

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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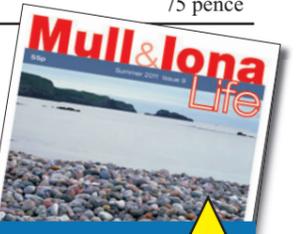
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Traders group to reform?

OBAN'S town traders group is set to reform. The need for an official voice through which the views of businesses in the town can be gauged has been highlighted in recent weeks. The opportunity to re-establish the much-respected group comes after controversy over the granting of a licence for a street market in August. Traders say they were not asked for their opinion on bringing the market to town before the permit was granted. The group, chaired by David Finlayson, of Guise Clothing, was never formally wound up, therefore restarting it should not be a great difficulty. At a meeting of town centre businesses to discuss the possibility of reviewing the street market decision, Mr Finlayson agreed that the traders could be reconvened. Councillor Roddy McCuish said this would be an opportunity for businesses to have a voice on matters that concern them. He said: 'If the town traders were revitalised it would mean there was a forum we could contact for advice and test the water.'

Raiders target Go Bananas

A BREAK-in at a second new business in Oban is 'unlikely' to be connected to last week's raid at Digital Kangaroo. Go Bananas, the new play facility on the upper floor of The Bridge Cafe, on Soroba Lane, was targeted overnight from Saturday into Sunday. The thieves broke into the building before stealing the personal belongings of the owner and a small amount of cash. They also caused damage to the children's play area.

Paying the penalty

POLICE issued five fixed penalty notices after youths started to get out of control in George Street in the early hours of Sunday morning. The incident, believed to be fuelled by alcohol, saw the youths - aged between 17 and 35 - get into an argument before police were called.



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The Forth Constructor goes to the aid of the stricken yacht *The Drum*, which went onto rocks on Kerrera. Picture: Finlay Oban.

Blown away by an unseasonal storm

GUSTS of up to 100mph battered the west coast and islands on Monday leaving thousands of homes and businesses without power and drivers stranded for hours. Age-old trees were uprooted and ancient walls failed to stand the test of time. Traffic was brought to a standstill in many areas including Oban, Dalnally, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Bridge of Orchy and beyond. One man, aged 36, lost his life when a tree crashed through the window of his van near Balloch. On Mull, trees blocking the roads at Torloisk and Pennyghael were immediately removed by islanders, while power cables lines swaying in the winds were brought under control by volunteer fire fighters. Islanders watched as waves crashed off jetties as many gave up hope early on the ferry timetable running to schedule, if at all. Services to Luig, Easdale and Lismore were cancelled and CalMac cancelled services throughout its network. In Oban Bay there was trouble at sea with four vessels, including the yacht *The Drum*, owned by Arnold Clark, crashing off the rocks at

the north end of Kerrera. Police say people may have been delayed by the weather - but no one was injured and no vehicles were damaged during the severe force 11 gales. In all, travellers around the area were prepared to wait as Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, police and helpful volunteers helped clear the roads. Area commander Brian Auld said: 'We received 30 reports of fallen trees at various locations including Bridge of Orchy, Dalnally, Taynuilt, Dunbeg, Barcaldine, Benderloch and Fearnoch. All roads north were blocked at one point. I want to thank everyone

for their patience and for those who supported us with the road clearances. We re-routed traffic around the town which took some time, to ensure larger vehicles could pass safely. A bus broke down on one road and a passing mechanic helped to get the vehicle running again. Although these were difficult circumstances, with some people being stuck for three hours, there was good community spirit and everyone got home eventually. Readers were quick off the mark to send pictures and video to *The Oban Times*. They can be seen online at www.obantimes.co.uk

Control of Coastguard 'shouldn't be devolved'

DESPITE rumours to the contrary, the UK Government has said it is unprepared to devolve control of the Coastguard services in Scotland. Speaking at Westminster's transport committee, Shipping minister Mike Penning said the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was seen in the same light as the British Army and as such shouldn't be devolved. That position has been disputed by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil who argued that the Coastguard should be seen in the same light as other, already devolved, emergency services. He said: 'It is shocking that even at this late stage the

More luxury liners set to cruise into town port

TWO LUXURY liners are bypassing Fort William in favour of Oban. The two ships had been set to call in at Fort William, as they have for the past few years, but have now diverted their route to call in at Oban Bay instead. The *MV Duetschland*, carrying up to 520 passengers and 270 crew, will visit on July 19 and the *MV Albatros* with a maximum of 1,100 passengers and crew is due into Oban on August 29. Many put the increase in liner traffic down to the temporary appointment of pier master Steven Neilson, who is in the town temporarily from Rothesay. Argyll and Bute Council says

New proposals to redevelop Oban harbour

Scheme would support both industrial and tourism sectors

A HOST of new proposals to redevelop Oban's harbour area have been drawn up.

Plans, which are currently being circulated for consultation, include:

- Lengthening the pier between South Pier and the Lighthouse Pier;
- Creating a harbour wall from the North Pier following the contour of the Esplanade;
- Permanent pontoons and safe harbour inside a new harbour wall;
- Increasing potential for industrial fishing and commercial traffic on both the lengthened south pier and extended North Pier harbour.

Oban's Harbour Development Group (HDG) says the proposals will be developed during the next two-to-five years and hope to encourage both tourism and industry to work side-by-side. The scheme is being led by Oban CHORD project board with the involvement of a number of other organisations.

Those behind the scheme say the development is absolutely vital to meet the needs of increased traffic coming in from the sea. At present there is little opportunity to increase the level of traffic because of limited capacity for berthing.

There is also limited space to develop the fishing and commercial side of the harbour.

REPORT

By LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

Grants to increase the opportunities for the industrial south pier are available from the European Fisheries Fund, but only until 2013, making it imperative the harbour project is progressed quickly.

Councillor Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh, chairman of HDG, confirmed: 'We are studying plans to increase the full stretch of pier from the South Pier to the Lighthouse Pier. This would create an area for fishing berths and other commercial activity. We are also considering plans for a longer harbour wall on the North Pier at an angle heading out into the sea. This would allow us to develop the area to allow more traffic. Deep water is only five metres

"The port of Oban can harness both tourism and commercial activity."

Councillor Neil Mackay

off shore, therefore, by putting a defence wall into the harbour we could seriously increase the number and size of vessels.

'There has been a serious increase in the volume of traffic, both tourist and industrial, being brought into the harbour.'

One businessman, who did not want to be named, said: 'There is no way tourists want to come into the town to see major industry. They can get that in places like Peterhead where there is little if any tourist trade.'

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism said: 'Tourism in Argyll and Bute makes a huge contribution to the economy of the area. The port of Oban has the tremendous advantage of being able to harness both tourism and commercial activity. Our harbour is one of the busiest for passengers on the west coast and there is still the potential to improve this.'

'We are also looking forward to the harbour being involved with renewable energy with regard to the Tires Aray.'

Oban Bay Marine, which has plans to build a transit marina in Oban Bay between North Pier and Railway Pier, has said it is continuing with its plans for a transit berthing unit. What do you think? Tell us at www.obantimes.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

CHORD members chosen in June

REPLACEMENTS for the three members of Oban's CHORD project board who resigned will not be chosen until the June meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee. At Oban's Community Council

meeting on Monday members hoped they would be invited to join.

Community councillor Catherine Gillies told the meeting: 'We will write to the project board chairman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, to ask him to consider

us, as elected community representatives, to take a place on the committee.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'It will be for the area committee to decide on any new members to the project board.'

Ganavan Sands flies the flag for beautiful beaches

FOR THE sixth year running, Oban's Ganavan Sands has been awarded the Keep Scotland Beautiful Rural Seaside Award flag, thanks to its impeccable water and beach.

The popular spot received the honour and flag on Tuesday, and while the weather may not have been warm, the welcome the flag received from local councillor, Donald MacDonald, certainly was. He said: 'It's a fantastic achievement. It's one of the few beaches we have on the west coast to get this award so we're delighted.'

'A lot of concern was raised about the housing development, but this award shows that it's still there and still accessible. It also shows the quality of the water there and the beach itself is superb.'

Councillor MacDonald said he hoped the honour will be bestowed on the Ganavan Sands for many



Receiving Ganavan Sands' latest award are, from left, council environment warden Peter McLuckie, councillor Donald MacDonald, GRAB Trust project worker for Oban Caroline Askew, the council's marine and coastal development officer, Lorraine Holdstock, and Julie Fairbrass, from the GRAB Trust. 15_121beach2

years to come. The beach is joined by Kintyre's Machrihanish Beach in receiving the flag, however, it is celebrating its eighth year of the honour.

Julie Fairbrass is project manager at the GRAB (Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute) Trust which helps maintain and keep the beach clean, in association with the council. She said: 'The GRAB Trust in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, is very happy to hear that the two seaside award beaches, Ganavan Bay in Oban and Machrihanish Beach in Kintyre, received Rural Seaside Awards for another year.'

'It is only with the help of our funders - Scottish Natural Heritage, EB Scotland and Crown Estate - public partners and the local communities who care about our beautiful coast line that we are able to maintain the Seaside Award status.'



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Laughter is the best medicine, says 100-year-old Mamie

FRIENDS and family gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Kilmelford's oldest resident, Mary 'Mamie' Frances Tomison, nee Gardiner.

And what a party it was - with people from every walk of life coming to her waterfront house on the Degnish Road over three days to say Happy Birthday and raise a glass to a very special lady.

Mamie says she doesn't really know the secret to old age, and can't quite imagine where all the time has gone. 'None of my family have lived as long as me,' she added.

However, anyone knowing Mamie will be sure the secret is her love of life and interest in everything around her.

'Laughter,' Mamie added, 'is very important.'

Hunter passed away a day after his 90th birthday - surrounded by his family.

Mamie continues to live with daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Malcolm Bark and their son Iain.

Mamie's son Ronald also joined the party with daughter Amanda. Mamie has a large scattered family with daughter-in-law Nora and grandchildren Colin, Fiona, Andrew and David with eight great-grandchildren.

To celebrate Mamie's birthday her family had amassed pictures of her from her earliest days. One picture, taken when she was eight or nine, is almost an identical dance pose to one she was still displaying in her late 1990s.

Mary gave up her work as an administrator in MacDonald's Department Store in Glasgow at the time of her marriage, with Hunter continuing to work as a draper while Mamie raised her family.

On one of their many trips north, to a cottage they visited in Ardnamurchan, the couple fell in love with the Degnish peninsula.

The couple bought a 'modern' house in 1964, before making a permanent move in 1968.

Popular
Mamie and Hunter were popular residents, taking part in many community groups and becoming members of the parish church.

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Mamie Tomison surrounded by her children Dorothy, left, and Ronald, right, with son-in-law Malcolm and grandchildren Iain and Amanda. 16_121birthday01

Packed programme for Arduaine Spring Festival

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland ran the second Arduaine Spring festival at Loch Melfort hotel earlier this month.

The successful event was attended by 52 guests who enjoyed a magnificent local seafood buffet on the Friday, followed by a packed programme of talks and walks on gardens, archaeology and wildlife in Arduaine and Argyll.

The Spring on a Plate gourmet dinner on the Saturday night was one of the highlights of the event, with food sourced from local producers such as Barbreck Farm and Ardferrn Organics.

Frieda Morrison, one of the guest speakers at the weekend said: 'It is a privilege and a pleasure to be part of the campaign to support Arduaine Garden. It is one of our great national treasures and a superb example of our horticultural heritage.'

'Scotland leads the world in horticultural expertise and culture and yet we know more about our golf courses than our national gardens.'

'The staff and volunteers of the National Trust for Scotland do a great job but now it's time to help and put more effort into raising the profile of our glorious gardens.'

Western Isles MSP appointed an education minister

WESTERN Isles SNP MSP, Alasdair Allan, has been named an education minister in the new Scottish Government.

He becomes Minister for Learning and Skills in Mike Russell's education department and will also have responsibility for Gaelic and Scots. He is a fluent speaker of both.

'This is another challenge to take on, and one I am looking forward to immensely,' he said.

'First and foremost in my mind I have a responsibility to the Western Isles as their MSP, and I will still be working hard at that job, though I will now also be pursuing causes close to my heart nationally - Scottish education, and the future of the Scots and Gaelic languages.'

'I don't expect life to get any less busy, but I intend to get stuck into the task I've been given with enthusiasm,' he said.

'It's a matter of looking at how we best treat visitors to the National Park and how we can manage these areas responsibly.'

Kayak adventure raises £14,000

THE Largs man who kayaked through Oban as part of a trip from his hometown to Stornoway in memory of a friend who died of cancer has raised more than £14,000 for charity.

Bruce Joliffe, who suffered a bout of the winter vomiting bug shortly after arriving in Oban, completed the 313-mile journey in three weeks.

The money has been split between Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign, Beatson Oncology Centre Fund and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

New group to tackle anti-social camping

Five Lochs campaigners join national park board after bank holiday misery

WILD campers at Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig during the recent bank holiday left a trail of litter, human waste, destroyed trees and burnt out fires.

The scene was greeted with horror by locals who have begun to lose patience with the wave of devastation left by the 'happy camper' who pulls up and has no regard for their surroundings.

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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Now, with the busy summer season approaching and new bylaws to prevent wild camping on east Loch Lomondside coming into force on June 1, the recently formed Five Lochs group, together with the Loch Lomond

and the Trossachs National Park Board, are set to tackle anti-social camping head on.

From June 1, anyone found camping between Drymen and Rowardennan from March 1 to October 31 each year will face a fine of up to £500.

To encourage responsible camping, the National Park is establishing a series of informal camp sites around the loch, complete with basic facilities. However, these facilities are not expected to be complete for a number of weeks.

Meanwhile, the Five Lochs Group will focus on problems around lochs Voil and Doine, Lubnaig, Venachar, Earn and Achray.

National Park board member Owen McKie said: 'People are well aware of the new bylaws but quite honestly, the people who cause the problem will go there anyway. It will take some time to get through to them that this is serious.'

'We've now started the Five

Lochs Group to look at these other areas too and what we're trying to do is cut out anti-social behaviour, not discourage people from coming.

'It's a matter of looking at how we best treat visitors to the National Park and how we can manage these areas responsibly.'

Alistair Barclay is a member of the Five Lochs Group, and is vice-chairman of Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre (BLS) Community Council.

He said: 'Simply, because of the new bylaws, we've been getting a larger influx in Loch Lubnaig and Loch Earn.'

'The next stage is trying to bring a similar situation to Loch Lubnaig, where basic facilities will be operated.'

'That will probably make things even worse in Loch Earn for a short while, but in the fullness of time that will get better too.'

'Unfortunately, Rome wasn't built in a day. As much as we'd like it all done right now, we don't have the resources.'



Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart MBE and his wife Mary Anne. 12_c21lord01

Legal expert Patrick is new Lord Lieutenant

A CAMPBELTOWN man has become the new Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Patrick Stewart MBE as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, succeeding Kenneth A MacKinnon CVO RD WS on his retirement.

From a well-known Campbeltown family, Mr Stewart, aged 66, graduated LLB from Edinburgh University in 1966.

He has enjoyed a distinguished career in the legal profession, principally in the West of Scotland. Many people will know him from his close involvement with the Scottish fishing industry, where he served as secretary to the

Clyde Fishermen's Association and now as marine environment legislation consultant to the Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

He has served as vice Lord-Lieutenant in the Argyll and Bute Lieutenancy since 2002.

Mr Stewart has been active in many local and voluntary organisations and in particular the Sea Cadets for over 30 years.

His main interests are maritime affairs, computing, travel and languages. He is married to Mary Anne and they have a daughter, Jenny and a son, Rory.

Mr Stewart said that he hopes, during his term of office, to help raise the profile of the Third (voluntary) Sector in Argyll and Bute.

Stirling Mòd venue switch

WITH the usual venue unavailable, Mod Shruighlea (Stirling Provincial Mòd) will this year move from the Albert Halls to the significantly smaller Golden Lion Hotel.

The town's annual festival of Gaelic culture, featuring singing, piping, fiddle and poetry, is a popular event and the switch to the smaller venue will be a challenge for the organisers.

However, if it goes well, it could well be considered as the Mod's new home in the future.

A spokeswoman said: 'We will

be looking at how well the hotel works as a venue as it does mean all the competitions will be very close together.'

Suggestions that the switch is down to either financial constraints or dwindling popularity were rejected.

Mòd convener Mary Ann Brown said: 'We are looking forward to the Mòd being in the hotel. It is a big change from the Albert Halls, but we hope everyone will enjoy the atmosphere.'

The two day event starts on May 27.

Geologist's year-long search for ancient rock ends on Barra

A TWO billion-year-old rock found on Barra is to form the centrepiece at the British Geological Survey (BGS) headquarters in Nottinghamshire.

The pinkish rock, found this month at the disused quarry near the Vatersay causeway, is of a type known as Lewisian Gneiss, and is the oldest rock to have been found on the British Isles.

At somewhere between 14-18 tonnes and four metres high, it's not exactly the smallest either.

For the geologist who found it, Patrick Parker, the discovery marked the end of a near year-long expedition to the Hebrides to find a spectacular example of the rock.

In fact, Barra was his last port of call before he gave up on his search.

Patrick said: 'I reacted with total relief. This was my last quarry.'

'I'd already visited all other possible sites across the mainland, I'd been across the Hebrides and at all other spots across the island.'

'What I was looking for had to have something special. It was just sitting there.'

'I have to admit, I did have a pint to celebrate. Just one though.'

When he found the rock, it was covered in grass, moss and mud and, to all but the most keenly trained eye, it was nothing special.

However, the rock displays a number of interesting characteristics, not least of which is its pinkish hue.

As one of the oldest rocks, it has gone under a series of metamorphoses, a process caused by the pressure and heat it was subject to close to the time of its formation.

This can be seen in the light and dark bands that run through the rock, showing the segregation of low and high density minerals during its periods of metamorphosis.

A mineral called potassium feldspar gives the rock its distinguishing pink colour.

At the time it was formed, no oxygen would have been present in the atmosphere, making the planet inhospitable to all but the earliest forms of life.

The BGS has promised to pay £500 to Cobhair Barraigh, an island charity that provides day care centre provision and home-based support service for Barra's elderly residents, for taking the rock.

The rock is to be taken off the island on an articulated lorry next month, before being shipped to Oban by ferry and on to its new home in Keyworth.

Log on to improved online council planning system

ARGYLL and Bute Council's planning department is making it easier to use its online system.

The updated system contains information and documents related to planning and building standards applications.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'We are keen for people to use the council's website to submit planning applications, view applications and make comments. It's now easier to navigate, quicker to use and there are several new added features.'

She explained that people can now create a user account, which allows them to track applications, save searches and be sent email notifications when anything changes on their saved application or search. She added: 'There's a new pre-application service called 'Planning for Firm Foundations.'

'The downloadable form allows those thinking of taking on a building or renovation project to get a planning officer's view on their drawings or written proposals before a formal planning application is submitted. This is all free and is designed to help identify any issues at an early stage and add certainty to the process.'

Whale and dolphin trust unveils marine project

THE HEBRIDEAN Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) has unveiled a Marine Biodiversity for All project.

A programme of events including beach cleans and wildlife watches will offer the chance for people in Argyll and Bute and Lochaber to learn more about the marine biodiversity of the west coast.

Experienced and knowledgeable staff will run the events and help members of the public, of all ages and from all backgrounds, to learn about marine biodiversity in a fun and interactive way.

Gemma Cave, education officer, said: 'This is a great opportunity for HWDT to engage with local people in Argyll and Bute and Lochaber and to teach them about what we are so passionate about.'

'We hope that people will gain knowledge and learn new skills that will encourage them to enjoy the outdoors responsibly and contribute to the future conservation of our natural marine heritage.'

A grant from the Big Lottery will be used to buy essential equipment including beach cleaning supplies, binoculars for whale watches, interpretive displays and ID guides.

Mull-based HWDT also hopes to use some of the grant to fund a trip for young people on board our research yacht Silurian, where they will assist with whale and dolphin research on board a working sailing yacht.

Details of events organised by HWDT for this project will be published on its website www.hwtd.org

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Lifeboat called to aid yacht dragging anchor

TOBERMORY lifeboat was called out in dreadful conditions on Monday, after a yacht had dragged its anchor in Tobermory Bay in winds gusting 55 knots.

The 26-foot yacht, Blue Stone, had been anchored in Tobermory, but its anchor did not hold as gales swept through the bay, and it began drifting at high speed into the Sound of Mull, with its skipper onboard.

The lifeboat launched shortly before midday and succeeded in getting a line across to the stricken yacht, towing her back to safety.

Lifeboat coxswain Phil Higson said: 'These were the worst conditions I have ever seen in Tobermory Bay in 19 years of service with the RNLI.'

'The outcome could have been very different. At one point we feared that the crew might be in danger of being thrown out of the yacht. I'm pleased that we were able to recover both the vessel and her skipper.'

Rod Collins, skipper of Blue Stone, said: 'I'm full of admiration for the RNLI and the Tobermory crew and the speed at which they reached me.'

'There can be no more reassuring sight than seeing the lifeboat approaching. I'm hugely grateful to everyone involved.'

Council pays £117,000 for mobile phones

ARGYLL and Bute Council paid £116,787 to cover the cost of mobile phone contracts for its officers.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the council paid for 1,139 mobile phone contracts as well as 76 home telephone lines, 35 of which are in elected members' homes.

The council also pays for the internet at 74 addresses - 34 of which are in elected members homes.

While a copy of invoices for households bills was requested, a spokeswoman for the council said: 'We do not receive individual bills for telephone or internet lines so it is not possible to provide copies of a bill relating to specific lines.'

Sea eagle trial adjourned

THE TRIAL of two men accused of disturbing a Mull nest of protected sea eagles has been adjourned until October.

Ivaylo Kirilov Takev, 37, of 47 Paradise Place, Norwich, and Yuli Veselinov Panayotov, 32, 39 Tooting Beck Gardens, London, who are charged with wilfully or recklessly disturbing a nest at Killiechroman, will return to Oban Sheriff Court on October 6.

Youth withdrew £380 on stolen card

A TEENAGER admitted stealing a credit card before using it to withdraw £380 when she appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Lindsay MacDougall, 17, of Coruisk, Corran Brae, admitted stealing the bank card from a person living at her home address.

Sentence was deferred until June 28 for reports and MacDougall was released on bail.

Raiders break into caravan

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a break-in at a caravan on Dunollie Road over the weekend.

Officers are hoping to eliminate three men seen in the area during the early hours of Sunday morning.

The break-in happened between 4pm on Saturday and 1.30pm on Sunday.

A police spokesman said nothing was taken from the caravan.

The three men were captured on CCTV near the caravan at 1am on Sunday morning and officers say they may be able to help officers with enquiries.

Information can be given in confidence to police on 01631 510500 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Mysterious visitors set to sail in

A MYSTERIOUS visitor will be making his - or her - way into Scottish waters on the luxury yacht the *Lauren L*, a 24-cabin sailing boat.

The *M/Y Lauren L* has previously been used to host parties during the Cannes Film Festival and will be in the waters between Rothesay, Inveraray and Oban with the mysterious family.

The company which operates the yacht was unwilling to say this week who has chartered the vessel.

However, it is understood the yacht will be in the waters from early June.



Allison Gourlay, Rosemary MacCormack, Trisha MacKay and Christine MacCowan, front, getting into the mood before setting off on the Loch Crearan Moonwalk in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

Picture: John MacTavish

Stepping out in aid of cancer charity

MORE than 80 people gathered in Appin Village Hall, with about 20 more meeting in Lismore as the weather was too stormy for them to come to the mainland, for the Appin Moonwalk.

About 65 walkers, all wearing decorated bras, were then transported to Creagan Bridge for the walk round the head of Loch Crearan in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

This made for a very colourful

sight as everyone headed off at 9pm. At the beginning the weather was kind and even when the heavy showers started everyone kept their good spirits high and carried on to the finish.

Most of the walkers were female, although a few very brave men, also wearing the appropriate underwear took part. Nearly all the walkers were back at the starting point by 11pm, ready to be taken back to the hall for supper and prize

giving. Dr Iain McNicol had the unenviable task of judging the 'bras' and after the prizes had been handed out the grand total raised for cancer research was announced - £4,588 and donations are still arriving.

Organiser Linda MacLeod would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, walkers, support drivers, tellers, tea ladies, and everyone who donated prizes to make it such a success.

Islanders to vote on fish farm proposals

RESIDENTS of Coll are to be offered the chance to have a direct say on whether or not a giant new fish farm should be established at the island.

More than half the population turned up to a drop in session organised by Marine Harvest to give locals as much information about their proposals before they proceed.

So important are the views of islanders that the company has promised to stick by the results of a vote, which could be held by the end of the year.

Business support manager for Marine Harvest Steve Bracken said: 'We were very pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Coll community and to explain our proposals for a salmon farm.'

'Over the day-and-a-half we held the information session, we estimate about 100 residents attended to see draft plans of how a fish farm could look and we're grateful to everyone who took the opportunity to come along.'

'The next stage from here would be to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment that explained in detail what impacts a salmon farm would have based off Coll.'

'This document would then provide the necessary information for the Coll community to decide whether they would like to

see a planning application proceed or not.'

Should it go ahead, the farm could create six full time and two part time jobs for the island.

Islander Peter Isaacson, a former employee of Marine Harvest, has yet to make up his mind one way or the other.

He said: 'This is totally new for the island; there has never been a fish farm here.'

'I'm totally undecided. The main drive should be to see an independent impact assessment done before we vote to see what the potential benefits and drawbacks are.'

'I don't see how anyone can vote until we have that. Also, we need to know whether or not one farm could be two farms in five years time.'

Chairman of Coll Community Council Rob Wainwright said: 'We have a broad spectrum of opinion on the island about this. We will have a meeting to air all the views and discussions and have a debate about it. Marine Harvest have very kindly offered a referendum on it, which says a lot about them.'

Many issues had to be discussed, he said, including what effect the farm could have on wild fish and on the amenity Coll offers. Mr Wainwright hopes to have the meeting in the coming weeks.

Talks continue over proposals to close rural primary schools

'INTERESTING and 'positive' meetings are under way between members of Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish government ministers over the future of the council's closure consultation.

After a meeting between 24 out of 36 councillors from all parties and MSPs Michael Russell and Mike MacKenzie on Monday the signs were positive that a solution could be found.

Councillor Ellen Morton, deputy leader and education spokeswoman, said: 'The leader [Dick Walsh] and myself have now had two private meetings with Mr Russell and on Monday we had a large number of administration members attending a meeting with Mr Russell and Mike MacKenzie, called by the SNP group.'

'All meetings have been interesting and discussions are continuing.'

Mr Russell confirmed talks with Argyll and Bute Council members were ongoing,

adding: 'We have had good discussions and held positive meetings. We are continuing to talk.'

Parents of children in schools on the consultation list are saying they will have to think 'long and hard' before sending children back to a school that may be closing after the summer.

One parent said: 'There is just no point in sending my children back to their old school. It is unsettling for everyone. Why would we splash out the money for new school uniforms only to have to replace them again at Christmas.'

'The consultation is closing schools by stealth because no one will choose to go back after the summer.'

Argyll and Bute Council are consulting on the closure of rural schools: St Kierans, Ardchonnell, North Bute, Toward, Luss, Achaleven, Ardchattan, Clachan, Skipness Rhuahaorine and Minard.

Social workers to discuss needs of axed support group users

DISCUSSIONS are to begin with vulnerable adults who received help from a support group whose funding ended last week into how best their future needs can be met.

Argyll and Bute Council officials say a contract with Neighbourhood Networks was not renewed because changes were needed to the service in order to help those assessed as requiring more help than those the group was supporting.

However, director John Dalrymple, said: 'We are not aware of how people are assessed. In fact some of our clients do not have a social work care manager assigned to them - but are in need of support.'

'People have not been consulted about their loss of support from the network. Argyll and Bute Council has now told us they are planning to do a consultation after the service has been told there is no more funding.'

Neighbourhood Networks offer support

when people need it rather than sticking to a rigid programme. At a highly charged meeting, service users told just how difficult it would be without support.

