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Minard primary to share head teacher

MINARD Primary School is to share its headship with neighbouring Furnace Primary in a council experiment to make it 'more sustainable'.

Minard, which was among those rural schools marked for closure by Argyll and Bute Council, will share Furnace's head, Jay Helbert, for the 2012/13 school year following the retirement of Fiona MacDonald.

The move means Mr Helbert will no longer work in the classroom and new teachers will be employed to meet the shortfall.

Minard Parent Council's chairman, Brian Barker, said: 'For us it is certainly seen as positive.'

Heroin found in drugs raid

AN OBAN man has been charged after police recovered a dealer-sized quantity of heroin from an address in Miller Road, Oban.

Police searched property at 10.05am on May 18 on a warrant and also found the 27-year-old man there.

Woman in hospital after Argyll crash

A WOMAN was being treated in Glasgow's Southern General Hospital as *The Oban Times* went to press, following a road crash last Thursday on the A83, south of Furnace.

The 49-year-old woman was airlifted from the scene after suffering head injuries. She was a passenger in a Peugeot, which had collided head-on with a Mazda.

Her 52-year-old husband, who was driving, and the 46-year old driver of the Mazda, were also taken to the Southern General.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 01546 702200.

Roadworks for A85

TWO weeks of roadworks on the A85 at the Wide Mouthed Frog will start on Monday following current preparatory work by Scotland Transerv.

Resurfacing of the road and renewal of road markings will be undertaken between 6am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, using a convoy, but no work is scheduled for the holidays on June 4 and 5.



Sisters Alex, left, and Edie Elliot found out what it would be like to take the helm of the Northern Lighthouse Board's ship *Pole Star* on Saturday, guided by chief officer Neil MacLean. The open day at the Northern Lighthouse Board's Oban depot was held as part of the first weekend of the Festival of the Sea. 15_1211ighthouseopen

New council roles confirmed

OBAN councillor Roddy McCuish has been formally elected leader of Argyll and Bute Council at its first meeting on Tuesday.

Isobel Strong was elected provost of Argyll and Bute and Douglas Philand deputy provost, with Kintyre's John Semple, deputy leader.

Other roles include: James Robb, spokesman for strategic finance and Europe; Douglas Philand, human resources and sport; Sandy Taylor, spokesman for planning; John Semple, energy, development, infrastructure and tourism; Donald Kelly, roads and amenities; Mike Breslin, education; Anne Horn, adult care; Louise Glen-Lee, community, culture, customer and communications; and George Freeman, housing.

Dick Walsh is now leader of the opposition, with Ellen Morton his deputy.

Council puts dampener on McCaig's Tower 'Ring of Fire'

The Oban Times left to break bad news

AMBITIOUS plans to hold a bonfire in Oban's iconic McCaig's Tower to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have been turned down - but the council left it to *The Oban Times* to inform the organiser.

Oban businessman Graham MacQueen had hoped McCaig's 'Ring of Fire' on June 2 would attract the attention of the national press as one of the most imaginative and unique events to mark the Monarch's landmark anniversary.

While the bonfire would be inside the tower, he said, like the annual bonfire held at Mossfield Stadium, the grass would be protected and wouldn't be damaged while the walls of the

tower would be 'no warmer than on a summer day'.

Concerns
However, the council has rejected his proposal, last week telling *The Oban Times*: 'An application to use McCaig's Tower for a bonfire has been turned down.'

'There were concerns from the fire and rescue service, concerns over damage to the grass and the tower itself.'

But Mr MacQueen received no official notification from the council about the decision.

He said: 'The bonfire would have been a wonderful thing for Oban and would have put the town on the map. It would have benefited the town in a big way.'

'I had an independent risk assessment done - there is no risk.'

'But someone somewhere has taken a decision and you don't know the political motivation behind it.'

'I feel like walking away from it and not getting involved.'

'I'm surprised nobody from the council has been in touch to tell me.'

The proposed bonfire split opinion in Oban. While some thought it was imaginative and had potential to be spectacular, others said they feared damage to the tower itself and the garden.

A wedding is due to be held in the tower on the same day.

Broadband faults cause service havoc

Weeks of widespread disruption

BUSINESS and home broadband customers across Oban have hit out at telecoms provider BT after two weeks of widespread disruption.

Work began on May 7 to upgrade the local exchange, with the intention of bringing faster broadband to the area. Rather than finding an improved service, many users found they either cannot get online, have to reset their routers often or even found their speed lowered.

The disruption crippled a number of businesses who found themselves unable to access vital online services such as accounts, email and even card-payment systems.

Complaints to BT have resulted in varying responses. Some were told to reset their router to factory settings or buy new equipment, some advised they were being sent new routers and others that there was no problem.

Euan Warnock of NFU Mutual at Oban Livestock Centre endured 13 days of disruption until service was resumed at 8am on Tuesday - with little comfort from BT.

"We replaced our hardware because BT told us there was no problem."

**Euan Warnock
NFU Mutual**

He said: 'It's been very painful for the business. We replaced our hardware because BT told us there was no problem with the broadband.'

'We had two support engineers come out and tell us there was no problem, but we continued to complain until a serious faults engineer was sent out on Thursday last week.'

'He agreed there was a problem with the line and pulled the plug on our service. We've had nothing until today.'

'It's been extremely problematic for us.'

Another company to suffer disruption was Oban accountancy

firm, Clark Thomson. It went for a week without access, preventing access to online accounting software and taking payments for services.

Account handler Natalie Michie added: 'We're not alone. Quite a few businesses have been affected.'

'We've now got a steady connection, but our speed has dropped from 12Mbps to 3Mbps.'

A spokesman for BT said: 'A software update has caused problems with a particular type of broadband router used by businesses which have switched to the next generation broadband services introduced at Oban exchange in February.'

'Around 20 businesses reported faults and, initially, it proved very difficult to get to the root of the problem. Now that we have, most businesses have their broadband lines restored to service and we are progressing the remaining ones.'

'BT would like to apologise for the frustration and inconvenience caused by this break in service.'

West Highlands - top for hospitality

THE WEST Highlands was named one of the most hospitable parts of the country after winning a host of prizes at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards.

Oban's Alt-na-Craig, run by Sandy and Ina MacArthur, won Scottish Guest House of the Year, one of only seven grand awards presented at Glasgow's Thistle Hotel on Sunday night.

Sandy said: 'We are absolutely delighted because everyone here has worked so hard over the past three years.'

There were also various winners of the Hospitality Gold Medal, including Peter Patek and Petra Jancokova of Bridge

of Orchy Hotel; Jane Watson, Inverloch Castle; Rachel and Calum Ross, Loch Melfort Hotel; Morag MacDonald, Toravaig House Hotel; and Caroline Willis, Pierhouse Hotel.

The Port Appin-based Pierhouse Hotel also helped to justify Oban and Lorn's Seafood Capital of Scotland status with the Seafood Dining Award. Pierhouse owner Nick Horne said: 'We are primarily a seafood restaurant, so this is recognition for that.'

In three wedding categories Glenfinnan House Hotel won the Highlands Wedding Award; Dunsdale House Hotel won the

Special Wedding Award and Ardanaseig Country House took the Intimate Wedding Award plus Most Romantic Hotel.

Other winners included: Ardtonna B&B, Design Award and Green Award; Three Chimneys and House Over-By, Restaurant Team of the Year and Restaurant with Rooms of the Year; Loch Melfort Hotel, Small Country Hotel; Inverloch Castle Hotel, Castle Hotel of the Year; Ugadale Hotel, Golf Hotel of the Year; Glangarry Castle Hotel, Grandly Friendly Award.

Chef Will Hay, Taychreggan Hotel, was awarded a Hotel Chef Medaille d'Argent.

Mull family business invests in £2 million vessel

A NEW £2million vessel belonging to a small family business based on the Isle of Mull was launched last Saturday.

The Helen Burnie, built to a unique design at Macduff Shipyards, aims to tap into Scotland's growing renewable energy market and will create up to 12 new jobs at Inverlussa Marine Services once she is working to capacity.

State-of-the-art vessel
The workboat is equipped with the latest technology to allow it to tackle specialist offshore windfarm and tidal survey work, as well as the more traditional workboat contracts.

The company, which has two other vessels, has already carried out some tidal exploratory work off the islands of Skye and Islay.

Ben Wilson, Inverlussa's Operations Manager, speaking at the launch of the Helen Burnie says he believes renewable energy opportunities have a lot to

offer far-flung communities.

He said: 'We think it's a good time to invest in the renewables sector and the boat has been built completely with renewables in mind, because we do feel it is a sector with vast potential.'

'This is a state-of-the-art vessel, a total one-off design. It's got the latest winch system and the latest crane.'

'It is a general purpose coastal supply vessel, available to assist with all the traditional marine service tasks which are the backbone of our business such as fishfarm feed deliveries and dive support work, but it is also kitted out to work on the construction stage of tidal and offshore wind farm sites.'

The boat will be available for all logistical marine services, including cargo transport, general dive support, fuel and fresh water transfer, cable laying, container transport, plough dredging, anchor handling and towing work.



The Helen Burnie leaving Macduff harbour en route to Oban.



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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director Stewart MacKenzie editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor Stephen Norris snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Faith Orr for@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Richard Haddock rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator Marian Miller mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk 01631 568060 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager Fiona MacInnes fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Rhona McKillop advert@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Lisa Williamson MacDougall @wyvmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Fiona Bennett fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William Tel 01397 703003 Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilhead Tel 01546 602345 Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown Tel 01586 554646 Fax 01586 553006

Arran Tel 01770 302142 Fax 01770 302021

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Man in Oban cocaine case fails to appear

A GLASGOW man who was in possession of cocaine and attempted to conceal it in his anus failed to appear at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Thomas Carberry, 32, of 198 Haywood Street, Parkhouse, previously pled guilty to the crimes, committed on May 4 and 5 at Oban Police Office and the local hospital. His solicitor said: 'My instructions are that Mr Carberry does not have the funds to travel to Oban for court.'

Sheriff Small issued a warrant for Carberry's arrest.

Shared Scotland wanted on film

WEST coast residents are being invited to take part in Scotland's first mass participation documentary film.

The project, Northern Lights, will capture the best of Scotland - filmed by hundreds of entrants and edited into a feature film. Promising filmmakers, complete beginners or anyone who just happens to have a camera is asked to film what they see, the essence of what they wish they had seen or would like to see as part of the Year of Creative Scotland.

Director Nick Higgins said: 'The idea of inviting people from across Scotland to pick up a camera, film their Scotland and share their lives is hugely exciting to me and we've tried to make it as easy as possible for everyone to get involved.'

'Our aim is to create a truly original representation of Scotland, taking in everything from the extraordinary to the everyday.'

Workshops are planned for across the country and anyone who has an existing group or suitable venue and would like to host one is asked to get in touch.

Visit the website www.wearenorthernlights.com to submit your video and watch the contributions. The closing date is June 21.

Carluke man fined for sending obscene messages

A MAN who claimed he had been having an intimate relationship with an Oban businessman sent obscene and sexually explicit messages to his former partner's wife, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Philip Humphries, of 51 Cairnmount Road, Carluke, was expected to stand trial for the crime but pled guilty last Wednesday. The 48-year-old, a first time offender, was fined £450 by Sheriff Small.

Musicians offered place on Princes Street stage

LOCAL musicians are being offered the chance to perform at an open air theatre in Edinburgh's Princes Street by a private family charity.

The Ross Open Air Theatre will be on site from June 22 to August 27, complete with on-site sound technician, free of charge to participants.

Preference, especially during the last week of June and the second half of August, will be given to schools and other youth groups but any band is welcome to apply whatever type of music they play, although ideally they should have a Scottish link. For information email gascoigne575@btinternet.com.

Hearing checks

WEST coast residents are being encouraged to check if they are suffering from hearing loss.

Community Pharmacy Scotland and the charity Action on Hearing Loss Scotland have designed a hearing test to help identify hearing loss and suggest what action to take.

More than 1,200 pharmacies throughout Scotland over the next six weeks will explain the check. The hearing check is free online at www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingcheck or by phone on 0844 800 3838.

Campbeltown man held on four attempted murder charges following town centre car crash

A CAMPBELTOWN man has been remanded in custody on a petition alleging four counts of attempted murder following an incident in the town.

A 40-year-old man appeared in private from custody at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week.

No plea or declaration was made and the case was continued for further examination.

Police cordoned off a section of the town's Lochend Street on Friday May 11 after a people carrier collided with a parked van

shortly after 7.30pm. Two girls, aged five and three, a 45-year-old woman and a 14-year-old boy all sustained serious injuries as a result. The driver sustained minor injuries. The woman and the boy were

airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow whilst the two girls were taken to Yorkhill Hospital. Anyone who has information regarding the incident is urged to contact local police on 01586 862200.



Dr Kirsty Macdonald who has been recognised for providing best feedback to students at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) teaching awards.



Dr Toby Sherwin, professor of oceanography at SAMS, Dunbeg, was named best research supervisor.



Most inspiring lecturer award winner Dr John Howe.

Argyll winners in UHI awards

OBAN has dominated the Argyll winners list in the third annual University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) teaching awards.

Dr John Howe from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI in Dunbeg was named as most inspiring lecturer; his SAMS colleague Professor Toby Sherwin voted best research supervisor and Dr Kirsty Macdonald, a cultural studies lecturer based at Argyll College UHI, was recognised for providing the best assessment feedback.

Nominated by students, each of the winners receives a trophy and certificate for their efforts. Most inspiring lecturer, Dr John Howe, an Oban-based marine geologist, was commended for his positivity and passion for geology.

Delighted Speaking about his award, Dr Howe said: 'I was surprised and delighted to be recognised in this way.'

'Geology is all around us, from the tops of the mountains, to the bottom of the sea so it's a very easy subject to get excited about.'

Best research supervisor, Toby Sherwin, a professor of oceanography at SAMS UHI, was selected for his commitment and support.

One student wrote: 'He has an open door policy and was extremely supportive during the year I was unable to study because of ill-health.'

'He collected samples at sea for me and drove me home when I was too ill to use public transport.' Professor Sherwin said: 'It is a

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

great honour to be considered the best supervisor because there are a lot of very good teachers and supervisors in the university. 'This should also be a great fillip to the support team at SAMS UHI who do all they can to ensure students get the highest quality of support.'

Best assessment feedback winner, Dr Kirsty Macdonald - the daughter of late Oban councillor Donald Macdonald - was complimented for giving thorough, fair and timely feedback.

One voter explained: 'I feel she is exceptionally fair and constructive.'

Dr Kirsty Macdonald, who is based at Argyll College UHI and lives in Oban, said: 'I'm delighted to have won this teaching award - it is particularly meaningful because it has been voted for by the students themselves.'

Wonderful 'I love teaching, so it's wonderful to receive some acknowledgement from those who matter most.'

UHI's head of student services, Dr Iain Morrison, said: 'Once again the students' nominations suggest that the region's local university has staff delivering excellence in both teaching and student support.'

'We are proud of our colleagues and the positive impact they clearly have on individual student's lives.'

Argyll councillors take A83 major investment case to Scottish Parliament

THREE Argyll and Bute councillors have spoken at the Scottish Parliament, outlining the case for further major investment in the A83.

The Argyll First group of councillors - Donald Kelly, John McAlpine and Dougie Philand - spoke to the petitions committee at the parliament on Tuesday.

Last week they handed in a petition set up by Argyll First, calling for key improvements to the road.

The petition was signed by more than 10,000 people and has the support of 142 businesses from within and outwith Argyll and Bute.

It also has cross party support from Argyll and Bute Council and is backed by the Road Hauliers Association and the Federation of Small Businesses.

At the presentation the councillors were joined by Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell, who commended them on putting 'a strong case', and said: 'There was clear cross



Councillor Donald Kelly.

party support for continued and increased investment in the route and for learning the outcomes of the present study being undertaken by Transport Scotland.'

Labour's Rhoda Grant was among several other MSPs to publicly back the call for investment in the A83. She said in the next stage the committee would take the questions raised by the petition to Transport Minister Keith Brown.

MSP tackles council over public events licence policy

ARGYLL and Bute's MSP is to write to the local authority and ask it to reverse a controversial policy to charge for public events licences.

Legislation was recently introduced to require licences for public events, in a move Michael Russell said was designed 'only to prevent large scale raves or other gatherings which were a disturbance, a safety risk and often a nuisance'.

He says other councils in Scotland have decided not to charge small free events such as charity concerts or local arts events for

licences, while Argyll and Bute Council took the decision to impose a blanket policy of paid licences.

That came into effect last month resulting in one event being cancelled. He has called on the council's new administration to reverse the decision.

He said: 'Many other events are now going to be under threat and the end result would be the collapse of local cultural groups, the frightening off of incoming groups and a growing impoverishment of our local cultural scene.'

Oban school steps closer to cooking for the Queen

PUPILS from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, are one step closer to cooking for the Queen after making the final of a national competition.

The Cook for The Queen competition, run by Love British Food, confirmed that St Columba's is in the last 16 - one of only two Scottish schools and the only Scottish primary to make the final cut from an entry of 208.

P7 pupils put together the exciting menu and will find out this week if they are selected as one of four teams invited to Buckingham Palace as part of celebrations to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The school's Pamela Lockhart said: 'We're all very excited to get to the finals. We're really looking forward to finding out if we'll be going to the palace.'

For starters, the pupils put on

three options; carrot and orange soup, figs and Argyll ham with Isle of Mull blue cheese or mackerel pate with Scottish porridge omelette.

Mains were salmon fishcakes, smoked duck pancakes, leek asparagus and brie fillets with caramelised red onion chutney or haggis, beetroot and red onion parcels.

Two desserts were available, McCaig's Tower tablet cheese-

cake - which is decorated to look like McCaig's Tower and lavender shortbread with cream and 'blae' berries.'

Cream scones and Gaelic coffee with Oban Chocolate Shop chocolates were the after dinner treats.

Pamela said: 'Some of the other schools used chefs to help with their menus but we didn't use one, so it's a great achievement by the pupils.'

Lorn Lines

ONE OF Oban's most well-known public houses could re-open this year after a bid was lodged for the Oban Inn.

Selling agent Colliers confirmed this week that they were in the process of agreeing preferred bidder status with a view to concluding a sale in the coming weeks.

The Grade B listed building was closed in December 2008 despite a refurbishment earlier that year.

Rental offers of more than £70,000 per annum were being sought by Colliers.

The new tenant would have to apply for a licence, with the previous one having lapsed last year.



If you spotted some surprising fashion statements around last Tuesday it was members of Oban's Inner Wheel celebrating their 90th meeting, dressed appropriately in 1950s style. The Regent Hotel management kindly surprised members with a special celebration cake. A talk was then given by Linda Dodd on the Leprosy Mission of Scotland. A £195 cheque was presented to Linda for the mission.

ALZHEIMER Scotland's 'Singing for the Brain' group is celebrating its second birthday on June 5.

The group meets on Tuesdays at Soroba House Hotel from 1.30pm to 3pm and is combining the birthday celebrations with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

People with dementia will join with family, friends, carers and helpers to enjoy favourite songs and a delicious tea. They will also share their memories of the coronation.

The group is also advertising for a new singing leader to take over the running of the group, funded by the charity's Oban branch and Argyll and Bute Council.



Taynuilt's Erick Kennedy flew back to Scotland from Australia to watch his beloved Hearts win the Scottish Cup. 15_121eric01

MANY football supporters from the west Highlands travelled through to Edinburgh for last weekend's Scottish Cup Final - but few will have travelled as far as Taynuilt man Erick Kennedy.

Hearts fan Erick, who emigrated to Australia with his wife Claire last year, was celebrating in style in Hampden Park's hospitality section with his father-in-law Raymond McIntosh.

The 33-year-old joiner said his team's 5-1 win over Edinburgh rivals Hibernian was the best game he has ever been to and well worth the £3,000 he spent on flights and corporate hospitality.

'That's what life is all about,' Eric quips. 'I kept track of the cup run and when I heard they had drawn Hibs in the final I decided I just had to be there.'

'I knew I wouldn't get a ticket, so I just booked a place in the hospitality section.'

Eric, a former season ticket holder at Hearts' stadium, Tynecastle, attended his first game in 1995 with work colleague Paul Levein, brother of Hearts legend and current Scotland manager Craig.

'My wife was fine about me coming over for the cup final because she knows how much it means to me,' Erick added. 'There will never be another game like it.'

OBAN'S young musicians have an opportunity to get themselves on television soon, thanks to BBC Alba.

Their travel programme Go! Explore! will be filming a special Oban Mic night on May 29 and everyone is encouraged to attend.

One of the organisers, Lesley Aitchison, said: 'We would like to encourage locals, both regulars and those who have never been before, to come along and support our young local musicians and promote Oban.'

'The young people playing are great. They are all writing their own stuff, it is incredible the talent that is in the town.'

The event starts at 6.30pm in O'Donnell's on Breadalbane Street next Tuesday night.

Send your news and views from the Lorn and Oban area to Euan Paterson at The Oban Times epaterson@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568000

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Council confirms no liability for former housing stock at Soroba

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed its liability for property in Soroba stopped when housing stock was transferred to the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in 2006.

However, it may be able to assist some owner/occupiers with the cost as part of its statement of assistance.

Owner occupier dispute
ACHA is currently investigating how best to proceed with

roughcasting several blocks in the housing estate, with several owner occupiers refusing to pay for the work, saying the £18,000 bill is too expensive or they cannot get credit to pay for it. Some residents had asked why

Argyll and Bute Council were not contributing to the cost but the council said it was agreed it wouldn't have to.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'In Soroba, as with every other private house purchase

the owner is responsible for repairs and maintenance and the condition of the property at the time of purchase is reflected in the purchase price.

'ACHA has commissioned a survey and analysis on the ren-

der at Soroba from the Building Research Establishment which is due imminently. Once this is available we can consider the circumstances at Soroba and, through consultation with all owners, determine the best

approach for them to secure the future of their property.

'The council's statement of assistance for private owners details the level of grants which are available to assist with common repairs.'

Two charged with dangerous driving as police deny speed crackdown

OBAN, Lorn and the Isles' top police officer says an increase in speeding detections is because of a smarter deployment of resources, not a specific crackdown on fast drivers.

In the past week alone, two drivers have been charged with dangerous driving because of their speed and police in the area have recorded a further 10 incidents of speeding that are serious enough to be subject of criminal charges.

One driver charged with dangerous driving was clocked travelling at 62mph in a 30mph speed limit through Taynuilt at 9am on Monday while a school crossing patrol was in operation. Another driver, who was caught travelling at 48mph in a 30mph zone outside Kilniver Primary School, was towing a caravan on Monday afternoon and has subsequently been charged with reckless and dangerous driving.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, area commander, said: 'I am disappointed with the continued inconsiderate and inappropriate driving displayed by some.'

'We have become more intelligent about how we deploy officers because our speed monitoring equipment informs me of the days and times that are problematic.'

'But it would not be accurate to say we have been targeting speeders.'

Arrests follow alleged assaults

FOLLOWING an alleged assault on two women at an address in Combie Street, Oban, a 26-year-old man has been charged. The victims are aged 34 and 24.

In another incident, a 31-year-old woman has also been charged with an alleged assault on a 46-year-old man in Combie Street, Oban, on Monday.

The woman was also accused of conducting herself in a disorderly manner during the same incident at 8.30pm.

Police hunt for school vandals

POLICE are on the hunt for three teenagers who they suspect of smashing windows at Oban High School at around 10pm on May 19.

One of the three males is described as being around 16 years of age and wore a white hooded top.

Anyone with any information can contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Pier power leaves fishermen frustrated

Locked barrier leaves Oban fishermen limited access

FISHERMEN say they feel they're being 'pushed' away from Oban's Railway Pier over a new barrier and electrical points installed by Caledonian and Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) in November.

More than six months has passed since new electrical points were installed for fishermen on the pier, but Caledonian and Maritime Assets Ltd is yet to make them available for use, leaving fishermen scratching their heads as to why.

As a result, those vessels with crew staying aboard have to keep the engines running to provide electricity - using diesel in the process.

Meanwhile, the automated barrier preventing vehicular access to the pier is proving a headache for fishermen, saying they feel they are being denied access at times whenever either the harbourmaster is unavailable or tied up on other duties.

Negotiations for local fishermen to receive a key-fob to operate the barriers have so far proved fruitless.

'I've never seen anything like this.'

Oban fisherman Eric Groat

Kilmore-based fisherman Eric Groat, 59, said: 'I've been a fisherman for 40 years and I've never seen anything like this. There's no excuse, really.'

'How can they call Oban Scotland's Seafood Capital if fishermen can't get access to these facilities?'

Oban Port Users' Peter Tosh said: 'Fishermen are having to run their engines if they need power and the cost of diesel is high enough. These power points would save fishermen fortunes, which is particularly important.'

'There's also limited access to the pier and that's a problem. We've asked for key fobs, even if just for the local fishermen, but nothing has come back.' CMAL says it anticipates

switching on the power points sometime in the next few days after training with all port staff has been completed and all safety aspects have been covered.

Regarding access to the pier, it said it decided with pier operator CalMac Ferries Ltd to install the bollard after the previous padlocked gate was frequently left unlocked.

That allowed uncontrolled vehicular access to the pier, which it says presented a health and safety issue.

The spokesperson said: 'The port operator, CalMac Ferries Ltd, has a pier master on duty 20.5 hours a day, who has a key fob and can offer access to fishermen on request.'

'Access will not be unreasonably withheld, however for safety reasons the pier master may need to exercise his discretion in very busy periods.'

'CMAL has written to Oban Port Users regarding the access along the Railway Pier and the group is aware of the arrangements with the pier master.'



Firefighters clear the remaining debris out of the Manora House Hotel following last Friday's kitchen fire. 15_121manora2

Kitchen fire stalls popular Oban hotel

A POPULAR Oban hotel and restaurant has been forced to temporarily close after a fire ripped through the kitchen of The Manora House Hotel on Friday.

Three fire appliances and

crews were called to the Gallanach Road business just after 1pm on Friday afternoon when a fire in the kitchen spread up the ducting. Two first floor rooms were damaged in the fire, a guest room and a staff room,

although nobody was injured. Hotel manager, Gregor MacKinnon, said: 'The main thing is that nobody was hurt.'

'We just have to wait for the insurance assessors before we can do anything. We will try

and resume normal service as soon as possible.'

Insurance assessors visited the hotel and restaurant this week and every effort is being made to quickly reopen the doors to the public.



Oban's Olympic assistants, from left Zalina Dzhatieva, Sharon MacKechnie and Kyle Dods, visited Dunbeg Primary School to join their own mini-version of the Olympic Games. 15_121olympic1

Carbon capture project underway at Benderloch

SCIENTISTS carrying out a world-first carbon capture experiment in Ardmucknish Bay, near Benderloch, started pumping the gas last Thursday.

Problems collecting accurate seismic data forced a delay to the intended Monday start, but the research project has since been running according to plan.

At the time of going to press, a few litres of carbon dioxide were being injected a minute from the Tralee Bay slipway, but it is hoped the minimum target of 80kg can be pumped in the coming days. The global research project is being led by SAMS, Dunstaffnage.

Oban's sporting superstars get set to play their part in London Olympics

THREE of Oban's leading sporting lights will play a significant part in July's London 2012 Olympic Games - starting with carrying the Olympic Flame.

Atlantis Leisure's assistant manager, Kyle Dods, will take the Olympic Torch through Spean Bridge on June 9 as one of the 8,000 runners carrying it

8,000 miles to London for the July 27 lighting ceremony.

Meanwhile, PE teacher Sharon MacKechnie will help run the badminton competition, while volleyball tutor, Zalina Dzhatieva will help run the volleyball competition.

Kyle had previously travelled to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games to participate in the

compound archery competition, but will not be able to participate at the Games, with the sport not included in that or the 2014's Commonwealth Games schedule of events.

However, he is proud to be playing his part in the London Games even if he can't compete in his chosen discipline.

He said: 'It's a once in a life-

time opportunity. It's quite a proud moment. It doesn't make up for not being able to compete at the Olympics, it's still great to be a part of it. I don't know how far I'll be running. I've been told it is one mile but I've also heard 300 metres.'

'All I know is I'll be turning up to run. I'm a wee bit nervous about it now.'

Sharon, a board member of Badminton Scotland, will coordinate the Games' badminton competition in Wembley Arena, although she will spend a total of eight weeks in the capital's Canary Wharf preparing for her big event.

She said: 'I'm dead excited. I've been involved with badminton at international and

world championships but not on this level. It's huge.'

'We've got eight weeks at Canary Wharf before we move to Wembley Arena for the competition. I'm really looking forward to it.'

Zalina says travelling to the Games fulfils a lifetime ambition and she is hoping to help inspire more athletes in

the Oban area to train towards competing at future Olympics.

She said: 'When I was a kid my mum, when she bought me my outfit for volleyball, said I want to see you at the Olympics. What pressure!'

'I'm hoping the part all three of us will play will give the kids some inspiration and more of a base to watch the games from.'



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Nature restores Ganavan's sands

GANAVAN'S SANDS famous golden beaches have returned - just in time for the summer weather.

Just as the mercury started reaching 20°C, visitors to the beach found the sand extending right to the back wall for the first time since December's storms reduced the beach to its pebbly base.

While most of the sand had returned naturally by the end of March, the high spring tides seem to have finished the job and returned all of the sand removed by 2011's blustery end.

Argyll and Bute Council had been inundated with offers to recharge the beach artificially after storms in December and January changed the face of the beach, but the council warned such action, no matter how well intentioned, could be harmful and illegal.



INDEPENDENT
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Oban and North Lorn

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Famous Mull castle back on the market

MULL'S iconic Torosay Castle is back on the market – for a much lower asking price than previously listed.

The castle and its famous gardens have been in the same family since 1865 but it is understood the intention has been to sell the castle for many years.

Torosay was previously up for sale for £2.8 million but this has been significantly reduced to a price tag of £1.65 million, although the buyer would purchase less land than originally offered.

On Torosay's last listing an American noted interest, claiming to be a descendant of the Macleans of Coll and indirectly from the Macleans of Duart.

James Dudgeon contacted *The Oban Times* looking for help with purchasing the castle: 'I had contacted the sales agent and was treated so very poorly by them that I simply did not pursue it,' he said.

However, Dudgeon, from Madison, Wisconsin, is a convicted thief whose LinkedIn profile states he is the managing partner/shareholder of Torosay Properties Inc, which he also claims has 500 to 1,000 employees and is available for equity buyout.

But according to the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, they issued an order against Dudgeon and Torosay Properties in 2002 to 'protect investors'. The order documents also state Dudgeon has issued 'worthless cheques' and taken thousands of dollars from investors with no return.

Dudgeon, who claims to have been educated in New York University, University of Arizona and Arizona State University, did not comment on the above.

But when asked if he considered himself a suitable person to own Torosay Castle he said: 'Yes I do, the mistakes I have made in the past, I have taken full and complete responsibility for.'

'I have paid my debt to society, been remorseful and tried every day to be a better person and benefit my community.'

'I deeply regret my actions of the past and can only say I try to be a better person with my actions each day.'



Three-year-old Erik Turnewitsch, his mum Fiona and dad Robert enjoyed a tour around Oban's lifeboat, the *Mora Edith MacDonald*, at Oban Sailing Club on Saturday. 15_121lifeboat1

Festival of the Sea on crest of a wave

HUNDREDS of people took advantage of the weekend's good weather to enjoy the first days of the Festival of the Sea.

Open days at the Northern Lighthouse Board and Oban Sailing Club were the highlights on Saturday, with the warm conditions providing the perfect opportunity for families to see for themselves how some of the most easily recognised residents of Oban's bay operate.

Visitors were out in force across Argyll and the isles though, with Bute, Canna and Kilmartin House Museum all hosting events over the weekend.

The Northern Lighthouse Board opened the doors to its

premises on Gallanach Road, letting visitors see the on-shore facilities before touring their vessel *Pole Star*.

Locals also enjoyed speeding about Oban Bay in Seafari's rigid inflatable boat.

Tour
The sailing club not only invited visitors onto their own boats for a tour of the bay, but shared the stage with two other organisations.

Oban's lifeboat, the *Mora Edith MacDonald*, was at the club's pontoons with visitors able to tour the vessel.

Adventure sports social enterprise Stramash held taster sessions to give would be water-

goers a chance to turn their hand to sea kayaking and canoeing in Oban's bay.

Dunollie hosted cream teas on Sunday, while the Waterfront Fishhouse welcomed parents and children for a cookery afternoon with head chef and co-owner Alex Needham.

A host of events are lined up throughout the week, including SAMS open day on Saturday, a Hebridean photography masterclass with Dr Sam Jones today (Thursday) and a carbon capture open day at Tralee Bay slipway on Friday.

The full programme can be found in last week's *Oban Times*, or at www.obanseafestival.org.



