

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Oban unfurls its colours

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SPORTS NEWS

Successful day at the Mull Rugby Sevens for Oban Lorne

Rockfield offered 'for free'?

Council may give former school site away for housing

AFTER rejecting bids approaching £400,000 for the former home of Oban's Rockfield Primary School, Argyll and Bute Council is considering giving it away.

The *Oban Times* revealed last year that talks between the authority and Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) had begun in a bid to have the site reused for housing for the elderly and low income families. The council this year gave ACHA £50,000 to carry out a feasibility study to aid the plans.

Talks were also ongoing with Historic Scotland to have the Grade-B building de-listed to make demolition easier.

But it is now understood the council is considering transferring the site to ACHA for free, with the social housing provider said to be unwilling to pay for the former school.

A council source told *The Oban Times* 'ACHA expects to get the site for nothing or the development won't happen,' adding that bids close to the asking price had been rejected in the past.

If the building is given away, it would eliminate any potential financial boost to the authority's education budget, which was supposed to receive the proceeds from the sale.

ACHA chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'The association is involved in discussions with the council regarding the feasibility study we've been commissioned to do. We have no comment to make on that as yet.'

Mr MacGregor neither confirmed nor denied the talks were based on ACHA getting the site for free.

Asked instead if the association would pay the previously advertised £475,000 asking price for the property,

"ACHA expects to get the site for nothing or the development won't happen."

he said: 'It's not ACHA's position that we would want to pay that amount of money to acquire the building.'

When asked if Argyll and Bute Council was considering giving the building away for free, a spokeswoman for the authority said: 'The feasibility study at Rockfield is still ongoing. When this is complete, further discussions will take place.'

The Oban and Lorn Area Committee originally agreed to move to de-list the building in 2011 after rejecting two offers from potential developers. The intention at that time was to remarket the building after de-listing had been achieved.

Two further offers were received in January 2012, but again, these were rejected.

Meanwhile, recent studies into the safety of Rockfield showed that the building is structurally sound, despite a leaky roof.



MS Serenissima was stranded on the Corran Ledge in Oban Bay until freed by the rising tide and assistance from Oban lifeboat. Picture - John MacTavish

Cruiser with 112 aboard runs aground in Oban Bay

A CRUISE ship which ran aground in Oban Bay on Monday evening is a regular visitor to Oban over the summer, according to operators.

Navigational buoy
MS Serenissima, formerly the MS Andrea and operated by Noble Caledonia, went aground, bow first, on a sandy bank around 6.30pm after approaching the bay on the wrong side of a navigational buoy.

None of the 112 people on board

were injured during the incident and the vessel was refloated on the assistance of the lifeboat.

Initial attempts had been made by Oban lifeboat to assist the ship by using the vessel's engine power while pulling at the stern. An RNLI spokesman said: 'Unfortunately the attempt was hampered by a strong wind blowing the ship towards the shore, and was unsuccessful.'

The 2632 tonne, 87-metre Serenissima was finally freed from Corran Ledge during a rising tide with the assistance of the lifeboat.

The cruise ship was entering Oban's north channel at the end of a 10-day cruise around the UK and Ireland. Divers inspected and passed the seaworthiness of the Serenissima as The *Oban Times* went to press, and she was expected to leave on Tuesday evening on her next cruise.

Tim Cochrane, the cruise com-

pany's commercial manager, said: 'Noble Caledonia confirms that a cruise vessel on charter to them, MS Serenissima, was refloated in the early hours of Tuesday morning having run aground in the approaches to Oban Harbour the previous evening. The RNLI Oban lifeboat assisted with the attempt to refloat the vessel at high water just after midnight. None of the 61 passengers or 51 crew were injured in the incident and

the ship was never in any danger, having grounded, at its forward end, on a sandy bank.

'There was no pollution or water ingress to the vessel. The captain kept the passengers fully informed and the atmosphere on board was extremely calm.'

Noble Caledonia operates cruises all over the world and has been visiting Oban for the past 10 years with a variety of vessels.

Report highlights potential air link between Oban, Glasgow and Barra

THREE new air links could be provided from Oban Airport after a report confirmed there would be interest in running commercial flights between Glasgow, Barra and Campbeltown.

Survey
The Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership,

HITRANS, has launched an online survey to gauge the interest in such west coast routes and whether the link would be commercially viable.

It will also gather information on potential enhancements to the current Barra-Glasgow air service. Encouraging people to complete

the online survey, HITRANS said: 'The greater the number of survey responses then the more solid will be the evidence against which potential demand for these air services can be assessed.'

'Therefore, HITRANS is very keen that residents and businesses throughout the area take part in the

survey.'

Lead councillor for development and infrastructure at Argyll and Bute Council, John Semple, said: 'It is important as many people as possible complete this survey to make their views known.'

'These three proposed routes could make a big difference to

people in Argyll and Bute and in the Western Isles.'

HITRANS director, Ranald Robertson added: 'This study will provide an invaluable evidence base that will consider in detail the complex operational, regulatory and budgetary constraints which impact on the provision of air serv-

ices in the Highlands and islands.

'This work will also investigate the feasibility of any new operations and forecast the impact these are likely to have in terms of fleet, crewing and operating costs.'

The survey can be found at survey.monkey.com/s/highlands_and_islands_air_services.



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Princess Royal to open Dunollie House exhibition

PRINCESS Anne is to open the new History of Dunollie Exhibition at Dunollie House next month during a visit to Oban and the west coast of Scotland.

On June 27 The Princess Royal is due to attend a Volunteering Organisations and Senior Citizens Day at the Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls before opening the museum's exhibition for the 2013 season.

The Princess Royal, as patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board, will also visit lighthouses off the west coast of Scotland between June 25 and 27.

Mull proposal could regenerate Salen

THE REGENERATION of Salen on the Isle of Mull could be underway soon if a local couple's plans go ahead as hoped.

Fergus and Babs Whyte are planning to establish a campsite business, pontoons to encourage visiting boats and a pitch and putt golf course for tourists and locals to use.

Recreational development
Other areas of land would be freed up for community use in the hope a new hall, all weather pitch and car park could be created.

Fergus and Babs, who would carry out the project through their family business Torr Gorm, were at last week's meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) to explain the plans.

Fergus said: 'What we have been doing is looking at getting some areas into the local plan, we have managed to get two areas designated

as potential development areas.

'One is centred right in the middle of the village close to the school - we have set aside some ground that would enable the community to build a village hall, all weather pitch and parking area.'

He added: 'We want to construct a pitch and putt golf course. 'Salen has no facilities for recreation and this development would benefit the local school, community and visitors.'

'We will also develop a 40-pitch campsite with space for camper vans and a slipway with pontoons and moorings near Salen pier.'

'Because of the closure of the hospital and resource centre there has been a loss of 31 jobs in Salen and that takes away a lot of the daily footfall to the village - I don't think people realise how much of an impact

that will have.'

Fergus said the project had been ongoing for a number of years and was expected to attract 12,000 visitors per year after the anticipated opening in Easter 2014.

He also believed it could boost the local economy by £900,000 and said businesses in Salen are 'over the moon' about the plan, which will create two full time jobs and two part time jobs.

Local councillor Mary-Jean Devon told Fergus and Babs she welcomed their plans with open arms.

'It is the regeneration of Salen, it is just fantastic,' she said.

While Calum MacLachlainn, MCC vice-chairman, added: 'This sort of thing is essential.'

'I don't know why anyone would have any objection, it is just so needed.'

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Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir lead the singing during the service in Iona Abbey. 15_1210na08

Iona attracts international audience

'Important to Argyll, Scotland and to all Christian faith.'

CHRISTIANS from across the globe travelled to Iona on Pentecost Sunday to mark the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival there but it was the island community that took centre stage.

The warm welcome extended by islanders to the hundreds of visitors was no more obvious than when the primary school children sang *Beautiful Iona* on the pier as the ferry came in. Aboard the arriving vessel were worshippers of various nationalities, religious leaders, politicians, representatives of council and government agencies and the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, all keen to be part of the anniversary celebrations.

The day also served to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Iona Community and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the MacLeod Centre museum.

An ecumenical service to commemorate the arrival of St Columba in 563AD was held in Iona Abbey, Mull Gaelic Choir and Iona Primary School Choir sang and the Rev Joanna Anderson of the Iona Community welcomed the new congregation.

Among those addressing the congregation was the Very Revd Finlay Macdonald, chairman of the Iona Cathedral Trustees, and Argyll and Bute MSP and Scottish Minister for Education, Michael Russell, who also opened the revamped MacLeod Centre.

Rhoda Macinnes of Iona Parish Church gave the opening responses and Sr Jean Lawson, Roman Catholic House of Prayer, recited *Alone with none but Thee*, which is attributed to Columba.



The partly restored St John's Cross is illuminated in the revamped MacLeod Centre at Iona Abbey. 15_1210na11

Readings were given by Toben Lewis, the warden at Bishop's House and the Rev Joyce Watson of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Following the service Mr Russell told *The Oban Times*: 'Today has confirmed the importance of Iona to not only Argyll and Bute and Scotland but to the whole world.'

'In addition it shows the island as one community, bound together in celebration of two great figures: Columba and George MacLeod, founder of the Iona community.'

Among the far-travelled worshippers was a group of 20 Christians from across the USA. For one of them, Margaret Crowl, from Bangor, Pennsylvania, the anniversary event was her second pilgrimage to Iona and her first in 35 years.

Irish Consul General Susan Conlon represented her country at the occasion and described

the anniversary as an important part in Ireland's history, as well as Scotland's.

Torquhil Campbell, the 13th Duke of Argyll, whose ancestor gifted the abbey to the Iona Cathedral Trust, said: 'It was a very moving day and it was wonderful to see so many people here.'

'Iona and its abbey is of huge importance to Argyll, Scotland and to all Christian faith.'

Summing up the feelings of islanders, Angus Johnston, the island representative on the Iona Cathedral Trust, told *The Oban Times*: 'This is an important day for us because it shows Iona was an immensely important place in Scottish history.'

'Iona is like a lot of the Hebridean islands but we have a huge historic advantage in that Columba came here first.'

'Columba underlies everything here and that gives us an extra dimension, for which we are very grateful.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Louise Glen Lee, who helped to organise the event, said: 'This was a day when the sacred and secular came together and what a day it was.'

'It was wonderful to hear Mull Gaelic Choir alongside wise words from those who spoke at the abbey.'

'It is also wonderful to see so many people, regardless of faith, come together to celebrate this anniversary.'

'Islanders joined visitors from all over the world to make this a brilliant experience.'

'But above all, hearing the voices of the island children in Iona Abbey was incredibly moving and something that will live with us for a long time.'



Guests and worshippers arrive on Iona. 15_1210na2



Irish Consul General Susan Conlon. 15_1210na6



Iona Primary School choir sang to welcome visitors to the island. 15_1210na03



Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, chairman of the Iona Cathedral Trust, commissioned *Columba's Iona*, written by Dr Rosalind Marshall. The book, released to commemorate Columba's 1,450th anniversary, was launched on Sunday by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll and Argyll and Bute Council deputy provost Douglas Philand. 15_1210na10



Left: Guests enjoy a 'meet and greet' buffet in a marquee in the grounds of Iona Primary School before the service begins. 15_1210na05



Below, left: Worshippers leave the abbey at the end of the anniversary service. 15_1210na10



Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir in the grounds of Iona Abbey.

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Argyll children qualify for national chess tournament

SCHOOL children from all over Argyll gathered in Oban recently to battle it out at a Chess for Kicks Competition.

The event was organised by Rockfield Primary School's Chess Club and held in Oban Primary Campus on May 11.

Jack Degan, Rockfield's head teacher, said: 'This year the numbers were disappointingly down but 22 boys and girls from as far away as Campbeltown and Tobermory battled over six rounds for the honour of being crowned champion of Argyll in their particular age group and to qualify for the national Chess for Kicks Competition to be held in early June.'

The primary five and under competition was won by John Douglas, P4, Rockfield Primary. The P7 and under competition was won by Liam Richmond of P6, Rockfield Primary School and the Secondary School Pupils' competition was won by Charlie Ross Strachan, S2, Tobermory High School.

Rockfield Primary School is also sending two teams to represent the school in the Scottish Primary Team Championships, held in East Kilbride on May 18.



Young chess enthusiasts concentrate at the Oban competition.

Tiree Féis announce bumper line-up

PLANS for this year's Féis Thriodh have just been released - and it looks set to be a bumper year for Tiree's traditional culture festival, now in its 23rd year.

Not one, but two cracking bands have signed up to be tutors, there is an expanded full day Féis Bheag, eight tutors and a new advanced Féis na Féise in the lead up to the Tiree Music Festival. The now-legendary 'Muse Cruise' to Barra will also be repeated during the six day extravaganza, which kicks off on the afternoon of Sunday, July 7.

Oban Camanachd's goalkeeper, Robert Dunning, will help get things under way in good style with a shinty coaching session and game.

run through Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The full list of tutors is a blend of the two superb bands, Trail West and the Scott Wood Trio.

On drums is Andrew Findlater, accordion is Ian Smith, guitar is Ron Jappy and Alan Campbell plays pipes.

Scott Wood tutors the whistle, singing tutor will be Linda MacLeod, fiddle is Mhairi

MacKinnon and flute and whistle is island doctor John Holliday. There will also be outside games during the day.

In a new development, the Féis Bheag, for five to eight year olds, will run for the full Féis day, 10.30am to 3pm. It will be open for the first time to all children - whether they speak Gaelic or not - and will share the full facilities

of school. Artair Donald and Iona Brown will be the leaders here.

Monday evening sees Mabel MacArthur's West End Players take to the stage again for the world premiere of their new hilarious play. Tuesday night sees the Children's Dance with one of the west coast's hottest bands, Trail West, and friends. Wednesday night has the Scott Wood Trio, with Trail West back on stage for a concert.

Thursday sees the tutors - and anyone else that wants to play or listen to an all day session - sail across the waves to Barra where last year Féis Thriodh and Féis Bharragh joined forces in the world's first inter-Féis strip the willow on Castlebay pier.

Friday night rounds things off with a full scale, old-fashioned Féis dance with the two bands joining forces to send everyone home, exhausted but happy.

All enquiries to Shari at feisthriodh@live.co.uk.

Drink driving charge denied

A BO'NESS man accused of getting behind the wheel while almost twice the legal drink drive limit near Dunbeg will face trial in July.

Lee Denholm, 34, of 16 Drum Farm Lane, Bo'ness, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week and denied the offence. He was released on bail.

Denholm is expected to stand trial on July 24 and will appear again on June 25.

Tiree man on indecency charge

A TIREE man appeared on petition in Oban Sheriff Court last week accused of lewd, indecent or libidinous behaviour.

Angus Grant, 77, made no plea or declaration during the private hearing. He was committed for further examination and released on bail.

Archives for beginners

LOCHABER Archive Centre is running 'Archives for Beginners' classes at West Highland College, Fort William from 11am to 1pm every Wednesday until June 19.

Further information from Alex du Toit on 01397 700946 or at Lochaberarchives@highlifehighland.com

Oban driver fined and banned

AN OBAN man who was stopped on May 4 while more than twice the legal drink drive limit has been fined £400 and banned from driving for 16 months. Mykael Burns, 23, of 5B Colonsay Terrace, Oban, admitted the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Burns had 88mcg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Argyll missing out on millions claims King Arthur historian

'If the council plays this right, they will get world-wide publicity for Argyll'

A RESEARCHER who says there is proof the legendary King Arthur came from Argyll will next month urge the council to make millions from his theory.

'If the council plays this right, they will get world-wide publicity for Argyll,' claims Adam Ardrey who has spent years researching the truth behind the stories of Arthur.

Dunadd link

Last year Mr Ardrey published a book, *Finding Merlin*, underlining the evidence he has

uncovered to indicate Arthur was in fact Arthur Mac Aedan.

Not only does he explain the legend of Arthur's famed magician Merlin, but he identifies the stone from which Arthur drew a sword in 574 in Dunadd, near Lochgilphead.

The author also identifies the location of Arthur's most famous battle, the battle of Badon, as the lands of Badden that lie between Dunadd and Dunardry on the Crinan Canal.

He also claims the Isle of Iona, where Arthur Mac Aedan's

family was buried, as Avalon - where King Arthur was buried.

He will release his second book on the subject, *Finding Arthur*, in October, which will be published in the USA first in recognition of the increased interest there.

Now he hopes Argyll and Bute councillors will take advantage of his theories and the success of his book to stake a claim for Arthur's heritage - potentially opening up a tourism goldmine.

Ahead of next month's meet-

ing, the advocate Mr Ardrey said: 'Carmarthen, Wales, makes £6million per annum from a Merlin Festival inspired by its claim to be Merlin's home. English Heritage too use Arthur to promote tourism - especially in Tintagel. The tourist industry in Glastonbury is Arthur based - even the French have learned symposiums anent Arthur and Merlin based on a spurious claim.'

'Leicester and York are currently fighting over the millions that will come to whoever gets

the body of Richard III. Inverness makes £40million a year from a monster that does not exist.'

'King Arthur is a bigger deal than Richard III and a bigger deal - and more real - than the Loch Ness Monster.'

Mr Ardrey believes a visitor centre should be established and a friendly rivalry with Southwest England would help boost visitor figures.

Acknowledging cash may be hard to come by initially, he added: 'Frankly, to begin with,

it need not cost much. All they have to do is stake a claim for Argyll and when they start to get publicity, to keep up the momentum.'

'In effect, there is money to be made whether I am right or wrong about Arthur. France, England and Wales cannot all be right and they still do well out of Arthur.'

Mr Ardrey will make his presentation to councillors at the Oban, Lorn and Isles community planning group on June 11.

Hopes high in rent row

'I felt it was an exceptionally positive meeting.'

HOPES are high that a compromise can be reached between ACHA and the Soroba Young Family Group (SYF) after a 'constructive' meeting between the groups on Monday.

SYF had previously said they could be forced to leave their home in Soroba after the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) said its peppercorn rent of £100 per annum was to be revoked, being replaced with a rent 36 times higher.

The charity says it cannot afford that and a parents' petition calling on ACHA to review its decision has so far attracted 550 signatures.

But there could yet be a compromise. Janice Kay, SYF manager, said she was encouraged by Monday's meeting with ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor and hopes a deal that works for both parties can be agreed.

She said: 'We put our view on the table and Alastair put his. We've agreed to send financial projections and give ACHA our accounts for the current year to demonstrate our expenditure.'

'Alastair will take that to his committee on June 9 and we can go on from there.'

'I felt it was an exceptionally

positive meeting.'

Mr MacGregor said: 'I have asked for financial details to be provided - it would be helpful to determine whether the rate they will pay is affordable.'

'The association will look at that and make a decision at our meeting in June.'

Referring to the 550 signature petition, Janice added: 'It's been excellent to see the support because you don't always appreciate how people see your group and the work it does.'

Meanwhile, the Office for Scottish Charity Regulators (OSCR) has admitted it was a 'technical issue' on its website that saw it reporting the SYF Nursery's expenditure for 2011 as nil.

Mr McGregor quoted the erroneous figures published on the OSCR website in last week's *Oban Times*, sparking concern from parents.

However, *The Oban Times* has since seen a copy of the audited accounts that show expenditure for the SYF Nursery was broadly level with income for that period.

A spokesperson for OSCR said: 'It's something we're looking at; it is a technical issue with the website.'



Oban community councillor Duncan Martin, second from left, raises the burgh flag as Argyll and Bute Council representatives Sandy Mactaggart, councillor Elaine Robertson and Derek Crooks.

Oban unfurls its colours

OBAN'S official burgh flag is flying over the town once more after it was raised in Argyll Square.

The banner is one of four flags within the square, including the Scottish Saltire, Union Flag and the European Flag.

The four standards replace the flags of various nationalities that previously marked out the edges of Argyll Square.

The official burgh flag was raised by community council secretary Duncan Martin, after Argyll and Bute Council had arranged the new flags and poles to be put in place.

Sandy Mactaggart, Argyll and Bute Council's executive director of development and infrastructure, said there was an intention to reduce the number of flags in the square and to renew the flag poles. He added: 'The flag poles were of wood and had become a bit worn and we had got to the stage where we had too many flags, none of which were owned by the council. We were keen to get the correct burgh flag and this has been confirmed by the Court of the Lord Lyon.'

Mr Mactaggart added that while the four flags would be retained all year round, exception could be made in special circumstances, or during the Argyllshire Gathering, when clan banners could be flown.

Councillor Elaine Robertson and technical officer Derek Crooks were also present at the raising of the flag.

Lorn Lines

THE DEADLINE for entries to Oban in Bloom has been extended to June 30 after a clerical error meant Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) tenants were not invited to enter.

Organiser Andy MacDowall is now making clear that the competition is open to all ACHA tenants, with the ACHA Tenants Cup up for grabs as usual.

He said: 'We do have a trophy and it is open to them all, I would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Entry forms can be picked up at the ACHA office, all Oban garden centres or the Municipal Buildings on Albany Street. Completed forms must be returned to Mr MacDowall by June 30.



Chris Hammond presents Doreen Henderson with her certificate as Margaret Melville, Pauline Evans and Anita Marshall look on.

A NORTH Connell woman has raised £1,148 for the Oban and Lorn branch of Alzheimer Scotland by running the London marathon.

Doreen Henderson was presented with a certificate thanking her for her efforts by branch chairwoman Chris Hammond.

Doreen, 65, completed the race in four hours and nine minutes - coming third in her age group.

She said: 'I run for fitness and a challenge but I decided to do this for Alzheimer's because I heard how well the money was being used and I felt it could be locally targeted.'

Chris added: 'You can't fail to be impressed by Doreen and we just want to say thank you. The money is used locally, the only money we put out is to research and the rest is spent in Oban.'

MORE than 200 people are expected to turn up when Stramash opens the Highlands' first outdoor nursery next month.

Held on June 1 to coincide with International Children's Day, the fenced site near Ganavan, Oban features several Mongolian yurts for shelter, offering an ideal base for fun and games for all the family.

Winnie the Pooh will be on hand from 11am-2pm for the opening, which will incorporate a host of activities for all ages, including archery, orienteering, face painting and a great deal more. Entry is by donation.

OLYMPIAN and Commonwealth Games medallist Susan Egelstaff will visit Oban High School next week to show how the right diet can lead to a healthier lifestyle.

The Scottish badminton player, who announced her retirement from the sport after competing at the London Olympics, will show how eating the right things can make a significant difference to sporting performance, leading to a healthier lifestyle.

Held as part of Scottish Sea Farms' healthy hearts of the community roadshow, Susan will answer questions after a presentation from Irene Riach, nutritionist from sportscotland.

Scottish Sea Farms has sponsored the roadshow as part of its heart of the community initiative and Oban is the first stop on a schedule that will take the roadshow event to Shetland, Orkney and other parts of Scotland later this year.



Cameron receives his cheque at the sanctuary

Barcaldine sanctuary staff help Appin boy

AN APPIN boy has been given a helping hand towards a new wheelchair from staff at one of his favourite places to visit.

Cameron Allen suffers from a rare condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, more commonly called brittle bone disease. The 11 year old has so far endured over 100 fractures in his bones during his lifetime.

Due to the weakness of his bones, spine, ligaments and muscles, Cameron is a full time wheelchair user and, as yet, is unable to walk.

The youngster is in need of a new wheelchair, which will cost £3,000, to help his bones get stronger with

the aim of standing unaided in the future. It will also help him fulfil his ambition of wheelchair racing.

Moved by Cameron's story, staff at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine have raised £978.21 to help fund the new wheelchair.

Craig Connor, general manager at the sanctuary, said: 'The Allen family are frequent visitors to the sanctuary and live in Appin which is only a few miles down the road.'

'Cameron's story touched our hearts, he does so much to help raise money for other people, we wanted to give him something back which would make his life a bit easier.'