One woman said: 'Things in my life can go very well for a long time then all of a sudden a small thing can escalate. If I did not have the flexible care from Neighbourhood Networks that I receive at the moment then my life would be different.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'During 2010-11 there were a number of meetings between the council and Neighbourhood Networks, to discuss the requirements of the council. Neighbourhood Networks did not come forward with proposals which met with the council's needs.'

'Consultation with service users will begin now that the 90-day notice to terminate the contract has been served. Social work staff will discuss needs with the individuals who currently use the Neighbourhood Network Service and identify alternatives.'

Murderer 'would have killed fiancée'

Oban efforts led to Malcolm Webster arrest

THE OBAN police officer who headed up the investigation leading to the arrest of wife-killer Malcolm Webster believes he would have murdered his Oban fiancée were it not for their intervention.

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Webster was last week convicted of murdering his first wife, Claire Morris, in Aberdeenshire in 1994 to claim life insurance and attempting to murder his second wife, Felicity Drumm, in New Zealand in 1999.

He was also found guilty of charges of fraud and wilful fire raising.

He now faces life behind bars, but Charles Henry, the Detective Inspector at Oban when Strathclyde Police launched its investigation into Webster in November 2006, says inaction by Grampian Police could have cost Oban woman, Simone Banerjee, her life.

Webster had told Miss Banerjee, a nurse at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital, that he had leukaemia in a bid to win her heart and proposed to her while he was still married to Ms Drumm in New Zealand.

When Webster's plans to take his then partner for a yachting holiday were revealed, police acted quickly to alert the nurse to the situation, and arranged for her to have a discussion with New Zealand police to answer her questions regarding Ms Drumm's situation.

It was that intervention, Mr Henry believes, that saved her

life. Mr Henry, who is now retired from the police, said: 'We were actually notified by Grampian Police that he was in our area.'

'We quickly established that he was in a relationship with Simone. At the time Grampian Police were either unwilling or unable to open a case against Webster, so Strathclyde Police decided to launch their own investigation to protect Simone.'

'She had a yacht with an ex-partner and now Webster had bought a share in it.'

'Soon, we learned that Webster was planning a yachting holiday in the Caribbean. In the meantime he and Miss Banerjee had signed documents making each other next of kin.'

'Our fear was that he was going to bigamously marry Miss Banerjee abroad and she would soon become his next victim.'

'It is my personal opinion that, but for the small team in Oban and the foresight of my boss at the time, DCI Neil Thomson, Simone Banerjee would have been murdered.'

Mr Henry believes Grampian Police should have acted much sooner given the evidence that was available.

He said: 'In 2002, a guy who went to Scouts with Webster sent a letter to Grampian Police, informing them that he was known as Pyro. He put the events



Charles Henry was detective inspector in Oban when Strathclyde Police launched their investigation into Malcolm Webster. 15, 21 Henry

together and thought he murdered his first wife. He never even got a reply back.

'When they investigated the original murder, they had an expert witness who concluded it was an accident. So that was excusable.'

'What's not excusable is when he tried to do it again in New Zealand and they did a paper exercise and put it down to coincidence. They wouldn't have done anything of their own volition. They needed to be forced into that position where they had no choice but to open an investigation.'

'But to be fair to Grampian Police, when they eventually did get involved, they carried out a first class investigation - no stone was returned. I've got nothing

but praise for them from then.'

He has now called for a full inquiry into Grampian Police's handling of the case.

Mr Henry believes Webster has all the hallmarks of a serial killer and hopes he never leaves jail.

He said: 'He is a narcissistic psychopath. He felt he was entitled to a spectacular lifestyle and he was going to stop at nothing to maintain this lifestyle.'

'His arrogance, in that respect, knew no bounds.'

'These were not crimes of passion - they were all pre-meditated, thought out and calculated. He is a danger to any woman he meets in the future - if he ever gets out.'

'I am absolutely delighted that, eventually, justice has been done.'

Tantrum ends in court appearance

A MELTED shopping bag caused an Oban man to fly into a 'tantrum' and destroy his own property, terrifying a heavily pregnant woman, six young children and a teenager.

Ross Higgins, 35, who gave his address as c/o 2 Glencairn Court, drunkenly flew into the rage on May 21 this year at 45 Rhuval Road after the woman had accidentally left a shopping bag on a cooker.

Prosecutor Fiscal David Glancy said that seemed to act as a trigger and after telling the woman to leave the kitchen he 'went into

the living room and proceeded to smash the vacuum cleaner against the living room table until it was well and truly broken.'

He then proceeded to destroy other bits of furniture in front of children aged from one to ten and a 17-year-old.

Mr Glancy said: 'His tantrum continued in the kitchen, where he went round kicking the furniture as he went.'

Higgins, who admitted the charge, had sentence deferred for reports and was placed on a curfew from 8pm-8am.

MICHAEL RUSSELL MSP

Argyll and Bute Constituency

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Green light for restaurant and flats plan

A 'HIDEOUS' building will be replaced with a restaurant and eight flats on Oban's Shore Street after the scheme was backed by council planners.

The former single storey Stove Centre and workshop will be knocked down and a four-storey building put in its place.

Members of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) committee were told permission had been granted in February 2009 for a restaurant and six flats - the amended scheme includes two more flats and an extra storey.

There was some discussion at the meeting about the planning gain from building eight flats.

But as the initial application had been lodged before the area plan was finalised, planning gain - a means of ensuring some form of community benefit from a development proposal - was not sought by officials.

However, Councillor Neil Mackay said he felt the developer should pay a lump sum to the council instead.

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

PPSL members went onto hear the developer did not require to include parking as part of the development due to 'sufficient car parking provision' at Albany Street and Campbell Street car parks.

Referring to the 'flexibility' of the planners not requiring the provision of car parking or an affordable element when assessing the scheme, Councillor Roddy

"The building is hideous. Replacing it with homes can only be a good thing."

Councillor Vivian Dance.

McCuish, said: 'Very often, we are the ones trying to get the planners to change their policies but here they are offering us a degree of flexibility.'

Councillor Bruce Marshall added: 'I am actually jealous that my Oban colleagues find themselves in this position so I think they should grab it with both hands.'

Councillor Vivian Dance said: 'The current building is hideous, there's no other word for it.'

'So by replacing it with homes for people can only be a good thing.'

A number of concerns about the development were raised by three residents living in nearby Station Square, including road and pedestrian safety, parking provision and the impact on the area of a restaurant.

The committee was told the council's area roads safety manager had been consulted and raised no concerns, while the authority's public protection unit would monitor the noise and operation of the restaurant.

Chef Iain shows off his mussels



Visitors to the fortnightly local producers market enjoyed a tasty treat last week. Chef Iain Gourlay entertained food lovers at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, to a demonstration of two dishes - a moules mariniere and Thai-style mussels. Iain took up the position of chef de partie at the nearby Isle of Eriska Hotel in December. He admitted to a few nerves before giving the demonstration, as this was the first time he had done one. 15_121chefiain01

MSP Jamie quick off the mark with first questions

MSP JAMIE McGrigor was quick off the mark by lodging the first parliamentary questions of the fourth session of government.

The Highlands and Islands list MSP raised a range of issues of importance to Argyll and Bute including transport and housing almost immediately after he was sworn in.

Mr McGrigor said: 'The condition of the roads, including the trunk roads and especially the non-trunk road section of the A83 south of Kennacraig, was one of the biggest issues in the recent election campaign and I was keen to keep the pressure up on ministers as soon as possible.'

'Similarly, the struggle many young families face to find appropriate social housing is a huge concern and needs to be a priority for the Scottish Government.'

'I look forward to receiving answers to these questions and will be challenging ministers on many other subjects in the weeks and months ahead.'

The full list of questions is on line at www.obantimes.co.uk.

Traders urged to keep streets clear

SHOPKEEPERS in Oban are being asked to keep their clutter out of the way of disabled pedestrians.

Clutter from shops including sign A-boards, tables and chairs, street benches and refuse bins is causing some town centre shoppers, especially those in wheelchairs, to pull their hair out.

A spokesman for Transerv Scotland, which maintains George Street, said: 'We have not received any recent complaints about street furniture/clutter on the footways in Oban.'

'However, it is important to meet the needs of all our footway users and to meet these needs there is a requirement, where possible, for a minimum clear width of two metres.'

Trip Advisor puts town in top 25

OBAN is one of the top 25 destinations in the UK on holiday website Trip Advisor.

Joining iconic cities such as Canterbury, London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Brighton, the little bay on the west coast proves it is a destination to be proud of.

Linda Battison, chairwoman of Oban and Lorn Tourist Association, said: 'Our wee town is up there with Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and St Andrews - a huge pat on the back for everyone who works so hard to promote the town and surrounding areas.'

Conveniently open 24 hours a day

IF YOU need the loo in Oban there are conveniences open 24 hours a day, seven days a week - but they are out at Ganavan Beach.

While the town centre may lack a toilet or two at night time the alternative - two miles away - is open all the time.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the toilets, said the facilities are cleaned once a day and are free to use.

Royal Marines band to perform in Oban

THE ROYAL Marines Band will be visiting Oban on June 7.

Councillors were united in saying how proud they were that the band would be making Oban part of its tour.

Tickets are available from the Corran Halls.

Find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Theatre group's £1,800 cash for carers



North Argyll Carers are £1,800 better off thanks to the hard work of Spotlight Music Theatre Group. After a fantastic performance of Guys and Dolls, the hard-working company handed over the cheque to centre director Ruth Moody. 16_119carers1

Minister agrees to talks over roads

AN OBAN councillor says he is 'deeply concerned' that the Scottish government has backed down on long standing plans to upgrade the road, pavements and lighting through the town.

After admitting it will not be able to find the cash to reconstruct the A85 Bealach-an-Rìgh to Argyll Square and Esplanade in Oban, the Scottish Government's minister for infrastructure and capital investment, Alex Neil, has agreed to a meeting with Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

The works were approved by Transport Scotland in October 2005 but have been delayed ever since.

In November last year, Argyll and Bute transport spokesman Councillor MacIntyre was assured the road and pavement reconstruction and associated replacement of lighting would be carried out in 2011.

However, at a recent meeting with Transport Scotland and Scotland Transerv, Councillor MacIntyre found out the reconstruction scheme could be removed from this year's programme and the work might not happen at all.

He has now written to the Scottish government explaining the road is at a critical stage made worse by two severe winters and

the six-year delay on the work. The A85 in Oban now presents a genuine road safety concern and its condition is hugely detrimental to the town functioning as the key transport hub on the west coast and as an important destination town to the Scottish tourist economy,' he added.

'Argyll and Bute Council has invested considerable resources supporting the partnership with Transerv in progressing traffic management improvements within Oban and the reconstruction of the A85 trunk road. We are deeply frustrated Transport Scotland has removed it from their programme.'

Review of disciplinary procedures by authority

AN EX-employee of Argyll and Bute Council has come forward - saying he too has been a victim of unfair dismissal from the authority.

Stephen Johnstone, a resident of Ardenniny, is demanding the council now 'changes its policy' and has a serious look at officers and elected members making decisions on employment tribunals.

Mr Johnstone wrote to *The Oban*

Times after reading a report in the newspaper of the dismissal of Steve Letford, a former employee of the authority.

He said: 'It will not be the first or the last time the council has to make a large payment. Management are wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' money on unnecessary compensation yet schools, care homes, roads, transport are all

losing out. The council has to let independent bodies, who are free from influence, to make these decisions. At the moment officers and elected members just seem to be rubber stamping things without listening because of their own agendas. Justice can be done when the chief executive puts part of the appeals process out to private independents.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Our internal disciplinary procedures have been reviewed to ensure a consistent approach in line with our policy document, and we are currently reviewing our policy.'

'The council is committed to ensuring that all disciplinary issues relating to employees are dealt with in accordance with our policies and procedures.'

Fundraisers brew up £1,000 for Christian Aid

A SOUP lunch in Appin Village Hall has raised almost £1,000 for Christian Aid.

The ecumenical event, involving representatives of the Church of Scotland, Quakers and Episcopal Church, also offered tea, home-baking and a raffle.

Appin's Christian Aid representative Jessie MacKenzie said she was delighted with the total raised and praised residents of the village and visitors for their generosity.

'Some people do door-to-door collections but I find this event works very well every year,' Jessie said.

'We got raffle prizes from businesses in the area and Airds Hotel and the Pierhouse Hotel also donated baking.'

'I would like to give a big thank you to the people who volunteered on the day and to the ladies who made soup and sandwiches.'

A total of £964 was raised on the day, however, Jessie said there may be more donations coming in.



Appin's Christian Aid representative Jessie MacKenzie pours a cup of tea for the Rev Roderick Campbell, as the soup lunch volunteers look on. 08_121soup01

Tourism officials pleased with university study findings

A MAJOR survey by Glasgow Caledonian University shows Oban is the place to be - but only if you can find it first.

Findings from a presentation made by travel, tourism and hospitality students show initiatives taken by Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) were making a real impact on keeping Oban in the minds eye.

Linda Battison, OLTA chairwoman, Ina MacArthur, treasurer, and Calum Ross attended the university to have a look at the students' findings.

Linda said: 'Some of the findings gave us food for thought. A major

disappointment was that just two people in the first survey group actually knew that Oban was in Argyll.

Research 'However, it should be noted that in this particular research group the majority of the respondents were in the 18-25 year group - and we know that this is not Oban's natural demographic. The good news was that 21 per cent of the same group had seen the branded taxis in Glasgow and Edinburgh, five per cent the subway advertising in Glasgow, five

per cent bus side advertising in both cities and a reassuring 27 per cent our online advertising. For those that had gone on to visit Oban the following topped the 'what did you like?' response: 32 per cent - scenery, 20 per cent - the people, 12 per cent - the seafood.

Expense The weather was not surprisingly the top rated did not like response with 38 per cent - lack of activities was cited by 19 per cent and the journey and expense both notched up 11 per cent of those interviewed. The university presented two reports to OLTA committee

members and the second report threw up some more reassuring news,' added Linda.

'In the second survey sample of 107 respondents, 72 had noticed outdoor advertising for Oban and Lorn. Of the 107, 60 had gone on to visit Oban and there was high recall of newspaper, internet, taxi and underground advertising with the Oban leaflet also being widely recognised. This was very encouraging and confirms that our outdoor advertising campaigns in the central belt, and in Glasgow in particular, have paid off.'

Residents' chance to shape area's future

ARGYLL and Bute residents are being asked to help shape the area's planning future by giving their views on the Local Development Plan.

The Main Issues Report stage of the plan allows for feedback from the public and looks at issues like the impact of climate change, growing our economy, providing the right levels of housing and safeguarding the environment.

Its aim is to stimulate debate on identified areas of major change, like introducing the concept of Rural Renaissance Settlements to help stimulate rural growth and investment or developing the roles of strategic industrial locations e.g. at MoD base

Machrihanish and Dunstaffnage Marine Science Park.

The Local Development Plan will look at development for the next 20 years, with comprehensive reviews every five years.

At this stage the planning authority has yet to reach a firm view and wants as much opinion as can possibly be gathered. Once the consultation period is over, the findings will be reported back and used to inform the proposed plan that will be published in the first quarter of 2012.

The consultation period is currently underway. You can see the Main Issues Report online at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk>

at all public libraries, council headquarters at Kilmory, council offices at Manse Brae in Lochgilphead, Chalmers Street in Ardrishaig, Municipal Buildings in Oban, Milton House in Dunoan, Blairvadach in Helensburgh, Bowmore on Islay and Tobermory in Mull.

It's also on display at service centres in Crossapol on Tiree, Craighouse on Jura and Scalasaig, Colonsay. You can see it at the Post Office in Arinagour on Coll, Achnacroish on Lismore and Ardmint on Gigha.

There will be several public engagement events across Argyll and Bute.

Offered free to a good home - the BBC's bright yellow Balamory bus

IT HAS been nine years since 'Eddie McCredie' first got behind the wheel to transport children in the Balamory bus, but now BBC Scotland is seeking a new owner for it.

The bright yellow bus has been through many adventures during the

award-winning CBBC Balamory series. BBC Scotland is asking the public to nominate a Scottish charity or non-profit organisation which could best use the bus.

The Scottish Children in Need and Appeals Advisory Committee, which

decides on how donations to the charity are spent across Scotland, will choose the best place for the bus to go at the end of June.

For details go to: http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/scotland/aboutus/pressoffice/balamory_bus.pdf.

Qualifications are changing
Curriculum for Excellence represents a different approach to learning. It will help pupils develop skills and knowledge in more depth that can be used across different subjects and help gain abilities which can be applied to life outside the classroom.
This fresh approach to learning requires new assessment methods and qualifications which are being developed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
We are working with parents, teachers, colleges, universities and employers in your area to make sure the new qualifications will help young people reach their full potential as they progress from their broad, general education through to college, university, other learning and employment.
For more about the new National Qualifications visit, www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence

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Group to celebrate youth worker's anniversary

CHRISTIAN youth charity Hope2Oban (H2O) will celebrate seven events over seven days to mark the seventh year of youth worker Ewen Munro's time in the post.

Activities will include a cycle fundraiser and barbecue, a prayer supper, garden party, music workshops and a sailing expedition.

Charity chairman Roy Clunie said: 'This year is a milestone for us. Since we started we have taken on youth workers Ewen Munro and Rachel Smith and Jayne Powers has come in as the inter-generational worker. When we began we had great visions for H2O and it is tremendous to see it reach the stage it has.'

'But we have only managed to do that through the support and partnership of all the churches, Oban High School and the other organisations we work with.'

'We have come a long way so it is time to celebrate that.'

On Saturday June 4, the celebration's wheels will be set in motion with a cycle fundraiser and barbecue, starting and finishing at Glencruitten House. Anyone who would like to join the 12-mile or 30-mile cycle should contact Roy on 01631 770605. On June 7 an H2O Pop-up Cafe will run in the Chocolate Factory with coffee, tea, home baking, live music and an H2O exhibition. Entry is free.

Oban200 will be 'a party to remember'

THE RACE is on to show off Oban to its very best and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the town receiving its Royal Charter.

Organisers of the Oban200 bicentennial celebrations are encouraging anyone with a connection with the town to come home and enjoy a holiday, a royal visit and a bit of a dance.

And with so many reasons to come home, it is hoped that everyone will get behind the event - 10 Days in July for Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre told guests at the launch of the programme last Wednesday night that Oban was all set for celebrations that would highlight the town to the world.

He said: 'This programme is only the first step towards celebrating the anniversary of the town receiving its Royal Charter.'

'There are many more events planned and it will be an incredible time for people to come home

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

We also hope that people who have never been to our town might take the time to travel here for the celebrations. It will be quite a spectacle.'

Awards
Headline events include Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal making a visit to present awards to some very special VIPs who will be named on July 12.

Princess Anne will also watch a Grand Parade of the People of Oban as it winds its way through the town from Station Square towards a rededication ceremony at the Corran Halls.

An attempt on the World Guinness Book of Records' biggest Highland dance - The Strip the Willow - will be made on Saturday July 16 with more than 2,000 people needed to dance.

Capercaillie, one of the UK's

most recognisable Gaelic Scottish folk bands, will be playing at the Corran Halls - with a proposed reunion of band members old and new to take to the stage.

There will be a school reunion to end all school reunions on Saturday July 16, with some fine music entertainment on the cards.

Tall ships
Children and family events will be hosted alongside a warm welcome for the Tall Ships that it is hoped will be tempted into port.

'All in all,' said Councillor Neil Mackay. 'There will be something for everyone.'

A fringe programme is being organised by Councillor Mackay - anyone who would like to get involved should contact him on neil.mackay@argyll-bute.gov.

He hopes that anyone who has licensed premises will offer a programme of music and celebration to mark the town's birthday.



Councillor Duncan MacIntyre and Ian Fox, from CalMac, with organisers of Oban200 at the launch of the bicentennial celebrations. 16_21bicent1

Christine takes the chair at Oban alzheimer group

AT THE recent annual general meeting of the Alzheimer Scotland Oban and Lorn branch, appointments of office bearers included Christine Hammond replacing Ian MacKenzie as chairman.

Mr MacKenzie, who completed six years in this position, will remain on the committee as vice chairman in place of Maureen Gilmour. Secretary Catriona Reid and treasurer Pauline Evans were re-elected.

Reports on activities financed by the branch, including the Art Group, Singing for the Brain, Forget-me-not minibus and the North Argyll Carers support project were well received.

It was agreed to send £1,000 to the national office for research. Margaret Melville, coffee morning convenor, reported that arrangements for this Saturday's fundraising event in Glencruitten Road Church Hall had been made and looked forward to continued support.

MSP Mike's Post Office plea

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie has said proposals to 'mutualise' the Post Office network should be backed by guarantees of business from Royal Mail.

He said: 'A mutual structure, as is presently proposed, for the Post Office network is not in itself a bad solution and certainly much to be preferred to the privatisation alternative.'

'However, along with my colleagues, I feel that the essential safeguard is that the network has to be guaranteed business from the Royal Mail delivery system after privatisation.'

'The UK government has, to date, steadfastly refused to concede such an agreement and the result is a considerable degree of uncertainty about the future of the PO network.'

Film day's £107

OBAN Phoenix Cinema got a funding boost from children at Lochnell Primary School when they handed over a cheque for £107.70 from a film day.

The group also received a cheque from Great Western Auctions Limited for £8.20 for the sale of a large bronze figure of a young couple.

Town seeks its place in record books

TARTAN trousers, kilts, trunks and even thongs will be the dress of the day for the Big Strip the Willow on July 16 - without them, for the men anyway, the record attempt may fail.

Scottish dress is essential as part of the Guinness World Book of Record attempt to stage the biggest ever Strip the Willow.

Organisers are already thinking of ingenious ways of getting men and boys into tartan.

'There must be 1,000 kilts and tartan trousers in Oban - we just need people to share them,' said The Big Strip team.

Anyone with spare outfits is being asked to hand them in to MacQueen Brothers in Oban and to look some out for the night of the world record attempt.

Organisers are hoping that almost 2,000 people will descend on the town for one of the biggest nights in its history.

The record-breaking event will earn the town the right to call itself the Highland dance capital of the world.

It is hoped the eyes of the world's media will be on the town and that as many people as possible will turn out to be part



Stripping for action - Graham MacQueen presents a cheque to Strip organisers Duncan MacIntyre and Louise Lee. 16_21strip1

of, what organisers are calling, the Big Strip.

Organisers Campbell Cameron, Calum MacLeod, Louise Lee and councillors Neil Mackay and Mary-Jean Devon got a boost when a local charity agreed the event would be fully sponsored by them. MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust has backed the attempt to the tune of £3,000 and promised a further £2,000 to underwrite the bicentennial celebrations.

Trust chairman Graham MacQueensaid: 'The bicentennial celebrations will be a landmark

in the town's history. The Strip the Willow will benefit everyone who lives in the area - either by personally taking part and being a record breaker or due to the media spotlight it will give the town.'

Oban and Lorn Tourist Association (OLTA) along with town-centre improvement group BID4Oban have offered to support and run the event.

To register for the Big Strip, contact thebigstrip@gmail.com leaving a name and contact details.

£75,000 village play park opened

CHILDREN, parents and a man-size bunny rabbit - Spotlight's Stevie Day - gathered to open Taynult's new £75,000 play park on Friday, where intermittent snow storms did little to dampen the mood.

The soft-surfaced park was built thanks to a determined effort by a group of parents, chaired by Kate Hunter, with the majority of the funding coming from the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

The project also received significant support from the local community and West Highland Housing Association, while Gregor Cameron Ltd managed the build and ran the tendering for the project, saving around £3,000. The land for the park was sold to the group by Taynult Sports Council for just £1. 15_21tpark1



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Mull Lines



SALen Primary School pupils, pictured above, have successfully completed their level four Royal Horticultural Show (RHS) School of Gardening (Alan Titchmarsh) Award.

The Mull school was congratulated for its gardening success and received £250 of garden centre vouchers to continue its work in and around the school grounds.

The eco-committee plans even more improvements so that they can become a level five school in the future.

Mairi MacLean, Salen Primary School head teacher, said: 'We were delighted to receive the award which recognises the children's hard work.'

'I noticed that another Argyll school recently received the same accreditation and they encouraged other schools in the region to go for the award.'

'We would certainly agree with that as many schools will be achieving the same standards as ourselves and although it takes some time and effort to put together the evidence it is worthwhile doing so.'



Lochdonhead Primary School pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to Glensanda Quarry. Pupils were collected from the pier at Craignure and returned later by one of the quarry company's boats.

MULL Rail has been posthumously, so to speak, awarded the Railway of the Year award from The 10 1/4-inch Railway Society.

The miniature railway that ran from Craignure to Torosay closed down at Christmas was cited for continuous service to the public since opening in 1984.

The award was presented to Mike Bettridge, chairman of Mull Rail, by the society chairman, Mike Hanson, at Ruddyard Lake Railway in Staffordshire.

The award itself is seen perched on the steam locomotive Waverley, which used to run on Mull until 2001 and now can be seen at Ruddyard.

After receiving the award, Mull Rail made a decision to re-open for the summer period (see below).

AFTER last year's final farewell to Mull Rail - there may be another chance for passengers to ride the rails.

The service between Craignure and Torosay is going to open back up for the summer after some enterprising tourists encouraged the maintenance crew to take them on a trip.

When David Baxter, operations manager, was keeping the wheels turning by running the occasional train along the line he found himself surrounded by a small crowd on Craignure platform asking if they could have a ride.

He duly obliged and placed an honesty bucket for contributions on the platform. Later, on counting the contents, he found that he had collected more cash than if he had issued tickets.

Being an enterprising man, he rang the company secretary for permission to run an Easter service.

Following this success the railway fully intends to operate again starting at Whit week and running through to the end of August provided passenger numbers hold up.

For times contact Mull Rail on 01680 812494.



Children at Ulva School's annual beach clean.

AN ANNUAL beach clean on Mull turned up less rubbish than usual.

Charlie, of Ulva School, reported: 'This year there wasn't nearly as much rubbish as the last few, but it was still hard work. We suspect and hope that it is because people are not using as much plastic, but we still collected about 25 bags of rubbish. When we were cleaning we saw an otter quite close up. We stormed through the beach cleaning twice as fast as usual. Once we had finished we had a BBQ and found some lovely rope to decorate our shed. We also found some beautiful stones. On the BBQ we had sausages in buns and we toasted marshmallows. We hope that the beach will be just as clean next year.'

CULLIPOOL

THE PEACE and quiet of a balmy May evening was disturbed when the unmistakable sound of a cornrake was heard echoing round the bull field at Fladda Houses, in Cullipool.

Colonsay and Coll have long been home to this shy bird but local residents in Fladda were surprised to hear the call of the cornrake, not one of the birdsongs normally heard on the Island of Luing.

It was this unusual bird call that had one family searching round their house, as they thought that there was an electrical fault.

A very secretive bird, the cornrakes spend most of their time hidden in tall vegetation, their presence only betrayed by their rasping call.

LUING

YOUNG people from the Island of Luing attended a Youth Day organised by Kilchattan Church youth leaders, with the help and guidance of Church of Scotland youth minister Rev Paul Beautyman.

Workshops were organised throughout the afternoon, with mountain bike riding and bike maintenance led by Iain Cruickshanks and David Ritchie, skin care, makeup, nail and hair master class with Souvy Page and jewelry making with Mhairi Ritchie.

Rev Beautyman led some games and facilitated some quiet time following the BBQ tea that the youth leaders had organised.

The young people could take time to reflect on new experiences from the day and how they had enjoyed being together.

Paul is the first Church of Scotland Youth Minister for the Argyll and Bute Presbytery. Based in the Cowal area, he leads a team of three located in different parts of Argyll.

LUING Adventure Club joined the Stramash team for some coastering in Easdale last week.

The group of 10 spent the afternoon exploring the coastline, swimming, scrambling and jumping into the sea. There will be another seven adventure sessions before the school breaks up for summer.

ISLAY

THE FUN continues at this year's Feis Ile, with this evening, Thursday May 26, the famous Clootie Dumpling Ceilidh featuring Islay's best dumpling makers, will be held in the Rhinnis Hall, Portmahaven.