Above: A family try their hand at canoeing for the first time at one of the Stramash taster sessions at Oban Sailing Club. 15_121stramash1

Left: Dr Ian Rae and Iona Campbell of the Biomara marine biofuels project, who talked about how fatty seaweeds could provide the fuel of the future at the festival's opening event in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday. 15_121biomara1



A fishy treat awaited the budding chefs who attended the Waterfront Fishhouse cookery day on Saturday. Head chef and co-owner Alex Needham guided his pupils through a three-course menu, helping them prepare a hot smoked salmon salad with beetroot and rapeseed oil starter, 'Seafood Stramash' main with wild garlic and manchego crust and a Fishhouse style Eton Mess for dessert. 15_121cookery1

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Isle of Barra children's centre accuses isles council of 'contempt'

BARRA'S Children's Centre has accused the local authority of 'treating them with contempt' after it ignored advice from the school's inspectorate over plans to move nursery provision into Castlebay School.

In its summary of plans to move pre-school provision into the school, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'The HMIe Report recognised the merits

of the proposal to relocate the nursery.'

However, it ignored the full findings by HMIe, which highlighted not only significant community opposition to the plans, but that 'the current proposals for the accommodation do not provide sufficient clarity about how the quality of the environment will be better for children.' HMIe urges the

authority to consult parents and staff at Castlebay School about the actual design of the nursery, to consider the implications of the proposed £70,000 adaptations and increased school roll and to fully explore viable alternatives.

The council concludes its report by recommending accommodation within Castlebay School is made available to

house both Gaelic and English nursery rooms.

It says: 'Based on the educational benefits, the ability to provide a service to meet demand and the increased viability of the service the Department of Education and Children's Services is persuaded that the proposal would best meet the needs of the children enrolling in pre-school education and has

therefore agreed to proceed to statutory consultation.'

Abigail Treffry, co-ordinator at the children's centre, said the report has added to community concerns that the proposals were 'a whitewash.'

She said: 'HMIe's report is actually pretty clear. They don't feel the case has been made for any educational benefit. They say the case has been made for

management benefit, but not for education. The council are misquoting HMIe.'

Mrs Treffry pointed out that the council's Bernard Chisolm effectively told parents at a heated public meeting in February that the money designated to move nursery provision could be used to expand the children's centre to meet increased demand. She added: 'Throughout

this process we've been asking for information and we can't even get floorplans for their proposal. They are treating us with contempt and we all feel this is a whitewash.'

A council spokesman said no decision had been taken with all information still to be presented to the council, adding no information had been withheld or ignored.

Oban airport to market itself on a 'golden ticket'

TENDERS to manage the marketing of Oban Airport are due to be returned at the end of the week, as fresh promises are made over its future.

The previous council administration last month issued a tender to manage and implement a new marketing plan for the airport, with the deadline due to expire by May 25.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed it receives no revenue from the running of the airport, as Hebridean Air Services, which operates the Public Service Obligation (PSO) contract, retains the revenue.

The Oban Times had previously obtained figures showing the airport costs the authority on average more than £700,000 a year, with approximately £70,000 a year in street parking charges collected in Oban going towards the costs.

Oban councillor Louise Glen-Lee has vowed the new SNP-independent administration will put extra effort into the airport.

She said: 'Let's make sure we can do the best for the airport. It's been a white elephant for a long time but let's make it a golden ticket for tourism to the area.'

Appin pupil raises £6,000 with sound of silence

STRATH of Appin Primary School pupil Cameron Allen is expecting to raise around £6,000 after completing his sponsored silence.

The 10 year old, who suffers from brittle bone disease, raised the first £4,100 in just five days in April.

Cameron only expected to raise £100 for the Brittle Bone Society but the determined youngster, who needs a wheelchair to get around and has fractured numerous bones in his small frame, has been inundated with donations. The primary six pupil successfully completed a three-hour sponsored silence in class and in the playground with the support of his classmates and ran a shop in the school selling cakes, bugs and badges.

Hill runner airlifted off Mull

A HILL runner who was taking part in last weekend's Scottish Islands Peak Race was airlifted from Ben More, Mull.

The 43 year old from Edinburgh was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

Police seize cars in Oban and Mull

A CAR has been seized by Oban Police after the driver was charged with various road traffic offences.

The car was stopped in Galanach, Oban at 2.20pm on Monday.

The driver had no licence or insurance cover and the car had no MOT. Two of the tyres on the car were below the required minimum depth of tread.

Another driver stopped in Aros, Isle of Mull, has had his car seized after it was found to have no tax disc or insurance cover. The vehicle was stopped at 5pm on May 18.

Could seaweed be the future for biofuel?

New report highlights potential of biofuel from seaweed and algae

A NEW report has been issued by the Dumbeg-Ed Algal Bioenergy Special Interest Group (AB-SIG) looking at the potential of cultivating algae for renewable energy.

Released last week, Dr Michele Stanley from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and director of AB-SIG, the report has been put together to help direct research into algae cultivation for use in applications such as biofuels in addition to existing uses.

The report outlines some of the best ways of cultivating and using both seaweed and microalgae - microscopic floating plants like phytoplankton - in large commercially viable quantities.

It considers the possibilities and costs of transferring land-based technologies to freshwater and marine environments and looks at the positive and negative impacts on the environment of scaling up algae production, along with recommendations for essential research needed to establish an environmentally sustainable algae-based industry.

Dr Stanley said: 'Our report looks at both the current markets and future opportunities.'

'The UK has a strong industrial sector that could expand its current use and development of high-value algal products, such as for the food and feed industry, personal care and nutrition, and using algae as a low-cost wastewater treatment.'

'In the longer term, cultivating algae for biofuels will provide an alternative to using land-grown crops, reducing both the threat of increased food costs and the effects on biodiversity, whilst benefiting energy producers, and the transport and aviation



Cultivating seaweed and algae for renewable energy could provide a new harvest on the west coast

industries.'

AB-SIG, which is hosted by the Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network, suggests the potential for an energy and bulk chemicals market in the UK will be a long-term project requiring a significant amount of research and development.

The AB-SIG is a two-year initiative funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Technology Strategy Board under the auspices of the Living With Environmental Change Partnership.



Pupils of Dalmally Primary School are joined by their parents in celebrating the opening of the new Dugie Livingstone Memorial Path. Ishbel Livingstone cuts the ribbon, watched by, from left, Julie Young, Duncan MacIntyre, Elaine Robertson and George Kay.

Memorial path safe route for Dalmally youngsters

PUPILS at Dalmally Primary School can enjoy a quicker and safer walk to the village's community hall thanks to a new £25,000 path.

Jointly funded by LEADER, SusTrans and Argyll and Bute

Council, the new route and bike shelter means that school children don't have to walk alongside the main road when heading to Dalmally Community Hall for PE lessons or other events.

The Dugie Livingstone Memorial Path was opened by widow Ishbel last Thursday, watched on by head teacher George Kay, SusTrans' Julie Young and councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Elaine Robertson.

Mr Kay said: 'I'm absolutely delighted with the path.'

'It cuts out a great deal of walking for the pupils and is very, very safe because it keeps the pupils away from the main road.'

Argyll-Canadian gold panner strikes it lucky at Tyndrum

'We found gold in most pans and in some places we found lots of gold'

EVERYONE knows there's gold in the hills in Tyndrum - but one Canadian visitor found quite a bit in the river too.

Dave Mullett, of Vancouver Island, is a professional gold panning guide in Canada and decided to teach his cousin James the ropes on a recent visit to Scotland.

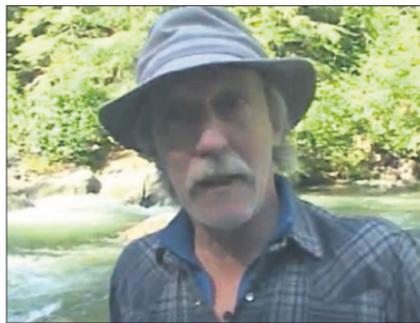
Strike

The pair headed to Tyndrum to try their luck in the river and Dave said: 'It wasn't what I would call a serious go at it but we found gold in most pans and in some places we found lots of gold.'

'I brought my pans with me to teach my cousin how to pan. It is not that difficult but can be tough on the body, it is easier if you wear chest waders as you can sit and pan between your legs.'

Dave works as a guide teaching visitors and school children the skill of gold panning for his friend's company, Comox Valley Gold Adventures.

Describing the gold in Tyndrum as 'really nice' with 'lots of structure', Dave said James



Dave Mullett being interviewed on Canadian television news about his gold panning lessons. Full video at vancouverisland-gold.com.

found a piece of gold that looked like 'twisted rope'.

He added: 'At Tyndrum it is a tough river to work in because it is pretty steep but it is good, I have dug for nine days before and not found what I found at Tyndrum.'

The 56-year-old was born in Campbelltown and grew up in Ardrishaig before emigrating to Canada in 1967.

He has returned many times since and has lots of family here, his most recent visit was to scatter his mother's ashes.

Vessels muster in Oban Bay for Jubilee celebrations

AN ARMADA of vessels will gather in Oban Bay on June 2 as part of a host of celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Royal Highland Yachting Club, Oban Sailing Club and Oban Lifeboat will be joined by a host of local boats and Oban Kayak Club at the invite of Graham MacQueen in marking the occasion, as part of a full weekend of events.

Oban Winter Festival Committee will host a Jubilee Swing in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on June 1 from 7.30pm. Performing at the event will be Taynuilt Swing Band, Spotlight Group, Ballet West, Sequence Choir and a special dance demo.

Sunday, June 3, will see the Argyllshire Gathering Halls host the Jubilee Big Lunch. Everyone in Oban aged 86 - the Queen's age - or over will be invited to join the celebration between 2pm-4pm, which will also celebrate the achievements of the town's volunteers and voluntary organisations.

The Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute is also holding a number of Jubilee bonfires across Oban, Lorn and the islands, with fires to be seen in Oban, throughout the Sound of Mull, on Coll, Tiree and Jura, heading south to Kintyre, and finally Mount Stewart on Bute.

Inveraray Primary School celebrates double jubilee

PUPILS, staff and parents of Inveraray Primary School will celebrate a double jubilee on June 1.

Not only will they mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on that day but also the school's Golden Jubilee, as it was formally opened as Inveraray Grammar Junior Secondary School by Michael Noble, Esq, MP for Argyll on May 25, 1962.

The primary 6-7 class has planned the afternoon's celebrations with support from school staff and the parent council.

Invited guests will be treated to a regal parade before lunch and then the formal reopening of the school.

Past pupils and community members are welcome from 12.45pm to share in the festivities.

Please contact the school on 01499 302218 if you will be attending.

Oxfam challenges Argyll and Bute councillors on poverty

COUNCILLORS in Argyll and Bute are being challenged to use ground-breaking new research to boost prosperity for local people.

The Oxfam Humankind Index for Scotland is a new measure of Scotland's prosperity, based on people's real priorities beyond standard measures like economic growth.

Seventh

The Index this year was 5,492 and in Argyll and Bute the figure was 5,901 - putting it seventh in the list of Scotland's 32 local council areas, significantly above the nationwide figure.

Judith Robertson, Head of Oxfam Scotland, said: 'Politicians in Scotland - both national and local - talk a lot about GDP and growing the economy, but they don't often talk about ways to ensure everyone in Scotland can get a fair share of that growth.'

'They talk about creating jobs for local people, but often don't talk about how low-paid jobs

leave thousands in poverty. They continue to live in hope that wealth will trickle down, but the statistics show that just doesn't happen - the gap between rich and poor in Scotland is wide and growing wider.'

Dr Katherine Trebeck, Research and Policy Adviser at Oxfam Scotland, said: 'The Index is a challenge to our new councillors in Argyll and Bute. It gives them a clear picture about what kind of community people want to live in.'

'But the Index is also a guide. If councillors build their policies around the priorities that people have highlighted in the Index - things like decent housing, health, and the quality of their local environment - they can create a new kind of prosperity for Argyll and Bute that serves everyone, not just a few.'

Top of the list was Shetland while Eilean Siar and Tobermory came in second and third place respectively.

Council say few objections to 'unplanned' Kilchrenan caravans

THE CARAVAN site which has caused controversy in Kilchrenan has received only four recorded objections, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

Wind farm development

The planning application for the site is now awaiting input from statutory consultees and is proceeding through public consultation.

Reports from residents claim at least six caravans are currently on the site on the Kilchrenan/Ardanaiseig road, to house workers for the Carriga Ghael wind farm development.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Public consultation runs for a minimum of 21 days, in this case the deadline was May 14 for timeous comments to be submitted.

We do accept comments up until the application is determined.

'We expect to compile a recommendation before June 21, which is our target date to determine the application.'

Enforcement action had been threatened by the council in the wake of the site appearing without valid planning permission but its continued existence has angered

many residents.

Peter Webster, manager of Ardanaiseig Hotel in Kilchrenan said: 'The contractors have draped themselves with the flag of 'job creation' completely ignoring the law of the land despite the fact that they could have provided this caravan site at the same location as their wind farm development.'

'Although it is allegedly a

temporary facility it is already an eyesore and will, without doubt, leave a scar for years to come on the landscape in what is an area of great beauty, plus generate a great deal of ill will among the local community, which has already vociferously expressed its disapproval.'

Have your say: email: forr@obantimes.co.uk

Long-awaited roadworks on Mull lead to warnings for ferry users

ROADWORKS on the Isle of Mull have been causing major disruption to islanders and tourists, with some ferry passengers warned to allow added time for journeys.

Mull's roads, arguably the worst in Scotland, have been undergoing a programme of resurfacing works throughout the island.

Several projects

Projects have been completed in Bunessan, Pennyghael, Lochdon and Torosay but ongoing works include Salen, Pennygown and six overlay sections at Aros to Gulan Dubh.

The works on the A849 from Salen to Craignure have been causing most problems with traffic, including buses, arriving in Craignure too late for the ferry.

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'We have been warning ferry travellers that roadworks on Mull may cause delays and advising them to allow extra time for their journey.'

hold the ferry on a number of occasions to help people make their connections.

'We would like to do more but we have to keep to our own timetable to avoid missing later connections in both Oban and Mull.'

20-minute delays

Councillor Mary Jean Devon described the works as 'long overdue' and said: 'These are major roadworks that are causing delays and we apologise for the inconvenience but we need the potholes repaired.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council added: 'Capital surfacing works are currently being carried out by Breedon through our partnership contract.'

'Delays should be kept to a maximum of 20 minutes.'

'The current programme of works is expected to be completed week beginning June 4 2012.'

Weather permitting the surface dressing operation between Aros and Tobermory on the A848 is due to start on June 9 for five days.

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Remarkable Mallaig man unveils first book

A MALLAIG pensioner will mark another milestone on his remarkable recovery from chronic alcoholism when he unveils his first book in the Lochaber port next Wednesday.

Ewen Nicholson will proudly launch *Just over the Horizon - Memoirs of a Hebridean Skipper*, a collection of fishing tales combined with the story of how he conquered alcohol addiction, in Mallaig Heritage Centre.

Publishers, Inverness-based charity For The Right Reasons, will attend the 11am event. The charity and social enterprise helps people through their alcohol and drug addiction.

A native of Grimsay in North Uist, Ewen has lived in Mallaig for 28 years and has owned his own vessel, the Wick-built, 30-foot wooden clinker boat *Grimsay Isle*, since 1973.

His return to health means the hardy 76-year-old, who stays in Gillies Park with his 12-year-old cat Jimmy, regularly takes tourists out fishing for prawns, brown crabs and lobsters.

A convert to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Ewen still runs the occasional half marathon and is a keen hillwalker.

Asked what advice he would have for people struggling with alcohol addiction, Ewen told *The Oban Times*: 'Never give up

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

— there's always help out there. The Alcoholics Anonymous prayer says: 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things you can't change, the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference.'

'Four times I was pulled out of Mallaig harbour. As long as you are in denial you will never get anywhere. But now my health is good - I have been out fishing today and lifted 100 creels all on my own.'

Local man Allan Henderson, who plays with the renowned traditional music band Blazing Fiddles, helped Ewen pull the book together.

Ewen said: 'I read everything out and Allan recorded it all on a dictaphone, then took it up to the folk in Inverness, who put it all together.'

'There are about 20 photos in the book as well, mostly black and white. The oldest is 60 years old.'

For The Right Reasons director Richard Burkitt told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a charming book and the early part in particular is full of really good stories.'



Ewen Nicholson: launching book in Mallaig about his recovery from alcoholism.

Fort William FC in crisis

League withdrawal imminent if top post not filled at crunch meeting

THE FUTURE of Fort William Football Club is in serious danger after the club's chairman stood down with no replacement in sight.

And if the post is not filled at an extraordinary general meeting next Wednesday evening the club will be forced to withdraw from the Highland League.

John Wattman, who was also club secretary, stood down from the two positions at an annual general meeting last Wednesday, a year after informing the club of his intention to do so. No one put themselves forward to replace him meaning a new committee could not be formed.

Mr Wattman told *The Oban Times* the club was facing a 'very serious situation' if the issue is not sorted soon.

He said: 'The doomsday scenario is that we lose the club and all the associated youth teams and managers. That would be terrible for the town and for the outlying areas which rely on the club for their football.'

'The biggest concern is the youth. Without the senior club there is nothing for the young players to aspire to.'

'We're always trying to get people on board but for whatever

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Stepping down: John Wattman. 20 2216r01

reason they can't commit the time. It is time consuming and there is a lot of hurdles to jump through just to keep the club going.'

He added: 'For two or three years I've been struggling to keep the club going and there's only so long you can keep banging your head against a brick wall.'

However, committee member David MacDonald said he was 'quietly confident' a solution

would be in place for the EGM. He said: 'Hopefully when the town realises the situation we're in, someone will step forward. If we go out the Highland League we'll never get back in.'

'There is a lot of goodwill within the club. The committee is in place, the football team is in place, it's just getting people into these two positions.'

Fort William FC was formed in 1972 by Colin Neilson and mainly played in friendlies and cup competitions until 1983 when they were admitted to the North Caledonian Football League.

Fort quickly established themselves as one of the league's top sides, winning two cup competitions before taking their only league championship title in 1984/85.

The following year the club was admitted to the Highland League and won their first match 1-0 against Clachnacuddin. The Lochaber side have failed to continue their early success finishing bottom of the pile in 11 of the last 15 seasons and have yet to achieve a top half finish.

The club's record attendance at Claggan Park was achieved against Stirling Albion in the 1986 Scottish Cup, where around 1,500 local fans watched a 0-0 draw.

World-leading Lochaber dive centre celebrates another first

A WORLD-leading Lochaber dive centre is celebrating another first - training the UK's first sub-surface search and recovery unit.

The Underwater Centre in Fort William was chosen by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service to deliver specialist instruction to its divers to prepare them for operating in life-threatening

flood emergencies. Norfolk County Council set up the unit in response to an increase in flood events in recent years. The team will support police and fire services across the UK.

The Underwater Centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'This has been a very exciting project and one which The Underwater Centre was thrilled to be part of.'

'We hope this is the beginning of a great working relationship where we will deliver more training as their team expands.'

The Norfolk unit will go live later this month.



Air diver training manager Ali MacLeod and Luke Hancock of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on the Underwater Centre pier during training.

Shinty players' stag party on hold as team reaches MacTavish Cup final

LOCHABER Camanachd players are putting plans for a stag weekend in Newcastle next month on hold - because it clashes with the one of the biggest games in the club's history.

The Spean Bridge club booked their place in the MacTavish Cup final by defeating holders Kingussie last weekend.

Lochaber will make their first appearance in a senior final when they take on Newtonmore in Inverness on Saturday June 16. Unfortunately for many of the players, they had not banked on making it to the final and before the season started they booked

hotel rooms and train journeys to celebrate the wedding of former Lochaber goalkeeper Andrew Ferguson.

Team manager Michael Delaney said the club was trying to postpone their scheduled tie against Caberfeidh set for June 9 to allow the players to rearrange their trip for that date.

He said: 'It was all paid for pre-season, and about 70 or 80 per cent of the boys will be going. It's not exactly ideal preparation for a cup final, but the boys spent a lot of money on it and they want to try and recoup as much of it as they can.'

Match report - see back page.

Ancient 'cursing' stone found on Isle of Canna

A 1,200-YEAR-old early Christian 'cursing' stone has been found on Canna - the first of its kind in Scotland.

The ancient circular rock was discovered by chance in a graveyard by farm manager Geraldine MacKinnon. It is approximately 25cm in diameter and is marked with an engraved Christian cross.

The find is thought to be a 'bullaun' - a stone turned in a hole or larger stone near a cross by worshippers during prayer

or possibly cursing someone. National Trust for Scotland's property manager Stewart Connor said the stone fits exactly into a large rectangular stone with worn hole located at base of a Christian cross on the island.

He said: 'We knew of the importance of bullaun stones and that it could be a really significant find. The whole community is really excited by the find, which is really significant for the island and, potentially, for Scotland too.'

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, May 28, 1992

Mystery man set to bid for Isle of Eigg?

THE BODY set up to bring Eigg under community control has welcomed a mystery millionaire's interest in buying the island.

The Isle of Eigg Trust, which was set up in October, has been approached by the low profile 'Anglo Scot' - one of several people to have made inquiries about the island since it was put up for sale earlier this month.

Eigg was put on the market by Yorkshire tycoon Keith Schellenberg at an asking price of more than £1 million, after his former wife, Mrs Margaret Williams, successfully raised an action in the Court of Session.

Although the trust would prefer to buy the island for itself, Isle of Eigg trustee Alastair McIntosh said he had been encouraged by the attitude of the anonymous millionaire.

Preferred option
'Our preferred option would be to buy it ourselves, but to be perfectly honest, the chances of pulling that off are not tremendously high,' said Mr McIntosh, who is director of Edinburgh University's centre for human ecology.

'The trust's role would be to act as a watchdog in the event of it coming into private ownership.'

'If it is to be purchased by another landlord, we would welcome the bid of anyone who is willing to accede to the needs of the island's human community and ecology.'

Jobs at risk on Highland fish farms

THOUSANDS of Highland fish farm jobs may be at risk because of the government's decision to allow cheap salmon to flood the market.

price restrictions - which protect the European market - are being dropped this Sunday.

A temporary 'minimum import price' (MIP) for salmon was introduced in November, allowing British fish farmers to compete with foreign firms.

When the MIP ends, foreign fish farmers will be allowed to decide their own charges and it is highly questionable whether British firms can compete with cheaper foreign prices, such as those from Norway.

Bitter blow
William Crowe, SSGA chief executive, said: 'The statement of lack of support for EC measures by the minister will come as a bitter blow to the Scottish salmon farming industry, and the 6,000 jobs dependent on it.'



Keith and Dora after their wedding in McCaig's tower.

McCaig's Tower plays host to first wedding as Canadians tie the knot

A CANADIAN couple have made history this week by becoming the first people to be married in Oban's McCaig's Tower.

Keith Hirsch, 31 and Dora Fuchihara, 30, flew in especially from Canada to be married in Oban on Tuesday.

The Rev Andy Campbell from

Jura fell race row over water supply

THE Isle of Jura's water supply was threatened when more than 300 visitors arrived for the island's annual fell race last Saturday.

Toilets wouldn't flush for more than 160 mud-splattered runners who also needed showers.

Water had to be brought in from a local distillery and the neighbouring island of Islay to cope with demand.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Regional Council's (SRC) water department said it was up to the organisers to notify the council of the event, giving the number of people involved.

But Willie Tait, sponsor of the event, said: 'What a ridiculous statement to make. What is the

poll tax for? Where else in the country are authorities notified when an upsurge of visitors is expected?'

Mr Tait said the event, which is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, has always been held on the same bank holiday Saturday and SRC has never been advised in the past - yet managed to improve the water situation.

Pay
He added: 'Water is one of the few facilities we get on the island and we pay good money for it.'

'By encouraging tourists to the island we are bringing money to the place.
'It is SRC's responsibility to match that.'



United Auctions West Highland Livestock Market in Oban Lochside Street - soon to be sold to supermarket giant William Low.

Hopes for early decision on new Oban market

SENIOR directors of United Auctions held a private site meeting in Oban on Tuesday to discuss the future of livestock marketing in the area only days after Luing Cattle Society announced that its annual breed

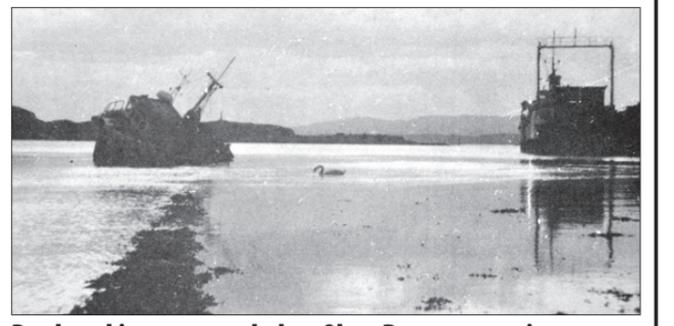
sale is now to be moved from Oban to Castle Douglas.

Lobbied
Since United Auctions announced earlier this year that it is to sell its Oban centre to

supermarket group William Low, which is planning a major extension of their Oban supermarket, farming and trade interests have lobbied strongly for the retention of livestock marketing facilities in Oban.



Smiles all round: Emma Clark, aged six, of Longlands Terrace, Kyle, and Donald Fraser, six, of Badical, Kyle, pose for our camera during National Smile Week.



Dunbar skipper grounded on Oban Bay sewage pipe

THIS atmospheric scene captured an embarrassing moment for a skipper from Dunbar last week when his boat *Aquarius of Islay* grounded on the sewage

pipe in Oban Bay on a falling tide.

Strangely, it happened in almost exactly the same spot as another boat from Dunbar

keeled over and sank, last month.

It is believed this latest victim was not badly damaged, as she was gone the next day.

Ode to Kilmonivaig school cook Nancy

KILMONIVAIG Primary School pupils said a fond farewell to cook Nancy MacPherson in a poetic verse last week.

Primary seven pupils wrote the poem for Mrs MacPherson, who has been a cook at the school for the past seven years. Bowled over by the thoughtful pupils, Mrs MacPherson of Alnabank, Spean Bridge, said: 'I thought it was a very nice gesture.'





The 100ft-high, one megawatt Hammerfest Strom HS1000 has already proved effective.

Island tidal turbine trials prove positive

Boost for Sound of Islay project

A SUBSEA turbine which will be installed in the Sound of Islay to harness tidal power to generate electricity has successfully completed trials off the coast of Orkney.

The 100ft-high, one megawatt (MW) Hammerfest Strom HS1000 has already proved effective in powering homes on the island of Eday.

There are now plans to install a 10MW tidal power array in the deep water channel between Islay and Jura with the project expected to start in 2013 and take two years to complete.

Testing began in the waters off Orkney in December 2011 and Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) say the device 'performed well' despite being installed during a period of severe winter storms.

Keith Anderson, SPR chief executive, said: 'The performance of the first HS1000 device has given us great confidence so far. Engineers were able to install the device during atrocious weather conditions, and it has been operating to a very high standard ever since. We have already greatly

developed our understanding of tidal power generation, and this gives us confidence ahead of implementing larger scale projects in Islay and the Pentland Firth.

'Scotland has the best tidal power resources in Europe and that's why we are seeing world leading technologies tested here.'

On-board cameras and mobile communication devices allow engineers to monitor the Orkney-based turbine from their control room in Glasgow or from an island operational centre on the Isle of Eday.

Mull Lines

PIPERS on the Isle of Mull have raised more than £1,000 by holding concerts throughout the island.

Mull and Iona School Pipers played in Bunessan Hall last Saturday and Aros Hall the previous weekend.

They raised more than £450 at the first concert and had also taken part in the Tobermory Harbour Association's open day earlier on the Saturday raising £40. The concert in Bunessan saw £713 collected. Pipe Major Neil MacCallum said: 'The feedback received from the local community was very positive, supportive and encouraging for the young players. We are busy fundraising, as always, for more bagpipes and for uniforms for our up and coming young players.'

Funds raised in the past have helped pay for four sets of bagpipes, nine pipers jackets and waistcoats and nine Glengarys as well as other piping items.

Tunes at the concerts included Chi Mi Muile (I See Mull), Amazing Grace, My Land, Bunessan Primary School and Glasgow City Police Pipers.



□□□

SPEED checks in Salen will continue after police discovered some motorists travelling at up to 60mph in the 30mph zone.

Concerns had been raised at a recent meeting of Mull Community Council that extra signs were needed to make tourists aware of the village speed limit.

But police confirmed the majority of those caught speeding through Salen are Isle of Mull residents.

□□□

Music and Malt week on Islay

FÈIS Ile 2012, Islay's Festival of Music and Malt, begins on Friday with the grand concert featuring local artists.

Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, Islay's senior Gaelic choir, Islay Schools Pipers led by James Carmichael, Gaelic soloists Fergus Muir, Bronwen Currie, Iain MacPherson and Ryan Johnston with guests The Isle of Barra Highland Dancers take to the stage.

Distillery open days begin on Saturday and run throughout the week.

Informal beginners' Gaelic sessions, Ceòl is Craic, teaching a bit of the Gaelic language and ceòl song choruses will be offered at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Bowmore, daily from next Monday, May 28, through to next Friday, Next Wednesday an evening of traditional Gaelic music will be presented at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile by Islay's talented young people including Còisir Og Ile, Islay's junior Gaelic choir.

Tiree's 'Tilley' generates £88,000 for community at start of 2012

Tiree Community Development Trust to gauge islanders' response with open day in June

TIREE's community wind turbine, Tilley, has generated a bumper £88,000 for numerous community groups in the first quarter of the year.

It takes the total raised for local groups on the island to more than £135,000 - just a year after the first grants were paid from the Windfall Fund.

Now the administrators of the fund, Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT), want to fully gauge islanders' response to how the fund has been run and will host an open

day on June 16 to help develop ideas on how to move the fund forward.

The latest tranche of funding means Tiree Community Business has successfully secured £20,000 towards purchasing the Business Centre for islanders, while Tiree Rural Development received £21,489 to help pay for an upgrade of the Rural Centre.

In addition, more than £10,000 has been placed in an accumulation fund and set aside for similar large scale or

long term community projects in response to feedback from residents that some money should be kept back for larger projects.

A further 23 grant applications were approved, including payments of £4,500 and £1,980 to Tiree Music Festival for hire of a marquee and chemical toilets respectively for both the festival and the cattle show.

Elsewhere, Tiree Horse and Pony Club has received £2,000 to bring a horse riding instructor to the island, £1,000 has been

presented to the Diamond Jubilee Group for planned celebrations, the Piping Society received £2,000 for a piping tutor to come to the island and An Talla will benefit from £3,460 for a new projector, screen and PA system upgrade.

A pilot summer job will be created to help man exhibitions with a £1,750 grant to the Hebridean Trust, while Tiree Parish Church received £8,232 to help build a new 20Kw wind turbine.

A trust spokesperson said:

'Well done again to all the successful applicants. The board of directors and staff have also offered to provide help and advice to those groups, individuals and businesses who applied but did not receive awards.'

'Remember, this is your fund and we need your input to get the most out of Tilley for our community.'

Full details of the Windfall Fund's latest payments and further details on next month's open day can be found at www.tireetrust.org.uk.

SCOTLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET EXPOSED AT NEW FESTIVAL

The Wild Lochaber Festival, to be held in the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK), Fort William, will be a week-long celebration of the incredible wildlife (at sea and on land) and geology (landscapes and scenery) that can be experienced in Lochaber.

Lochaber is an area of stunning natural beauty where you will find the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis; its deepest loch, Loch Morar; and the longest glen, The

Great Glen. The region boasts a wealth of amazing wildlife rarely seen elsewhere in the UK — red deer, golden eagles, sea eagles, osprey, pine marten, otters, whales, dolphins, basking sharks, and rare butterflies, dragonflies, orchids, alpine plants, and much more.

The whole of Lochaber is an internationally recognised Geopark! Many of the world's finest and most unique geological features are located here. There is no better place in the UK to

experience such diversity, a truly wild place, Wild Lochaber.

The Wild Lochaber Festival inaugural event, organised by the OCUK, runs for one week from 1 June 2012 with a Festival Fair on the 2 and 3 June 2012. The Festival Fair will showcase all that is available in Lochaber's natural environment and will provide a wealth of information relating to local biodiversity, local organisations and tours.

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care in the community



PEOPLE can require care regardless of their age. It once was the case that those born with disabilities or who were ageing and needed someone to look after them faced the prospect of being sent away from their home.

But staying independently in their own home until passing away is many people's wish although to do so may require mechanical assistance as stairs and baths that were previously no problem become a challenge.

There are a variety of services on offer in Argyll including adaptable beds, chairs and scooters.

And now council policies are to assist with care in the home for as long as possible so that people can remain independent and when the time comes that moving into a care home is required these too are not as daunting as in the past.

Argyll and Bute care homes provide 24-hour care services including support with all personal care.

Weekly charges vary according to the providers' rates and the rates include personal and communal accommodation, furniture, bedding, soft furnishings, heating, lighting, electricity, laundry, housekeeping and all meals and snacks.

And there's no excuse for neglecting yourself as also included in the rate is NHS chiropody, community dentistry, GP and district nurse services, physiotherapy services, occupational therapy services and dietician services.

You can also have a visit from a hairdresser, daily papers and magazines and private chiropody at an additional charge.