Island hotel declares 'business as usual' despite legal wrangle and bankruptcy

THE MISHNISH Hotel in Tobermory's Main Street is open for 'business as usual' despite the owner being declared bankrupt.

The move follows a civil court case between Mishnish Enterprises Ltd, the company which runs the Mishdish Restaurant and Mishrooms, and Robert MacLeod, who owns the whole building and whose family run the pub in the hotel.

A spokeswoman for Mishnish Enterprises said on Tuesday: 'We are in litigation with Robert MacLeod over the monies we have lent him.'

'We only found out this morning he is bankrupt and right now our main objective is to protect our loan and investment as security holders of the Mishnish Hotel. We are currently in discussions with fellow creditors.'

The restaurant and rooms, leased by Mishnish Enterprises since April 2011, are currently out of action as staff were removed from the premises during the Mull Music Festival.

A court order has since been granted to allow sheriff officers access to the building but this was refused by those in the Mishnish Hotel.

When a further court date was set for last Tuesday to deal with the breach of this court order Robert MacLeod was declared bankrupt.

A representative from the Mishnish Hotel said: 'This doesn't mean anything and it is business as usual here.' The hotel has been in the MacLeod family since it was built in 1861.

Car ploughs into house at Taynuilt

A 46-YEAR-old man has been charged with careless driving after his vehicle ploughed into a house on the outskirts of Taynuilt.

The driver lost control of his vehicle on the B845 Taynuilt to Kilchrean road and crashed into Heather Cottage at around 11.30am last Saturday. The driver and his passenger suffered slight injuries in the crash.

Bikes stolen at Bridge of Orchy

TWO BICYCLES worth £4,000 have been removed from the back of a Renault Espace in Bridge of Orchy.

Between 10.30pm last Friday and 8am last Saturday thieves cut through a padlock and chain that fixed the bikes to a rack on the back of the vehicle. The owners of the bikes were camping in the area at the time of the incident.

Oban police can be contacted on 01631 510500 if any witnesses have information.

Police follow lead on assault

OBAN Police are following a positive line of enquiry in relation to an assault on a 19-year-old French tourist in the town. The man was allegedly attacked at around 2.15am on Sunday morning in Dunollie Road.

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Fort William brandy thief to remain in jail

AN INVERNESS man has admitted stealing six bottles of brandy from a Fort William store.

Andrew MacPherson, of 20 Torvean Avenue, pled guilty to stealing the alcohol from Morrisons store on September 1.

The 35-year-old, who is currently serving a six month sentence in Peterhead Prison for a separate offence, was ordered to spend a further week in jail.

Stromeferry work to start in June

MAINTENANCE work to rock faces on the A890 Stromeferry bypass will start on June 3 and continue for an estimated eight weeks, Highland Council has announced.

Traffic management will be required throughout the contract, which will be carried out by Geo-Rope Ltd of Ballachulish.

The road will be kept open at all times but it will be necessary to halt traffic for up to 20 minutes to allow rock to be brought down and the road cleared of debris. The contractor will provide protection measures for the adjacent railway line to Kyle and Network Rail will provide supervision. Every effort will be taken to minimise disruption but delays will unfortunately occur, the council said.

£100 phone call

A CORPACH woman has been fined £100 after being caught by police driving in Fort William while talking on her mobile phone.

Fiona Campbell, aged 33, of Grianal, was also given three penalty points after pleading guilty to using her phone while driving on North Road on December 17.

Correction

LAUREN Rutherford, who established the Wham Bam Glam clothing company offering alternative maternity wear catering for goth mums to be, is not a mother herself, contradictory to our report and headline last week.

We apologise for the error and any embarrassment caused.

Car ran away

A FORT William man's car rolled down the street and hit another vehicle after he left the handbrake off.

Terence Lappin, 27, of 5 Mull Court, pled guilty to leaving his car unattended with the hand brake off on Mamore Crescent on February 15.

He was fined £70.

West Highland Way upgrade on track with funding

A £750,000 project to upgrade sections of the West Highland Way at Loch Lomond will get underway this summer after receiving funding from the Scottish Government.

Long-term future
Due to start in August, the work by Forestry Commission Scotland will see an unsafe section of the original shoreline route at Ptarmigan brought back to a useable standard.

The project will include 5km

of upgrades to the existing path at Ptarmigan, two new realigned sections and upgrades to the steps linking Balmaha to Conic Hill and the steps at Strath Cashel.

Windblow damage
Work at Strath Cashel is already underway. Finance for the work was approved from the government's 'shovel ready' fund.

The Commission's Liz Shortall, said: 'This is a major and long-needed upgrade of some

sections of the route that will make it an even more attractive and enjoyable proposition for visitors and walkers.'

'Making it more user friendly and improving the quality of the experience will encourage more people to speak positively about their visit, which will in turn bring more people to the route. This will help to secure its long-term future and be good for tourism and for those

businesses catering for visitors and walkers.

'It will also make it easier for us to carry out harvesting operations there over the next five to 10 years.'

'These will allow us to restore the site to native woodland and improve the forest landscape, structure and habitats. It will also protect the West Highland way from being damaged by windblow.'

Mairi Bell, tourism manager

for Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, said: 'The National Park has already made substantial investment and improvements to Conic Hill and sections of the West Highland Way and we're pleased further work will be carried out by Forestry Commission Scotland.'

'We have more than 80,000 people walking the route every year and these upgrades will enhance what is already a spectacular experience.'

New Argyll science centre struggling to attract tenants

£7.5 million building remains empty after six months

A £7.5MILLION science centre in Dunbeg is 'struggling' to attract tenants, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has admitted.

Malin House was completed in December last year as the first of three intended buildings making up the European Marine Science Park. First devised in 2008, funding was approved in 2010 to erect the 19,350sq ft building, which would be offered to commercial scientific interests.

Seen as ideal for research and development given its proximity to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) on the shores of Dunstaffnage and the area's rich marine environment, it was hoped the state-of-the-art building would quickly attract new businesses and generate new jobs.

While there has been some interest, no-one has committed to moving in to the building - six months after it was completed.

Senior development officer Morag Goodfellow said that while HIE were 'still showing quite a few people around', she admitted no deals had yet been done.

'We have been trying to market the building for quite a while. When the funding was put together the economy changed - that's the biggest constraint.'

'We have been struggling a bit. If things were how they were in 2008 we'd be in a different place now.'

The economy is the main struggle for a number of businesses who are keen to move into Malin House.'

Asked if more could have been done to attract a tenant before the building was finished, Morag



Corridors at HIE's Malin House, in Dunbeg's European Marine Science Park, remain empty after the organisation admitted Scotland's flat economy has made attracting tenants a 'struggle'.

said: 'If there were lots of people knocking on the door a private developer would have built this. That's why HIE was brought in.'

'We're still working with strong leads from across the world which will hopefully result in something in the next few months.'

Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council and a critic of the building, said: 'The whole place just looks closed - there's no sign of life there. I've heard people just aren't interested because it's too expensive just now.'

'We don't want it becoming a white elephant.'

Meanwhile, Malin House is to host a natural products conference in September in a bid to showcase the building to potential tenants.

The event will not just focus

on products found from the sea locally, such as seaweed and algae, but also organisms found on the land.

Morag said: 'The west coast of Scotland has a whole wealth of natural products that can be used for an array of products.'

We want to show how this can be applied in an industrial setting. Not only will it be great for local business but it'll hopefully boost interest in the building.'

Full details about the conference will be confirmed later in the week.

Little litter leaves Barcaldine pupils pleasantly surprised

BARCALDINE Primary School pupils got a pleasant surprise when they went to Sutherland's Grove as part of a national Clean Up Scotland initiative - barely any litter.

Taking a trip along to the popular forest trail on Friday - taking full advantage of the sunshine - the

pupils were armed with black bags ready to work hard and keep the area clean.

Aside from an unusual piece of rolled metal - nearly a metre long - there was little to put in their bags and the pupils were delighted with their efforts.

Morvern Lines



Achabeg House is no more.

A MUCH-loved historic building has mysteriously disappeared from the Morvern landscape.

Achabeg House, standing beside the Lochaline-Drimmin road, was built in the 1860s by John Sinclair, the owner of Lochaline Estate and founder of the famous Tobermory Distillery.

For many years it was occupied by the well-known and popular Palmer family who came to Morvern in the 19th century from Dumfries and Galloway with the great sheep flocks. Because of its position and the hospitable family who lived there, it was a favourite stopping place with passersby.

The property changed hands recently and was the subject of an application to the Highland Council's Planning Department for alterations and an extension. Approval was given, the contractors moved in and then, without warning, the building was demolished and the site cleared. Many questions are being asked about the loss of yet another fine old building in the Parish. Eye-brows are also being raised throughout West Lochaber about the proliferation of non-traditional style houses, about where they are being built and the materials used in their construction. There was a time when the former Argyll and Inverness-shire County Councils held rigidly to a policy of banning development between the public road and the sea. Anyone sailing along the Sound of Mull and up Loch Sunart these days and seeing so many weird and wonderful glass villas might well assume it has become a free for all with no holds barred.

INSTEAD of knocking down an old building, Donald Houston, the owner of Ardamurchan Estate opposite Morvern, is restoring one.

Mingary Castle, the most intact 13th century castle in Scotland and former seat of the Clan MacLan, is being excavated by The Mingary Castle Preservation and Restoration Trust in preparation for the return to its medieval grandeur - hopefully by the end of 2014. This is one of the most exciting projects to be undertaken in modern times. Already many interesting finds have been made which, when written up, will add greatly to our understanding and knowledge of these important fortifications and of the people who lived in them. Work on Mingary Castle as it progresses, can be found on www.mingarycastle.com which is updated regularly. It is to be hoped that the owners of Morvern's ruined castles will follow Mr Houston's lead.

2013 sees the 100th birthday of at least three buildings in Morvern.

The Lochaline Hotel, Knock, and Dunara were all erected by Donald Fletcher, the well-known builder from Tobermory, who was responsible for a number of fine mansion houses and churches throughout the West Highlands and Islands. This included Kiel church, which he built in 1898 for the princely sum of £896,28d. The Lochaline Hotel and Knock were ordered for Gerard Craig Sellar of Ardmornish. Dunara, which was also a general store, was put up for Duncan Livingstone who was a direct descendant of Dr David Livingstone, the famous missionary and explorer.

RECENTLY I made reference to the presence of a Norwegian submarine in the Sound of Mull.

For those interested, the vessel was the *Uthaug* (S304), a Ula-class submarine of the Royal Norwegian Navy commissioned in 1991.

This week the elegant, super yacht *Hampshire* cruised serenely up the Sound attracting admiring glances from local and passing mariners. Built of steel in the Netherlands in 2001, the *Hampshire* is 185ft long, 31ft broad, draws 10ft and is capable of 15 knots. She has accommodation for 12 guests, carries 14 of a crew and is available for charter for a little over £200,000 a week. A local 'wag' wondered if she might be available to call at Lochaline Pier to take the Morvern congregation on their trip to Iona for the St Columba celebrations next month!

THIS week the Church of Scotland holds its annual General Assembly when it passes legislation governing its own affairs and discusses wider global issues.

Ministers and elders, known as commissioners, have as usual gathered in Edinburgh this year from parishes all over Scotland, including our own, to labour over the State of Bolivia; Asia; human rights; the inheritance of Abraham and other important subjects.

Yes, laudable and traditional - but how relevant when back at home the pews are lying empty?

Musician almost three times legal drink drive limit the afternoon after

A MUSICIAN with Celtic rock group *Skerryvore* has been banned from driving after getting behind the wheel while almost three times the legal drink drive limit.

Martin Gillespie, 28, of 19 Carbeth Road, Milngavie, admitted the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard Gillespie had been driving to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull to take part in the Mull Music Festival on the afternoon of Sunday April 28.

Gillespie was fined £400 and banned from driving for 16 months. He had 99mcg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Sheriff Douglas Small described the reading as 'huge' for 4pm in the afternoon.



Musicians young and old came together for several group performances during the community concert.

Lorn hosts ninth community concert

MUSICIANS from across Oban and Lorn came together at the Corran Halls last week for the ninth triennial community concert.

Held in aid of CLIC Sargent, children from Barcaldine, Dunbeg, Easdale, Lochnell, Park, Rockfield and Taynuilt primary schools and Oban High School were among a diverse list of performers.

Groups included Kilmore and Oban Church Recorders, Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra, Oban Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and Oban Strings. Soloists included Aaron Hossain on pipes and Iena Kirishita on piano. Orchestra leader was Helen Jordan and conductor was Norman Nicholson.



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No 14-week closure confirmed for Loch Lomond roadworks

Overnight closures planned as £9.2million project gets underway

WORK to upgrade the A82 at Pulpit Rock on Loch Lomond-side will get under way next month, and Transport Scotland has confirmed there will be no 14 week closure.

Local businesses and residents had previously expressed concern over Transport Scotland's original statement, which said the road would be closed com-

pletely for 14 weeks to allow the work to take place.

Such was the strength of feeling in the community that Transport Scotland, together with contractor McLaughlin and Harvey, worked together to develop a solution that would only see one complete closure of the road, for less than a week, during January next year.

"We tailored our construction methodology to achieve this significant reduction in road closures."

The rest of the work, costing £9.2million, will now take place with only overnight closures.

Transport Scotland say the new proposals were agreed with full support from local businesses, residents and other affected parties following consultation in April.

Transport Minister, Keith Brown said: 'Having listened to

local concerns about the 14-week closure, Transport Scotland and its contractor developed a less disruptive solution to deliver these improvements. We welcome the wide support given during the recent consultation for the new programme of overnight closures.

'No closure is ever ideal but I am pleased that a solution has

been found to minimise the impact for everyone using the A82 in this area.'

Sam Watters, project manager with McLaughlin and Harvey said: 'We tailored our design solution and construction methodology to achieve this significant reduction in road closures thus limiting the potential impact to road users.'

The Pulpit Rock improvements will see a 0.4km length of new road built, with one lane in each direction. This will include a new structure that runs parallel to the shoreline and some widening of the existing road.

Work will get underway later this month and is expected to last around one year.

The overnight closures, between 10pm-6am, are scheduled for:

June 10 to 24, excluding June 21 and 22.
Three weeks in August and three weeks in September.
Two weeks in October and one week in November.
Less than one week in March 2014.
One week in April 2014.
One week in May 2014.

There may be opportunities for 'wave-throughs' during the overnight closures in October and November to permit traffic to pass and this will be confirmed nearer the time.

WRVS change name in bid to attract more men

A CHARITY which has become an institution on the west coast of Scotland is changing its name in an attempt to dispel the notion it is only for women.

Male volunteers

Founded as the Women's Voluntary Services 75 years ago, WRVS is relaunching as the Royal Voluntary Service in a bid to be more appealing to male volunteers.

The charity, which offers help and support to elderly people who live independently in their own homes, has also pledged to help two million older people over the next 10 years.

David McCullough, chief executive of the Royal Voluntary Service, said: 'We know that more older people than ever are going to need the support that our volunteers provide, which is why we are changing our name to make it clear we are

not a charity that only supports women or just wants female volunteers.'

The organisation was formed in 1938 to help recruit women into the Air Raid Precautions movement, helping civilians during and after air raids by providing emergency rest centres, feeding, first aid, and assisting with the evacuation and billeting of children.

By 1943 the organisation had over one million volunteers and was involved in almost every aspect of wartime life from the collection of salvage to the knitting of socks and gloves for merchant seamen.

After the war the Royal Voluntary Service pioneered social services.

The charity now provides practical help to older people that enables them to enjoy an improved quality of life.



Ancient burial grounds unearthed on sacred Iona

Possible connection to another graveyard marked on old map

NEW SIGNS of previously undiscovered burial grounds on the Isle of Iona have been found by geophysical consultants.

Martyr's Bay discovery

The first geophysical survey to be undertaken on the island, away from the core focus of the Columban monastic enclosure and the Benedictine Abbey, was carried out by Dr Sue Ovenden and Alastair Wilson of Rose Geophysical Consultants.

The pair examined two areas

in the fields to the south of the village - one close to the current village hall and south of the Nunnery, the other at Martyr's Bay.

The area close to the village hall seems to show features of recent or natural origin which will be excavated later this year.

But the most interesting finds came at Martyr's Bay and Derek Alexander, head of archaeology for the National

Trust for Scotland, said: 'The geophysical survey shows that on the landward side, this mound may have been revetted by stones and surrounded by a shallow ditch. This could be a sign of burials.'

'It has always been suggested that there are numerous burial sites on Iona and there have been various finds over the years, the most famous of which is in the graveyard at Relig Odhrain to the south of the abbey.

'The burials that have been discovered so far are absolutely fascinating.'

'For example, those unearthed by excavations at Martyr's Bay in the 1960s were quite unusual - there were some 40 skeletons packed into an area about 4m long by 2m wide.'

'These appeared quite jumbled and many may have been reburied, especially as the carbon dating showed that one skeleton dating from the 13th

to 15th century was below one dating from the sixth to eighth century.'

'It is possible that this mound has some connection to another graveyard that's marked on an old map, known as Clad Nan Druineach.'

'We plan to investigate the area further in September, and hope that the findings will add more to what we already know about this fascinating island's cultural and spiritual story.'

Man and woman assaulted in Oban

A MAN and a woman were seriously assaulted at Ross House in Oban's Breadalbane Street.

The 34-year-old woman and 48-year-old man were taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital following the incident last Friday at 10.20pm. Anyone with any information should contact Oban police on 01631 510500.



Richard McKenzie, right, receives his award for his 20 years service to the Soldiers, Sailors and Airman Families Association from Colonel David Anderson OBE.

Dalmally man honoured for 'services' charitable work

DALMALLY'S Richard McKenzie, a farmer and 20 year volunteer of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airman Families Association (SSAFA) has been honoured for his continued service.

Mr McKenzie was presented with

a special award by the chairman of the Argyll and Bute branch, Colonel David Anderson OBE, during its AGM in Inveraray earlier this month. A celebratory meal rounded off the occasion.

Fort William community group praised at Scottish Parliament

A FORT William community group have been praised at Holyrood for their hard work to improve a small garden in the centre of the town.

Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) have been regenerating Belford Gardens, an area sandwiched between the hospital and the A82 Belford Road.

A series of interpretative panels, planters and picnic benches have been put in place at the site.

Highland MSP Rhoda Grant raised the project at the Scottish Parliament, saying she hoped the garden would become a 'source of local pride' to residents.

She said: 'I am delighted that these dedicated volunteers in Fort William have seen that there was a local issue that they could address and formed their small group to try to preserve some of the fantastic history of the area, whilst at the same time regenerating an area that had turned into an eyesore.'

'It is great to see this type of community spirit and there is no doubt that the efforts of the group will hopefully encourage even more visitors to the area helping the local economy in the process.'

New Ayrshire - Argyll ferry route set to set sail

CAMPBELTOWN will today welcome the first arrival of the new ferry link between Ayrshire and Kintyre and Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) first new route for nearly 20 years.

The first sailing of CalMac's new service is scheduled to depart Ardrossan in Ayrshire at 6.40pm, arriving at Campbeltown in Argyll at 9.20pm.

Scheduled to run three times a week throughout the summer, with an additional stop at Brodick on the Isle

of Arran on Saturdays, it is also the company's first ferry service between Campbeltown and Ardrossan since the MV *Glen Sannox* operated on the route in 1939.

The start of the pilot has been timed to tie in with the Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon and 10k race taking place on Sunday May 26 and with the Kintyre Songwriter's Festival which will be held in Campbeltown from May 24 until May 26.

Police appeal after shopper's iPod is stolen

AN IPOD Touch was stolen from a woman's handbag while shopping in Tesco's Oban store last Wednesday.

The handbag was sitting in the supermarket trolley and the device was

taken between 9.30am and 10.15am.

Shoppers who saw anyone acting suspiciously in or around the store at that time should contact Oban police on 01631 510500.

Public meetings to discuss Skye air link proposal

FLYSKYE, the group campaigning to re-establish air links between Skye and the mainland, is to host two public meetings in Portree and Broadford on June 6.

The gatherings, at Aros at 2.30pm and the Broadford Hotel at 7.30pm, will canvas local opinion on resuming regular air services from Ashaig airstrip at Broadford.

FlySkye spokesman Ian Blackford said everyone interested in the proposal was invited to attend.

He said: 'We are delighted that we will be joined at the public meetings by Graham Phillips, chairman of the TEC services committee of Highland Council, Neil MacRae of Hitrans and Gareth Kitching of RDC Aviation, who recently conducted a feasibility study into air services to Skye.'

Robert Muir and Stuart Macpherson of Highland and Islands Enterprise, who were instrumental in commissioning the study, will be present at both events.

FlySkye will also give a presentation on its aims and reflections on the consultants' report.

Meanwhile, the lobby group has arrangements in hand to meet transport minister Keith Brown and other MSPs at Holyrood on June 12.

Boat 'stunts' end on police charges

THREE men have been charged with reckless conduct for after performing 'doughnuts' in their boat near to rocks in the Sound of Kerrera.

The coastguard were called by concerned Oban residents, who watched the men, aged 38, 32 and 34, perform the stunt at around 8.45am on Saturday.

After escorting the men ashore, the coastguard contacted the police, alleging that the men were under the influence of alcohol.

Drink driver stopped on Mull refused test

A DRIVER on the Isle of Mull has been charged with failing to provide a further specimen after failing a roadside breath test.

The 31-year-old woman from Manchester was stopped by police at 5.45pm on May 13.

Woman driver fined for speeding

A WOMAN caught speeding on the A82 through Rannoch Moor has been fined £180 and given three penalty points.

Leanne Olsen, aged 27, of 34 Gelston Street, Glasgow pled guilty to driving at 71mph in the 60mph zone at White Corries on December 28.


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15/07/13	Cùrsa Flòdaigearraidh Flodigarry Course
22/07/13	Air Chuaire Exploring Skye
29/07/13	Gàidhlig Ìre 1, 3, 5, 7 Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7, Piana Piano, Clàrsach Clàrsach, Òrain òl is fealla-dhà Gaelic songs of Drink & Reverly, Cleasaidheachd Acting,
05/08/13	Gàidhlig Ìre 2, 4, 6, 8 Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8, A' Teagasg Dràma Teaching Acting, Gàidhlig/Gaeilge Gaelic for Irish Speakers Advanced, Òrain Ghàidhlig Gaelic Song
12/08/13	Gàidhlig Ìre 1, 3, 5, 7 Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7, Fìdheall Fiddle, Cinnidhean an Eilean Sgitheanach is Loch Ailse The Clans of Skye and Lochalsh
19/08/13	Gàidhlig Ìre 2, 4, 6, 8 Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8 Dealbhachadh Digiteach Photography (Advanced)
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Down Your Way

Crianlarich

By senior reporter Steven Flanagan

SPARKED by the announcement of the bypass road, the Crianlarich into Action (CIA) group is determined to make sure the village doesn't get left behind.

With the firm aim of ensuring the village becomes a destination in its own right, the small group of volunteers has been working hard to not just spruce the area up, but to create real attractions that will draw people in.

Already picturesque and surrounded by some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery, it could be argued it doesn't have much work to do.

However, Alan Smailes, who has been co-ordinating many of the organisation's events, said waiting to see what happens after the road is built isn't an option.

'The whole thing is about making sure people want to come here specifically, rather than a place to just drive through,' he said. 'With the bypass coming through we want to make Crianlarich a real destination.'

Headline project for CIA is creating a footpath network in and around the village. After working with landscape architects to design a network of paths, including an upgrade of the old railway behind the village hall, the route will form a 'linear park' suitable for all abilities.

Work is due to start this summer after the group received a £200,000 grant from the BIG Lottery Fund. It is hoped the paths will be complete by the end of the year.

Lower Station Yard has been an ongoing bugbear for residents for years. One of CIA's first actions was to create a plan to tidy up the yard and the group has now secured a 10 year lease on the land.