Also offered were Gaelic tuition through games and activities, talks by members of the recent Aimm-Aite Alba place names and stories project which has recently taken place in Islay and Jura, and other aspects of Scotland and the islands' Gaelic culture.

At the other end of the island tonight, there will be a talk given by Margaret Anne MacLaggart, in the White Hart Hotel, Port Ellen, on the Islay Bards, composers of Gaelic songs which are still sung in our time.

On Friday Bunnahabhain Distillery's Open Day includes an arts and crafts market where goods made by producers on Islay will be for sale.

Also on Friday evening 'We Will Celtic Rock You!', features 'Queen' tribute band plus supporting acts, held at Bruichladdich Distillery.

Saturday, May 28 brings a car boot sale on Port Ellen Village Green, Fly Fishing at Loch Finlaggan, and at night, the festival's popular 'Final Fling' dance in the Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen.

Sunday, May 29 gives a gentle finish to the week's festivities, with an open bowling competition at Port Ellen Bowling Green or a Nature Walk with James and Mary Macaulay.

CAMPBELL'S Butchers in Port Ellen is closing at the end of June. The business climate has remained difficult for far too long and, through no fault of the employees, the last few months have seen further deterioration in sales figures.

Neil Campbell commented: 'After five years of running Campbell's Butchers shop, latterly with support and encouragement of the Dunlossit Trustees, we have decided to



Hanging around: The new play area is proving popular with Fort Augustus kids. 10_21par01

New play park delights Fort Augustus youngsters

CHILDREN in Fort Augustus have a new play park to enjoy after Kilchiumen Primary School completed construction of their new £10,000 'trim track' apparatus.

The play area, which includes balancing beams, climbing frames and obstacle courses, is located in the school grounds but is available for anyone in the community, or people visiting the area, to use.

The school raised the money through

a grant from Highland Council's Leader programme, a grant from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company as well as school fundraising activities.

Head teacher Wendy Scollay told *The Oban Times* she hopes the new play park will help keep the children fit and healthy.

She said: 'The kids are so enthusiastic about it, and I think they are going to be much more active with the play park right here. There's

so many children out there swinging about having a great time.'

'It helps with their co-ordination and I think it will help them with their team works skills as well.'

'We built the trim track as a community resource for the school and the wider community to be able to use.'

'There's no big exciting play park close to here.'

close the business on June 30. Trading conditions have shown no signs of improvement, and after a very quiet Easter period we have had no choice but to take this difficult decision.

'I am grateful for the support of all of my long term customers,' he said.

The Market Hall at Knockleach for local produce, which operates from 11am to 3pm each Friday will remain open until July 1, after which it too is likely to close unless a co-ordinator and volunteer staff can be found.

Last week was Gaelic Week for junior pupils at Islay High School, when the young people were given special talks and activities, and the top treats were music workshops with the popular young Gaelic band, Mánran.

'Getting everyone singing' was the band's theme, and the pupils took part in good voice, and they also listened to some fantastic instrumental sets played by the band.

Also offered were Gaelic tuition through games and activities, talks by members of the recent Aimm-Aite Alba place names and stories project which has recently taken place in Islay and Jura, and other aspects of Scotland and the islands' Gaelic culture.

At the group's latest meeting, members welcomed Insp Julie McLeish, traffic officer Andy Barron and PC Danny McBeth. PC McBeth outlined the 'three E's' - engineering (covering road layout and signage), education and enforcement.

Insp McLeish told the meeting speeding wasn't just a problem it Connel - it was an issue in all villages in Argyll and Bute.

Andy Barron informed members of a three-month initiative which will target speeding motorists among other

Etape cycle race across Highland Perthshire was foiled.

Saboteurs scattered tacks, pins and screws over part of the track, but the evil intent was discovered before the race took place after a cyclist, who had no interest in the race, suffered a puncture.

Tayside Police say they believe the saboteurs struck between Friday, May 13 and Sunday May 15.

The race itself was unaffected, however, it did not go without incident, with three riders injured in a collision on the Tummel Bridge on Sunday.

Two cyclists were airlifted to hospital, with a third also involved in the incident. Police have appealed for witnesses.

INCREASED police activity in Connel is having an effect on speeding vehicles through the village, Connel community councillors were told.

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Andy Barron informed members of a three-month initiative which will target speeding motorists among other

thing. Community council chairman Sandy Dunlop thanked the officers for the increased police presence in the village.

ALL OFFICE bearers for Connel Community Council were re-elected to their posts at the annual general meeting, held in the village hall earlier this month.

At the meeting, chairman Sandy Dunlop outlined the community council's main areas of activity during the past year and informed those present that a full list of all topics covered was available online at www.community-council.org.uk/connelcommunitycouncil.

Secretary Les Stewart thanked the area's Argyll and Bute councillors for their help during the year and their increasingly constructive role in community affairs.

He also welcomed the increasing numbers of villagers attending meetings of the community council and reminded those gathered that their views were important.

Treasurer Lorne Nelson said the community council currently had almost £950 in the bank and suggested some of this money should be used to benefit the community.

Community councillor Harry Powell suggested making a donation to the children's Christmas party. This will be discussed with organisers.

TOURISM businesses in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge areas have lined up a big planting out day to brighten up roadside verges.

Volunteers will fill tubs and beds with flowers and shrubs during the project on June 8. They hope it will make up for the fact that because of the harsh winter many of the spring bulbs they had planted did not flourish.

A spokesperson for the group said they would appreciate any volunteers for the planting, which will start near Coire Glas guesthouse, Spean Bridge, at 11.30am.

Meanwhile, plans are in progress for a cake stall near Spean Bridge shop from 10am on May 30 to help raise funds for the floral displays.

THE Taynuilt Adventure Club is starting again this week for their summer block. Their first session will commence with a hill walk up Kate's Peak.

KILLIN

KILLIN will host the fifth annual Bob MacGregor Two Day Motorbike Trials next month, with some of the country's best rough terrain riders taking part.

One of the toughest tests of skill on the circuit, the route sees participants manoeuvre over rock, mud, grass and slabs, even riding up river in sometimes trying conditions.

The trials start on June 4.

GLENELG

JUNE 11 will see the fifth Lochalsh Dirty 30 Challenge starting at Glenelg, helping to raise money for local charities and community groups.

The event was established in 2007 as a 30 mile challenge (or 12 mile mini challenge) to be completed in 24 hours taking

Five groups are vying for the high profile slot, Lost City Soul, Lazy Talk,

The Raw Kings, Huevo and the Giant and The Imaginers.

Votes are open on Facebook, with the winner to play before acts such as Wolfstone, Pearl and the Puppets, Skerryvore and the MacDonald Brothers.

The festival takes place on July 23-24. More information can be found at www.tiremusicfestival.co.uk.

THIS week saw the launch of the Appin Adventure Club.

After preparation from dedicated volunteers the club is now up and running and will operate weekly until the summer holidays. For their first session Stramash joined 14 youths and three volunteers for exciting outdoor team challenges at Sutherland's Grove.

ARDNAMURCHAN



Pine martens are noted for their agility - and the ones residing in Ardnamurchan, it would appear, are no different. This young male somehow found a way to scale the steel pole up to Dave Kime's bird feeder in his Glenborrodale garden to get at the tasty treats inside. Dave is now setting readers a challenge - to design a pine marten-proof feeder to ensure only feathered creatures get the grub! Photo courtesy of Dave Kime.

ABERFELDY

POLICE are continuing to appeal for witnesses after a second attempt to disrupt the

CONNEL

INCREASED police activity in Connel is having an effect on speeding vehicles through the village, Connel community councillors were told.

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KILNINVER



Kilniver Primary School's street party was a grand affair.

PUPILS from Kilniver Primary School held a street party before breaking up for the Easter Holiday.

The day was well attended by the boys, girls, mums, dads, grannies and neighbours of the school.

All reports say the pupils had a whale of a time and would like to thank everyone who gave a cheery toot on their car horn as they drove past.

CANNA

THE ISLE of Canna has could soon be adding another string to its bow as a visitor attraction - international wedding destination.

The National Trust for Scotland-owned island hosted a wedding where the bride and her family came all the way from Barcelona and the groom and his family from Slough near London.

Montserrat Rubio and Toby Winyard had visited Canna in the past on holiday - and decided the scenic island was the perfect to take their vows.

NTS manager on Canna, Stewart Connor told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a great day and evening.'

'The NTS provided the wedding cars and also the grounds of Canna House for the meal and reception.'

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Montserrat steps out of her wedding car - a National Trust for Scotland jeep.

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Down Your Way

This week - Helensburgh

SUPERMARKET Waitrose is rumoured to be applying for planning permission to open an upmarket outlet in Helensburgh. The multi-national company is looking at a site opposite the new Hermitage Academy. The store will span 25,000 ft.
In a statement Waitrose said: 'It will be designed to provide an attractive gateway into the town.'
The company says it will consult with local people over the coming weeks and lodge a planning application later this year. If approved a new store in Helensburgh will be the retailer's first outside the central belt cities.

NIGHT TIME closure of the Helensburgh Police Station was accepted by members of the community council - saying there would be no detrimental effect on service provided.
Proposals being considered to ensure public safety were to have monitoring of the town's CCTV moved to Clydebank.
Inspector Paul Robertson told councillors that police have become more adept at using CCTV for operational purposes - for instance people leaving a pub may be monitored because of nuisance or disturbance that they are causing.
CCTV, he continued, is not a deterrent but is useful in providing evidence. For instance it can be helpful in locating missing persons and in determining traffic problems.

PLANNING approval has been granted for a JD Wetherspoon Public House in Helensburgh.
Premises at 19-29 James Street were approved at the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing meeting (PPSL).

There was great disappointment at this decision by local residents at the PPSL as it was felt that the views of local people had been ignored and an opportunity to build flats and retail units more appropriate to this town centre location had been missed.
However, Wetherspoon's now has to apply to the licensing board for a licence and at such a meeting and residents would have another opportunity to express their views.

HELENSBURGH community councillors have decided to set up a tourism group.
Plans are now being made to look at ways to encourage tourists to visit Helensburgh, either for a stay or merely a day visit.

A discussion at the community council noted that the town has no indoor attractions, the beach is often dirty and many shops are not open at times when there are visitors.
The town's major attraction of the Charles Rennie MacIntosh designed Hill House receives about 100 visitors a day, but the majority do not go down in to the town. Councillors noted there was no incentive for people to make the trip to the town as there was no information in the house. The same was true of the railway station.
Councillor said that for a place to be successful it had to be part of a tourist route. Once the Visit Scotland office closes at the end of 2011 things may be even more difficult.
The committee decided to pursue ways of advertising themselves including using the Holiday West Highland magazine.

MUSIC lovers in Helensburgh will have the chance to hear the unique and remarkable work of a renowned Scottish composer early next month.
John Maxwell Geddes who has forged strong links with the town over several decades, is returning for a concert to mark his 70th birthday.
John will be present to hear the Paragon Ensemble play an selection of his compositions for wind instruments.
The concert will feature two new quintets written specially for the occasion. These will be Waka - inspired by the ancient Japanese verse forms - and a set of Scottish folk songs.
The programme is described as being filled with every imaginable musical trick in the book - Tom and Jerry's artful antics; serene solos, including the magical Callanish; hornpipes and sea shanties from Davey Jones's Locker and raucous theatrics depicting the absurdities of a quango.

The concert takes place in the West Kirk of Helensburgh on Sunday, June 5, at 7.30.
For tickets costing £8 and £4 call 0141 354 0234 or email jo@paragon-music.org.

TOILETS at Kidston Park, Helensburgh are to be upgraded this year, Argyll and Bute Council have revealed.
The new toilets will be provided on a modular basis with a tender due to be presented to the June meeting of the Helensburgh Area Committee.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Ardnamurchan with reporter Richard Haddock.
You can contact him at 01397 703003 or email fort@obantimes.co.uk.



Members of the committee pictured with the Yearbook: Back, Megan Scobie, Barbara Campbell, Neil Bo Finlayson, Chelsea MacGillivray; middle, Euan Wilkie, Rhea Wood; front Ruth Earnshaw, Eilidh Stirrup, joint editor, Robert Robertson, joint editor, and Marie Oliver.

Lochaber High School yearbook goes on sale

THE 2011 Lochaber High School Yearbook is now on sale thanks to the efforts of the hard-working yearbook committee who have produced a colourful and humorous account of a year in the life of the school.
As well as photographs and reports from all the major events of the year, the publication features an interview feature with former pupil/musician/shinty star Gary Innes and an in-depth feature on the popular and much respected deputy head teacher, Alan Morgan, who will retire this summer. The high quality production, entitled 'Scrapbook', is on sale from the school library.
The committee thanks the local businesses and organisations which have supported the yearbook through advertising.

ISLAY LETTER

Young entertainers

A GROUP of talented young local entertainers were in top form when they performed at the 'Islay Legacy' ceilidh in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

The event was organised by the indefatigable fundraiser Cathie Thomson from Carnain and the money raised was shared among worthy local causes.

The junior section of Islay Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Nigel Morris, opened and closed the proceedings and other instrumentalists doing their thing were accordion playing brothers Fraser and Greig MacArthur from Port Ellen and Keills fiddler Mairi MacGillivray. Mairi also sang solo as did Isobel Ferguson, Ryan Johnston and Ruairaidh MacKinnon.

Sophie Baker danced the Highland Fling, Bowmore Primary School Gaelic choir, led by Helen Gillies, was at its tuneful best as was Bowmore Folk Group. The school's brass band, conducted by Scott MacDermid, impressed as did the variety of solo items from band members.

The youngsters excelled themselves and their efforts resulted in donations of £70 each going to the pipe and brass bands, the school choir and the Ella Edgar dancers. Well done children and well done Cathie.

Lucky ducks
THE DUCK derby held on the River Sorn at Bridgend attracted much local and visitor interest and added greatly to the coffers of Bowmore sports committee.

The winning duck, with £100 prize money on its head, secured the first past the post position for Andrew Lindsay. In second place, and winning £50, was Willie Currie, while the third place £25 prize went to Peter MacLellan Junior.
This year's Bowmore Sports take place in the local playing fields on July 16 and among the planned attractions will be a gladiator assault course. Attempts are also being made to revive the tug o' war competition with the browniest securing for themselves a £100 prize.

Poems on display

RETIRED bus driver Donnie MacGillivray from Keills is to loan three Islay-themed poems to the Museum of Islay Life at Port Charlotte as part of a planned temporary exhibition of pre-1950 island artefacts.
The poems were penned by a Dr Orr of Bridgend, probably at

Our Spiro

I WRITE this with a heavy heart as my beloved dog Spiro was put to sleep last weekend.
A cross collie and German shepherd, he came to me seven years ago as a highly nervous and badly abused pup. Care and affection saw him gain in confidence but he remained highly strung and did not go in for heroics.
He was playful and as fast as a hare.
He loved his many toys and had a special relationship with a paint roller!
He was at his happiest in the countryside, traversing the beaches and he liked to swim. He has been unwell for several weeks, lost his appetite and his weight loss was evident and alarming.
Tests suggested liver problems and surgery confirmed extensive terminal cancer inroads. It was an act of mercy to let him sleep peacefully and painlessly away.
He was adorable, friendly and spoiled in equal measures and he loved and trusted us unconditionally. He also brought us much joy and companionship and we miss him sorely and greatly.
Bye Spiro; you were a one off.
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

Mòd Ile

MORE than 70 juniors will be competing at Mòd Ile 2011 in Islay High School on Saturday June 4, beginning at 9am.
Senior competitors number close on 20 and the programme will also include, choral, quartet and instrumental competitions.
This year's Mòd sees the introduction of Gaelic testing and this will be carried out on An Comunn Gàidhealach's behalf by gold medalist Joy Dunlop and the Mull writer and Gaelic poet Maolios Campbell.
The prizewinners' concert will be held in the school's assembly hall on the same evening at 7.30pm. Chairing the proceedings will be Gaelic adjudicator Cathie Johnston, a former head teacher at Condorrat Primary School in Cumbernauld.

COLONSAY

Colonsay school flag pride

Pupils at Kilchattan Primary School on Colonsay proudly display their first Green Flag. They achieved this over a two-year period, after improving school grounds, cleaning local beaches, studying Fair Trade and learning about energy saving ideas. They would like to thank everyone in the community who were so supportive and helped them reach their goal.



Pupils at Kilchattan Primary School on Colonsay proudly display their first Green Flag. They achieved this over a two-year period, after improving school grounds, cleaning local beaches, studying Fair Trade and learning about energy saving ideas. They would like to thank everyone in the community who were so supportive and helped them reach their goal.

AROUND THE RURALS

Lochawe
THE BUSINESS meeting of Lochawe Institute took place on Wednesday May 4 in Lochawe Village Hall when a new president, Miss T MacKay, was elected.
The other members of the committee will be decided at the end of session dinner.
Two ladies from Glenorchy Institute kindly counted the votes.
Hostesses for the evening were Mrs V Williams and Mrs C Milne who provided an excellent tea enjoyed by everyone.
Fifteen members enjoyed a good meal and excellent company at the end of session dinner in Glenorchy Lodge, Dalnally.
There was plenty of conversation including many hilarious stories of previous dinners and happy memories of founder members who passed away many years ago.
Everyone is looking forward to next session with a mix of new and old committee members. The first meeting of the new session will be on Wednesday, October 5, at 7.30pm in Lochawe Village Hall. Visitors welcome.

Salen
On Wednesday, May 4, nine members went on an afternoon visit to Reuben O'Connell, the fine furniture maker in Craignure. He made us very welcome and talked about the history of furniture making, about the tools and wood he uses.
He showed us some examples of his work, which are beautiful pieces of furniture. We had a very good visit.
Later in the evening we had our AGM, with Catherine MacIver doing the count for us. Margaret Black, our retiring President, gave a report of all the things we have done over the last year. The new president will be Eileen Slorach and a new committee was also voted in. Later we talked about our Community Work for the Show in June. So ended the 2010-2011 session.

Tiree
For the March meeting, Judith West gave a very interesting talk on being a Hermit all through Lent 2010 on Tiree.
Judith described the preparation towards this time as well as the feelings, prayers, food, painting and studying during her seclusion. She painted nine pictures depicting the nine stages

of the crucifixion.
The AGM was held on May 3 at the Hynish centre where the group enjoyed a tour of the centre followed by afternoon tea provided by Monica and Lesley. President Caroline MacLean welcomed 12 members.
Before the AGM, discussions took place on the sponsored walk, the community project, the very interesting talk and presentation by the RAF on the reasons for low flying although the attendance was poor, and the successful Easter Lunch at the An Talla on the April 23. Reports were given by the President, secretary and treasurer and thanks were given to Caroline, Jenny and committee.
With much persuasion here and there a new committee was formed. Caroline MacLean thanked Catriona MacLean who very kindly counted the voting papers, a gift was given in appreciation.
In the competition for a baby jacket, Morag MacKinnon was first. In the competitions for the year Jennie Niven was first, Annie MacKinnon second and Annette MacKinnon third. The Quach was won by Margo Jarvis.

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and talks, but repeated a plea for more committee member volunteers.
Members decided that our annual donations this year should be to Arduaine and Crarae Gardens, £750 each. After the meeting an excellent speaker was enjoyed by everyone.
John Roots, NTS Head of Membership and Customer Services Manager, talked about his enjoyable 12 years with the Trust.
He also spoke with appreciation of the changes proposed in Sir John Reid's review.
Many have now been implemented. With pleasure he produced a metal otter engraved with the name of the Group.
It is to be part of the Giving Tree in the entrance to Arduaine Garden, in recognition of the £5,500 donated in recent years by our Group.
Members were delighted with this gesture by the NTS.
New members always welcome. Inquiries to the Secretary 01852 300313.

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Care home group 'didn't have a hope'

Months of work comes to nothing for Tíree campaigners

SOCIAL enterprises hoping to take over some older people's services from Argyll and Bute Council have been stopped in their tracks at the first hurdle.

While the local authority initially said it wanted social enterprises to form and run facilities such as elderly homes, it failed to mention to anyone that registration to the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS), formerly the Care Commission, was a pre-requisite for tendering.

With the registration process taking about six months and costing £4,000, anyone who wasn't already registered before the tendering process started has effectively been ruled out.

Having spent the best part of five months preparing a tender to run Tíree's Eventide Care Home with the Tíree Community Development Trust's Cúram Thíriodh, island doctor John Holliday admitted the revelation was frustrating.

He said: 'We were first approached at the end of December 2010 and encouraged by the council themselves to look at ways to put in an application for the care services they intended to put out to tender.'

'The pre-qualification question-

REPORT
By STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

naire came in and the very first question was 'are you registered with the SCSWIS'.

'We realised that we'd done all this groundwork but are not able to proceed.

'Effectively, we haven't been allowed to tender. I believe at least two or three other social enterprises have been disenfranchised from proceeding because of that hurdle.

'I think it's fair to say that we weren't fully informed at the start of this process that we'd have to be registered first. Community groups who weren't already running a service didn't have a chance.'

As a result of the questionnaire, Cúram Thíriodh will now once again turn its full attention to its plans to build a new care facility on the island, both smaller in size and built to modern specifications, making it cheaper to run.

'Our work is not wasted,' he said. 'We've a lot of ideas, we're writing a business plan and we hope to have an input if the situation changes.'

Argyll and Bute Council though, claim all interested parties were

informed of the requirements for taking over older people's services at the outset.

A spokeswoman said: 'We welcome community and third sector groups coming forward to assist in meeting the region's current and future care needs. However, we do require that any interested parties are registered with SCSWIS for the provision of care services.'

'This is not intended to be an obstacle to the formation of any new social enterprises - it is simply a fundamental requirement of any and all care providers.'

'The council takes its duty of care to service users extremely seriously, and as such would not contract with unregistered providers of care services.'

'It was explicitly made clear that obtaining a SCSWIS registration would be a fundamental requirement of any interested parties.'

'Prior to the start of the procurement process, we were in contact with a number of new social enterprises - including Cúram Thíriodh - regarding this issue.'

The council would not, it added, extend the tendering process to allow any non-compliant social enterprises time to register with SCSWIS, due to the extra cost this would create.



From left: Jonathan, Alastair, Kirsty and Calum at last Friday's auction. 15_021auct1

Auction boost for adventurers' fund

OBAN Mountain Rescue Station hosted an unusual auction on Friday, with lots ranging from holdalls to a painting from Alice Spence Webster and 15 tonnes of stone from Glen Nant Quarries.

Organised by a group of teenagers hoping to climb

Morocco's Atlas Mountain next month, the event raised £675, bringing them closer still to the £1,000 per head cost of the trip.

Kirsty Powis, Calum Peden, Jonathan Sayer, all 17, and Alastair Hoon, who turned 18 on Sunday, hope to climb the

country's highest peak on June 4 as part of their work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Delighted
Their auction is their last big push for funds, and they're delighted at the response. Jonathan said: 'We raised £675

at the auction which was brilliant! Each of us have now been given £800 towards the £1,000 per head cost of the trip from our fundraising efforts.'

'We are delighted and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us.'

Exit Skykon - enter Wind Towers Ltd after factory sale is concluded

THE worry and the waiting for staff at the stricken Skykon plant are over.

On Friday Wind Towers Ltd, a joint venture between Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Marsh Wind Technology, confirmed that it has bought the Machrihanish factory from administrators Ernst & Young, after being granted preferred bidder status for the sale in March.

Wind Towers Ltd, is back to work now; working on maintenance, cleaning and preparing for production to start up again at the end of June.

'It's a day a lot of us never thought we'd see,' a welder from the factory told *The Oban Times*. 'There have been a lot of worried people in this town.'

The new general manager is Michael Nielsen. Aged 41, he began his working life on the shop floor as a blacksmith, studying to become a production engineer. He and his family will be moving to live in Kintyre.

Mr Nielsen said: 'I am the only person moving here from

Denmark; it is important people here take responsibility for the work here and it is important that we respect each other.'

'We have a lot to do regarding production and how it's going to look in the future; we have a huge job in front of us.'

He added that the firm was already 'in dialogue' with leading players in the market to add to the order book.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise agreed to provide an investment of £3.4 million and Argyll and Bute Council is committing £12 million over coming years to upgrade the Port of Campbeltown and roads, calling Kintyre, 'one of the premier locations in the Scottish Government's national renewable infrastructure plan.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise wants to see the region become a world leader in renewable energy.

SSE is the UK's largest renewable energy generator.

'The focus will now be on efficiently delivering the extensive order book already in place and



Man in charge - Michael Nielsen is the new general manager of Wind Towers Ltd in Campbeltown. 0_c21nle601

then using the excellent facilities at the site to make the most of the expanding market,' said Ian Marchant, chief executive of SSE.

First Minister Alex Salmond

visited the factory earlier this year.

'I was struck by their drive and determination to ensure turbine manufacturing continued at the plant,' he said.

Harbouring support for yacht week

TOBERMORY Harbour Association and the local community have pledged support to help run West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) 2011.

The famous regatta runs from July 29 to August 5 and is in Tobermory for the Wednesday and Thursday of the event.

Regatta chairman Dave Waltho said: 'We are delighted to welcome Tobermory Harbour Association and the business community of the town on board for this year's regatta.'

'Everyone enjoys the passage races both to and from Tobermory and the racing offshore on Thursday is excellent. The town

always goes that extra mile to make us more than welcome so we look forward to our stay in 2011.'

Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) is offering free anchorage in Tobermory Bay and moorings for hire as well as operating the pontoon berths at Ledaig which offer fuel, power and water.

The landmark all-facilities building Taigh Solais provides services such as toilets, showers, laundry facilities and a welcome place to meet other sailors.

The ethos of THA is to provide 'facilities for all' and encourage visitors afloat to bring

benefit throughout the Island. Brian Swinbanks, chairman of THA said: 'We are very happy to support West Highland Yachting Week as it brings enormous benefit to Mull.'

'Like the Mull Rally WHYW, is a major event bringing not only the yachts and competing crews to Tobermory but many visitors who are attracted by the spectacle of the regatta and the great atmosphere.'

'We look forward to seeing our many old friends and meeting new ones this year.'

Further information and the Notice of Race is available on www.whyw.co.uk

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Vicky's poignant cancer trek

A SKYE woman, currently battling cancer herself, walked from Fort William to Glasgow to raise thousands of pounds for charities working to beat the disease.

Portree-born Vicky Galbraith, a scientist specialising in cancer research with Roche Pharmaceuticals, was diagnosed last year.

Following an operation to remove a brain tumour, Vicky decided to enlist the help of family and friends to join her on 'Vix Big Walk' to the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, where she is still receiving treatment.

Vicky's dad, Alastair, from Bernisdale, went the extra mile and tramped 114 miles from Portree Hospital, where Vicky was born, to Fort William - then led the party on to Glasgow via the West Highland Way.

Supporters
In all 60 supporters aged between 15 months and 70 joined father and daughter along the route.

Vicky, 38, said: 'I'm delighted that I've raised funds for my chosen charities.'

'It was a huge challenge but I was helped by the support of people who walked with me and strangers who I met along the way.'



Vicky and dad Alastair at the end of their marathon charity walk.

'The overwhelming optimism of the people I met has really restored my faith in humanity.'

Donations
Vicky, who has raised £3,700

so far, added: 'I'm still accepting donations and I hope to help the Beatson Pebble Appeal raise £5,000 towards the £10m the charity needs to build the state-of-the-art Beatson

Translational Research Centre in Glasgow.'

To donate visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Vicky-Galbraith-vixbigwalk>.

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Aiden turns on style in hair design contest

FOLLOWING success in a regional heat held at South Lanarkshire College, local hairdressing student Aiden MacLaren has been chosen as one of 20 national finalists who will compete in London on June 9 for the Wella Xposure 2011 title.

The competition - now in its second year - attracted more than 700 entries nationwide and is designed to showcase the developing skills of young hairdressing students throughout the United Kingdom.

Following an initial photographic entry, Aiden was chosen as one of the Scotland and North of England region finalists. Along with his model Gemma Heggarty he created his design live for the judges at the regional heat.