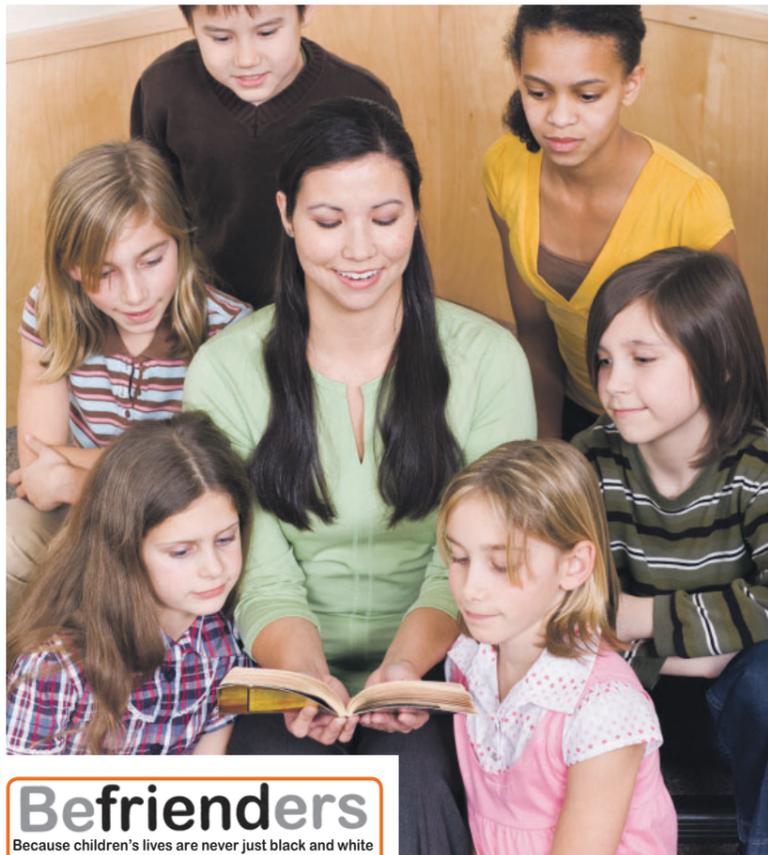
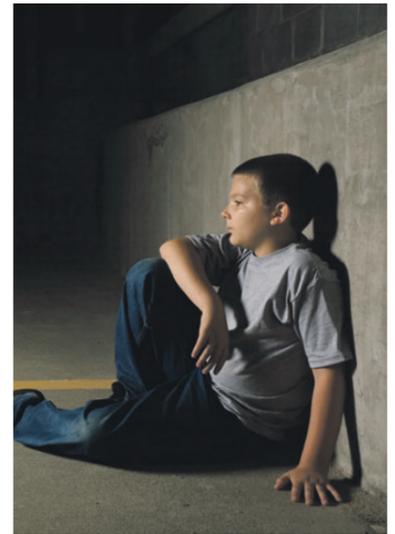
And when you want to get out into the community there are numerous services in the Argyll area.

These include singing groups aimed at helping people with Alzheimer's. They are very good fun as well as beneficial to those who attend so if you want to have some fun join them on Tuesdays at Soroba House Hotel.

There are also friendship groups in Oban which meet for talks, workshops or just a cup of tea and a chat.

For younger readers who may require some assistance there is Foster Care Fortnight currently running.

This annual event runs from May 14 - 27 and encourages those who may be thinking of fostering a child to get in contact with their local authority and take steps to do so.



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Down Your Way

Tarbert

CONTRACTORS are racing to finish 40 new pontoon berths at Tarbert Harbour before the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series yachting event from June 1-4.

Harbour authority chairman Alan Macdonald, told *The Oban Times* it was originally thought the work would be completed in plenty of time, but hard rock had caused delays.

He said: 'We are getting tight for time but we have arranged it so if some things still need to be completed the work will be interrupted to let the series take place.'

The new finger berths will allow a greater number of large boats up to around 60 feet in length to access the harbour.



Harbour authority chairman Alan Macdonald with harbour master Peter Bates, as work continues on the new pontoons.

EXCITEMENT is building in Tarbert as the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series draws near.

Sailors from all over the UK, Ireland and France will be descending on the village from June 1-4 for one of the most important yachting events in the UK calendar.

Harbour master Peter Bates said he was looking forward to the four days' sailing: 'It's a very busy time for us but it brings Tarbert to life and is a real thrill. They all come with lots of goodwill and cheer and it brings a completely different atmosphere to Tarbert for that week.'

THE CLOSURE of the storm-damaged Tarbert Church of Scotland continues to affect life in the community.

As a restoration appeal looks to fund the half a million pound repair bill, services are still being held in the Free Church.

Long-serving local board of session member, Ian MacIntyre, told *The Oban Times* that mould had been growing inside the church since its closure.

The four-sided clock face has also not been working, and Mr MacIntyre, who has maintained the clock for many years, said he thought it should be reset: 'I don't see any reason at all why it can't be done.'



Ian MacIntyre has been keeping the clock's time for 20 years.

S5 AND S6 pupils are again flying high in the UK-wide 'Shares 4 Schools' competition.

At the time of writing, Tarbert was in profit and on course to be the leading Scottish school for the third year running at managing their own portfolio of stocks and shares.

Primary five and six pupils received salmon eggs which they hatched, reared and released into Loch Awe - all with the help of experts from the Salmon Fisheries Board.

First years went to re-enact history on their doorstep at Tarbert Castle, using period costumes and model weapons, with the guidance of local historian Robert McPhail.



Primary fives and sixes from Tarbert Academy release young salmon.



Stuart Herd in his workshop.

AN EDINBURGH art gallery is currently holding an exhibition and sale of works by a Tarbert artist.

The Torrance Gallery is displaying landscapes by Stuart Herd from May 12 until June 4.

'It had a very good reception. I have got 30 pictures in the exhibition and already sold a few', Stuart said.

Around the Rurals

Arisaig

MEMBERS of Arisaig SWRI visited Mallaig Heritage Centre for their April meeting when Mr Poole gave an informative history of the port.

Later, the eight ladies present had afternoon tea in the Fishmarket Café.

On April 24, Mrs V Macdonald welcomed six teams with supporters to the

Lochaber Federation annual general meeting and quiz. A soup and sandwich lunch was served with help from Mallaig and Morar Institute.

After the business meeting, Mr J Morton was the able questionmaster for the quiz.

The result was a tie between Fort William and Arisaig and it was decided that the shield would spend six months with each institute.



Anyone for a strawberry tea? Inverloch Playgroup manager Melanie Sanderson, auxiliary playgroup worker Tracy Findlay and some of the children at the fundraiser.

Playgroup strawberry tea a winner

INVERLOCHY Playgroup raised a total of £280 at a 'Strawberry Tea' in the Braxi Hall on Saturday May 12.

A steady stream of local residents filed in throughout the

INVERLOCHY

morning to enjoy a mouthwatering array of strawberry cakes and delights. Mums, dads and

grandparents were among the homebakers who contributed to the highly successful day.

Through *The Oban Times*, playgroup manager Melanie Sanderson extended her thanks

to staff and all those who contributed their time and effort to the event.

She said: 'It was a very good turnout and we were really busy.'

TIREE

RUNNERS will once again descend on Tiree this weekend for the island's annual 10k.

Arranged by Tiree Fitness, the course will follow the same route as last year. Runners will start on the beach and follow the road to Hynish and back, returning on the road past Island House before getting back on the beach for the finish.

Trail West is also set to play at the 10k Dance afterwards.

Organiser Will Wright said: 'It will make for a great weekend on Tiree so come on up and join the fun.'

For more details visit www.tireefitness.co.uk.

TIREE'S National Youth Worker of the year, Sophie Isaacson, has organised a careers event for Thursday May 31.

There will be information on training opportunities as well as motivational speakers.

For more information contact Sophie on sophie@tireetrust.org.uk.

BUDDING young sailors on Tiree have been invited to take part in a dinghy sailing course at Loch Bhasapol this summer.

Supported by the Windfall Fund, Tiree Regatta Club has invited Stramash to come to the island between July 27-29 for five sessions.

For details, contact Robert Tryhall on 01879 220646.

SCHOOL pupils on Tiree have said a huge thank you to Elspeth

LISMORE

THERE was a disappointing turnout for Lismore Community Trust's Feedback Forum on Saturday May 12.

But those present found the visiting speakers, Keren Cafferty and Jan Fraser, chairman and secretary of Eilean Eisdale, the Easdale Island Community Development Group, both interesting and informative about what can be done on a very small island with determination and plenty of volunteers.

Eilean Eisdale is a charitable organisation run by residents and friends of the island to carry out community projects with the long term aim of regeneration and sustainability - a similar aim to Lismore.

Jan Fraser talked about how they got started, the funding needed and the various infrastructure projects, including repairing the harbour wall, while Keren concentrated on alternative energy - solar panels and heat pumps - and the master plan they were following with the help of a paid consultant.

While Easdale is unlike Lismore in many ways, in that most of the residents are

incomers as their population was reduced to 11 after the collapse of the slate mining and they are attached to the mainland in a way that makes businesses viable because it draws visitors in numbers, there are also the usual island, indeed community, similarities - shortage of volunteers, need for expertise regards funding and getting agreement.

The meeting was chaired by Yorick Paine and Mary MacDougall spoke about the logo competition.

See www.isleoflismore.com for details.

She also urged the audience to buy tickets for the raffle for a box of chocolates which were won by Liz Buckle.

After a delicious and generous afternoon tea put on by the committee, Bob Davies gave the feedback from the questionnaire in which householders had selected the projects they most wanted to see carried out by the trust.

Residents had to choose from a long list drawn up as a result of trust meetings in 2008 and 2009 when much brainstorming revealed a great deal of enthusiasm for a great many things. Bob had itemised the five most popular projects and promised that full details would appear on www.isleoflismore.com.

LISMORE will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee on June 5 with a day of celebrations at the Heritage Centre for all the family from 11am till 11pm. Events include a Right Royal

GREAT GLEN

THE GREAT Glen Drama Group is on the lookout for new members and helpers to participate in or assist with future productions.

Anyone interested in treading the boards should contact Daniel Gilchrist on 01809 501482.

TOBERMORY

DOZENS of people attended an open day designed to let members of the public see the practical side of the sea on the Isle of Mull recently.

Tobermory Harbour Association organised the event on Saturday May 12 which was opened by piping from Alexander Anderson and Fraser Mitchell of Mull and Iona Schools Pipers.

Mary Macgregor, of the association said: 'The main object of the day was to try and express in a practical way all the things that happen in the sea in this area.'

There was a slideshow in the foyer and plans for the new education centre were on

display. We were very pleased with the response from people who came and it was nice that locals came and were interested in the new education centre.'

Funding for the new marine education centre has recently been confirmed to the tune of nearly £14,000 with the go-ahead for work to start given last Monday.

An opening day in July is expected and a well-known face will be one of the exhibits when Elvis the otter returns to Tobermory.

Project manager Don Mitchell said: 'The taxidermist has finished with him and he is ready for collection.'

'Elvis was a recognised character, locals and tourists all became quite familiar with him and it is good to have him as an example of what is in and around the sea in this area.'

The open day included displays from the fire brigade, British Red Cross, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and the Coastguard.

The RNLI was also on hand to show people around its vessel much to the delight of visitors. A charter and fishing boat also let people on board.



Jim Traynor, Tobermory Harbour Association Marine Manager, showing visitors the plans for the new marine education centre.

BALLACHULISH



Pupils clear up for tourists

Ballachulish Primary School pupils did their bit for the local tourist industry by carrying out a tidy up in preparation for the upcoming tourist season. P1-4 took part in this exercise, with each responsible for their own area of the village. The P4 youngsters are pictured with their full bags.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON High School has appointed a new teacher of history.

Colette MacKay, a native of Peterhead, will join the school in August.

A graduate of Aberdeen University, Ms MacKay is currently a probationer teacher in Castle Douglas High School, Galloway.

PLOCKTON Horticultural and Handicraft Society went on their annual outing on Saturday May 12 to Inverewe and enjoyed their visit in lovely sunshine.

On May 11 Liz Lochhead was the guest of Lochan in Plockton Hall and her evening of poetry and conversation was enjoyed by a large audience.

ISLAY LETTER

Fèis Ile

FESTIVAL groupies in their thousands will descend on the island this weekend for Fèis Ile, the annual music and malt whisky festival.

The festival, inaugurated in 1984, attracts supporters from all airts and input from the island's eight distilleries, as well as Port Ellen Maltings and neighbouring Jura Distillery, greatly add to the fèis spirit.

Following the opening concert in Bowmore on May 25, the usual favourites are guaranteed to pull in the crowds. Among these are the cloutie dumpling ceilidh at Portnahaven, the whisky tasting at Port Ellen and Gaelic events at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

The distilleries promote ceilidhs in the courtyards, Skerryvore at Bowmore and Bruichladdich, master classes and Islaylympic games at Ardbeg.

The local pipe band struts its stuff at Kilchoman, whisky bard and balladeer Robin Laing appears at Bruichladdich, an ABBA tribute band provides Nordic nuances at Laphroaig and 'Kilter' do their own thing at Bunnahabhain. Bowling matches and fishing competitions remain an integral part of the event. There's also a country and western evening in the Ramsay Hall and the final curtain comes down on June 4 at a Royal Jubilee-slanted afternoon of teas and tiaras at Port Ellen Playing fields at 3pm.

Evangelist's visit

INTERNATIONALLY known evangelist, best selling Christian literature writer and apologist Dr John Blanchard will be visiting the island during the second weekend in June.

Sunday June 10 will be a particularly busy day for the visitor as he will be preaching at the Round Church in Bowmore at 10am and at Port Ellen's St John's at 11.30am, finishing off at Bowmore Baptist Church at 6.30pm.

During his island sojourn, the preacher will be accompanied by a TV film crew and they will all have a visible presence at the beach rugby tournament on June 9.

Now a widower, Dr Blanchard lives in Banstead in Surrey.

Glasgow Islay competitions

COMPETITORS have until June 1 to submit their entries for the new pipe tune and 'design a postcard' competitions which Glasgow Islay Association is promoting as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations.

The postcard entries must depict Islay and can be in drawing, cartoon or photograph format. The competition is open to senior competitors and juniors up to the age of 12 years. The first prize in each section will be £50 with the runners-up receiving £25. Winning entries will be used as fund raisers and will be announced at the home gathering in Bowmore on July 28. Entries to be sent to Dr Elizabeth Campbell, 7 Loanhead Avenue, Linwood, PA3 3QP.

The pipe tune should be in the form of a 6/8 march and the winning entry will be premiered at the home gathering. The winning composer will receive a prize of £200 and all entries should be forwarded to James MacLean, 1 Alwyn Avenue, Houston, Renfrewshire, PA6 7LH.

Glasgow District Council is to host a civic reception for the Glasgow Ilich on September 7. Owing to number restrictions, a ballot will be held and members wishing to attend should forward their names to Dr Campbell - address as above - by June 1.

Mòd Ile

MÒD ÌLE 2012 will be held in the local high school on Saturday June 2.

Competitions begin at 9am and the prizewinners' concert takes place in the school's assembly hall on the same evening at 7.30pm.

Coffee morning

SUCCULENT home baking, produce, bargain books and CDs will be among the bargains at the Round Church coffee morning in Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday May 26 at 10.30am.

Admission is £3 and proceeds will boost the church's fabric fund. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

Two local charities benefit from generous donations from Oban firm of solicitors

OBAN Solicitors, Stevenson Kennedy are donating income from Wills made during the months of May and June 2012 to benefit two

work they both do" Morag Telfer said "any money donated will be gratefully received and well used for the comfort of the residents".

local charities - North Argyll Eventide Home and Argyll Animal Aid.

North Argyll Eventide Home provides, in North Argyll House, a much needed care facility in Oban for elderly residents whilst Argyll Animal Aid cares for abandoned and rescued animals in the Argyll area.

Gordon McNab, Principal at Stevenson Kennedy, said "both charities are well known and very well deserving and we are delighted to help both financially and in raising awareness of the good



Gordon added that in these current recessionary times more and more people are finding it difficult to keep their pets especially with rising care costs. Argyll Animal Aid helps care for and re-home animals some having been abandoned by their owners. Pat Blunsden said "Argyll Animal Aid would always be grateful for all donations, large and small, to help keep this worthwhile charity operating" As well as Wills, Stevenson Kennedy offers a full range of legal services.



Pictured above at North Argyll House is Gordon McNab with Matron Morag Telfer, Stevenson Kennedy Trainee Solicitor, Jane Thomson, and resident Mrs Moira Stevenson, widow of the founding partner of Stevenson Kennedy, the late John Stevenson.

Pat Blunsden of Argyll Animal Aid is pictured here centre with, left to right, Gordon Seath, Solicitor with Stevenson Kennedy, Louise Stewart, Paralegal and Gordon McNab.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Communication is the key

COMMUNICATION, it could be argued, has never been easier. Recent advances in computing and technology means we can now speak to each other by mobile phone, by email and even via websites.

Nothing, then, can be more disappointing than when communications break down and people are left in the dark over things affecting them.

This week, we have three instances where just such circumstances have led to unnecessary difficulty.

However, nowhere is this more galling than with the broadband problems faced in Oban over the last fortnight.

Despite numerous complaints in a contained period, BT told customers there was no widespread problem and each incident was separate.

Clearly, when more than 20 complaints have been received in a short period of time, this could not be the case.

We hope the communications company can learn from this incident and be more open with its customers rather than trying to shift blame elsewhere.

GLASGOW LETTER

Scottish Pipe Band Championships

AFTER horrendous weather conditions at the championships in 2011, the organisers must have been delighted that this year's event took place in dry, warm conditions.

In Grade 1, the Field Marshall Montgomery Band gave notice it has no intention of giving up its title any time soon but Scottish Power, Inveraray and District and Strathclyde Police bands pushed them hard.

Well done to Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band which took first place in Grade 2.

Ceol's Craic

THIS month's Ceol's Craic programme is a celebration of the work at Sabhal Mor Ostaig and particularly the students and tutors of the traditional music course.

Starting at 5.30pm, there will be a chance to find out about the college and then at 6pm Gaelic learners, especially beginners, can learn Gaelic phrases.

At 6.30pm, Christine Primrose will lead a 'Learn a Gaelic Song' session while for others there will be showings of short films made by college students.

At 7pm, patrons will be able to learn how to use a television camera. Live music will start at 7.30pm and will continue until late. Taking part will be Christine Primrose, the well-known traditional singer and tutor at the college, Margaret Stewart, Musician in Residence, and Peter MacKay, Writer in Residence, as well as the Angus Nicolson Trio and college students.

The college has already performed at Celtic Connections and this event should be another showcase of their terrific musical ability.

As usual the event will take place in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, with Ceol's Craic available, at reasonable cost, between 6pm and 8pm. Children under 14 years are welcome until 10pm.

Radio Scotland BBC Musician of the Year 2013

APPLICATIONS are invited from talented traditional musicians who wish to enter the competition for Young Traditional Musician of the Year, the final of which will be part of Celtic Connections 2013.

Twelve entrants will be invited to take part in a weekend session, October 5 to 7 in South Lanarkshire when, after hearing individual

performances at a concert in the Coulter Hall, Coulter, five judges will decide on the six finalists. Details of the requirements for entry and the application form are available on the Radio Scotland website. Entries must be submitted by Friday July 6.

Glasgow Skye Association

AFTER its success last session, the committee of Glasgow Skye Association has decided to retain the same format of high tea followed by a ceilidh for this year's social evening.

It will take place in the Redhurst Hotel, Eastwoodmains Road, Giffnock, on Friday June 8.

If you have a form, it should be returned by Monday June 4 but applications can also be made by telephoning 01786 832278 or by email to skjcampbella@hotmail.com.

Ulpian tutor training

THERE are still places for aspiring Ulpian tutor trainers on the two-day courses to be run in Glasgow on June 10 and 11 and on September 11 and 12.

The cost is £400. For more information or to enrol contact Kevin Rodgers, telephone 0131 541 2126, or Kevin@ulpian.co.uk

Diary dates

Thursday May 24: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Cloud Street.

Friday May 25: East Kilbride Provincial Mod, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Kris Drever.

Saturday May 26: Ceol's Craic - see above, East Kilbride Provincial Mod, South Side Festival, Queen's Park.

Thursday May 31: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tannahill Weavers, Glasgow Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes Secondary School, 7.30pm.

Friday June 1: Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Junior Music Concert, 7pm, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Tannahill Weavers.

Sunday June 3: Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Capercaille.

Pub scene
TRAIL West will be making a welcome return to the Park Bar on Friday with Dodgy Ground playing there on Saturday and Scott Harvey on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn this weekend it will be Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.
Neil Murray, Telephone: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Corpach Gaelic Choir at Dunoon Mod - 1968

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and features Corpach Gaelic Choir at Dunoon Mod in 1968. In the choir's line-up are: A McDougall; A McKinnon; D MacKinnon; A MacLeod; A MacLean; D Macdonald; D MacLaren; A Miller; Ellen Flanagan; Mrs MacColl; Mrs MacIntyre; Mrs Mickie; Mrs Robertson; Mrs McKinnon; Mrs Graham; Mrs Gordon; Cathie Campbell; Mrs Rose; Mrs Wilson and Mrs Whyte. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Healthy lambs lost to sea eagles

Sir,
It is time the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) stopped perpetuating the myth that sea eagles only take weak or lame lambs.

It is certainly not my experience. The only lambs I have lost to sea eagles have been vigorous and viable.

I go round my lambing parks four times a day and I easily recognise individual lambs and their health status. The often quoted research from 2003 cannot have involved the same degree of intimate knowledge of the study flock. Nor is any explanation offered for the results being so much at variance with the observations of many local farmers.

I would like to challenge the RSPB and SNH through these pages to detail the methods on which their conclusions are based.

Tim Barnes, Rhemore, Drimnin, Morvern.

No reason for part-time roads

Sir,
There is one aspect of the trunk road stretch of the A83 that doesn't compare favourably with the council managed onward stretch from Kennacraig to Campbelltown.

That is the relatively new tendency of the government to close the road overnight for resurfacing.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the council resurfaces its stretches of 5.5metre wide main roads without closing them.

Last Wednesday, May 16, I saw the problem first hand; the considerable volume of traffic off the Finlaggan ferry that arrived at Kennacraig from Colonsay and Islay at 9.30pm found that the A83 had been closed at Stonefield, north of Tarbert, at 9pm. This explains why a large group of German speaking visitors on a day out to Islay discovered there was no

bus awaiting them at Kennacraig. The blockade was lifted at 10pm, with the first vehicle through being the visitors' tour bus, reaching Kennacraig sometime around 10.15pm I'd guess.

So that's a group of visitors who - from talking to them on the 8am ferry - were very well informed, and the last sort of people we should be treating in such cavalier fashion.

While there were numerous warning signs - after Tarbert - that the road was blocked all night, there was little or no indication that this blockade could be lifted to let traffic through, and there are clearly very real safety problems with the way the road was being resurfaced.

Why can't roads like this be resurfaced in three passes using slightly narrower machines, to enable the road to be open with a safe convoy system for around two thirds of the live work time?

If the response is that this would push up the costs, then what about the costs to the users? All sections of the A83 still of 5.5metre width - or less - must be improved to a safe width to enable resurfacing without closure.

Robert Wakeham, Castleton, by Lochgilphead.

Target led culture impacting on officer discretion

Sir,
Evidence from my constituents and information given to me by serving and recently retired police officers confirms Strathclyde Police is, on the instructions of its Chief Constable Stephen House, pursuing a target culture in relation to fixed penalty tickets.

The fact officers are being instructed to pursue targets and therefore not being allowed to exercise their discretion is arguably in direct opposition to the policing model laid down in the Police Scotland Act of 1967. This act states that officers, where appropriate, should exercise their discretion.

Chief Constables like statistics that show how effective they are,

even better if the stats are a 100 per cent positive return. Fixed penalty tickets for road traffic offences are a favoured way of influencing a statistical return, in that the offence has not happened until the officer detects it - in other words a 100 per cent positive return.

These centrally set performance targets are destructive as they control an officer's activities while on duty and may prevent them from responding flexibly to local needs. Good established cops who know their area and the needs of their public are no longer able to manage their patrol time and deliver a service based on their local knowledge. Instead they are policing to centrally set targets.

A police officer's primary task, as defined in the Police Scotland Act 1967, is to guard, watch and patrol so as to prevent crime and where crimes have been committed to detect offenders. High visibility uniform patrols with preventative policing at its heart is what the legislation demands. Chief Constable House commands his officers to do. Chief Constable House's current policing model with its emphasis on dishing out fixed penalty tickets to produce statistics to show us how effective his force is serves no one well.

Frederick Hall, Councillor, Oban South and the Isles.

Cyclists safer on A85 path

Sir,
I am delighted to see such a healthy response from your correspondents following my letter in your May 3 edition.

I would concur with the cyclists who responded in that, yes, there are some drivers who are not in possession of their senses who perform dangerous overtaking manoeuvres when passing cyclists. Or, for that matter, slow cars.

The point is it is not I who is driving poorly, but a number of drivers do, frustrated by the moving roadblocks that impede them. This therefore presents a danger for all road users,

sensible or otherwise. So I ask yet again - what is the problem with using the path along the A85, particularly during busy periods? It follows the contours of the road, is not 'slippery' as we've been told in the past and is typically clear of pedestrians.

Incidentally, some cyclists - even the lycra wearing crowd - have been using the path of late, without problems. My thanks to them for their consideration.

A Rodger, Oban.

Jubilee celebrations

Sir,
Isle of Skye Pipe Band (IOSPB) is organising a two-day festival in Portree.

Festivities will start on June 1 with massed pipe bands, Highland dancers and, it is hoped, a drum major display, in Somerled Square. On June 2 the pipe bands will perform again and it is hoped other community organisations will join in the procession from the RBS car park to Portree Community Centre. Charities and other organisations are invited to set up stalls in or outside the community centre and, during the afternoon, the IOSPB and Portree High School PB, Highland Dancers, Army Cadets and other groups will put on individual performances. The community centre will co-ordinate stallholders from community groups to set up around the perimeter of the car park and/or in the community centre.

It is hoped some activities will be arranged on the KGV Playing Field. Portree Community Council will help to co-ordinate the various activities.

At the end of the afternoon's festivities the pipe bands and community organisations will march to Somerled Square where the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Janet Bowen, will take the salute.

For more information please ring Portree Community Centre on 01478 613736 or email irene.skye@yahoo.com.

Catriona Leslie, Secretary, Portree and Braes Community Council.

Times Diary

LAST Saturday's football Scottish Cup Final led to one or two domestic disputes in Edinburgh including one where the wife didn't realise her husband had met his pals and decided to watch the all-Edinburgh event on a big screen TV in a public house - in Glasgow.

On his return the following morning, he explained that it wasn't his fault, he had been led astray. Davy had lost their train tickets and they had to hitch-hike home along the M8.

With increasingly rising anger she told him: 'You always blame someone else, don't you? It's always everyone else, never you!'

He replied: 'And whose fault's that?'

OUR THANKS to Colin MacKay for bringing the Diary's attention to the business deal that saw Microsoft invest \$300m (£185m) in a digital venture with US bookseller Barnes and Noble.

This could make Barnes and Noble's Nook e-book reader available to millions of new customers, integrating it with Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system.

Presumably the new Nook e-books will be available on top shelf sale throughout Scotland!

SOMETIMES spelling lets you down when you least expect it - and depending on electronic spell checkers can give you a false sense of security.

Our attention has been drawn to a recent report which stated that a group of prospective council candidates gave a pre-election address to potential voters. One gentleman was selected for particular praise within the report as his campaign speech had been 'excrement'.

We think it should have read 'excellent' - or maybe not!



OBAN Whisky is a delicacy enjoyed across the world and has found fans far and wide.

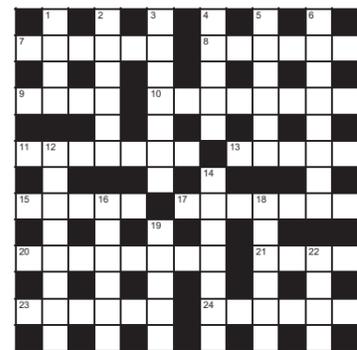
However, the delicious dram has found itself in the spotlight recently after featuring on America's favourite sitcom.

Loyal Oban Times reader, Lorna Rae, spotted Two and a Half Men's main character, Alan Harper, enjoying a tiple of the drink while watching the programme this week.

Judging by his expression, he might be a little too fond of it. Never mind two-and-a-half men, actor Jon Cryer looks like he's had that number of drams at least.

Send your funny stories, humorous happenings or quirky looks at real life to The Diary, PO Box 1, Oban or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

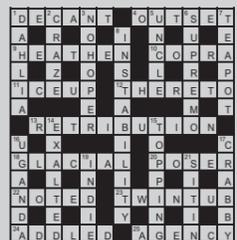
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Holding a grudge (6)
 - 8 Cold drink for a ballerina? (6)
 - 9 Clickable image (4)
 - 10 Repetitive word used to describe one already used (8)
 - 11 Neat (7)
 - 13 Spin (5)
 - 15 Hit (5)
 - 17 One with no effect (7)
 - 20 A trick used to remember (8)
 - 21 Old (4)
 - 23 Rabbit home (6)
 - 24 Aggregate (6)

- Down**
- 1 Brass component (4)
 - 2 Attitude (6)
 - 3 Dark sticky substance (7)
 - 4 Innards (5)
 - 5 Kind of nut (6)
 - 6 Unwanted body part? (8)
 - 12 Ancient legal system (5,3)
 - 14 Faster and neater (7)
 - 16 Sound quality (6)
 - 18 Gassy! (6)
 - 19 Absurd (5)
 - 22 100 cents (4)

Last week's solution



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NA FAIC èiginn gun rudeigin a dhèanamh ma dheidhinn
Sin cuid den fheallsanachd a bh'ag Mairi NicPhilip a rugadh 's a thogadh ann an Astràilia ach aig an robh freumhan ann an sgìre Loch Abair. Bhùineadh a h-athair dha Clann MhicPhilip Mhurlagain agus bhùineadh a màthair dha an Dòmhnallaich a bha ainmeil ann an gnìomhachas an uisge-bheatha anns a' Ghearasdan agus bha e glè iomchaidh cuimhneachan air a' cheangal aice ris an sgìre fhaticinn ga fhoillseachadh ann an eaglais Chille Choirille Di sathairne seo chaidh.

'S e àite air leth brèagha anns am bheil an t-seann eaglais seo, a' coimhead gu tuath a dh'ionnsaigh Tom an Tulaich agus Cnoc Raimich. Tha rudeigin sònraichte mun làrach cuideachd, am faireachadh air làthairachd eachdraidh agus measgachadh de shìth agus strì a' coimneachadh ann an dòigh air leth annasach. Seo far an do stèidhich Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis clach-cuimhneachaidh dhan bhàrd Abrahaim ainmeil Iain Lom bho chionn còrr math is ceud bliadhna air ais agus bha na bha an làthair aig Cille Choirill

Disathairne moiteil a bhith a' faicinn clach ùr suidhichte air uigh Bhàrd na Ceapaich, Dòmhnall Mac Fhionnlaigh nan Dàn a Murlagain. Rinn Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis sin agus aig an aon àm, chuir iad air dòigh cuimhneachan eile a chàradh air a' bhalla am bronn na h-eaglaise a' comharrachadh àite-adhlacaidh Bhàrd na Ceapaich agus cuideachd gun do thadhail Mairi NicPhilip air a càirdean anns an sgìre ann an 1873.

Thug Mairi a beatha dha foghlam chloinne bhochda Astràilia agus tha an t-òrdugh Pheathraichean Naoimh Eòsaph a chuidich i a stèidheachadh ag obair fhathast a' toirt taic is foghlam dha daoine bochda feadh an t-saoghail agus gu sònraichte am measg thùsanach. Chaidh a ràdh daoine bochda uair gun do nochd Mairi modh, neart agus uaisleachd a dualchais Gàidhealach na cuid obrach agus cò aige tha fios nach robh tomhas de mhòthachadh aice air a' chunnart san robh cànan is cultar a sinnsearachd fhèin nuair a chuir iise roimhe gum biodh a cuid obrach a' toirt aithne agus urram air leth dha tùsanach. Tha na Peathraichean fhathast ag obair a

dh'ionnsaigh an amais sin agus ged is e masladh a th'ann dha luchd-riaghlaidh an t-saoghail gum bheil tùsanach fhathast a' fulang gear-leannhainn is dith spèise dhan cuid dualchais, nach urramach an cuimhneachan e gur i bana-Ghàidheal a stèidhich an iùil dhaibh coiseachd le daoine bochda agus nuair a thig cuireadh coiseachd romhpa!

THE MEMORIAL unveiled at Cille Choirill church near Roy Bridge last Saturday marks Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop's family links with Lochaber. Mary's Sisters of Saint Joseph still work to implement her educational philosophy among poor and indigenous peoples across the world. What could be a nobler tribute to this descendent of Lochaber emigrants than the continuing commitments to 'acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of the lands in which we live', and to 'never see a need without doing something about it!'

