown

Illegal workers face deportation while employers may be fined £10,000 per guilty employee

IMMIGRATION officials have issued a warning to anyone working illegally in Oban that they will be caught and deported.

The move follows raids on restaurants and fast-food outlets in Oban which resulted in 17 workers being arrested.

All the men arrested in Oban are Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Chinese nationals.

A joint operation between

Police Scotland and the Home Office's Scotland Immigration Enforcement Team saw teams swoop on five food outlets in the town last Thursday night.

At the Light of India restaurant, on Stevenson Street, five Bangladeshi men aged between 26 and 64 were arrested.

Another five Bangladeshi men aged between 22 and 36 were also arrested at Taj Mahal restaurant on George Street

while at Kebabish on the same street a 32-year-old Pakistani man was arrested.

But Shaikat Chaudhry, owner of Kebabish, told *The Oban Times* his employee does have all of the necessary documentation and a valid visa until 2014.

He added: 'He is allowed to work here, he is not an illegal, I would not employ illegal workers - I would never take a

chance like that. 'He came through a recruitment agency in Glasgow.

'They took him to a detention centre on Sunday night, he had been kept in very bad conditions for three nights with no proper food.'

At Crystal Palace restaurant, also on George Street, two Chinese men aged 43 and 45 were arrested and detained while a third Chinese man was

arrested but later released pending further enquiries.

And at the Coriander restaurant, on Oban's Soroba Road, three Bangladeshi men aged between 31 and 39 were arrested.

The 16 detained men are now facing deportation.

All of the businesses will be served with civil penalty notices for employing the illegal workers and face fines of up to

£10,000 per worker if they cannot prove checks were carried out before giving them a job.

Adam Scarcliffe, assistant director of the Home Office's Scotland Immigration Enforcement Team, said: 'The message for anyone living and working in Scotland illegally is clear - it doesn't matter where you are, we will track you down and remove you from the country. 'We're undertaking operations

like this throughout the country on a regular basis, and more are planned.

'We're happy to work with businesses to let them know what checks need to be made on staff, but those who break the law should know that they will face heavy fines.

'I would urge members of the public with detailed information about suspected immigration abuse to get in touch.'

## Islay preacher jailed for 10 months

A LAY Baptist preacher on the Isle of Islay who interspersed internet searches for bible passages with searches for child pornography has been jailed for 10 months.

James Sutherland, 62, of 12 Mansfield Terrace, Port Ellen, had collected 266 images of children on his computer - including one image of a baby.

Some of the images found by police were on the most serious end of the scale.

Sutherland had previously admitted creating or permitting to be taken the images at his home over a two year period.

Sentencing of Sutherland was delayed a number of times as criminal justice social work reports carried out suggested he was 'categorically denying involvement' in the charges despite his guilty plea.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Friday, Sutherland's defence agent asked Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC to consider a retrial on the grounds that he was 'labouring under the misapprehension of what he was admitting to'.

She suggested it was more likely Sutherland had a change of heart.

She said: 'The report by social work caused serious concern. You have pled guilty to a serious crime and in my view custody is the appropriate disposal.'

Sutherland has also been placed on the sex offenders' register for 10 years from May 10.

## Celebration of life aids wildlife charity

A 'CELEBRATION of life', held in memory of former Oban Rare Breeds Park owner Duncan Strachan has helped to raise more than £500 for an international wildlife charity.

The gathering at Skipinnish Ceilidh House was well attended by many of his friends in the town and from further afield, who contributed £519 to the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

Duncan died last month at the age of 66 in Sella, Spain, when he rolled his digger while working on his terraced house.

His partner, Kay Simpson, said: 'There were a lot of people there for his celebration and that helped me a lot.'

The funds raised will go towards WSPA's efforts to rescue China's 'bile bears'.

## Court correction

THE OBAN Times would like to point out that Iain Cruikshanks pled guilty to possessing the Class A drug cocaine and not heroin as reported last week in error.

We would like to apologise to Mr Cruikshanks for this error and any inconvenience or confusion caused.

## Argyll Riding Club postponed due to bad weather

ARGYLL Riding Club's annual show, which was due to take place at Lunga Riding Stables, Ardfirn, has been postponed and is changing venue.

Wet weather has forced the show to move to Long Walk in Kilmartin and will now be held on June 29.