Aiden said: 'The most challenging part of the competition was not coming up with the design but creating the mood boards which build a scene and setting around the design for the judges.'

At the final Aiden will have just one hour to recreate his design and impress the judges for the last time.

Aiden's fellow students at Argyll College UHI are right behind him and have been putting much effort into fundraising to help with the costs of Aiden's trip to the final.

On April 26, the students held a Fun Day at the Oban Campus with all proceeds going to Aiden's 'Finals Fund'.

Community groups urged to apply for council cash

COMMUNITY groups still have time to apply for money from Argyll and Bute Council.

Third Sector grants can fund a range of projects and decisions will be made in August.

There is a limited amount of funding left in each of the four areas. There's more than £20,000 in Oban, Lorn and the Isles pot, just under £13,000 for Helensburgh and Lomond, more than £5,000 in Bute and Cowal and £4,500 in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles.

Margaret Allan, from Mid Argyll Pipe Band, said: 'It was really easy to apply for the Third Sector grant. We've applied before and used the money for new uniforms. This time we'll be using our grant for transport so we can take part in more competitions and encourage young musicians to join us.'

The decision of who gets the awards will be made by the respective local area committee in August. The money is a one off annual grant. Organisations have until Friday June 24 to submit their applications via the council's website. There's a form to fill out and return as soon as possible.

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>

Pair admit trashing static caravan at holiday park

TWO EAST Kilbride men have admitted causing £9,000 worth of damage to static caravan at a Lochaber holiday park.

Michael Gallacher, aged 20, of 92 Salisbury, and Scott Miller, aged 26, of 95 Warwick, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly destroying or damaging the property of another by knocking holes in wall panels and damaging the electrical supply, bending doors, smashing a light fitting, the living room fire and a microwave and smearing blood over other furnishings rendering the caravan unfit for use.

Miller also admitted committing a breach of the peace by shouting, swearing and uttering threats to the proprietor at the caravan park house.

The incidents occurred at Caolasnacon Caravan Park near Kinlochleven on August 15.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court until June 9.

Police probe council tender process

NORTHERN Constabulary has launched an investigation into allegations of improper tendering process by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The force will look in particular at the accountancy contract for the council's arm's length body, Sgoiltean Ura, which was established to manage the authority's school building programme.

It comes after the Comhairle agreed an out of court settlement with one of the firms involved in the tendering process. It is understood that some authority staff have been disciplined following the payment.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's spokesman said: 'As far as we are aware, in response to a complaint, the police are looking at whether they have a locus in investigating the tendering process for the Sgoiltean Ura accountancy contract.'

Man fined after drink-fuelled row

A FORT William man has been fined £140 after grabbing his partner by the hair and dragging her out their bedroom during a drink-fuelled argument.

Cameron Kirkham, of 14 Young Place, pled guilty to assaulting Margaret Gemmel by repeatedly seizing her by the hair and dragging her by the hair on April 19.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 46-year-old had started arguing with Ms Gemmel after she came home drunk. During the row, she began throwing items at him, including a glass and a drawer.

He grabbed her hair on three separate occasions, the last time dragging her across the bed and out the room by her hair.

Ms Gemmel phoned the police, and Procurator Fiscal Simon Crabb said when officers arrived they found her in a 'hysterical state'. Kirkham was arrested and spent two nights in custody.

Fining Kirkham, Sheriff Douglas Small said the assault was not the most serious, and said there had been 'a degree of provocation'.

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Man sustains serious injuries in Portree crash

A YOUNG man sustained serious abrasion injuries after his Citroen Saxo car overturned on Aros corner on the A78 south of Portree early on Sunday.

The accident, which happened at about 1.30am, left the road strewn with shattered glass from the car's windows.

Efforts to clear the road by brush were only partially successful and Scotland Transerv had to bring in a mechanised road sweeper from Glasgow to remove remaining glass fragments.

A Scotland Transerv spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'As there was no response from local numbers we contacted our Glasgow-based company, who assisted at a road accident at Glencoe on their return journey.'

The casualty was taken to Portree Hospital initially, then to the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford before being transferred to Inverness on Monday night to have a serious wrist wound cleaned of glass and dirt.

The 17-year-old was also understood to have suffered a head injury and loss of blood. The road was closed for about 30 minutes.

Heather's Walk returns to Fort William

THE ANNUAL two mile 'Heather's Walk' returns to Fort William on Sunday.

The event, now in its fourth year, will see 100 to 150 sponsored walkers leaving Canal Basin, Corpach at 1.30pm, heading for Banavie swing bridge and back again to raise money for Highland Hospice. As well as the walk, there will be stalls, a barbecue, raffles, an auction, music and a bouncy castle at the start/finish line. One of the event organisers, Sarah Walker, told *The Oban Times*: 'The walk was set up by myself and Margaret Simpson in memory of our close friend Heather Robertson who got a lot of help from the hospice.'

'The weather forecast isn't looking too good but we'll have great time anyway.'

Nurse cover concern reiterated

RESIDENTS of a remote west Highland community have reiterated their anger as NHS talks about replacing their 24-hour district nursing cover continue with no sign of any community involvement.

NHS Highland notified locals in west Ardnamurchan before Christmas they planned to transfer the Kilchoan-based out-of-hours cover to the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), NHS 24 and Acharacle-based GPs after saying the existing service was 'neither safe nor sustainable'. The decision was reversed in January following a determined campaign from the community, with NHS bosses agreeing to continue the service for 12 months.

But the clock is ticking on the temporary deal and five months have now passed without any west Ardnamurchan community representatives being invited to take part.

West Ardnamurchan Community Council (WACC) sent a 'position paper' to NHS Highland chairman Garry Coutts last week highlighting their anger at not being involved in talks which have been taking place between NHS and SAS.

A NHS Highland spokesman confirmed to *The Oban Times* they had received the letter and would be responding shortly.



Moira Hartley hands over the keys to Martin Glensk to herald a new beginning for Nether Lochaber Boxing Club. 20_021box01

Nether Lochaber Boxing Club packs a punch again after finding a new permanent home

NETHER Lochaber amateur boxing club is packing a punch again after finding a permanent home.

The club, formed last year, previously operated from the Leven Centre then Nether Lochaber village hall, but the flit down to Onich saw membership ebb away.

Now the club has returned to its roots after signing a lease with Kinlochleven Community Trust for premises in Kinlochleven Business Park, and numbers are once again on the up.

Head coach Martin Glensk received the keys from KCT development officer Moira Hartley last Friday and the building has already been fully kitted out as a gym with punch bags and a ring. Moira told *The Oban Times*: 'Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club came to us looking to secure permanent premises, and we agreed to offer them an

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

initial 12-month lease. The trust also agreed a significant reduction in rent after taking into account the contribution the club makes to the community throughout Kinlochleven and south Lochaber. It is a great facility for them, located in the centre of the village with plenty of car parking. We hope they will grow and become even more successful.'

Martin said: 'Now we have a permanent place we can start working hard to get our boxers into championships. We have already had an uplift in youngsters and ladies from the village coming along, and we are working on increasing adult membership as well. Hopefully our next big show will be Kilmarnock on June 11.'

Training sessions are underway at the gym five days a week, Monday to Friday. The club offers boxing training at all levels, including 'Future Champ' classes specifically aimed at young boxers under the age of 11 and women-only boxercise sessions. The club also has a fitness suite and jacuzzi open to members of the public.

Meanwhile, NLABC boxers have been invited to participate in the 'School of Hard Knocks' training camp organised by Highland Boxing Academy in Inverness this weekend.

The club is also planning to host its own training camp over the summer to bring people from all over Scotland to train in Kinlochleven and the surrounding area.

Anyone wishing further information can contact head coach Martin Glensk on 07776 477 930.

Fort sheriff lays down law over Corran Ferry fiasco

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS and RICHARD HADDOCK



Iain Thornber: long way home.

DEMANDS are being made for better signs along Lochaber trunk routes in severe weather after motorists arrived at the Corran Ferry from Fort William on Monday afternoon only to find it was not running.

One frustrated driver was Honorary Sheriff Iain Thornber, who finished his duties at Fort William Sheriff Court at 2pm and set off to catch the 2.45pm ferry across to Ardgour.

The electronic sign on the A82 at the town's West End roundabout was blank, so Mr Thornber assumed the MV Corran was operating and drove the eight miles south for the boat.

But the vessel was stormbound, forcing Mr Thornber to drive back to town and on round Loch Eil to make his journey home via Ardgour and the A861.

But that too proved impossible when Mr Thornber, the deputy Lord Lieutenant for Lochaber, found his way blocked four miles north of Ardgour near Conaglen, by a caravan crushed under a fallen tree.

No signs at the A861 junction with the A830 had indicated the road was blocked.

Mr Thornber turned around once more, warning approaching motorists there was no way through on his way back to the A830. He then drove on to Lochailort, turned left on the A861 for Strontain and finally

up or remember to drive on the left hand side of the road. I gather this is not the first time they have not been activating it when the ferry is off.'

Highland Council confirmed the electronic panel had been off during the time the ferry was suspended between 1.30pm and 4.30pm, and blamed 'a communications error'.

Community works manager Mike Leary told *The Oban Times* the ferry skipper had alerted the appropriate people that the service was suspended - but the information failed to appear on the sign.

He said: 'The ferry contacted a company called Nadex, who control the signs, to tell them when there is an issue with the ferry.'

'As far as Nadex knew the sign was displaying the information, but we later found out there had been a problem.'

Nadex, he said, tried to communicate the information to the sign, but a problem with the phone line meant it did not receive the electronic message.

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'We can confirm that the variable message sign on the A82 at Fort William is currently out of service therefore it did not carry the strategic warning messages and apologise for any inconvenience this caused motorists.'

Bereaved father opens his home to more accident victims

A BEREAVED father campaigning for upgrades to a dangerous stretch of the A830 at Lochailort opened his home to more accident victims on Saturday.

John Bryden, whose daughter Kirsty died along with friend Roddy MacInnes after their car plunged into Loch Eilt last September, helped a Mallaig couple recover after they crashed near his

Craiglea home. Two hours later Mr Bryden was greeted by a badly shaken young man from Arisaig with an injured his wrist after the car in which he was travelling also crashed. Mr Bryden went out to help the young female driver who had spun into the rocks, damaging all four sides of the vehicle.

Mr Bryden said he has dealt with 'over a dozen' accidents in recent months.

Icelandic volcanic dust clears from Isle of Skye

THE ISLE of Skye appeared free from volcanic dust yesterday (Wednesday) morning after residents woke up on Tuesday to find ash from the Grimsvotn volcano in Iceland covering their cars.

Peter MacDonald, owner of Portree builders' merchants MacDonald Bros, told

The Oban Times: 'Even the rain was a dirty colour. There was a light covering of ash dust on a lot of the vehicles in Portree.'

'We had customers from various parts of the island coming in to say they had found this strange dust on their cars.'

The disappearance of the ash came as UK air traffic control reported the volcanic plume appeared to have dispersed overnight.

Flights were returning to normal in the Highlands and Islands yesterday but passengers were warned to expect delays.

Prizewinning pooch Max takes the biscuit



Taking the biscuit: prizewinning pooch Max with Janet and son John.

A FORT William dog owner is celebrating after her Welsh Terrier won best in breed at the Edinburgh Championship Dog Show at the Royal Highland Centre at Inglishton last weekend.

Janet Robertson, from Glen Nevis, regularly competes at national level with Max - official name CH Festeed Funny Fellow at Renevis Sh CM - and was thrilled when judges awarded him his third challenge certificate.

Max started his winning career at Crufts 2010, where he gained his first reserve challenge certificate at just 14 months, Janet told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'This is a special achievement as a third challenge certificate means he has gained the title of champion, which in the dog world is the best you can get.'

'It's been a long time since we have had a champion in Lochaber. There are 12 opportunities a year to compete at championship dog shows for my breed. Eleven of these are held south of the Border, usually in the Midlands - so to win on home ground was extra special!'

Crowds turn out in force for Finlaggan's arrival



People lined the coastline from the Oban's North Pier to Ganavan Sands to welcome the MV Finlaggan on Sunday evening. The state-of-the-art ship had sailed from Gdansk, Poland to Oban via the north of Scotland. The vessel's naming ceremony was due to take place in Islay as *The Oban Times* went to press yesterday (Wednesday). A Caledonian MacBryane spokesman said: 'Her arrival has been keenly anticipated for some time, not just in Islay, but across the CalMac network and beyond. The MV Finlaggan is the most technically advanced ship in the CalMac fleet, offering the highest levels of passengers safety and comfort and we are sure she will prove popular with everyone who sails on her.' Picture: Dennis Hardley (www.dennishardley.com)

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, May 29, 1986



MP confirms £8.7 million hospital to serve Oban

NEW hospitals are, at last, planned for Oban and Stornoway. The announcement came last week just as predicted by *The Oban Times* at a conference in Inverness.

The Oban Hospital will cost £8.7million and should be finished in 1991-92, with work due to start in 1988-89. It will be designed to replace all five existing hospitals in Oban, including the relatively new Dalintart Hospital.

The proposed hospital will provide 138 in-patient beds, together with outpatient facilities and a day hospital.

It will be built on a site near the Soroba House Hotel - a site which is still in private ownership. John Mackay, MP for Argyll and Bute and Minister of Home Affairs, health and Social Work, to the paper this week he did not foresee any problems buying the ground.

The new hospital will mean a reduction in bed numbers overall in Oban - from 164 beds in use at present to 138.

However, both Mr Mackay and a spokesman for Argyll and Clyde Health Board said that this number would be sufficient.

Duo take teaching appointments in Sudan

TWO young girls will soon be leaving behind the wet and wind of the West Highlands to head for the heat of the Sudan.

Seventeen-year-old Pervaneh Pery, of Ardtur, Port Appin, is to spend a year in the Gezira Province, near Khartoum, where she will teach English as a foreign language.

Pervaneh volunteered to go to the Sudan as a member of The Project Trust Scheme, whose aim is to educate a new generation in Britain to understand life outside Europe in underdeveloped countries.

It does this by sending young people to spend a year between school or university and employment in some useful work.

Also heading for the Sudan is Norma Turnbull, 26, of Rockfield Road, Oban.

A graduate of Dunfermline Collage of Physical Education, Edinburgh, Norma taught in Mallaig for two years then took a year off and worked as a secretary in London before deciding to head for Sudan.

She has been appointed to the PE department of Khartoum International Preparatory School, a private school six kilometers from Khartoum.

Council rejects MoD plan for rocket towers on St Kilda

BY the casting vote of the convener, Sandy Matheson, the Western Isles Council has approved a development services committee recommendation to refuse planning clearance for Ministry of defence installations on the island of St Kilda, in the Atlantic.

The plans are for four towers - one of them 80ft high - as well as three buildings to enclose radar installations.

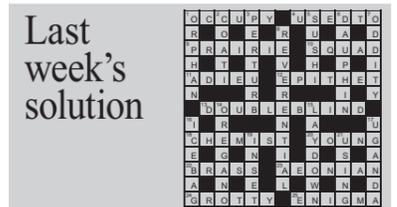
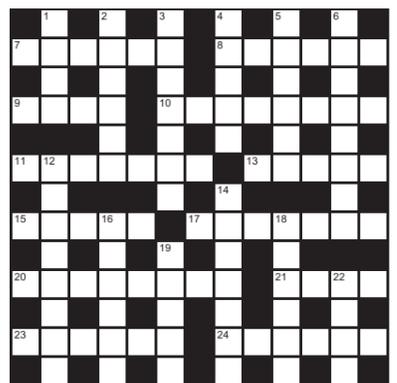
they are to be used for tracking rockets fired from the Royal Artillery Range on South Uist. A planning report, which recommended granting consent, stated that the proposals represented a major escalation of both the number and nature of installations on St Kilda, which was a recognised area of high scenic value and was included in the World Heritage List.

there had also been two errors in the MoD advertisement. New council member, David Afrin, said that it would be better to grant planning clearance with conditions.

Following a tied vote, the convener gave his casting vote the same as his deliberative vote, which was to refuse consent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 7 Resolve (6)
 - 8 More than one festive season? (6)
 - 9 Ornament with fastenings (4)
 - 10 Be like (8)
 - 11 Rang Ma a transformation to find the answer (7)
 - 13 Type of beast (5)
 - 15 Investigate (5)
 - 17 Unique (7)
 - 20 Common people (8)
 - 21 Coagulate (4)
 - 23 Sparkly material (6)
 - 24 Lots (6)
- Down**
- 1 Take from others (4)
 - 2 Small animal that may sit on you! (6)
 - 3 Causes you to well up (4,3)
 - 4 Take up space (5)
 - 5 Complain peevishly (6)
 - 6 Overdetermined (4-4)
 - 12 Induces a numbing effect... (8)
 - 14 ...this also has a numbing effect! (7)
 - 16 A stock exchange (6)
 - 18 Former unit in Chile (6)
 - 19 Silly Billy! (5)
 - 22 Comply with (4)



Sleat pigs die suddenly from meningitis

THE PIG population on Sleat has fallen by two after a Camuscross crofter's Tamworth-Goucester Old Spot crosses succumbed to a form of meningitis.

Graeme MacKenzie was rearing the four month-old pigs for home use when they were suddenly struck down with the illness.

The local vet arrived within half an hour of Graeme's call, but by then the first pig had already died. Antibiotics were administered in the hope of saving the second, but by the next morning it too had expired.

Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'It all happened very quickly. Within three hours of appearing to be unwell, the first one was dead.'

'The vet gave the other one antibiotics, but it was too late. He reckoned it was just bad luck. There was no obvious reason - it was certainly a bit of a shock at the time. We have kept them in previous years with no problems.'

He added: 'I think it will be the Broadford Co-op for our bacon and sausages this year.'

Minis to descend on Fort William

A HOARD of minis will descend on Fort William this weekend as part of the Thistle Run from Blair Drummond Safari Park. The 12th annual rally will be visiting Lochaber for the first time, and is raising money for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and for the Glasgow Southern General Hospital neonatal ward.

The cars are expected to arrive on Sunday afternoon at the finish point at the Nevis Centre car park.

Tweed-lined Model-T Ford steals the show

MOST Model-T Fords may have chugged back down the A82 after their centenary rally in Lochaber - but one local enthusiast's car was the envy of them all.

Willie Ramsay, from Kinlochail, only bought his Model-T five weeks before the nine-day event, paying £5,000 for the vintage vehicle in an auction.

The 60-year-old craftsman needed fabric for the soft furnishings - and twiggled the Model-T rally coincided with the Harris Tweed 'Orb' trademark's 100th anniversary.

Willie had already trimmed an Alfa Romeo in the famous cloth for the Harris Tweed Authority - and felt the twin centenary celebrations merited similar treatment for his Model-T.

Never one to miss a promotional opportunity, the HTA agreed - and Willie was delighted when rolls of Carloway Mill green tweed arrived at his workshop for the car's interior.

Willie - one of the last traditional coachtrimmers in Scotland - then embarked on a race against time

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

to have the car ready for the rally, aided by the expert hands of wife Anne, 52, and 17 year-old son Cameron.

On display at the Nevis Centre on Saturday, the car drew admiring glances from the public - despite teeming rain.

The beautifully finished Model-T features emerald-green tweed seats and fabric door panels - embossed with the Harris Tweed Orb.

'We worked day and night to have it ready to be here,' Willie told *The Oban Times*.

'It was only possible with help from various friends in the motor trade I have got after 40 years.'

'Although 16 million Model-Ts were made, this is probably the only one in the world to have a fabric body with a Harris Tweed interior.'

He added: 'I have a heart for Gaeldom - I have Blaich connections and my mother-in-law Alice MacDonald, of

Kinlochail, was a native Gaelic speaker.'

HTA chief executive Lorna MacAulay said: 'We are thrilled to be celebrating our 100th anniversary in collaboration with the Model T and as with Ford, we celebrate style, quality and good taste, whether in fashion or cars.'

Edinburgh garage owner Henry Alexander drove his Model-T to Ben Nevis summit on May 13, 1911 as a publicity stunt designed to prove the reliability of the car.

The Model-T Register of Great Britain decided to mark the event with a rally in Lochaber and enlisted 50-local volunteers to carry the original car up the mountain in pieces, before assembling it at the summit.

The car was reassembled in the West Highland Museum in Fort William, where it will remain on display for the next 12 months.

Museum chairman Chris Robinson said: 'It was a great achievement to get the car to the top of Ben Nevis, and we are really looking forward to having it here for the next few months.'



Cameron, Anne and Willie Ramsay with their Harris Tweed-upholstered Model-T Ford. 10_021car02

Kilchoan playpark fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING night is being held in West Ardnamurchan in aid of the Kilchoan play park fund on Saturday.

A stock judging competition will take place at Kilchoan Community Centre from 5pm, followed by a barbecue. Husband and wife band 'Eriskay Lilt' will then provide the music for a ceilidh which will last until the wee hours.

The community is raising money to build a play park in memory of four-year-old Caleb Cameron, who died in 2009 after being hit by a jet ski at Kilchoan Pier.

Scam warning

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is warning islanders of a scam claiming to be in reference to the estate of deceased relative 'Gilbert' with the same surname as the recipient householder.

The letter purports to be from a Dong Li, from Wing Hang Bank Limited in Hong Kong. It claims its subject was involved in an accident in China and the addressee, as next of kin, is due a share of \$9.8 million.

Householders are warned the circular is a scam and to dispose of it.

Lochaber Music School garden open day

LOCHABER Music School committee chairman Lorna Ungeod Thomas will stage a 'garden open day' at her Murlaggan home in Camaghael on Sunday to raise money for the group.

The event, from 2pm to 5pm, will feature spring flowers, cream teas and live music from LHS musicians. The event has been held for the past ten years, bar one, and usually raises several hundred pounds.

Tea and home baking raises Marie Curie cash

A FUNDRAISING day in Plockton raised £901.50 for the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity on Sunday.

Mrs Lilius Simpson opened her gardens at Rhuda Mor and served teas and home baking to a steady stream of visitors.

Safety spotlight for primary pupils

ABOUT 220 Primary 7 pupils from Lochaber schools will attend a community safety and crime prevention event in the Nevis Centre, Fort William next Wednesday.

The Safe Highlanders and Islanders initiative is designed to help children become more aware of

personal safety, to react to emergency situations and learn more about becoming good citizens.

The youngsters will practise life saving skills, fire and water safety, safety on roads and farms and internet safety. The dangers of electricity and building sites will also be discussed.

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Kilchoan gears up for big day

ORGANISERS have agreed 'subtle changes' to the 2011 West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports after listening to feedback from the successful 2010 event.

Kilchoan's biggest day of the year traditionally draws hundreds of people from near and far, including a sizeable contingent from Mull.

Chairman Gus MacLean told *The*

Oban Times any changes had been agreed with the intention of making the day even more enjoyable for the public. He said: 'In particular we've altered the times for the barbecue

so that hot food is available from midday onwards. In addition to this we are introducing live music to proceedings after the prize giving, which will greatly enhance

the atmosphere in the show field marquee.'

He added: 'We've also been extremely fortunate over the past few years with the weather conditions and hopefully this year will not be any different. All in all we fully expect another eventful and enjoyable day at the Kilchoan Show.'

Trust seeks volunteer marshals

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust is looking for volunteer marshals to help with the 2011 Caledonian Challenge on June 11.

Hundreds of charity hikers are expected to pass through the village, which is the second checkpoint along the 54-mile route from Gairloch to the Caledonian Canal to Loch Lomondside. The trust will receive a financial donation for every eight-hour shift worked. Anyone interested should contact Moira on 01855 831779.

Budapest Café Orchestra in Glenug

GLENUIG Hall will ring to Hungarian, Russian and Ukrainian folk songs next Saturday when the Budapest Café Orchestra plays at the Moirdart venue. The ensemble will also perform dance tunes from Romania, Bulgaria and Moldavia as well as their own compositions.

TIREE MUSIC FESTIVAL **WIN** £500 worth of Tiree Music Festival prizes to be won!

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WIN! WEEKEND TICKETS TO TIREE MUSIC FESTIVAL, A B&B BREAK AND MORE!

Tiree Music Festival is back for its second year this July to celebrate the best of Scottish music and culture. X Factor finalists The MacDonald Brothers are just one of the acts confirmed for the two day festival which takes place at An Talla Car Park, Tiree on Saturday July 23 and Sunday July 24. Other acts confirmed for the event include legendary Celtic-rockers Wolfstone, Pearl & the Puppets, new Gaelic sensation Man-ran and a special homecoming performance from Tiree's own international touring act, Skerryvore. All this plus a children's ceilidh, workshops, food stalls and whisky

tasting. For more information visit www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk.

To celebrate, The Oban Times has £500 worth of Tiree Music Festival prizes to giveaway. For first prize we have two weekend tickets, two night's bed and breakfast for two at the Rockvale Guest House in Balephetrish and two festival T-shirts and hooded sweat-shirts. Second prize is two weekend tickets plus two festival T-shirts and hooded sweat-shirts. PLUS, six runners up will each win a festival T-shirt.

To enter, simply answer the question below and fill in your details along with your answer and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday June 6 2011.

Question: Which X-Factor finalists will perform at Tiree Music Festival this year?

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Monday June 6 2011

Answer

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from The Oban Times.

Tick here to receive information from Tiree Music Festival.

Terms & Conditions: The prize is as stated and does not include travel, travel insurance or spending money. No cash alternative. The B&B break is based on two people sharing a double room. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in the newspaper.

TIREE MUSIC FESTIVAL
www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk

Green transport scheme hits the road in Mallaig

A GREEN transport scheme designed to cut the costs of car ownership and help the environment was launched in Mallaig on Monday morning.

WestWheels car club will have two vehicles based at the Lochaber port, a Ford Focus and a Ford Fusion, after Mallaig Harbour Authority provided a car parking space on the pier for convenient collection.

Members will be able to book a car out when they need it, while the club takes on the responsibility for ownership, maintenance and insurance.

Going under the slogan 'a car when you need one, not when you don't', WestWheels will run for an initial five-month trial period, with membership offered at £10 and a deposit of £50.

If more than 25 people sign up, the club could become a permanent fixture on Lochaber's travel map.

Development officer Susan Carstairs told *The Oban Times* cost for the Ford Focus would be £2.95 per hour or £24 per day. Travel costs are an additional 24p per mile, with any fuel paid for being fully refundable. Rates for the Fusion are slightly less - £2.50, £21.60 and 21p respectively.

Under the scheme, a typical four-hour excursion to Fort William and back would cost the driver £34 - or £8.50 a head if four people are travelling.

With petrol more than £1.40 a litre, the same journey would cost about £20 in

fuel alone - before expensive items such as insurance, tax, maintenance costs and depreciation are added in.

Ms Carstairs said: 'This is a very new thing for rural areas. It's been going for several years in the cities, but here the journeys are going to be much longer and people are likely to need the car a bit more.'

'But I have been chatting to local folk who say they might even use it for going to the lunch club - if people want to take it for a couple of hours they can do so.'

She added: 'Of course people are nervous whether this is going to work - but if you get enough people involved I am sure it will. With 25 members we reckon we stand to break even.'

Lochaber Transport Forum chair Councillor Brian Murphy welcomed the initiative as a way of tackling high travel costs.

He said: 'WestWheels is a great new development for our area meeting the needs of rural residents and of the environment.'

Small Isles and Knoydart residents suggested Mallaig as the car club site. Data from a study at Findhorn Foundation showed members could save between £1,000 and £3,500 per year.

Funding from the Scottish Government via Transform Scotland paid for the cars. The Mallaig project has been financed through Carplus, a charity promoting alternatives to private car use.



Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson cuts the ribbon on WestWheels' Ford Fusion at a stormy Mallaig on Monday.

Delight at rise in provincial Mòd entries

THE 2011 LOCHABER Provincial Mòd gets underway next Thursday under a revised format and at a new venue.

Dates have changed to the evening of Thursday June 2 and all day Friday June 3, while the event has been switched from Lochside RC to Fort William RC Primary School.

Organisers from the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach say they are 'heartened' by the increase in entries.

The event was in jeopardy of disappearing due to lack of interest.