What better aspiration for mankind!
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Man dies after falling into river

KINLOCHELEVEN has been left in shock after a young man fell into the River Leven and died in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The body of Glasgow man Anthony Winton, 25, was found at around 11.45am on Sunday morning following an extensive search of the area around the river involving police, coastguard, fire brigade, Glencoe Mountain Rescue and the RAF.

Local councillor Andrew Baxter told The Oban Times: 'Everyone in the village is stunned that somewhere we think of as such a safe and peaceful place has experienced such a tragedy.'

Police received reports of a man falling from the bridge over the river in the centre of the village at 1.30am.

Bouquets of flowers have been left at the scene where Mr Winton fell.

It is believed he was visiting friends in the area for the weekend.

Northern Constabulary said a report about the incident would be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Lifeboat rescues stricken yacht

MALLAIG Lifeboat was called out to the aid of a stricken yacht on Sunday morning.

A call was made after the yacht suffered an engine failure at about 11am after leaving Canna. The crew escorted the vessel into Mallaig harbour for repairs.

Man denies threatening to stab and kill police officers

A FORT William man has denied threatening to stab and kill police officers in his home.

Dean Conn, of 6 Mossfield Apartments, appeared in court from custody to deny behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on May 12.

The 22-year-old also pled not guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner towards an officer and breaching bail conditions by failing to answer the door to police in the same incident.

Conn was released on bail and is due to appear again at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 18.

Portree Primary School lottery grant boost

PORTREE Primary School parent council has received a £10,000 Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The money will go towards new equipment and safety surfacing in the school's playground.

Features will include a trim trail, play train and octagonal pavilion.



Caol's gymnastics team performed a series of spectacular routines to open the afternoon events at the 'Caolympics'.

Primary school goes for gold with 'Caolympics'

CAOL Primary School staged a special 'Caolympics' last Wednesday to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in Lochaber on June 9 and the London Olympic Games.

Each class and the nursery adopted a nation and made flags and banners for the day, which included a gymnastics display and seven Olympic-themed events in the school playing field in the afternoon.

School and Lochaber Leisure Centre all contributed to making the occasion a great success.

Caol head teacher Steven Hamilton said: 'It was a real community event. It tied well into our curriculum for excellence.'

Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas and staff from Lochaber High School and Lochaber Leisure Centre all contributed to making the occasion a great success.

Sickness bug lingers on at care home

Invernevis remains closed after resident suffers relapse

A WINTER vomiting bug outbreak at a Lochaber old folks care home is still lingering on and delaying a full re-opening date, according to NHS Highland.

Invernevis House on Belford Road in Fort William will remain closed to new admissions and most visitors after one resident came down with suspected norovirus for a second time.

More than half the elderly residents at Invernevis were struck down by the virulent diarrhoea and sickness infection last week.

Fourteen patients and six members of staff were affected

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

It is understood staff at the home have returned to work, but the new case has raised the possibility of new control measures being required.

The source of the outbreak remains unclear, but it is likely the bug was introduced to Invernevis from outside.

At Raigmore, two wards were closed after 32 patients and 16 hospital staff came into contact with the virus.

The Rosebank ward at Caithness General was also shut after six patients and seven staff fell ill.

Recommended treatment for norovirus infection comprises taking paracetamol and drinking plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

The bug spreads in the air where someone has had diarrhoea or vomited. It is extremely difficult to contain and can be easily passed on by poor hand hygiene.

NHS Highland took over responsibility for Invernevis House from Highland Council on April 1 under a shake up of children's and adult care services in the region.

Health chiefs were looking to get Invernevis back to normal on condition that staff and residents remained symptom-free for 48 hours.

However, an NHS Highland spokesperson told The Oban Times on Tuesday afternoon that everything had been on track - until one elderly resident suffered a relapse.

The spokesperson said: 'One person has had a resumption of symptoms and Invernevis will not be re-opening over the next week.'

Norovirus has not yet been confirmed by a lab, the spokesperson said, although 'the symptoms are the same'. Asked what measures are currently being pursued to prevent further infection with a view to resuming normal working, she said: 'Thorough cleaning will take place which is routine in these situations. It usually takes several days and the home will fully re-open on completion.'

She added: 'The person admitted [to the Belford] has been discharged and no-one else was admitted.'

Everyone welcome.

Cattle and sheep stockjudging competition

LOCHABER Agricultural Society is holding a cattle and sheep stockjudging competition at Glen Nevis Farm on Saturday June 2 at 3pm by kind permission of Ewen Cameron.

The afternoon will feature a raffle, barbecue and home baking.

Everyone welcome.

Rotary club offers employee the chance of a lifetime on Indian study exchange scheme



John Hutchison, centre right, and the West of Scotland Rotary district team learn about incense from Ibaraki artisan Tsuneko Suzuki.

A CHANCE of a lifetime trip to India is up for grabs for a Lochaber-based employee keen to study their line of work abroad.

The Rotary Club of Lochaber is looking for someone aged between 25 and 40 to join the Group Study Exchange scheme, a Rotary International initiative giving people worldwide the chance to learn more about their own vocation in another country.

Lochaber Rotarian John Hutchison last year led a team from the West of Scotland Rotary District to Ibaraki, Japan, returning an earlier visit by the Japanese to this country.

Now the district is recruiting to send a team to Gujarat in western India for four weeks in January

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

2013 - and Mr Hutchison is keen for a Lochaber-based person to apply.

He told The Oban Times: 'This would be a great opportunity for someone in the right age group to learn about their own vocation in India, to experience culture and traditions, living in Rotarians' homes. The Lochaber Rotary Club would be keen to sponsor the right local person.'

'Allowing time off work is a major consideration for an employer, but I am sure that this investment would be well repaid by the right person.'

The West of Scotland team visiting Japan worked in social work, research, arts and

culture, economic development and prisons. They were due in Ibaraki in March last year but had to cancel at four days' notice when the tsunami struck.

Mr Hutchison said: 'The team members had a really interesting time experiencing Japanese culture, which is so different from ours and learning about their own area of work too.'

The Rotary club has previously hosted visiting teams from Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Europe and the USA. The team from Gujarat will visit Scotland this September.

Anyone interested in the exchange with India should contact John Hutchison on 01397 772252. Information about the scheme is available at www.rotary.org.

Pupils back worldwide education initiative

LOCHABER High School (LHS) first year modern studies pupils have signed up for an initiative aiming to ensure all the world's children have access to education.

Along with thousands of other schools, LHS is taking part in the Global Campaign for Education, which seeks to hold world leaders like David Cameron to their pledge to give every child in the world a primary education by the year 2015. With only three years to go there are still 67

million children missing out on education. Prior to the meeting of the G8 countries in the USA, Lochaber pupils used their artistic talents to decorate 'Going for Gold' Olympic themed medals. The artworks were then sent to local MP Charles Kennedy for forwarding to David Cameron, before he flew to the United States to attend the summit.

Campaign organisers have acknowledged the pupils' involvement by awarding them a certificate of recognition.



Lochaber High School principal teacher of modern studies Bob Colman with class 1LN: LHS pupils are taking part in worldwide education campaign.

Prince unveils plaque at remote Lochaber chapel

A REMOTE Lochaber chapel, now fully restored after years of painstaking work, was rededicated by royal decree yesterday.

Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, unveiled a plaque to mark the restoration and re-opening of Drimmin chapel, near Lochaline.

The Astrid String Quartet from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow played at the opening ceremony.

The tiny Catholic church will act as a non-denominational place of worship and a centre for music and the arts.

Affirming the multi-denominational future of the

chapel, ministers from the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church of Scotland and the Church of England conducted yesterday's rededication service.

Earlier in the day, the prince visited Acharacle Primary School in Moidart before arriving in Lochaline to celebrate the Morvern port's maritime heritage.

Iain Thornber, Depute Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, was among those present accompanying the Earl of Wessex.

He told The Oban Times: 'The last royal visit was around 900 years ago when Malcolm Canmore came to

Ardtornish Castle - and we have had no-one since. It is a nice historical occasion.'

And of the Acharacle visit, Mr Thornber said: 'The Prince landed in Moidart, the first time a member of the British royal family has done so since 1745 - although he did not have eight men with him!'

Drimmin Estate owner and prominent Roman Catholic Sir Charles Gordon demolished the ruined Maclean castle to build the chapel in 1838.

The building fell into ruin before the St Columba's Drimmin Trust was formed in 2005 to bring it back to its former glory.

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www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

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Advertisement for 'June Edition holiday west highland' featuring a scenic landscape with a boat and a castle. Text includes 'FREE', '500,000 readers every season', and 'out now Available throughout the west Highlands or online at www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk'

Advertisement for 'THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...' featuring a magazine cover with 'SKYE IS THE LIMIT - Runrig's Donnie Munro on his beloved island home' and '32 The best Scottish properties'. Includes 'NOW ON SALE' and 'WIN Royal Highland Show Tickets'.

what's on oban

Thursday 24th May > Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm-till late

Thursday 24th May > Disco
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am

Saturday 26th May > Nightclub with DJs
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am, £5 entry

Thursday 24th May > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Friday 25th May > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

what's on lochaber

Friday 25th May > The Outside Track, 7.30pm
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Tickets £10/£12

Saturday 26th May > Nightclub 10pm till 2am
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Beats

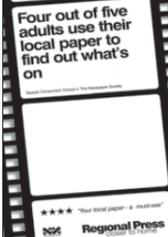
Saturday 2nd June > SHOOGLENIFTY
Glenluig Hall 9pm - www.glenluig.org.uk

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Local Producers Market
Thursday 7th June
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Model Club
Annual Show
Regent Hotel, Oban
Saturday 26th
& Sunday 27th May
10am - 4pm
Adults £2, Children £1,
Families £5
Proceeds to MacQueen Bros
Charitable Trust SC041044
For further information contact
Alan Brander 01631 566345

To advertise in the
WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
Telephone:
01631 568000

Art Exhibition
Lochaber Art Club Annual Exhibition
Ben Nevis Distillery
Fort William
Saturday 26 May to
Wednesday 6 June
10am til 6pm
Closed Sunday
Free Entry, all welcome

STRAMASH present
"This Trip Is Not Recommended"
by Patrick Winterton,
Kayak Adventurer,
extreme sports
commentator, film maker
Friday 25th May
Cuan Mor, 7.00pm
Registered Charity: SCO40588

In celebration of
Her Majesty the Queen's
Diamond Jubilee
1952 - 2012
Choral Evensong and
Service of Thanksgiving
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Saturday, 2nd June, 2012
at 3pm
All welcome

Ceilidh and Dance
in aid of Ayr Hospice
Friday 1st of June 7.30pm
Victory Hall Benderloch
Bar Open
Admission £3 children
under 12 free (must be
accompanied by an adult)

Charity
Car Boot Sale
Last Sunday of
every month until
September
Co-op Car Park
10 - 2

O.A.S.I.S
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAY 31st MAY
6 P.M
OPEN TO FAMILY MEMBERS
WHO REQUIRE SUPPORT OR
ADVICE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF
ILLICIT SUBSTANCES
OR ALCOHOL ON LOVED ONES
11 STAFFORD STREET, OBAN
01631 571348

BUDAPEST CAFÉ ORCHESTRA
Victory Hall, Benderloch
Saturday
June 2nd - 8pm.
Tickets £10 if booked on
01631 720512
or £12 on the door with £8
concession for children

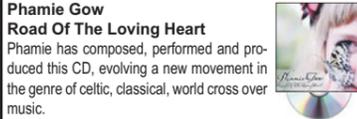
BRINGING PEACE TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE
Public Meeting
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
Friday May 25, 2012
at 7.30pm
Speaker Mark Braverman
Admission Free All Welcome
Further Info: Graeme Pagan
01631 563737

Craig Lodge Open Day
2pm-4pm
Sunday 27th May
Come and enjoy the gardens and
delicious cream tea!
Plant sales, picture sales, games
for all the family,
Come & join the fun!
All proceeds to Mary's Meals
T: 01838 200216
Craig Lodge, Dalnally, Argyll PA33 1AR
www.craiglodge.org

To All Oban Residents
aged 65yrs and older
Special Guest Invitation
Free invitation to enjoy
The Celebration of HM the Queen's
Diamond Jubilee Lunch
Sunday 3rd June
Jubilee Big Lunch
Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban
2pm - 4pm
Coffee/Tea, Sandwiches
and Cakes will be supplied
RSVP
Graham MacQueen MBE DL
c/o MacQueen Bros Ltd, Glegellan Road,
Oban PA34 4HS or phone 01631 564848

CD review

Phamie Gow
Road Of The Loving Heart
Phamie has composed, performed and produced this CD, evolving a new movement in the genre of celtic, classical, world cross over music.
With strong Scottish roots, this multi talented musician has lived for a time in Montpellier, France, which she discovered also has strong ties with her native country.



Mhairi Hall And Patsy Reid
Contours Of Cairngorm - Live
This CD brings together four of Scotland's most celebrated traditional musicians, using a classical approach to traditional Scottish music.
Inspired by Mhairi Hall Trio's debut "Cairngorm", the music has been developed and orchestrated by Mhairi and Patsy, for the acclaimed string ensemble, Edinburgh Quartet.



Celtic Collections vol 14
Music In The Glen
A musical tour of the beautiful Scottish Highlands, including actual sounds of the glens, lochs, mountains and the Great Forest Of Caledon. Ancient airs and dance tunes from all over the Highlands, from Perthshire, the gateway to the Highlands, up through Cairngorm and Speyside, to Loch Ness and Kintail, the Sound Of Sleat, over to Skye and other magnificent islands of the Hebrides. Whether a frequent visitor to this wonderful part of Scotland, or looking forward to the first experience of its beauty, the tranquil airs and dance tunes of Music In The Glen will take the listener there.



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KEVIN BRIDGES
2ND DATE ANNOUNCED
Tuesday 17th July 2012

TICKETS GO ON SALE
Wednesday 30th May at 9am
at the Corran Halls, Oban

Venue Counter sales only
no Telephone bookings will be taken

Tickets will be £23 + £2 booking fee
Doors 7pm, Show 8pm
14yrs and over
Only 4 x tickets per person



Thursday May 24th

LUNCHTIME LECTURE - EXPLORING THE OCEAN'S DEEPEST FRONTIER: 1 - 2 pm. Oban, The Caledonian Hotel. Talk by Dr David Hughes of SAMS.

KITCHEN CEILIDH - THE HERRING LASSIES: 7.30 pm. Oban, Dunollie 1745 House. Booking essential on 01631 570550. Entry: £10.00 inc wine.

THE SEA DETECTIVE - PRESENTATION BY AUTHOR MARK DOUGLAS-HOME: 6 pm for 6.30 pm. Oban, Waterstones Bookshop. Please reserve a free ticket on 01631 571455

STRAMASH FAMILY CANOEING: 6 - 9 pm. Oban, Stramash, Upper Soroba. For 8 yrs +. Book on 01631 566080. Entry: Adult £35, child £20, family £95 (2A/2C)

Friday May 25th

CARBON CAPTURE OPEN DAY & TOUR OF GAS RELEASE FACILITY: 1 - 7 pm. Benderloch, Slipway, Tralee Bay Holiday Park. Find out about ongoing research in Ardmucknish Bay.

LUNCHTIME LECTURE - OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: 1 - 2 pm. Oban, The Caledonian Hotel. Talk by Dr Natalie Hicks

"THIS TRIP IS NOT RECOMMENDED" - BY KAYAK ADVENTURER PATRICK WINTERTON: 7 - 9 pm. Oban, Cuan Mor, George St. Also launch of new Stramash paddlclub for youngsters.

CALMAC HISTORY TALK CRUISE TO COLONSAY (NON-LANDING): 5 pm - 9.55 pm, from Oban Ferry Terminal. Last boarding 4.45 pm with completed registration card. Calmac History talk & optional meal on board. Tickets from the Tour Shop Oban, 01631 562244. Cruise ticket: £20, Cruise + 2-course meal: £30.

Saturday May 26th

SAMS OPEN DAY: 11 am - 4 pm. Dunbeg, Scottish Marine Institute. Science displays and fun activities for all the family.

KING OF THE ISLES: 11 am - 3 pm. Dunbeg, Dunstaffnage Castle. This event is run by Historic Scotland. Adult £4.00, concession £3.20, child £2.40

THE LISMORE SAILING SMACKS 1870 - 1940: Minibus tour and walk. Meet at Port Appin Ferry 10 am. Isle of Lismore. Please book in advance with Robert Hay on 01631 760393. Entry £3.50 to museum. Pay for own lunch in café and ferry fare.

PAINTERS, POETS AND DUNOLLIE: 1-4pm. Oban, Dunollie 1745 House. Pavement artist competition, guided walk on artists who painted/wrote about Dunollie. £3. Cream teas by donation.

VISIT CANNA HOUSE - TAIGH CHANAIDH & GILLIE BRIGHDE RESTAURANT: 11.30 am - 1.30 pm and 3.30 - 5 pm. Isle of Canna. Event run by the National Trust for Scotland. Adult £5, children and NTS members free.

Sunday May 27th

ISLE OF SEIL FESTIVAL ACTIVITY DAY: Isle of Seil. 11 am - 5 pm. Open-air church service at 11 am on sports field. Talks, walks, boat trips, displays, museum open. Music & poetry evening 8 pm, Seil Hall.

CREAM TEAS. From 1 - 4 pm. Oban, Dunollie 1745 House. Payment by donation.

DADS' COOKERY DAY WITH ALEX NEEDHAM: 2 - 5 pm. Oban, Argyll College. Pre-booking essential on 01631 563110. Entry: £20 including pint at Sloans afterwards!

Monday May 28th

SCOTTISH MARINE GROUP POST-GRADUATE MEETING: 9 am - 5 pm. Dunbeg, Scottish Marine Institute. To book contact Prof Axel Miller 01631 559263

Family sets the pace in Oban ABCD 10K



Runners in the ABCD boys fun run get ready for the off from Oban's hospital on Sunday. 15_121abcd1

MORE than 100 runners turned up for this year's Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10k and fun run in Oban - with one family leaving their mark on every category.

The event is held every year by ABCD to promote exercise as a good way to maintain a healthy heart.

Perfect running conditions helped runners - some canine - who started and finished at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Alice Chong won the woman's race, while seven-year-old daughter Helen won the girls race with a time of 10 minutes seven seconds.

Sister Eva finished just over two minutes later in the girls category.

Meanwhile, dad David finished eighth in the mens and son Callan raced in the boys category.

Winning the boys race was Fraser MacFarlane and Gregor McGregor won the mens 10k.

Exciting line-up for third annual FyneFest

AN EXCITING line-up has been announced for the third annual FyneFest, to be held at Fyne Ales Cairndow grounds between June 1 and 4.

The festival is seeking to build on the success of previous years with a fantastic mix of beer, food and music and, for the first time, comedy.

As well as having a large range of Fyne Ales' own beers on over the weekend the brewing team has been working hard to source more than 100 beers from 25 different breweries across the UK.

Local food producers Loch Fyne Oysters and Winston Churchill Wild Venison will be providing fresh local produce such as pints of prawns and venison burgers.

New additions to the food line-up include Taste of Galloway Hog Roast, Churrio and hot chocolate dip, Cairndow cakes, home ground coffee and Eden Deli which will be selling its famous stovies.

Comedy will make its festival debut on the Friday night, accompanied by a host of bands, organised by Craig McIntyre of The Cottage-Music Studio, with everything from traditional Scottish and big band sounds to folk, blues and rock on offer throughout the weekend.

For information or tickets, phone on 01499 600120, email elaine@fyneales.com or online at www.fynefest.com.



Anne Marie, Rosemary and Christine Cameron, with visitors Ola and Aga at the Nether Lochaber Village Hall plant and home baking sale.

Plants and home baking boost Nether Lochaber Village Hall funds

A FUNDRAISING plant and home baking sale at Nether Lochaber Village Hall, Onich, on Sunday raised more than £250.

Local people donated mouth-watering baked goods such as scones, strawberry tarts, pancakes sausage rolls and tablet.

There was also hanging baskets, bedding plants and vegetable seedlings on offer. The money raised will go towards the hall running expenses.

Hall committee member Ann Marie Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'We would like to thank everyone who supported the event, especially those who came from outwith the community.'

Successful first season for Kilchrenan Club

THE NEWLY-formed Kilchrenan Wednesday Club has completed a successful first season.

Having left the SWRI, the group was formed last October and meets on the first Wednesday of each month, providing an interesting range of speakers.

Maria Chapman talked about her involvement in the breeding and training of police dogs; John MacFarlane shared his memories of his childhood in Mull; John Norgrove travelled from Harris to describe the work being carried out in Afghanistan by the Linda Norgrove Foundation; Euan Paterson gave an insight into the workings of *The Oban Times*; the financing and refurbishment of the Phoenix Cinema was revealed by project manager Mikey McManus and the season closed with a demonstration by the Benderloch Spinners.

The small group of enthusiasts who keep the group going said they were pleased with the success of the first season.



A scene from Showstoppers' successful production of Oliver! Photograph by Kim Ferguson.

Superb production of Oliver!

SHOWSTOPPERS picked a cracker of a show to present to packed houses in the Nevis Centre for four performances last week, including a Saturday matinee.

With the cast, orchestra and crew of *Oliver!* totalling well over 100 participants, a huge amount of time and effort went into staging what was a hugely successful show.

Massive credit goes to Susan Munro, who managed to combine the enormous task of director/musical director in creating a first-rate production.

Dave Foster came up with an ingenious set design, enhanced by excellent sound and lighting, and by Donnie Munro's stage management.

The orchestra and Alison Boyle's costume design were up to the usual high standard of Showstoppers.

The adult chorus were excellent throughout and the huge number of kids in the workhouse scenes and in Fagin's Gang were clearly well rehearsed and brought an enormous vitality to the show.

All the lesser principals, too many to name, did an outstanding job. So well did he play it, the part of Mr Bumble could well have been written for Dave Foster and I really liked Tania Barnes's portrayal of Widow Corney and Sian Slezas as Bet.

Mark Boyle has shown great versatility over the years and on this occasion was a wonderfully villainous Bill Sykes, terrifying the audience at his every entrance.

In a tried and tested approach, Showstoppers had two 'Olivers' and two 'Dodgers' who performed in alternate shows, the one reviewed having Alexandra McKeown and Katryn Muir respectively.

After a slightly hesitant start (understandable), Alexandra settled in extremely well and was a totally commendable Oliver. A special mention though for Katryn as Dodger, who shone from her first entrance and was the talk of the auditorium in the interval. Poised, confident and sparkling, we shall hear more of her.

Of Sheena Coull and Geoff Wright I need say no more than they are always totally dependable and professional. In the part of Nancy, Sheena once again showed her star quality, particularly in the well-known numbers 'It's a Fine Life' and 'As Long As He Needs Me'. Geoff Wright's Fagin was a superb interpretation in which he resisted the easy temptation to go over the top, thereby putting his unique stamp on the part.

I know from their reaction that the audience would join me in congratulating Showstoppers, and Susan Munro in particular, for yet another superb production.

As they now head into their 20th season, all we can say to them is in the lyrics of Oliver - Be Back Soon! - *Naim MacArthur*

Eye to eye with John Wallace
Red Eyes

ONE OF the questions I am frequently asked by patients is 'Where should I go when I have sore or red eyes?' 'Should I go to my GP, the local pharmacist, accident and emergency or the local optometrist?' Before I answer that we need to discuss what we mean by 'red eye'.

Probably the most common type of red eye is due to bacterial conjunctivitis. Typically you wake with thick green pussy deposits sticking your eyelids together. This responds well to antibiotic eye drops which you can buy directly from your pharmacist and usually clears up in five days. Interestingly, recent studies have found that by simply keeping the infected eye clean the infection clears in five days! When the infection persists then you should seek the advice of your optometrist who can advise your GP on the best course of treatment. Not all infected red eyes are caused by bacteria. Some are viral. Viral infections typically are red and watery. Because viruses affect the eye in different ways it is always best to see your optometrist who has a special instrument enabling very detailed examination of the front of your eye. Some viral infections can simply be left to run their natural course. However, many can be a serious threat to vision and need to be diagnosed quickly.

Red eyes can also be caused by allergic responses to a variety of things. At this time of year hay fever is the usual culprit. Sometimes it can be due to rubbing your eyes when your hands have contaminant on them. Hay fever sufferers are used to dealing with their condition. If you have simply rubbed your eye and it has become swollen and red, applying an ice pack wrapped in a towel will help reduce the inflammation.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Farming

Acharacle crofter buys Stirling champion for new centre record

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 213 breeding cattle and 23 bulls at their show and sale at Stirling last Monday when both the champion heifer and reserve were bought by Acharacle crofter Gordon Cameron.

Champion was a British Blue cross heifer with a Limousin cross heifer calf at foot from Craig Malone, Corbiwood, Bannock-

burn which went on to create a new centre record of £5100 when it was sold to Gordon Cameron, Newton Cottage, Acharacle.

Mr Cameron then paid £3,700 for the reserve champion, a British Blue cross heifer with Limousin cross bull calf from John McAlister, West Thomaston, Banknock.

The champion bull was a

Charolais from M Lyle, Mid Cam-bushinnie, Kinbuck which sold at 3900gns to R McCarlie, Wester Hassockrigg, Harthill.

Reserve champion was a Limousin from T J Adam, Lower Green-yards, Bannockburn brought out by Dougie MacBeath.

The 55 heifers with calves at foot averaged at £2,196.23, with 41 cows with calves at foot averaging

£1,202.68.

Cows sold to £1,680 twice for Limousin cows with bull calves from Taylorton and Arnbathie, with Arnbathie also selling Aberdeen Angus cows will bull calves to £1,620 twice.

In-calf cows sold to £1,080 for a Limousin from Earnockmuir and to £960 and £940 for Simmentals from Balliemore.

Wester Aldie sold Aberdeen Angus in-calf heifers to £1150, £1120, £1100 and £1080, twice, to lift the sale average to £1,022.31 for 16 sold.

Bulling heifers averaged £989.71 for 85 sold, with British Blues from Southholm selling to £1,300 twice, while Seggarsdean sold Limousins to £1,240 four times and £1,220 four times.

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Auldhouseburn Blackface hoggs sell to record price of £900 per head

UNITED Auctions sold 929 store cattle, 186 east cows and 5,852 store and breeding sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when a pen of five dry Blackface hoggs from Mr Blackwood, Auldhouseburn sold to Mr Wallace, Northern Ireland to a new centre record price of £900 per head.

Dry Mule ewe hoggs sold to £134 from Moorfoot Capital Investment, Hopes selling to Mr Tanner, Parkhill while Mule ewe hoggs with twins lambs sold to £204 from A Barr, Easter Buckleyvie and singles to £193 from Woodend.

Texel ewe hoggs with twin lambs sold to £201 from Alantanton and singles to £196 from

Woodend.

Mule ewes with twin lambs at foot from Mid Auchencarroch sold to £200 with Cheviote cross ewes with twin lambs from Bowleys selling to £186.

Texel cross ewes with twin lambs also from Bowleys sold to £184, while Blackface ewes with twin lambs from Shields and Glenmollachan fetched £144.

Mule ewes and single lambs from Mid Auchencarroch sold to £150, as did Cheviot cross ewes and single lambs from Pimerry. Texel cross ewes and single lambs from West Park sold to £132, while Blackface ewes and single lambs from Glenmollachan sold to £128 and

Shields, £104.

Bullocks averaged 209.65p (-0.22p) and sold to 266.8p per kg for a 208kg Charolais cross from Catslackburn and £1,180 for a 592kg Charolais cross from Townhead.

Heifers averaged 200.11p (-4.42p) and sold to 253.9p per kg for a 382kg Charolais cross from Glenrath and £1,100 for a 566kg Simmental cross from Woodhall.

Cast cows averaged 137.86p and sold to 210.3p and £1695 for a Charolais cross from from Beechbank.

Forward cattle averaged 188.79p and sold to 215.7p per kg and £1390 for a Limousin cross from West Burncroft.

Breeding cattle meet rising trade at Stirling Saturday sale

UNITED Auctions held a special monthly sale of 464 breeding cattle at Stirling last Saturday when heifers with calves at foot sold to £2,700 for a British Blue heifer with Limousin heifer calf at foot from Easter Greenhill.

Keen bidding Little Kilchatten sold Limousin cross heifers with Limousin heifer calves at foot to £2,550 and £2,350, with the same home selling Limousin cross heifers with bull calves at foot to £2,650, £2,600 and £2,550.

Lammerviv and Easter Greenhill had British Blue heifers with bull calves at foot to £2,500.

Cows with bull calves at foot sold to £1,750 for a Limousin cross with Simmental cross calf from Dunalastair Estate, Perthshire with the same home

selling a Limousin cross cow with Limousin calf at foot to £1,700.

Limousin cows with British Blue cross calves from Barfillan sold to £1,650.

Stock cows with calves at foot were keenly bid for and sold to top bids of £1,600, £1,550 and £1,500 for Limousin cross cows with Simmental cross calves from Ardmarnock and Broadhaugh.

Bulling heifers sold to £1,300 for a British Blue from Nisbet, who also sold a Limousin cross to £1,280.

Balgownie Mains and Auchmeddan sold British Blues and Aberdeen Angus crosses to £1,100, with Stirches Mains selling Simmental crosses to £920.

A Simmental stock bull from Ardmarnock sold to £2,600.

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The applicants will have previous cleaning experience and knowledge of Hygiene Standards. You will ideally be qualified in Basic Food Hygiene, Respiratory Equipment Compliance, and hold a current First Aid Certificate these qualifications are Desirable but not essential as training can be provided.

A valid Full Driving License and Own Transport are Essential as successful candidates will be required to work at other site locations and be available to work evenings and occasional weekends. Applicants must be willing to work unsociable hours and will receive additional remuneration when working after 10pm and before 6am.

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We are also recruiting for Marine Operatives for our Marine site at Portavadie on Loch Fyne. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including Fish Welfare, Sampling, Grading and Moving, Site Maintenance, Net Changing and Boat Handling. Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills and ideally have Marine Experience. Previous Aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as training can be provided. A Full Clean Driving Licence is Essential.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package for both positions including entry into the Company Pension Scheme after the qualifying period.

Previous Applicants for these posts need not apply.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
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We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated relief support assistants who can help make a difference in a respite service supporting children and adults. This work gives you an opportunity to learn about support work whilst pursuing other interests. Previous experience is not essential as relevant training and support and regular supervision will be given.

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 Interviews for this post will be held in Ardrishaig on Tuesday 19th June 2012

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers
 North Argyll Carers Centre

North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support through our Carers' Centres. The organisation is seeking to recruit the following:

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 North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process.
CLOSING DATE:
Monday 18th June 2012 at 12 noon
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To be successful in this role you will have wide ranging experience in delivering countryside management as a Ranger/Warden or equivalent. An able communicator, you will also have excellent organisational skills and an ability to re-prioritise workload in a challenging environment. Chainsaw and/or pesticide certification would be an advantage as would knowledge of moorland bird survey methods and experience of working with volunteers.