# 400 sign petition in Soroba Young Families group rent fight

MSP pledges support after ACHA withdraws peppercorn rent rate

MORE than 400 Oban residents have signed a petition in support of the Soroba Young Family Group (SYFG) as it fights for its future.

Michael Russell MSP has also pledged to support SYFG as pressure mounts on Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to revisit a decision to impose a new rent 36 times the previous peppercorn annual fee of £100.

While ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor says the suggested fee of £3,600 a year is fair as it represents the value of the property if it were to be leased as a home, the charity warns the increased cost could force it from its home or even cause it to close its doors.

Now parents, former attendees and supporters of the charity are rallying round to call on ACHA to reach - or at least begin negotiations to reach - a compromise before the community charity holds its AGM on May 20.

Julie McKenzie, whose children attend SYFG's nursery and who is a member of the fundraising committee, said: 'We've got quite a few names now and some high profile supporters. Michael Russell has pledged to support us. There's a lot of good feeling towards SYFG in the community.'

'SYFG has been running for the best part of 30 years and it's for people all across Oban, not

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

just Soroba. 'ACHA haven't been forthcoming; they've just not negotiated and the volunteers, parents and staff are panicking over what might happen.'

Among those to sign the petition is Jamie Houston, a consultant paediatrician at Lorn and Islands Hospital, and Nicola Kemp, who works with Argyll and Bute's local social work department.

Mr Houston said: 'They provide great support especially for the under threes, which our council nurseries in Oban do not provide.'

Nicola Kemp, meanwhile, said: 'I work with Social Work and we use this service a lot. It helps the most vulnerable families and children in the area and the children come on leaps and bounds after going there and getting opportunities that they may not otherwise get.'

Julie added: 'This is a huge thing for the community. We don't want to antagonise ACHA, but I think they've gone into this without realising what they're doing.'

Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, said: 'Yes, I'm raising it with Alastair MacGregor. I do think there needs to be some



Children, parents and supporters of Soroba Young Families gathered at the building on Monday to plead with ACHA to review plans to increase the community charity's rent by 36 times. 16\_1209obayoungfam1

special consideration given. 'I will be happy to help SYFG, I think they are doing a good job.'

Among those supporters to sign the petition urging ACHA to review its rent decision is proud grandmother, Evelyn Gibb.

She said: 'I would have been lost without the help of SYFG. I have kinship care of my granddaughter and the nursery helped and supported my grand daughter and through the last

three years through a lot of tough times.

'There will be so many families who will be lost without this nursery.'

Mr McGregor confirmed he is due to meet with the Soroba Young Families Group on Monday, but said accounts lodged with the Scottish Charities register informed ACHA's position.

He said: 'SYFG has indicated concerns about affordability and

the petition refers to the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery being affected.

'The extract from the Scottish Charities Register show the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery, for the last two years of submitted accounts, having income of £85,287 and expenditure of nil for the year ending March 2011 and income of £101,785 and expenditure of £72,608 for the year ending March 2012.

'I am sure you will understand

that the Association will wish to clarify with the Soroba Young Family Group and with the Soroba Young Family Group Nursery their concerns about affordability and the resources they have to pay their rent.

'The Association is committed to working with both groups and we hope that agreement can be reached for the way forward.'

You can find the SYFG petition by searching for Soroba on change.org.

## Police appeal for two after Oban station assault

POLICE have issued descriptions of two men accused of assaulting a man at Station Square in Oban last weekend.

The victim is a 23-year-old builder from the Preston area, who was working in the town. He was approached by the two men at 2am on Sunday morning and one of the men punched him to the ground. The second man then stamped on the victim's head.

The first man, who was wearing a black t-shirt, is described as 20 - 30 years old, 5'8" - 5'10".

The second man is aged between 30 - 35 and of heavy build. He wore a green t-shirt with a black design and blue jeans. He is bald on the crown of his head and had a goatee beard.

Any witnesses should contact Oban Police on 01631 510500.

## Playpark vandals

EXTRA police patrols have been allocated to the Soroba area of Oban after the playpark there was vandalised between May 3 and 7. Oban Police are seeking any information regarding the incident.



The family's Taynuilt home was gutted by the fire. 16\_1209fire01

## Two escape as fire destroys family home at Taynuilt

A FAMILY of four avoided injury in a fire which destroyed their Taynuilt home last week.