Provincial Mòd liaison officer Riona Whyte said: 'These changes have primarily been made to encourage participation from schools in the area and this seems to have paid off with entries from Acharacle, Ardgour, Mallaig, Mull and local Fort William schools and clubs.'

'Local Mòds are a fantastic showcase for local talent and the Gaelic language and an event that should be preserved for future generations to participate in and enjoy.'

'We hope that the community will come along and support this cultural festival and celebrate the local talent participating.'

'With an increase in entries comes an increase in numbers needed to help, and we would appeal to anyone who may be interested in helping with stewarding during the Mòd to contact the organisers as soon as possible.'

The event starts next Thursday at 7.30pm with instrumental competitions. Oral, vocal and choral competitions will run throughout Friday.

Lighthouse handed over to island owners

A 70-FOOT lighthouse below the Skye Bridge will be formally handed to the owners of the island on which it stands next week.

The Eilean Bàn Trust took over ownership of Kyleakin Lighthouse and its walkway from the Northern Lighthouse Board in January.

In a ceremony next Thursday evening before invited guests, NLB chief executive Roger Lockwood will

handover the island in person and a commemorative plaque will be sited at the entrance to the walkway.

The trust had leased the lighthouse from Northern Lighthouse Board since 1998, although the lighthouse itself had been decommissioned in 1990.

From 2000, the trust has conducted regular tours of the six-acre island, also known historically as Gillean Island and Eilean Dool, but now known Eilean

Bàn (White Island). The isle provides the only land access to the historic Stevenson lighthouse.

The navigation landmark offers elevated views up and down the straits of Loch Alsh, the Cuillin, Raasay, Scapay, the Crowlin Isles and the West Ross coast.

Ring of Bright Water author Gavin Maxwell was Eilean Bàn most famous resident.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Are car clubs the future of rural motoring?

IT MAY not be impossible to break the love affair with our cars - despite the current record high prices of petrol and diesel - especially as many along the west coast and in the Highlands have little transport alternative.

So it will be interesting to see how a new scheme launched this week in Mallaig fares.

WestWheels car club will have two vehicles based at the Lochaber port after Small Isles and Knoydard residents suggested Mallaig as the site for the car club.

Under the scheme, those hiring one of the club's two vehicles pay an hourly or day rate along with mileage to cover petrol.

At first glance, the costs might seem quite expensive, but if shared between four people they work out at reasonable value for money - and, of course, using the car offers more flexibility than buses or the train.

Will it catch on? In other parts of the UK, similar types of scheme have proved popular, although these have been mainly city-based. How this particular scheme works in a rural setting remains to be seen.

However, with some data suggesting that being part of a car club could save members thousands of pounds, it could prove the way forward in an era of the £1.50 litre.

GLASGOW LETTER

Ceol's Craic

THE FINAL meeting of the session of this very popular Gaelic club will take place in CCA, Sauchiehall Street, this coming Saturday, May 28.

As usual there will be something for all tastes, starting at 6pm with the film Jig, the remarkable story of the 40th Irish Dancing World Championships held in Glasgow in March 2010. This will be followed by presentations of Step, Highland and Irish dancing with all ages and levels of ability welcome.

From 8.30pm there will be music from Mairi MacInnes and radical Gaelic ceilidh rock group Bi Beo, followed by the final ceilidh with Suzanne Housen and friends. For tickets telephone 0141 352 4900.

Young Traditional Musician of the Year

IT IS that time of the year again when nominations are requested for the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year 2012 when, of course, the final will take place during Celtic Connections.

Applicants must be aged 16-27 years inclusive and they must send a 10 minute recording on CD together with details of why they think they will be suited to a career in the music industry. The final date for applications is July 1 and the semi finals will take place during the weekend September 30 to October 1. An application form can be downloaded from the Hands up for Trad website. For more information telephone 0131 510 5006 or info@handsupfortrad.co.uk.

Gaelic holiday week for families

AFTER the success of last year, Comann nam Parant are organising another learner's course for parents of children attending Gaelic medium education in Stornoway during the week July 25 to 29.

There will be classes at two levels, depending on the participants, and while the adults are at their classes the children will attend the Feis. Both will take place in the Nicolson Institute. Families will be responsible for organising their own accommodation but 50 per cent of this will be reimbursed, up to a maximum £250. Travel and food costs will have to be paid by the families as will the fees for the Feis. For more information or to book a place contact Magaidh Wentworth on 01463 234138 or magaidh@cna.org.uk.

Scottish Pipe Band Championships

I MENTIONED in last week's column that I went along to Levensgrove Park for the Scottish Pipe Band Championships a week early but perhaps I knew something for the weather on the correct Saturday was absolutely atrocious while the previous week it was at least dry.

What a pity for the championships and West Dumbarton Council Events who organised the occasion superbly. Bands which performed by mid morning were able to do so in shirt sleeves, although it was quite cold, but after that it was on with the capes.

This obviously reduces the spectacle of the occasion but it did not deter the Field Marshall Montgomery Band from taking first place in Grade 1. Congratulations to all the bands who performed so well despite the weather.

Diary dates

Thursday May 26: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Rory MacLeod, Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes School, 7.30pm.

Saturday May 28: Edinburgh Argyle Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

Monday May 30: Glasgow Skye Association, final date to book a place at the social evening on Friday June 3. Telephone 01786 832278.

Tuesday May 31: Mull and Iona Association AGM, Gaelic School, 7.30pm.

Wednesday June 1: Glasgow Skye Association AGM, Partick Burgh Halls (Room 9), 7.30pm.

Thursday June 2: Glasgow Islay Association AGM, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Katy Moffat.

Friday June 3: Glasgow Skye Association, end of season social, Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock. For tickets see Monday May 30. Scottish Music Concert, Junior Academy of Music, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 7pm. First evening of East Kilbride Mod. Start of West End Festival.

Saturday June 4: East Kilbride Mod. Mairi Hedderwick with fun for families, Hillhead Library, 11.15am and 2.30pm.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend the music will be provided by Crooked Reel on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Eriskay Lilt on Sunday.

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



Steel band entertains Caol Lunch Club

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and shows members of St Augustine's Senior Secondary School during a visit to Caol Community Centre Lunch Club. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Match entry fee justified

Sir,
We write to express our dismay and disappointment at the comments made by Oban FM presenters on the evening of Saturday, May 14, regarding Taynuilt Shinty Club's semi-final against Oban Camanachd in the Celtic Society Cup, held earlier that afternoon and, in particular, the £4 entry fee.

We feel we must reply as follows: £360 was raised from the gate on the Saturday afternoon; £220 of this was needed to pay for the referee, two goal judges and hire of the pitch. The remaining income shall be equally shared between both teams as per the Camanachd Association guidelines.

As a club we felt the £4 entry fee or £2 for concessions was a fair price to pay, bearing in mind both semi finals of the MacTavish Cup charged £5. The club also provided catering facilities for spectators. We do not charge admission for league games, however, with the extra expenses incurred in this match coupled with the Camanachd Associations guidelines, we felt this charge was reasonable.

All facilities provided in Taynuilt village are funded by the community of the village, not Argyll and Bute Council.

Presenters of Oban FM would do well to remember this before airing their views on live radio.

Taynuilt Shinty Club was very happy with the attending crowd on Saturday considering the poor weather and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and supported both shinty teams.

Taynuilt Shinty Club.

Wasting public money never acceptable

Sir,
The recent resignations of three of the Oban CHORD board, three Oban councillors, has only confirmed my thoughts and the thoughts of many others that the current format to support development proposals for Oban has lost all credibility and needs replaced.

Unfortunately, it would appear the chairman, in his remarks to The Oban Times, is in denial and just doesn't get it. He mentions he will be 'cracking on with the next stage of the process, which will involve engaging with key stakeholders and partners'.

The chairman seems to have forgotten that the 'key stakeholders' are the wider community of Oban who are represented on the board by the four Oban councillors Duncan MacIntyre, chairman, Donald MacDonald, Roddy McCuish and Donald 'Skye' McIntosh.

Three quarters of the community of Oban, on this matter, in the shape of the resigning councillors, have given the chairman a resounding vote of no confidence on behalf of the local community - years down the line, nothing to show for it and potentially £600,000 worse off is no recommendation or mandate for just 'cracking on'.

I believe there are eight councillors for the wider Oban area. I would suggest they 'crack on' with their fellow councillors in being part of the solution to

Match entry fee justified

a problem that if not checked will put all our aspirations for a successful and vibrant Oban at risk.

The phrase 'they just don't get it' is being used to describe the public's anger at the excesses of members of the Westminster Parliament. It appears, at a time when people are losing businesses, their jobs, taking wage cuts and having to live with public sector cuts, that our council and maybe even some of our councillors are promoting extravagant expenditure and 'just don't get it'.

It should be quite clear but maybe worth re-emphasising, wasting public money is no longer affordable and it never was acceptable.

Coll fish farm study required

Sir,
From the drop in session with Marine Harvest on Coll on May 18, it seems Marine Harvest is not planning to conduct an environmental and socio-economic impact study for its proposed Coll salmon farm until the population has decided whether it wants a fish farm on Coll or not.

That seems very daft indeed. If Marine Harvest is serious about having a 2,500 tonne fish farm - so called 'super farm' out here - it needs to get things in the right order.

Although the impact study will doubtless cost several tens of thousands of pounds you cannot ask people to vote on a massive operation like that 'in principle'.

You need to give the people of Coll the results of the study first Marine Harvest. Then they actually have the full facts rather than just flannel and soft sell to form their opinions on. **Peter Isaacson, by email.**

Councillors not consulted on hospital changes

Sir,
David Whiteoak, Locality Manager at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, in his recent letter to 'rectify inaccuracies' has made a number of statements with regard to the changes within our hospital.

The changes within the hospital cannot be considered anything other than major.

Can I state for the record there has not been anyone from the NHS to give any representation to the local area committee on this subject. I do agree with Mr Whiteoak that we, the elected members of the community, insisted on a fact finding meeting to corroborate what was in the press and along with other representatives from various agencies within the community we were 'updated' on the changes in the hospital after the decisions had been taken at a community group meeting.

Whilst there might be Argyll and Bute and community council representation within his merger group, the claim of being 'unanimously endorsed' is incorrect.

There have been many changes in the hospital since it opened and it has survived suggestions of major reductions in its services with proposed shifts to the north and to the south.

As a community we need to know what is happening with what is the most important asset we have.

I acknowledge that and, having personally experienced the life saving expertise of the hospital, I am protective of its staff and facilities.

His suggestion that we 'celebrate' the changes rather than 'criticise' I find distasteful.

The fact is that councillors, including members of the 16 community councils in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, should have been consulted on these changes before implementation. This did not take place and I, for one, wish to be distanced from any 'unanimous endorsements' or 'celebrations'.

Neil Mackay, Councillor, Oban North & Lorn.

Planning advice

Sir,
Anyone waiting for planning permission should not begin work until the permission has been formally granted.

Informal advice provided by council officers on planning matters is not the same as full permission, which can only be granted by the planning committee or senior planning officers under delegated powers.

An article last week implied Development Coll had 'been given a letter of comfort from Argyll and Bute Council's planning department to start work despite awaiting approval'.

It is not our practice to issue these letters, and we have no record of any such letter being sent in this case.

More information on planning applications is available on www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Councillor Daniel Kelly, chairman of Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee.

Stand together against adult film star's visit

Sir,
Your article regarding adult porn star Tanya Tate visiting Oban left me astounded.

Her last tour in Ireland was a great success, according to one website, especially as she slept with a Gaelic footballer and hurling champ and used the publicity to boost her reputation.

Do we want her in our town polluting Oban's reputation?

Thanks to Ken Hunter for exposing this filth. I know that he and a few church leaders in Oban are 'disgusted' this woman is coming to our town - but why stop at being disgusted? Are the churches going to stand on the sidelines 'tut tutting' as this woman swans into town? I would have thought this was an ideal opportunity for the churches in Oban to come together to stand against this mockery and not wait to join any campaign others may initiate.

Remember what it says in scripture: 'We fight not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers' and in spiritual terms, we are going to let them come into our town with a leer on their faces as if to say 'What power do you have to stop me?'

Remember what the apostle Paul says in Ephesians: 'Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, for it is shameful even to mention them'.

One might ask the question 'what is the role of the church in

today's society?' Is it any wonder the church is criticised for lacking any moral guidance and looked at as a powerless institution when all we see is compromise in so many churches today.

The apostle Paul goes on to say: 'Wake up, o sleeper and rise from the dead'. I believe he is saying this to our churches today.

How difficult is it to raise a petition and present it to whatever venue is hosting these meetings and/or our councillors? Surely all the churches could print petition forms for their own congregations and I'm sure the Christian bookshop in town would also keep a petition book for all to sign. It's not just Christians who would be against this - any decent Oban resident who wants a morally upright society would also be aghast at this tarnishing of the town's image.

So let's take a stand together with Ken Hunter for what is right, what is good and what is wholesome and kick this effrontery back to where it belongs.

Dr Stuart Chalmers, North Council.

Harris Ross Texas Scamble thanks

Sir,
On behalf of the organising committee of the Harris Ross Texas Scramble in aid of STAR charity, we would like to thank the main sponsors Korrie Mechanical and Plumbing Ltd. and Lochaber Building Supplies for sponsoring the day.

We would also like to thank Fort William Golf Club and staff for the use of the course and clubhouse, all the players who took part, all the people who gave up their time to help throughout the day and everyone who gave donations for the raffle and auction.

This year we had another successful day, through the generosity of the Lochaber community, raising the grand total of £4,555.

Iain Johnston, Rusty Duncan and Jimmy Ross, organising committee.

Countdown to The Big Lunch

Sir,
With less than two weeks to go until The Big Lunch Scotland, organisers have announced that the number of registered Big Lunches in Scotland this year has increased by a staggering 300 per cent - and the number is increasing every day.

Whilst registrations are booming, the Big Lunch organisers still want even more people across the Highlands to register and get involved.

The Big Lunch is a simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours for a few hours of community, friendship and fun on Sunday June 5.

A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in the garden or on the street, to a full blown street party.

Why not hold a Big Lunch in your neighbourhood? Big or small, it's not too late to get involved! Visit www.thebiglunch.com or call 0845 8508181 for your free starter pack containing everything you need to get your own Big Lunch off the ground!

The Big Lunch.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

RINN A' BHANRIGH AGUS DIÙCH DHÙN ÈIDINN turas eachdraidheil agus soirbheachail gu Poblachd na h-Eireann. Tha iad ri 'm moladh, agus a' Bhanrigh gu sònraichte, airson a cuid ealantaids dioplòmasach agus a cuid obrach.

Gun teagamh, tha i air a bhith ris an dreuchd annasach a th'aice fad faisg air trì fichead bliadhna a-nise agus chan eil neach eile air an t-saoghal aig am bheil umhthir de dh'èolas air a bhith a' dèiligeadh ris a' mhòr-shluagh aig gach ìre gu h-eadar-nàiseanta. Tha deagh luchd-taice is comhairle aice cuideachd is chan aithne dhomh gun do chuir i cas càrr riann na cuid obrach, ged nach gabh an aon rud a ràdh mun duine aice!

Ach tha e annasach gun tug e cho fada dhi tadhal ann am Poblachd na h-Eireann. Bha na trioblaidean ann an Eirinn a Tuath gun teagamh nam bacadh fad ùine mhòr, ach mar a chuala mi fear-naidheachd Eireannach ag ràdh air rèidio, chaidh i dhan Ghearmailt fichead bliadhna an dèidh an Dàrna Cogadh is carson nach d' ràinig i Eirinn roimhe seo? Ach tha fios nach ann aice fhèin a bha an co-dhùnadh sin ri dèanamh agus gu cinnteach, bhiodh iomadach taobh air na h-argamaidean a bhiodh aig luchd-comhairleachaidh is a cuid sàbhailteachd mar phrìomh chuspair.

Ach ràinig i mu dheireadh thall. Tha mi làn chinnteach nach eil mòran a bhios cho mothachail ri the air eachdraidh gnìomhan Bhreatainn feadh an t-saoghail agus tha i eòlach air obrachadh mu thimcheall nan dileaban duilich a dh'fhàg sin ann an iomadh àite. Tha gortean na h-eachdraidh sin fhathast beò ann an Eirinn, ach a rèir coltais, chaidh clàr-siubhail is gnìomh na Banrigh agus briathran na h-òraid a rinn i ann am Baile Atha Cliath an deasachadh chun na h-ìre 's gun tug i leigheas mòr air cùisean agus neartaich i ceanglaichean eadar an dà dhùthaich. Agus mealaibh bhur naidheachd, a Mhòrachd, bhruidhinn sibh beagan fhaclan Gaelige!

Bidh sinn a-nise a' suileachadh gum bi an aon aithne is urram ga thoirt dha Gàidhlig is Cuimris nuair a bhios sibh a' tadhal air tìrean nan cànan sin. Chan eil an ach ainmeachas ach tha e a' dèanamh feum agus chan eil e a' cosg dad a bharrachd!

THE ROYAL visit to the Irish Republic appears to have been a resounding success and the Queen and Prince Philip must be congratulated.

There was of course an enormous amount of careful and detailed planning of the programme against a strained historical background, but over half a century of diplomatic experience ensured that Her Majesty delivered the right messages in the right tone. Media reporting suggests that the vast majority in the country were delighted about the visit and relations between the two countries have been strengthened.

Congratulations Majesty on using some Gaelic in your speech! We will now expect similar recognition of Scottish Gaelic and Welsh when you visit these linguistic communities. It may be tokenistic, but it does help and it costs nothing!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Steps to independence

DESPITE First Minister Alex Salmond's many statements to the contrary, his first steps in his second session as head of the Scottish Government has been to raise the question of the Trident base in Scotland and indicate that, as required by his party's policy, there must be formal moves to ask the British Government to remove it from Scottish soil.

No doubt, his second will be to indicate that an independent Scotland will not become a member of NATO. Did all those who gave him an overwhelming vote of confidence fully appreciate they were casting votes to make Scotland become a stand-alone country in a world which is becoming more and more reliant on groups of countries banding together to protect themselves.

In recent weeks, Mr Salmond has been at pains to allay the fears of the non converts by offering a half-way house to those who agree with what is almost a federal structure, giving a much greater degree of 'independence' on matters of home affairs while clinging to a non-nuclear defence policy and a non-aligned one as far as relations with England, Wales and Northern Ireland are concerned. He may say for the long-time hardliners within the SNP that his interpretation of independence is that Scotland has all the assets required to become a sovereign state without ever detailing how we defend ourselves - will it be with an army, navy and an air-force or will it be the Republic of Ireland style: a couple of gunboats, a fishery protection vessel and a few fast patrol boats? That's just a very basic navy - and don't forget, there will be no 'foreign bases' permitted in this Celtic utopia.

If you were in the Republic of Ireland in the early years of the first SNP government there was a 'boom' and no thought for the morrow. It's always a delightful country to visit in the good times but currently it is a depressed one as there is little in which to see a bright future returning, lots of bankrupt businesses and directors who have lost everything.

Alex Salmond is no fool, as we have seen in his major political successes, and he knows he can make lavish promises to his 'hardliners' who won't expect instant access to perfect utopia, just a semblance of Scottish control of Scottish affairs, backed for a number of years by the rest of the United Kingdom and supporting oil revenue in case he can't get all he is promising before the next General Election.

But who is going to pick up the pieces when things don't go according to his plan.

He needs to look only at the bright prospects there were when Gordon Brown became Britain's Prime Minister and lost the subsequent General Election due to 'being blown off course' by events over which he had little or no control as I forecast when he took office.

Church of Scotland at a crossroads

THE GENERAL Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been meeting this week, conscious that its number of communicants continues to fall.

And it seems to be incapable of solving its problems.

As it finds its pews ever more empty, its clergy ask themselves what they are failing to do to return to the days of big crowds heading to the kirk every Sunday morning and evening. Have we become a God-less society? Is there no room for matters of the Spirit to be considered? Is it the case that we have been swept away in the clutches of secularism?

Undoubtedly, there will be raucous howls from the fundamentalists that it is all the fault of those who have a broader view of what religion means other than the slavish acceptance of how everything in the Bible is interpreted by scholars of differing viewpoints and ability. This clinging to 'the Bible says so, therefore it must be right' is so 'old hat' as it was when there were few who could read or dispute with confidence. This was the hey-day of 'blind faith' and was the simplest form of faith but also the most dangerous as non-acceptance of the prevailing view could lead to execution for even just saying: 'I don't think that's right'.

This year's big topic at the Assembly is undoubtedly 'Can homosexuals be ordained as ministers?' Some years ago, after a rowdy debate, it was agreed, for a limited time, to allow a practicing homosexual to be ordained and live in the manse of the parish for which he had been appointed. The crunch comes this week when a report by a number of clergy and laity who have studied the subject is put forward.

There is no unanimity on this committee and there most certainly will be none among the members of the Assembly. All there will be is a shouting match between the fundamentalists who will threaten to leave and the progressives who will want to allow gay ministers and their partners to play their full part in the life of the church - and, good luck to them!

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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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.

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BOOK REVIEW

BOLD AND BRAVE MEN AND THEIR FLYING MACHINES
Leslie Symons
Fascinating history explores and illuminates the interdependent worlds of aviation and mountain rescue. A new book, being published later this month, is the first to examine the co-development of mountain rescue and aviation. Covering the period from the 18th Century right up to the present day, Leslie Symons' book is a fascinating insight into the brave and bold designers, the heroic rescuers and engineers who have developed the craft and the skills needed to cope with the worst of scenarios in the harshest of conditions.

THE BRIDESMAIDS BOOK - ETIQUETTE, PARTIES, AND BEING FABULOUS
Kate Chynoweth, Neryl Walker
They don't call them maids for nothing. Being a fabulous bridesmaid calls for much more than throwing on the dress and throwing back a few drinks. Enter The Bridesmaid Guide, a hip and informative book on being the best best-woman a woman can be. With good humour and plenty of tips this book covers everything the bridesmaids and maid of honour need to know.

GAIAM REAL GOODS SOLAR LIVING SOURCEBOOK: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING
John Schaeffer, Doug Pratt

Do you want to harvest sunlight, wind or falling water to power your home? Or sell that renewable energy back to your utility company? Are you looking to build your dream eco-home? Or to convert to biodiesel and minimize your fossil fuel use? This fully updated classic of sustainable living technology tells how and gives you access to the world's most extensive selection of hardware to make it all happen.

Seabird sculpture flies off with prize

A KILCHRENAN artist's slate sculpture has won a prestigious competition through the Paisley Art Institute. John McLaughlin was awarded the Beltane Studios Foundry Award by Professor Ken Howard OBE at the institute's 123rd annual exhibition for his metre-high slate sculpture of 'Shag (Seabird)'. The 35-year-old only moved onto slate and stonework a year ago and is better known locally for his wooden sculptures. John said he was delighted to have won the award, adding that it should help his career. 'To get into this competition your work has to go through a screening process and sometimes they don't let it in. It is a



Artist John McLaughlin. John creates his stone sculptures

using a diamond blade angle grinder and chisels and his talent has more benefits than just making sculptures. 'I have just finished doing a conservatory for my mother,' he admitted. John has already exhibited for a number of years in the We are Macmillan Cancer Support exhibition in Glasgow and will be exhibiting again on June 5 in The Lemond Gallery, Bearsden. He has also exhibited at the Ardfern Arts Festival. He said: 'With the recognition I have received from the institute, I now have a foot in the door at larger galleries. As soon as you win something like this, the galleries seem to be more interested in you.'

Minister unveils group's efforts

AN EXHIBITION by Lochaber Art Club members was officially opened by Church of Scotland minister the Rev Norman MacQuarrie at Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William on Friday evening. Dozens of pieces in all mediums - watercolour, oil, pastel and batik - went on display, with local landscapes, still life and wildlife prominent among the colourful array of paintings. Sculptures fashioned from wood and metal also stand in the upstairs exhibition space, which has been turned into an art gallery for a fortnight. One, Daisy Carver's creation 'Nature Spirits - Little People', has international credentials. The professional artist, 30, splits her year between her home at Torlundy and Goa, in India, where she organises events designed to encourage sustainable living using local materials. Her sculpture was created from Hungarian wood and iron pilfered from Fort William recycling centre. 'I fight with them at the yard every time I want some metal,' Daisy told *The Oban Times*. 'They say it belongs to Highland Council, but I say I'm recycling it.' The Rev MacQuarrie was 'delighted' to open the exhibition and his witty speech was well re-



Daisy Carver's sculpture 'Nature Spirits - Little People' was created from Hungarian wood and recycled metal. 20_121ar101

but added the club, which has been going for 35 years, would warmly welcome new members. 'We bring in professional tutors from across Scotland to lead our workshops all over Lochaber,' she said. 'This exhibition is the culmination of our work.' The artworks are on display in the distillery until June 4. For anyone interested in finding out more about the club, visit www.lochaberartclub.com.



Sheila, front centre, with fellow founding members Bill Gray, Stephen Hunter, Marion MacCallum and Mary Stirling during Friday's celebration. 15_121macr11

Corran Singers founder steps down

MEMBERS of the Mid Argyll Corran Singers and Fort William's Kilmallie Singers met half way at Connel's Oyster Inn on Friday to pay tribute to Sheila McCallum, who is retiring after 30 years. Sheila is one of the founding members of the much-celebrated Corran Singers, who have worked with the Kilmallie Singers since May 1991.

Despite still enjoying everything singing with the Corran Singers offers since forming it in September 1981, she decided to call it a day and spend more time with husband Iain. **Friendships** Sheila, who also organises the Mid Argyll Music Festival, said: 'I will miss it but 30 years is a long time! I certainly will miss the friendships, as well as the music. We're like a big family. Everyone keeps saying I'm retiring. I retired from teaching in 1996. I'm simply stepping aside and hopefully that will allow some fresh talent to come in.' Sheila's last performance with the Corran and Kilmallie Singers will be at Ardrishaig Hall this Sunday at their annual spring concert, from 3pm.

Local duo line up alongside top stars

Lochaber teenagers Caitlin Laybourne and Paul Barnes took the stage alongside internationally renowned artists to perform the musical theatre piece *The Soldier's Tale* in Genuig Hall at the recent Loch Shiel Spring Festival. Caitlin, second right, from Strontian, played the Princess and Paul, second left, from Glenfinnan, played the soldier. The play, by Russian composer Igor Stravinsky and Swiss writer C-F Ramuz, was arranged by Irish composer and musician Geoffrey Hannan. 20_121fest01



Take a trip to...

Arran

The beautiful island of Arran is arguably one of the most stunning places in the world. With its remarkably diverse landscape of rugged mountains, rolling green fields and stunning coastline, the island is affectionately known as Scotland in Miniature.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Regular daily 'shuttle' sailings from Ardrossan - approx 1hr crossing - costing approx £80 for car and 2 passengers on 5-day 'Saver' ticket. Booking is advisable.

Alternatively, there is smaller, shorter crossing (approx 30 minutes) from the Kintyre coast at Claonaig, just south of Tarbert. This service has a regular timetable over the summer months. Cost - Approx £60 for car and 2 passengers on 5-day 'Saver' ticket.