It is hoped planning permission can now be obtained to turn the area into a village centre, ideal for picnics and games.

'We had a volunteer day last week and did quite a bit of tidying,' said Alan.

'At the moment we're putting fruiting hedges - we got 450 free shrubs and bushes from the Woodland Trust, so that was excellent.'

The village car park has been cleaned up and the area around the war memorial has been tidied up.

Alan added: 'Hopefully the work we're doing is making the place better and more attractive for tourists already.'

FLOWER boxes are often seen around attractive villages when the summer season hits, but in Crianlarich they do things a little differently.

Villagers can often be seen heading down to the flower boxes in search of a snack or something to serve with their meal.

Residents aren't munching on petals or pollen, however. Instead they are taking advantage of the communal veg box scheme, which started last year.

Peas, cabbages and turnips are available for residents to pick up freely and munch away on.

Inspired by the Incredible Edible scheme, in co-operation with Stirling Council, the scheme arranged by the local community has already proved popular - if there was a slight problem last year.

Community councillor Alan Smailes said: 'We put the veg among the planting. It gets a lot of interest - it's surprising the amount of visitors who are really intrigued by them.'

'We did have a problem last year. One of the boxes on Willow Brae was victim to a deer that got there first and munched its way through a fair bit. We're taking measures to stop that happening again this year.'

A SPRING clean, new lights and some basic repairs means Crianlarich's public toilets are looking better than ever.

The new look is thanks to a joint project between The Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT), Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority - who donated £8,000 for the refurb - and Stirling Council. It's hoped their spring clean will make the area more attractive as a stopping point for tourists - and spare any in desperate need of the discomfort of searching for somewhere else.

Community councillor and Crianlarich into Action member Isla Craig worked on the project.

She said: 'As far as public toilets go, they're pretty nice now. The project was arranged by the SCDT, with money from the National Park.'

Stirling Council then fixed the plumbing and made fabric repairs to the building.'

External security lights have been fitted and air fresheners are to be installed. Signs are also to be improved.

While already open for use, it is hoped the toilets will be formally opened in the coming weeks.

Next week Down Your Way visits Tarbert.



Clachaig Inn staff Franchesca McGarry, Stuart Price, Roger Davies and John MacIntyre with their haul of rubbish.

Clachaig Inn staff organise clean up

CAR TYRES - one complete with wheel - a cooker hob and an untouched 'carry-out' were among items recovered from the Glencoe back road on a recent litter-pick by Clachaig Inn staff.

Neighbouring local businesses including Glencoe SYHA Youth Hostel and Glencoe Independent Hostel also joined the clean-up between the top A82 junction and the bridge into the village.

A bag containing a petrol can and an oil bottle, together with a

suitcase, were among other items removed from the scenic spot.

Clachaig Inn general manager Gordon Keppie told *The Oban Times*: 'We have always taken it upon ourselves to keep our site and the area nearby tidy. It was all voluntary work and good fun.'

VisitScotland has awarded the Clachaig the Green Tourism Business Silver Award in recognition of environmental achievement and operating a sustainable business.



Ballachulish pupils enjoy the outdoors

Ballachulish Primary School pupils recently enjoyed their annual visit to Glencoe Outdoor Centre. Children from Ballachulish and St Brides primaries spent three days taking part in a range of activities including hill walking, climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, archery, long boat and problem solving. Above, a group of pupils prepare for a stint on the water.



Lochyside's LEPRAs charity boost

Lochyside RC Primary School has handed over a cheque for leprosy charity LEPRAs Health in Action. The money was raised by the pupils carrying out sponsored aerobics workout, with Trish Pakenham from LEPRAs coming to the school to pick up the money raised. P6 pupil Jazmin McFauld got a special certificate after managing to raise £77 by herself.

SKYE

A GAELIC voice-over has been produced for an Isle of Skye doctor's health promotion video promoting the health benefits of regular exercise.

The nine-minute clip, '23½ Hours', has had world-wide exposure on YouTube and has been used by NHS Highland to encourage people to get fitter.

Now Broadford-based Dr Jonathan Hanson has had a Gaelic version of the video made to broaden its appeal even further.

Dr Hanson, originally from Canada and a specialist in sports and exercise medicine, said: 'The video offers a light-hearted take on what is a serious subject, and shows very graphically how you can and should improve your health by making small, simple changes in your daily routine.'

'It shows how being active for as little as 30 minutes a day can dramatically improve your health and mental well-being.'

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead said: 'The video has an important message, but imparts it in a very entertaining way, and I think the Gaelic version is just brilliant.'

KILCHOAN

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working on Mingary Castle near Kilchoan ahead of restoration work at the 800-year-old building have found several ancient artefacts at the site.

Among the items found is a coin, pieces of glass possibly from old windows and something which appears to be an old metal bucket.

A round piece of slate with a hole bored through was also uncovered. It would have been used as the weight at the bottom of a spindle for spinning wool.

In the moat surrounding the castle, pieces of bone, metal nails and china possibly dating back to the 18th century were found.

The work is being done ahead of efforts to restore the castle to its medieval glory by the end of 2014.

BALLACHULISH

A CRAFT and produce fair will be held at Ballachulish Village Hall on Saturday June 8 from 12pm-4pm.

As well as the goods and stalls on display, tea and coffee will also be on sale.



Youngsters' day out at nature reserve

SPEAN Bridge Primary School youngsters recently enjoyed a day out at the nearby Creag Meagaidh Nature Reserve. Pupils from P5/6/7 were taken on walks through the woods and given help to identify the many different species of plants, insects and birds on show.

They also painted A3-sized prints of some of the animals which live on the reserve, some of

which will be featured at an open day at Creag Meagaidh on Saturday June 2.

The children were all invited to the open day, which will also feature a shinty match and other events. Head teacher Kate MacGillivray said: 'The children left with several souvenirs handed to them as they left the reserve as a thank you for attending and for being so polite and well-behaved.' f2lspan1no

DUROR

DUROR Primary School, together with the local community, will celebrate the opening of the new south Duror cycle track next Wednesday.

The new section is the latest to be completed on cycling organisation Sustrans' Oban to Fort William route.

Speeches and cake at the Kentalen-Duror Village Hall will follow the 1.30pm official opening, which will take place at the new cycle path bridge opposite the school.

Duror head teacher Marylin MacDonald said: 'The number of cyclists at the school has really increased since the second cycle path opened.'

ARMADALE

THE ANNUAL Clan Donald Skye Garden and Craft Fair will be held in Armadale Castle Gardens on Saturday and Sunday.

More than 1,500 visitors

enjoyed the event last year and more than 50 stalls will again be displaying their wares.

The fair runs from 10am to 5pm on both days, with an admission charge of £1 for locals on proof residence within Skye, Lochalsh or Mallaig.

CROSSROADS Care Skye and Lochalsh will launch another charity 'pop-up shop' 'Aite' at Sleat Trading in Armadale today and tomorrow.

Quality second hand clothes and goods will be on display from 12pm-6pm on Thursday and 10pm-4pm on Friday.

GLENELG

GLENELG and Arnisdale Development Trust is holding an open forum to discuss community involvement in renewable projects in the area.

Representatives from Marine Current Turbines, Community Energy Scotland as well as local MSP Dave Thompson will all be present at the meeting, which gets underway tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm in Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Hall.

GLENCOE

GLENCOE and North Lorn Folk Museum in Glencoe Village has obtained funding from Museums Galleries Scotland and The Heritage

Lottery Fund to re-thatch the historic building.

The work will be taking place in August/September 2013. Meanwhile, the museum is on the lookout for more people to help out as the tourism season approaches.

Curator Karen Mailley-Watt said: 'We have a great dedicated team of volunteers but will require as many hands as possible this year for the roof project. Other initiatives we have a hand with include front of house work, helping at events, basic collections care and research and education.'

PLOCKTON

AFTER a rising number of 'behavioural incidents' at Plockton High School by a minority of pupils it has been decided to install approx 16 CCTV cameras around the campus, it was reported at the May meeting of the parent council.

The pupils require a large amount of supervision and are often placed in isolation or have sporting/social privileges withdrawn.

As always with bad behaviour parental support is required to enable the school to tackle the issue.

Concern was also expressed over behaviour on the school buses. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting.



Spotlight on bushcraft and drovers of old

SPEAN Bridge Primary School P4/5 pupils took to the woods above the village last Tuesday for their latest classroom topic, 'The Droving Journey'.

The children learned how the drovers of old walked cattle from the West Highlands to Crieff and lived off the land on the way, using bushcraft to feed themselves and telling stories round the campfire under makeshift shelters.

The topic was designed for primary schools taking part in the 'Stories in the Land' project

funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Ernest Cook Trust, and led by Dr Joyce Gilbert of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

The pupils set up their own field shelter, and enjoyed storytelling workshops and woodland craft 'around the fire' from two professionals, Claire Hewitt and Alistair Davidson.

The children then returned to the classroom to write their own stories, which will be read out at the Scottish Storytelling Festival at Edinburgh in October.

ISLE OF SKYE ROTARY CLUB

ISLE OF SKYE Rotary Club is seeking nominations for a 'citizen of the year' to receive the Maurice Nicol award.

The accolade is given annually in remembrance of Mr Nicol, a late past president of the club.

SKYE AND LOCHALSH

Nominees are deemed to have carried out outstanding service to the community in which they live, or for Skye and Lochalsh as a whole.

The award will be made at the club awards dinner at the end of the Rotary year, most probably in July.

Nominations should be sent to Hugh Clark at hugh@an-airidh.com.



Cheerleaders a star attraction at family day

Fort William cheerleading group the Ben Nevis All Stars were a star attraction at the recent Lochaber Together 5k and family day at the BA Club. The youngsters, who are based at Upper Achintore Primary School, thrilled the crowd with a well-choreographed dance routine. The group, which has only been running for two years, harbours ambitions to reach soon the standard required to enable them to take part in national competitions.



Scouts, cubs and beavers turn detective at 'spy camp'

Scouts cubs and beavers from Kilmallie, Mallaig, Morar and Strontian joined Spean Bridge group The Braes at their first camp of the year, called 'spy camp'. Around 125 youngsters took part in the weekend, despite some inclement weather. On Saturday they tried their hands at fingerprinting, casting footprints, code making and a blindfolded obstacle course, all to try and catch the villain who had stolen the camp fire fuel. They also enjoyed trials bikes demonstrations and juggling from the camp leaders. Camp organiser Sean Sessions said: 'The day was rounded off with a good old fashioned sing song round the camp fire whilst the hot chocolate warmed.'

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Earthquake strikes west Lochaber

WINDOWS rattled and the ground shook in west Lochaber on Saturday night when an earthquake with a magnitude of 2.9 hit the area.

The quake was recorded as occurring 12kms underneath Acharacle at 7.18pm and was felt by residents from Glenfinnan to Kilchoan.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) said the rumbles would have been felt up to a distance of 30kms from Acharacle. BGS received 53 online reports from members of the public, with the majority coming from Acharacle and Strontian.

Bid to block shinty shake-up defeated

MOVES to block plans to re-organise shinty's top leagues were narrowly voted down at a meeting in Fort William on Friday.

Skye Camanachd, Kingussie, Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore put forward a resolution to withdraw the restructuring plans and keep the current system in place and to have further consultation of a new league structure.

The Camanachd Association wants to create a new national first division one and reduce the premiership from 10 teams to eight from 2014. Twenty two out of the 51 members voted in favour of Skye's resolution, with 18 voting against. The other 11 clubs did not take part. This meant Skye gained 43 per cent of the vote, falling short of the 75 per cent required.

Walkers step out for Heather

AROUND 100 people are expected to take part in the annual two-mile sponsored 'Heather's Walk' in Corpach this Sunday afternoon.

The event, which has raised more than £50,000 for Highland Hospice since its inception, was set up by Margaret Simpson and Sarah Walker in memory of their close friend Heather Robertson.

The walkers will set off from Kilmallie Hall at 1.30pm and head along the Caledonian Canal to Banavie swing bridge and back. As well as the walk, a number of stalls will be set up at Kilmallie Hall. Ms Walker told *The Oban Times*: 'We're hoping to get around 100 to 150 people taking part.'



The local strongmen who took part in Sunday's event - Jeremy Vickers, Gary Robertson and Cameron Kennedy.

Strongman Jeremy bags Euro place with Scottish win

CAOL man Jeremy Vickers has been named Scotland's Strongest Man under 90kgs after winning a competition in Fort William on Sunday.

The win also means Vickers has booked his place in the Europe's Strongest Man competition for the second year in a row.

Vickers took first place ahead of 10 other competitors at the BA Club, including Spean Bridge pair Gary Robertson and Cameron Kennedy.

Robertson took sixth place overall, winning the 325kg arm-over-arm chain pull event along the way, while Kennedy finished in tenth.

Former national strongman champion Chris 'Goose' Innes of Spean Bridge handed out the trophies after the event.

It wasn't all plain sailing for Vickers, as during the final event, the Atlas stones, he went over on his ankle and ripped ligaments.

The injury is likely to keep him out of action for up to 10 weeks. But Vickers, who helped organise the event, told *The Oban Times* it had been a 'really good day' apart from his injury.

He said: 'We had a good crowd and we managed to raise £153 for STAR for Harris just with people throwing in their loose change.'

'It was a good turnout and the weather was good so I think we timed it well.'



Fort William's Justine all smiles after being named best dental nurse in Scotland

A FORT William woman has been named the best dental nurse in Scotland at a glittering awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Justine Macdonald, 25, of M&S Dental Care, won the award at the Scottish Dental Awards 2013 at Hampden Park last Thursday night.

Justine, who has worked as a dental nurse for the past six years, told *The Oban Times* the ceremony was a 'great night'.

She said: 'It was really nice to win, especially as all the other

people nominated were from big practices down south.'

And Justine isn't planning to rest on her laurels. She is about to embark on a further year of studying to earn a qualification in sedation dentistry.

M&S dentist Gregor Muir said: 'Justine quietly provides a top quality service, there's no hassle, she's just a natural. It's a pleasure to have her here.'

Practice manager Jillian Bruce added: 'She encompasses the whole ethos of a well-trained,

good quality dental nurse. She exudes confidence and that leads to patient confidence in the chair.'

Ms Bruce was also nominated, for a dental lifetime achievement award. She said: 'I was really pleased to be nominated, not that I was ever expecting to win. Just to be shortlisted was a great compliment.'

M&S Dental Care was one of four practices shortlisted for one of the top awards on the night, best NHS practice award.

Arisaig goes for own Post Office

A LOCHABER community wants to run its own Post Office after it was announced the village was no longer viable for a stand alone office.

There are now two possible options for the future of Arisaig Post office - either it is taken into an existing business as a sub post office, or the local community runs it for themselves.

A public meeting was held in the village last Friday with both the local Spar store and Arisaig Community Trust (ACT) expressing an interest.

Spar say it is keen to take the office on board, but ACT raised the possibility of refurbishing the Arisaig Land, Sea and Islands Centre and opening a community-run post office there.

ACT member Gordon Stewart told *The Oban Times* although many people in the village seemed happy with it moving into the Spar, the trust was keen to explore all options.

He said: 'The general feeling is that the post office is likely to end up in the Spar. We're trying to tell people there are other options. We just want to keep

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

people thinking and find out as much as possible. If there is a will it wouldn't be impossible, although it would be a lot of hard work to run. The majority seem to think it would be fine in the Spar, but we don't know that yet.

We are still following it through and keeping on the back of the Post Office to make sure they do consult fully with the local community. Communication hasn't been brilliant so far.'

Mr Stewart continued: 'The general feeling is that it will probably end up in the Spar but the trust want to make the village think about it and realise there are other options before we just hand it over to another company.'

ACT is due to meet with Post Office Ltd representatives on June 20 to discuss the move.

A spokesperson for CJ Lang, which runs the Spar shop, confirmed to *The Oban Times* the company had put in a note of interest to take on the post office.

Runners tackle Trotternish Ridge

A CHALLENGING hill race along the Trotternish Ridge in North Skye saw more than 40 runners compete in tough conditions on Saturday.

The unmarked 17.5-mile route, which started at Flogdiggary and ended at the Storr, involved 7,500 feet of climbing. Skye

and Lochalsh Running Club's Sarah Stevenson was the first female home, taking ninth place overall. Niall Till was the first local male home, while Alec Keith took the win in a time of three hours 19 minutes and 42 seconds - nearly an hour quicker than the second quickest athlete.

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West Coast Energee has chosen to work with leading wind turbine manufacturers Lely-Aircon and Evance. The company, which operates in the north and west of Scotland, has installed and continues to service over 110 wind turbines that they have installed over the last five years. Its latest completed work is the installation of ten

turbines for Scottish Water in Stornoway. Eddie Johnstone Scottish Water project manager stated 'we are delighted that the Stornoway wind project is completed, we chose Evance turbines as energy can be generated and used on site reducing the need to purchase from the grid, resulting in lower energy costs. Evance have over 1,600 number R9000 wind turbines installed in the UK.

Lely-Aircon is huge in the agri sector with a turnover of over 600 million last year, their turbine's ace, other than its german build quality, is its virtual total lack of noise, being unaudible at 70 meters away.

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Above examples are based on the current fits rate of 0.22 pence for each 'fit' unit and the existing cost of 0.14

pence per unit currently being paid, also all energy produced being used on site. For all new applicants the fits rate is 0.22 pence this rate will remain fixed until March 2014, when the fits rate will hugely decrease.

As the average cost of installation for Evance R9000s is £28,000, including VAT, Lely-Aircon 10kW turbines, which cost £66,000 inclusive of VAT these turbines could effectively pay for themselves within five or six years.

Both wind turbines come with a full five year manufacturer's warranty; as part of installation costs, West Coast Energee will include insurance for such issues as damage caused by adverse weather conditions, loss of earnings and technical breakdown for the first twelve months for both turbines.

Subject to customers' provisions of land and grid connection points, Evance can arrange a free energy model, essentially connecting their homes to free electricity. Lely-Aircon will be able to discuss lease finance options with customers, example of lease £1,130 monthly over 5 years or

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Eric Smith, A long standing Fellow of the Institute of Travel and Tourism in the UK, celebrates 40 years in the travel business based in Oban this year. Eric established "Eric Smith World Travel" based in Oban Argyll, in February 1991, making them one of the longest established and most experienced Independent Travel agents still trading in Scotland. Eric has seen Thomas Cook, Pickfords Travel and Going Places come and go in Oban, which he puts down to attention to detail and the trust that he and Dianne MacColl, who has been the manager since the mid nineties, and his staff have built up over the years. Dianne has been in travel since 1988, starting her Travel career with Eric at Pickfords Travel in George Street, Oban. Pamela Holland, formerly of Thomas Cook in Oban has recently joined to restart her travel career at Eric Smith World Travel.

The team has sent literally thousands of West Highlanders all over the world. As an independent agent, part of the Worldchoice Travel Network group with several hundred shops in the UK, they have access to prices as good if not better than any other high street travel shop, and most online travel agencies, and will try to match or beat any genuine quote. Eric has noticed a huge increase in interest in cruising in the last few years and this now constitutes a large percentage of the business. "Prices are as low this year as any time in the last ten years, if you are considering a cruise this may well be the year to try it". For example, they have an Ocean View cabin on a 7 night Fjords cruise available at only £399 from Southampton on 1st June at time of going to press, reduced from well over a thousand pounds per person.

Spotlight ON Mull



Islanders unequivocally back suspended local councillor

ISLANDERS on Mull have given their unequivocal backing to local councillor Mary-Jean Devon as she decides her political future.

Suspension

The move follows councillor Devon's suspension from the SNP party, along with 10 of her colleagues, after they formed a coalition without the pre-

approval of the party's National Executive Committee.

Councillor Devon told a meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) the group believed were doing the right thing in talking to other councillors first.

She said: 'We didn't get it right.

'We should have cleared it with the SNP first. They said no and

we have all been suspended.'

Councillor Devon has since signed up with the SNP again as she would have been unable to participate in local discussions with other party members if she had not but members of MCC are urging her to go independent.

Bert Leitch told councillor Devon she worked hard for

people on Mull and would have their support regardless of politics.

Independent

Jim Corbett added: 'There is nobody on Mull who doesn't appreciate how hard you have worked.'

'I'm quite sure you would get the votes of Mull.'

While MCC vice chairman

Calum MacLachlainn said: 'It wouldn't matter what Mary-Jean was part of, she would get my vote.'

Joanne MacDougall added: 'Everyone should be independent, everyone should have their own voice.'

A vote at the meeting showed unanimous support for the popular local councillor and she

said: 'I'm thinking at the moment, I have had people telling me I don't need hassle from a faceless committee.'

Councillor Devon had the highest number of votes in her ward, Oban South and the Isles. A total of 830 voters selected her as their first choice candidate while 471 put her as second choice and 436 as third.

Lifeboat crew come to aid of injured man at Tobermory pontoons

THE EIGHTH shout of the year for Tobermory RNLI unusually didn't involve going out to sea.

The volunteer crew were called late last Saturday afternoon to provide medical assistance to a man with a leg injury at the pontoons in Tobermory.

Crew members treated the man before an ambulance arrived, they then assisted ambulance staff in moving the man off the pontoons which were being buffeted by a fresh north-easterly wind.

The man was transferred to the hospital at Craignure for further treatment.

Temporary traffic lights installed at Bunessan Primary School

TEMPORARY lights warning motorists to slow down are to be installed outside Bunessan Primary School on the Isle of Mull.

Argyll and Bute Council are to install the electronic lights as the existing ones outside the school are unreliable meaning instead of being limited to 20mph motorists can travel at 60mph while children are leaving school.

A contract for maintenance of school signs across Argyll and Bute had been expected to be arranged by mid April with work underway by now.

But a spokeswoman for the council said: 'The contract has been enhanced to include replacing the signs as well as fixing them so will be returned later than planned.'

'In the meantime we will put in place two temporary electronic signs outside the school which will warn drivers about the speed limit and ask them to slow down.'

Police on Mull had previously warned the situation was putting the lives of children at risk but they could take no action as long as the lights failed to operate correctly.

Mull producer joins Open Farm Sunday

FARMS across Scotland are to open their gates to those interested in learning about where their food is grown and produced.

Treshnish Farm, at Calgary on the Isle of Mull, will be taking part in Open Farm Sunday on June 9.

This annual event, organised by Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF), showcases British farming and is a chance to show support for farmers.

At Treshnish there will be static machinery displays and self guided walks with donations going to local charities.

Driver information leaflets available

NOTICES informing visiting motorists to the Isle of Mull how to drive on single track roads are to be available on board ferries.

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has confirmed that driver notices will be available on ships for motorists to pick up.

The leaflets, arranged by the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee, let visitors know how to deal with passing places, teach courtesy in allowing other drivers to pass and consideration for cyclists and horse riders.

The ferry operator has stopped short of handing out the leaflets to drivers waiting to board boats as requested. A previous meeting of Mull Community Council heard CalMac were afraid of 'setting a precedent'.

Cellist to visit Mull as part of 100 venue Benjamin Britten travelling tribute

A WORLD-renowned cellist will visit the Isle of Mull as part of a 100-venue project to commemorate the life of Benjamin Britten.

Matthew Barley takes his show Around Britten to An Tobar in Tobermory on June 1, the concert will include live electronics and visuals.

The tour celebrates 100 years since the birth of Benjamin Britten, who was a central figure in classical music as a composer, conductor and pianist.

Mr Barley said: 'This tour combines many of the things I love in music: core repertoire, commissions, multi-media work, education, looking for new ways and places to present great music, and, of course, the extraordinary suites of Benjamin Britten.'

'It will be a great odyssey, travelling throughout the land with such a wonderful programme, meeting so many people who would not normally hear this music.'

Sea eagle sculpture row flies on

A ROW over sea eagles on Mull is raging on despite the offer of a sculpture of the birds, which sparked the recent controversy, now being retracted.

A public debate to decide the future of the birds on the island will now be organised by local councillor Mary-Jean Devon.