The blaze, thought to have been caused by an electrical fault, started on Friday morning while a mother and her teenage son were in the mid-terrace property.

The pair managed to quickly escape the house on Lochandhu Road after hearing a loud bang - estimated to have come from the electricity board.

The house rapidly filled up with smoke and crews from Oban Community Fire Station were called to the scene at 10am.

Martin Hill, station commander, said: 'Two appliances

from Oban Community Fire Station responded to reports of a house fire within a property in Taynuilt.

'On arrival, fire crews were met with a well developed fire and personnel wearing breathing apparatus and carrying charged lengths of hose were immediately deployed into the property.'

'The fire was safely extinguished by the breathing apparatus crews and the property was also systematically searched to ensure no persons were present.'

'No one was injured in the course of the incident and the cause of the fire is still being established at this time.'

## Iona ready for a triple celebration to mark arrival of St Columba

THE ISLE of Iona is gearing up for a triple celebration this weekend as it welcomes visitors coming to mark the arrival of Saint Columba 1,450 years ago.

The event, which also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Iona Community and the 25th anniversary of the MacLeod Centre, will be attended by senior church lead-

ers from across Scotland.

But Alex Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland, and Enda Kenny, the Taoiseach of Ireland, have confirmed they are unable to attend. Mr Salmond will visit the new facilities at Iona later in the year.

Martin McGuinness, deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, had also been expected

but it is understood he will no longer attend.

A reception is planned for special guests who arrive on Iona at 12pm on Sunday before a thanksgiving service takes place at Iona Abbey.

The service will be led by Reverend Joanna Anderson, centres director of the Iona Community and will feature

contributions from Mull Gaelic Choir and the children of Iona Primary School.

Michael Russell, the MSP for Argyll and Bute, will open the new Historic Scotland Abbey Museum at 3pm before the party departs the island in late afternoon. Other events will take place between May 19 and June 9, Columba's Day.



The lorry left the A85 at Achnacloich. 15\_1209lorry2

## Driver reported after accident

A LORRY driver has been reported to the procurator fiscal for careless driving after his vehicle left the road at Achnacloich near Connel.

The 44-year-old driver, who escaped serious injury, was travelling west on the

A85 at around 8am on Monday when his vehicle left the road and tumbled down the embankment into a field.

The road was closed for an hour while the lorry, which was delivering ice cream to Oban, was recovered.

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# Green Machine celebrate in style at end of season club dinner

## Coach Corrie Louw named Clubman of the Year

OBAN Lorne RFC brought the curtain down on its 50th and most successful season with the annual club dinner and prize-giving at the clubhouse.

Among the speakers last Saturday were Peter Wright, former Scotland and British Lions player, comedian Les Peters, SRU Women's Representative Kath Vass and SRU president Jim Stevenson, who had earlier in the day presented the West Division Robin trophy to club captain Robin MacQueen following a 28-8 away win over Lanark.

The first team had already won the RBS National Bowl at Murrayfield and the West Regional Bowl.

At the club dinner every first team player was presented with commemorative club medals and a framed team photo from Murrayfield in recognition of their historic season. For his part in the success, player-coach Corrie Louw was named Clubman of the Year.

Twins Cameron and Struan Smith were jointly awarded the player of the year prize, while Craig Wright received recognition as the top points scorer.

Best trainer was Connor Ferris, while Ryan Jackson was named most improved player.

The 2012-2013 season was also a successful one for the women's team, which finished third at the recent international Majorca

### RUGBY

Beach Rugby Tournament and was runner-up in the Women's National League.

Donna Smith was awarded player of the year, as well as top points scorer, while players' player of the year was shared by Karen MacCorquodale and Audrey Barr.

Most improved was Camilla Lesley and best trainer was Laura MacCormick.

Two framed prints of the men's team's Murrayfield triumph, donated by photographer Stephen Lawson, made £220 each in an auction in aid of club funds and Yorkhill Children's Foundation.



From left: Clubman of the Year Corrie Louw, president Dee Bradbury, captain Robin MacQueen and team manager Darrell Williams at the Oban Lorne RFC club dinner. 16\_120rugby01

## Fifteen teams for Green Machine 7's

### RUGBY

OBAN Lorne host its annual 7's on Saturday May 25 from 12pm with 15 teams confirmed for what is shaping up to be one of the club's biggest tournaments.