For full job details and information about how to apply, go to www.nts.org.uk and click on the "Vacancies" tab. Closing date: 8th June 2012. Interviews are likely to take place at Balmacara Estate during w/c 11 June 2012. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

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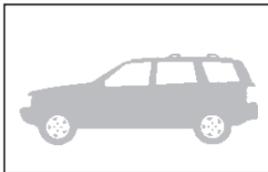
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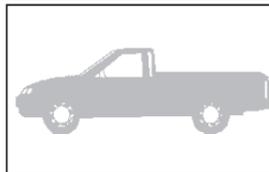
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The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
12/01711/FUL	Solen Cottage Solan Acharade	Extension to house (resubmission of 11/04216/FUL)	(14 days)
12/01742/FUL	70m North East of Lidl Food Store Camanachd Crescent Fort William	Erection of 2 student accommodation blocks and storage building	(14 days)
12/01747/LBC	Glencoe Museum Glencoe	Replacing heather thatch roof with straw thatch	Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
12/01781/FUL	Arisaig Hotel Arisaig	Removal of existing caravan and erection of 4 bed staff accommodation block (renewal of 07/00116/FULLO)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/01823/FUL	Moss Cottage Bunree Onich Fort William	Extension to house	(14 days)
12/01837/PIP	Beaoid Field to South West of Shilo Morar	Erection of house (renewal of 06/00054/OUTLO)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Michael Russell MSP
Will be holding a surgery
On the island of Coll on
Monday 11th June 2012
To book an appointment
Tel: 01369 702011 or email
marie-claire.docherty@scottish.parliament.uk



CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Mr D McAuslan of Balliemeanoch croft, Lochgilphead is applying to create a new croft. 5.01.38570

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/ Purpose, Case number

*Mr D A Mackenzie 2 Bunavullin, Morvern 0.142 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.37458

*Mr D A Mackenzie 2 Bunavullin, Morvern 0.142 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.37457

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00621/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary building comprising bathroom, garage and shed/greenhouse	Land North West of Dunearn House Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/00622/PP	Erection of two 20.9 metres high (to blade tip) wind turbines.	Hillcrest Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UY	Tiree Area Office
12/00767/PP	Erection of croft bunkhouse.	Baleveolan Croft Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UG	Sub Post Office Lismore
12/00822/PP	Erection of two 20 kilowatt wind turbines (26.4 metres to hub height)	Land North of Ardernaig Farm Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
12/00830/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.	Land to South of Ardurt Cottage Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00839/PP	Installation of dormer window	Police House Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PJ	Sub Post Office Connel
12/00848/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse.	Cranich Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/00917/PP	Installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of new vehicular access to serve 3 house plots (retrospective).	Land West of Dunearn House Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/00920/PP	Change of use of vacant land to private garden ground, erection of greenhouse and fencing (retrospective).	Roneval 7 Jubilee Terrace Viewmount Drive Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PZ	Tobermory Area Office
12/00935/PP	Conversion of north wing to 2 self catering units and erection of decking	Willowburn Clachan Seil Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TJ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/00957/PP	Erection of canopy and formation of storage area.	Tesco Stores Limited Lochavullin Drive Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4BW	Oban Area Office
12/01008/PP	Erection of rear extension with removal of condition 2 - restricted occupation of the property relative to planning consent 00/01202/DET (erection of dwellinghouse).	Achalic Beag Lerags Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SE	Oban Area Office
12/01018/PP	Installation of bio mass boiler, flue and associated containers and fencing (amended fence position to that approved under Planning Permission reference 11/00581/PP)	Atlantis Leisure Dalriach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5JE	Oban Area Office
12/01023/PP	Erection of 10 kilowatt wind turbine (19.52 metres high to blade tip).	Fidden Farm Fionnphort Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA66 6BN	Sub Post Office Fionnphort
12/01032/PP	Erection of click and collect canopy (home shopping) in existing customer car park.	Tesco Stores Limited Lochavullin Drive Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4BW	Oban Area Office
12/01072/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Land West of Pretoria Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00939/PP	Re-nwal of planning permission reference 09/00859/DET (extension to hotel).	Alexandra Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5AA	Oban Area Office
12/01040/LIB	Internal alterations	The Gallery Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NT	Tobermory Area Office
12/01068/PP	Partial change of use of premises to be used for class 3 purposes (cafe).	The Gallery Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NT	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00749/PP	Erection of shed and decking (retrospective).	Land to East of 'Ardmore' Main Street Port Wemyss Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SR	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
12/01053/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access.	Land East of Gortanachuir Farm Bruichladdich Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORISATION GOMETRA MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH TUATH, ISLE OF MULL; ARDMEANACH MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH SCRIDAIN, ISLE OF MULL

Applications have been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the proposed new marine cage fish farms at locations on the Isle of Mull, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference	Application Reference Number
Discharge of effluent from marine cage farming of Atlantic Salmon with a maximum weight of fish held at any time of 2000 tonnes. The discharge will include the release of medicine residues used for treating sealice infestations.	Loch Tuath	NM 3627 4244	CAR/ L/1102386
Discharge of effluent from marine cage farming of Atlantic Salmon with a maximum weight of fish held at any time of 1900 tonnes. The discharge will include the release of medicine residues used for treating sealice infestations.	Loch Scridain	NM 4340 2647	CAR/ L/1101522

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

Copies of the respective applications and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carrs Corner, Lochybridge, Fort William PH33 6TL. Alternatively, the applications may be viewed on SEPA's website at: http://sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the applications may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting the respective reference numbers indicated above.

The Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

- Before determining the application, SEPA will:
- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
 - Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
 - Consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
 - Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
 - Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
 - Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
 - Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.
- SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the applications.

The Scottish Government

SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' WAGES

The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board hereby gives notice that it proposes to make a new Order which will come into force on 1 October 2012 amending the provisions of its Order of 19 August 2011.

Details of the proposed changes in wage rates and certain conditions may be obtained from the Board Secretary.

Written objections should be lodged with the Board Secretary by 10 June 2012 for consideration by the Board at its Confirmatory Meeting on 22 August 2012. Subject to the Board confirming its original proposals an Order will be made and a revised explanatory guide prepared.

Copies of the Order and explanatory guide will be available on request, from mid-September.

KEN GRAY
Secretary, Scottish Agricultural Wages Board, D Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD.

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BIRTHS

WILSON - Fiona and John are delighted to announce the arrival of their first child Donald John, born in the Princess Royal Hospital, Glasgow, on May 12, 2012.

ENGAGEMENTS

CARGILL
MACLACHLAN - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Guy, son of Derek and Marjory, Glasgow, to Paula, daughter of Kenny and Moira, Inveraray. We wish them both health and happiness.

MARRIAGES

MULLEN - SLOAN
Both families are delighted to announce the marriage at the Western House Hotel, Ayr on April 19, 2012 by the Rev Brian Wilkinson, Michael, only son of Michael and Winifred Mullen, 2 Achlonan, Taynuilt to Victoria Margaret, younger daughter of John and Penny Sloan, Panlands Farm, Johnstone Bridge, Lockerbie.

YATES - McLAREN
At St John's Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 28, 2012, by Rev Norman MacCallum, Elliot, eldest son of Jennifer MacDonald, Crieff and Richard, Glasgow, to Kerry, daughter of John and Angela, Oban.

DEATHS

BAIN - Suddenly at home on May 14, 2012, Joyce, a much loved mother, grandmother, mother-in-law and a dear and loyal friend to many, who also loved her pets and garden.

CLARK - Peacefully at Torrance Lodge Care Home, Kilmarnock, on May 16, 2012, surrounded by her loving family Isabel (née MacPhail), formerly of Ballephuil, Isle of Tiree. Much loved wife of the late Hugh Clark, beloved mother and grandmother to all the family. Loved and remembered everyday.

DOUGLAS - Peacefully at home with her girls on Friday, May 18, 2012. Helen devoted wife of the late Bert (SSPCA), loving mother of Linda, Shona and Toni, doting gran of Ziggy and Max and Scottish gran of Rebekah, ideal mother in law of Dennis, Stephen and Jim. Funeral service to be held at Perth Crematorium at 4pm on Thursday, May 24, to which all family and friends are warmly invited.

KING - John of Dervaig and Edinburgh, father of Livy, Simon and Emily died May 12, 2012. Cremation at Pentland Chapel, Morton Hall Crematorium, Edinburgh on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 2pm.

MACECHERN
Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on May 16, 2012, Barbara Jane MacEchern (née Currie), in her 92nd year, of Sucoth, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, beloved wife of the late Charles MacEchern, dear mother of Kathleen, Iain and Lorne and grandmother to Caroline and Stephen. Funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium on Wednesday, May 23, 2012. Forever in our thoughts.

MACKENZIE - (née Shaw) Cathie passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Monday May 7, 2012, after a harrowing four year illness. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her death has left a huge void in our lives. During her last days spent in the Ilay Hospital all the staff gave her the kindest care and attention. A very dedicated and professional team. At her own request a quiet family cremation was held at Cardross on May 15. In our hearts and lives forever.

MACLEAN - Morag Sinclair (née Kennedy), aged 67 years of 2 Kenovay, Isle of Tiree, peacefully passed away after a short illness on Monday, May 14, 2012, at the Southern General Hospital, surrounded by family. Morag, beloved wife of Donald, much loved mother and mother-in-law of Marie, Donna and Andy, Lorna and Lee and a dearly loved gran to Daniel, Laura, Cameron and Connor. Funeral was held on Friday, May 18, 2012.

MACLELLAN - Ronnie, Seaview, Morar, Inverness-shire. Peacefully after a long illness on Monday, May 21, 2012, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral in St Cumins Catholic Church, Morar, at 1pm on Saturday, May 26, 2012.

McVEY - William, C.B.E. (Edinburgh) - At the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh on Monday, May 14, 2012, William, much loved husband of Morven, loving father of Aline and Donnie and

grandad of Nathan. Service at Davidsons Mains Parish Church on Thursday, May 24 at 10.00am and interment thereafter at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban on Friday, May 25 at 10.00am.

TURNER - After a short illness, at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on May 18, 2012, in her 63rd year, Margaret (née MacInnes), beloved wife of Kenny, loving mum to Kai, Tracey and Kathleen and much loved nana to Ryan and Jamie. Sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COOPER - Victor and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their sad loss of Iseobel. Special thanks to Fairfield Medical Practice and to all at the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness for their loving care and attention. Sincere thanks to Rev. Louis Beuzidenhout for his comforting service, to D. Chisholm & Sons for their sympathetic handling of the funeral arrangements and to the Loch Fyne Hotel for the funeral catering. Finally, thanks to all those who paid their last respects at Inveraray Church of Scotland and Kilevin Cemetery and for the kind donations received for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland.

MACCORQUODALE - Ronnie, Mairi and families would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the sad loss of their mum Alice. Special thanks to the Rev Dugal Cameron for a very comforting service, to D & A Munn for their caring funeral arrangements and The Royal Hotel for refreshments.

MACDONALD - Seonag's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their phone calls, cards, mass cards, flowers and support following our sudden, sad loss. Special thanks to Fr Roddy for his lovely service and pipe playing on the Green Isle, also to Mike McFall for all his help, Graham for playing the pipes at St Johns, to all who paid their respects at St Johns and on the Green Isle, to John MacAulay for the boats and all the help we got for the burial and to Jill and Ardshealach Lodge for the lovely meal. Generous donations amounted to £505 and were donated to Caol Lunch Club.

OLIVER - Ewen, Michael, Anthony and their families would like to express their thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind words, cards and support received following the death of their Mother, Chrissie. Thanks also to Father MacKinnon and Father MacAulay for the comforting Mass and to Mike McFall, Funeral Directors for the compassion and professionalism shown. Special thanks also to Libby and the staff at Mossparc Nursing Home for the wonderful care given to our mother over that past few years. Also a special mention of thanks to the former staff at Glencoe Hospital for their attentive care of our Mother prior to her moving to Mossparc. Finally thanks to all those who paid their respects at St. Mary's and the graveside at Glen Nevis and gave so generously - the sum of £284.91 was raised for Mossparc Residents Fund.

SHARP - The family of the late Grace Sharp would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their flowers, cards, visits, homebaking, phone calls and support shown following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all medical staff for their utmost care and attention throughout. The funeral took place on Tuesday May 22, 2012.

WORMELL - The family would like to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy by way of flowers, cards, telephone calls received following the death of Peter. Thanks to all those who attended the service. The sum of £804.25 raised was donated to Cancer Research.

MEMORIAMS

BOWMAN - In fond and loving memory Allison, who died so young on May 26, 2007, loving mum and partner.

- From Katy and Donnie.

BROWN - Treasured memories of Rebecca, a much loved granny, mother-in-law and mum to the late Christine. Remembered fondly everyday.

- Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

CAMPBELL - Remembering our treasured mum, Joey Millar who passed away May 29, 1987. Memories most precious - Love Avril and John

CHILDS - Treasured memories of my husband Larry, died May 26, 2002. With a broken heart Tears unseen Wish your parting was just a dream.

- Love always Margaret. x

FAGAN - In loving memory of Frank a dear dad and grandpa, who passed away on May 24, 2011. Always in our thoughts.

- Francis, Wilma and Ceiran.

FAGAN - In loving memory of Frank who died May 24, 2011. Sadly missed.

- Jessie.

LAMBIE - In loving memory of James who died May 29, 2004. Forever in our minds Always in our hearts.

- Lambie family.

MACCORMICK - In memory of my brother Iain who died May 24, 1990, father Dugie who died on December 2, 1968 and mother Morag who died April 23, 2012. Lovingly remembered.

- Inserted by Ann and family Denny.

MACCORQUODALE - Our dearly loved Fiona, taken from us May 30 2000, aged 34 years. And all our loved ones gone before. If we could bring you back again

For one more hour or day, We'd express all our unspoken love We'd have countless things to say. If we could bring you back again

We'd say we treasured you And that your presence in our lives Meant more than we ever knew. If we could bring you back again

To tell you what we should You'd know how much we miss you now And if we could, we would. Loved and missed every day.

- Your boys Ewan and Kenny Till we meet again, Mum, Missing you.

- Iain, Diane, Iain and Rowan xx

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of my dear father Alexander, who died May 23, 1993. Missing you always Forgetting you never.

- Jessie and Ian

MACINTYRE - In ever fond remembrance of Angus died May 26, 1986, and Kenny died May 30, 1999. The family will be together this weekend and the example and the humour will never be far from our thoughts.

- Angus, Lorn, Eric and the extended family.

MACKINNON - Loving memories of dear Auntie Dunkie, who passed away on May 20, 2007. Loved and remembered always.

- The Omand Family, Tieve, Renfrew and Lewis.

McGUNIGAL - In loving memory of Sandy passed away May 23, 2010. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- Love mam, dad, sisters, nieces and nephews.

NICOLSON - Treasured memories of Katie, a dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who passed away May 21, 2010, also Donald a dear father, grandfather and great grandfather, who passed away August 13, 1987. You gave us many things in life Gifts both great and small But most of all you gave us love The greatest gift of all Sadly missed Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by your loving family, Spean Bridge and Fort William.

NICOLSON - Precious memories of our dear father and grandfather Donald, who died May 22, 1980. Also remembering our dear brothers and uncles Joseph (Joe) and Alister. Loved and remembered always.

- Sadly missed by all the family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 27 May 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 27 May 2012
Pentecost
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Choral Mattins.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Parish Eucharist.....11.30
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome

St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion.....11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.15
Holy Eucharist.....
.....Wed 30 May 14.30

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North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Please contact
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Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
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Please contact
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01631 571009

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Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS



Young volunteers honoured for effort

Kathleen Black from Argyll Voluntary Action presented Erin MacGregor, left, and Clare Davis, right, with certificates marking their volunteering with the First Connel Brownies. Erin has given 57 hours of her time to the group and Clare 76 hours. Clare's efforts will be included in her work towards gaining her silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. 15.12/brownies1



The Mariota Stone goes back on display in Mull.

Waverley sets sail for Oban

THE LAST sea-going paddle steamer in the world will be offering trips from Oban next weekend. Paddle Steamer Waverley will be sailing from the North Pier from June 2 to 5 offering scenic trips to the Corryreckan Whirlpool, Iona, Tiree, Fort William, Skye and Inverie. June 9 to 11 trips will be to Tobermory, Coll, Staffa or round the Mull of Kintyre to Campbeltown.

TV dating show invite

SINGLE Argyll residents are being invited to enter one of television's hottest Saturday night dating shows. Take Me Out will be holding auditions in Glasgow at the end of June and anyone who is single and looking for love is asked to apply now by emailing takemeboutgirls@thames.tv or takemeboutboys@thames.tv. The Take Me Out team look forward to hearing from you but auditions do not guarantee a place on the show.

WEDDINGS



Kirsteen Munro, fifth daughter of Rev and Mrs James Munro was married to Alasdair MacKillop, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth MacKillop, Bishopton at Bishopton Parish Church on April 14th by Rev James Munro, formerly of Tiree and South Uist parishes.



Fraser, eldest son of Neil and Catherine Murray, Jordanhill, Glasgow and Jennifer, elder daughter of John Train and Anne McCormack, Kilmarnock, are pictured with Fraser's niece Kirsty, after their wedding in St. John's Renfield Church of Scotland, Kelvindale, Glasgow, on 31st March 2012. A beautiful service was conducted by Rev. Fiona Lillie and this was followed by a wonderfully happy reception, with Trail West, in the Grand Central Hotel. Fraser's grandparents came from Waternish, Skye and Ness, Lewis.



Paul Green originally from Kinlochleven (Lovat Road) and Joanne Durrant from Lisburn, were married at the Galgorm (Ballymena) on April 29, 2012.

Ancient carved grave stone returns to Mull

AN ANCIENT carved grave stone has returned to Mull after undergoing repair and conservation work. The Mariota Stone went on display at Tigh na Rois, the Ross of Mull Historical Centre, Bunessan, as part of the Festival of Museums on May 18. The stone, which is around 500 years old, is expected to stay for a few weeks before being moved to a new purpose-built protective shelter. It had suffered cracks and had a piece missing before being taken to Edinburgh by Historic Scotland for work. Kilvickon Parish Church has a number of impressive table tombs and headstones in the churchyard but the Mariota Stone is by far the oldest.

Field officer Sheila Clark was first to notice the damage and after a section of the stone was taken she stepped in to arrange repairs.

She said: 'We don't actually know anything about Mariota, a variation on the name Margaret, as a person other than her name.'

'The style of the carving places the date between 1500 and 1560. The stone is unusual insofar as it is a woman's memorial, at a time when very few women in Argyll were commemorated; the best known memorial is that of Prioress Anna MacLean of Iona dating to 1543, which lay within the church.'

'Both these facts point to a woman of some status, influence and pedigree. Yet the inscription has weathered away leaving us with the words - Here lies Mariota, daughter of... One can't help but wonder who she was, how old she was, whether she was beautiful?'

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Security firm delays releasing man after he is freed on bail

A YOUNG man who was ordered to be released on bail from Oban Sheriff Court was held for a further two-and-a-half hours due to 'over caution' by prisoner transfer service, G4S.

Conor Webster, of 22 Baillie Norrie Crescent, Montrose, had been appearing for a deferred sentence after he pled guilty to vandalising the Youth Hostel on Oban's Corran Esplanade previously.

Webster's three co-accused had been sentenced to eight months custody at an earlier date in Oban but had appealed to the High Court and were granted interim release.

The 19-year-old was also sentenced to eight months, having already spent time in Polmont Young Offenders Institution while awaiting sentencing.

He was immediately granted bail by the court in Oban but G4S staff could not get permission to release him from custody.

It is understood staff considered returning him to Polmont - who refused to take him as he had been released by the courts.

A G4S spokesman said: 'Before releasing anyone from custody, G4S is contractually obliged to carry out a number of pre-release checks to ensure that an individual has been granted the right to leave custody by all the relevant agencies.'

'In this particular instance an additional check was carried out which delayed this individual's release from custody. We apologise to the individual for any problems or distress.'

Webster, who was in a YOI for the first time said: 'I felt like a scumbag in Polmont, I don't want to go back. I'm glad to be released as I thought the sentence was too harsh.'

Guided walks

GUIDED walks involving wildflower lessons are being offered to visitors to the Isle of Iona today, Thursday May 24.

The walks will be centred around appreciating the natural picturesque setting of the island and finding out more about the wildflowers in their varied habitats. Visitors will be guided by local resident Joyce Watson and Ranger Emily Wilkins, who will meet visitors at the Iona Pier by the National Trust for Scotland's notice board.

The event starts at 10.45am and will run through till 1pm. Tickets cost £3 for an adult and can be booked by calling 01681 700659.

Thought for the Week
Scottish churches working together at the Royal Highland Show

FROM June 21 to June 24 well over 170,000 people will attend the Royal Highland and Agricultural Show at Ingliston Edinburgh, one of the largest gatherings in Scotland.

Sixteen years ago a small band of volunteers organised by the Church of Scotland Rural Committee started the Churches Stand. Their vision was to show the churches' important role in rural areas of Scotland. From a small stand at the outskirts of the showground, the churches stand has now a prime location at the centre of the show.

The Church of Scotland invited the Scottish Churches Rural Group to join this important outreach and the ecumenical nature of the stand developed illustrating Christian Churches in Scotland working together. The Church stand is housed in a marquee which hosts an exhibition of the work of the Churches in rural Scotland.

Prayer starts the day at the stand and a 'prayer net' picks up prayer requests from visitors during the day which are incorporated into a daily act of worship and prayer at the end of the day.

We have a Fair Trade coffee stop at the stand where people can rest and the stand volunteers can spend time in conversation with them.

The theme of the importance of the Rural Community, and the churches role in that, will be the theme for this year's show.

Ten church leaders will visit the stand at 10am on Thursday June 21. They represent the Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Church of Scotland, Salvation Army, United Reformed Church, Congregational Federation, Baptist Union of Scotland, Methodist Church, Scottish Episcopal Church and Action of Churches Together in Scotland and will be given a tour round the show.

In the afternoon on the Thursday at 3pm there will be a launch of a document on sustainable farming. Friday will be a day when people from many of the rural communities call at the stand.

Saturday and Sunday at the show are family days and the stand caters for this with face painters and a puppet ministry team outreaching to families. The Churches in Scotland are engaged with Government on rural matters and the many politicians will call at the stand.

We give thanks for the way that the Scottish Government consults us on a wide range of issues which affect the Rural areas in Scotland. Joining us this year will be SCVO Rural Direct which will bring a funding sheet specifically for churches.

Each year it is a real opportunity for the rural community and representatives to come to talk to the rural and urban public about rural issues but it also shows how the churches can play such a large role demonstrating real care and concern in so many aspects of Scottish life.

Please support us in prayer and do come and see us at Avenue O, stand 635. Bill Harvey, Convenor of the Scottish Churches Rural Group.

Argyll residents help restore royal tug

A TUG boat which used to assist the Queen on her travels on the Royal Yacht Britannia has been brought to the Clyde by Argyll residents.

The Golden Cross was built in a Clyde shipyard and is now berthed beside the Ardentiny Hotel in Cowal following a 650 mile journey from Cornwall.

The famous tug had been deteriorating in Cornwall before Argyll businesses contacted her ex-skipper Stuart White for advice on saving her from the scrap heap.

He said: 'I told them it would be a £30,000 job; she hadn't had maintenance in years and would need to be towed to the Clyde - which itself would cost a lot.'

But the tug to take her up here was generously supplied for £1 and Alba Sailing of Oban provided safety equipment to make her compliant with legislation. Oban's North West Marine has also sponsored the not-for-profit project, which will take up a useful role of promoting safety at sea to marine operators and leisure craft users on the west coast.

Historic win sees Lochaber reach first senior final

Two late goals secure the win and a place in the MacTavish Cup final

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

SHOUTS of 'We're going to Inverness' were heard round Spean Bridge on Saturday after Lochaber's historic 2-1 win over Kingussie secured their place in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final.

Michael Delaney's men will make their first appearance in a senior final since the club was formed in 1958 when they took on mighty Newtonmore at Bught Park on Saturday June 16.

In a dramatic semi final, the home side were cheered on by a large home support and scored

two goals in the last four minutes of the game to secure the win, despite Ronald Ross pulling one back at the death for Kings.

The two sides were evenly matched although Lochaber created the better chances. But there was to be no repeat of the previous weekend's Macaulay Cup goalfest, when Kings ran out 6-4 winners.

Hauled
Ref Graham Irving pointed to the spot in the 86th minute after Lochaber forward Sean Nicolson was hauled to the ground inside the box by Ryan Borthwick.

Nicolson took the penalty himself and his powerful shot into the roof of the net was enough to beat keeper Andrew Borthwick.

SHINTY

Substitute Stuart Callison scored a goal worthy of winning any game four minutes later with a shot from the angle which flew into the top corner of the Kingussie net.

Ross pulled one back for the cup holders deep into injury time but Lochaber were able to hold on for the win.

The final whistle prompted cheers of delight from supporters and players alike as the team was applauded off the pitch.

Victorious manager Delaney said: 'All the hard work and the planning paid off. We never panicked and we stuck with our



Lochaber's Ben Delaney and Kings defender Gary Munro battle for possession during the semi final on Saturday. 10_21shinty01

belief that we could score goals. 'I said to the boys before the game 'If you want to make history, go out there and do it', and they been rewarded for all their hard work.

'It's great to get to the final, and to get through against a tough opponent like Kingussie makes it even better.'

Lochaber were the better side on the day.

He said: 'I just don't think we were good enough. Lochaber deserved it. I'm disappointed, but I've got no complaints.'

'I actually think our defence played better this week, but the game was won in the middle of the park. Lochaber had much more pressure and their midfield was better than ours.'

Pam takes over at the top from Tony

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER five weeks of play the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre scratch division has a new leader with Pam Weller overtaking Tony Whitelocke.

Tim Attack remains in third place and is now 13 points behind the leader on 48.

Weller has also taken the lead in the handicap competition on 47 points ahead of Attack, 45 points, and Rossamy Wareing, 44 points.

The top scratch game of the week was a 183 from John Weller, while the top three game scratch series was 459 from Pam Weller. The top three game handicap series came from John Weller, who rolled 619.

Total scratch pinfall so far is still led by Pam Weller with 2,117 pins. Whitelocke is close behind with 2,045 while John Weller moved into third with 1,755.

Track upgrade at Nevis Range

MOUNTAIN BIKING

AS THE UCI Mountain Bike World Cup get closer so does the completion of a track upgrade at Nevis Range, Torlundy.

The part of the course that is being upgraded is on the lower part of the course. The track will now go directly below the gondola and have some of the biggest jumps on the World Cup circuit which should make it a thrilling experience at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 9 and 10.

United come out on top in Ballachulish derby match

The Ballachulish team included six schoolboys

FOOTBALL

BALLA United defeated local rivals Ballachulish FC 5-2 in a hard-fought derby at Island Park in Kinlochleven in the Lochaber Welfare League on Monday night.

Steven Davitt opened the scoring for Balla in the first minute with a 30-yard free kick over 14 year-old Ballachulish keeper David Malcolm.

Jamie 'Tiger' MacLean waltzed through to make it 2-0 on 38 minutes and seconds later it was 3-0 when Greg Farrell slotted home.

The young Ballachulish team - which included six schoolboys - gave a good account of themselves in the second half, with Malcolm pulling off several fine saves.

Jamie Thompson and Alex Whittaker scored for Balla, but those strikes were cancelled out by a Danny Macintosh double, one from the spot.

Balla coach Davie MacPhee told The Oban Times: 'We could have taken more chances, but the performance was not too bad considering it was only our second game of the season.'



Ballachulish FC's Paul McFatridge challenges Balla United's Greg Farrell. 20_21football02

Bogey men at Isle of Skye Golf Club

GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club held the bogey competition last weekend, with the winner being John Allan MacLeod.

MacLeod was level with Alex Munro on 5up, but a better inward half gave him the win.

The Sconser-based club also held the Black and White Shield recently. The two category handicap competition saw Chris MacKinnon winning category one and John Don Mackenzie winning category two.

Results: Bogey Competition - 1, John Allan MacLeod 5up (bih); 2, Alex Munro 5up; 3, Ian Lewis 4up. Black and White Shield- two Category Handicap Competition - Category One (0-12) - 1, Chris MacKinnon 74 (net 63); 2, Alasdair Grant 71 (net 65); 3, Alex Munro 76 (net 65). Category Two (13-28) - 1, John Don Mackenzie 76 (net 63); 2, Al 'Starky' Campbell 79 (net 65); 3, Ian Marr 81 (net 67).

Stableford win for Jim at Traigh

GOLF

TRIAIGH Golf Club held the Doctor Colin Clark stableford competition on Sunday, with Jim Fowler taking the win in the summery sunshine.

Morag Martin took second place scoring 43 points, five behind Fowler's total, while Willie John McLean was third with 40 points.

Rotary Club Am-Am on Sunday

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club held the Craig Paterson Trophy on Saturday. It was a close three-way battle for the trophy with David MacGillivray, Donald MacInnes and Alex Stewart all scoring 71, but due to best play in the last nine holes MacGillivray won the trophy.

On Sunday the Alcan four-somes was held at the club, with Ken Jerran and Toby Richardson taking the win.

The club are expecting around 140 people to play in the Rotary Club of Lochaber AM/AM this Sunday.

Results: Craig Paterson Trophy - 1,

GOLF

David MacGillivray 83-12-71 (BHH); 2, Donald MacInnes 83-11-71 (BHH); 3, Alex Stewart 84-13-71. Alcan foursomes - 1, Ken Jerran, Toby Richardson 77-14-62; 2, Steve Jamieson, Davie MacPhee 71-5-65.5; 3, Craig Brown, Norman Colder 77-9-68.



Lochaber Bowling Club's Scott Brady charity pairs competition was won by Gogs Hamilton (right) and Barry O'Shaunessy (left) after a closely fought final against Robert Hunter (back right) and Innes Wood. On a day of glorious sunshine at the BA Club, a full entry of bowlers enjoyed a round-robin contest before the final, which ended seven shots to six. Mr and Mrs Brady presented the trophy to the winning pair.

Reserves lose to Ross County

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club were unable to build on their recent good form when their tie against Nairn was called off due to a waterlogged pitch at the BA Club.

The reserve team took on Ross County in the Reserve Cup on Sunday, losing by eight wickets.

Batting first Fort lost early wickets, with Ronnie Maclean run out, Davy Duncan bowled for a bright 12 with three fours and Peter Short caught behind.

Peter Brown and Daniel Davison added 16 for the fourth wicket whilst Graham Allison and Scott Calam fought hard to reach a competitive total as Fort finished on 68 all out.

Difficult
In reply, County found scoring difficult with Colin Lavin (1-7) and Graeme Allison (1-25) bowling tight. County's experienced attacker saw Lennox Boyd and Andrews score an unbeaten 37 to see County home

by eight wickets. Fort reserves captain Col Lavin said: 'We struggled with the bat today, but we can take pride in our fielding and bowling. We learn from every game and will come back stronger.'

The senior side welcome Elgin to the BA this Saturday, while the reserves take on Skye on Sunday.

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Taynuilt and Lochaber in senior finals for first time

TAYNUILT will face Inveraray in their first ever senior cup final after beating Aberdeen.

Manager Davy Thomson said the whole squad was delighted with the achievement of reaching the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup final but insisted everyone's focus would be on the forthcoming league games, starting with an away trip to Strachur this Saturday.

Davy said: 'The next couple of games are imperative if we are going to stay in South Division One and to build confidence ahead of the cup final.

'These games are just as important as last week's game because if we can gain some league points we can play the final without worrying about our league position.'

Having gone down 1-0 to Aberdeen at half time, Taynuilt put in their best performance of the season in the second half to overturn the tie. A Willie Neilson hat trick, plus a goal from Michael MacQueen, sent the Lorn side into raptures some time ago.

Davy added: 'If we are 1-0 down at half time I normally tend to the boys but they were playing well and I could see it was just nerves getting to them.

'I told them they just had to settle down and keep playing and I watched them play the best shinty they have done all season. That's the performance I expect of them every week.'

INVERARAY will go into the Celtic Cup final as clear favourites after winning through the more difficult half of the draw.

The Royal Burgh defeated Bute 6-3 with goals from Russell McKinlay, Garry MacPherson, Chris Crawford and Euan McMurdo.

Roberto Zavaroni, Robert Walker and Hector Whitelaw scored for the home side but it wasn't enough to cope with a determined Inveraray.

This weekend Inveraray host Kinlochshiel while Bute have an Argyll derby with Kyles Athletic.

LOCHABER will play their third cup game in as many weeks when they travel to take on Oban Camanachd in the Balliemore

Cup quarter final this Saturday. The Spean Bridge side will be going into the game on a high after booking their place in the final of the MacTavish Cup last weekend.

Goals in the final four minutes from Sean Nicolson and Stuart Callison were enough to secure a 2-1 win against premieriership opponents and cup holders Kingussie. Lochaber will take on Newtonmore in the Inverness final on June 16.

Lochaber captain Hugh Innes is on holiday and will miss the game against Oban, but manager Michael Delaney expects to otherwise have a full squad to choose from.

He told The Oban Times: 'It'll be a big test for us. It will be different; we've not played Oban for a long time. But the boys enjoy playing down at Mossfield Park.'

'Oban have been going well in South Division One - they've won five in a row, scored a lot of goals and only conceded two.'

OBAN CELTIC'S David Hamilton admitted a result against rivals Oban Camanachd last Saturday would have been 'a surprise'.

In the first Oban derby of the season the red and blacks came out 4-0 winners but David said the scoreline flattered the opposition, who had two players sent off.

Already underdogs before the match, Oban Celtic lost centre Neil Carmichael in the preceding week and had to withdraw Daniel Madej, who was suffering from flu, after 20 minutes.

David added: 'Neil and Daniel are two of our more influential players, so if we had got a result without them it would have been a surprise.'

'Our performance wasn't as good as it had been the previous two weeks but the team gave plenty effort and we just lost to the better team on the day.'

Gary McKerracher missed the chance for a consolation goal when Robert Dunning saved his penalty but the damage had already been done by the time Oban Camanachd had two players dismissed.

Celtic play Glenorchy in Dalmally this weekend.



Celebration time: Stuart Callison and Zands Ferguson's joy after Lochaber's second and winning goal against Kingussie that took them through to the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final.

SHINTY

OBAN CAMANACHD'S 4-0 win over rivals Oban Celtic was only blighted by two sendings off, one of which followed a bizarre incident.

With suspensions, work commitments and injuries, Oban Camanachd's squad will be severely tested ahead of its Balliemore Cup tie with North Division One high flyers Lochaber.

At Mossfield last Saturday, Camanachd seemed to have comfortably wrapped up both points thanks to goals from Matt Rippon, Malcolm Clark (2) and Ian 'Sally' MacMillan.

However, Craig MacMillan was red carded by referee Robert Baxter after putting his hand on the official, to seemingly demonstrate how he had been pushed by an opponent.

Alan MacGregor was also given his marching orders for violent conduct.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Andrew Pearson said: 'It was a good performance and the early goal seemed to settle things. We looked pretty comfortable the whole game.'