At a heated meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) last week chairman Steve Willis told the group: 'This subject is so controversial that the moment we mention it people just explode with their own opinions.'

MCC had received an offer of a sea eagle sculpture from artist Bernard Kramer, to be sited at the pier in Craignure. Most MCC members had been against the idea but offered alternative suggestions for the sculpture.

Rory Forrester told the meeting he had heard from a 'leading ornithologist' who said: 'There are far too many of these birds on the island and they are damaging the wildlife of the island.'

Mr Forrester added: 'There is a danger that if the community council supports something like this they could be supporting something which, in the long run, damages a huge part of the economy of the island - the wildlife.'

Concerns over the impact sea eagles have on lamb numbers and farmers' livelihoods were also raised during the discussion.

And Mike Shilson said a Dervaig resident had been told cutting down a dangerous tree in their garden would be illegal as there was a sea eagle nest nearby.

Secretary John Clare disputed much of what was put forward and presented an 'independent' report supporting the island's sea eagle population.

Calum MacLachlainn, vice chairman, urged those present to stick to the facts. He said: 'We need to move away from the controversy and find a middle ground.'

'We are here as community council members not to attack each other but to pull together and work for the benefit of all so we can have something to be proud of.'

Mr MacLachlainn also questioned whether there was a case for 'limiting the number of sea eagles.'

The meeting heard the eagle sculpture had now been offered to Caledonian MacBrayne for the ferry terminal in Oban.

A spokesman said: 'We have been contacted by Bernard Kramer and said that we are not adverse to siting a sculpture in or around the terminal but have asked for more information.'

Details of the public debate, to be held in Craignure Village Hall, will be available in due course.

Kilvickeon's ancient church is focus of emergency care



The burial ground at Kilvickeon on the Ross of Mull.

Annual outdoor service emphasises Gaelic tradition

EMERGENCY work has been carried out on a medieval church on the Isle of Mull which has been in a deteriorating condition for years.

Kilvickeon Church was built on the Ross of Mull in the late 12th or early 13th century, it is dedicated to Ernan, the son of Eoghan, who was the nephew of Saint Columba.

Only ruins remain of the once well used church but certain features are still intact, including an archway which was the entrance to Kilvickeon.

Urgently needed repair work has recently been carried out at the site by a team of stonemasons, headed up by historical architect, Krystyna Pytasz of Addison Conservation and Design.

Historic Scotland granted £36,000 to pay for the work to

protect the most fragile parts of the medieval kirk after the remaining features were deteriorating with exposure to the weather.

The group picked out vegetation and carried out repointing with a lime mortar, enduring gales and freezing temperatures as they worked.

Rosie Burgess, who is working on the project of improving Kilvickeon, said: 'The work has given the old walls a new sense of security, inviting interest in their unusual construction using an opus emplectum technique, but with the two external skins being effectively a cladding of thin, vertically placed stones.'

'With the support of Biddy Simpson, who helps community volunteers to formulate and implement ideas to preserve local historical features through the

Adopt a Monument Scheme, members of the Ross of Mull Historical Centre are now considering a second phase of the project.

'It is hoped this would complete the stabilisation of the walls and enhance visits to the site, not just as a historical attraction but for those with family interred there.'

Kilvickeon became ruinous by 1795 but the surrounding burial ground continues to serve the local community together with a new cemetery.

The site was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1999 and for the last 10 years an annual outdoor service has been held at Kilvickeon with the emphasis on Gaelic tradition.

Ideas on how to take Kilvickeon forward are now being sought from the local

community. Suggestions so far have included information panels, benches, improved access, an archaeological project for school children and a project following up family trees.

Ideas are needed by the end of May to seek a commitment from Historic Scotland, which will be able to contribute to the funding of the second phase.

This would allow the time to finalise details and approach other funders over the coming year. The centre has already had donations from individuals who are keen to see the site preserved.

Ideas can be given to Rosie or Nigel Burgess on 01681 700509 or rosie@burgessmull.f9.co.uk, you can also contact The Ross of Mull Historical Centre on 01681 700659 or enquiries@romhc.org.



The younger children set off from Tenga.

Youngsters raise funds with annual bike ride

PRIMARY school children on Mull have been raising money for good causes on the island by taking part in a bike ride.

The Isle of Mull Lions annual cycle ride took place last weekend with older children

cycling from Dervaig to Salen while younger ones joined at Tenga.

Barbara White, from Iom Lions, said: 'Within half an hour of the start, the weather changed, at first a very light

drizzle, which got steadily heavier as the ride went on. Were the riders put off with the rain? Not at all.

'All rode valiantly on, arriving at Salen school dripping wet but in good spirits. The burgers and

drinks at the end of the journey were greatly appreciated.'

The Isle of Mull Lions wish to thank everyone who helped with the event. Secondary children will be invited to join in next year's event.

Free home safety visits from island firefighters

FIREFIGHTERS on the Isle of Mull are reiterating their call for islanders to take up free home safety visits.

Fire safety checks are available to all residents on the island and include help putting together a fire escape plan as well as installation of smoke and heat detectors.

Willie Hume, watch commander at Tobermory Community Fire Station is encouraging everyone to take up this free offer.

He told last week's meeting of Mull Community Council: 'I would love this to go a step further - some people still don't know about it - it is a rolling programme.'

Mr Hume is also asking that if anyone has vulnerable neighbours or relatives they arrange a check for them.

Visits can be made by contacting any member of Scottish Fire and Rescue on Mull or phoning Mr Hume on 0787616169.

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Canada and Scotland unite to remember brave airman



Mark McCann lays the Royal British Legion Scotland wreath at the new memorial. 20_f21pilot05



Colonel Brian Hume lays the wreath from the Canadian Royal Air Force. 20_f21pilot06



Provost of Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson lays a wreath on behalf of Highland Council. 20_f21pilot04



John Whyte, right, and Donald Cameron of Lochiel listen as Inverloch piper Ewen MacQueen plays 'The Floor's o' the Forest'. 20_f21pilot03



Above: Lochaber Archaeological Society chairman Robert Cairns was a proud man after the plaque unveiling. 20_f21pilot08



Left: A Royal Navy helicopter did a special fly past over the crash site and the new memorial. 20_f21pilot09

CANADA and Scotland joined hands last Thursday to remember the sacrifice of a young Canadian airman whose Spitfire crashed into a Lochaber mountainside.

Flying Officer John Donald MacDonnell was on a WW2 aerial photographic reconnaissance mission on May 16 when his fighter hit Meall an t-Suidhe near Fort William.

And 70 years to the day after the 21-year-old was killed, military and civic representatives laid wreaths beside a new memorial laid in his honour at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre.

Inverloch piper Ewen MacQueen played 'The Floor's o' the Forest and John Whyte 'The Last Post' at the solemn ceremony, which was repeated seven hours later in Officer MacDonnell's home town of Smithers, British Columbia.

For Lochaber Archaeological Society chairman Robert Cairns, who spent eight months researching the tragic incident and campaigned for a permanent memorial, the occasion was a special moment.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is fantastic this is happening here today and it makes me very proud. In Canada they are delighted this is taking place and will be holding their own ceremony at 2pm their time at Smithers public park memorial.'

In a special message to mark

the commemoration, Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper said 21-year-old John Donald MacDonnell had made 'the ultimate sacrifice'.

He said: 'It is my privilege to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre to mark the 70th anniversary of the passing of a brave Canadian flying officer.'

'I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the generosity of spirit displayed by Lochaber Archaeological Society and the support given by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.'

'Your efforts to ensure Officer MacDonnell's legacy does not perish are a tribute to the deep friendship shared between our two great nations.'

'While Officer MacDonnell's final resting place lies far from his native land, you have opened your hearts to his memory and embraced his sacrifice.'

'The beautiful plaque in his honour is a touchstone for all those who wish to pay their respects, now and in the future.'

A letter from Colonel P Keddy of the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in London was also read out.

He said: 'About 125,000 Canadian airmen served in

UK during the second Great War, and Pilot Officer MacDonnell's fate was representative of over 17,000 Canadian airmen who last their lives during the course of the war.'

'Whether lost in training or combat missions, the loss of our national treasures is one that we must continue to recognise, regardless of the circumstances.'

'Without the spirit demonstrated by you and the Lochaber Archaeological Society, our armed forces would not be successful or sustainable.'

Smithers' representative in the Canadian Parliament, Nathan Cullen MP, said in a letter to Mr Cairns: 'Your efforts underscore the promise we made to our veterans that, generations later, their sacrifice in defending democracy would not be forgotten - and speaks to the enduring friendship across the Atlantic Ocean as well.'

'This commemoration means a tremendous amount to me and to my home community in Smithers, British Columbia.'

Also by letter, The Queen's diary secretary Helen Cross said the monarch 'was touched' to receive an invitation to attend and had read the historical background 'with the closest interest' but was unable to attend as she was already committed on May 16.



Emotional moment: Marnie Mortimer travelled with husband John from Belfast for the ceremony. 20_f21pilot01



RAF Lossiemouth station commander Wing Commander John Nixon reads out the letter from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. 20_f21pilot07



Dalmally children plant woodland

Children at Dalmally Primary School have been growing trees to create their own 'wildwood' in the school grounds and the area has just been fenced with material donated by the Forestry Commission. Pictured with some of the native trees they are planting are Graham MacDonald, nine, and Darren Docherty and Richard Mutter, both 10, while the rest of the primary five, six and seven pupils look on. 121twenty01



New logo for Strontian school

An 11-year-old Strontian Primary School pupil has designed a new logo for his school. Angus Ogilvie's circular design has been printed on school sweatshirts and bears the name Bun Sgoil Shron an t-sithein - Strontian Primary. The budding artist's winning logo depicts the two highest peaks in the Strontian area - Donald's Peak and The Girl's Peak. 121twenty04



Lord of the Isles skipper and crew

Caledonian McBryne skipper jobs are in great demand as the men can spend half of their time at sea and half on land with their families. Skipper Colin Billimore, right, with chief engineer Bob Wallace, second mate Charlie McCurdy and third mate Cameron MacLeod. 121twenty06



Lynne Galbraith presented the cheque to Emma and Lisa, who accepted it on behalf of their mum Marie Cunningham. 121twenty03

Western Isles' support praised

A charity that helps people who are recovering from mental illness make their way back into the community has praised the support it has received since setting up its first base in the Western Isles. Helping Penumbra build for the future are, front row, Neil MacKinnon and Wendy Spencer with, back row, Archie MacMillan, Calum Kerr, Donnie Morrison and Murdo Nicholson. 121twenty05



Bungee boost for Soroba group

Bungee jumper Allan MacDougall hands over a £530 cheque to representatives of Soroba Young Family Group (SYFG). With him are Alyson Clarke and her daughter Jade who both collected sponsor money for Allan, and Susan Moore, SYFG's development worker. 121twenty02



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Trial postponed after witness fails to attend

THE TRIAL of a Fort William woman accused of making a racist comment towards another woman in the town was postponed on Monday after an essential Crown witness was not present.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said the witness in the trial of Alexandra McIssac, did not live in Lochaber and had only been informed of the trial date on Saturday.

McIssac, of 33 Wallace Place, denies acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting and swearing at the woman and uttering a racist comment at Wallace Place on November 24.

The 38-year-old is now set to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 4.

No insurance to cover test drive

A BANAVIE man who neglected to get insurance before taking a car for a test drive has been fined £150 and given six penalty points.

Jonathan Bovill, of Camhanaich, was spotted driving the Peugeot 306 on North Road, Fort William, on October 17 by police, who ran a check on the car and discovered it was not insured.

The 23-year-old offshore worker told Fort William Justice of the Peace Court he was insured on his mother's car, but had expected Pavel Zal, who was selling the car, to have sorted cover for the Peugeot.

Defending Bovill, Hamish Melrose said: 'He assumed the vehicle would be insured for someone to test drive it. It was a wrong assumption, but an understandable one.'

Zal, of 168 Kilmallie Road, admitted allowing Bovill to test the car without checking his insurance details and was also fined £150 and given six penalty points.

The 30-year-old mechanic's solicitor Stephen Kennedy said it was 'wholly unrealistic' to expect the seller to sort out insurance.

He said: 'Mr Zal understandably assumed anybody wishing to drive a private vehicle would put insurance in place first.'

Man accused of shouting racist abuse

A CORPACH man has appeared in court from custody accused of shouting racist abuse at a man at Corpach Basin.

John MacKenzie is also accused of driving while nearly three and a half times the legal alcohol limit on the A830 and at Corpach Basin.

Both the alleged incidents occurred on Saturday May 18.

MacKenzie, of 17 Clerk Drive, made no plea and the case was continued to a further hearing on June 4.

The 59-year-old was released on bail under conditions not to approach the alleged victim.



Muriel Gray launches the Wild Lochaber Festival at Ben Nevis Distillery on Friday night. Committee member Ian MacLeod helps get the message across. 20_121wild01

Lochaber's the place to be: Muriel's festival message

JOURNALIST and broadcaster Muriel Gray launched the second Wild Lochaber Festival in her own inimitable style at Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William on Friday evening.

Ms Gray, whose 1991 TV series The Munro Show saw her clamber up Lochaber's best known peaks, is a frequent visitor to the area. So when festival organisers invited her to be guest of honour, 54-year-old Ms Gray was delighted to accept. She told *The Oban Times*: 'I am

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

hugely delighted to be involved in something that aims to bring in people to this incredibly beautiful area.

'Lochaber has absolutely everything - the beaches, the scenery, the mountains - from Glencoe to the Small Isles we have it all.'

'I've been coming here since I was a child and even did a summer job as a waitress in the

Alexandra Hotel. I absolutely loved it and that sold the deal for me. I have a very close bond with Lochaber and its people, so much so that I leave fingernail marks when I get dragged home.'

Festival committee member Ian MacLeod, from South Laggan near Invergarry, said the eight-day event was all about raising Lochaber's profile as an outdoor destination.

The wildlife guide and semi-professional photographer told *The Oban Times*: 'Scottish

Natural Heritage has launched its 'Big 5' animals as a must see in the Year of Natural Scotland.

'They are the red squirrel, red deer, golden eagle, common seal and the otter. Mull and Speyside have some - but Lochaber has them all.'

The eight day festival, an Outdoor Capital of the UK event, ends on Saturday.

For programme details visit <http://www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/whats-on/wild-lochaber-festival-2013>.

Match date row throws doubt over local shinty derby

LOCHABER'S derby match against Fort William at Spean Bridge this weekend has been thrown into doubt after a disagreement over when the match should be played.

A decision was made at the start of the season to play the tie this Sunday, but at the start of the month Fort William asked for the game to be moved to a more usual Saturday slot.

But Lochaber were not happy, saying some of their players were not available to play in the relegation battle on Saturday.

Speaking on Monday, Lochaber manager Callum Cameron said: 'We have quite a few players who have made arrangements as per the fixture list. This is all very last minute.'

'Our position is that we're not available for the Saturday.'

Moved
Fort William chairman Richard Gall told *The Oban Times* his club asked for the game to be moved to Saturday a number of weeks ago as some of their players are not available on a Sunday.

The Camanachd Association agreed to reschedule the game for Saturday, prompting an official complaint from Lochaber.

CA chief operating officer Torquil Macleod said the CA did not have the power to force teams to play on Sundays and that the two clubs had arranged this fixture themselves.

He said: 'We look to give at least seven days notice and that's what we've done here.'

'I can understand the frustration but there's not much we can do.'

Caol man had stolen goods in his house

A FORMER Caol man was caught in possession of stolen goods following a police investigation into a series of thefts in Lochaber last year.

Dean Conn, pled guilty to reset of laptop and three cash boxes at 82 Kilmallie Road on February 13 last year.

Police launched the investigation following thefts from Banavie quarry and Hawco car garage in Caol and gained a search warrant for Conn's house.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'The items were recovered from his premises a number of days after they were taken.'

Conn, of 10 Dunbeath Court, Coatbridge, was sentenced to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work in the next three months.

The unemployed 23-year-old had been accused of carrying out the thefts but the Crown accepted his guilty plea to the lesser charge.



Father Tom Wynne and local girl Catriona Sutherland officially open Cup 'n' Cake.

Father Wynne opens new café and toilets

ROY Bridge's new café and public toilets were officially opened last week, with a number of locals gathering to see village priest Father Tom Wynne cut the ribbon.

The Cup 'n' Cake Coffee Shop, an extension to Roy Bridge Stores, was packed out with local schoolchildren also attending the ceremony.

P7 pupil Catriona Sutherland's

design for a logo for the café was chosen as the winner and she helped Father Wynne cut the ribbon.

Father Wynne said: 'The café also includes two public toilets, the first time Roy Bridge has ever had this, and this will be of immense benefit to visitors to the area. Already it is becoming a favourite place for locals for afternoon tea.'

Crianlarich bypass contract put out to tender: work to start this summer

THE £5.5 million contract to construct the Crianlarich bypass on the A82 has been put out to tender, with work expected to start this summer.

Five firms - Balfour Beatty, John Paul Construction, RJ McLeod, I&H Brown and Graham Construction - will bid to carry out the work, with construction work expected to last around 12 weeks.

Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'Our recognition of the A82 as a vital

economic and social lifeline means, through local consultation, we have developed a programme of road closures that will have less impact on road users, local residents, businesses and visitors.'

Vital
'Connecting businesses and communities in the Highlands and Islands with the central belt is vital to the area's future prosperity.'

'This investment will benefit local residents with less noise and congestion in

the village, whilst road users can avoid the current delays experienced at the junction where the A82 meets the A85.

'The work we are doing along this vital route will lead to improved road safety and journey time reliability and meet the needs of business, communities and visitors.'

Transport Scotland has also announced Halcrow Fairhurst Joint Venture will start design work on the Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade later this month.

Drink driving charge denied

A LOCHABER Rugby Club player has denied driving near the clubhouse almost twice the legal alcohol limit.

Pawel Fronczek, of Drim Sallie Mill, Glenfinnan, pled not guilty to drink driving in the Moorings Hotel car park in Banavie on April 21. The 32-year-old's case is set to go to trial, with a further hearing set for June 4.

Lawyer's surgery delays trial

THE TRIAL of a Banavie man accused of stealing from the BSW sawmill in Corpach has been postponed due to his lawyer having surgery on his wisdom tooth.

Darren Woods, of 9 Crown Cottages, denies stealing a flat pack garage on December 3. The 42-year-old is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 18.

Former ScotRail worker admits assault

A FORMER ScotRail employee drunkenly head butted a cleaner at Fort William Railway Station who he thought had taken his job.

Alan Tomlin admitted assaulting the man at around 10.30pm on October 26, two months after the 48 year-old lost his position as station maintenance operator.

Tomlin had held the post as an agency worker for a year. When it was advertised as a permanent position, he applied but was not offered the job.

After getting off the train from Glasgow, Tomlin spotted the victim and shouted at him before head butting him. The incident was caught on the station's CCTV.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He spoke to police and admitted having a drink in him. He said he basically lost it because the victim had taken his job.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered Tomlin, of 7 Camanachd Crescent, to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Boxing club bounces back with car boot sale

A KINLOCHLEVEN boxing club which was recently the victim of a theft raised nearly £200 for its upcoming home show with a car boot sale.

Claymores Amateur Boxing Club had alcohol and a small amount of cash stolen from its gym just weeks before hosting a Scotland vs England match up on June 15.

Stalls offering homebaking, clothes, toys and DVDs were put up outside the club gym, and despite the weather a number of locals came down to join the fun. Face painting and a barbeque were also on offer.

Club head coach Martin Glenesk said the local community had offered support to the club following the theft.

He said: 'We are really starting to come together as a club. I mean as a whole, not just the boxers but the boxers' families and friends and the communities around the area.'

'We have had offers of help and donations from Onich, Duror and Glencoe, including sponsors for bouts at our next show and a few bottles for a raffle.'

'The whole of the Nether/South Lochaber area has been brilliant and I would like to thank everybody for their help and continued support.'

The alcohol stolen had been saved up to stock the bar at the show, with Mr Glenesk estimating the value of the drink taken was around £1,000.

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - May 23

9am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Noe walk, meet Ballachulish tourist info or 9.30am at Oban's Longdale Road car park.
9am, Sugarpaste Craft, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
2pm and 6pm, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.
11.30pm, Skipinnish Thursday night disco, Oban.

FRIDAY - May 24

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

SATURDAY - May 25

10am, Open week at Oban Bowling Club, Dalriach Road, Oban.
10.30am, Great Scottish Tapestry viewing, Port Appin Hall.
11am, Flower Festival, Kilmore Church, Dervaig, Mull.
11.30am, Taynuilt Primary School car boot sale, auction mart, Dalmally.
12pm, Oban sevens rugby tournament, Glencruitten, Oban.
1pm, Kilmartin Gala Day.
2.15pm, Roller disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
7.30pm, Ceol's Craic and An Lochran, CCA, Glasgow.
7.30pm, Best of the West, Corran Halls, Oban.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
8.30pm, Nuala Kennedy and AJ Roach, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
9pm, Psychedelic 60's night, Paparazzi, Oban.
9.30pm, C-Red, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SUNDAY - May 26

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

MONDAY - May 27

11am, Lip na Cloiche charity opening, near Ulva Ferry, Mull.
12pm, Teddy Bear's picnic, Old Byre, Dervaig.
Flower show, Craignure Village Hall, Mull.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
8pm, Raymond Scott, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.

TUESDAY - May 28

1.30pm, Musical Memories, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
8pm, Platero, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
8pm, Raymond Scott, Bunessan Hall, Mull.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - May 29

11am, Cafe, Bunessan Hall, Mull.
2pm, Ardmore shore walk, meet Ardmore Forest car park, near Tobermory, Mull.
Basil Forgive, Royal Hotel, Oban.
7.30pm, Melfort Ukuleles, Kilmelford Village Hall.
8pm, Platero, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.

THURSDAY - May 30

10am, Ramblers Scotland Kinlochleven walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11.30pm, Skipinnish Thursday night disco, Oban.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
6.30pm, Two performances of Blar will take place at Bowmore Hall, Islay on 30 May at 6.30pm, Blar, Bowmore Hall, Islay.
7.30pm, Mull Through the Lens, Dervaig Church Hall, Mull.
8.30pm, Blar, Bowmore Hall, Islay.

FRIDAY - May 31

11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Organ recital, Kilmore Church, Dervaig, Mull.
2.30pm, Exclusive distillery tour, Oban Distillery.
7.30pm, Tremble, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
7.30pm, Peter Jagger, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
9pm, Oban Mic Night, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9.30pm, Sandra MacBeth, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SATURDAY - June 1

8.30am, Ramblers Scotland Ardnamurchan walk, meet Corran ferry slip for 8.45am sailing.
11am, Stramash fun day, Hilltops, Oban.
12pm, Skiff regatta, Ellenabeich, Seil.
3pm, Bring and buy sale, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
7.30pm, Skiff ceilidh, Seil Hall.
8.30pm, Matthew Barley, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
9.30pm, Crooked Reel, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SUNDAY - June 2

Skiff regatta, Ellenabeich, Seil.
2pm, Summer fete, Harmony House, Mull.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

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

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21st Loch Fyne Food Fair

THE 21st Loch Fyne Food Fair enjoyed one of its busiest weekends as thousands of people from across Scotland and further afield descended on Cairndow for the annual event.

The 2013 fair featured a distinctly Celtic theme as artisan food producers and top chefs from Cork took part in the event.

Martin Shanahan from Fishy Fishy in Kinsale joined Loch Fyne Oyster Bar's consultant chef Brett in cooking up a storm on Saturday in a meal that celebrated the culinary connections between the two countries. Sally Barnes from Woodcock Smokery and representatives from West Cork Hotel also launched a stall inside the food marquee.

The Irish 'foodies' joined the Food from Argyll food producers including Winston Churchill Venison, Crystals Shortbread, Home Ground Coffee and Fyne Preserves in the main food tent.