The Oban side will be taking part in the Mull 7's this Saturday with 7's captain Craig Wright hoping for a big squad to choose from.

## Tarbert bowlers win in Oban

### BOWLS

THERE was an Argyll derby at Oban Bowling Club green last Saturday when 15 players from Tarbert were the visitors.

On a very wet and cold day, Tarbert came out victors winning three out of the five games played.

The following day saw 14 pairs taking to the green for the annual Dalriada Trophy, which allows players only two bowls each.

Through the knockout stages emerged finalists Donald MacLean (skip) and Sandy Carr playing against Janet Campbell (skip) and Maureen Goldie.

After a close fought final, the ladies were the victors.

## Golf news from Glencruitten

### GOLF

ARVID Fagerdolvon won the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten over two rounds at the weekend with a score of 124 (65, 59).

Angus John MacNeil was second with a score of 128 (62, 66), and Eric Deverill was third with a score of 130 (66, 64).

Also on Sunday, Save The Children was played and the winners of the mixed competition were Stuart and Christine Cameron with a score of 91 - 19.5 = 71.5. John and Mary Plunkett were second with 88 - 15.5 = 72.5.

Tuesday there is a Stableford and on Wednesday Glencruitten Open Seniors is to be played. On Saturday the Pickfords Qualifier and Monthly Medal are to be played.

## Oban S1s go down to Kelso

### YOUTH RUGBY

OBAN S1's hosted Kelso at Glencruitten last Sunday in what is now an annual fixture between the teams. Kelso were very impressive on the day running out 36-12 winners against an Oban side who played very well despite the scoreline.

## West Coast Massive are cup winners

### OVER 35s LEAGUE

SEMI final results: Trialists awarded game over Sail Trim Coach who had too many injured players. West Coast Massive beat Clements 4-2.

Final: West Coast Massive beat Trialists 3-2.

Thanks go to John Scott for refereeing the semis and final.

## Paterson wins Roy Bridge to Laggan Dam round route

### CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers held a race from Roy Bridge to Laggan dam and back, with Donald Paterson the first home and his partner Biff Gow the fastest female.

Paterson finished the 15 mile course in a time of 38 minutes and 51 seconds, while Stephen Burns was one minute and 17 seconds behind in second. Doc Shirley crossed the line 12 seconds after Burns to take third.

Gow's time of 46 minutes and 22 seconds was more than two minutes quicker than her nearest challenger Kim Cameron. Marie Meldrum was the third fastest female with a time of 51 minutes and 35 seconds.

## Oban league win

### SQUASH

OBAN Squash Club won the latest round of league matches against Fort William.

After a fiercely fought match in Fort William the month before, which Oban won, Fort William brought a strong team to Oban's Atlantis Leisure.

In another heated encounter, Oban won 15 games to 10, giving them a 12-point lead overall.

## Laggan race return

### RUNNING

THE POPULAR annual Laggan 10k road race and one mile fun run will be held on May 25.

More than 50 runners entered last year's event, starting at Laggan Village Hall and heading along the road to the Corrieryack Pass.

The race starts at 2pm, with the fun run getting underway at 2.10pm. Teas will be served in Laggan Hall after the finish.

All proceeds from the day will go to Gergask Primary School.

## Rebecca wins schools event at Ingliston

### HORSE RIDING

YOUNG Oban rider Rebecca Scott took home the Working Hunter Championship from this year's Scottish Schools Equestrian Extravaganza at Ingliston Country Club.

Eight young riders from Argyll took part in the championship, run in partnership with Kelvin-side Academy.

Representing Lochgilphead High School were Karen Dixon on Into The Red IV, Alexis Stewart on Kenna's Pride and Fabienne Renfrew on Mystic Harlequin.

The Oban High School team consisted of Aimee Johnston on Puzzle of Glendhu, Stephanie Brown on Glenfyne Princess Alarabi, Kathryn Henderson on Burnbank Millennium, Jodie Sloss on Barrdene Razzle Dazzle and Park Primary School was represented by Rebecca Scott on Fenmawr Brewster.

As well as the title of Working Hunter Champion, Rebecca won

both the Nursery Novice and Intermediate sections and the Working Hunter Pony class up to 133cm.