Further information:
Holiday Arran magazine
The Arran Banner weekly newspaper
www.calmac.co.uk



Only one hour's sail from the Ayrshire port of Ardrossan - or a 30 minute 'hop' across from Claonaig on Argyll's Kintyre peninsula, Arran is nothing if not easily accessible. With its unique character and ease of travel making it one of the most popular of Scotland's many 'short stay' island destinations. Whether you want to get away from the bustle of city life, enjoy an exciting action-packed break or just uncover the island's hidden delights, Arran really does have something for everyone. Arran's ancient past has helped to shape the island that you see before you today. The history of human occupation on Arran can be traced as far back as the Neolithic period between 4,500BC and 2,000BC. These people were farmers and traces of their field systems can be found on the island. But their most distinct legacy is in the form of stone circles, standing stones and cairns and the most dramatic of these can be seen at Machrie Moor where there are six stone circles all within a short distance of each other. Much of the landscape and social structure of modern day Arran was shaped by what were known as the Clearances of the late 1700s and early 1800s. In keeping with much of the Highlands, Arran landowners decided that

farms could be made more profitable with newer farming methods. Today's Arran landscape has been shaped by these farmers, their sheep, and since the middle of the last century, the Forestry Commission. Scattered throughout Arran's rugged landscape are villages ranging in size from the big settlements of Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay to smaller more rural hamlets like Kilmory and Lochranza. With its long sandy beach sweeping up towards Goat Fell and the impressive seat of the castle, the bay of Brodick is one of the most stunning in Scotland. The modern village of Brodick, situated on the east coast, has grown and expanded over the years and has long been regarded as a popular holiday destination. Brodick is the largest village on the island with shops, banks, post office as well as stunning views. Lamlash sits in a sheltered bay protected from the elements by Holy Isle, which rises 1,000ft out of the sea. There was a time when Lamlash vied with Brodick to be the main port on the island. The natural harbour is still a haven for boat users, water sports enthusiasts and fishermen alike. This love of sailing is clear to see when walking along the shore in Lamlash as hundreds of boats can be seen moored in the bay and on a sunny day the harbour becomes a hive of activity. Last year part of the bay became Scotland's first community marine conservation area, focusing on the regeneration of scallops. Overlooking the Ayrshire coast and southern tip of Scotland is one of Arran's biggest villages, Whiting Bay. The village as it is today began to take shape at the end of the 18th century with the construction of the pier and the expansion of businesses and the tourist trade. The opening of the golf course, tennis courts and Bowling Green made Whiting Bay a magnet for tourists. Whiting Bay beach with its mixture of pebbles, rock pools and sand is an exciting play area for any child. The village has all the usual services you would expect in a place that size; grocery stores, a chemist, newsagents, craft shops, and post office as well as art galleries, restraints, a pub and hotels. Whiting Bay is a bustling village but it also has quiet corners perfect for those who like a bit of peace and quiet after a busy day of sightseeing. Hidden at the bottom of the Boguille Hill is arguably one of the island's most beautiful villages. Lochranza is surrounded on three sides by high imposing mountains that look down upon a 13th

century castle ruined in the village of Brodick. The most northerly of Arran's villages, Lochranza is in the northwest corner about 14 miles from Brodick. The summer sunshine, beautiful blue sky, bright yellow gorse in flower and the crystal clear reflection of the majestic castle in the tranquil sea below will be etched in your memory forever. In 1995 the Isle of Arran Distillery opened in Lochranza and since then it has become one of the island's most popular visitor attractions. The CalMac car ferry link with Kintyre leaves from Lochranza with hourly sailings throughout the summer offering the perfect opportunity to continue north through Argyll and the rest of Scotland. The west coast of Arran is dotted with beautiful small villages but none are quite as attractive as the little fishing port of Blackwaterfoot that is nestled around a pretty bay with a tiny harbour. Blackwaterfoot beach deserves a special mention. Stretching for miles below the golf course, it draws people from all over the island whatever the weather or time of year. And, of course, the sunsets can be spectacular! There are several hotels and pubs in the village as well as shops a post office and a petrol station. In recent years the Isle of Arran has garnered a reputation for its good fresh local food not only produced here but also used by local restaurants in their cooking. With its sheltered position on the west coast of Scotland, Arran is ideally suited to produce some of the country's finest food. Pheasant, venison, and grouse as well as Arran lamb and beef are produced to sit nicely on the plate next to the famous Arran potato. The warmth from the Gulf Stream means juicy strawberries and raspberries grow abundantly during the summer months and fish stocks of salmon, cod, herring and shell fish make Arran a gourmet's delight. The Isle of Arran Taste Trail celebrates all the food that the island produces and uses. You can follow it across the island from the cheese production in Brodick to the finished products on a plate in the Brodick Bar. The Isle of Arran is one of the best places in Scotland to experience outdoor activities. With its rugged mountains, sheltered coastline, lush forests and green fields, the island is a wonderful natural adventure playground. Here there is an opportunity to try something new and exciting - sea kayaking, sailing, abseiling and gorge walking to name just a few. With its rolling hills, a dense forests and rocky coastline Arran is a haven

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'Conversations' comes to Craignish

CRAIGNISH Youth Group will this Saturday host the launch of an exhibition illustrating communication between deaf young people from Glasgow and Syria.

The exhibition, entitled Conversations, will run until June 11 in Craignish Village Hall.

The launch event will be introduced by some of the young deaf people from Glasgow and will be followed by a buffet supper and ceilidh.

The event is free but adults are encouraged to make a donation.

For more information contact Rachel Rogers on 07796 196532 or email rachel@alchemyscotland.com.

Glasgow Phoenix Choir tours Oban, Mull and Iona

GLASGOW Phoenix Choir will this month tour Oban, Mull and Iona as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Considered one of the UK's finest choirs, it has raised more than £1.5million for charity over its lifetime.

The first performance of the tour will be at Oban's St John's Cathedral on Friday May 27 at 7.30pm.

They will then travel to Mull the following day, and can first be seen at an open rehearsal at the Mull Theatre from 3pm, before singing at Salen Church at 7.30pm.

The final show of the tour will be at Iona Abbey on May 29, from 2.30pm.



Eileen Kirkpatrick receives her Best in Show award from Judge Duncan Travers during Saturday's Rhododendron show. 15.121rhed1

Eileen leads the way with 'perfect bloom'

DESPITE an early bloom and the subsequent poor weather, the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's Rhododendron Show enjoyed a thriving entry.

Judge for the day was Duncan Travers, head gardener at Tobermory Castle, and he had no hesitation in awarding the best in show award to Eileen Kirkpatrick.

He told her: 'I don't normally go for blood red but it's such a perfect bloom.'

Entries were slightly down on last year, due to the weather, but president of the society, Jim Kirkpatrick, was delighted with the turnout and the special display arranged by Achnaoloch Gardens.

Results: Rhododendron Colour

Classes: Three Rhds Red: 1 Mrs E Kirkpatrick, 2 Crawford - McPhee, 3 John Watson;

Three Rhds White or Cream: 1 Dunach Estate; Three Rhds Pink: 1 Sylvia Potter, 2 Crawford - McPhee, 3 Andy McDowall; Three Rhds Mauve or Lavender: 1 Joey MacDougall, 2 Mrs E Kirkpatrick, 3 Crawford - McPhee; Three Rhds Mixed: 1 Ardchnell House, 2 Ardchnell House, 3 Ardchnell House; Three Rhds red or Pink: 1 Mary Lamont, 2 Maimi Morrison; Three Rhds Mixed: Ardchnell House.

Rhododendron Species Named: Any species, one truss: 1 M MacIntyre, 2 Sandra Grieve, 3 Sandra Grieve.

Any species Trifolium series: Ardchnell House.

Rhododendron Hybrids Named: Any hybrid, one truss: 1 John Watson, 2 Julie Lockhart, 3 Dunach Estate.

Azaleas: One spray, hybrid or species: 1 Andy McDowall, 2 Tiggy MacDonald, 3 Ardchnell House; Three sprays: 1 Ronnie McKillop, 2 Tiggy MacDonald, 3 Ardchnell House; One Spray: 1 Ardchnell House, 2 Andy McDowall, 3 Andy McDowall.

Shrubs: Collection, flowering/foilage: 1 Fiona Morrison, 2 Maimi Morrison, 3 Crawford - McPhee.

Greenhouse and House Plants: Cactus: 1 Andy McDowall, 2 Andy McDowall, 3 Andy McDowall.

Misc: Basket of Flowers: Fiona Morrison. Best Exhibit in the Show: Mrs E Kirkpatrick. Most Points in the Show: Ardchnell House.

Crinan Gallery hosts top annual exhibition

AN ANNUAL exhibition at the Crinan Gallery, housed within the Crinan Hotel, will give local people the chance to see work by some of Scotland's foremost artists.

It is the sixth time the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts (RGI) has shown at Crinan Gallery.

It also doubles as a fundraiser for

the RGI, which is a registered charity, and on average raises £7,000 each year, mainly from painting.

In addition to the RGI show in Gallery 1 in the hotel, work by invited local artists and some of the prizewinners from the annual RGI show at the Mitchell, in Glasgow, will go on view in Gallery 11, in the

coffee shop. To celebrate the event, on Saturday, June 4, there is a private view and on the Sunday June 5, George Devlin, convener of the RGI is giving a painting demonstration in the Gallery Studio followed by a private view. Students from Lochgilphead Joint campus who are studying higher art are coming along to the demonstration. There will also be a special lunch, which will be attended by RGI president Gordon MacPherson. Also this year, a special prize at the RGI show in the autumn will offer the winner the chance to stay for a week at Crinan with the use of Gallery 1 for an exhibition of their work in the coming year.

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May 29th 2011 at 12 noon
Rev Dr Kenneth R. Ross
Leading morning worship in Arduaine Garden
Followed by National Trust's Garden's "The Big Picnic"

All collection at the Service to Garden's Fund
Please join us. Everyone most welcome
Bring your own Picnic and Chair - Tel 01852 200565
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Starting Saturday 21 May
until Saturday 4th June
Excluding Sundays
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Local Producers Market
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Thursday 26 May > Markie Dans	PETER JAGGER @ 9.30PM
Friday 27 May > Markie Dans	WONDERLAND @ 9.30PM
Saturday 28 May > Markie Dans	JON MACKENZIE @ 9.30PM
Thursday 2 June > Markie Dans	CHRIS SUCKLE @ 9.30PM
Friday 3 June > Markie Dans	CHRIS SUCKLE @ 9.30PM
Saturday 11 June > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Chunks + DJ's 11pm-2am, £6 entry

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Taynuilt are quiz champions

TAYNUILT Primary School triumphed at this year's Oban Rotary Club Primary Schools' Quiz, pipping Park primary to the post.

Six local schools participated in this year's event, with teams from Achaleven, Dunbeg, Lochnell and Rockfield joining the top two teams. Topics included Scotland, food and drink, famous people and national flags.

After being presented with the Primary Schools' Quiz Quaich, the winning P7 pupils learned they will now represent Oban at the Rotary District Quiz Final, to be held in Glasgow next month.

There, they will face around 20 other P7 teams from throughout the Rotary district, from Lochaber to Stranraer.



The winning Taynuilt pupils - Alex Houston, Breagha Charlton, Roanne Lilley and Sorley MacNally.

Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Human Tolerance

One aspect of human nature that never ceases to amaze me is the variable level of tolerance patients display when faced with poor vision or painful eye conditions. Some patients are literally knocking at my door complaining about the quality of their vision when it has reduced very slightly. On the other extreme I regularly see patients who have lost the sight of one eye, have not noticed any loss and are not inconvenienced at all.

When it comes to diseases of the eye a similar situation frequently occurs. One of the most frequent conditions I come across is when patients have an infection of the eyelids. This is a condition called blepharitis. It comes in two guises, one associated with skin problems around the eyelids and the other due to problems with glands contained within the eyelids. In both cases the eyelids become inflamed and crusty. I probably come across this condition at least once per day. Frequently patients have no idea they have a problem.

Blepharitis is a seemingly trivial condition that can have significant effects on your eyes. It tends to be a chronic condition that can eventually lead to loss of eyelashes and distortion of the eyelids. Your eyelashes are an essential part of the natural defences of your eyes. They help prevent dust and debris contacting your cornea. If your cornea become damaged your vision can be dramatically reduced, hence the importance of treating a seemingly trivial problem.

Treatment involves dealing with the crusting around the eyelashes and the regular application of antibiotic eye drops. This seemingly trivial condition can take several months to be brought under control. If you suffer from persistent crusting and reddening of your eyelids you should consult your local optometrist who has the expertise to manage blepharitis and the equipment to monitor progress.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Horticultural Show
Plant Sale
Saturday 28th May, Victoria Hall,
Benderloch, 2.00pm
Admission, Adults £1.50, Children £1.00

Argyll Youth Theatre presents
THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ
3rd & 4th June at 7.30pm
Corran Halls
Tickets £6 and £4
Sponsored by West Highland Housing Association - Oban & Lorn Lions - MacQueen's Charitable Trust

Dining out

Ban-Diuc

Ban-Diuc originates from the Gaelic language meaning 'Wife of Duke'. The 8th Duke of Argyll built the building for his loving wife and the building is filled with so much passion and beauty it could be compared to the wondrous Taj Mahal in India!

Originally, housing a Library upstairs and a tearoom on the ground floor, Ban-Diuc now serves some of the finest cuisine in the United Kingdom. Recently opened as an Indian Restaurant it offers good quality food, beautifully presented, with exceptional service. We have a traditional charcoal tandoori oven and our delicious menu is filled with culinary delights for everyone.

Open 7 days a week for Lunch, Dinner and Light Snacks. Special Set Menu served 12-2pm for just £6.95.

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SATURDAY 28th MAY
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Lynn's five minutes of fame

A WOMAN from Islay will be part of a 24-hour drama extravaganza as part of birthday celebrations for the National Theatre of Scotland.

Lynn Stuart, of Bowmore, has written and performs in the play, OMC! Cò Tha Sin? - OMG! Who Is That? - one of 235 plays which will be streamed live on the STV website.

The broadcast will take place from 5pm on Tuesday June 21 until 5pm the following day.

National Theatre of Scotland's Five Minute Theatre project will feature more than 1,000 performers in 11 countries. Of the 235 successful entries, 202 will be performed in Scotland, 13 across the rest of the UK, four in Europe and 16 across the rest of the world.

Those selected include poets, primary school pupils and filmmakers; families, community groups and teenagers; visual artists, carers, professional theatre-makers and expectant mothers.

They will take part in five minute theatre pieces.

There are no set skills or qualifications required other than a good idea, dramatic flair and some bravery.

Further information and updates can be found at www.fiveminutetheatre.com.

Follow the yellow brick road to Oban

WE'RE off to see the wizard...thanks to Argyll Youth Theatre.

The group will perform The Wonderful Wizard of Oz at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Friday June 3 and Saturday June 4, curtain up 7.30pm.

Ken Harrower, who has recently joined the group, takes charge of the music, presenting all the show's well known tunes.

Officials say the play promises to be a fun night out for all the family and will feature a few surprises.

Tickets are available priced £6 for adults and £4 concessions.

Parent council soup lunch

OBAN High School parent council soup lunch will be held this Saturday, May 28 from noon until 2pm in Connel Church Hall.

All welcome.

Pipe band takes Scottish national title

Musicians make the grade despite appalling conditions

OBAN Pipe Band have picked up the Scottish Championship title for their grade in only their second competition after a four year hiatus.

Fresh from taking first place in Grade 3 at Gourrock Highland Games, the band picked up the top prize in Grade 3A at the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association's Scottish Championships, held in Dumbarton on Saturday.

However, the band had to triumph over adversity at the outdoor competition, having to play through driving rain in what Pipe Major Euan Dewar described as the worst he's ever played in.

He said: 'We were playing in Levensgrove Park in Dumbarton and the weather was terrible. It was wet from 11am onwards - constant rain, certainly the worst I've ever seen at the championships.'

'Where we were the wind was just hitting us off the Clyde, so it was not easy.'

REPORT
By STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

'It could so easily have fallen apart but the guys held it together really well.'

However difficult it was to play through the weather, the Oban band still beat their nearest competitors by ten points.

The rain did take its toll though. 'Our drone tuner did stop working in the rain,' Euan said.

'Unfortunately, the march past had to be cancelled and the awards had to be presented in a tent because of the rain.'

'That meant only myself and our lead drummer, Bobbie Davy, could receive the award at the presentation, but the bus was a happy place afterwards.'

'This year it was supposed to just be about getting out and taking part in competitions again. We've certainly exceeded our

expectations so far.'

The band are now hoping to repeat their early success at Shotts Highland Games on June 4, before heading to Annan for the British Pipe Band Championships on June 25.

After that, they aim to take on the globe at the World Championships in August.

Also competing at the Scottish Championships were the Oban High School Pipe Band juveniles, who fared well despite the trying conditions to finish joint fifth, while the novices finished 16th in their category.

Euan said: 'For the juveniles, that's their first major championships.'

'It's hard enough with the weather being as bad as it was, but also being their first championships.'

'They didn't win anything but they did really well and they've gained really good experience for the future.'

Argyll Collection back at Inveraray

A COLLECTION of more than 70 prestigious artworks is currently being housed in Inveraray Castle.

The Argyll Collection was unveiled to the public last Wednesday, and will be on show until May 31. The collection was originally established by Jim Tyre and Naomi Mitchison between 1970 and 1990.

It was created as a learning resource in schools for the young people of Argyll and Bute but over the years the collection was distributed across the area.

Thanks to funding from the

Heritage Lottery Funding and Argyll and Bute Council's Creative Arts in Schools Team (CAST), the collection has now been brought together.

The works of art have been restored, reframed and digitised so they are suitable for distribution to secondary schools, and used as originally intended.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, His Grace The Duke of Argyll, said: 'The castle is not just about history but it's also about education so it's wonderful to be able to house the Argyll Collection here.'

The full collection consists of 172 pieces including paintings, sculptures, textiles, ceramics as well as artworks created in many other forms. It is a snapshot of late 20th century Scottish art.

At the opening event, the Adopt Art Scheme was also launched.

Project co-ordinator Alicia Hendrick explained: 'A small number of the works are in need of conservation before they can be exhibited. This scheme invites members of the public to adopt an artwork by paying for the conservation and reframing of these works.'

Bach Choir and Orchestra welcome special guests



Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra welcomed special guests and a large audience to its recent spring concert in St John's Cathedral. The concert, held on May 14, marked the tercentenary of the birth of composer William Boyce and featured guest vocalists Louise Childs, soprano, Brynne McLeod, alto, and Raoni de Barros, tenor. The choir and orchestra were under the baton of Norman Nicholson.



The prizewinning Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group.

It's no dream as group takes top prize

ARGYLL RDA Carriage Driving Group has once again taken the top prize at a regional story-to-music event at Ayr Equestrian Centre.

The group was awarded the Younger Cup for their innovative take on 'Cinderella's Dream' created by Vivienne Price.

Full marks were awarded for the expert carriage handling of Jan Whitehead, driving Bramble, and Cinderella was beautifully

played by Yasmin Murray, another of the group's carriage drivers.

Drivers from the group will be competing today (Thursday) in the first ever RDA Dressage and Cones Class at the Hopeton BHDTA event, near Edinburgh.

This event includes competitors driving singles, pairs, tandems and teams of ponies and horses.

This will be the RDA Drivers' first experi-

ence of a national driving event, with horses and ponies from all over the UK.

The group practice at Benderloch every Monday and Wednesday.

New drivers and helpers are always welcome and anyone interested should contact Jane Isaac on 0845 2411376.

Donations to help the group continue this valuable work are always very much appreciated.

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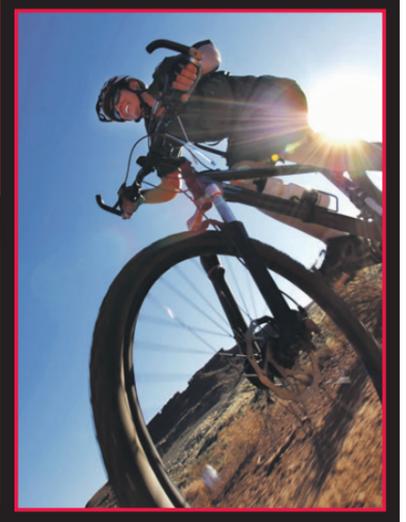
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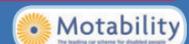
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Bullocks sell to 192p at Dingwall and Highland Marts sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 74 prime cattle at its Dingwall sale last week, where prime bullocks averaged 178.6p and sold to 192p per kilo. Prime heifers averaged 181.6p and sold to 188p per kilo. Sheep were also on the bill at Dingwall, with 228 prime sheep sold. New season lambs averaged 268.1p and sold to 284p per kilo, while old season lambs averaged 250.6p (+17.1p) and sold to 273.9p per kilo.

MART PRICES

STIRLING

United Auctions

Bullocks: Up to 250kg East Cauldcoats £460, Debog 191.1p; 251-300kgs Kilmichael £590, 203.4p; 301-350kgs Glenrath £695, 210.4p; 351-400kgs Glenrath £800, Hazleyshaw 205.1p; 401-450kg Glenrath £840, 206.9p; 451-500kgs Castle £860, Bordland 179.5p; 501-550kgs Castle £900, 179.3p; 551-600kgs Castle £880, 158.8p; 601-650kgs Hillview £995, 163.7p. Heifers: Up to 250kgs Sketewan £480, 196.7p; 251-300kgs Catslackburn £570 194.5p; 301-350kgs Eastside £620, Glenrath 183.1p; 351-400kgs Chapelton £770, 196.1p; 401-450kgs Stoopshill £830, 185.9p; 451-500kgs Sketewan £830, 183.6p; 501-550kgs Mid Auchencarroch £900, Stoopshill 174.3p; 551-550kgs Invervack £910, 161.3p; 601-650kgs Invervack £800, 132.5p.

UNITED Auctions sold 1,445 prime sheep, including 183 spring lambs averaging 260.9p/£117.21 (+0.06p) 1,445 hogs averaging 223.49p/kg (-17.2p) and 553 ewes and rams.

Contact the newsdesk on 01631 568000

Bob's 60 years of travelling to marts

SEVENTY-eight-year-old Bob Love is celebrating a remarkable feat in West Highland farming - 60 years travelling to the markets of the Western Isles.

It was back in 1951 that he first went out to Barra to a mart and he was back there yet again only a few weeks ago.

And in that time, Mr Love, who now spends his time between a cottage in the Kintyre village of Southend and his farm, Ballygown, by Oban, has seen remarkable changes in agriculture.

'There wasn't a sheep on the islands back then, now there are thousands of them,' he said. Today he and his wife Anne live at Aucharua Cottage, Southend, on the farm of David and Elizabeth Barbour, their daughter, and grandchildren Ruari and Emma, but as Mr Love says, he still 'keeps an eye' on Ballygown which he still helps to run.

In 1951 he was buying cattle for £20 to £25 a head; today the price is nearer £500 to 600.

'And to move and sell a beast cost £1, today it's £60 to 70!' he said and added that the quality of the animals today is far higher than it was back then.

'And the only paperwork was when I wrote it down in my book!'

The way the livestock is transported today is also a world away from what it was 60 years ago, for animals and farmers. Both men

and beasts walked most of the way back then.

'Before the causeways were built at Benbecula you waited until the tide was right and for a guide, then you walked across,' said Mr Love.

'First you took your shoes and socks off, then you put your coat on. Then you took your trousers off and tied them around your neck to keep them dry.' Or you made sure you bought a pony and that too came back on the boat to Oban to be sold.

There was no comfortable roll-on-roll-off ferry; MacBrayne's ran cattle boats and the animals had to be hoisted aboard, the lifting crate having to be manhandled on both the shore and boat. It was a long, hard, physical job.

'It could take hours,' said Mr Love.

And once underway the farmers had to snatch sleep in the corridors of the vessel, hopefully managing to get a piece of coconut matting to soften the floor.

'Today they are all moved by lorry, four-deck ones with comfortable cabs for the drivers that they can even sleep in.'

But they were also good times and great friendships were forged.

'I've seen them drink the boat dry on occasion!' said Mr Love.

The Love family first came to Ballygown from Stirlingshire in 1944; Mr Love left school early at



Bob and Anne Love. 12_c21bob01

13 to help on the farm and went on to run the farm with his widowed mother and brothers.

He was the last chairman of the old Oban mart, which used to be where Tesco now stands in the town and he was probably the last person to walk cattle to market in Oban; he also served

as a director of United Auctions.

Throughout the years he has visited all the marts on the Inner and Outer Hebrides and this summer he and Anne are planning a trip to visit the islands and see all the places where there used to be marts, many of them now long gone.

Keen demand at Luining cattle show and sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 59 pedigree and commercial Luining cattle at their third annual spring breeding sale and show in Dingwall last week, where a good show for quality met an extremely keen demand and were short of requirement.

Pedigree bulling heifers averaged £1,343.39 and sold to 1750gns (£1,837.50) for a pair of 25 month old heifers from Messrs A L & A C McCall, Culmailly Farm, Golspie, to the judge, Mr Philip Simmers, Backmuir Trading Ltd, Keith. Commercial bulling heifers averaged £934.50 and sold to 1020gns (£1,071) for a 24 month old Luining cross from Mr G Towns, Easdale, Turriff, to Backmuir Trading Ltd.

Bulls sold to 2800gns for a 24 month old from Welbeck Scottish Farms Ltd, Ousdale, Berriedale, to Messrs J & K Mackenzie, 24 Borve, Isle of Skye.

Show results: Pair of bulling heifers: 1st Messrs A L & A C McCall, Culmailly, 1750gns; 2nd Mr M J McCall, Kilbrora, 1700gns.

Pair of yearling heifers: 1st Cadzow Brothers Ltd, Luining, 1000gns. The show and sale was sponsored by W & A Geddes and Harbro Ltd.

Record price paid for pen of mule ewe hogs

UNITED Auctions sold 823 store cattle, 223 cows and 5151 store sheep at its Stirling sale last week, with a consignment of 418 mule ewe hogs from D Loudon, Little Drumquharn, selling to a centre record price of £139 for a pen of 25, purchased by D Sharp, Upper Inverichnie.

The Blackface section was topped by Wood & Hunter, Dalchirla with a pen of 20 selling to £460 per head purchased by E MacMillan, Lurg.

Mule and Texel ewe hogs with twins were both topped by Mr Hamilton, Allanton at £213 per head.

Mule ewe hogs with SuffX single lambs £186 from Easter Buckleyvie and Mule ewe hogs and TexX single lambs £213 from Allanton.

Bullocks averaged 178.18p (-5.70p) to 210.4p per kilo, while heifers averaged 175.78p (-1.31p) to 196.7p per kilo.

Cast Cows averaged 121.21p to 158.9p per kilo and Forward Cattle averaged 147.54p to 160.8p per kilo.

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Streamlined process for fish farm plans

ARGYLL and Bute Council has been working with the Shetland Isles, Orkney, Western Isles and Highland Council to streamline the planning process for aquaculture applications.

The revisions will see online applications introduced, as well as a standardised application form that can be used Scotland-wide. Representatives of the five local

authorities met in Shetland this month to discuss the improvements, which come under the Scottish Government's Deliver Planning Reform for Aquaculture (DPRFA) scheme.

DPRFA aims to fine tune the planning process to aid the sustainable economic growth of the salmon and mussel farming sectors. Through the combined efforts of the local authorities

to address the application and decision-making processes, the aquaculture industry and the Scottish Government have both acknowledged that the planning system in Scotland actively supports economic growth.

Iain McDiarmid, the chair of planning for the Shetland Isles who chaired the recent meeting of the authorities, said: 'The aquaculture industry

makes a major contribution to the economy and provides vital employment in rural and remote areas. By streamlining the planning process we hope to encourage further investment and create more local jobs.'

'We will continue to collaborate with the other four local authorities through annual meetings to further improve planning processes.'

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PERSONALS

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BIRTHS

MACDONALD - Angus and Jacqui (Turner) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Amy Louise, on Thursday May 12, 2011, in Sydney, Australia. A wee sister for Stuart, and a granddaughter for Archie and Janet, Tobermory, and Beverley Turner, Sydney.

DEATHS

BANNATYNE - Peacefully at the Accord Hospice, Paisley on May 18, 2011, Jessie Wylie Bannatyne, in her 86th year, 8 Ardminish, Isle of Gigha, dearly beloved sister of the late May, Neil and Margaret and a much loved aunt and great aunt to all the family. Service in Gigha Church on Friday, May 27, 2011 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilchattan Cemetery, Gigha. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Accord Hospice, Paisley.

BROWN - Peacefully on May 23, 2011, aged 85 years, Rebecca, beloved wife of the late Ian Brown, much loved mum of Elizabeth and the late Christine and a loving gran and great-gran. Loved always.