Commenting on the food fair, which ran on Saturday and Sunday in the fields beside the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar, Virginia Sumsion from the business said: 'It was one of our busiest events yet. We were lucky with the weather as we had a bubble of dry weather when everywhere else was pretty miserable.'

Loch Fyne Food Fair also acted as a fundraiser for Inveraray and Dunoon pipe bands as they manned the car parking area throughout the event, whilst Inveraray Primary School Parent Teacher Council opened a stall selling refreshments. Youngsters from Strachur Primary also sold 'crafty cocktails' to raise funds for Shelter.



Janis Lacie, Elsie Adam and Liz Reynolds were kept busy manning the Loch Fyne Oysters stall. 06_a21food09



The Camans from Inveraray entertained revellers at the food fair on Sunday afternoon. 06_a21food02



Sally Barnes from the West Cork Food Fair held a table talk session at the food fair on Sunday. Sally who runs Woodcock Smokery in Cork spoke about her work with wild salmon and mackerel. 06_a21food01



Tayvallich artist Susan Berry displayed a range of her paintings and prints in the craft tent. 06_a21food04

Right - Beithean Oxlund and Maya Ferrari from Strachur Primary School launched their Crazy Kids Cocktails stall at the food fair. The youngsters made a range of juice drinks for thirsty revellers in a bid to raise money for homeless charity Shelter. 06_a21food11



Rohan Kilkenny from East Lothian enjoyed a day out with the family. 06_a21food14



Above - Rhia Patrick from the Real MacKay Stovie Company served up comfort food to revellers. 06_a21food17



Claire Gilbert, Tom Gilbert and Matthew Houston from Taynuilt strolled around the food and craft tents at the fair in Cairndow. 06_a21food03



Left - Brothers Benjamin and Oliver Mason enjoyed the bouncy castle and children's attractions at the fair. 06_a21food05



The young dance pupils of Ballet West who will take over the Corran Halls this weekend.

Young dancers to perform eclectic mix in Corran Halls

THE 60 strong Ballet West company will be performing two shows in the Corran Halls this weekend. Both shows will feature different groups of dancers performing an eclectic mix of dance from the strictly classical to new choreography and street jazz numbers.

The Friday night is given over to the first and second year students. A company of 50 dancers will dance and sing their way through some much loved musical classics with excerpts from Les Miserables, classical choreography from Giselle and new original choreography devised and

performed by the students themselves. Saturday night is the turn of the eight third-year students. These students have considerable performing experience and all have performed in Romeo and Juliet in China and The Nutcracker, Swan Lake and Romeo and Juliet in the UK.

Lochaber History Society remember legendary Gaelic poet Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair

LOCHABER History Society's latest outing on Loch Shiel offered a great opportunity to evoke memories of the brilliant and controversial figure of legendary Gaelic poet Alexander

MacDonald, better known as Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair. Hailed as the most original and innovative poet of the 18th century, Alasdair belonged to the Clanranald

heartland of Moidart, his life following the fortune of his clan at the time of the 1745 rising.

After visiting the Green Isle where Alasdair's father is buried, under the eminent guidance of renowned Glenfinnan genealogist Tearlach MacFarlane a stop in Kinlochmoidart House, once the home of Alasdair's kinsman, offered the ideal opportunity for Michael Foxley to present the newest publication about the poet.

Dr Foxley, who wrote the introduction for the book, stressed how much of an unsung local hero Alasdair was and how tragic for Gaelic that repression post Culloden had managed to suppress his voice. Recently published by the Islands Books Trust, 'Alexander MacDonald, the poet of the Gaelic Enlightenment' brings together papers from a series of conferences which took place at Glenfinnan, Strontian and Canna from 2009 to 2011. Essays and translations by contemporary Gaelic poets appear alongside papers by renowned Gaelic scholars such as Ronnie Black, Hugh Cheape, DW Stewart, John Watts and Professor William Gillies.

Shedding light on various aspects of Alasdair's rich life and work, the book will enable the reader to explore locations associated with him in West Lochaber through the eyes of one of this most fascinating and complex characters in Scottish literature.



Tearlach MacFarlane, right, shares his repartee at the book launch with, left to right, Michael Foxley, Kinlochmoidart House owner Niño Stewart and Chris Robinson

Trail West to perform at charity ceilidh in Oban

TOP CEILIDH band Trail West will be performing at a charity fund-raising ceilidh in Oban on Friday, June 7.

The young band are currently causing a storm on the Scottish music scene.

Formed on Tiree in 2008 by founding members Ian Smith (accordion/vocals) and Andrew Findlater (drums/vocals), the band has since added further island fire power with multi-instrumentalist Seonaidh MacIntyre (whistles/bagpipes/tromb/vocals) from South Uist and fellow Tirisdeach Alain Campbell (guitar/bagpipes/vocals) to

create a blistering sound that presents an exciting twist on the traditional west coast ceilidh band style.

To catch them playing live in Oban, including tracks from their new CD, the band will be performing on Friday in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on June 7, with doors opening 7.30pm.

This charity fund-raising ceilidh is guaranteed to be a sellout so to get your tickets in advance by calling the NFU Scotland Office in Oban tel: 01631 567036 or there may be an odd one left on the door on the night.

It's turtle time at Barcaldine

TURTLES are being celebrated at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine with a range of special activities dedicated to the creatures.

Turtle Fest is running until June 2 to highlight turtle conservation efforts and raise vital funds for a new Sea Turtle Rescue Centre on the Greek island of Zakynthos.

Craig Connor, sanctuary general manager, said: 'Turtles live right here on the shores of Scotland and it is so important to highlight their plight for survival, but also educate the general public about these incredible creatures and support Zakynthos. 'It's also a great chance for us to celebrate the success of the turtle sanctuary, and the great work which our aquarists do in caring for these abandoned turtles.'

The sanctuary is also renewing its campaign for better protection of the vital sea turtle nesting beaches of Zakynthos.



The Appin Moonwalkers pictured before they set off around the loch. Picture: John MacTavish

Appin Moonwalk raises £6,000 for Breast Cancer Care

NEARLY £6,000 was raised by 140 fit fundraisers who took part in this year's Appin Moonwalk, in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

The biennial event sees fundraisers dressed in specially decorated bras walk the seven miles around a circular road

route on the shores of Loch Creran.

The event two years ago had 80 people taking part, raising £3,500 for the charity but this year's figures were described as 'amazing' by organiser Brenda MacLeod.

She said: 'It is a huge amount of money and I would like

to thank everyone who took part in the walk, as well as the 15 helpers back at the hall.'

The entrepid walkers set off at 9pm from Creagan roundabout, with the back markers completing the circuit by 11.30pm.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Star Trek into Darkness	Thursday 23rd	17:45 2D
	21 and over	Thursday 23rd	20:45 2D
	The Great Gatsby	Friday 24th	17:45 3D, 20:30 2D
		Saturday 25th	17:30 2D, 20:30 3D
		Sunday 26th	17:30 2D, 20:30 3D
		Monday 27th	17:45 2D, 20:30 3D
		Tuesday 28th	17:45 3D, 20:30 2D
		Wednesday 29th	17:45 2D, 20:30 3D
		Thursday 30th	17:45 3D, 20:30 2D
	The Smurfs	Saturday 25th	13:00 3D
		Sunday 26th	15:00 3D
	How to Train your Dragon	Saturday 25th	15:30 3D
		Sunday 26th	13:00 3D

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

The Great Gatsby (12A) An adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's Long Island-set novel, where Midwesterner Nick Carraway is lured into the lavish world of his neighbour, Jay Gatsby. Soon enough, however, Carraway will see through the cracks of Gatsby's nouveau riche existence, where obsession, madness, and tragedy await.

The Smurfs (U) When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the tiny blue Smurfs out of their village, they tumble from their magical world and into ours -- in fact, smack dab in the middle of Central Park. Just three apples high and stuck in the Big Apple, the Smurfs must find a way to get back to their village before Gargamel tracks them down.

How to Train your Dragon (PG) The story centres around a Viking teenager named Hiccup, who lives on the island of Berk, where fighting dragons is a way of life. The teen's smarts and offbeat sense of humour don't sit too well with his tribe or its chief...who just happens to be Hiccup's father. However, when Hiccup is included in Dragon Training with the other Viking teens, he sees his chance to prove he has what it takes to be a fighter. But when he encounters (and ultimately befriends) an injured dragon, his world is flipped upside down, and what started out as Hiccup's one shot to prove himself turns into an opportunity to set a new course for the future of the entire tribe.

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HIGHLANDSHEEP

SCOTTISH REGION

2013



THURSDAY 30TH MAY DINGWALL AUCTION MART, DINGWALL, ROSS-SHIRE, IV15 9TP
By kind permission of Dingwall and Highland Marts

FEATURES INCLUDE:

100 TRADE STANDS. 25 SHEEP BREEDS. DEMONSTRATIONS. SEMINARS. SHEEP DOG TRIAL & COMPETITIONS

FARMERS across the north of Scotland are gearing up for Scotland's newest sheep event, to be held in Dingwall at the end of the month.

The inaugural Highlandsheep event, organised by NSA Scotland, is being hosted by Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Thursday May 30.

The new event is being held in an attempt to reverse the decline of sheep flocks in the Highlands and islands by bringing the latest genetic, husbandry and technical information to the area and highlighting the marketing opportunities which exist for Scotch lamb both at home and abroad.

Scotland's biennial sheep event, Scotsheep, has not been held in the Highland area for some years and NSA Scotland is keen to give Highland sheep farmers a major event without having to travel further south.

NSA chairwoman, Sybil McPherson,

of Dalmally, said: 'It is very difficult, particularly over the last few years, to get Scotsheep to move up north.'

'This will be a new event running opposite years to Scotsheep to try and deliver for people in the north and Western Isles, and Orkney and Shetland, as they tend to get neglected.'

The event will be opened by Lady Claire Macdonald from Sleat, one of Scotland's leading restaurateurs, food writers, cookery demonstrator and champion of the Scottish food industry.

The one-day event is being arranged by a local committee under the chairmanship of Rod McKenzie, of Munloch, and will include more than 120 trade and sheep breed stands, seminars, demonstrations, educational exhibits, competitions, markets and a special show and sale of ewe hogs.

Mr McKenzie, who until recently was development manager with Quality Meat

Scotland's Scottish sheep strategy, welcomed the move by NSA Scotland to bring a major sheep event to the Highlands.

He said: 'The sheep industry has reached an important crossroads and we are looking to NSA Highlandsheep to inspire a new level of confidence and optimism among Highland sheep farmers.'

'This will be a must attend event for all sheep farmers throughout the Highlands and islands and further afield. It will give sheep farmers a great opportunity of meeting up with their fellow sheep farmers and catching up with all the latest developments in the sheep industry.'

He added: 'Lady Claire is an iconic figure in the Scottish food and farming industry and a tremendous ambassador for Scottish food, including Scotch lamb.'

'We look forward to welcoming Lady Claire to NSA Highlandsheep and

honoured that she has found time in her busy schedule to join us for this important event for sheep farmers in the Highlands and islands.'

The major sponsor of the event is animal feed manufacturer Harbro and sales director Chris Baxter said: 'We are very pleased to act as major sponsor for NSA Highlandsheep and support the commercial and pedigree sheep farmers who will benefit from this important event.'

'The Highlands and islands is a key trading area for Harbro and our customers appreciate the range of high quality innovative feed products which we produce.'

Mainline sponsors of the event include Caltech, Scotmin, British Wool Marketing Board, Campaign for Wool, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, Shearwell Data, QMS and MSD Animal Health.

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If grass growth continues to be slow it may even mean farmers grazing smaller groups of cattle on fields normally reserved for silage making

Cold weather stalls significant grass growth

AS GRASS slowly gets greener and begins to grow farmers across the west are sighing with relief as they let their cattle out of the sheds they have been living in for far too long.

However experts from Scotland's Rural College are warning that grass isn't ready to give the cattle all they need for a long season ahead and farmers must consider their feeding programmes.

Calving cows

According to specialist beef consultant Gavin Hill: 'The late season has put pressure on all parts of the system. On many farms with mixed stock feed supplies have become tighter every day with farmers desperate to get the animals out to grass. But they must remember spring calving cows for example need high levels of feeding just now. This year, just stopping the present indoor ration as they put them out onto new grass may be too much of a shock for the cows.'

Cows with a newly born calf to feed need a nutritious ration that helps their milk production as well as helping them regain body condition in order to be ready to be mated again, later in the year.

The advice from the SAC Consulting arm of Scotland's Rural College is to

keep breeding stock on a rising plane of nutrition, with concentrate feeding to maintain the energy levels needed. If grass growth continues to be slow it may even mean farmers grazing smaller groups of cattle on fields normally reserved for silage making.

'It is the younger cows, the first and second calvers, that need particular attention,' said Gavin Hill.

'On top of everything else they are still growing. Also lots of cows are so lean this spring they will need more than two months on just grass to regain condition, before they will be ready for the bull. I suggest treating them separately.'

'A high magnesium mineral supplement is also vital to reduce the risk of grass staggers.'

With parasites like liver fluke being widely reported farmers should take advice from vets and continue to monitor the situation.

It would also be worthwhile checking cows for any fertility problems or the after-effects of the difficult calving's many more cows have experienced this season. It may be unwise to breed from or keep those with problems and instead maximise the output from younger stock, like bulling heifers. 'But you will need grass for them,'

added Gavin.

'This year there are so many difficult decisions to make, all with knock on effects. For example delaying mating for a few weeks this year may allow the cows to get fitter, but then next years calving will be delayed with younger, lighter calves going forward to the sales. It's all about judgement and planning.'

Meanwhile for this years crop of calves the advice from Scotland's Rural Colleges expert is to offer feeding only they, and not adults, can reach.

'Creep feeding reduces the amount of grass the young stock need, leaving more for the cows. It will also boost the calf weights and wean them from their mothers' earlier, again improving cow condition.'

Finally, with all the attention to cows Gavin urges farmers not to forget the bulls. They should also be examined, checked and treated for any lameness at least two months before the breeding period. It would also be a good time to check fertility.

The key thing believes Gavin Hill is to talk to advisers and vets. Planning is important and it is good to discuss and talk over your thoughts with others. Many are in the same situation. A problem shared is a problem halved

NFUS to fund school visits to Scottish farms

THE NATIONAL Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS), as part of their centenary year celebrations, are keen to get as many school children as possible to visit a farm, to make that visit both educational and enjoyable and to create a platform for future visits in years to come. In addition, NFUS hope to be able to provide facilities to bring the farm into schools and fund events that educate everyone about farming and crofting.

The Union launched a Centenary Trust earlier this year to ensure celebrations in 2013 leave a legacy for the next 100 years. With this aim in mind chairman of the Centenary Trust and NFUS treasurer George Lawrie said:

'In its first year, the Trust will be supporting three causes - arranging farm visits for school children, improving on-farm health and safety and providing agricultural apprenticeships.'

'We will work closely with other organisations to try and get as many children as possible onto Scottish farms in 2013 to show them the contribution we make to their food and the countryside in which they live.'

Giving children the opportunity to learn at first hand - to see, smell, hear and touch the beautiful landscape, farm animals and wildlife that makes up the countryside can be

highly beneficial. A farm visit can bring reality, context and understanding to work carried out in the classroom and can provide challenges which are simply not available anywhere else - a chance to feed an animal, or see a sheepdog working or hear a tractor up close for example. A school visit to a farm or croft in Argyll will really bring alive a project on the countryside and turn it into something special for children. Any schools in Argyll who would be interested in finding out more about an on-farm visit can contact Lucy Sumsion, NFUS Regional Manager in Argyll - tel: 01499 600154. Alternatively if a school already has an idea for a farm visit and would like help in paying for transport, for example, they can apply to the Centenary Trust.

Further information and an application form are available from www.nfus.org.uk - look up Centenary Trust.

In order to raise funds for the Centenary Trust, plus two other local charities (ABCD and Macmillan Cancer Care), the Union has organised a charity ceilidh to be held on Friday June 7 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban - doors open 7.30pm, with the ceilidh band Trail West performing. Tickets are available in advance from the NFUS Office in Oban or on the door on the night.

New development officer for RSABI



A NEW development officer has been appointed to help people in the north of Scotland who depend on the land for their living but have fallen on hard times. Melissa Kelly has joined RSABI, Scotland's only charity which helps to relieve poverty and hardship among people who have depended for their livelihoods on land-based occupations.

Her role as a development officer will be to help develop an innovative project in northern Scotland aimed at relieving rural isolation and raising awareness of the charity's ability to help those in need.

Melissa said: 'Having grown up in a farming family and spent a great deal of time helping out on

farming, livestock and the wider rural scene and she now lives with her partner near Keith, helping him with his cattle in her spare time.

A former student of SRUC's Craibstone campus, Melissa then spent two years working at SRUC's Elgin office dealing with farming policy and assisting with cattle, SRDP, IACS and NVZ paperwork.

Paul Tinson, RSABI's development manager, said: 'We are delighted to welcome Melissa to the team. She has just the right experience and enthusiasm to ensure that RSABI increases its profile and its positive impact across the north of Scotland.'

In 2011/12, RSABI distributed over £125,000 in financial assistance to 140 individuals in northern Scotland but believes that a great many more could be helped if an active and sustainable development structure was in place for the area.

The Prince's Countryside Fund, over the next two years, enables RSABI to fund the post of Melissa Kelly who will create this structure.

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Heifers sell to £4400 at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd held a show and sale of breeding cattle at Stirling on Monday when 164 breeding cattle and 16 bulls were sold.

The day's top price was £4400 for a Limousin cross heifer with Limousin heifer calf at foot from West Thomaston, Banknock, which was bought by Brian Harper, Greenwells Farm, Falkirk.

Show champion was a Limousin cross heifer with Limousin bull calf at foot, also from West Thomaston and selling at £3900 to I Michie, Ballechin Farms.

Reserve champion was a Limousin cross heifer with Limousin heifer calf at foot also from West Thomaston, this time selling to £3200 to the judge James Thomson, Hilton of Beath Farm, Kilty.

Cows with calf at foot sold to £1750 for a Charolais cross from Redhouse and £1600 for a Limousin from Cairnbo.

In-calf heifers sold to £1400 and £1300 for Simmental crosses from Bolfornought, while in-calf cows sold to £1080 for a Limousin from Meikle Coull.

Bulling heifers sold to £2,200 for a Limousin from Baluskie and to £1360 for a Simmental cross from Newbigging.

The 62 heifers with calves at foot averaged at £222.59, with 18 cows with calves at foot averaging £1104.71. The 51 bulling heifers forward averaged £913.88.

Bullocks sell to 288p pk at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2127 store cattle and 123 cast cows, plus 228 store and breeding sheep last Wednesday at Stirling.

Bullocks averaged 225.54p (-5.72p) and sold to 288.0p per kg for a 382kg British Blue cross from Netherton and £1570 for a 640kg Charolais cross from Mid Craighton.

Heifers averaged 214.18p (-1.53p) and sold to 278.70p per kg for a 296kg Charolais cross from Glenrath and £1290 for a 643kg Charolais cross from Bennie Livestock.

Forward cattle averaged 182.15p and sold to 210.20p per kg for a Limousin cross from Killellan and £1270 for a Limousin cross from West Meikle Pinkerton

Crofters and farmers still buying in feed in May

It's definitely been one of the worst years for growth'

SPRING has finally sprung in the West Highlands - but unusually cold weather lasting into May has taken its toll on crofters and growers.

Among the casualties is the Lochaber Rural Education Trust, which runs a 'Seed to Supper' project for local primary children at An Clachan near Fort William.

Volunteer Mary Stafford told The Oban Times: 'The school are coming up every fortnight to plant but we are just finding that everything is very, very late in coming. I think we are about six weeks behind.'

'We planted early potatoes in tubs in February in the greenhouse but it's been so cold they are just starting to come through.'

'We planted more in the garden in March and they are just starting to show their faces and they should be well up by now. Even the daffodils are still blooming and they should be long gone.'

'Normally by June we have our healthy eating days when the kids come up to lift their carrots and cabbages and dig out potatoes - but it looks as if we will have to go to the supermarket for Seed to Supper this year.'

Alan Duncan has run the northernmost croft on the Isle of Skye at Shulista, North Duntulm, since 1992, with 40 acres in in-by-land and 421 acres of rough hill ground.

Mixed show on offer at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 446 store cattle, 27 breeding cattle and 61 OTM cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a mixed show of cattle on offer sold at lesser rates.

Bullocks averaged 221.4p and sold to 269.7p per kg for a 330kg Limousin cross from Balmaglasser, South Laggan, and £1,335 for a 635kg Limousin cross from Inchbae, Garve.

Heifers averaged 208.8p and sold to 248.1p per kg for a pair of 270kg Aberdeen Angus crosses from Strathglass Farms, Cannich and £1,140 for a 530kg Limousin cross from Alvie Estate, Kincaig.

Young bulls averaged 178.0p and sold to 211.9p per kg for a 355kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Strathglass Farms and £790 for a 410kg Simmental cross from Morvich, Rogart.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,000 twice for a pair of Simmental crosses from Logie, Muir of Ord.

Bullocks 201-250kg Greenland Farming, Dornoch, £600, 244.9p; 251-300kg Strathglass Farms, £720, 265.7p; 301-350kg Balmaglasser, £890, Clury Farm, Dultain Bridge, 253.1p;

His 108 breeding ewes, an assortment of Cheviot/Blackface crosses, Shetland and Hebridean, have produced 80 lambs.

The cold spring meant he had to buy in an additional two tonnes of cobs - concentrated feed pellets - at over £300 per tonne.

Hay for 24 Highland and crossed suckler cows and heifers also didn't come cheap at around £200 per tonne.

After a good start to lambing, losses mounted with some lamb deaths caused by the cold conditions.

Mr Duncan, 63, originally from New Machair, Aberdeen, told The Oban Times: 'The growth has been the worst in a while. We had two months of east wind and everything is pretty late.'

'It's definitely been one of the worst years for growth.'

'Just in the last four of five days has the grass been growing - before that you didn't see a green blade.'

In Sleat, south Skye, Camuscross crofter Graeme MacKenzie planted his potatoes in early May, over two weeks later than last year.

He told The Oban Times: 'I did not see much point in putting them in any earlier, nothing would have grown.'

'Even the bluebells have only come up in the last few days - normally they appear in April. There's no heat in the ground at all.'

351-400kg Hempriggs Farm, Wick, £935, Easter Galcantray Croft, Cawdor, 240.0p; 401-450kg Druid Temple Farm, Inverness, £1,140, 256.2p; 451-500kg Easter Galcantray Croft, £1,160, 249.5p; 501-550kg Lochlath, Abriachan, £1,150, 213.0p; 551-600kg Brae of Cantray Farm, Croy, £1,140, Stonehouse, Brora, 212.5p; 601-650kg Wester Lochend Farm, Lairg, £1,300, 206.4p; 651-700kg Raicastle Farm, £1,290, 197.0p. Heifers 201-250kg - Logie, Muir of Ord, £430, Torrie Gorrie, Garve, 195.4p; 251-300kg - Strathglass Farms, £670, Calrossie Mains, Nigg, 208.8p; 301-350kg - Rebeg, Kirkhill, £750, Strathglass Farms, 222.7p; 351-400kg - New Cottage Farm, Lyth, £850, Clury Farm, 234.8p; 401-450kg - Tomluich, Clunas, £950, 228.9p; 451-500kg - Tullochgribban, Dultain Bridge, £1,120, 240.9p; 501-550kg - Mavsey, Lybster, £1,115, Alvie Estate, 215.1p. OTM prime cows - Bog of Cullicudden, Culboick and 15 Glenconon, Uig, (SimX), £1,290.00; Raicastle, (CharX) and Mains of Househill, Nairn, (SimX), £1,270; Bog of Cullicudden and Roadside Croft, Harpsdale, (SimX), £1,230; Mains of Househill, (SimX), 180.1p; Bog of Cullicudden, (SimX), 173.2p; Mains of Househill, (SimX), 171.6p. OTM feeding cows 14 Opinan, Gairloch, (AAX), £790; 5 Tomich, (SalX), £750; 6 Habost, Isle of Lewis, (LimX), £730.