Results for Argyll riders: Nursery Novice - 1 Rebecca Scott; Intermediate - 1 Rebecca Scott; Open - 6 Jodie Sloss, 12 Aimee Johnston.

Blue Riband - 4 Karen Dixon, 7 Jodie Sloss, 11 Aimee Johnston

Senior Team Challenge - 4 Lochgilphead High School, 9 Oban High School, Working Hunter Pony up to 133cm - 1 Rebecca Scott; Working Hunter Pony up to 143cm - 1 Jodie Sloss; Working Hunter Pony up to 153cm - 1 Aimee Johnston. Working Hunter Champion - Rebecca Scott.

Dressage - 3 Karen Dixon, 6 Fabienne Renfrew, 7 Rebecca Scott. Best Turned Out - 2 Rebecca Scott.



Rebecca Scott on Fenmawr Brewster was named Working Hunter Champion.

## Midnight League - a big success

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

ARGYLL and Bute Council in partnership with the SFA, Bank of Scotland, local football clubs, youth work and local community police officers ran a Midnight League coaching programme throughout Argyll and Bute recently.

The Midnight League programme was aimed at youths aged between 12 and 16 years old and

offered them an opportunity to play free football on either a Friday or Saturday night to combat a variety of social issues.

The programme was run in Oban, Lochgilphead, Rothesay, Helensburgh and Campbeltown.



Some of the older group of youngsters along with Oban Saints youth coaches Alan MacLeod and Iain Alexander who attend the Midnight League in the town.

## Athletic lose out in semi final

### FOOTBALL

Thompson Cup semi-final  
Cardross 2  
Oban Athletic 3

OBAN Athletic was hoping to cap off its first season with a place in the Thompson Cup final but it wasn't to be, thanks to a freak goal that sealed the win for their opponents.

The match was meant to be played at Maryhill Juniors' stadium, but due to adverse weather on Friday the match was moved to Nethercraigs upon arrival. The game started well for Athletic, who won a penalty for a foul on Dean Smith, and his namesake, David, slotted home.

But a 15-minute spell was to change the game and prove

costly for the Oban boys as Cardross grabbed three goals in this time.

The first was a well-worked goal down the right hand side where a cutback was met with a fierce shot into the bottom corner. The next two would leave manager Calum Fox very disappointed as a speculative effort was deflected to a Cardross forward to rifle home, quickly followed by a freak goal with a long clearance bouncing over young goalkeeper Craig Maitland into the net. The second half was gamely fought, with chances rare, however young James Ford came on for Athletic and within seconds danced passed two Cardross

defenders before playing in Iain MacInnes to thump home the goal of the game.

However, it was too little, too late, as Athletic fell short on the day. Manager Fox said: "Concentration is vital in any sport. We lost ours for 15 minutes and it cost us a place in the cup final."

"Craig was disappointed at losing the third goal but I reminded him and the rest of the boys that he has saved us on many occasions this season. I think our lads are too nice when playing games. I think they need to be a little more gallus and street smart."

# First Argyll showjumping contest hailed a great success

THE FIRST open showjumping competition hosted by the recently formed Argyll branch of the British Show Jumping (BS) Academy has been declared a great success.

The Argyll academy was established last year with the aim of attracting BS coaches to the area in a bid to ensure young riders improve their riding skills and equestrian knowledge.

The academy, which is completely self-funded, hosted an open competition to give its young members experience of competing in a formal British Show Jumping competition whilst raising funds.

Held at Lettershuna Riding Centre in Appin, the competition was judged by international show jumper and official BS junior academy coach Nigel Springer.

The renowned coach has been visiting Argyll to deliver training sessions for the last year and

has been a huge supporter of the Argyll academy.

Commenting on the event, which saw Nigel and BS development officer Lucy Brindley offer advice and encouragement, Sara Qualter from BS Argyll Academy said: "The support and encouragement of members and local businesses was astounding and we are proud to say that the BS junior academy Argyll is now able to continue to train our local young people in the discipline of show jumping."

"We have some very talented young people right here in Argyll and their talent certainly deserves to be supported and nurtured."