'I think Craig's sending off was really harsh; there was no malice and it was just a touch. You couldn't say he pushed the referee.'

Andrew said his team's games with Lochaber were always close and that he had noticed the north team's recent run of good results.

'We have home advantage for the game, which is a big help to us, but we are missing a few players.'

KYLES ATHLETIC maintained their league title challenge with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Fort William.

David Zavaroni and Robbie MacLeod netted for the home side to cement third place, although the Tighnabruach side have a game in hand on second-placed Kinlochshiel.

This weekend Kyles travel to play Orion Group Premiership strugglers Bute.

GLENORCHY manager Allan MacKechnie saw his team narrowly lose out in another cup competition last Saturday but urged his players to ensure their league campaign becomes a success.

The Dalmally men were tied 2-2 with Beaulieu going into extra time of their Balliemore Cup tie, after James Livingstone and John McNulty had clawed back a two-goal deficit.

However, after a Glenorchy goal hit rebounded off a player in black and white, it fell to Marc MacLachlan who tapped in an easy winner.

Allan said: 'Extra time was a bit of a non-event and it was going to take a mistake to win it. I couldn't see a goal coming and I was planning who would take our penalties, so to lose one like we did was gutting.'

'We need to get over this hurdle of being glorious failures and win our league games to put pressure on Oban Camanachd.'

Glenorchy take on Oban Celtic in Dalmally this weekend but may be without a handful of regulars.

After last weekend's MacTavish Cup misery against Lochaber, KINGUSSIE will have to pick themselves up for one of the biggest games in the shinty calendar - the Badenoch derby.



Celtic's John Hill and Camanachd's Aidan MacIntyre tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Oban derby held at Mossfield Stadium. The red and blacks emerged 4-0 winners on the day. Photo: John MacTavish

Newtonmore visit The Dell on Saturday, with the hosts knowing defeat would leave them six points off the top of the league.

Kings missed out on a chance to face their local rivals in the MacTavish final after losing 2-1 to Lochaber last weekend.

Manager Russell Jones told The Oban Times derby success this weekend was key to his side's potential title challenge.

McNeil said: 'I've no problem with penalties. It's all about mental strength and keeping your bottle, and the game has to finish somehow. Nobody was going to score in extra time.'

'I thought if any team was going to do something in extra time it was Glenorchy. Some of their players were toiling with injury or general fitness and we looked to be in the ascendancy. But we just couldn't get over the line.'

LOVAT should have almost a full squad to call when they take on local rivals Glenorchy at Balglate Park on Saturday with the exception of wing centre Duncan Davidson, who has been sidelined by a ligament problem.

Half back Calum Cruden will return after suspension for the big game, rated by Lovat coach Allan MacRae as one of their toughest to date in what has been a highly successful season so far.

He told The Oban Times: 'Glenorchy are certainly on the up and have had a good string of results, it must be five or six games and they seem to be on a run now.'

'Home advantage is a bonus, but they are quite hard at the back and mobile up front, so it won't be easy.'

'All the teams in this league pose different problems and that's the beauty of it, but Glenorchy are certainly playing some good passing shinty at the moment.'

'It is a local derby, so it's anybody's guess what will happen. Last year we lost to them at home, but won away against them just seven days later.'

'It was quite tight last year and I would expect the same type of game on Saturday. There will be a lot of rivalry, because the boys know each other so well.'

Against Kilmallie, a Duncan Ach MacRae double either side of half time settled 'Shiel down and Finlay MacRae scored the clincher with five minutes remaining.

Gill said: 'I was pleased with the win but not with how we played - we were not at our best and had to grind out a result. For Inveraray we will have to up it a gear or two.'

FORT WILLIAM travel over the River Lochy to take on local rivals Kilmallie on Saturday in the unaccustomed position of fourth bottom in the premier division.

Both teams' poor form of late means the game has suddenly taken on significance far beyond that of one team earning bragging rights over their adversary.

For the Fort, a win would ease Kilmallie's poor form of late means the game has suddenly taken on significance far beyond that of one team earning bragging rights over their adversary.

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apart from that a full squad will be available.

To possibly start such a vital match without such a key player only makes the challenge harder - and for club chairman Hugh MacIntyre the stakes could not be higher.

He told The Oban Times: 'We are getting desperate for points now - we are needing to start winning games.'

'It's a very important game for us and we have to show them what we can do, especially with the cup game against them coming up the following weekend.'

'We are not quite sure about John Stewart, he may have a two-game suspension.'

Kilmallie put up stiff resistance at Kinlochshiel last Saturday, but went down 3-0 to the league newcomers.

KINLOCHSHIEL make the long trip south to Inveraray on Saturday sitting proudly in second place in the Orion Group Premiership after their comprehensive 3-0 win over bottom club Kilmallie at Kirkton last weekend.

Coach Johnston Gill will definitely be without Gordy MacDonald, who has a troublesome knee injury, but Calum MacLennan will make a return to the squad after recovering from a broken nose sustained in the game against Bute.

'Shiel talisman Finlay MacRae will also be available as he works his way back to full fitness from a hamstring problem.

The Lochalsh high fliers may be only be a point behind leaders Newtonmore, but securing the club's premier division status remains Gill's priority at the moment.

He told The Oban Times: 'Somebody said to me earlier on in the campaign that if we get up to 15 points that should see us safe. Another couple of wins should do it - and then we can start thinking about trying to finish as high up the table as possible.'

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Results

Saturday 19 May 2012

Co-operative MacTavish Cup Semi Final
Lochaber 2 - 1 Kingussie
Glenorchy 2 - 2 Newtonmore
Newtonmore won 2 - 0 on penalties

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Semi Final
Bute 3 - 6 Inveraray
Aberdour 1 - 4 Taynuilt

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Beaulieu 3 - 2 Glenorchy

Balliemore Cup Quarter Final
Strachur 1 - 3 Kilmory

Sutherland Cup Quarter Final
Lovat 1 - 3 Fort William
Newtonmore 2 - 1 Caberfeidh
Beaulieu 0 - 5 Glenorchy

Orion Group Premiership
Kyles Athletic 2 - 1
Kinlochshiel 3 - 0 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness 0 - 2 Skye
Caberfeidh 6 - 2 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Oban Celtic 0 - 4 Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen University 8 - 2 Lochaber
Skye 4 - 0 Glenorchy
Kinlochshiel 2 - 0 Kingussie

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ardnamurchan 2 - 7 Lochside
Bute P - P Aberdeen
Aberdour unable to field a team points to Bute

Glasgow MA 3 - 1 Kyles Athletic
Inveraray P - P Tayforth
Tayforth unable to field a team points to Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Strathglass 3 - 1 Inverness
Lewis 1 - 2 Strathspey
Lochcarron 4 - 3 Boleskine
Lochbroom P - P Kilmallie
Kilmallie unable to field a team points to Lochbroom

Womens Camanachd Association
Results Sunday 13th May 2012
Marine Harvest National Div 1
Aberdour 4 - 6 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Skye P - P Ardnamurchan
Lovat 4 - 2 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 3 - 7 Glasgow Mid Argyll
Cowal & Bute 6 - 0 Dunadd

Youth Results
Marine Harvest Under 17 London
Shield
Newtonmore P - P Glasgow MA
Under 14 MacMaster Cup
Kingussie 7 - 0 Glenorchy

Under 17 Co-operative
MacTavish Juvenile Cup
Kingussie 3 - 4 Kinlochshiel
Beaulieu 0 - 6 Lochaber
Glenorchy P - P Newtonmore
Newtonmore unable to field a team walkover to Glenorchy

Under 14 MacMaster Cup
Kingussie 6 - 3 Lovat
Skye 1 - 3 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest South League
Oban Camanachd 5
Mingavie & Bearsden 2

'We don't have a big squad at the moment and don't have a lot of options. I might bring in one or two young guys into the team.'

At Tighnabruich, a Gary Innes second half penalty cancelled out Zavaroni's opener but Fort failed to capitalise and a late MacLeod strike gave Kyles victory.

LOCHCARRON will play host to Caberfeidh in this weekend's only North Division One game.

The Wester Ross side sit second bottom in the league having won one of seven games so far.

Manager Andrew MacKenzie said the focus was on building a strong squad for next season rather than picking up results, but added he was still looking for impressive performances from his players.

He told The Oban Times: 'There's a few players coming back, Ben Dalgety should be available. Most of the younger players will be back so it will be quite a young side we put out.'

'The defence will have quite a tough time of it but I think they will cope fine.'

SKYE CAMANACHD, the new leaders of North Division One after their hard fought win at Inverness, switch to Balliemore Cup duty at Paire nan Laoch on Saturday for their quarter-final tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Skye may start the game as firm favourites after their impressive run of form - but coach Willie MacRae is taking nothing for granted.

'Glasgow Mid Argyll seem to be doing alright down there,' he told The Oban Times. 'But it's good to have home advantage and it's looking fairly promising.'

'We are waiting to hear from our wing centre Daryl Macintosh, who will possibly be missing through other commitments, but we have Sean Hedley to slot in as a replacement if Daryl is not there. Everybody else should be available - but then everybody seems to be available when you are winning games.'

'Morale is very good just now - both the first and second teams are going well. There's a real good spirit and everyone is still training hard.'

Skye had their work cut out at fast-improving Inverness and only grabbed victory thanks to an Iain Nicolson double in the last five minutes.

Brian MacCallum's fine goal-scoring form for LOCHSIDE ROVERS continued last Saturday, as he bagged a hat trick in a 7-2 win over Ardnamurchan.

Youngster Connor Howe (2), Craig MacDougall and David MacInnes completed the rout.

This weekend Lochside play Kyles Athletic.

Camachd Association Youth Fixtures
Sunday 20th May
Under 14 MacMaster Cup
Ballachulish v Milngavie & Bearsden

Under 17 Marine Harvest London
Shield
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Oban Camanachd

Tuesday 22nd May
Under 17 Marine Harvest London
Shield
Caberfeidh v Lovat
Skye v Glenorchy
Beaulieu v Strathglass
Kinlochshiel v Lochaber
Oban Celtic v Fort William
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Glasgow MA v Oban Camanachd
(Playing Sunday 27th May)

Friday 25th May
Under 14 Marine Harvest Leagues
Beaulieu v Newtonmore
Ardnamurchan v Fort William
Kinlochshiel v Uist
(Playing Saturday 26th May)

Caberfeidh v Lovat
Oban Camanachd v Milngavie & Bearsden
Saturday 25th May
Under 14 Marine Harvest Leagues
Kinlochshiel v Uist

League Tables									
The Orion Group Premiership									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Newtonmore	8	6	1	1	32	12	13		
Kinlochshiel	10	5	2	3	28	20	12		
Kyles Athletic	9	5	2	2	24	18	12		
Lovat	8	4	3	1	19	14	11		
Kingussie	8	4	1	3	18	18	9		
Glenorchy	7	3	1	3	13	16	7		
Fort William	8	2	2	4	12	15	6		
Inveraray	7	3	0	4	6	15	6		
Bute	8	0	3	5	5	15	3		
Kilmallie	9	1	1	7	11	25	3		

Marine Harvest South Division 1									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Oban Camanachd	5	5	0	0	21	2	10		
Glasgow MA	7	5	0	2	17	19	10		
Glenorchy	6	4	1	1	10	4	9		
Kilmory	7	2	2	3	16	15	6		
Strachur	8	2	1	5	8	13	5		
Taynuilt	6	1	2	3	6	15	4		
Aberdour	6	2	0	4	7	16	4		
Oban Celtic	7	1	2	4	6	17	3		

Marine Harvest North Division 2									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Lochside Rovers	11	11	0	0	62	14	22		
Tayforth	8	6	0	2	26	10	12		
Ballachulish	8	6	0	2	19	11	12		
Kyles Athletic	8	5	0	3	23	15	10		
Col Glen	8	4	1	3	18	20	9		
Inveraray	9	2	3	4	17	26	7		
Bute	7	3	0	4	19	13	6		
Ardnamurchan	10	2	1	7	26	31	5		
Glasgow MA	11	2	0	9	10	53	4		
Aberdour	8	0	1	7	9	36	1		

Marine Harvest North Division 3									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Beaulieu	7	7	0	0	40	3	14		
Boleskine	8	6	1	1	38	13	13		
Lochbroom	9	6	1	2	20	11	13		

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Wildcard entry for John McPhee

MOTORCYCLING

RACING Steps Foundation backed KRP rider John McPhee from Connel has been awarded one of the two wildcard entries to round five of the MotoGP World Championship at Catalunya next month.

McPhee, who currently lies second in Spain's CEV Buckler Moto3 Championship, will be joined on the Catalunya entrants list by CEV rival and two-times Moto3 World Championship wildcard winner Alex Marquez who picked up the other ticket.

John's selection recognises the progress he has made since stepping up to the new 250cc four stroke class in the CEV series in April.

The Connel rider welcomed the wildcard saying: 'I'm delighted and really excited about it. I secured top 15 finishes in the Grand Prix at Silverstone and Valencia last year in the old 125 two-stroke class so obviously the aim is to try and better that this time around.'

'I'm not under any illusions as to how hard that's going to be. But I'll definitely be giving it my best shot.'

Coaching weekend

SQUASH

AS THE popularity of squash in Oban continues to grow, the town's squash club has benefited from a weekend with Edinburgh-based coach Simon Boughton.

Simon held one-to-one sessions in Atlantis Leisure between 9am and 6pm last Saturday and Sunday, with every one of the 40-minute slots taken up.

The coaching weekend was organised by club member Jackie Kersley.

Fraser Inglis, who attended the coaching weekend, said: 'Sport is meant to be enjoyable but to fulfil your potential you need access to top quality coaching and Simon was able to give that. He made sure the coaching was specific to particular aspects of your game.'

'Squash is becoming very popular in Oban because it is not just for the ultra-fit types, it is for everyone.'

Oban Squash Club hopes Simon will return in September for the start of the season.

All-island final at Mull rugby sevens

Mull win their third trophy in an impressive seven-a-side season

RUGBY

IT MAY be billed as the world's most sociable sevens but host club Mull seemed to be less than generous on the pitch this year as they dominated the tournament.

More than 800 spectators turned out at Garmony to support the TSL Contractors Ltd 27th Isle of Mull Sevens last Saturday and watched some entertaining rugby from 16 men's and eight women's teams.

But inkeeping with the home club's impressive sevens season so far, Mull firsts met the Muileachs in an all-island final, which ensured a Mull team would win tournament for the first time since 1990.

Mull's first team, which had previously won the Highland and Lochaber tournaments firstly had to see off a very physical and talented West of Scotland side boasting an ex-Scottish sevens international in their ranks.

In the other semi-final the Muileachs, bolstered by age grade international Ruairidh Knott and Biggar RFC stalwart Michael MacKeand, handed out a lesson in physicality to a young Selkirk side.

The final itself was a bruising encounter, with all the island's spectators finding it hard to know which team to support. However the first team had just too much class and ran out eventual winners by four tries to one to claim their third trophy of the year.

After a gruelling ladies competition, Dundee University emerged as winners, beating Morgan to lift the Pink Cup. Oban Ladies just beat Mull Ladies to claim the Best West Highland Team trophy.

The sevens trophies were handed out by Mrs Naomi Knight of TSL Contractors.

The main event was preceded by a primary school tag tournament with guest side Isle of Coll travelling with a huge support, that accounted for a quarter of the island's entire population.

SRU regional development manager Kenny Brown was on hand to present the prizes and hand out medals to the 90 youngsters taking part.

Mull Rugby Club thanked club sponsors TSL Contractors and Glengorm, the local Red Cross, all the participating teams and the huge local support.

The winning team, Mull firsts, were: C MacPhail, D Downham, D MacLennan, F Carmichael, C Whyte, A MacLennan, A MacCallum, T Haunschmit, S Tomison. Coaches G Ralston and F Whyte.



Mull firsts celebrate winning their third sevens tournament of the season and the first on home soil in more than 20 years.



Duck everybody! One of Oban's wild duck population gets a bird's eye view as Willie Gemmill gets a header on target during last Saturday's match between Oban Saints and Kings Park Rangers at Glencruitten. 07_1215saints06

Saints win last home game of the season

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 3
Kings Park Rangers 1

SAINTS played their final home league game of the season at Glencruitten last Saturday and recorded a 3-1 win over bottom-of-the-table Kings Park Rangers in what proved to be a typical end of season encounter with neither team having anything to play for. The visitors were already relegated and Saints' title hopes had gone up in smoke after two recent defeats.

The home side opened the scoring after some fine build up play between Ross Maitland and Donald Campbell set up Craig MacEwan who slotted the ball

past Rangers keeper Gary Train. The home side almost doubled their lead in the 32nd minute, but Marc MacCallum was unlucky to see his effort hit the bar.

The Glasgow side equalised in the 37th minute when Neil Scott got in front of Saints keeper Graham Douglas to head home from a corner.

The home team created several good chances as the half drew to a close but these were missed.

Saints increased their lead four minutes into the second half when Willie Gemmill played Donald Campbell through and the Saints top scorer calmly side-footed the ball home for his 32nd goal of the season.

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the second half and

FOOTBALL

Craig MacEwan missed a great chance to increase the lead.

This was turning into a typical end-of-season game with both teams failing to set the heather on fire and it took till the 90th minute for Saints to score their third goal when Craig MacEwan set up Keith Millar and the Saints skipper made no mistake from an acute angle to make the final score 3-1.

The Oban side finish off their season with two away games this week. Tonight (Thursday) they travel to play Aikenhead Thistle and on Saturday they are in East Kilbride to take on Rolls Royce.

Paterson Trophy match to be held in Oban on June 2

FOOTBALL

THE annual Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match between an Argyll Select and a Scottish Amateur League Select will take place in Oban on Saturday 2 June. The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

The Argyll squad will be selected from players from Campbeltown Pupils, Dunoon, Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert and host club Oban Saints.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

RECENT results: Milngavie 4, Under 13 7. Scoring for Saints were Jay Cooper (4), Duncan MacDougall, Hector MacLellan, Donald and Evan MacLellan. Dalmuir Park 1, Under 14s 4. On target for Saints were Louis MacGuire (2), Stuart MacLean and Ally MacLean. Under 15s no game. League Cup final Lenzie 3, Under 16s 1. Netting for Saints was Coll MacKenzie.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Renton; Westerton v Under 14s; Allander v Under 15s; Under 16s v Helensburgh (Saturday); Under 16s v Clydebank Phoenix (Sunday).

Isle of Seil GC

GOLF

TWO MEMBERS of Isle of Seil Golf Club have qualified for the Belhaven Brewery regional golf event to be held in Fife this summer.

Johnny Taylor and Gordon MacKenzie were first and second in the club's May medal while the veteran secretary of the club, the Wrinklies, had their first competitive outing at Killin in the Seniors Open.

John Blackstock finished in 19th spot out of 65 competitors and is co-leader in the Wrinkle Cup round robin.

Glencruitten GC

HANDICAP Championship - Senior Championship first round: 1 Declan Curran 70 - 11 = 59 (BIH); 2 Gavin Owens 64 - 5 = 59; 3 Donald McLennan 75 - 15 = 60.

Second round: 1 Cameron Milne 66 - 6 = 60 (BIH); 2 Graham MacColl 64 - 4 = 60; 3 John MacKinnon 72 - 11 = 61.

Overall leader is Gavin Owens on 123, with Philip Murphy one shot behind.

Islay GC

JOHN Letters Trophy 2012: 1 Brian O'Neill 82 less 14 net 68; 2 Alexander MacLean 82 less 14 net 68; 3 Arthur Holyoake 74 less 5 net 69. Cps 71.

Congratulations to Iain MacCuaig for his hole-in-one at the fifth.

Islay beach rugby tournament

RUGBY

AN ENTRY of at least 24 teams will contest the men's competition at this year's Islay Beach Rugby tournament next month.

The competition, which will also feature eight women's teams, will be held in Port Ellen on Saturday, June 9.

Galaxy and Scorpions serve up the match of the day

ALL member clubs of the Oban Express Primary Football League met up at the community pitch on Sunday to continue their programmes in glorious sunny conditions.

The day started with the Saints 02 taking on their older Saints Boys, with the latter team's passing game eventually breaking the youngsters' resolve and a double from Danny MacCuish sealed the victory. The Boys went on to defeat Lochnell and Thistle.

The Lochgilphead Scorpions began with a comfortable win over Saints 03, followed by a narrow 1-0 win over the older Saints. The 02s did manage to record a win in an exciting match against Jags.

Thistle and Tralee served up

a cracker of a game which saw Kier MacLean notch two headers for Thistle with Tralee's Stuart Campbell and Daniel Sloss replying but the game was won for Thistle when Scott Mossman delivered the goods. The Thistle also played out a goalless draw with Lochgilphead Red Star. Star had earlier defeated Thistle's stable mates, Jags, with a comfortable 3-0 win.

The Jags, however, went on the goal trail in their next match against Saints 03 but went down by a single goal. In their last match they encountered a rampant Tralee who scored five.

The league wishes to congratulate Lochnell's Stewart MacAllister, who has become the latest player from Oban and Lorn to sign a pro youth contract with Dumbarton Football Club.

The game of the day took place

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

between Galaxy and Scorpions with Galaxy racing into a two-goal lead but Scorpions managed to score three in reply and led at half time. Early in the second half Scorpions' Cammy Williamson completed his hat trick but the stars of the Galaxy scored two late goals for a share of the spoils.

The Wasps defended stoutly against Saints 03 but went down by a single goal. In their last match they encountered a rampant Tralee who scored five.

The league wishes to congratulate Lochnell's Stewart MacAllister, who has become the latest player from Oban and Lorn to sign a pro youth contract with Dumbarton Football Club.

Mid Argyll bowled over by Oban CC

CRICKET

MID Argyll were bowled over by a relentless Oban attack as the Argyll and Islands Cricket League got underway last weekend.

Oban hosted the match at Taynuilt and were put into bat by Mid Argyll skipper Phil Hemmings.

Allan Laycock and Taj Islam top scored with 61 and 63, respectively as Oban clocked up a score of 232 all out.

The Mid Argyll reply started with a wobble when Leach clean-bowled Singh in the first over. This set the trend for Mid Argyll's calamitous innings and Oban came away with a comfortable 202-run-victory.

This Sunday, title rivals Sannox CC from Arran are the visitors to Taynuilt.

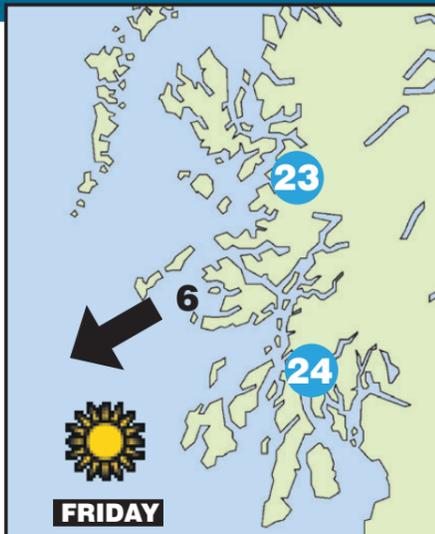
Weather

Thursday Sunny
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 23°C.

Weekend Sunny
Outlook Winds light north easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 24°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 24, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.38 1.3 07.32 3.5 13.45 1.1 19.37 3.6	
Fri	02.12 1.4 08.05 3.4 14.19 1.2 20.12 3.5	
Sat	02.44 1.5 08.43 3.2 14.58 1.3 20.51 3.4	
Sun	03.26 1.6 09.27 3.1 15.45 1.4 21.39 3.3	
Mon	04.24 1.7 10.22 3.0 16.41 1.5 22.38 3.3	
Tues	05.40 1.7 11.33 2.9 17.45 1.5 23.51 3.2	
Wed	06.57 1.6 13.05 3.0 18.54 1.4 ** ** *	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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Remarkable Mallaig man unveils first book

A MALLAIG pensioner will mark another milestone on his remarkable recovery from chronic alcoholism when he unveils his first book in the Lochaber port next Wednesday.

Ewen Nicholson will proudly launch *Just over the Horizon - Memoirs of a Hebridean Skipper*, a collection of fishing tales combined with the story of how he conquered alcohol addiction, in Mallaig Heritage Centre.

Publishers, Inverness-based charity For The Right Reasons, will attend the 11am event. The charity and social enterprise helps people through their alcohol and drug addiction.

A native of Grimsay in North Uist, Ewen has lived in Mallaig for 28 years and has owned his own vessel, the Wick-built, 30-foot wooden clinker boat *Grimsay Isle*, since 1973.

His return to health means the hardy 76-year-old, who stays in Gillies Park with his 12-year-old cat Jimmy, regularly takes tourists out fishing for prawns, brown crabs and lobsters.

A convert to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Ewen still runs the occasional half marathon and is a keen hillwalker.

Asked what advice he would have for people struggling with alcohol addiction, Ewen told *The Oban Times*: 'Never give up

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk — there's always help out there. The Alcoholics Anonymous prayer says: 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things you can't change, the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference.'

'Four times I was pulled out of Mallaig harbour. As long as you are in denial you will never get anywhere. But now my health is good - I have been out fishing today and lifted 100 creels all on my own.'

Local man Allan Henderson, who plays with the renowned traditional music band Blazing Fiddles, helped Ewen pull the book together.

Ewen said: 'I read everything out and Allan recorded it all on a dictaphone, then took it up to the folk in Inverness, who put it all together.'

'There are about 20 photos in the book as well, mostly black and white. The oldest is 60 years old.'

For The Right Reasons director Richard Burditt told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a charming book and the early part in particular is full of really good stories.'



Ewen Nicholson: launching book in Mallaig about his recovery from alcoholism.

Fort William FC in crisis

League withdrawal imminent if top post not filled at crunch meeting

THE FUTURE of Fort William Football Club is in serious danger after the club's chairman stood down with no replacement in sight.

And if the post is not filled at an extraordinary general meeting next Wednesday evening the club will be forced to withdraw from the Highland League.

John Watsman, who was also club secretary, stood down from the two positions at an annual general meeting last Wednesday, a year after informing the club of his intention to do so. No one put themselves forward to replace him meaning a new committee could not be formed.

Mr Watsman told *The Oban Times* the club was facing a 'very serious situation' if the issue is not sorted soon.

He said: 'The doomsday scenario is that we lose the club and all the associated youth teams and managers. That would be terrible for the town and for the outlying areas which rely on the club for their football.'

'The biggest concern is the youth. Without the senior club there is nothing for the young players to aspire to.'

'We're always trying to get people on board but for whatever

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Stepping down: John Watsman, 20.12.10r01

reason they can't commit the time. It is time consuming and there is a lot of hurdles to jump through just to keep the club going.'

He added: 'For two or three years I've been struggling to keep the club going and there's only so long you can keep banging your head against a brick wall.'

However, committee member David MacDonald said he was 'quietly confident' a solution

would be in place for the EGM. He said: 'Hopefully when the town realises the situation we're in, someone will step forward. If we go out the Highland League we'll never get back in.'

'There is a lot of goodwill within the club. The committee is in place, the football team is in place, it's just getting people into these two positions.'

Fort William FC was formed in 1972 by Colin Neilson and mainly played in friendlies and cup competitions until 1983 when they were admitted to the North Caledonian Football League.

Fort quickly established themselves as one of the league's top sides, winning two cup competitions before taking their only league championship to date in 1984/85.

The following year the club was admitted to the Highland League and won their first match 1-0 against Clachnacuddin. The Lochaber side have failed to continue their early success finishing bottom of the pile in 11 of the last 15 seasons and have yet to achieve a top half finish.

The club's record attendance at Claggan Park was achieved against Stirling Albion in the 1986 Scottish Cup, where around 1,500 local fans watched a 0-0 draw.

World-leading Lochaber dive centre celebrates another first

A WORLD-leading Lochaber dive centre is celebrating another first - training the UK's first sub-surface search and recovery unit.

The Underwater Centre in Fort William was chosen by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service to deliver specialist instruction to its divers to prepare them for operating in life-threatening

flood emergencies. Norfolk County Council set up the unit in response to an increase in flood events in recent years. The team will support police and fire services across the UK.

Underwater Centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'This has been a very exciting project and one which The Underwater Centre was thrilled to be part of.'

'We hope this is the beginning of a great working relationship where we will deliver more training as their team expands.' The Norfolk unit will go live later this month.



Air diver training manager Ali MacLeod and Luke Hancock of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on the Underwater Centre pier during training.

Shinty players' stag party on hold as team reaches MacTavish Cup final

LOCHABER Camanachd players are putting plans for a stag weekend in Newcastle next month on hold - because it clashes with the one of the biggest games in the club's history.

The Spean Bridge club booked their place in the MacTavish Cup final by defeating holders Kingussie last weekend.

Lochaber will make their first appearance in a senior final when they take on Newtonmore in Inverness on Saturday June 16. Unfortunately for many of the players, they had not banked on making it to the final and before the season started they booked

hotel rooms and train journeys to celebrate the wedding of former Lochaber goalkeeper Andrew Ferguson.

Team manager Michael Delaney said the club was trying to postpone their scheduled tie against Caberfeidh set for June 9 to allow the players to rearrange their trip for that date.

He said: 'It was all paid for pre-season, and about 70 or 80 per cent of the boys will be going. It's not exactly ideal preparation for a cup final, but the boys spent a lot of money on it and they want to try and recoup as much of it as they can.'

Match report - see back page.

Ancient 'cursing' stone found on Isle of Canna

A 1,200-YEAR-old early Christian 'cursing' stone has been found of Canna - the first of its kind in Scotland.

The ancient circular rock was discovered by chance in a graveyard by farm manager Geraldine MacKinnon. It is approximately 25cm in diameter and is marked with an engraved Christian cross.

The find is thought to be a 'bullau' - a stone turned in a hole or larger stone near a cross by worshippers during prayer

or possibly cursing someone. National Trust for Scotland's property manager Stewart Connor said the stone fits exactly into a large rectangular stone with worn hole located at base of a Christian cross on the island.

He said: 'We knew of the importance of bullaun stones and that it could be a really significant find. The whole community is really excited by the find, which is really significant for the island and, potentially, for Scotland too.'

Olympic torch relay traffic chaos fears

LOCHABER communities are getting set to welcome the Olympic torch on Saturday June 9 - amid fears of traffic mayhem on the A82 and a loss of tourism business.

The flame's arrival coincides with Lochaber's busiest weekend of the year - the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range.

RockNess is also taking place at Dores on Loch Ness, while the Curtis Cup is being staged at Nairn.

The 170-vehicle cavalcade arrives in stages at the Glencoe Hotel around 12.30pm, where spectators can view the torchbearer running to nearby Tigh Phuir.

The hotel is hosting an Olympic party for children attending Glencoe, Ballachulish, Duror and Kinlochleven primary schools. The closed event will mean no public access to the hotel, grounds or car park.

The flame will then be run along four more sections of the A82 - from Ballachulish Bridge to

Onich Petrol Station, Lochaber Yacht Club in Fort William to the Nevis Centre via High Street and the Parade, the Nevis Centre to Lochaber Leisure Centre for a young people's community event and, finally, through Spean Bridge.

The torch will also visit the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range, when it will take the mountain gondola 650m up Anach Mor.

Lochaber councillor Bren Gormley fears the huge torch entourage will mean 'horrendous chaos'.

He told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We were told yesterday that 170 vehicles are coming - security, sponsors, support cars, vans and lorries. People simply wanting to come to the Highlands on business or pleasure will find themselves suddenly cut off from the world.'

'There will be 170 vehicles in the Olympic convoy - and another few thousand stuck in tailbacks behind it. If we happen to have a major prang on the road the plan is to divert up the

A9 - but how do you turn around 170 vehicles crawling along Loch Linnhe?' He added: 'What are the cost benefits to the Highlands of this? Most people probably believe it to be negative.'

'Barriers will have to be put up and taken down again, all the pre-planning meetings, staff time and so on. The convoy is stopping at the Nevis Centre for lunch. Staff will have to divert lorries away from the lorry park days beforehand and direct them somewhere else.'

'I am told our TEC services director Neil Gillies is keeping a running tab on what this is costing. The police, I would hope, are doing the same. To be honest I think most of us just want to run away and hide.'

But Highland Council's Lochaber wards manager Dot Ferguson pointed to the huge community involvement.

She said: 'This promises to be a very special day for Lochaber and we are anticipating a really big turn out along the torch route.'



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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director Stewart MacKenzie editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor Stephen Norris snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Faith Orr for@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Richard Haddock rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator Marian Miller mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk 01631 568060 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager Fiona MacInnes fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Rhona McKillop advert@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Lise Williamson MacDougall lwilliamsonmacdougall@wyvmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Fiona Bennett fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William Tel 01397 703003 Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilhead Tel 01546 602345 Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown Tel 01586 554646 Fax 01586 553006

Arran Tel 01770 302142 Fax 01770 302021

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Isles' council leader backs Arctic convoy medal campaign

COMHAIRLE leader Councillor Angus Campbell has urged the UK Government to formally recognise veterans of the Arctic convoys with a campaign medal.

from German U-boats and dive-bombers. More than 3,000 seamen died in Operation Dervish, the code name for the four-year mission.

these men and recognised the efforts that were made on their behalf. It is time the British Government did the same.

the families of those that have died are given recognition of the work their loved ones carried out for their country.

awareness of an often forgotten phase of the war. Mr Brown presented a £5,000 donation towards the proposed museum at the reception in the Trades Hall in Glasgow.

continuing to be made to create an Arctic Convoy museum at Loch Ewe, from where so many of the convoys set off on their missions. I have written to MoD Ministers asking that the value of Arctic Convoy veterans is recognised and acknowledged.