COX - Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire on May 22, 2011 after a short illness, Cyril in his 91st year. Beloved husband of the late Peggy Cox, loving dad of Duncan and great friend to many. Funeral will take place on Tuesday May 31 at 1.15pm at St John's Church, Onthank, Kilmarnock, thereafter to Holmsford Bridge Crematorium by Dregthorn for 2.00pm. Family flowers only please. There will be a retiral collection for various charities.

HENDERSON - Peacefully at Wishaw General Hospital on Friday 20th May 2011 in her 87th year Jeanette, dearly beloved wife of WM Arthur Henderson and a dear sister of Anne and Alda. Funeral service to which all family and friends are respectfully invited will be held at Holytown Crematorium on Friday 27, May at 11.15am. No flowers please.

HENDRY - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on May 24, 2011, in his 71st year, Calvin, beloved partner to Glennis, father to Calvin, father-in-law to Louise and grandad to Jack and Oliver. Funeral service to be held at Dalavich Church on Wednesday June 1, at 1.00 pm. Flowers or donations for Macmillan Nurses. By his own request, NO BLACK to be worn.

MACFARLANE - Peacefully on Monday May 23, 2011 at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, Mairead MacFarlane, aged 59 years of Taigh Na Croit, Airds, Taynuilt, much loved wife of Donald, adored mother of Kirsteen and the late Euan, treasured gaga of Eilidh, Katie and Struan. Service today (Thursday) 26 May 2011 at 1.30pm in the Royal Northern Infirmary Chapel, Ness Walk, Inverness, thereafter to Tomnahurich Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Highland Hospice, may be given at the service or forwarded to the funeral directors, John Fraser & Son, 17 - 29 Chapel Street, Inverness, IV1 1NA.

MCGLYNN - Peacefully after a short illness, borne bravely, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, with her family by her side, on May 20, 2011, Cathie McGlynn, nee Gillies, aged 77 years, of Tigh A' Chiuil, Wilson Road, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of Fraser and much loved mother of Kevin, Fraser and Ryan; adored grandmother of Ewen, Shannon, Erin and Niamh; much respected mother-in-law of Fiona, Judith and Stephanie. A dear sister to Buddy and the late Ishy and Rae, and cherished aunt, great aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Greatly missed by all family and friends. Funeral Service will be held in Tarbert Parish Church, on Friday, May 27, 2011, at 1.00pm, followed by interment at Carrick Cemetery, Tarbert. Family flowers only, donations to Glenary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital. All family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

PRICE - Mary Cameron Price (nee MacQuarrie) mother of Elizabeth and sister to Neil died peacefully in Sunbury-on-Thames on May 16, 2011. Committal in

Tobermory Top Cemetery on Wednesday June 8, at 12 noon for family and friends. Family flowers only please, donations to The Samaritans c/o Mull Funeral Services.

ROBERTSON - Jill - Died peacefully at home on May 11, 2011. Memorial service at St John's Evangelist church, Southbourne, West Sussex on May 26 at 2.30pm.

ROSS - Mary Ross nee Fraser. Peacefully, in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on Wednesday May 18, 2011, Mary Ross, 'Sunart', Glackie, Kiltarlity, beloved wife of Ewen, dearly loved mother of Mairi and Catriona and a loving granny to Sarah and Sean. Mary, nee Fraser, born on April 24, 1937, was from Laga Farm, Glenborrodale, Ardnamurchan and was a former pupil of Oban High School. Early in her teaching career she taught in Strontian, Acharacle, Ardour and Duisky. Her husband Ewen is originally from Taynuilt. Donations in her memory to Macmillan Cancer Support or Maggie's Centre.

WALLACE - On May 21, 2011, suddenly but peacefully at home, Janie Wallace, (nee McKechnie) in her 76th year, beloved wife of the late George Wallace, much loved mother of Christine, Sine and Robert, dearly loved sister of Neil and adored gran of Gemma, Laura, Ewan, Lynsay, Abbie and Jessica, a dear mother-in-law of and a loved aunt of the family. Funeral service at Cumloiden Parish Church, Furnace, on Friday 27, May, at 12noon, interment thereafter at Kileven Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROWN - Donna and family sincerely thank all relatives, colleagues, friends and neighbours, for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them personally by cards, floral tributes, letters and telephone calls following the sad loss of her beloved husband, Gavin. Many thanks also to Dr McDowell and his team at Aberlour Health Centre for their dedicated care and attention. A special mention and appreciation to Kenny Ferguson, Community Macmillan Nurse whose comforting support was invaluable during Gavin's recent illness. My sincere gratitude to Rev Donald MacQuarrie for conducting an uplifting service and also to Mike McFall for his dignified handling of the funeral arrangements. Donations, so generously given, raised £820 and will be shared between Macmillan Nurses and Heartstart Lochaber.

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Dolly Campbell would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming love and support received following their sad loss. Special thanks to Margaret MacKay for all the love and support she gave to Dolly - you were always there for her. We would also like to thank all the staff at the Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban, especially Betty Cowan, Father Matt for his comforting funeral service, Petals of Oban for their beautiful floral tributes and the Royal Hotel. Further thanks go to Hamish Hoey and Son for their professional services, especially Catriona for her patience and compassion. Finally, thank you to all who paid their last respects at St. Columba's Cathedral and at Pennyfurth Cemetery, and for giving so generously the sum of £224.36 to The British Heart Foundation. Dolly will be greatly missed.

STEWART - The family of the late Robert Stewart would like to sincerely thank all relatives and friends for the kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy during their recent sad loss. Thanks to staff in Cruachan Ward, Physio and OT Departments in Lorn and Islands Hospital for their hard work with Robert over the last few months. Thanks also to The Beatson Cancer Centre for their specialist care and attention to Robert and all of us during a very difficult time. Thanks to Rev Louis Bezuidenhout and Rev Brian Wilkinson for a very touching tribute and moving service, to The George Hotel for the excellent purvey, to Stan Lupton Funeral Director for a very caring and professional service. Lastly a very special heartfelt thanks to all who paid their last respects at the funeral service and the graveside. It was a great comfort to us,

much appreciated and a real testament to Robert that so many attended and the very generous sum of £3500 was raised for The Beatson Cancer Centre, The Physio Department in Lorn and Islands Hospital and The Inveraray and District Pipe Band. Robert will be sorely missed by his family and friends and will be a great loss to the piping world and especially his 'wee' band.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMPBELL - Remembering with love our treasured mum Joyce Millar who passed away on May 29, 1987. Memories most precious. - Avril and John

CHILDS - Treasured memories of my husband Larry died May 26, 2002. The tears in my eyes I can wipe away. But the pain and love in my heart is here to stay. Miss and love you always. - Margaret xx

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
01866 822286 or
07788598843
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church
Sunday 29 May 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
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All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 29 May 2011
5th after Easter
Rogation
St John's Cathedral,
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Holy Communion08.00
Choral Mattins10.15
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Parish Eucharist11.30
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Holy Eucharist11.00
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St Columba,
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Holy Eucharist08.00
Evensong20.00

Advance Notice
Thursday 2 June 2011
Ascension Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist19.30
Haydn's Nelson Mass
(Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra)
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist19.00

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CRAWFORD - Treasured memories of a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Seonaid Crawford, who died on May 25, 2005. Loved and remembered every day. - Ailsa, Billy, Paul, Gayle, Charis, Blair, Vicky, Heidi and Daisy

KEMP - In loving memory of Johanna (Joey), a dearly loved mum and granny who died on May 31, 2009. - Morag, Hugh and Lisa x

KING - Frances May, died May 31, 2010. You gave me many things in life. Gifts both great and small. But most of all you gave me love. - Avril and John

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great grandfather, John Keith MacLean (Jonaks), who died on May 27, 1996. Love from Ronald and family and Iain, Eilidh and family.

WILSON - In loving memory of my beloved dad George, who died May 25, 2003. I did not know that morning. What the day would bring. A heart of gold stopped beating. And I could not do a thing. Love and miss you dad and always will. x
Your loving daughter
Sheena

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Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
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The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev John Christie, and his chaplain, the Rev Alastair Cherry, with members of the community during their three-day visit to Tiree.

Church of Scotland Moderator returns to Tiree

THE MODERATOR of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev John Christie, paid a three day visit to the Parish of Tiree at the beginning of May. The moderator was returning to the island where he was principal science teacher before entering the ministry. On Sunday morning, worship was led by the Rev Alastair Cherry, the moderator's chaplain, and the moderator preached. During worship a presentation was made to Donald MacIntyre, Gott Farm, who was celebrating 55 years service as an elder in the Parish. In fact, it was Mr MacIntyre who proposed a young John Christie for Eldership during his time on Tiree. The Kirk Session and Congregational Board entertained the moderator's party to lunch at the 'Elephant's End' and John enjoyed meeting up with friends old and new. Evening worship was conducted by the moderator and the Rev Alastair Cherry talked on the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, with all the praise being Psalms and Paraphrases. The congregation members were pleased to welcome counterparts from



The Moderator presents Donald MacIntyre with a certificate marking his 55 years as an elder in the parish.



Louise Wilson and Madalene Lee of the SWRI Argyll Federation with representatives of Lorn institutes. 08_120wri01

Institute members put on a fine display at biennial SWRI Lorn Group Rally

NEARLY 300 exhibits were on show at the biennial SWRI Lorn Group Rally on Saturday in Glenruitten Church Centre. The rally involved institute members from Kilmorran, Kilmore and District, Oban, Taynuilt, Kilmehran, Loch Awe and Glenorchy. The baking, preserves, confectionery, handicrafts and flowers were judged by four members from the Mid Argyll Institutes. The art was judged by Ian Gowdie and the photography by Jim Kirkpatrick and Ronnie MacKillop. Lorn Group secretary Catriona Stuart said the event had been a great success and it had been encouraging to see members of the public coming in to see the exhibits.

The Argyll Federation chairwoman, Miss Madeline Lee, from Dunoon, presented the prizes as follows: The Wright Quaiach for highest number of points and the Banner for the highest number of points per member were awarded to Oban Institute.

The Cameron Quaiach for the best entry in the Handicrafts section went to Sue Moss, Kilmorran Institute. The Smiths Cup for the best entry in the baking section was shared between six ladies - Mairi Campbell (Oban), Daphne Allan and Helen Begley (both Kilmorran), Rhoda Thomas and Isabel Smith (both Kilmore) and Jessie Servant (Taynuilt). Special competitions: A rabbit (not knitted) - Sue Moss, Kilmorran. Item of jewellery - Pat McLeod, Loch Awe.

Thought for the Week

'BY FAITH we understand the worlds were framed by the Word of God'. Hebrews 11:3 - A group of distinguished scientists and theologians gathered to participate in the Cosmic Questions Conference. They discussed issues such as 'Is there a God?' and 'Can we believe that there is purpose and design in the universe?' Some of the participants answered those questions emphatically, 'No! No God, no design, no purpose. But others like John Polkinghorne, a British scholar and a former president of Queens College at Cambridge, held staunchly to the opposite position. A noted physicist, Polkinghorne argued that the answers lie

'beyond physics'. Without the Bible, the unchanging Word of God, scientists are baffled. They can guess and they can speak dogmatically, but they have no authoritative answers to the cosmic questions. The Bible alone tells us where everything came from, why everything exists and what lies ahead. As Job learned, it was God who 'laid the foundations of the earth'. We don't need to listen to the speculations of world-famous thinkers to find answers to the big questions of life. We just need to humbly and reverently study the unchanging Word of God. There we will always find rest for our mind and peace for our soul. Bill Harvey, Churches Rural Group.



Resident band Skipinnish, comprising Robert Robertson on guitar, Andrew Stevenson on fiddle and Angus MacPhail on accordion, were in great form in Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Fort William on Friday night. Local boy Robert, 17, will be a regular throughout the summer before he begins an English literature degree at Glasgow University in September. The venue has enjoyed a fine start in its first three weeks since the Oban-based trad music enterprise business opened its Lochaber venture, musical director Rachel Walker said. 20_celidh01

Stage set for clash of the table-toppers

Kingussie hope to make up some ground on leaders Kyles

KINGUSSIE take on Kyles Athletic at The Dell on Saturday in a Scottish Hydro Premier Division top-of-the-table clash which could have a big say in the destiny of the title.

Unbeaten Kyles are five points clear at the top, but Kingussie manager Steven Borthwick thinks a win for his side on Saturday would give them a platform to mount a title challenge.

He said: 'I think if we were to win this weekend it would put us in with a chance. We've got home advantage and I think a lot of teams are hoping for us to get a win.'

'If Kyles have a weakness it may well be at the back. I think they are going for broke this season. They have a team that are just at the right age and they are really hard to beat.'

Injured Kings duo Ian Borthwick and Louis Munro are both doubtful for the match.

Kingussie came away from a potentially tricky visit to Drumnadrochit last weekend with a comfortable 4-1 win over Glenurquhart in the Macaulay Cup last weekend.

Borthwick said: 'We started very well; we were on fire for the first 20 minutes and that is as good as we've played this season. It's the best we've played there in a long time. Not many teams will go there and score four goals.'

Table-topping **KYLES ATHLETIC**, meanwhile, go into Saturday's clash with Kingussie full of confidence after putting 11 goals past Glenorchy last weekend.

Coach James Perlich feels his side is really beginning to gel. 'I think we played quite well on Saturday, our forward line is beginning to click. We have kept the same forward line the whole season and they have started to play well together.'

However, there will be some changes to the Kyles line-up for the visit to Kingussie.

Donald Irvine is missing due to exams, Peter Currie is best man at a wedding and Andrew King is also out.

However, in come Colin MacColl, Collin MacDonald and Sandy MacVicar.

James is hoping to come away with something from the game. 'Last year, they won this fixture 4-3; the year before we won 4-3. It really is a case of who turns up on the day.'



A Rockfield defender shields the ball as Park Primary School press forward. 15.12.11shinty652

Town and Rural Sixes

ASPIRING shinty players from the Oban and Lorn area gathered at the town's Mossfield Stadium on Sunday for the Town and Rural Sixties 6s.

Games lasted eight minutes, with players in the P7 and under and P5 and under age groups participating.

SHINTY

'It would be a useful one to win, but even to get a point out of the game would be good.'

NEWTONMORE made it through to the second round of the Macaulay Cup with an easier than expected 5-0 win against Kinlochshiel.

The game was due to be played in Balmacara, but was switched to Newtonmore's ground due to a waterlogged pitch.

They return to league action this weekend with a trip to winless Glenorchy. Norman MacArthur's men will be looking to take advantage of any slip ups from the two teams above them, Kyles Athletic and Kingussie who meet at The Dell.

'Kingussie winning would probably be the ideal result for us,' MacArthur said. 'But we won't be worrying about them. As long as we get the two points that's good enough for us.'

The 'More took a two goal lead into half time last weekend after the visitors scored two first half own goals, with Paul MacRae and Graham Kennedy the unlucky players.

A late flurry of goals gave Newtonmore a comfortable victory, with Danny MacRae, Ackie MacRae and John MacKenzie all scoring in the last 20 minutes of the match.

MacArthur said: 'It took two own goals from them for us to get started. Our keeper never really had a save to make. I think their heads went down a bit after the two own goals and we dominated from then on.'

GLENORCHY will be looking for signs of improvement after last weekend's double figure defeat, although by all accounts the score did not do justice to the Dalmlally side's efforts.

Chances were created, but the finishing touch was missing.

KILMALLIE play arguably the most important Scottish Hydro Premier League game of their campaign so far when they take on Lovat at Canal Parks on Saturday.

The Caol side go into the match after running out comfortable 4-1 winners over Lochaber at Spean Bridge in the Artemis Macaulay Cup courtesy of a powerful second half performance.

Lochaber's Lachlan Campbell opened the scoring with a fine

25-yard strike after 24 minutes, a lead his side thoroughly deserved at the break.

But in the last half hour Kilmallie's superior fitness began to tell and Liam MacDonald restored parity before Peter MacIntyre's quickfire double effectively killed the game. John Stewart's fine finish three minutes from time completed the scoring.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre was pleased with the win, but knows success against Lovat is crucial.

'They beat Fort William last weekend, so they are playing well as a team,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We have not played them for two years - the last time was when they beat us to promotion by a point - so we can't take any chances against them. They are a good young team and it's up to us to stop them in some way, but if we can get a couple of quick goals that will settle us down.' Kilmallie have a full squad available.

LOVAT travel to Kilmallie on a high after dumping Fort William out of the Macaulay Cup.

Jamie Mathieson fired Lovat ahead, but Bryan Simpson levelled for Fort six minutes later.

The visitors missed several chances before the break - and paid the price when Fraser Gallagher restored Lovat's advantage with a clinical finish.

Coach John MacRitchie praised his players for turning over fancied Fort - but is now demanding more of the same in the vital league clash.

He said: 'It was a good cup game - I think maybe we hit top form while Fort were caught off-colour.'

'In the first half our keeper Stewart MacDonald had a series of fine saves, but with the wind behind us in the second we had the advantage. I felt we controlled things through the midfield and took our chances.'

'If we can stop Kilmallie's forward line then we will give ourselves a chance. If we can perform like we have in the last four games we should come away with something.'

Long term injury absentees Drew Howie, Ewan Ferguson and Lorne MacKay remain unavailable.

FORT WILLIAM make the trip to Inveraray on Saturday looking to jumpstart their league challenge after last weekend's 2-1 loss to Lovat in the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

Fort suffered from having John MacDonald and Gary Innes absent and the experienced pair, along with Liam MacIntyre, will again be missing from the line-up against Inveraray.

So once again Fort coach Peter MacIntyre will field a team with a heavy accent on youth - but that causes him few worries.

'To be honest, that has been the case for most of this season,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We have young guys like Steven Stewart who has been absolutely fantastic for us this season.'

He just gets better and better with every game he plays. 'Inveraray will make it tough for us, but hopefully we can go there and get a win.'

With runaway leaders Kyles at Kingussie on Saturday, MacIntyre is not giving up on the league just yet.

He said: 'The team that gets a run is the team that will challenge Kyles.'



Battling for possession in last Saturday's match between Lochaber and Kilmallie are Allan MacDonald and Lachlan Campbell. 20.12.11shin02

GLENURQUHART were beaten 4-1 by a dominant Kingussie side in the first round of Macaulay Cup at Blairbeg Park last weekend.

The visitors got off to a dream start when Ronald Ross scored after just two minutes to continue his recent good form. Kings went two up nine minutes later when Ryan Borthwick put the ball in the net.

Lewis MacLennan gave the Drumnadrochit side hope when he pulled one back just before the half hour mark, but despite some Glenurquhart pressure Kingussie were able to take a 2-1 lead into halftime.

Craig Dawson and Ross scored two in three minutes near the start of the second half to secure victory for Kings.

Glen keeper Stewart Mackintosh told *The Oban Times* his team made too many mistakes in the game. He said: 'We made four defensive errors for the goals. They played well, I'm not taking anything away from Kingussie, but we made mistakes for their goals.'

'We were still in it until they scored their third goal. Once they made it 3-1 they went on to dominate and it was very difficult for us.'

Glenurquhart do not have a game this weekend and will instead hold a training session to prepare for their next game against Lovat in the Camanachd Cup.

Elsewhere this weekend, **KILMORY** are hoping for a break in the weather to allow this weekend's encounter with **OBAN CAMANACHD** to go ahead.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup first round tie was originally scheduled for last Saturday, but the heavy downpours put paid to any hope of action.

The break was not the worst thing that could have happened to Kilmory, as the squad will be back to full strength bar Hal Jones who is out with a long-term facial injury.

Kilmory's Alister MacArthur is hoping the magic of the cup will work in his side's favour.

'Oban have always been a division above us, but it's a cup game and anything can happen.'

LOCHABER will be playing one of the club's biggest games in recent years when they take on Bute this weekend in the semi-finals of the Balliemore Cup.

The South Division One high flyers Bute are unbeaten in the league so far and are sure to put up a stiff challenge for Michael Delaney's side.

The Spean Bridge side will

be looking to make up for last weekend's disappointment of being knocked out of the Macaulay Cup in the first round.

They took on local rivals Kilmallie and were beaten 4-1 despite taking the lead.

Lachlan Campbell put the home side ahead in the 23rd minute, but Kilmallie fought back and scored four second half goals to move into the next round.

It was the second defeat the Premier Division side has inflicted on Lochaber this season after beating them 2-1 in the MacTavish Cup quarter final last month.

KINLOCHSHIEL are scheduled to welcome Inverness to Kirkton on Saturday, but continued heavy rain could mean the fixture being switched to the Highland capital.

'Shiel were due to host premier division champs Newtonmore last weekend, but Kirkton proved unplayable and the tie was switched to The Eilan.

The change meant an early start and an away tie for Johnston Gill's men who went down 5-0 - a scoreline many present felt flattered the premier division champs. 'Shiel were holding Newtonmore 0-0 but two freak own goals either side of the break proved their undoing.'

Gill knows Inverness may present a lesser challenge - but told *The Oban Times* he is taking nothing for granted.

'I was quite happy with the way the guys played at Newtonmore - we seem to play better against the big teams. Inverness can be Jekyll and Hyde - if they have everybody available they can cause a lot of teams problems, but I would be disappointed if we don't beat them.'

'We will have Finlay MacRae back, who has a big influence on the park and in my view is one of the best players in Scotland. Aslo, I may give 15-year-old Oliver 'Ach' 15 or 20 minutes - he played well for the last 15 minutes against Newtonmore and did not let himself down.'

OBAN CELTIC manager Davy Hamilton was left to rue a disappointing display against Glasgow Mid Argyll, a game played out in miserable weather conditions from start to finish.

'Conditions were not good and we never got started at all. Everyone was a bit shaky,' he conceded.

Two first half own goals were compounded by a couple of enforced changes due to injuries and overall, Davy was happy to consign the display to the history books.

It's back to league action this

Saturday - and another tough looking encounter awaits away to Ballachulish.

'Last year, we did alright against them but I think they have strengthened their team this season. It will be a tough game to get anything out of,' added Davy.

He was waiting to see how those who picked up injuries on Saturday were recovering, but one player definitely missing is David Duffy, who begins a two-match suspension after being sent off in the GMA clash.

For his part, **BALLACHULISH** boss Willie Sutherland says he is looking to take two points from the home clash against Oban Celtic.

He is also looking for more consistency in the league from a side which has won three and lost three of the six games played so far.

But he added: 'I don't think we really deserved to lose two of those three games. I don't think Lochside deserved to beat us and we just could not score against Kyles.'

Darren Sutherland, Grant MacKenzie and Scott Henderson are still on the injury list, but Willie says he has enough cover for their likely absence.

'I am looking for two points from the game,' he said.

SKYE CAMANACHD travel to high-flying Caberfeidh on Saturday looking to build on a fighting 2-2 draw at Inverness last weekend in North Division 1.

The Skyemen have been largely misfiring so far this season, but the improved showing in the Highland capital gives coach Nui MacDonal hope of putting together a decent string of results.

Sorley MacDonal gave Skye the lead in the first minute, Inverness levelled through James Cameron then Alan Palmer restored Skye's lead before the break. Skye were six minutes from victory when a Cameron penalty levelled the match.

MacDonal said: 'We did play a lot better, but we missed enough chances by half time to win four or five games.'

'We also missed a penalty in the first half and paid the price when they scored in the last five minutes.'

'We had a new defence and a new forward line and they did well - on another day we would have won.'

'We had Iain 'Crossal' Nicolson in defence and he should feature this weekend, but we will have to pick up our game to have a chance. Caberfeidh will be hard to beat, but we will give it our best shot.'

No stopping Rhys as 'summer' games continue

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THE OBAN Express Sunday league continued with its 'summer' programme in conditions which certainly exhibited the four seasons in one day analogy.

The weather certainly didn't dampen the junior league players' attitudes though.

In the first match between Lochgilphead and the Pumas, despite some neat passing from Pumas' Ewen Budge and Gary Macivor, it was the boys from Mid Argyll who took the lead through Euan Finlay.

Rhys Casci and Craig Millar put the result beyond doubt.

Pumas were without their influential midfielder Ryan Barclay who had surgery during the week and the Oban Express Sunday League wishes him a speedy recovery.

Next up for Lochgilphead were the black and yellows of Galaxy who were in no mood to lie down against their older counterparts.

The first half ended goalless after a superb display from Ellis Hunter and co. The tide was turned when the goal machine that is Rhys Casci came on in the second half to score what proved to be the winner for Lochgilphead.

Over on pitch two, Benderloch took on the Saints U9s who were boosted by the return of Laura Mcgeachern. Despite some solid tackling from Adam Munro and Ross MacArthur the younger Saints went down 3-0 through an amazing hat-trick from that man Ryan Henrickson. Some great tackling from the Howe brothers, Tom and Rowan, stifled Saints attacks.

Despite Benderloch being on a high, Galaxy were fired up and within a two minute spell against their older counterparts, two two goals up after a fine mazy run by Kenni Gray and then a cheeky lob from Ellis Hunter.

Fergus Carmichael had a brilliant display in goals but Benderloch pulled one back through Ryan Henrickson but it was to be Galaxy's day.

Saints U8s had it all to do against a rampant Lochgilphead side who were clearly in the mood to pulverise everyone and despite another excellent performance from Saints goalie Innes Horne, it was the Mid Argyll boys who took the points through another two goals from Rhys Casci.

The Saints U9s came up against a Pumas outfit who usually make life tough for the older Saints but they found their opponents in determined form with Lennon Campbell scoring a tap-in to open the scoring early on.

Lewis Campbell then started and finished a cracking move using the excellent Euan Logan on the left wing who pinpointed his cross in to the path of Lewis who headed in his team's second.

Lennon Campbell then managed another couple to give him an important hat-trick. Gavin Forgievie and Aiden MacPhee completed the scoring.

Pumas did create some chances late on through Connor Moore but Ross McCaskill was in commanding form in defence.

Next up for the Saints U9s was a tough encounter with Benderloch who had Ryan Henrickson keeping their midfield strong. Saints had to find a way round that and did so when Jude Bain lobbed a ball over the top to striker Aiden MacPhee who laid a great ball for Lewis Campbell to smash home the opener.

Sam Coates was breaking up the Benderloch attacks well to keep them at bay and a good pass forward from him was helped on by Cameron Clark and it ended up at the feet of Aiden MacPhee who scored a fine goal to seal the win for the U9s. Jamie Turner had a quiet spell in goal but had to be alert to save a shot from Ryan Henrickson late on.

The youngest teams of the junior league once again took to the rugby pitch this week. With the monsoon weather during the preceding days most people expected a mudbath with little danger of playing football.

However, thanks to the great work of the groundstaff the pitch was really dry.

The weather was to play a big part in the day with one minute sunshine and the next minute the heavens had opened, so well done to Benlora and Swifts for carrying on playing and not wimping out under broleys like the other teams and the adults!

The games were really open with plenty of goals and some terrific individual performances.

For Swifts 1 & 2, Niall MacSween scored a great individual goal from long range and Cameron Boag excelled in his passing.

For Spartak 1 & 2 Ross MacKay managed a terrific goal scoring performance and Daniel Beaton worked us to another scoring display. For Ben Lora 1 & 2 Luke Mallinson had a fantastic game with his new boots, tackling and scoring for fun and finally Karyn Black who scored a great individual goal, stood out for their respective teams and promise great things for the future.

Ballachulish claim inter-school title



Ballachulish won the Duror Primary Inter-school Football Tournament, winning the Rab MacDonald Memorial trophy, defeating Appin in a close final. The event raised £900 for the school.

Dalmally Golf Club Mixed Seniors Open

GOLF

DALMALLY Golf Club held its popular Mixed Seniors Open last week with competitors from far and wide battling the elements on a well prepared Orchy course.

Returning top score in a closely contested gents competition was Taynuilt's Alan Hill with a healthy 35 stableford points, edging out John Davidson of Lochgilphead on countback. Third, one point behind, was Mike Mace, Isle of Skye.

The ladies contest was won convincingly by home player Lily McKay, whose 34 points put her four ahead of her nearest challenger, Maggie McArthur of Dunaverty. Third place on 28 points was Tarbert's Seona

Martin. The Orchy club had more success in the Category B competition with Tommy Gibson and Anthea Cleaver claiming the top spots, and a further double in the Nearest the Pin, Peter Metcalf and Etive Brown scooping the prizes.