Results: 60cm Pony class: 1. Jodie Baillie on Barney, 2. Rebecca Scott on Brewster, 3. Steffie Brown on Ruby, 4. Amber Cameron on Cassie, 70cm pony class: 1. Rebecca Scott on Brewster, 2. Amber Cameron on Cassie, 3. Steffie Brown on Ruby, 4.

Beth Qualter Buncall on Bertie, 80cm pony class: 1. Jodie Baillie on Barney and Jodie Sloss on Roany, 3. Beth Qualter Buncall on Bertie, 4. Steffie Brown on Ruby, 90cm pony class: 1. Beth Qualter Buncall on Barney, 2. Jodie Sloss on Roany, 3. Aimee Johnston on Puzzle, 4. Steffie Brown on Ruby, Pony 1m class: 1. Aimee Johnston on Puzzle, 2. Jodie Sloss and Roany, 70 cm horse class: 1. Fiona Montgomery on Sidney, 2. Ethel Johnston on Bo, 3. Bethany Wade on Charlie, 4. William Addison on Sandy, 80cm horse class: 1. Shannon Addison on Mac, 2. Fiona Montgomery on Sidney, 3. Bethany Wade on Charlie, 4. William Addison on Sandy, 90cm horse class: 1. Lindsay MacDonald on Pye, 2. Yvonne Sloss on Essi, 3. Emma Smith on ML, 4. Shannon Addison on Mac, 1m horse class: 1. Yvonne Sloss on Essi, 2. Emma Smith on ML, 3. Lindsay MacDonald on Pye.



Grant Cairns, left, came first in the Inveraray Trial Run and was followed closely by his twin brother Iain, right, with Martin Cornish finishing third. 06\_220run06

## Inveraray run has largest entry

INVERARAY Bluebell Trial Run, which broke free from Inveraray Jail on Sunday, enjoyed the largest field of entries in its four-year history with runners coming from across Argyll, Glasgow and further afield.

The inaugural children's race was supported by a small but select group of runners who all tackled the rough trail course with enthusiasm and energy.

Joseph Harper from Lochgilphead, a seasoned athlete,

stormed around the 3km course in 14 minutes, 5 seconds, followed by Lochgair's Rachael Johnston, the first girl to finish and second overall in 16.59.

Ormsary's Ruby Bosomworth was third in the youth race, second in the 10-13 female category in 18.00. Ben Davidson, also from Ormsary, took first place in the 6-9 years category, with a time of 20.17. He was closely followed by local runner Tilly Cunningham, first girl.

The hill run, featuring a 236m high climb, was soon underway and was dominated by twin brothers Grant and Iain Cairns from Springburn Harriers.

Grant was the overall winner, crossing the line on 31.33 and Iain second on 32.39.

Lochgilphead runner Iain Mac-Nicol was the first runner home in the male veteran category and took the first jogsotland finisher prize.

Bill Halliday was the first to

cross the line in the trial's first ever super veteran category. Bill from Mid Argyll Triathlon Club was named the male super veteran champion with a time of 40.13.

The female race was heavily dominated by the ladies from SOS Fitness but locals did manage to keep them from the most coveted first over the line prize as Ormsary's Dinah Bosomworth finished the course in 39.53.

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## Fort come out on top in local derby

'If we want to get anywhere this is the level we have to get up to - Duncan Kelly

REPORT BY  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A GARY INNES double sealed a 4-1 win over local rivals Kilmallie as a much-improved Fort William marched into the Artemis MacAulay Cup quarter-final.

Truth be told, the final scoreline did not tell the whole story but the An Aird men ran out deserved winners after finding their scoring touch in the second 45.

In a scrappy first half both teams struggled to find a rhythm with clean hitting the exception rather than the rule, and true chances few and far between.

Kilmallie opened the stronger and the home defence was hard put to clear Shorty Graham's 12th minute corner before Innes flashed a drive past Kevin Toye's right hand post at the other end.

Young Fort defender Cammy Grant earned himself a 16th minute booking for a wild swipe on Michael Rodger as tempers frayed.

And it was Rodger who almost opened the scoring moments later but he failed to get a clean contact on the ball and his shot trundled harmlessly past as MacKay rushed out to block.

Mark MacPherson was fortunate to escape a yellow card for bringing down Innes but Kilmallie continued to have the edge, and MacKay did well had to block John Stewart's shot after the international forward got away from Niall MacPhee.