Cruise ship boost for Fort

Lochaber must leave good impression to secure return business

A CRUISE company could make Fort William a regular port of call for its ships - if passengers give the Loch Linnhe-side port the thumbs up.

to make the most of the extra business. CMV is offering passengers half-day tours to many areas of Lochaber, potentially bringing hundreds of extra customers to local shops, eateries and tourist attractions.

The Underwater Centre and Crannog Concept are supplying facilities for the ships to operate, with the Crannog's cruise boat Souter's Lass being used as the platform to disembark passengers straight onto the town pier.

The council will ensure a local pier is on hand to welcome passengers and a presentation will be made to the ships' captains to mark the visits.

Local civic leaders hope passengers not touring Lochaber will spend their cash in Fort William's busy High Street. Councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of Fort William Steering Group said: 'I am really pleased we are to get visits from four cruise ships this year, hopefully the first of many.'



The Marco Polo: heading up Loch Linnhe for its first visit to Fort William on Saturday.

And according to CMV marketing manager Mike Hall, the chance is there for the Fort to reap big dividends from repeat visits.

He told The Oban Times: 'We will, as usual, be handing out questionnaires where we ask customers to rank the ports we call at, in terms of performance, to help our future planning.'

'It will be very interesting to see how Fort William ranks. If it does well I'm sure we will make the town a regular call. The whole mark of our cruises are the itineraries. The size of our ships means we can get into ports that the big cruise liners can't.'

CMV's Marco Polo will steam up the loch this Saturday after calling at Stornoway the previous day, while the Ocean Countess will visit Fort William on Monday, June 4 before heading overnight to Rothesay.

Both carry around 800 passengers and the cruises are fully-booked - leading Highland Council to urge local traders

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Huge entry for Lochaber kids' bike security competition

FORT William police cadets have received more than 700 entries from local children for a competition to design a poster on bicycle security.

Cadets Ryan Doherty and Siobhan Cooper visited all 27 Lochaber primary schools to promote bike safety and the poster contest.

Winners in each age category will win a selection of prizes including bike locks, bike helmets or bike lights worth over £30 donated by Nevis Cycles.

The three winning posters will be reprinted and sent out to all primary schools and the winners will receive a framed copy of their poster.

Cadet Siobhan Cooper said: 'I felt that all of the kids were very enthusiastic and willing to take part in the competition.'

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Cadet Siobhan Cooper said: 'I felt that all of the kids were very enthusiastic and willing to take part in the competition.'

'I was also very impressed with their knowledge of bike security before I even mentioned it.'

Impressed Cadet Ryan Doherty was also 'impressed' by the number of entries.

He said: 'I think this shows that even the younger members of the community are willing to make conscious effort to improve the town they live in, by trying to reduce bike thefts.'

Community safety officer Ian Fraser is judging the competition with the cadets, who are currently revisiting all schools to tag bicycles so they are traceable.

The officers are showing children how to security mark their bikes with ink visible only under ultraviolet light, or by inscribing their contact

details on the frame. And at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 9-10, the duo will be manning a stall in the

Alpine Bikes compound area to highlight the need for bike security. Anyone wishing to have cycles

security marked can simply drop in to the stall. Alternatively, phone Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 and

ask for cadet Siobhan Cooper or Ryan Doherty, who will arrange a time to bring your bike to the station.

The initiative follows a spate of thefts of expensive bikes, leading police to suspect they are being stolen to order.

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Police cadet officers Ryan Doherty and Siobhan Cooper show Inverlochty P1 pupils Evan Wilson and Lois Macalister how to security mark their bikes. 20_021police01

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Lochaber provost to stay in post

LOCHABER councillors have ruled that Councillor Allan Henderson should continue in his role as provost.

Members agreed the move at their first business meeting following the council elections on May 3.

The latest round of discretionary budget applications was also decided, with six local groups benefiting. Sail Away in Lochaber received £1,500 towards recruiting a volunteer co-ordinator for two years.

- Lochaber High School - £1,200 to help stage a performance of 'Mary' at the Edinburgh Fringe
Corpach in Colour - £1,500 for running costs and competitions
Ballachulish Community Council - £1,500 for village maintenance
Morvern Community Council - £2,000 for village maintenance
Lochaber Gathering Festival of Piping - £1,000 to help offset costs.

Safe, healthy working environments

WEST Highlands employers were among 16 named as having some of Scotland's safest, healthiest working environments at an awards ceremony in Inverness last Wednesday.

Lochaber Housing Association and HIE Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross (Fort William area office) won gold accreditation at the Healthy Working Lives awards, while Sabhal Mòr Ostaig took bronze.

Highland Council won a silver award.

Diamond jubilee garden party at Dragon's Tooth

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club at Ballachulish is staging a special event on Monday June 4 to mark its 10th anniversary and The Queen's diamond jubilee.

The free, all-day garden party will include cucumber sandwiches, drinks, free golf from first light and, we are told, 'two queens on a segway, including corgis'.

Prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed guests. Everyone welcome.

Six Days Trial clarification

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify that 19-year-old Andrew Anderson from Killin won the trophy for best Scottish finisher on a machine over 250cc at the recent Scottish Six Days Trial in Lochaber.

Andrew finished in 49th place on a Jotagas 300. Kevin Dignan of Lochaber Motorcycle Club finished second best Scot in the category and was best-placed local rider.

Minister to visit Kishorn site

ROSS, SKYE and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has welcomed news that Charles Hendry, Minister of State in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), intends to visit the Kishorn site during the UK Parliament's summer recess.

Mr Kennedy, along with other Highland politicians, has repeatedly championed the potential of the Kishorn site as a manufacturing centre.

The MP said during DECC question time last week: 'It is good news the government intends a ministerial visit in the summer, but it remains vital to stress the need for a level playing field in the onshore sector as Kishorn lacks enterprise zone status. Kishorn represents a fantastic opportunity, both for the government's green agenda and for the local economy. It has an important role to play in the offshore wind industry and I hope this visit will start the ball rolling on re-awakening this sleeping giant.'

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Man dies after falling into river

KINLOCHELEVEN has been left in shock after a young man fell into the River Leven and died in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The body of Glasgow man Anthony Winton, 25, was found at around 11.45am on Sunday morning following an extensive search of the area around the river involving police, coastguard, fire brigade, Glencoe Mountain Rescue and the RAF.

Local councillor Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times*: 'Everyone in the village is stunned that somewhere we think of as such a safe and peaceful place has experienced such a tragedy.'

Police received reports of a man falling from the bridge over the river in the centre of the village at 1.30am.

Bouquets of flowers have been left at the scene where Mr Winton fell.

It is believed he was visiting friends in the area for the weekend.

Northern Constabulary said a report about the incident would be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Lifeboat rescues stricken yacht

MALLAIG Lifeboat was called out to the aid of a stricken yacht on Sunday morning.

A call was made after the yacht suffered an engine failure at about 11am after leaving Canna. The crew escorted the vessel into Mallaig harbour for repairs.

Man denies threatening to stab and kill police officers

A FORT William man has denied threatening to stab and kill police officers in his home.

Dean Conn, of 6 Mossfield Apartments, appeared in court from custody to deny behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on May 12.

The 22-year-old also pled not guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner towards an officer and breaching bail conditions by failing to answer the door to police in the same incident.

Conn was released on bail and is due to appear again at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 18.

Portree Primary School lottery grant boost

PORTREE Primary School parent council has received a £10,000 Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The money will go towards new equipment and safety surfacing in the school's playground.

Features will include a trim trail, play train and octagonal pavilion.



Caol's gymnastics team performed a series of spectacular routines to open the afternoon events at the 'Caolympics'. 20_121caol02

Primary school goes for gold with 'Caolmpics'

CAOL Primary School staged a special 'Caolmpics' last Wednesday to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in Lochaber on June 9 and the London Olympic Games.

Each class and the nursery adopted a nation and made flags and banners for the

day, which included a gymnastics display and seven Olympic-themed events in the school playing field in the afternoon.

Success

Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas and staff from Lochaber High

School and Lochaber Leisure Centre all contributed to making the occasion a great success.

Caol head teacher Steven Hamilton said: 'It was a real community event. It tied well into our curriculum for excellence.'

Rotary club offers employee the chance of a lifetime on Indian study exchange scheme



John Hutchison, centre right, and the West of Scotland Rotary district team learn about incense from Ibaraki artisan Tsuneko Suzuki.

A CHANCE of a lifetime trip to India is up for grabs for a Lochaber-based employee keen to study their line of work abroad.

The Rotary Club of Lochaber is looking for someone aged between 25 and 40 to join the Group Study Exchange scheme, a Rotary International initiative giving people worldwide the chance to learn more about their own vocation in another country.

Lochaber Rotarian John Hutchison last year led a team from the West of Scotland Rotary District to Ibaraki, Japan, returning an earlier visit by the Japanese to this country.

Now the district is recruiting to send a team to Gujarat in western India for four weeks in January

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

2013 - and Mr Hutchison is keen for a Lochaber-based person to apply.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This would be a great opportunity for someone in the right age group to learn about their own vocation in India, to experience culture and traditions, living in Rotarians' homes. The Lochaber Rotary Club would be keen to sponsor the right local person.'

'Allowing time off work is a major consideration for an employer, but I am sure that this investment would be well repaid by the right person.'

The West of Scotland team visiting Japan worked in social work, research, arts and

Sickness bug lingers on at care home

Invernevis remains closed after resident suffers relapse

A WINTER vomiting bug outbreak at a Lochaber old folks care home is still lingering on and delaying a full re-opening date, according to NHS Highland.

Invernevis House on Belford Road in Fort William will remain closed to new admissions and most visitors after one resident came down with suspected norovirus for a second time.

More than half the elderly residents at Invernevis were struck down by the virulent diarrhoea and sickness infection last week.

Fourteen patients and six members of staff were affected

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

at the 24-bed home during the outbreak, which began on May 9. One elderly person required treatment at the Belford Hospital.

Staff were sent home and told not to report for work and residents were kept in isolation in their rooms as a precautionary measure. Visitors were also asked to limit their visits, not call at all if showing any symptoms and observe strict hand washing regimes.

Health chiefs were looking to get Invernevis back to normal on condition that staff and residents remained symptom-free for 48 hours.

However, an NHS Highland spokesperson told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday afternoon that everything had been on track - until one elderly resident suffered a relapse.

The spokesperson said: 'One person has had a resumption of symptoms and Invernevis will not be re-opening over the next week.'

Norovirus has not yet been confirmed by a lab, the spokesperson said, although 'the symptoms are the same'. Asked what measures are currently being pursued to prevent further infection with a view to resuming normal working, she said: 'Thorough cleaning will take place which is routine in these situations. It usually takes several days and the home will fully re-open on completion.'

She added: 'The person admitted [to the Belford] has been discharged and no-one else was admitted.'

It is understood staff at the home have returned to work, but the new case has raised the possibility of new control measures being required.

The source of the outbreak remains unclear, but it is likely the bug was introduced to Invernevis from outside.

At Raigmore, two wards were closed after 32 patients and 16 hospital staff came into contact with the virus.

The Rosebank ward at Caithness General was also shut after after six patients and seven staff fell ill.

Recommended treatment for norovirus infection comprises taking paracetamol and drinking plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

The bug spreads in the air where someone has had diarrhoea or vomited. It is extremely difficult to contain and can be easily passed on by poor hand hygiene.

NHS Highland took over responsibility for Invernevis House from Highland Council on April 1 under a shake up of children's and adult care services in the region.

Cattle and sheep stockjudging competition

LOCHABER Agricultural Society is holding a cattle and sheep stockjudging competition at Glen Nevis Farm on Saturday June 2 at 3pm by kind permission of Ewen Cameron.

The afternoon will feature a raffle, barbecue and home baking. Everyone welcome.

Pupils back worldwide education initiative

LOCHABER High School (LHS) first year modern studies pupils have signed up for an initiative aiming to ensure all the world's children have access to education.

Along with thousands of other schools, LHS is taking part in the Global Campaign for Education, which seeks to hold world leaders like David Cameron to their pledge to give every child in the world a primary education by the year 2015. With only three years to go there are still 67

million children missing out on education. Prior to the meeting of the G8 countries in the USA, Lochaber pupils used their artistic talents to decorate 'Going for Gold' Olympic themed medals. The artworks were then sent to local MP Charles Kennedy for forwarding to David Cameron, before he flew to the United States to attend the summit.

Campaign organisers have acknowledged the pupils' involvement by awarding them a certificate of recognition.



Lochaber High School principal teacher of modern studies Bob Colman with class 1LN: LHS pupils are taking part in worldwide education campaign.

Prince unveils plaque at remote Lochaber chapel

A REMOTE Lochaber chapel, now fully restored after years of painstaking work, was rededicated by royal decree yesterday.

Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, unveiled a plaque to mark the restoration and re-opening of Drimnin chapel, near Lochaline.

The Astrid String Quartet from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow played at the opening ceremony.

The tiny Catholic church will act as a non-denominational place of worship and a centre for music and the arts.

Affirming the multi-denominational future of the

chapel, ministers from the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church of Scotland and the Church of England conducted yesterday's rededication service.

Earlier in the day, the prince visited Acharacle Primary School in Moidart before arriving in Lochaline to celebrate the Morvern port's maritime heritage.

Iain Thornber, Depute Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, was among those present accompanying the Earl of Wessex.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The last royal visit was around 900 years ago when Malcolm Canmore came to

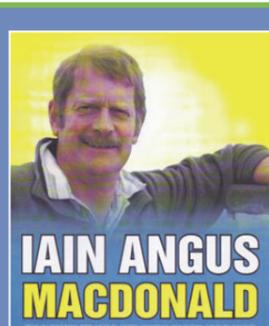
Ardtornish Castle - and we have had no-one since. It is a nice historical occasion.'

And of the Acharacle visit, Mr Thornber said: 'The Prince landed in Moidart, the first time a member of the British royal family has done so since 1745 - although he did not have eight men with him!'

Drimnin Estate owner and prominent Roman Catholic Sir Charles Gordon demolished the ruined Maclean castle to build the chapel in 1838.

The building fell into ruin before the St Columba's Drimnin Trust was formed in 2005 to bring it back to its former glory.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our newsdesk on 01397 703003



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Barra nursery class debate

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to relocate a nursery class from Barra Children's Centre to Castlebay Community School will be debated by Western Isles education committee councillors on June 12.

Results of a public consultation published this week on moving the nursery 150 metres to the primary school building will form the focus for debate.

Parents are strongly opposed, fearing the move would mean a poorer learning environment, however, they recognise existing accommodation is inadequate to meet demand for Gaelic medium provision as the roll increases.

School staff are divided on whether the move would be beneficial.

In a joint submission with Castlebay Community School parent council, the board of directors at Barra Children's Centre also came out against.

At the June 12 meeting, the committee will also discuss a recommendation to relocate a Stornoway unit for children needing complex educational support.

The comhairle proposes moving the unit from Stornoway Primary Campus to Sandwickhill Learning Centre under a revamp of 'complex additional support needs' provision in Lewis and Harris.

Hopes high more rare butterflies can be found

LOCHABER could be harbouring previously undiscovered colonies of one of Scotland's rarest butterflies, say scientists.

The chequered skipper only exists with a 30-mile radius of Fort William, most notably on a nature reserve at Loch Arkraig near Achnacarry.

But recent work by Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee estimates up to four times more colonies could exist because of a lack of data.

Now BCS is calling for the public to help unearth new spots where the chequered skipper may be living unnoticed.

The area's warm, damp summers and mild winters allow purple moor-grass on which the caterpillar feeds to stay green late into the autumn, helping them develop enough to hibernate for winter. Elsewhere, the grass turns brown too early in the year for this to happen.

The chequered skipper is usually on the wing from mid May until the end of June. It can be seen on warm and sunny days, even during brief spells of sunshine, feeding on nectar particularly bugle, marsh thistle and orchids.

Dr Tom Prescott, BCS senior conservation officer told *The Oban Times* the butterfly's range extends from Loch Etive and Taynult in the south and west to Lochaline and Arisaig. Loch Arkraig marks its northern extent and Roy Bridge the eastern.

He said: 'There could even be some big colonies we don't know about. We are quite excited after looking at the findings. They are just coming out on the wing just now, so the timing of this is probably about spot on.'

He added: 'We have identified 100 1km-squares where we think the butterfly should occur - but we do not have any sightings. We would like the public to get involved and see if this is true by looking for the butterfly in these areas.'

The public appeal is part of the charity's Save Our Butterflies Week until May 27 - a series of events highlighting butterfly conservation work.



A chequered skipper in Arianne woods near Strontian. Photo: Terry Dabner.

Lucky winners celebrate

FORT William FC has announced the list of lucky winners from the latest batch of 300 club draws.

February - C Stewart (£200); M MacKellaig (£50); Mrs J McNeil (£25); Mrs E Meldrum (£25); March - D Robertson (£200); Mrs McBain (£50); D Fraser (£25); E Livingstone (£25); April - G Anderson (£25); A McFall (£50); J Weir (£25); K McFadyen (£25).

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £500 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 05-06-07.



Knoydart filmmaker Sam Firth - nearing the end of her year-long marathon of daily filming on the shore at Inverie.

College breaks new ground with link

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye, will break new ground at its learners week from July 2-6 when it welcomes parents, pupils and staff from a primary school in the east end of Glasgow.

Caledonia Primary School in Baillieston had no Gaelic connections until recently - but thanks to deputy head teacher Jackie Mullen the language is now in everyday use.

The success won Caledonia

a nomination for the new Gaelic category in the Scottish Education Awards - and a surprise £2,000 bonus from the Scottish Government.

Ms Mullen said the money would pay for a minimum of three families to learn at SMO.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We are absolutely blown away, it's fantastic. We have been doing a lot of Gaelic development in school.'

'All staff and pupils learn

Gaelic and I'm doing Gaelic choir this term for parents, pupils and staff. They all sing together at Tuesday lunchtime.'

'There are no Gaelic connections to this part of Glasgow - so this is quite unique.'

'Everyone here speaks a bit of Gaelic, including the cooks, cleaners and jannies.'

Minister for Learning and Scotland's Languages, Western Isles MSP Dr Alasdair Allan,

visited the school to make the cash award. He said: 'The school's work on Gaelic has built up from a lunchtime club into dedicated timetabling for Gaelic for all pupils.'

'I am delighted that the Scottish Government has been able to help fund a trip to SMO, against the beautiful backdrop of Skye, which will give pupils, teachers and parents the chance to further enhance the school's Gaelic knowledge.'

Key pledges unveiled by council leaders

FOUR key pledges will guide Highland Council's new administration over the next five years, its group leaders have announced.

The newly formed Scottish National Party/Liberal Democrat/Labour coalition has vowed to implement the headline policies as soon as new working arrangements bed in.

The parties set aside political differences to form the ruling group to deliver on 'progressive policies for the Highlands' promised in their election manifestos.

They include:
 □ The delivery of five new area committees for greater decentralisation of decision making
 □ A new Community Challenge Fund
 □ A commitment to additional support for children and families
 □ The speedy introduction of a 'living wage' for council staff.

The pledges were unveiled following the appointments of the council's leadership at Thursday's full council meeting.

SNP group leader Drew Hendry was installed as council leader, Lid Dem leader David Alston as deputy leader and Labour's Jimmy Gray as convener.

Councillor Hendry put the shift of power away from Inverness at the heart of the new administration's ethos.

He said: 'As part of a range of policies the SNP pledged to establish area committees to allow greater representation across the Highlands and we are now able to make good on that.'

'With our colleagues we will ensure that five new area committees are created to serve the Highlands, paid for by reducing the number of central commit-

tees and making those that are left work harder.'

'All will quickly allow local issues to be debated and two of those committees, Caithness and Sutherland and the Inverness City Committee, will also pilot further responsibilities from the outset with a view to this paving the way for the others.'

He added: 'This administration is already working to take the Highlands forward.' Councillor Alston looked forward to 'developing new ways of delivering services at local level'. He said: 'I believe that together we will take a business-like approach to the challenges we face and that each group will bring its own qualities to the task of running the council.'

'Building the future of the Highlands will require determination, vision and creativity and our team has the range of talent and ability to make that possible.'

Labour leader, Councillor Jimmy Gray said: 'One of Labour's key pledges during the election was the living wage for all council employees.'

'It is not acceptable that someone can work all week and not be paid a living wage for doing so. This along with the pledge on apprenticeship training for young people should help to bring hope for a better future for the low paid and the younger generation.'

He added: 'There is no doubt there will be some difficult choices to be made in the years ahead and all elected members of Highland Council will need to be fully committed to deliver the best possible services from the resources available. This administration will have social justice fairness and equity as its core values.'

Group's hard-hitting demand on seabed and coastline change

SECRETARY of State for Scotland Michael Moore must instruct the Crown Estate to hand local people 'meaningful and significant' control over their own seabed and coastline.

That's the hard-hitting demand this week from Community Land Scotland, the group representing the country's community landowners.

The call follows a radical Scottish Affairs Committee report recommending the Crown Estate's Scottish operations be taken over by local councils and community organisations.

In letter to Mr Moore, CLS chairman David Cameron said action was needed on the back of the highly critical findings.

He said: 'We are clear that de-

veloping meaningful, significant responsibilities to local communities for management of the marine assets the Crown Estate currently control would bring real opportunities for further local economic development, turning the Crown's marine assets into a local asset, not a drain on local resources.'

'That is why we are calling on the Secretary of State for Scotland to make clear to the Crown Estate that he expects them to change significantly and to meet the criticisms made of them.'

Mr Cameron said a Crown Estate pilot project to involve two communities in local management signalled 'some change...and to that extent is welcome'. But he added: 'Our

ambition, however, is for significant control of the total asset the Crown Estate currently manage.'

'We want to see significant, not token, change. Community owners already manage complex and major business enterprises, they provide commercial land based leases, they are developing housing and land based renewables, tourism and business infrastructure, they run ports and jetties, and there is no reason why they could not take over control of what the absentee Crown Estate hold now, and do it better.'

The Crown Estate's plan, involving Portree Moorings Association and Lochmaddy-based Comann na Mara (The Society of the Sea: North Uist), will see both groups, with advice from

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

going out every day to exactly the same place for this long.

'A lot has happened since the year began. It was a pretty intense winter with lots of windy weather and days spent wiping the rain from the camera lens, but we have also had weeks of sunshine too.'

'The first thing I will have to do is to watch the 60 or so hours I have shot from start to finish.'

'Then I will start making decisions about what stays in and what gets cut.'

'I am imagining the final film will be between 10 and 20 minutes long.'

'It will probably race through some parts of the year and then stay on one day's filming for longer highlighting the changes and the journey I've been through.'

'It's going to be very interesting to see whether the 10 minutes I have filmed every day reflects the year as I remember it.'

An original composition will

accompany the film, the music capturing its stark nature and rapid changes of light and shade.

Sam added: 'I'm really looking forward to editing and to finishing this project and am planning to have the first screening of the film here in Knoydart for the local community who have continued to be incredibly supportive of me and all of my work.'

'Over the year I have been working hard on two different feature film projects, one of which is a drama set on the west coast of Scotland. Hopefully once I have finished Stay the Same I will get opportunity to move on to bigger projects which also show the incredible beauty of this area and have the potential to reach a wider audience.'

'I am hoping people will judge the project on the final result which will be completed towards the end of this year.'

Sam's has enjoyed feedback on her blog at staythesamefilm.com, which has received more than 5,000 hits since February.

Assault charge ruled not proven

A CAOL man accused of assaulting his ex-girlfriend outside his house has escaped punishment after a sheriff delivered a not proven verdict.

Lee Murray, of 72 Glenkingie Street, had denied striking Louise Vickers on the head and hand to her injury and seizing her by the body causing her to lose her balance on November 7.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the pair got into a heated argument about a shared car days

after splitting up. Miss Vickers said Murray attacked her from behind in an attempt to wrestle the car keys from her.

Her account was backed up by a nine-year-old child.

Murray claimed Miss Vickers was shouting and screaming and tried to hit him, and he defended himself before driving away in his van.

Delivering his verdict, Sheriff John Rafferty

said although he found both Miss Vickers and the child to be reliable witnesses, there were 'inconsistencies' between their versions of events.

He said: 'There was little in Mr Murray's evidence I could find to be inconsistent, which gave me doubt about this case.'

'And I am obliged to give the benefit of that doubt to Mr Murray, therefore I find this case not proven.'

Orchard takes root in Ballachulish

NORTH Ballachulish is to have its own community orchard following a groundbreaking agreement between Nether Lochaber Community Council, Highland Council and St Bride's Primary School.

Pupils will plant a dozen mixed fruit trees from Kinlochlaich Garden Centre at Appin on a vacant grass plot outside the school on May 31, with assistance from students of West Highland College, Fort William.

The area was picked to allow the children to have a hands-on role in the project and pick fruit once the trees become established. The orchard will also be available to all other members of the community.

Nether Lochaber Community Council chairman Iain Jenner was the driving force behind the initiative, with the backing of all the community council members.

Secretary Ann Marie Cameron said everyone involved was looking forward to a good planting day next Thursday. She added: 'We have also been generously gifted mulching mats, tree stakes and ties by the local authority contractor dealing with the grass cutting.'

The community council, Iain Bruce-Low and Ricky McNab of the council's TEC services and St Bride's head teacher Ms Kemp had been in discussions for some time on the project.

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Minard primary to share head teacher

MINARD Primary School is to share its headship with neighbouring Furnace Primary in a council experiment to make it 'more sustainable'.

Minard, which was among those rural schools marked for closure by Argyll and Bute Council, will share Furnace's head, Jay Helbert, for the 2012/13 school year following the retirement of Fiona MacDonald.

The move means Mr Helbert will no longer work in the classroom and new teachers will be employed to meet the shortfall.

Minard Parent Council's chairman, Brian Barker, said: 'For us it is certainly seen as positive.'

Heroin found in drugs raid

AN OBAN man has been charged after police recovered a dealer-sized quantity of heroin from an address in Miller Road, Oban.

Police searched property at 10.05am on May 18 on a warrant and also found the 27-year-old man there.

Woman in hospital after Argyll crash

A WOMAN was being treated in Glasgow's Southern General Hospital as The Oban Times went to press, following a road crash last Thursday on the A83, south of Furnace.

The 49-year-old woman was airlifted from the scene after suffering head injuries. She was a passenger in a Peugeot, which had collided head-on with a Mazda.

Her 52-year-old husband, who was driving, and the 46-year old driver of the Mazda, were also taken to the Southern General.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 01546 702200.

Roadworks for A85

TWO weeks of roadworks on the A85 at the Wide Mouthed Frog will start on Monday following current preparatory work by Scotland Transerv.

Resurfacing of the road and renewal of road markings will be undertaken between 6am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, using a convoy, but no work is scheduled for the holidays on June 4 and 5.

NEWSDESK 01397 703003



Sisters Alex, left, and Edie Elliot found out what it would be like to take the helm of the Northern Lighthouse Board's ship Pole Star on Saturday, guided by chief officer Neil MacLean. The open day at the Northern Lighthouse Board's Oban depot was held as part of the first weekend of the Festival of the Sea. 15_12711ighthouseopen

New council roles confirmed

OBAN councillor Roddy McCuish has been formally elected leader of Argyll and Bute Council at its first meeting on Tuesdaysay.

Isobel Strong was elected provost of Argyll and Bute and Douglas Philand deputy provost, with Kintyre's John Semple, deputy leader.

Other roles include: James Robb, spokesman for strategic finance and Europe; Douglas Philand, human resources and sport; Sandy Taylor, spokesman for planning; John Semple, energy, development, infrastructure and tourism; Donald Kelly, roads and amenities; Mike Breslin, education; Anne Horn, adult care; Louise Glen-Lee, community, culture, customer and communications; and George Freeman, housing.

Dick Walsh is now leader of the opposition, with Ellen Morton his deputy.

Council puts dampener on McCaig's Tower 'Ring of Fire'

The Oban Times left to break bad news

AMBITIOUS plans to hold a bonfire in Oban's iconic McCaig's Tower to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have been turned down - but the council left it to The Oban Times to inform the organiser.

Oban businessman Graham MacQueen had hoped McCaig's 'Ring of Fire' on June 2 would attract the attention of the national press as one of the most imaginative and unique events to mark the Monarch's landmark anniversary.

While the bonfire would be inside the tower, he said, like the annual bonfire held at Mossfield Stadium, the grass would be protected and wouldn't be damaged while the walls of the tower would be 'no warmer than on a summer day'.

Concerns

However, the council has rejected his proposal, last week telling The Oban Times: 'An application to use McCaig's Tower for a bonfire has been turned down. There were concerns from the fire and rescue service, concerns over damage to the grass and the tower itself.'

But Mr MacQueen received no official notification from the council about the decision.

He said: 'The bonfire would have been a wonderful thing for Oban and would have put the town on the map. It would have benefited the town in a big way.'

'I had an independent risk assessment done - there is no risk.'

'But someone somewhere has taken a decision and you don't know the political motivation behind it.'

'I feel like walking away from it and not getting involved. I'm surprised nobody from the council has been in touch to tell me.'

The proposed bonfire split opinion in Oban. While some thought it was imaginative and had potential to be spectacular, others said they feared damage to the tower itself and the garden.

A wedding is due to be held in the tower on the same day.

Broadband faults cause service havoc

Weeks of widespread disruption

BUSINESS and home broadband customers across Oban have hit out at telecoms provider BT after two weeks of widespread disruption.

Work began on May 7 to upgrade the local exchange, with the intention of bringing faster broadband to the area. Rather than finding an improved service, many users found they either cannot get online, have to reset their routers often or even found their speed lowered.

The disruption crippled a number of businesses who found themselves unable to access vital online services such as accounts, email and even card-payment systems.

Complaints to BT have resulted in varying responses. Some were told to reset their router to factory settings or buy new equipment, some advised they were being sent new routers and others that there was no problem.

Euan Warnock of NFU Mutual at Oban Livestock Centre endured 13 days of disruption until service was resumed at 8am on Tuesday - with little comfort from BT.

'We replaced our hardware because BT told us there was no problem.'

Euan Warnock NFU Mutual

He said: 'It's been very painful for the business. We replaced our hardware because BT told us there was no problem with the broadband.'

'We had two support engineers come out and tell us there was no problem, but we continued to complain until a serious faults engineer was sent out on Thursday last week.'

'He agreed there was a problem with the line and pulled the plug on our service. We've had nothing until today.'

'It's been extremely problematic for us.'

Another company to suffer disruption was Oban accountancy

firm, Clark Thomson. It went for a week without access, preventing access to online accounting software and taking payments for services.

Account handler Natalie Michie added: 'We're not alone. Quite a few businesses have been affected.'

'We've now got a steady connection, but our speed has dropped from 12mbps to 3mbps.'

A spokesman for BT said: 'A software update has caused problems with a particular type of broadband router used by businesses which have switched to the next generation broadband services introduced at Oban exchange in February.'

'Around 20 businesses reported faults and, initially, it proved very difficult to get to the root of the problem. Now that we have, most businesses have their broadband lines restored to service and we are progressing the remaining ones.'

'BT would like to apologise for the frustration and inconvenience caused by this break in service.'

West Highlands - top for hospitality

THE WEST Highlands was named one of the most hospitable parts of the country after winning a host of prizes at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards.

Oban's Alt-na-Craig, run by Sandy and Ina MacArthur, won Scottish Guest House of the Year, one of only seven grand awards presented at Glasgow's Thistle Hotel on Sunday night.

Sandy said: 'We are absolutely delighted because everyone here has worked so hard over the past three years.'

There were also various winners of the Hospitality Gold Medal, including Peter Patek and Petra Jancekova of Bridge

of Orchy Hotel; Jane Watson, Inverloch Castle; Rachel and Calum Ross, Loch Melfort Hotel; Morag MacDonald, Torvaig House Hotel; and Caroline Willis, Pierhouse Hotel.

The Port Appin-based Pierhouse Hotel also helped to justify Oban and Lorn's Seafood Capital of Scotland status with the Seafood Dining Award. Pierhouse owner Nick Horne said: 'We are primarily a seafood restaurant, so this is recognition for that.'

In three wedding categories Glenfinnan House Hotel won the Highlands Wedding Award; Dundale House Hotel won the

Special Wedding Award and Ardanasig Country House took the Intimate Wedding Award plus Most Romantic Hotel.

Other winners included: Ardorna B&B, Design Award and Green Award; Three Chimneys and House Over-By, Restaurant Team of the Year and Restaurant with Rooms of the Year; Loch Melfort Hotel, Small Country Hotel; Inverloch Castle Hotel, Castle Hotel of the Year; Ugadale Hotel, Golf Hotel of the Year; Glengarry Castle Hotel, Grandly Friendly Award.