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Four SAMS scientists awarded professorships

Recognition of commitment to the advancement of scientific knowledge through research



Professor Angela Hatton.

FOUR scientists at SAMS have been awarded professorships, or personal chairs, by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) in recognition of their contributions to the institution.

Personal chairs were awarded to Angela Hatton from Taynuilt, Kenny Black from Dalmailly, and Keith Davidson, also of Taynuilt, all of whom work at the Scottish Association for Marine Science on the shores of Dunstaffnage.

Meanwhile, oceanographer Michael Meredith was given an honorary professorship in recognition of his 13-year career at the Cambridge-based British Antarctic Survey.

UHI principal and vice chancellor James Fraser said: 'These awards are a fitting way to recognise Professor Hatton's, Professor Black's, Professor Davidson's and Professor Meredith's commitment to the advancement of scientific knowledge through research.'

'Their dedication and contribution to our knowledge of the marine environment is an inspiration to others.'

SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee added: 'This is a major accolade for four extraordinary scientists whose work has been cited by more than 5,500 people across the world and who cover a huge range of marine science and its applications.'

'SAMS is proud of its world class scientists and their role in making UHI a distinctive university that contributes to the economic

and social development in the region.' Professor Hatton, 44, is a senior lecturer and researcher at SAMS and a partner of the UHI. Specialising in investigating marine biogases, she was nominated for her ground-breaking work on the role micro-organisms play in the production and removal of environmentally important gases. Her research has attracted £2.3million of funding over the past 13 years.

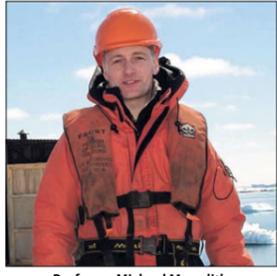
SAMS' principal investigator in marine ecology, Professor Black has worked at SAMS for 22 years, publishing 59 papers, receiving more than 50 research grants and supervising 12 PhD students.

His personal chair recognises the role he played in developing SAMS' and the university's reputation in aquaculture-environment interactions.

Professor Davidson is head of SAMS' microbial and molecular biology department. Specialising in marine algae, he was nominated for his research into harmful phytoplankton and their potential to impact human health.

He has attracted more than £14million of funding for his research, having been at SAMS since 1998.

Professor Meredith, meanwhile, says he is to dedicate a significant part of his time to working with SAMS and the university on common research projects, adding he is 'committed to enhancing the research profile of the Highlands and Islands'.



Professor Michael Meredith.



Professor Keith Davidson.



Professor Kenny Black.

HIE trade arm helps more firms export

MORE companies than ever before were supported into new overseas markets last year by Highlands and Islands Enterprise's international trade arm Scottish Development International (SDI), latest figures show.

SDI worked with 156 companies across the Highlands and Islands to develop their international business in 2012/13, almost 50 per cent up on the previous year.

The figure includes five high value international projects, which are expected to lead to an increase in export sales of £36m over the next three years.

Charlotte Wright, HIE director of business and sector development said: 'To have an increase in exporting of almost 50 per cent since last year is excellent news for businesses across the Highlands and Islands.'

'Our businesses are making the most of the opportunities presented to them and, through our partnership with SDI, we are supporting them all the way.'

Cabinet Secretary for Finance John Swinney said: 'A strong global export performance is essential for Scotland's economic success and the latest Scottish Development International figures show that we are well on track.'

Cheap flight specialist Ryanair reports record profit despite rising fuel costs

CHEAP flight specialist Ryanair has reported record full-year profits and rising revenues, despite soaring fuel costs.

Profits after tax rose 13 per cent to 569m euros (£481m) on revenues of 4.88bn euros for the year to March 31.

Passenger traffic grew five per cent to 79.3 million as the airline added 217 new routes to its roster, bringing the total to 1,600. But fuel costs rose by more than 290m euros, the company said, and now account for 45 per cent of total costs.

Chief executive Michael O'Leary said: 'Delivering a 13 per cent increase in profits and five per cent traffic growth despite high oil prices during a European recession is testimony to the strength of Ryanair's low cost model.'

THE GOVERNORS OF CATHERINE McCAIG'S TRUST McCAIG BURSARIES

A number of McCAIG BURSARIES, the value of which is at the discretion of the Governing Body, are OPEN FOR COMPETITION to students entering a Scottish University in September 2013. The Bursaries are tenable at any Scottish University for such number of years as the Governing Body in their discretion consider appropriate.

It is a condition of the award that the holder shall enrol for a University Ordinary Class in Gaelic and shall satisfactorily complete the course in that subject. One of the Bursaries is open only to natives of, or persons ordinarily resident in, the County of Argyll.

Applications must be made not later than 25 June 2013 and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors.

ANNE F WILSON
Clerk to the Governors
c/o McLeish Thomson
7 Admiral Street
Kinning Park
Glasgow
G41 1HP

Email address: afw@mccl-law.co.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John Davidson (Holdings) Limited trading as J.D.P. Limited, of Townfoot, Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 5LY is applying to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Unit 10 & 11 Glegallan Industrial Estate, Glegallan, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR LATEST PUBLIC NOTICE
01546 602345/01586 554646

Mull Community Council
AGM
Tuesday 11th
June 2013
7.30pm
Craignure Village Hall

Followed by monthly business meeting

SARAH SCOFIELD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Langmuir, Calgary, Telemory, Isle of Mull PA22 6QY, who died on 04/12/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/09/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
COLEMAN SOLICITORS
Paddockhall Chambers
Paddockhall Road Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1HF
01472 92929

TO ADVERTISE YOUR LATEST PUBLIC NOTICE
01546 602345/01586 554646

Lochaber Fisheries Trust Ltd
SC:024490
Will hold their
A.G.M on Friday 14th June, 2013
Torlundy Training Centre, Torlundy,
at 11am.

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/01529/FUL	9 Upper Carnoch Glencoe, Ballachulish	Extension to house
13/01705/FUL	Land adjacent to The Angus Centre, Angus Crescent, Upper Achintore Fort William	Proposed Class 4/6 Development comprising 10 units
13/01741/FUL	1 St Cumins House Morar, Mallaig	Erection of decking (amended design to 11/02955/FUL)
13/01753/FUL	Land North West of Moss Cottage, Bunree, Onich	Proposed dwelling house and garage
13/01755/FUL	Land South West of Fort William Health Centre Carnagehal, Fort William	Proposed 40 bed care home (1 year extension to planning application 08/00063/OUTLO)
13/01757/FUL	105m South West of The Fish Farm, Lochailort	Demolition of derelict house and erection of new house

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 SNX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Mr J M Coats of Riverside Croft, Southend, By Campbelltown is applying to create a new croft. 5.01.43747

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.

69% of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press closer to home

CMAL
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
Municipal Buildings
Fore St
Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ
Tel: 01475 749920
Fax: 01475 745109

14 May 2013
HP/996/309/ACD1

Kennacraig Phase 2 Upgrade Works

Appointment of Contractor
Following completion of the tendering process where seven contractors took part. We would like to advise you that the successful tenderer for the above works is **McLaughlin Harvey Ltd.**

The project to upgrade the ferry terminal at Kennacraig will include:

- Provision of new underground electricity supply in ducts and removal of existing overhead electricity supply
- Raising and widening of the existing access causeway whilst maintaining access to the terminal
- Reclamation and construction of an area for parking including rock armoured revetments
- Reclamation and construction of marshalling area including rock armoured revetments
- Lighting installation including integration with existing lighting
- Installation of new fendering to the existing berth
- Monitoring settlement and maintenance of completed causeway and parking area
- Completion of surfacing following settlement

The works will further enhance the terminal with; a single carriageway on the causeway, a substantially larger marshalling area and improved safety around the site.

The start date for the works onsite is the 3rd June 2013, with the initial works programmed to be completed by December 2013. Further works are to be undertaken in November 2015, this is envisaged to be surfacing and minor works.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this period. The works have been programmed to try and minimise disruption to the ferry service, where possible. We will be working closely with the contractor and Calmac Ferries Ltd (CFL) to ensure that the works will cause minimal disruption to the ferry service.

The project will have a project notice board at the terminal, on the external Building wall. This will be updated to inform you of the project and the outline programme. McLaughlin Harvey have an onsite liaison which will be Oliver Ward (oliver.ward@mch.co.uk).

If you wish to find out more please do not hesitate to contact the above or undersigned.

Alister Chan

Alister Chan
Civil Engineer, Harbours
Tel: 01475 749936

Registered office: Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ. Registered in Scotland No. 1854

Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

A87 INVERSHIEL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to resurface 1.199 kilometres or thereby section of the A87 trunk road is (a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

J J MORAN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
17 May 2013.



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00907/PP	Change of use of land to form parking area to serve Cull Cottage	Land Adjacent To Cull Cottage Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/00910/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse	4 Burnside Cottages Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/00912/PP	Installation of electric vehicle charging point	An Roth Community Enterprise Centre Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/00918/PP	Demolition of existing boatshed and erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Cull Cottage Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/00919/PP	Installation of electric vehicle charging point and associated hardstanding	Unit 2 The Square Bunnessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DP	Sub Post Office Bunnessan Isle of Mull
13/00943/PP	Erection of extension	Oban Sailing Club Store Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
13/00947/PPP	Site for the erection of a multi purpose building (ground floor restaurant/retail and residential accommodation on first floor)	Land West Of Kilmelford Fire Station Kilmelford Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/00963/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and installation of septic tank	Plot 5 Betts Field Ardnamochar Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF	Sub Post Office Ards Isle of Mull
13/00991/PP	Excavation of existing ground slope to form additional hard standing area and erection of fence	West Coast Motors And Oban Express Parcel Services Deposits Glegallan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4HG	Oban Area Office
13/01003/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 09/01854/PPP - Erection of 3 dwelling houses (by way of amendment to application no. 09/01162/PPP)	Site East Of Sonachan Farm Portsonachan Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmailly
13/01009/PP	Erection of shed (retrospective).	1 Lorn Road Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10G	Sub Post Office Dunbeg

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Antrighig 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 No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00937/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse (retrospective)	Tigh Nan Urnuig Upper Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YR	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 85Y.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Cable laying in support of the Sound of Islay Demonstration Tidal Array, Argyll and Bute

Notice is hereby given that ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd. has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of cable laying operations to support their proposed tidal array in the Sound of Islay, Argyll and Bute, at:

Cost	£14,000,000.00	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
1	681707.77	6191263.11
2	681941.66	6191288.51
3	681886.90	6190428.74
4	682088.64	6190475.05
5	682115.10	6189694.52
6	681850.52	6189750.75
7	681453.64	6189314.18
8	681499.94	6189033.06

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sound_of_islay.asp

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

FKB/A1416
Argyll & Bute Council

Business

Young Appin man keeps rural skills alive

AN AWARD-winning apprentice is out to prove that the traditional skills of the stonemason are alive and well and continue to thrive in Argyll.

Appin man David Jackson, a former lab technician at the Scottish Association for Marine Science site at Dunstaffnage, was named best first year apprentice on the City of Glasgow College stonemasonry course.

The 19-year-old, who was employed by Appin-based stonemason Colin Rowan in February last year, would have received straight A grades had it not been for the long commute affecting his grade for attendance.

David, who said it was important there were stonemasons with the necessary skills working in Argyll, added: 'I prefer working outdoors, so when I was offered this job, I jumped at the chance and have really enjoyed it.'

His boss, Colin, whose grandfathers were stonemasons in Kinlochleven, said: 'I have been keen to teach David about the traditional skills of the trade and he seems to have picked up everything really quickly.'

'These skills are so important to have here because of the restoration work needing done to so many buildings.'



Right: David Jackson from Appin was named first year apprentice of the year at City of Glasgow College.

RECRUITMENT

Gleaner oil and gas

Applications are invited for the following post: -
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT
Connel Depot
 (37.5 hours per week)

We are looking for a person with office experience. A good telephone manner and communication skills along with competent computer skills (inc Word and Excel) is required together with an aptitude to work with figures.

In the first instance, applications, in writing only, giving brief details together with a C. V. if available to:

The Managing Director, Gleaner Oils Ltd
 Milnfield, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1UU
 Or
 by e-mail to : hr@gleaner.co.uk

Uncommon Knowledge Ltd
PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR

The Job: To provide administration and customer service support to online training providers Uncommon Knowledge. Your main role is to answer customer emails and prepare shipping.

The Details:
 15 hours per week, Monday to Friday. 3 hours per day. Flexible hours between 9am and 3pm. £7.70 hourly, Oban.

Contact Kirstin on 01273 776770 or email kirstin.asher@unk.com before May 27th.

ACHA
 Argyll community housing association

Domestic Ardrishaig, Argyll
 Salary (£4,315 - £4,726) 9 hours per week
 £7.54 - £8.26

Lochgilthead, Argyll
 2 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 7th June 2013. Interviews for these posts will be held in late June 2013.

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. All posts will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

To apply: Visit our website at www.acha.co.uk - if you are unable to access the website please contact the recruitment team:
 Tel: 01546 605859 or 01546 605817
 Email: recruitment@acha.co.uk

Please note our offices will be closed on Friday 24th and Monday 27th May 2013.

Facilities Supervisor **SAMS**
 Salary: £27,904 - £29,465 per annum

We are looking for a time served working Electrician with experience of working in a multi traded environment. You will have successful man management experience, preferably in Facilities, be qualified to at least City and Guilds 2330 level 3, and preferably hold City and Guilds 2391, level 3. You will be 17th edition qualified and have a relevant Health and Safety qualification.

We are looking for an enthusiastic 'can-do' person, able to lead a team and to generate a positive proactive working environment. You must have a positive attitude to Health and safety, and be able to promote this to technical and laboratory staff. You will be a good communicator, able to listen and make decisions.

Facilities Assistant
 Salary: £14,132 per annum

You will have a good all round general education, must be computer literate and possess a clean driving licence.

This is a hands on role and key duties will include goods in/out supervision, keeping internal and external plant rooms and storage areas clean and tidy, and assisting Facilities staff with maintenance and breakdown works. You will also assist with driving duties and be flexible to assist with other small tasks as and when required.

You will be an enthusiastic, can-do person, service-oriented, self-motivated, with an eye for detail and always willing to help.

For further information and to apply for either position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Thursday 6th June 2013
Interviews will be held: Tuesday 18th June 2013 and Wednesday 19th June 2013

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership **NHS Highland**

Oban, Lorn & The Isles Locality Mull Community Hospital, Isle of Mull

Maintenance Assistant/Integrated Equipment Storeperson/Driver - Band 2
 £14,653 - £17,425
 37.5 Hours Per Week
 Permanent

Enthusiastic individual required for full time permanent post within the Mull & Iona Community Hospital, Isle of Mull to undertake unsupervised routine maintenance and minor repair work. Other duties will include working within the Integrated Equipment Service with responsibility for the delivery of complete, clean, safe, fit for purpose, community equipment.

Previous experience in a building or engineering environment required. Participation in the on-call rota essential. Applicants must be in possession of a full, current driving licence.

Informal enquiries to Donald McMillan, Locality Estates Officer on 01631 789085 (donald.mcmillan@nhs.net).

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilthead, Argyll, PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Please quote reference 13ab/051.
 Closing date for receipt of applications: 12 June 2013.

www.nhs.uk

Courier Centre Campbeltown

We are looking for a friendly, helpful and experienced shop assistant to work Saturday hours.

The successful candidate must have retail experience, be completely trustworthy and be able to work on their own initiative.

Good rates of pay and conditions, apply via email to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk or in writing to: Ali Arden, Wyvex Media, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Bell Ingram 01631 566 122
bellingram.co.uk

Estate Agency Sales Assistant

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Bell Ingram sales team in our busy estate agency office in Oban. You will be a driven and focused individual with an eye for detail and you will have a pleasant, outgoing disposition with a strong emphasis on customer service. Telephone, IT and organisational skills are essential and you will have the ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.

The post offers an exciting and stimulating working environment in a national, well established and progressive organisation for which a competitive salary and benefits, including a Company Pension Scheme are available.

To request a job description or apply please send a full CV with a covering letter by email or post to Steven Hornby steven.hornby@bellingram.co.uk
 Closing Date for applications Friday 31st May

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)
 £14,307 - £15,165
 35 hours per week
 Kilmory, Lochgilthead Ref: CTG00025

Cleaner (Temporary)
 £6.36 per hour
 4 hours per week
 Craignure Police Station Ref: CTF00505

Cleaner - 2 Posts (Temporary)
 £6.36 per hour
 4 hours per week & 2.5 hours per week
 Taynuilt Primary School Ref: CTF00976

Cleaner in Charge (Temporary)
 £6.96 per hour
 10 hours per week
 Dalriada House, Lochgilthead Ref: CTF01048

Cleaner (Temporary)
 £6.36 per hour
 7.5 hours per week
 Lochgilthead Resource Centre Ref: CTF00437

Cleaner - 2 Posts (Permanent)
 £6.36 per hour
 10 hours per week
 Lochgilthead Ref: CTF00982

Driver / Escort (Temporary)
 £7.84 per hour
 10 hours per week
 Lismore Ref: CTF01089

Home Carer - 2 Posts (Temporary)
 £8.57 per hour
 Variable hours
 Mid Argyll Area Ref: CMA01038

☎ 01546 604334.

Closing date unless otherwise stated: 7 June 2013.
 To apply visit our website

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Cleaner required for Saturday changeover, Ardenstur Cottages, Lochmelfort.

Telephone Mrs Atkinson 01429 267266 or Mrs Brown 01852 200569.

CLEANER REQUIRED PART-TIME

Reliable person required for 4-6 hours per week for holiday rental property. Friday change over with occasional mid-week. Property is near Kinliver, 9 miles from Oban. General cleaning including bed making. Please reply to: Mike T. 01852 316203 until end of May, Thereafter Alex T. 01638 560343

ADJ Stevenson Recovery Recovery Technician/Mechanic,

for our own fleet maintenance and roadside breakdown work. Must have a clean licence at least up to 7.5T. Willing to work evening/weekends on a rota basis. Competitive rates of pay. For informal chat contact 01397 712 257 Email: admin@stevensonrecovery.co.uk

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

Slow housing sales result in letting market business boom

People keeping options open

THE DROP in value in the housing market may have come late to Argyll but it has still proven difficult for many first-time home buyers to get their foot on the property ladder.

For those reasons, companies in the letting market have been enjoying a business boom in recent years, a trend that has prompted one Oban-based business to expand its services and renovate its Combie Street premises.

Nicola MacPhail, a managing partner at West Property Sales and Lettings, which provides management services to private landlords, says the convenience of renting your home appeals to a more 'mobile' generation of would-be first-time home buyers.

The most recent private letting figures for Argyll and Bute show that 48 per cent of private landlords are classed as 'accidental landlords', in that they did not plan to rent out their property but circumstances had dictated they do so.

Statistics also show 35 per cent of private landlords retain their property as a pension investment and 26

per cent of tenants see themselves remaining in the private rented sector for the 'foreseeable future'.

Having only established West Property Sales and Lettings in February 2011, alongside Mull businessman Calum MacLachlainn, Nicola MacPhail has this month expanded the services the company provides and has hired administration assistant Annabelle Kelsey to assist with the increased workload.

Increase

Nicola said: 'We have found a huge increase in the number of landlords coming to us for property management services.'

'The letting market is buoyant. The average age of the first-time buyer is 35, so it is taking people time to save up.'

'They also like to be more mobile and flexible and people don't tend to stay in the same place all their lives.'

'The jobs markets is very tricky just now, so people are also looking to keep their options open about where they live.'



Nicola MacPhail, left, and Annabelle Kelsey of West Property Sales and Lettings. 16_121letting02

SAMS geographer joins Arctic Council summit

A SCIENTIST from Dunbeg was in Sweden last week to take part in critical talks to reduce the impact of climate change on Arctic ice.

Dr Tavis Potts, a geographer at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), represented the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Seas, Scotland and the UK as a whole at the Arctic Council.

The council is made up of high-level international diplomats and delegates from eight Arctic states - the US, Russia, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Greenland, Finland and Iceland - indigenous people, scientists and key observer states. More than 300 people attended the meeting of the council, which is key to determining the policies that protect one of the world's most fragile environments.

The focus of the meeting was to sign a new oil spill response agreement between the international states.

Dr Potts said: 'The tone of the summit was one where the immense challenges are recognised and there seems to be real effort in negotiating the issues and moving forward.'

Marine Harvest under fire despite joining scheme

DESPITE Scotland's biggest producer of farmed salmon Marine Harvest signing up to a scheme to reduce the impact of fish farming on the environment, it is facing renewed calls to move its farms away from wild salmon rivers to prevent parasite transmission.

WWF Scotland said the move was an important step which could now be followed by the rest of the industry.

But the Salmon and Trout Association said the farms were often too close to wild salmon rivers and claims this threatened conservation and wants those farms to be moved or closed.

The company, with numerous sites in the west of Scotland and on the Western Isles, said it would be seeking certification for its Scottish fish farms from the Aquaculture Stewardship

Council (ASC). Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest in Scotland: 'This is a relatively new industry and we have been working hard in recent years to improve our environmental performance and our sustainability.'

Fish farms will only receive ASC certification if they exceed current legal requirements governing chemical use and the problem of parasite transmission between farmed and wild salmon.

Alan Sutherland conceded it would be the end of the decade before all of the company's farms met the required standards.

'We aim to have all of our farms certified under the scheme by 2020. In the meantime, we will report on our progress towards that target,' he said.

Oban apprentice moves up a level within retail skills training project

Modern Apprenticeship in Retail Skills

A YOUNG Oban apprentice has been congratulated by his manager after completing the level two grade of his Modern Apprenticeship in Retail Skills.

Started as trainee

Bruce Aitkin has been employed at Highland Fasteners in Stevenson Street for two years, having started as a Get Ready for Work trainee.

His apprenticeship started after the company employed him at the completion of the course. Craig Darbyshire, who manages Highland Fasteners, said: 'We at Highland Fasteners are very pleased Bruce has successfully

completed his Modern Apprenticeship. He has become valued member of our team.'

Peter Darling, who provided the programme through Argyll Training Ltd, said: 'Bruce has been very positive from the start, first as a Get Ready for Work trainee then taking the opportunity when employed by Highland Fasteners to work towards his Modern Apprenticeship.'

'Bruce now has excellent customer service skills and knowledge of the retail industry.'

The courses were funded by Skills Development Scotland.



Bruce, right, receives his award from Highland Fasteners' manager Craig Darbyshire.

RECRUITMENT

Expression of Interest

West Argyll Forest District Rhododendron Control Framework Agreement



The Forestry Commission is inviting tenders for a Framework Agreement for Rhododendron Control in West Argyll Forest District.

Rhododendron Control including cut and burn, stump treatment, foliar chemical application and other treatments as agreed with the Forestry Commission is required across the whole of West Argyll Forest District. The district will be split into geographical lots and bidders may bid for as many or few as they choose. These lots will be: Mull, Lorne, Kilmicheel & Glen Orchy, West Loch Awe, Knapdale, Tarbert and Kintyre. All work is required to be completed to a very high standard with particular attention to Health and Safety, environmental sensitivity, and coverage of the treatment sites. This will be achieved by applying industry best practice in line with the UK Forestry Standard and thorough contract management by the Contractor.

Successful bidders must have adequate insurance, be licenced by the Gangmaster's Licencing Authority (unless exemption can be shown) and all operators must be appropriately trained and qualified.

The estimated total value of the contract is £400,000 per year for 2 years with possible extension for a further 2 years.