**Smart stop**  
Kevin Toye pulled off a smart stop from Gordie MacKinnon then MacKay turned another Stewart effort round the post as half-time loomed.

Kilmallie replaced Graham with Martin Munro, who moved up to full forward with Rodger switched to half back to bolster the defence - but it was Fort who grabbed the initiative on 49 minutes.

Daniel Stewart looked to have carried the ball too far, but his deflected shot sailed past Kevin Toye high into the net for 1-0.

The home defence was conceded

### SHINTY

ing nothing, with Stevie Stewart in particular outstanding and Duncan Rodger's arrival on the park further cemented Fort's superiority.

Cammy Grant was lucky not to be sent off for a blatant trip on Munro before Daniel Stewart almost made it two after fine play by MacKinnon, who required seven stitches after the game for a head wound.

Robertson cleared just in time from Innes on the hour mark, but seconds later Fort went 2-0 ahead when Robertson inadvertently deflected a corner into his own net.

By now Innes was finding more space and the Fort man had his goal on 70 minutes, turning smartly away from MacAllister to fire a glorious 25-yard shot high past Toye.

Kilmallie briefly threatened a comeback when Mark Graham made it 3-1 but Innes had the final say, cracking home from a similar angle after being set up



Grant MacKenzie, left, and Stevie Stewart go head to head in a battle for possession 20\_120shinty05

by Josh Magee.

Innes' shot tore through the rigging - but after a short debate between the match officials the goal was allowed to stand.

Kilmallie coach Duncan Kelly was disappointed with the result - but far from downbeat.

He told The Oban Times: 'In the end the took their chances and we did not, but Fort William were the better team on the day.

'If we want to get anywhere this is the level we have to get up to. It is a good learning curve for us - now we just have to pick

ourselves up.'

Winning Fort co-manager Adi Robertson told The Oban Times: 'It was a good performance especially given the last few performances we have had.

'Some of the enforced changes worked out really well - I thought

Niall MacPhee at full back and Stevie Stewart at half-back were both excellent.

'The team had a better balance and really took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half. Once we got a goal in front we never looked like losing.'

## Conlon's men travel to face big spending Brora Rangers

### FOOTBALL

FORT William take on one of the Highland League's most expensively assembled sides this Saturday knowing they need at least a point to have a chance of avoiding another last place finish.

Brora Rangers boast the likes of ex-Inverness Caley players Ross Tokely and Stuart Golabek and former Canadian international Richie Hastings in their line up, and were recently linked with a move for Scotland international Derek Rioridan.

Fort manager Danny Conlon can only dream of such resources, and told The Oban Times his squad will again be stretched thin for the trip to Sutherland.

**Decent**  
He said: 'I think we'll be doing well to get a squad together. We'll have to try and get a team together and put in a decent performance, but it's going to be a difficult match.

'When you look at their finances, it's a different world to us. They are full of quality players, and they have a lot of good individuals.

'Maybe they will be switching

off a bit as it's the end of the season, or the manager might try out some of the younger boys, we'll just have to wait and see.'

Fort lost 5-1 when the sides met at Claggan Park last month, but Conlon said the scoreline did not reflect the game.

**Reasonably well**  
He said: 'We played reasonably well for the first 60 or 70 minutes, but then we fell apart a bit.'

Darren Quigg is suspended for the final two games of the season, giving Conlon another defensive headache. Ryan MacDonald is a candidate to drop into the centre of the defence in Quigg's absence.

Forwards Davie Forbes and Iain MacLellan will also miss the game due to work commitments.

Fort's home game against Lossiemouth last weekend was postponed due to heavy rain. The tie between the Highland League's two bottom sides will now be held at Claggan Park on Saturday May 25.

## Lochaber lose to Ross Sutherland

### YOUTH RUGBY

LOCHABER under 16's played their last game of the season on Saturday when they hosted Ross-Sutherland at Banavie.

The home side started strongly against the physically bigger Ross side and the score stayed 0-0 until half way through the first half when the visitors broke through to score.

The Lochaber side did not let this stop them from playing some good handling rugby and they promptly scored a try through Finn Munro which was converted by Rory Bell to make the score 7-7 at half time.

Unfortunately Lochaber lost a player at half

time as he had to go to play music at a wedding. This loss took its toll and Ross scored a couple of quick fire tries.