The course held up on Sunday through driving rain thanks to the sterling efforts of the green staff, allowing the gents to compete in the Spring Stableford.

Result: 1 Kevin Roy 36pts (overall winner); 2 Findlay Ross 34pts; 3 John MacKechnie 29pts.

Shinty results, fixtures and league tables

Results 21 st May 2011	Marine Harvest North Division 3	Strathdearn Cup 2 nd Round	Charles Young	Scottish Hydro Premier Division	Marine Harvest South Division One	Marine Harvest South Division Two
Artemis Macaulay Cup 1 st Round Lochaber 1, Kilmallie 4 Newtonmore 5, Kinlochshiel 1 Glenurquhart 1, Kingussie 4 Lovat 2, Fort William 1 Inveraray 0, Bute 1 Glasgow MA 8, Oban Celtic 2 Kilmory P - P Oban Camanachd Unplayable Field Glenorchy 0, Kyles Athletic 11	Glenarry 5, Beauloy 0 Kingussie 10, Lochbroom 1 Glenurquhart 3, Aberdeen Uni 0	Fort William v Kinlochshiel, John Slaggie.	Kilmory v Aberdeen, Jim Innes.	P W D L Pts Kyles 8 7 1 0 15 Kingussie 8 4 2 2 10 Newtonmore 7 3 3 1 9 Glenurquhart 8 4 1 3 9 Fort William 7 3 1 3 7 Oban Camanachd 8 3 1 4 7 Lovat 8 3 1 4 7 Inveraray 7 3 0 4 6 Kilmallie 7 3 0 4 6 Glenorchy 8 0 0 8 0	Bute 6 6 0 0 12 Glasgow MA 5 4 1 0 9 Lochside Rvrs 8 4 1 3 9 Taynuilt 6 3 1 2 7 Ballachulish 6 3 0 3 6 Kyles Athletic 7 3 0 4 6 Oban Celtic 6 1 1 4 3 Kilmory 5 1 0 4 2 Aberdour 7 1 0 6 2	Strachur 8 7 0 1 14 Tayforth 7 5 1 1 11 Bute 7 4 2 2 8 ColGlen 7 4 0 3 8 Glasgow MA 8 3 1 4 7 Ballachulish 7 3 0 4 6 Ballachulish 7 2 0 4 6 Inveraray 7 2 0 5 4 Aberdour 9 1 0 8 2
Strathdearn Cup 2 nd Round Fort William P - P Kinlochshiel Unplayable Field Lovat 2, Lochcarron 0 Newtonmore P - P Inverness Inverness unable to field a team, walkover to Newtonmore Kilmallie P - P Caberfeidh Canal Parks unplayable and Kilmallie unable to travel, walkover to Caberfeidh Boleskine 1, Skye Camanachd 5	Marine Harvest North Division 1 Inverness 2, Skye 2 Strathglass 1, Beauloy 6	Marine Harvest North Division 1: Caberfeidh v Skye, Deek Cameron (3pm throw up); Kinlochshiel v Inverness, John MacLeod; Strathglass v Beauloy, John Angus Gillies.	Marine Harvest North Division 2: Kilmallie v Glenarry, Robert Morrison (noon throw up).	P W D L Pts Kinlochshiel 4 4 0 0 8 Caberfeidh 4 3 0 1 6 Beauloy 5 2 1 2 5 Lochaber 4 2 0 2 4 Lochcarron 4 1 2 1 4 Inverness 5 1 2 2 4 Skye 5 1 1 3 3 Strathglass 5 1 1 3 3	Marine Harvest North Division Two Newtonmore 8 7 0 1 14 Glenarry 7 6 0 1 12 Kingussie 8 5 0 3 10 Fort William 6 4 1 1 9 Lovat 6 4 0 2 6 Glenurquhart 8 3 0 5 6 Lochaber 8 3 0 5 6 Kinlochshiel 9 3 0 6 6 Skye 9 2 0 7 4 Kilmallie 7 0 1 6 1	Marine Harvest North Division Three Aberdeen U 9 9 0 0 18 Boleskine 9 6 1 2 13 Lochbroom 9 4 3 2 11 Beauloy 8 5 1 2 11 Caberfeidh 7 5 0 2 10 Lochcarron 8 3 1 4 7 Inverness 8 2 0 6 4 Ardnamurchan 9 2 0 7 4 Strathglass 8 1 1 6 3 Lewis 7 0 1 6 1
Marine Harvest South Division 1 Ballachulish P - P Taynuilt Unplayable Field	Marine Harvest South Division 2 Col Glen 3, Tayforth 4	Marine Harvest South Division 1: Ballachulish v Oban Celtic, David Mitchell (3pm throw up); Glasgow Mid Argyll v Lochside,	Marine Harvest South Division 2: Aberdeen v Col Glen, Dougie Cameron; Ballachulish v Bute, Barrie Dallas (noon throw up); Inveraray v Tayforth, Innes Wood (noon throw up); Strachur v Glasgow Mid Argyll, Iain Kennedy.	Marine Harvest North Division 3: Boleskine v Ardnamurchan, Kevin Cheeseman; Caberfeidh v Inverness, Jock Matheson (noon throw up); Lochbroom v Beauloy, Evan MacRae; Lochcarron v Lewis, Donald MacRae.	Marine Harvest South Division 1: Ballachulish P - P Taynuilt Unplayable Field	Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round: Kilmory v Oban Camanachd, Graham Irving.

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Fort hope to climb off the bottom

'I want to go out on a high but it's not about me, it's about the team' - Calum MacLean

REPORT

by RICHARD HADDOCK
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FORT WILLIAM have the chance to spring off the bottom of the league when they take on Nairn County at Claggan Park on Saturday in their last game of the season.

The match will be Calum MacLean's final game as manager after three years in charge, and his side know only a win will move them ahead of second-bottom Strathspey Thistle.

Strathspey lost 3-0 to Nairn in their final game last weekend, a result which leaves them just one point ahead of Fort but with a considerably better goal difference. The Claggan Park men won their second game of the season last time out with a 3-1 home win over Turfrit United, and MacLean told *The Oban Times* they will be going all out to get another win against seventh-placed Nairn.

He said: 'It will be tough, Nairn are a very good side, but we are going to be going for it. It's a big motivation to get off the bottom.'



New man in charge: Danny Conlon will take charge at Claggan Park next season.
10_f21for01

We had a good result a couple of weeks ago and with Strathspey getting beaten on Saturday we've got a good chance.

'The club has always been around the bottom of the league, and it would be nice to get off the bottom like we did last season.'

He added: 'I want to go out on a high but it's not about me, it's about the team. Nobody wants to be bottom of the league and we will be doing our best to get a good result on Saturday.'

Meanwhile, the man who will take over from MacLean, Fort youth coach Danny Conlon, told *The Oban Times* he has been 'busy in the background' setting up pre-season training since his appointment was announced two weeks ago.

Sounded Out
'It's important to get a good pre-season under our belts,' he said. 'We're hoping to get five or six games against different levels of opposition. So far we have

FOOTBALL

sounded out Inverness City, Oban Saints for a home and away game and a side from Dumbarton.

'All the players that have been heavily involved this season, especially the younger players, have been told to take a rest. We feel they shouldn't be playing football 12 months a year.'

Strengthen
'I've seen enough of the boys this season to know what areas we need to strengthen.'

Conlon, who will be taking the reins as Fort manager for the third time, also said he feels Fort are too good to be bottom of the league. He said: 'I think the club are in a false position. Because of our location we have to be more committed than most clubs in the Highland League, and we're hoping to raise the standard of professionalism throughout the whole club.'



Lochaber AC's Niall MacBeath was in the leading group at the start, and eventually finished fourth. 10_f21mar01

Half marathon runners do well

LOCHABER Athletic Club athletes took three of the top six places in the Trail Half Marathon at Nevis Range on Sunday.

Amanda Blackhall posted the performance of the day when she was first woman home in 1:31:51, a time good enough for fifth overall.

Amanda and club colleague Niall MacBeath were nip and tuck over much of the 13 miles.

Niall eventually crossed the line two seconds ahead of his female rival to come in fourth, ten minutes behind winner Graeme Campbell.

Contingent
Tom Smith was next of the Lochaber contingent home, a minute behind Amanda in 1:32:50 for sixth place.

Lyndsey Shaw became the second LAC woman to finish, when

HALF MARATHON

she crossed the line 16th overall in a time of 1:42:40.

Teammates Bruce Davie and Sarah Jane Ross were 20th and 22nd in 1:44:40 and 1:45:54 respectively, Iain Adams 28th in 1:48:14 and Aileen Duncan 45th in 1:56:29. A field of 75 entered the race along trails through Leanachan Forest.

Tony and Pam still lead the way

TEN PIN BOWLING

THERE'S no change at the top of the men's and ladies ten pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre, with Tony Whitlocke and Pam Weller still leading the way.

After eight weeks play, Tony leads the scratch division with 176 points. John Weller stays in second place with 160 points and Tim Attack is third a further 2 points behind.

Tony Whitlocke also leads the handicap division with 152 points, nine clear of second-placed Graeme Robertson. John Weller is in third with 139 points.

In the ladies competition Pam Weller leads the scratch division with 62 points followed by Laura Brown in second place on 52 points. Hazel White remains in third with 44.

Pam is also the leader in the handicap division with 52 points. Rossamy Waring moves up to second with 42 points followed by Hazel White in third place just a point behind.

The men's maximum scratch points were gained by Tony Whitlocke who rolled 333. The top handicap score came from Graeme Robertson with 448. Pam Weller had the best ladies scratch and handicap scores of the week with 340 and 416.

The best men's individual games this week came from Graeme Robertson who rolled 180. For the ladies Pam Weller had the top ladies game with 177.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club held the Craig Paterson Cup on Saturday, with Iain Robertson shooting a round of 77 to take the win. The Alcan foursomes tournament on Sunday was postponed to a later date due to the weather.

This Sunday the club will host the Rotary Club of Lochaber Am-Am event. Places for the four-man team event are still available, with an entry fee of £40 per team.

Craig Paterson Cup results: 1, Iain Robertson 88-11=77; 2, David MacPherson 86-6=80 (B/H); 3, Nicholas Hough 90-10=80.

Isle of Skye GC

GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club held the first round of the Strath Cup last midweek with Graeme Wilson topping the leaderboard with 41 points.

In the best three of four rounds stableford competition, John Allan is well placed in second on 40 points and John Marshall is a further point back in third.

The Sligachan Scramble team event was washed out. It has been rearranged for June 4.

Season's first race

SAILING

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club members braved heavy rain on Saturday to stage their first local boat race of the new season.

Only two boats were ready and winner of the Duirinish Tankard was Douglas Hamilton in his boat Ajax. Second was Michael Hay in his dinghy, Nan.



Alan and Robert win the Marshall and Pearson Cup

On a day of sunshine and showers a disappointing entry of only eight pairs played for the Marshall and Pearson Cup at the BA Club green. The balloted pairing of Alan Lawrie and Robert Hunter led all the way to victory, and their main challengers, Eddie Downs and Bill Clark, ending runners up in the round-robin games. The cup was presented by Bill Gibbons, president of the Lochaber Bowling Club.

Victory for Phoenix boxers in Dundee

TWO LOCHABER Phoenix ABC fighters were in action last Sunday as the club continues its preparations for its big boxing show at the Nevis Centre.

Ryan Watson and Igor Sliwinski both scored fine wins at a show hosted by Dundee ABC to further boost club morale ahead of the big night next Saturday.

Sliwinski faced the host club's Michael MacLachlan in a bout of very powerful 14 year-olds.

MacLachlan was coming off a first round knockout victory in his last bout and opened this contest as if he believed that it was a foregone conclusion - but Sliwinski's brilliant defence and sharp counters caught the eye as the fight progressed.

In the last, the steely determination noted by his coaches in the gym again came into play - and

with punch accuracy of the highest order Igor claimed a deserved victory.

The talented youngster now looks forward to his first appearance in Fort William in next Saturday's boxing show.

Ryan Watson faced the very experienced Aaron McNeil of Kinross ABC - and right from the first bell began to shoot off his rapidfire jab.

McNeil is known puncher, so Ryan's tactics were to keep McNeil on his back foot to prevent him from gaining any purchase on his powershots.

Watson's quick hands ensured early superiority, but in round two he walked onto a McNeil right hand bomb midway through the session.

The Lochaber man found his back to the ropes, but he used his

BOXING

experience to turn the Kinross boxer and caught his opponent with a crunching double left hook to extinguish McNeil's hopes, and cruised the last round seal a unanimous verdict.

Lochaber Phoenix coach Vince Lopez paid tribute to Watson's ringcraft.

'We are really delighted with Ryan's performance today,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'He refused to get drawn into a war which is his natural instinct but used the boxing skills we all know he possesses.' Information on the club's home show, which will feature a North of Scotland select against a North of England select is available from from the Nevis Centre or Vince Lopez on 07979321025.



Highest archer in Scotland!

A West Highlands archery club took its campaign to promote the sport to new heights last week - the summit of Ben Nevis. South Lochaber Bowmen member Allan Thomson started his ascent in reasonable conditions. But he ran into snow near the top, where he unfurled the Scottish Field Archery Association banner on the summit cairn. Club chairman Dubh Irbhinn said: 'The banner was completely frozen, we reckon Allan was the highest archer in the country!'

Fort William cricket teams lose in terrible weather conditions

BOTH Fort William Cricket Club's senior and reserve teams were able to play games at the weekend despite the terrible weather.

The seniors' cup game against Keith was postponed again, but the league game away to Nairn went ahead, Fort going down by 6 wickets.

Target
Batting first Derek Spencer

(31), Paul Farrell (28) and Charlie Luxton (26) helped Fort to 148-6 off their 45 overs. In reply Nairn reached their target for the loss of only four wickets.

Captain Farrell again led from the front taking 2-35 with good support from O'Meara (2-43).

'It's always a pity to lose' said Farrell, 'but each game we get that little bit stronger. Everyone is working hard and

CRICKET

I'm confident we'll continue to improve.

Driving Rain
The reserves cup game against holders Orkney and Caithness was played in driving rain at neutral Strathpeffer.

Fort lost despite a score of 110-7 at one point. Debutante Paul Richards top scored with 25.



Janelle Viray scores a hit on opponent Jamie Smith at the fencing session in the Leven Centre. 20_f21fence01

Kinlochleven pupils put to the sword

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils picked up epees for the first time at the Leven Centre last Friday to try their hand at the ancient art of fencing.

The children are doing an 18th century project at school and PE teacher Gail Wilson was charged with coming up with a physical activity from that era.

During her research, fencing caught her eye - so Gail invited Culloden Fencing Club coach

FENCING

Alastair Urquhart down to Kinlochleven to tutor second year pupils for a morning session at the Leven Centre.

Asked how he assessed the young trainees' skills, Alastair told the *Oban Times*: 'I am astonished, actually. Some of these of these kids have great potential.'

SAILING

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club members braved heavy rain on Saturday to stage their first local boat race of the new season.

Only two boats were ready and winner of the Duirinish Tankard was Douglas Hamilton in his boat Ajax. Second was Michael Hay in his dinghy, Nan.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

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Spot the

WIN £550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: K Smith, Pulpit Drive, Oban and T Kirsop, North Ballachullish

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.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

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 reach '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.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Keyline Cup teams confirmed

FOOTBALL

THE annual Keyline Cup football tournament will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, Oban, on Saturday, July 9. This will be the 18th year that the competition has taken place.

Taking part are SPL teams Dundee United, last year's winners, Hearts and St Johnstone, Hamilton Accies from SFL Division One, Alloa Athletic from Division Three and local amateur side Oban Saints.

Dundee United manager Peter Houston has confirmed that United will again bring their full first team squad to the tournament.

Alloa Athletic's new player manager Paul Hartley, the former Hibs, Hearts, Celtic and Scotland midfielder will be making his debut at the Keyline Cup when he turns out to play for the Wasps.



Paul Hartley

Bob wins junior tour event

GOLF

BOB McIntyre, from Glencruitten, in Oban, swept to his maiden SGU Junior Tour title with an impressive victory in the rain-shortened event at Rowallan Castle in Ayrshire.

The 14-year-old posted his second successive round of 73 to finish on four-over par in testing conditions on the new Colin Montgomerie-designed course to leave him one head of overnight leader Jamie Savage (Cawder), after SGU officials were forced to reduce the event from 72 to 36-holes following yesterday's flooding.

McIntyre, a second year Scottish Golf Academy pupil, got off to a flier on the opening day with birdies at the first three holes, eventually signing off for a two-over par 73 to sit just one behind Savage.

Despite opening with a bogey five in the second round, McIntyre kept his composure to produce a very steady round, dropping only two more shots at the 4th and 15th, before capturing a decisive birdie three at the 16th which effectively clinched his win.

Superset competition

TENNIS

A SUPERSET tennis competition will take place at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday, May 29. Juniors - 10am till 1pm (8-14 years) £1 entry fee. Open Singles and Doubles - 1pm till 6pm (15+) £2 entry fee.

Members & non-members of any ability welcome. Enter on the day. French Open tennis on TV in clubhouse. Food and drink available from Café Atlantis.

Susie's in the pink

'Overall I drive for me, not to prove how good female drivers can be'

AS AN ambassador for Mercedes Benz, IWC Watches and Hugo Boss and the poster girl of motor racing, Susie Stoddart has become more than a racing driver.

The Oban woman, who now lives in Switzerland, is currently preparing for her third race of the German Touring Car Championship (DTM) season on June 5 in Austria and has posted two 12th place finishes so far.

To give an indication of how competitive the championship is, Susie beat her team-mate, former Formula 1 driver David Coulthard, in the last race and was battling for 11th with another former F1 racer, Ralf Schumacher.

Another team-mate from last year, Paul Di Resta, is now quickly making a name for himself in his debut F1 season.

This is Susie's sixth season in DTM and feels she is now

accepted as an equal in a male-dominated sport.

'Of course I think the guys sometimes hate getting beaten by a female but as it is now my 6th season, I think they have now accepted me,' she told *The Oban Times*.

'We are very much a family within Mercedes Benz and I receive a lot of support.'

'Overall I drive for me, not to prove how good female drivers can be.'

However, Susie is the flag bearer for female racing drivers and her unique position has made her a marketing team's dream.

Instead of having to be one of the boys, Susie has her own pink Mercedes Benz C-Class AMG, sponsored by TV Spielfilm, and attends promotional events for Mercedes Benz, AMG, IWC Watches and Hugo Boss.

'My main sponsor, TV Spielfilm, has a pink logo so they

MOTOR RACING

decided to switch the colour from white to pink,' she said. 'A blonde female in a pink racing car is a complete cliché but it did get a lot of media attention!'

The 28-year-old was recently in Luxembourg with the German Woman's National Football Team for a Mercedes Benz Driving Experience.

The following week she was opening a new AMG performance Centre in Salzburg. She attended the Formula 1 race in Barcelona on Sunday, then went on to Sevilla for the new C-Class Coupe Launch. It is then off to Graz, Austria, for the pre-event leading up to the DTM race at the start of June.

But despite all these glamorous events, Susie said she is a racing driver first and foremost and makes time to train at least five times a week.



Susie pictured beside her pink Mercedes Benz C-Class AMG.

Gregor first home in ABCD 10k

A FIELD of 62 runners competed for this year's Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10K and Fun Run.

Gregor MacGregor was first home in a time of 37 minutes, 22 seconds, followed by Noel Breaks (39.54) and Robert Johnston (41.26). The first veteran was Sam Way and first junior was Craig MacNiven.

First woman across the line was Alison Chong in a time of 43.50, followed by Sheila Lawson and Eilidh Cole. First veteran was Linda Anderson Kerr and first junior home was Rachel Camp-

bell. There was also an entry of 30 children in the ABCD Fun Run (2.5 kilometres), with an age range of three to 14 years.

Winners
The winners of the Fun Run were as follows: Boys - 1 Fraser MacFarlane (10.05); 2 Brandon Ferris (10.25); 3 Alasdair Traford (10.30). Girls - 1 Helen Chong (12.04); 2 Sarah Ferraira Neto (12.40); 3 Erin MacFarlane (13.10).

After the race, held on Sunday, May 15, the Jimmy Donn Memorial Quich was presented to Gregor MacCormick, Donnie

ATHLETICS

Campbell and Donald Cameron, who are members of the Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match committee.

This trophy is presented annually to the person or persons who, in the view of the ABCD Trustees, have contributed most to the furtherance of the charity in the past few years.

The ploughing match committee have raised thousands of pounds over the past few years for ABCD at their annual ploughing match.



Runners set off the ABCD Fun Run 2011. 08_120abcd01

Lochgilthead games drawn

THIS week was the start of the men's Scottish competition. Oban's first round was against Ardrishaig at Tarbert. Neil MacDougall and Sean Hay had a comfortable win. Their next game will be in Ardrishaig.

On Saturday, May 21, Oban men played a very wet league game against Lochgilthead. It ended in a draw.

Oban ladies were on the Oban green against Lochgilthead. It ended in a draw. Oban Ladies were on the Oban green against

BOWLING

Ardrishaig and Oban had a resounding win.

On Sunday, May 22, the Ewen Campbell Memorial Cup was played on Oban green. In a mix of sunshine and showers 36 players competed. The runners up were Bill Goldie, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie. The winners were Gordon Cruickshanks, Peggy Macpherson and Flo Smith. The trophy was sponsored by SEC Joiners.

Oban SC results

RECENT results: Race No 43: 1 Krabby Patty, Laser, Tim Bleazard; 2 Zziip, Laser, Eric Chapman; 3 CK, Topper Buzz, Ben Carter; 4 Meer Magic, Laser 2, James Chapman.
Race No 44: 1 unSponsored 1, Topper, OSC; 2 Hardy, Topper, OSC; 3 Laurel, Topper, OSC; 4 Wavelength, Laser 4.7, Jamie Sinclair. Race No 45: 1 Krabby Patty, Laser, Tim Bleazard; 2 Meer Magic, Laser 2, James Chapman.
Race No 46: 1 unSponsored, Topper, OSC; 2 Hardy, Topper, OSC; 3 Purple2, Topper, OSC; 4 Wavelength, Laser 4.7, Jamie Sinclair.
Race No 41: 1 Shadowfax, First 31.7, W E (Billy) Forth; 2 Nimrod, Dehler34, Colin M Crawford.
Race No 40: Zipper, Eyghene 24, Michael McGarry. Race No 23: Shadowfax, First 34.7, W E (Billy) Forth.

SAILING



The newly refurbished Glencruitten Golf Club hosted another successful Licensed Trade Association Golf Day last week. A total of 28 players took part for various prizes: Overall winner - Alex Needham; runner-up - David Hamilton; third - Terry McNair. Winner of the Licensed Trade Rosebowl was Declan Curran and the prize for best gross score went to James Muir. Last year's Rosebowl winner, Aulay Dunn, is pictured handing over the prize to this year's winner Declan, while James and David look on. 15_121trade01

Scott improving all the time

CONNEL quad racer Scott Sinclair has posted some strong finishes in this season's Scottish quad racing championship and the North East Trike Trophy (NETT).

Both championships are well under and Scott is competing in the 250 hybrid class.

The first round of the Scottish championship was held in Cardenden, Fife, with a field of 23 from various classes. Scott secured first in class and a fifth overall, agreeing that he had not trained hard enough for the opening round so set his targets

QUAD RACING

to improve fitness for the next event.

Duns, in the Borders, welcomed round two and with a larger entry from England appearing on the day, Scott dominated races two and three, winning both, but mechanical issues in the first race meant he didn't finish. It was thanks to mechanic Connor Kerr that he was able to get back out.

Travelling to Thorsway, Grimsby, to compete in the third round of the NETT championship Scott had a great weekend, finishing second overall behind Leon Rogers of Ireland and, in a far stronger field of riders, proved that his fitness and bike speed is improving.

Missing the first two rounds means he has an uphill task to catch up on points but with consistent podium finishes anything is possible.



Scott Sinclair in action.

Saints Under 14s in League Cup final

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Under 14s take on Renton Craighandro on Saturday in the final of the Dumbartonshire Development League Cup.

The match will be played at Strathclyde Homes Stadium, home of Dumbarton Football Club, with 12.30pm kick-off.

A large number of spectators are travelling from Oban to support the boys and everybody from the club and the town wishes the team the best of luck and hope they can bring the trophy back to Oban.

Weekend results: Baljaffray 5, Under 15s 1. Saints scorer was Rhuiradh Cain. Blair Thistle 9, Under 16s 0. This weekend's fixture: Port Glasgow v Under 15s.

Dream start for Lorn Ladies

SHINTY

THE NEWLY formed Lorn Ladies Shinty Club got off to a dream start in their opening round of the Caledonian Canal Challenge Cup, beating Ardnamurchan 14-0.

On the score sheet on the day was Alison MacVicar, Carrie Craik, Caroline Smith, Ashley MacMillan and Denise Gemmell.

The team now looks forward to a semi-final tie on June 26 in Stirling.

Training resumes on June 9 at Oban High School playing fields from 7pm - 8.30pm. The club is still looking to recruit new players and members, so anyone that is interested is urged to come along.

Mary 'Queen of shots' at Seil

GOLF

MARY Philips showed most of the men how it's done as she shot a net 63 on the 10th playing of the Curly Cup at Isle of Seil Golf Club. Mary won the large cup by pipping Colin Campbell also net 63 on countback.

It was not all doom and gloom for Colin as he won May's monthly medal the week before. The club used the May medal as qualification to The Belhaven Best Club Handicap Championships 2011 and Colin will be playing alongside Mark McDougall who finished second.

Argyll Golf Union

GOLF

A FIELD of 100 has assembled this weekend for the 2011 Spring Meeting being held on Sunday at MacRishanish Dunes.

The event will be an 18 hole stableford competition with prizes both in the handicap and scratch sections.

The draw can be found on www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com

Saints sit and wait

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Oban Saints	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	18	9	6	3	38	22	33
Kilpatrick	17	10	2	5	28	24	32
Greenock HSPF	18	8	4	6	31	30	28
Thorn Athletic	17	7	3	6	29	30	24
Castlemilk	18	7	2	9	34	35	23
St Joseph's	18	7	2	9	29	44	23
Aikhead Thistle	13	6	3	4	29	16	21
Cambria	17	6	2	9	21	23	20
Inverclyde	17	5	5	7	29	32	20
Arkleston	17	4	3	10	24	36	15

Weather

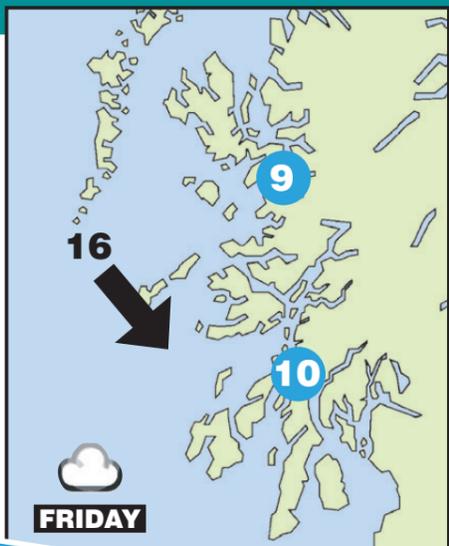
Thursday Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate northerly.
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

Friday Cloudy.
Winds moderate, north westerly.
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain.
Winds moderate, south westerly.
Temperatures 9°C to 10°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 26, 2011**

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.16	3.0 06.45 1.8 13.06 2.7 19.00 1.7	
Fri 01.36	3.0 07.51 1.7 14.08 2.8 20.10 1.7	
Sat 02.32	3.1 08.47 1.6 14.53 3.0 21.10 1.6	
Sun 03.18	3.2 09.32 1.5 15.33 3.2 21.56 1.5	
Mon 03.59	3.4 10.11 1.3 16.12 3.4 22.34 1.4	
Tues 04.40	3.5 10.48 1.2 16.50 3.5 23.12 1.3	
Wed 05.19	3.6 11.25 1.0 17.27 3.6 23.50 1.2	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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