To express your interest and to request tender documents please contact West Argyll Forest District no later than **5pm on Thursday 6th June**

There will be a MANDATORY Briefing Day for all wishing to bid held in Lochgilphead, Argyll on **Wednesday 19th June 2013. PLEASE NOTE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BID FOR THIS FRAMEWORK WITHOUT ATTENDING THIS BRIEFING DAY.** Details will be provided to all those who express an interest in the tender.

The deadline for returns from the Invitation to Tender will be 5pm Monday 15th July 2013.

The anticipated contract start date will be 19th August 2013 to be completed by 18th August 2015. There will be the possibility of extension for a further 2 years.

For further enquiries regarding this contract please email: waprocmnt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

West Argyll Forest District
Whitegates
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RS

Leading the way in Learning Disability

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people across Scotland.



CAMPBELTOWN

FEMALE* SESSIONAL PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS

*Qualifies under paragraph 1, schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010. Hourly Rate: £7.20.

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BIRTHS

MACLEAN - Maclean of Ardgour. To Ewen and Anne on May 13, 2013, a daughter Evee Carrie, a sister for Hector.

MARRIAGES



HICKFORD - FRASER Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Catriona, daughter of the late Danny Hickford, Isle of Lismore and Irene Richardson, Cumbernauld to Graeme, elder son of Jim and Janice Fraser, Nant Drive Oban at Gretna on Friday May 17, 2013.

DIAMOND WEDDING

OLDALE - Gladys Pearl and Raymond, Dalmlaly. Were married in St John's Methodist Church, Arbroath May, 23 1953.

DEATHS

LEROY - Moreen, in her 89th year, passed away on May 13, 2013 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Formerly of Killiechonan, Isle of Mull and Manor House, Oban.

MACLAREN - Peacefully in her sleep on May 15, at Fochabers, Annabella (née MacKenzie) aged 92 years formerly of 57 Glenia, Foyers. Beloved wife of the late Angus MacLaren. A much loved mother to Hazel and family and granny to David and Gareth and great granny to Kaitlyn Evans. Funeral service at Fraser & Son, Inverness thereafter to Boleskine Cemetery.

MCLEAN - Peacefully at home, Fort William, after a short illness, with his loving family and dogs by his side, on Sunday, May 19, 2013, aged 71, Allan McLean, beloved husband of Alicia. Funeral service Friday, May 24, 2013, at 10.30am in the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church, Fort William, thereafter at Inverness Crematorium at 1.30pm. All friends respectfully welcome. Family flowers only please. All donations, if desired, may be given at the service or to the funeral directors, Mike McFall, 10 Battlefield Crescent, Inverloch, which will be forwarded to Glen Mor Medical Practice who provided care.

MUIR - Peacefully, on May 17, 2013, Hugh Muir aged 81 years, beloved husband of Elizabeth, devoted father of Donald, Alastair and Sheila. Much loved Grandpa to 5 grandchildren. Funeral service at Kilmallie Church of Scotland, on Friday May 24, 2013 at 10.30am. Please wear bright colours if you wish. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel. 01397 702128.

REID - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch on May 21, 2013, in her 75th year, Vera MacLean, beloved wife of the late Willie Reid, dear mum of Margaret, Catherine, William, Lorna & the late Dorothy, a loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

SIMCOX - Peacefully on Monday May 20, 2013 at L.I.D.G.H., Helen, (née Duncan), 60 Ellenabeich, Easdale, devoted wife of David, most loving mother, mother-in-law and gran to the late Garry, and to Davie, Kirsty, Rebecca, Scottie and Callan. The funeral will take place at Kilbrandon Church, Seil, on Thursday May 23, 2013 at 1pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BAIN - Ann, Colin and family would like to thank all family and friends for flowers, cards and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Mum, Jessie Bain. Our grateful thanks to Tarbert doctors, nurses, home-helps and neighbours for their care and support. To all staff at Eader Glinn, Oban for the wonderful care and kindness to mum.

CAMERON - Mary and Allan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of Isa. Special thanks to Balaichulish Medical Centre, Belford Hospital and Abbeyfield Nursing Home for all their care and support. Thanks also to Rev Gordon Mair for his comforting service, to Mike McFall and staff, undertakers for all the funeral arrangements and Ben View Hotel, Strontian for refreshments and to all who paid their last respects at the church and at the interment at Drimnatorran Cemetery, Strontian. Donations of £277.05 to Abbeyfield Resident's Fund.

- Janika, Bunree, Onich.

MILLER - George, Isobel and family would like to thank all friends and family for all their kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of their mother, Betty. Thanks to D&A Munn and the Rev. Dugald Cameron for a beautiful service. To Aulay's Bar for a wonderful and fitting tribute that Betty would have been proud of. A collection of £218.32 was raised for Cancer Research, thanks to everyone.

WYLIE - The aunts, uncle and cousins of Alistair would like to give special thanks to all his friends and neighbours for the care and help they afforded him. Thanks to Rev Liz Gibson for her comforting service, to the Glenorchy Lodge for refreshments, Catriona at Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd for efficient and sympathetic services, Gordon McNab at Stevenson Kennedy for guidance and to all who attended the church and graveside. The retiring collection for ABCD raised £732.89.

MEMORIALS

BROWN - Rebecca, May 23, 2011 and Ian, June 8, 2007. Fond memories, Sorely missed.

- Daughter Elizabeth and families x
- Son-in-law Donnie and families x

CHILDS - Treasured memories of my husband Larry, died May 26, 2002. To have and to hold and then to part
With the greatest sorrow in my heart.
- Love always Margaret. xx

FAGAN - In memory of Frank, who died May 24, 2011. Sadly missed.
- Jessie and David.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear father Alexander who died on May 23, 1993. Loved and remembered every day.
- Jessie and Ian.

McGUNIGAL - In loving memory of our beloved son Sandy McGunigal, who died May 23, 2010. Remembering you is easy We do it everyday It's the heartache of losing you that never goes away.
Love always
- Mam, dad, sisters, nieces and nephews.

MILLER - In loving memory of our dear dad, papa and great papa, Peter, died 13 May 2008.
We never ask for miracles But today just one would do To see the front door open and see our dad walk through Love and miss you everyday.
- George, Isobel and families.

NICOLSON - Treasured memories of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Katie, who passed away May 21, 2010, also remembering our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather Donald, who passed away August 13, 1987. We hold you close within our hearts
And there you shall remain To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.
Loved and sadly missed always.
- Inserted by family at Spear Bridge and Fort William.

NICOLSON - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather Donald who died May 22, 1980. Also remembering our dear brothers and uncles Joseph (Joe) who died April 30, 1987 and Alister accidentally drowned September 16, 1965. Loved and remembered always.
- Sadly missed by all the family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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Trinity Sunday

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St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.15
Holy Eucharist..... Wed 29 May 14.30

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Appin joins great tapestry

A GROUP of women in the village of Appin have come together to create their submission to The Great Tapestry of Scotland.

The Appin Stitches, as they have become known, met at the Port Appin home of textile artist Midge Gourlay to bring together the panel, which depicts scenes from the Battle of Ypres and the building of HMS Hood on the River Clyde.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is a project to stitch the story of Scotland's history and more than 160 panels are being put together by 800 stitchers from across the country.

The Appin Stitches were given their illustrated panel in August last year and followed the design drawn into the linen background.

However, the group was allowed to design the bottom right hand corner of the panel and chose to create an embroidered postcard, depicting a poppy.

The lace edge design was taken from a hankie sent from Midge's great uncle, Percy Rollin, to his sister from the front line in Belgium.

Mrs Gourlay said: 'It has been such a fun experience that we are considering keeping the group going - but we definitely need a break first!'

The other Appin Stitches are: Doreen Evans, Helen Currie, Joy Blakeney, Pat Wyatt Webb, Anne White, Jean Breckenridge, Margaret Rayworth, Fiona Hunter, Morag White and Janet Fairbairn.

The panel will now be taken to Edinburgh for the inaugural exhibition at the Scottish Parliament in September.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland was the brainchild of Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith.



The Appin Stitches with their panel. 15_121tapestry01

Food campaign to spread message at Oban's Oxfam

OBAN'S Oxfam shop will tomorrow (Friday) welcome those interested in finding out more about The Enough Food campaign.

The campaign aims to prevent land clearances in parts of Africa, Asia and South America, calling on governments to stop poor farmers being forced off their land, stop children dying from hunger, stop companies dodging tax in poor countries and be honest about their role in the food system.

Bridget Gourlay of Oxfam and Marian Pallister from the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) will be available to discuss the campaign between 11am - 3pm.

Marian said: 'Land clearances are an intrinsic part of the history of Argyll and the Isles - but in too many parts of the world, land clearances are a brutal reality today.'

Inner Wheel ladies give Mary's Meals backing

MEMBERS of Oban's Inner Wheel Club have raised £504 for Mary's Meals as part of their charity work this year.

The members been working hard to raise money for two important causes: Mary's Meals and the Mulanje Mission Hospital.

The ladies also collected 21 backpacks containing essential items for the children.

Club members then took up their knitting needles in response to a call for warm baby clothes for the Mulanje Mission Hospital to replace the newborn babies' newspaper shawls.

Thirty-five sets of clothing were presented to the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society who forward them on to the charity.



Oban Inner Wheel Club members pictured with their donations.

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WEDDING



EWART - DOUGLAS

Julie Ewart, Kilchoan and Neil Douglas, Glasgow were married at Luss Parish Church, Loch Lomond. Julie is daughter of Iona and Gus MacLean, Ian Ewart and grand-daughter of Catriona and the late Gillespie MacMillan, Kilchoan.
Photo by Audrey Russell Photography.

Argyll and Isles features strongly in VisitScotland Thistle Awards

ARGYLL and the Isles' reputation as Scotland's prime tourist destination was enhanced further this week after receiving 10 nominations in the VisitScotland Thistle Awards.

One of the most prestigious accolades available in the industry, the nominees from across the area have had to battle against the best in the central south west region - including businesses in Glasgow.

The winners will then go forward to the national final in November and be recognised as one of the UK's finest tourism businesses or events.

Kintyre's Royal and Ugdale Hotels could do well, having been shortlisted for the best hotel award jointly. The overarching venture between the hotels, The Village at Macbrishan Dunes, was also nominated for the training and skills development award and the Year of Natural Scotland best nature based experience award.

Coll goes head to head with island neighbour Tiree in the best sporting event award, with the Coll Half Marathon up against the Tiree Wave Classic. Both will have to beat the Tour of Britain to win the category.

Barcaldine guest house Ardorna finds itself nominated in the best guest house or bed and breakfast award category, alongside Tobermory's Brockville B and B.

The Coll Hotel and Arran's Auchranne Resort go up against the Royal and Ugdale Hotels in the best hotel award, while Clan Cottages, Oban, is nominated in best self serve accommodation.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Partnership, finally, is shortlisted for the best partnership in tourism award.

The nominees will travel to New Lanark Mill, South Lanarkshire, on June 5 to discover if they've won.

Change welcomes men to the Guild

IT USED to be called the Women's Guild.
But there's been a name change and the Church of Scotland Guild is trying to attract men.

More than 300 men have joined the Guild and Mrs Mary Ford, the Guild's national convener, told the General Assembly that the Guild is this year celebrating its 125th anniversary and its membership nationally is 25,000.

Mrs Ford said the new look Guild refused to shirk 'taboo' issues like domestic violence.

She said: 'We believe we can meet the challenges today's society brings and find ways

of working which will enable women and men to find a place in the Guild where they can feel useful and have friendship and fellowship.'

Meanwhile, the skills and experience of older people in the Church of Scotland will become better utilised in the Golden Age Project.

Children's group granted £10,000

A CHILDREN'S group on the Isle of Islay will be able to develop its services after receiving funding of nearly £10,000.

Islay and Jura Toy Library was successful in applying to Communities and Family Fund for £9,876.

The Bowmore-based centre will continue to run its stay and play services for under-8s.

The group transports its toys to different centres, and experienced play leaders/volunteers instigate fun family activities, encouraging parents to get involved.

This group currently run weekly sessions at Port Charlotte, fortnightly sessions at Jura Toddlers Group, monthly sessions at Port Ellen Toddlers Group and supports a local Gaelic class. It will also now train staff to support disabled children and hold two celebratory events marking the service's 10th birthday.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell welcomed the funding, adding: 'I would like to congratulate all involved with the Islay and Jura Toy Library.'

'Play is such an important part of learning and this project is almost unique in its diversity.'

The Communities and Families Fund is set to run over the next three years with £4.5 million from The Scottish Government and £1.5 million from the Big Lottery Fund.

It offers grassroots projects the chance to get funding of between £250 and £10,000. This fund is focused on improving early learning, health and well-being for children under eight years old by supporting them, their families and communities.

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Busy weekend at Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club started a busy weekend with the Craig Paterson Trophy on Saturday, Jimmy Ross shooting a net 70 to take the win.

David MacPherson was second with Owen Sweeney in third.

On Sunday the 1912 Cup was held with Neil Young taking a one shot victory.

Toby Richardson was runner up with a net round of 64, with Andrew Brown in third.

The second round of the ladies' Cameron Trophy was also played on Saturday, with Helen Brian finishing as winner. Rosemary Macintyre was second with Hazel Cameron third.

Macintyre however won the May Medal on Sunday, with a net round of 71. Kim Topping was some five shots back in second, with Hazel Cameron third.

Results: Saturday: Craig Paterson Trophy - 1, Jimmy Ross 87-17=70; 2, David MacPherson 79-8=71; Owen Sweeney 98-25=73. Cameron Trophy second round - 1, Helen Brian 32 points; Rosemary Macintyre 28 points; Hazel Cameron 26 points.

Sunday: 1912 Cup - 1, Neil Young 77-14=63; 2, Toby Richardson 75-11=64 (BH); 3, Andrew Brown 75-11=64. Ladies May Medal - 1, Rosemary Macintyre 82-11=71; 2, Kim Topping 90-14=76; 3, Hazel Cameron 93-17=76.

Isle of Skye GC

ISLE of Skye Golf Club's May stableford competition saw Willie Cowie win by one stroke last weekend. Cowie scored 41, with Mike Williams second on 40 points and Craig Irvine-Smith third on 37.

Last week the club held the May Black and White Shield, with John Finlayson winning category one (handicap 0-12). Jamie Beaton was second with Alasdair I Campbell third.

In category 13-28, Martin Bird took the win from John Marshall and John D Mackenzie.



Lochaber's relegation fears increased as they went down 3-2 at home to Kinlochshiel on Saturday. Gordie MacDonald struck twice in two first half minutes of the Orion Group Premiership tie, only to see Shaun Nicolson reduce the deficit after the break. But John MacRae's strike with 24 minutes left to play was enough to seal two points, despite Ben Delaney's last minute penalty. Oliver 'Ach' Macrae is pictured firing over a dangerous cross as Lochaber's Brian MacDonald attempts to block. For a full roundup, see the shinty page. 20_f21lochaber02

Fort looking to end the season on a high note

'If we can get a squad together we can compete with most teams in the league'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will look to end another trying season with a good result against fellow strugglers Lossiemouth at Claggan Park on Saturday.

The sides have each lost 30 out of 33 games in 2012/13 and occupy the bottom two positions in the Highland League.

Fort are four points behind meaning even a win on Saturday would not be enough for them to leapfrog Lossie.

But manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times a good performance and result would boost confidence at the club which was shattered by last weekend's 12-2 hammering away to big-spending Brora Rangers.

Conlon said: 'A good result would give us all a bit of a boost and I think that's something we

all need right now, certainly the younger players. It would be good to get the last result out of our system.

'It's the last game, the season has gone for us now. Whatever happens this Saturday is not going to affect next season. Lossie might want to look at some new players for next season, and we'd like to do that as well.'

He continued: 'We've got three big players - Michael Gillespie, Andy Martin and Darren Quigg. If we're missing one of them, we'll struggle, if we're missing two then we're in trouble.'

'If we can get a squad together we can compete with most teams in the league - but the problem is getting the squad together.'

Darren Quigg and Darren Duncan will both sit out the Lossie game, but Conlon is hopeful Davie Forbes, Iain McLellan and Andy Maclean will all be involved.

Conlon had a skeleton squad available for last weekend's trip to Brora, due to a cocktail of injury, illness, work commitments and a wedding in Fort William.

But Fort's requests to get the tie switched to a midweek date fell on deaf ears.

Conlon said: 'We really struggled to get 11 players on the park. I had a 17 year-old playing up against Ross Tokely, and I had a 15 year-old and a 16 year-old playing.'

'I was a bit disappointed with Brora. They played their strongest side, and after some of their goals some players were running into the net to pick the ball out. I thought it showed a lack of respect.'

A bumper rollover jackpot of £900 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 8, 10 and 16.

Ken Buchanan guest of honour at boxing show

KINLOCHLEVEN based Claymores Amateur Boxing Club are gearing up for their latest home show on Saturday June 15, with boxing legend Ken Buchanan MBE the guest of honour.

The former Undisputed World Lightweight Champion will hand out the trophies after the bouts, with some local youngsters hopeful of getting their hands of the prizes at the Scotland vs England select show.

Current Scottish novice champion Callum Clement of Tyndrum will be hoping to impress in front of his home crowd, while Ballachulish pair Kerr Mackin, aged 12, and 13 year old Cameron Sutherland will also be hoping to make an impact.

Inchree fighter Ally Banks will also take to the ring on the night. The 14 year old recently took part in his first boxing show in Lin-

wood, where he took on an experienced opponent.

After impressing for the first two rounds, Banks tired and eventually lost by just a single point.

Club coach Martin Glenesk said: 'We are in great shape, we now have nine carded juniors, two of them are girls, so this bodes well for the club's future.'

'We also have local DJ and Nevis Radio station manager David Ogg as our announcer for the night so we are looking forward to a fantastic evening.'

For tickets contact 07799 705 742 or call into the club which is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm-8:30pm.

CYCLING

Easy win for Ewan

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest time trial saw 13 riders tackle an 18 miles hilly route anti-clockwise around Loch Leven into a strong headwind.

Ewan Thorburn led the field and eventually took a comfortable win, finishing in a time of 50 minutes and 42 seconds.

Stephen Burns edged out Doc Shirley in a photo finish for third place, with both men recording times of 54 minutes and 15 seconds.

Emma Holgate was the fastest female rider in a time of 62 minutes and 34 seconds.

Time trial stalwart Davy Gunn made his return following a back injury, and recorded a time of 59 minutes and 32 seconds.

Wild win for Finlay

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER Athlete Club's Finlay Wild won the Goat Fell Race on the Isle of Arran ahead of a record field of 204 runners last Saturday.

Wild completed the eight mile climb and back in a time of one hour, 15 minutes and 56 seconds, over three minutes ahead of second placed Andrew Fallas of Carnethy.



The winning Lochside team with their trophy and defeated finalists Banavie 20_f21netball02

Lochside RC win netball festival

NINE Lochaber primary school teams competed in this year's Primary Netball Festival organised by Active Schools at Lochaber High School.

And it was Lochside RC who continued their recent domination, winning the tournament to add to their recent league and netball festival successes.

They were pushed all the way in the final, with Banavie A taking the match to extra time before Lochside came through to take the win. Inverloch A finished third.

NETBALL

Banavie A also finished as runners up to Lochside in the league, with Caol A and Banavie B in third place.

Lia Hunter of High Life Highland said: 'Special thanks go to Carol Cairns, Primary PE teacher and Claire Lumley Holmes of the Fort William Falcons Netball club for umpiring such a terrific tournament and supporting netball in the primary schools.'

Tight at the top in bowling league

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER five weeks of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller leads the scratch league with 66 points.

Colin Pinkett is close behind in second place on 64 points with Tommy McKnight in third on 60 points.

The handicap league for the Robert Cairns trophy is led by David Cameron on 55 points followed by Chris McCaig on 48 points and Gilbert Mullen on 47 points.

Colin Pinkett is the leader in the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 2,192 pins closely followed by Pam Weller in second with 2,188 and Rossamy Wareing in third with 2,058.

This week's top performer and gaining this week's maximum 15 points in both scratch and handicap divisions was Tony Whitelocke, with the top three game scratch series of 528 and the top three game handicap series of 651. The top individual scratch games this week were a 231 from Tony Whitelocke which included five strikes in a row and a 201 from Pam Weller which included four strikes in a row.



Wet start to the bowling season

The first tournament of the season for Lochaber Bowling Club was held with a wet start in the morning which gave way to a drier afternoon. A small band of six pairs played an exciting contest with the top two pairs tied on points with shots up deciding the outcome. Pictured above are the winners, right to left, Bill Clark and Keith Brannigan with runners-up Eddie Downs and Liz Kennedy.

Rotary Am-Am date decided

THE ROTARY Club of Oban will hold its 28th Am-Am at Glenclruitten on Sunday June 2. Money raised will go to local charities.

The event has so far raised more than £130,000 since it started 28 years ago.

A good turnout is expected and 50 teams will play for the Bank of Scotland Trophy, which was won last year by Lonan Properties.

Glenclruitten is in great shape for the event and with the assistance of local sponsors it is hoped £6,000 will be raised.

Teams of four from across Scotland will take part.



Glenclruitten success at Tobermory Ladies Open

The Tobermory Ladies Open was held on Saturday with a very good turnout and great weather. The winner was Angela McLaughlin, ahead of Glenclruitten Golf Club teammate Helen Pearson and Rosie Barbour, also Glenclruitten, in third. Home winner was Doris Hargreaves, longest drive went to Diana Dalgetty (Glenclruitten) and nearest the pin was Diana Dalgetty (Glenclruitten).

Amateur footballer wins chance to play at Hampden

AN AMATEUR footballer will fulfil part of his childhood ambition next week by playing at Scotland's national football stadium.

Youth worker Innes Paterson, who is from Tainuil but now lives in Lochgilphead, will play at Hampden on Tuesday - but not on behalf of his country.

Innes, who turns 26 on Sunday, is the lucky winner of a competition. Innes won the Vauxhall Big Pitch Scotland competition on twitter.

It asked football enthusiasts to name the most capped player in Scottish history and tell them why they deserved the opportunity of playing at the Glasgow stadium. Innes said: 'I have



Innes Paterson

win for a while. I looked back at Scotland's results and I found that I haven't seen them win since 1999 against Bosnia.

'I tend to go to one or two games a year so you can imagine how much heartache I've been through.'

'I basically explained all of this in my competition entry and that I deserved some joy at Hampden for once.'

Innes is one of a number of winners from across Scotland who could be sharing the pitch with former Scottish footballing greats.

The Lochgilphead Red Star defender also won tickets to the next World Cup qualifier against Belgium and a full Scotland kit.

Oban Cricket Club begins 2013 season with Helensburgh victory

OBAN Cricket Club has started its 2013 season with a comfortable win over Helensburgh at an overcast Tainuil.

Batting first, the hosts had Leach and Kelly to thank for a strong opening 15 overs. Kelly was brilliantly caught at mid-on for 24 and Leach scored seven fours before retiring for 57.

This brought big-hitting Tristan Carre and the equally as explosive Daniel Booker to the middle.

The Helensburgh fielders were in for a work-out as the Oban

pair smashed a succession of boundaries.

Blasted Booker scored 47 and Carre blasted five sixes in his 48 to leave Oban 208 for 7 after 40 overs.

Helensburgh would have to score just over five runs an over to win and their chase got off to a poor start when Santos bowled Sullivan.

Booker continued his fine form with three wickets to leave the visitors on the ropes at 10 for 4.

Helensburgh needed their tail to wag and it did just that with Chambers adding a crucial 28. Just when it looked like the fightback was on, Thornton was undone by a ball from Kelly which spun and clipped the top of the off-stump.

Belshaw took the final wicket to bowl-out Helensburgh for 96 and to leave Oban winners by 112 runs.

This Sunday Oban welcome Carradale to Tainuil for the opening Argyll League game of the season.