Despite this the young Lochaber side had their chances and very nearly scored a couple of tries of their own but were just thwarted by some last ditch tackling by Ross-Sutherland.

Lochaber were now trying to run everything and Ross-Sutherland pounced on a mistake to take the final score to 7-24.



Lochaber's Rory Bell breaks away from Ross Sutherland's Connor Fraser 20\_120rugby01



Ross Sutherland's Calum Sangster wraps up Lochaber's Ruairidh MacInnes 20\_120rugby02

## Igor prepares for championships with victory in Aberdeen

### BOXING

LOCHABER'S national champion Igor Slivinski prepared for the upcoming British championships with a confident victory in Aberdeen last Friday.

The 16 year old Scottish youth light-welterweight title holder took on Eddie Copland, with the home fighter starting well in the first round.

Slivinski started the second by throwing combinations off the jab and starting to work to the body, and moved through the gears in the final round to take a unanimous points decision.

Slivinski's Lochaber Phoenix clubmate Ryan Watson also took part in the Aberdeen show, and the senior fighter maintained his recent good form with a well deserved victory against Bill Ramsey.

Dan Nixon took plaudits from all the coaches present after defeating the taller and heavier Dean Castle. The 11 year-old dominated the fight on his way to victory.

Lightweight James Aitchison went into his bout with current Scottish champion Paul Greenhorn carrying a hand

injury, and was left with only one hand to box with for much of the match after mistiming an early effort.

Despite the handicap, the 15 year-old kept the scoring tight and only lost by a split decision.

**Vying for titles**  
Club official Steve Docherty said: 'Winning the Scottish title has shown Igor he has a chance to do a lot in the sport, Ryan has come on in leaps and bounds since the turn of the year. Dan only had his first contest in February but already looks like he could be vying for titles next season and I'll be shocked if James doesn't regain his Scottish title that he's held a couple of years ago.'

Meanwhile, Docherty's hard work has been rewarded with a promotion to head of the Referees and Judges Commission for the North of Scotland District.

He will now oversee the testing of any new referees or judges and monitor the performance of the existing ones.

## Murdo wins Skye Cup by four shots

### GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club held the second round of the Skye Cup on Saturday and Sunday, with Murdo Gordon taking a four shot victory.

Gordon shot a net round of 60 to finish clear of Mike Williams in second. Craig Irvine-Smith was third with a net 65.

Last week, the club hosted the first round of the Strath Cup, which saw Jamie Beaton finish first with 40 points.

Beaton's better inward half gave him the win after he finished level with Mike Mace. Martin Bird was third on 38 points.

## Rollover jackpot

### LOTTERY

A BUMPER rollover jackpot of £800 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 2, 9 and 10.

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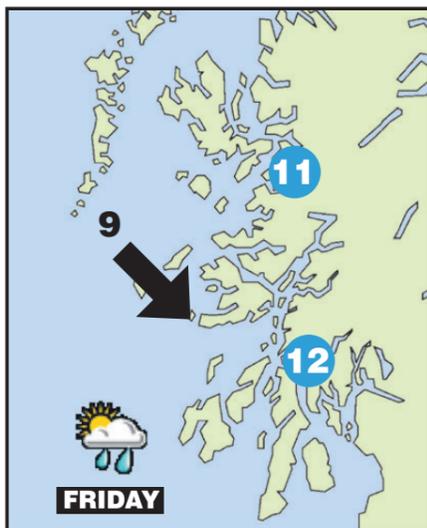
## Weather

**Thursday** Rain showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

**Friday** Light rain showers  
Winds light, north westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy  
Winds moderate, north westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 9, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date       | am        | pm              |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Thur 05.08 | 3.7 11.25 | 0.9 17.19 23.54 |
| Fri 05.42  | 3.8 11.59 | 0.9 17.52 23.54 |
| Sat 00.29  | 1.0 06.15 | 3.8 12.35 18.24 |
| Sun 01.04  | 1.1 06.49 | 3.7 13.11 18.57 |
| Mon 01.39  | 1.3 07.24 | 3.6 13.47 19.31 |
| Tues 02.14 | 1.4 08.00 | 3.5 14.24 20.06 |
| Wed 02.52  | 1.6 08.36 | 3.3 15.02 20.43 |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

|                  |       |           |       |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Ardrishaig       | -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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