Chef Will Hay, Taychreggan Hotel, was awarded a Hotel Chef Medaille d'Argent.

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, May 28, 1992

Mystery man set to bid for Isle of Eigg?

THE BODY set up to bring Eigg under community control has welcomed a mystery millionaire's interest in buying the island.

The Isle of Eigg Trust, which was set up in October, has been approached by the low profile 'Anglo Scot' - one of several people to have made inquiries about the island since it was put up for sale earlier this month.

Eigg was put on the market by Yorkshire tycoon Keith Schellenberg at an asking price of more than £1 million, after his former wife, Mrs Margaret Williams, successfully raised an action in the Court of Session.

Although the trust would prefer to buy the island for itself, Isle of Eigg trustee Alastair McIntosh said he had been encouraged by the attitude of the anonymous millionaire.

Preferred option 'Our preferred option would be to buy it ourselves, but to be perfectly honest, the chances of pulling that off are not tremendously high,' said Mr McIntosh, who is director of Edinburgh University's centre for human ecology.

'The trust's role would be to act as a watchdog in the event of it coming into private ownership.'

'If it is to be purchased by another landlord, we would welcome the bid of anyone who is willing to accede to the needs of the island's human community and ecology.'

Jobs at risk on Highland fish farms

THOUSANDS of Highland fish farm jobs may be at risk because of the government's decision to allow cheap salmon to flood the market.

The fish farm industry was reeling this week at the shock announcement that current

price restrictions - which protect the European market - are being dropped this Sunday.

A temporary 'minimum import price' (MIP) for salmon was introduced in November, allowing British fish farmers to compete with foreign firms.

When the MIP ends, foreign fish farmers will be allowed to decide their own charges and it is highly questionable whether British firms can compete with cheaper foreign prices, such as those from Norway.

Bitter blow

William Crowe, SSGA chief executive, said: 'The statement of lack of support for EC measures by the minister will come as a bitter blow to the Scottish salmon farming industry, and the 6,000 jobs dependent on it.'

Jura fell race row over water supply

THE Isle of Jura's water supply was threatened when more than 300 visitors arrived for the island's annual fell race last Saturday.

Toilets wouldn't flush for more than 160 mud-splattered runners who also needed showers.

Water had to be brought in from a local distillery and the neighbouring island of Islay to cope with demand.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Regional Council's (SRC) water department said it was up to the organisers to notify the council of the event, giving the number of people involved.

But Willie Tait, sponsor of the event, said: 'What a ridiculous statement to make. What is the

poll tax for? Where else in the country are authorities notified when an upsurge of visitors is expected?'

Mr Tait said the event, which is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, has always been held on the same bank holiday Saturday and SRC has never been advised in the past - yet managed to improve the water situation.

Pay

He added: 'Water is one of the few facilities we get on the island and we pay good money for it.'

'By encouraging tourists to the island we are bringing money to the place.'

'It is SRC's responsibility to match that.'



Keith and Dora after their wedding in McCaig's tower.

McCaig's Tower plays host to first wedding as Canadians tie the knot

A CANADIAN couple have made history this week by becoming the first people to be married in Oban's McCaig's Tower.

Keith Hirsch, 31 and Dora Fuchihara, 30, flew in especially from Canada to be married in Oban on Tuesday.

The Rev Andy Campbell from

Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland conducted the service within the tower's walls. Eight guests also flew in from Canada for the event.

Mother

Mr Hirsch's mother was married in Scotland last year by the Rev Campbell.

Dundee born Mr Hirsch said:

'We decided to marry somewhere in Scotland. My grandmother is buried in Oban and I came here a lot as a child so that is why we married here.'

The Rev Mr Campbell said: 'This most certainly is a unique wedding.'

'This is the first wedding in the tower since it was built.'



United Auctions West Highland Livestock Market in Oban Lochside Street - soon to be sold to supermarket giant William Low.

Hopes for early decision on new Oban market

SENIOR directors of United Auctions held a private site meeting in Oban on Tuesday to discuss the future of livestock marketing in the area only days after Luing Cattle Society announced that its annual breed

sale is now to be moved from Oban to Castle Douglas.

Lobbied

Since United Auctions announced earlier this year that it is to sell its Oban centre to

supermarket group William Low, which is planning a major extension of their Oban supermarket, farming and trade interests have lobbied strongly for the retention of livestock marketing facilities in Oban.



Smiles all round: Emma Clark, aged six, of Longlands Terrace, Kyle, and Donald Fraser, six, of Badicalu, Kyle, pose for our camera during National Smile Week.



Dunbar skipper grounded on Oban Bay sewage pipe

THIS atmospheric scene captured an embarrassing moment for a skipper from Dunbar last week when his boat Aquarius of Islay grounded on the sewage

pipe in Oban Bay on a falling

Strangely, it happened in almost exactly the same spot as another boat from Dunbar

keeled over and sank, last month.

It is believed this latest victim was not badly damaged, as she was gone the next day.

Ode to Kilmornaivaig school cook Nancy

KILMONAIVIG Primary School pupils said a fond farewell to cook Nancy MacPherson in a poetic verse last week.

Primary seven pupils wrote the poem for Mrs MacPherson, who has been a cook at the school for the past seven years. Bowled over by the thoughtful pupils, Mrs MacPherson of Alnabank, Spean Bridge, said: 'I thought it was a very nice gesture.'



Council confirms no liability for former housing stock at Soroba

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed its liability for property in Soroba stopped when housing stock was transferred to the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in 2006.

However, it may be able to assist some owner/occupiers with the cost as part of its statement of assistance.

Owner occupier dispute
ACHA is currently investigating how best to proceed with

roughcasting several blocks in the housing estate, with several owner occupiers refusing to pay for the work, saying the £18,000 bill is too expensive or they cannot get credit to pay for it. Some residents had asked why

Argyll and Bute Council were not contributing to the cost but the council said it was agreed it wouldn't have to.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'In Soroba, as with every other private house purchase

the owner is responsible for repairs and maintenance and the condition of the property at the time of purchase is reflected in the purchase price.

'ACHA has commissioned a survey and analysis on the ren-

der at Soroba from the Building Research Establishment which is due imminently. Once this is available we can consider the circumstances at Soroba and, through consultation with all owners, determine the best

approach for them to secure the future of their property.

'The council's statement of assistance for private owners details the level of grants which are available to assist with common repairs.'

Two charged with dangerous driving as police deny speed crackdown

OBAN, Lorn and the Isles' top police officer says an increase in speeding detections is because of a smarter deployment of resources, not a specific crackdown on fast drivers.

In the past week alone, two drivers have been charged with dangerous driving because of their speed and police in the area have recorded a further 10 incidents of speeding that are serious enough to be subject of criminal charges.

One driver charged with dangerous driving was clocked travelling at 62mph in a 30mph speed limit through Taynult at 9am on Monday while a school crossing patrol was in operation. Another driver, who was caught travelling at 48mph in a 30mph zone outside Kilniver Primary School, was towing a caravan on Monday afternoon and has subsequently been charged with reckless and dangerous driving.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, area commander, said: 'I am disappointed with the continued inconsiderate and inappropriate driving displayed by some.'

'We have become more intelligent about how we deploy officers because our speed monitoring equipment informs me of the days and times that are problematic.'

'But it would not be accurate to say we have been targeting speeders.'

Arrests follow alleged assaults

FOLLOWING an alleged assault on two women at an address in Combie Street, Oban, a 26-year-old man has been charged. The victims are aged 34 and 24.

In another incident, a 31-year-old woman has also been charged with an alleged assault on a 46-year-old man in Combie Street, Oban, on Monday.

The woman was also accused of conducting herself in a disorderly manner during the same incident at 8.30pm.

Police hunt for school vandals

POLICE are on the hunt for three teenagers who they suspect of smashing windows at Oban High School at around 10pm on May 19.

One of the three males is described as being around 16 years of age and wore a white hooded top.

Anyone with any information can contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Pier power leaves fishermen frustrated

Locked barrier leaves Oban fishermen limited access

FISHERMEN say they feel they're being 'pushed' away from Oban's Railway Pier over a new barrier and electrical points installed by Caledonian and Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) in November.

More than six months has passed since new electrical points were installed for fishermen on the pier, but Caledonian and Maritime Assets Ltd is yet to make them available for use, leaving fishermen scratching their heads as to why.

As a result, those vessels with crew staying aboard have to keep the engines running to provide electricity - using diesel in the process.

Meanwhile, the automated barrier preventing vehicular access to the pier is proving a headache for fishermen, saying they feel they are being denied access at times whenever either the harbourmaster is unavailable or tied up on other duties.

Negotiations for local fishermen to receive a key-fob to operate the barriers have so far proved fruitless.

'I've never seen anything like this.'
Oban fisherman Eric Groat

Kilmore-based fisherman Eric Groat, 59, said: 'I've been a fisherman for 40 years and I've never seen anything like this. There's no excuse, really. 'How can they call Oban Scotland's Seafood Capital if fishermen can't get access to these facilities?'

Oban Port Users' Peter Tosh said: 'Fishermen are having to run their engines if they need power and the cost of diesel is high enough. These power points would save fishermen fortunes, which is particularly important.'

'There's also limited access to the pier and that's a problem. We've asked for key fobs, even if just for the local fishermen, but nothing has come back.' CMAL says it anticipates

switching on the power points sometime in the next few days after training with all port staff has been completed and all safety aspects have been covered.

Regarding access to the pier, it said it decided with pier operator CalMac Ferries Ltd to install the bollard after the previous padlocked gate was frequently left unlocked.

That allowed uncontrolled vehicular access to the pier, which it says presented a health and safety issue.

The spokesperson said: 'The port operator, CalMac Ferries Ltd, has a pier master on duty 20.5 hours a day, who has a key fob and can offer access to fishermen on request.'

'Access will not be unreasonably withheld, however for safety reasons the pier master may need to exercise his discretion in very busy periods.'

'CMAL has written to Oban Port Users regarding the access along the Railway Pier and the group is aware of the arrangements with the pier master.'



Firefighters clear the remaining debris out of the Manora House Hotel following last Friday's kitchen fire. 15_121manorh2

Kitchen fire stalls popular Oban hotel

A POPULAR Oban hotel and restaurant has been forced to temporarily close after a fire ripped through the kitchen of The Manora House Hotel on Friday.

Three fire appliances and

crews were called to the Galanach Road business just after 1pm on Friday afternoon when a fire in the kitchen spread up the ducting. Two first floor rooms were damaged in the fire, a guest room and a staff room,

although nobody was injured.

Hotel manager, Gregor MacKinnon, said: 'The main thing is that nobody was hurt.'

'We just have to wait for the insurance assessors before we can do anything. We will try

and resume normal service as soon as possible.'

Insurance assessors visited the hotel and restaurant this week and every effort is being made to quickly reopen the doors to the public.



Oban's Olympic assistants, from left Zalina Dzhatieva, Sharon MacKechnie and Kyle Dods, visited Dunbeg Primary School to join their own mini-version of the Olympic Games. 15_121olympic1

Carbon capture project underway at Benderloch

SCIENTISTS carrying out a world-first carbon capture experiment in Ardmucknish Bay, near Benderloch, started pumping the gas last Thursday.

Problems collecting accurate seismic data forced a delay to the intended Monday start, but the research project has since been running according to plan.

At the time of going to press, a few litres of carbon dioxide were being injected a minute from the Tralee Bay slipway, but it is hoped the minimum target of 80kg can be pumped in the coming days. The global research project is being led by SAMS, Dunstaffnage.

Oban's sporting superstars get set to play their part in London Olympics

THREE of Oban's leading sporting lights will play a significant part in July's London 2012 Olympic Games - starting with carrying the Olympic Flame.

Atlantis Leisure's assistant manager, Kyle Dods, will take the Olympic Torch through Spean Bridge on June 9 as one of the 8,000 runners carrying it

8,000 miles to London for the July 27 lighting ceremony.

Meanwhile, PE teacher Sharon MacKechnie will help run the badminton competition, while volleyball tutor, Zalina Dzhatieva will help run the volleyball competition.

Kyle had previously travelled to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games to participate in the

compound archery competition, but will not be able to participate at the Games, with the sport not included in that or the 2014's Commonwealth Games schedule of events.

However, he is proud to be playing his part in the London Games even if he can't compete in his chosen discipline. He said: 'It's a once in a life-

time opportunity. It's quite a proud moment. It doesn't make up for not being able to compete at the Olympics, it's still great to be a part of it. I don't know how far I'll be running. I've been told it is one mile but I've also heard 300 metres.'

'All I know is I'll be turning up to run. I'm a wee bit nervous about it now.'

Sharon, a board member of Badminton Scotland, will co-ordinate the Games' badminton competition in Wembley Arena, although she will spend a total of eight weeks in the capital's Canary Wharf preparing for her big event.

She said: 'I'm dead excited. I've been involved with badminton at international and

world championships but not on this level. It's huge.'

'We've got eight weeks at Canary Wharf before we move to Wembley Arena for the competition. I'm really looking forward to it.'

Zalina says travelling to the Games fulfils a lifetime ambition and she is hoping to help inspire more athletes in

the Oban area to train towards competing at future Olympics.

She said: 'When I was a kid my mum, when she bought me my outfit for volleyball, said I want to see you at the Olympics. What pressure!'

'I'm hoping the part all three of us will play will give the kids some inspiration and more of a base to watch the games from.'

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Nature restores Ganavan's sands

GANAVAN'S SANDS famous golden beaches have returned - just in time for the summer weather.

Just as the mercury started reaching 20°C, visitors to the beach found the sand extending right to the back wall for the first time since December's storms reduced the beach to its pebbly base.

While most of the sand had returned naturally by the end of March, the high spring tides seem to have finished the job and returned all of the sand removed by 2011's blustery end.

Argyll and Bute Council had been inundated with offers to recharge the beach artificially after storms in December and January changed the face of the beach, but the council warned such action, no matter how well intentioned, could be harmful and illegal.

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FW

Wildcard entry for John McPhee

MOTORCYCLING

RACING Steps Foundation backed KRP rider John McPhee from Connel has been awarded one of the two wildcard entries to round five of the MotoGP World Championship at Catalunya next month.

McPhee, who currently lies second in Spain's CEV Buckler Moto3 Championship, will be joined on the Catalunya entrants list by CEV rival and two-times Moto3 World Championship wildcard winner Alex Marquez who picked up the other ticket.

John's selection recognises the progress he has made since stepping up to the new 250cc four stroke class in the CEV series in April.

The Connel rider welcomed the wildcard saying: 'I'm delighted and really excited about it. I secured top 15 finishes in the Grand Prix at Silverstone and Valencia last year in the old 125 two-stroke class so obviously the aim is to try and better that this time around. 'I'm not under any illusions as to how hard that's going to be. But I'll definitely be giving it my best shot.'

Coaching weekend

SQUASH

AS THE popularity of squash in Oban continues to grow, the town's squash club has benefited from a weekend with Edinburgh-based coach Simon Boughton.

Simon held one-to-one sessions in Atlantis Leisure between 9am and 6pm last Saturday and Sunday, with every one of the 40-minute slots taken up.

The coaching weekend was organised by club member Jackie Kersley.

Fraser Inglis, who attended the coaching weekend, said: 'Sport is meant to be enjoyable but to fulfil your potential you need access to top quality coaching and Simon was able to give that. He made sure the coaching was specific to particular aspects of your game.'

'Squash is becoming very popular in Oban because it is not just for the ultra-fit types, it is for everyone.'

Oban Squash Club hopes Simon will return in September for the start of the season.

All-island final at Mull rugby sevens

Mull win their third trophy in an impressive seven-a-side season

RUGBY

IT MAY be billed as the world's most sociable sevens but host club Mull seemed to be less than generous on the pitch this year as they dominated the tournament.

More than 800 spectators turned out at Garmony to support the TSL Contractors Ltd 27th Isle of Mull Sevens last Saturday and watched some entertaining rugby from 16 men's and eight women's teams.

But inkeeping with the home club's impressive sevens season so far, Mull firsts met the Muileachs in an all-island final, which ensured a Mull team would win tournament for the first time since 1990.

Mull's first team, which had previously won the Highland and Lochaber tournaments firstly had to see off a very physical and talented West of Scotland side boasting an ex-Scottish sevens international in their ranks.

In the other semi-final the Muileachs, bolstered by age grade international Ruaridh Knott and Biggar RFC stalwart Michael MacKeand, handed out a lesson in physicality to a young Selkirk side.

The final itself was a bruising encounter, with all the island's spectators finding it hard to know which team to support. However the first team had just too much class and ran out eventual winners by four tries to one to claim their third trophy of the year.

After a gruelling ladies competition, Dundee University emerged as winners, beating Morgan to lift the Pink Cup. Oban Ladies just beat Mull Ladies to claim the Best West Highland Team trophy.

The sevens trophies were handed out by Mrs Naomi Knight of TSL Contractors.

The main event was preceded by a primary school tag tournament with guest side Isle of Coll travelling with a huge support, that accounted for a quarter of the island's entire population.

SRU regional development manager Kenny Brown was on hand to present the prizes and hand out medals to the 90 youngsters taking part.

Mull Rugby Club thanked club sponsors TSL Contractors and Glengorm, the local Red Cross, all the participating teams and the huge local support.

The winning team, Mull firsts, were: C MacPhail, D Downham, D MacLennan, F Carmichael, C Whyte, A MacLennan, A MacCallum, T Haunschmit, S Tomison. Coaches G Ralston and F Whyte.



Duck everybody! One of Oban's wild duck population gets a bird's eye view as Willie Gemmell gets a header on target during last Saturday's match between Oban Saints and Kings Park Rangers at Glencruitten. 07.12.11 saints06

Saints win last home game of the season

FOOTBALL

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Oban Saints 3

Kings Park Rangers 1

SAINTS played their final home league game of the season at Glencruitten last Saturday and recorded a 3-1 win over bottom-of-the-table Kings Park Rangers in what proved to be a typical end of season encounter with neither team having anything to play for. The visitors were already relegated and Saints' title hopes had gone up in smoke after two recent defeats.

The home side opened the scoring after some fine build up play between Ross Maitland and Donald Campbell set up Craig MacEwan who slotted the ball

past Rangers keeper Gary Train. The home side almost doubled their lead in the 32nd minute, but Marc MacCallum was unlucky to see his effort hit the bar.

The Glasgow side equalised in the 37th minute when Neil Scott got in front of Saints keeper Graham Douglas to head home from a corner.

The home team created several good chances as the half drew to a close but these were missed. Saints increased their lead four minutes into the second half when Willie Gemmell played Donald Campbell through and the Saints top scorer calmly side-footed the ball home for his 32nd goal of the season.

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the second half and

Craig MacEwan missed a great chance to increase the lead.

This was turning into a typical end-of-season game with both teams failing to set the heather on fire and it took till the 90th minute for Saints to score their third goal when Craig MacEwan set up Keith Millar and the Saints skipper made no mistake from an acute angle to make the final score 3-1.

Away Games

The Oban side finish off their season with two away games this week. Tonight (Thursday) they travel to play Aikenhead Thistle and on Saturday they are in East Kilbride to take on Rolls Royce.



Mull firsts celebrate winning their third sevens tournament of the season and the first on home soil in more than 20 years.

Galaxy and Scorpions serve up the match of the day

ALL member clubs of the Oban Express Primary Football League met up at the community pitch on Sunday to continue their programmes in glorious sunny conditions.

The day started with the Saints 02 taking on their older Saints Boys, with the latter team's passing game eventually breaking the youngsters' resolve and a double from Danny MacCuish sealed the victory. The Boys went on to defeat Lochnell and Thistle.

The Lochgilphead Scorpions began with a comfortable win over Saints 03, followed by a narrow 1-0 win over the older Saints. The 02s did manage to record a win in an exciting match against Jags.

Thistle and Tralee served up

a cracker of a game which saw Kier MacLean notch two headers for Thistle with Tralee's Stuart Campbell and Daniel Sloss replying but the game was won for Thistle when Scott Mossman delivered the goods. The Thistle also played out a goalless draw with Lochgilphead Red Star. Star had earlier defeated Thistle's stable mates, Jags, with a comfortable 3-0 win.

The Jags, however, went on the goal trail in their next match against the Saints 03 with goal machine Roan Martin netting no fewer than four goals. Lochnell's match with Red Star raged from end to end but the Lochgilphead boys took all three points with the odd goal in three.

The game of the day took place

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

between Galaxy and Scorpions with Galaxy racing into a two-goal lead but Scorpions managed to score three in reply and led at half time. Early in the second half Scorpions' Cammy Williamson completed his hat trick but the stars of the Galaxy scored two late goals for a share of the spoils.

The Wasps defended stoutly against Saints 03 but went down by a single goal. In their last match they encountered a rampant Tralee who scored five.

The league wishes to congratulate Lochnell's Stewart MacAllister, who has become the latest player from Oban and Lorn to sign a pro youth contract with Dumbarton Football Club.

Mid Argyll bowled over by Oban CC

CRICKET

MID Argyll were bowled over by a relentless Oban attack as the Argyll and Islands Cricket League got underway last weekend.

Oban hosted the match at Taynult and were put into bat by Mid Argyll skipper Phil Hemmings.

Allan Laycock and Taj Islam top scored with 61 and 63, respectively as Oban clocked up a score of 232 all out.

The Mid Argyll reply started with a wobble when Leach clean-bowled Singh in the first over. This set the trend for Mid Argyll's calamitous innings and Oban came away with a comfortable 202-run-victory.

This Sunday, title rivals Sannox CC from Arran are the visitors to Taynult.



The Oban Saints Under 16 squad pictured before last Sunday's Dumbarton Development League Cup final held at Millburn Park, Alexandria, home of Vale of Leven Juniors. The boys put on an excellent performance and were a credit to the club both on and off the park, but unfortunately they went down 3-1 to a well drilled Lenzie team.

Paterson Trophy match to be held in Oban on June 2

FOOTBALL

THE annual Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match between an Argyll Select and a Scottish Amateur League Select will take place in Oban on Saturday 2 June. The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

The Argyll squad will be selected from players from Campbelltown Pupils, Dunoon, Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert and host club Oban Saints.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

RECENT results: Milngavie 4, Under 13 7. Scoring for Saints were Jay Cooper (4), Duncan MacDougall, Hector MacDonald and Evan MacLellan. Dalmuir Park 1, Under 14s 4. On target for Saints were Louis MacGuire (2), Stuart MacLean and Ally MacLean. Under 15s no game. League Cup final Lenzie 3, Under 16s 1. Netting for Saints was Coll McKenzie.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Renton; Westerton v Under 14s; Allander v Under 15s; Under 16s v Helensburgh (Saturday); Under 16s v Clydebank Phoenix (Sunday).

Isle of Seil GC

GOLF

TWO MEMBERS of Isle of Seil Golf Club have qualified for the Belhaven Brewery regional golf event to be held in Fife this summer.

Johnny Taylor and Gordon MacKenzie were first and second in the club's May medal while the veteran section of the club, the Wrinklies, had their first competitive outing at Killin in the Seniors Open.

John Blackstock finished in 19th spot out of 65 competitors and is co-leader in the Wrinkle Cup round robin.

Glencruitten GC

HANDICAP Championship - Senior Championship first round: 1 Declan Curran 70 - 11 = 59 (BIH); 2 Gavin Owens 64 - 5 = 59; 3 Donald McLennan 75 - 15 = 60.

Second round: 1 Cameron Milne 66 - 6 = 60 (BIH); 2 Graham MacColl 64 - 4 = 60; 3 John MacKinnon 72 - 11 = 61.

Overall leader is Gavin Owens on 123, with Philip Murphy one shot behind.

Islay GC

JOHN Letters Trophy 2012: 1 Brian O'Neill 82 less 14 net 68; 2 Alexander MacLean 82 less 14 net 68; 3 Arthur Holyoake 74 less 5 net 69. Cst 71.

Congratulations to Iain MacCuaig for his hole-in-one at the fifth.

Islay beach rugby tournament

RUGBY

AN ENTRY of at least 24 teams will contest the men's competition at this year's Islay Beach Rugby tournament next month.

The competition, which will also feature eight women's teams, will be held in Port Ellen on Saturday, June 9.

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If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

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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.

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 "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.

WIN £1000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Salen, Isle of Mull

R Rodoway
Polvinster Road, Oban

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Historic win sees Lochaber reach first senior final

Two late goals secure the win and a place in the MacTavish Cup final

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

SHOUTS of 'We're going to Inverness' were heard round Spean Bridge on Saturday after Lochaber's historic 2-1 win over Kingussie secured their place in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final.

Michael Delaney's men will make their first appearance in a senior final since the club was formed in 1958 when they take on mighty Newtonmore at Bught Park on Saturday June 16.

In a dramatic semi final, the home side were cheered on by a large home support and scored

two goals in the last four minutes of the game to secure the win, despite Ronald Ross pulling one back at the death for Kings.

The two sides were evenly matched although Lochaber created the better chances. But there was to be no repeat of the previous weekend's Macaulay Cup golf, when Kings ran out 6-4 winners.

Hauled
Ref Graham Irving pointed to the spot in the 86th minute after Lochaber forward Sean Nicolson was hauled to the ground inside the box by Ryan Borthwick.

Nicolson took the penalty himself and his powerful shot into the roof of the net was enough to beat keeper Andrew Borthwick.

SHINTY

Substitute Stuart Callison scored a goal worthy of winning any game four minutes later with a shot from the angle which flew into the top corner of the Kingussie net.

Ross pulled one back for the cup holders deep into injury time but Lochaber were able to hold on for the win.

The final whistle prompted cheers of delight from supporters and players alike as the team was applauded off the pitch.

Victorious manager Delaney said: 'All the hard work and the planning paid off. We never panicked and we stuck with our



Lochaber's Ben Delaney and Kings defender Gary Munro battle for possession during the semi final on Saturday. 10_f21shinty01

belief that we could score goals. 'I said to the boys before the game 'If you want to make history, go out there and do it', and they been rewarded for all their hard work.

'It's great to get to the final, and to get through against a tough opponent like Kingussie makes it even better.'

Kings manager Russell Jones told The Oban Times he felt

Lochaber were the better side on the day.

He said: 'I just don't think we were good enough. Lochaber deserved it. I'm disappointed, but I've got no complaints.'

'I actually think our defence played better this week, but the game was won in the middle of the park. Lochaber had much more pressure and their midfield was better than ours.'

Pam takes over at the top from Tony

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER five weeks of play the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre scratch division has a new leader with Pam Weller overtaking Tony Whitelocke.

Tim Attack remains in third place and is now 13 points behind the leader on 48.

Weller has also taken the lead in the handicap competition on 47 points ahead of Attack, 45 points, and Rossamy Wareing, 44 points.

The top scratch game of the week was a 183 from John Weller, while the top three game scratch series was 459 from Pam Weller. The top three game handicap series came from John Weller, who rolled 619.

Total scratch pinfall so far is still led by Pam Weller with 2,117 pins. Whitelocke is close behind with 2,045 while John Weller moved into third with 1,755.

Track upgrade at Nevis Range

MOUNTAIN BIKING

AS THE UCI Mountain Bike World Cup get closer so does the completion of a track upgrade at Nevis Range, Torlundy.

The part of the course that is being upgraded is on the lower part of the course. The track will now go directly below the gondola and have some of the biggest jumps on the World Cup circuit which should make it a thrilling experience at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 9 and 10.

United come out on top in Ballachulish derby match

The Ballachulish team included six schoolboys

FOOTBALL

BALLA United defeated local rivals Ballachulish FC 5-2 in a hard-fought derby at Island Park in Kinlochleven in the Lochaber Welfare League on Monday night.

Steven Davitt opened the scoring for Balla in the first minute with a 30-yard free kick over 14 year-old Ballachulish keeper David Malcolm.

Jamie 'Tiger' MacLean waltzed through to make it 2-0 on 38 minutes and seconds later it was 3-0 when Greg Farrell slotted home.

The young Ballachulish team - which included six schoolboys - gave a good account of themselves in the second half, with Malcolm pulling off several fine saves.

Jamie Thompson and Alex Whittaker scored for Balla, but those strikes were cancelled out by a Danny Macintosh double, one from the spot.

Balla coach Davie MacPhee told The Oban Times: 'We could have taken more chances, but the performance was not too bad considering it was only our second game of the season.'



Ballachulish FC's Paul McFatridge challenges Balla United's Greg Farrell. 20_f21football02

Bogey men at Isle of Skye Golf Club

GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club held the bogey competition last weekend, with the winner being John Allan MacLeod.

MacLeod was level with Alex Munro on 5up, but a better inward half gave him the win.

The Sconser-based club also held the Black and White Shield recently. The two category handicap competition saw Chris MacKinnon winning category one and John Don Mackenzie winning category two.

Results: Bogey Competition - 1, John Allan MacLeod 5up (bih); 2, Alex Munro 5up; 3, Iain Lewis 4up. Black and White Shield- two Category Handicap Competition - Category One (0-12) - 1, Chris MacKinnon 74 (net 63); 2, Alasdair Grant 71 (net 65); 3, Alex Munro 76 (net 65). Category Two (13-28) - 1, John Don Mackenzie 76 (net 63); 2, AI 'Starsky' Campbell 79 (net 65); 3, Ian Marr 81 (net 67).

Stableford win for Jim at Traigh

GOLF

TRIAGH Golf Club held the Doctor Colin Clark stableford competition on Sunday, with Jim Fowler taking the win in the summery sunshine.

Morag Martin took second place scoring 43 points, five behind Fowler's total, while Willie John McLean was third with 40 points.

Rotary Club Am-Am on Sunday

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club held the Craig Paterson Trophy on Saturday. It was a close three-way battle for the trophy with David MacGillivray, Donald MacInnes and Alex Stewart all scoring 71, but due to best play in the last nine holes MacGillivray won the trophy.

On Sunday the Alcan foursomes was held at the club, with Ken Jerran and Toby Richardson taking the win.

The club are expecting around 140 people to play in the Rotary Club of Lochaber AM/AM this Sunday.

Results: Craig Paterson Trophy - 1,



Lochaber Bowling Club's Scott Brady charity pairs competition was won by Gogs Hamilton (right) and Barney O'Shaunnessy (left) after a closely fought final against Robert Hunter (back right) and Innes Wood. On a day of glorious sunshine at the BA Club, a full entry of bowlers enjoyed a round-robin contest before the final, which ended seven shots to six. Mr and Mrs Brady presented the trophy to the winning pair.

Reserves lose to Ross County

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club were unable to build on their recent good form when their tie against Nairn was called off due to a waterlogged pitch at the BA Club.

The reserve team took on Ross County in the Reserve Cup on Sunday, losing by eight wickets.

Batting first Fort lost early wickets, with Ronnie Maclean run out, Davy Duncan bowled for a bright 12 with three fours and Peter Short caught behind.

Peter Brown and Daniel Davison added 16 for the fourth wicket whilst Graham Allison and Scott Calam fought hard to reach a competitive total as Fort finished on 68 all out.

Difficult
In reply, County found scoring difficult with Colin Lavin (1-7) and Graeme Allison (1-25) bowling tight. County's experienced attack saw Lennox Boyd and Andrews score an unbeaten 37 to see County home

by eight wickets. Fort reserves captain Col Lavin said: 'We struggled with the bat today, but we can take pride in our fielding and bowling. We learn from every game and will come back stronger.' The senior side welcome Elgin to the BA this Saturday, while the reserves take on Skye on Sunday.

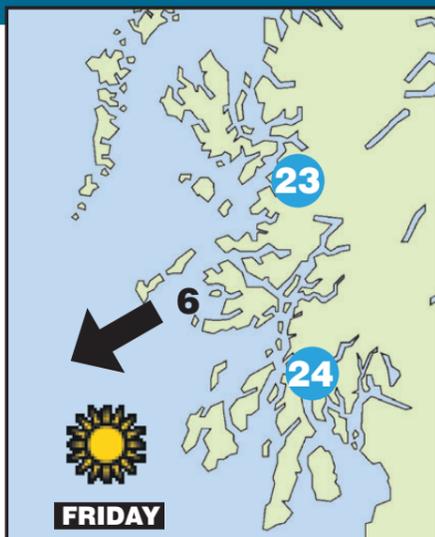
Weather

Thursday Sunny
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 23°C.

Weekend Sunny
Outlook Winds light north easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 24°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 24, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.38 1.3 07.32 3.5 13.45 1.1 19.37 3.6	
Fri	02.12 1.4 08.05 3.4 14.19 1.2 20.12 3.5	
Sat	02.44 1.5 08.43 3.2 14.58 1.3 20.51 3.4	
Sun	03.26 1.6 09.27 3.1 15.45 1.4 21.39 3.3	
Mon	04.24 1.7 10.22 3.0 16.41 1.5 22.38 3.3	
Tues	05.40 1.7 11.33 2.9 17.45 1.5 23.51 3.2	
Wed	06.57 1.6 13.05 3.0 18.54 1.4 ** ** **	

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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