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Title dream over for this season after two defeats

'I can't fault the boys for effort, they've worked really hard'

OBAN Saints faced another double header last weekend when they travelled to take on Castlemilk on Saturday and played host to St Joseph's at Glenruitten on Sunday.

But it proved to be a disappointing two days as the Oban side lost both games. The two games a weekend programme is now starting to take its toll on the squad with injuries beginning to mount up, but manager Iain Jackson refuses to make that an excuse for the two defeats over the weekend.

He said: 'I'm not disputing the fact that it's difficult for the lads to play two games in two days, but fitness didn't really come into it.'

'The problem was we lost two bad goals against Castlemilk and another one on Sunday against St Joe's, but still created enough chances to win both games.'

Castlemilk 2 Oban Saints 1

On Saturday Saints travelled to take on Castlemilk and found themselves two goals down after 16 minutes and these must go down to two defensive lapses in concentration from Daniel Cassells and Jamie Graham.

The Oban side had been playing well in the opening period of the game but these two goals,

against the run of play, knocked the stuffing from the Oban boys. However, they battled their way back into the game and Alex Craik pulled a goal back in the 36th minute when he netted from close range.

The visitors were on top and created two or three reasonable chances from headers but these all flew over the bar.



Eddie Swift - taken to hospital.

It was a determined Oban outfit that took the field in the second half and had the home side pinned back but again several good scoring chances were missed. The best chance fell to Craig

FOOTBALL

MacEwan who was played through by Willie Gemmell, but he failed to hit the target with only the keeper to beat.

Although under pressure the home side managed to hold out and it was a disappointed Saints squad that trooped off the pitch on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline.

Oban Saints 0 St Joseph's 1

Saints played their second game in 24 hours when they took on Duntocher side St Joseph's at Glenruitten on Sunday.

Injuries on Saturday to Asen Gaydardzhiev and Willie Gemmell forced them to miss this game, but Donald Campbell was fit enough to take a place on the bench.

The home side started well and Mattie Rippon forced a great save from St Joe's keeper Sean Gibbons in the fourth minute. The visitors looked a confident side knocking the ball about, but the Oban lads were closing them down quickly.

Myles McAuley had a good opportunity in the seventh minute and Mattie Rippon rifled a great free kick that flew inches over the bar. The visitors came storming



Dene Cassells in a race for the ball during last Sunday's game against St Joseph's. Photos: Stephen Lawson

back into the game and Kevin Williams had a good effort but his shot went past the post.

St Joe's keeper Sean Gibbons, who had a great game with a string of excellent saves, thwarted another Mattie Rippon effort touching a goal-bound effort over the bar.

Saints were creating chances and Marc MacCallum came close with a header, then Myles McAuley hit the post with a fine left foot effort.

However, just before the interval the Oban side found themselves a goal behind when Chris Scouler found himself unmarked at a corner and he

headed the ball home. This was another poor goal for Saints to lose right on the half time whistle.

The second half was much the same as the first, with Saints on the attack, but St Joseph's always looked dangerous and were unlucky when John Paul Seagrave hit the post.

Saints were taking the game to St Joe's, but again keeper Gibbons was in fine form making two great saves.

The home side lost the services of Eddie Swift with a nasty facial injury midway through the second half, his place up front taken by Donald Campbell.

Saints pushed hard to get back in the game, but luck was not going with them as Craig MacEwan saw a shot come back off the bar with the keeper beaten.

Although they battled hard Saints could not break down a resolute St Joseph's defence and it was the visitors who picked up all three points and probably killed off any hopes Saints had of winning the league championship.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed: He said: 'I can't fault the boys for effort, they've worked really hard and I am impressed with their fitness, but things are not going our way

just now. We're picking up niggling injuries, but hopefully they will have cleared up by the time the Jimmy Marshall Trophy final comes around on June 2.'

Saints have only one game this weekend when they take on Inverclyde in their final home match of the season. Due to the rugby sevens being held at Glenruitten the game against Inverclyde will take place on the 3G pitch at Oban High School with a 2pm kick-off.

Congratulations go to Postal United on retaining the league title. They defeated Aikenhead Thistle 2-0 on Tuesday night and can't now be caught.

Dougal's in the driving seat

GOLF

A STUNNING net 54 (gross 68) put Willie Dougal into a seemingly unassailable position in Dalmally Golf Club's Handicap Championship.

With one round to go, there is considerable daylight between Dougal and his nearest challenger Terry MacNair, who is 12 strokes back despite a fine second round 62.

Meanwhile the Club's Seniors Open drew a large turnout with a timely interlude in the recent poor weather giving players ideal conditions to play in.

Josephine Monaghan of Dumbarton topped the ladies section while home player Bobby Johnston took the overall honours for the gents, both players scoring 38 stableford points.

The club is inviting entries for their annual Ladies Open, which takes place on Saturday June 15.

Geo retains his singles title

POOL

THE TOP 32 ranked players in Oban recently competed at The Lancaster Hotel for the Oban Singles Championship.

After several hours of high intensity matches, Jim Muir took on defending champion Geo Adam in a familiar-looking final line-up.

Despite being locked at one frame apiece Muir couldn't further threaten Adam's crown, with the Cellar's star man eventually easing over the line and becoming the first man to defend the championship.

With the general standard of play over the last few years being significantly raised, this feat may not be repeated in the near future.

Islay Golf club

GOLF

THE Letters Trophy played at Islay Golf Club on May 19: 1 Ross Johnston 75 Less 10 Net 65; 2 Donald Logan 81 Less 14 Net 67; 3 Sam Johnston 73 Less 4 Net 69. Ccs 70.



The teams line up outside the clubhouse during last week's tournament. 20_221rugby01

Ardnamurchan win tag rugby tournament

YOUTH RUGBY

ARDNAMURCHAN High School dominated Lochaber Rugby Club's annual inter school tag rugby tournament, getting both of its teams into the final.

Four high schools entered two teams each - Lochaber, Kinlochleven, Ardnamurchan and Mallaig. The competition was split in to two leagues with the winners of each league playing in the final for the trophy.

Victory

And it was Ardnamurchan (A) who took victory in the final,

defeating Ardnamurchan (B) 5-3.

Pauline Donaldson, who helped organise the event, said: 'All schools provided a good afternoon of entertaining rugby, quite a few girls showing the boys a clean pair of heels.'

The event was again sponsored by Sportsafe UK Ltd and their regional manager for Scotland Charlie Donaldson presented the winning team with their prize.



Members of Glenruitten Golf Club who braved the wet weather to compete in the Save the Children Mixed Competition on May 12. First place went to Stuart and Christine Cameron, followed by John and Mary Plunkett, Donald MacLennan and Louise MacLeod and Peter Dunn and Helen Pearson.

McPhee slams rival's riding tactics

JOHN McPhee has slammed the riding tactics of Moto3 rival Alexis Masbou after a collision

with the Frenchman cost the Connell rider three places in Sunday's race at Le Mans.



Connell rider John McPhee in action. Photo: Bonnie Lane

MOTORCYCLING

RSF-backed RTG rider McPhee was on the receiving end of three questionable moves by Masbou, the last of which, on lap 17, dropped him down to 11th position at the chequered flag.

But it was a lap two move at the Garage Vert hairpin that most angered the Argyll teenager.

'The clash on the second lap was just out-of-control riding and was simply not on,' said McPhee. 'He's riding above his limit, that's for sure, and it's not just me that thinks that.'

McPhee has been hit by Masbou before this season in Qatar in April.



Prizewinners from the Three Player Stableford at Taynuilt Golf Club.

Stableford held at Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF

LADIES Championship first round (Gross) + Medal played on May 14: 1 Mairead Sim, 69 (15); 2 Carol MacLarty, 69 (19); 3 Sue Campbell 71 (32).

Championship first round (Gross): 1 Mairead Sim 84; 2 Carol MacLarty 88; 3 Fiona McGlynn 95.

Three Player Open Team Stableford played on Sunday, May 19: Winners - David Thomson, Robert MacLarty and Allan Stewart (all Taynuilt) with 109 points. Winners of the ladies' section: Carol MacLarty, Sandra Elliott and Moira MacVicar (all Taynuilt) with 95 points.

Runners-up in ladies: Grace Petrie, Alice MacCalman and Anne MacCalman (all Taynuilt) with 83 points. Runners-up in gents: Mark Cringean, Rob Graham and Kevin Mills (all Taynuilt) with 100 points. Longest Drive (ladies): Dawn Hill (Isle of Seil), (gents): Andrew Diggory (Taynuilt). Nearest the Pin (ladies): Sandra Elliott (Taynuilt), (gents): Kevin Mills (Taynuilt).

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

WIN £700

COMPETITION

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.

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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.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
K MacKenzie, Conic Way, Drymen
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Sutherland Cup quarter finals this weekend

'It just looked like the boys couldn't be bothered' - Taynuilt manager Willie Gillies

KINLOCHSHIEL have the chance to edge further away from the relegation places when they welcome bottom side Oban Camanachd to Balmacara on Saturday.

Five points already separate the two sides, and 'Shiel know a win this weekend could see them looking up at the top of the league rather than over their shoulder at a relegation battle.

'Shiel recorded an important victory over second bottom side Lochaber at Spean Bridge last weekend, with a 3-2 victory.

Gordie MacDonald opened the scoring in the 32nd minute and doubled his tally two minutes later.

Shaun Nicolson pulled one back for the home side before John MacRae made it 3-1 in the 66th minute. Ben Delaney slammed home a penalty with a minute to play but 'Shiel were able to hold out for the win.

Graham Morrison and Fraser MacVicar both missed the game, and manager Johnston Gill will be keen to have the pair back involved for this Saturday.

The important matches are coming thick and fast for **OBAN CAMANACHD**, who will need to get something from this week's trip to Kinlochshiel.

Rooted to the bottom of the table, Camanachd are already starting to lose touch with the teams above them.

And while their heroic effort in the Celtic Cup last weekend took Inveraray to extra time, the tie still ended in defeat, a result that coach Iain Hay said left the team 'shattered'.

'The boys were obviously feeling deflated after giving so much effort last Saturday but although we had most of the game we rarely created clear-cut chances,' said Hay.

'I can't fault them for effort and I think we deserved at least the chance of a penalty shoot-out but we were caught out by a quick free hit for Euan McMurdo's goal.'

Camanachd could be missing at least four players for the trip north this weekend.

Hay added: 'It looks as though the boys who were subs on Saturday could be starting and this is their opportunity to show us that they deserve a starting place in the team.'

'This game is certainly a big one because it is one we would look to get something from.'

LOCHABER face a relegation battle with neighbours Fort William at Spean Bridge this weekend.

The tie was in doubt when The Oban Times went to press due to a disagreement over whether to play on the Saturday or Sunday.

The game had originally been scheduled for Sunday, but Fort asked for it to be moved to Saturday. Lochaber put in an official complaint to the Camanachd Association, claiming many of their players would not be available on Saturday.

Lochaber manager Callum Cameron told The Oban Times if the game did go ahead, it would be very important in the relegation fight.

He said: 'We want to get the win and move ahead of Fort William.'

Last week Lochaber fell to a disappointing 3-2 defeat at home to bottom half side Kinlochshiel.

Shaul Nicolson and Ben Delaney grabbed the goals for the Spean Bridge side.

Cameron said: 'We never turned up for the first half, and we gave ourselves a mountain to climb. We were much better in the second half though.'

FORT WILLIAM have the chance to pull clear of the relegation places when they take on Lochaber this weekend.

Having picked up just four points from their first seven Orion Group Premiership matches, Fort sit in a precarious position, just one point ahead of bottom two clubs Lochaber and Oban Camanachd.

Fort have held the upper hand in meetings between the two sides in recent years, but will know Lochaber have managed to start putting the ball in the back of the net and will pose a real danger.

Fort will need to improve at both ends of the pitch to get a result, having lost their last two league games without scoring a goal, conceding nine times in the process.

Fort forward Gary Innes will miss this weekend's game due to his musical commitments.

Fort's game against Kingussie last weekend was postponed following the sad passing of former Fort William player Drew Ferguson.

LOVAT take on local rivals Glenurquhart in the league this Saturday before the two teams meet in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final next month.

Both sides booked their places in the final last weekend, with Lovat overcoming North Division One side Kilmallie 2-1 at Canal Parks as they look to end their 60-year wait for a major trophy.

Lorne MacKay and Owen Ferguson grabbed the goals to see Lovat to victory.

Manager Allan MacRae told The Oban Times he was looking forward to this weekend's match.

'Games against them seem to be coming fast and furious just now,' he said. 'We played them just a few weeks ago in the Macaulay. It'll be a good game on Saturday, quite a hard game. Drum are quite a physical side. It'll be interesting to see how it goes.'

MacRae also said the final would be an occasion to remember.

He said: 'It's a local derby so it'll be a big day. The last time Lovat were in the final of a major trophy was in the mid-70s. I don't think any of our boys were even born then so it'll be a new experience for us.'

GLENURQUHART booked their place in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final with a 2-1 win over Newtonmore last weekend.

SHINTY

In the Inverness final on June 15 they will face form side Lovat, with the two sides meeting in a league match this Saturday.

Glen co-manager Fraser Mackenzie told The Oban Times his side were going into the game with confidence.

He said: 'The majority of the players were here when we were beaten in the MacTavish Cup final by Kingussie in 2008, so hopefully that experience will help us.'

'Lovat are the form team and will be strong favourites. They are scoring goals for fun.'

The two sides met in the Macaulay Cup recently, with Lovat winning 4-2.

Mackenzie said: 'We played well last time, we thought we let them out of jail. We were the team on top but we made a few individual errors.'

Glen took the lead against 'More' on an hour gone, through David Smart, before Glen MacKintosh equalised in the 72nd minute. Summer signing Ewan Brady fired in the winner with 13 minutes left.

KINGUSSIE are gearing up for one of their biggest games of the season when they take on Newtonmore at The Eilan in this Saturday's Badenoch derby.

The two sides met in the season in the Macaulay Cup, with 'More' running out 2-0 winners.

Kings manager Russell Jones told The Oban Times: 'We're always looking forward to playing Newtonmore. I don't think we need to motivate the players, apart from cup finals these are the biggest games of the season'

Ewen Cameron's men eased into the quarter final of the Strathdearn Cup with a comfortable 10-0 victory over Inverness last weekend.

'Garry were 3-0 up at half time, but ran away with it in the second half.'

Daniel MacLennan, Scott MacDonald, Sean Sloggie and Martin Cameron all scored doubles as 'Garry shared the goals around.'

Lochside co-manager Andrew Pearson said: 'I'm not sure what our squad will look like on Saturday. I know the first team [Oban Camanachd] might need a few players but we don't have many to spare.'

Keith MacMillan is back but may travel with the first team and David MacMillan, Josh Rippon, Craig MacDougall and Michael MacQueen are still unavailable.'

TAYNUILT manager Willie Gillies is on the lookout for new players to strengthen his under-achieving squad after another defeat in Marine Harvest South Division One.

Gillies was left raging after an under-strength Bute came away from Taynuilt with a 2-0 win last Saturday, as the home side seemed to lack determination and composure in front of goal.

Gillies told The Oban Times: 'With the talent we have we should have won that game. In all my years involved with shinty that was the weakest Bute side I have ever seen and they were there for the taking. It just looked like the boys couldn't be bothered.'

This was the second consecutive league game in which Taynuilt had failed to score, a statistic Gillies said was 'not good enough'.

'I am still waiting for the more experienced players to step up and provide that spark the team is lacking just now,' said the manager.

'It bothers me that we played so poorly against a poor Bute team but I don't know how much it bothered them.'

'I think it is good that we have a free week this Saturday, to give the boys a rest and a chance to think about things. In the meantime I will be looking around for new players.'

BUTE were missing three of their star men on Saturday but still came away with a 2-0 win from Taynuilt, having given some of their future stars a good run out.

However, this weekend's Artemis Macaulay Cup tie against Kyles will be a much tougher challenge.

Coach Graham Fisher said: 'It will be a difficult game against Kyles but we have players coming back from injury and have home advantage, so we could maybe cause a cup upset.'

'We know the Kyles team well, so I have a few ideas up my sleeve for how we are going to play the game.'

Bute fans will welcome the return of the experienced pairing of Iain MacDonald and Brian Liddell for the visit of

OBAN CELTIC play Caberfeidh for the second weekend in a row after drawing their Camanachd Cup fixture last Saturday.

The 0-0 scoreline reflected the hard fought nature of the tie and Oban Celtic president David Hamilton is expecting another tough match in the replay in Oban this weekend.

He said: 'The boys played out of their skins to get a good draw and despite home advantage I know it will be a tough game against this Saturday.'

'Our defence will need to be



Inveraray's Scott Robertson and Fraser Inglis of Oban Camanachd have both come out of retirement to help their respective teams for this season and their hard-fought personal battle was a reflection on how both teams played. Photo: John MacCavish

intosh equalised. But it wasn't to be for PJ MacKintosh's men as they again fell behind five minutes later in the end-to-end cup tie.

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'Our defence will need to be

Kyles, as well as prospect Robert Ferguson.

But Fisher said he was pleased with the performance of youngsters such as Adam Stirling, who were called up to the first team last weekend.

He added: 'We are in a bit of a transitional period just now, having lost a few experienced players but the young lads have shown me enough to give me hope for the next few seasons.'

GLENORCHY face a tough trip to Strathglass in the Balliemore Cup quarter final this Saturday.

The Dalmlally men warmed up for the fixture with a 2-0 win over Strachur last weekend, with goals coming from youngsters Connor Sartain and Duncan Smith.



Fixtures

Saturday 25 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Glasgow MA v Kilmallie
Lachie Wood
Oban Celtic v Caberfeidh
Ted McDonald

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Bute v Kyles Athletic
David Mitchell - 3pm

Orion Group Premiership

Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd
John Angus Gillies
Lochaber v Fort William
Colin MacDonald
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Graham Cameron

Sutherland Cup Quarter Final

Final
Lovat v Newtonmore
Neil Ferguson - 12pm
Lochcarron v Glangarry
John MacLeod
Lochside Rovers v Fort William
Dunkie Kerr
Ballachulish v Lochaber
John MacGregor

Balliemore Cup Quarter Final

Strathglass v Glenorchy
John Matheson

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu v Inverness
Evan MacRae - 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Strachur v Kilmory
Ewen MacDonald
Taynuilt v Glenorchy
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart
Euan Pearson
Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel
Ronnie Campbell - 12pm
Kingussie v Skye
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Kyles Athletic
Alex MacVicar
Bute v Inveraray
Neil MacDonald - 12pm
Tayforth v Col Glen
Duncan Freshwater

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Boleskine v Inverness
Al Hunter
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
John Sloggie
Lewis v Strathglass
Willie MacRae
Strathspies v Lochbroom
Calum Girvan

(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Youth Fixtures

Friday 24 May

Marine Harvest Under 14 League
Caberfeidh v Newtonmore
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Kinlochshiel v Skye B
Strathglass v Beaulieu

Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League

Inveraray v Kyles
Ballachulish v Oban Celtic
Oban Caman v Milngavie
(at Dalmlally)

Sunday 26 May

South of Scotland Under 17 Trophy - MacQuiston Cup Semi Final

Oban Celtic v Ardnarmurchan
Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA

Womens Camanachd Association

Sunday 26 May
Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Lochaber v Glangarry

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Kilmallie's Allan MacDonald holds off Lovat dangerman Greg Matheson 20_21k04



Results

Wednesday 15 May

Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round

Lovat 5 - 0 Caberfeidh

Saturday 18 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Caberfeidh 0 - 0 Oban Celtic

Co-operative MacTavish Cup Semi Final

Newtonmore - 2 Glenurquhart
Kilmallie - 2 Lovat

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Semi Final

Oban Caman 0 - 1 Inveraray
Glasgow MA 0 - 4 Kyles Ath

Bullough Cup 1st Round

Bute 1 - 1 Col Glen

Col Glen won 2 - 1 on penalties

Oban Celtic 6 - 2 Aberdeen

Inveraray 10 - 0 Glasgow MA

Ardnamurchan P - P Lochside

Ardnamurchan unable to field a team walkover to Lochside Rovers

Tayforth 11 - 1 English SA

Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round

Aberdeen Uni 3 - 4 Skye

Fort William P - P Lochcarron

Due to Bereavement

Lochbroom 2 - 6 Beaulieu

Glangarry 10 - 0 Inveness

Strathglass 0 - 3 Kinlochshiel

Glenurquhart 4 - 2 Kingussie

Newtonmore 7 - 2 Boleskine

Orion Group Premiership

Kingussie P - P Fort William

Due to Bereavement

Lochaber 2 - 3 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 3 - 0 Skye

Strathglass 2 - 1 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 4 - 1 Kilmory

Glenorchy 2 - 0 Strachur

Taynuilt 0 - 2 Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Kilmallie - 3 Lochaber

Youth Results

Monday 13 May

Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League

Kyles 0 - 11 Oban Camanachd

Tuesday 14th May

North of Scotland Under 17 Trophy - The Co-operative MacTavish Cup 2nd Round

Caberfeidh 0 - 4 Skye

Lochcarron 0 - 2 Fort William

Kinlochshiel 1 - 2 Newtonmore

Beaulieu 0 - 8 Kingussie

Friday 17th May

National Under 14 Competition - MacMaster Cup 1st Round

Glenurquhart 1 - 4 Skye

Kinlochshiel 2 - 4 Lovat

Oban Caman 6 - 4 Fort William

Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League

Oban Celtic 2 - 4 Kyles Athletic

Successful day at the Mull Rugby Sevens for Oban Lorne

Men's and women's teams win the 'world's most sociable sevens'

OBAN Lorne's winning streak continued on Saturday as both their men's and women's teams won their respective tournaments at the Tobermory Distillery Isle of Mull Rugby Sevens.

The men defeated the host team in a closely fought final, while the women defeated the newly-formed Inverness Craig Dunain team to make it a double win for the Oban club.

But the Mull club was not to be overshadowed on the most important day of their season, as it was presented with a Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) award to recognise its youth coaching set-up.

Mull is the 17th club in Scot-

land, the first island club and first Argyll and Bute club to win the award.

Fergus Whyte of Mull Rugby Club said: 'The PCS award was a massive part of the whole day but that was a more serious part of the weekend, which is billed as the world's most sociable sevens.'

Fundraising

'The sevens is not only about the serious competition but is also a great fundraising day for the club.'

The 'world's most sociable sevens' also gives out awards for the most sociable teams, this year won by Stirling County and Lismore Ladies.

RUGBY

There was also the welcome return of the Bute sevens team after years away from the tournament.

Earlier in the day an inter-island primary school tag tournament was held at Garmoy.

Tobermory Primary School won the Scarlet Cup for upper primary teams and Lochdonhead Primary School, which fielded every one of its 10 pupils, won the Garmoy Quaich for smaller schools.

The club thanked tournament sponsors Tobermory Distillery for its support.



Oban Lorne defeated hosts Mull 15-7 to win the Mull Rugby Sevens. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Mull Rugby Club get their compliance plaque from the Bill MacLaren Foundation presented by Linda Lawson, daughter of the late Bill MacLaren. Pictured are Linda Lawson, Fergus Whyte, children's coach, Tom Nelson, president of Mull RFC, and Alan Lawson, former Scotland scrum half and now president of the SRU.



Action during the children's tag rugby.



Oban Lorne completed the double as their ladies team defeated Craig Dunain in the final.



Action from the Oban Lorne Ladies versus Mull match.



Mull versus the Highlanders.



Oban Lorne took on Stirling in a pool game



Joint winners of the tag team tournament celebrate.

Oban Lorne host Sevens tournament this weekend

OBAN Lorne 7's tournament, sponsored by Yorkshire Building Society, will be taking place at Glencruitten this Saturday from 12pm.

Come and see 15 teams from Scotland and Ireland compete in one of the most exciting games in sport - Rugby Sevens. This fast-paced game has entertained fans in Oban for a number of years and this season's tournament is shaping up to be the biggest and most successful yet!

Throughout the day, the participating teams will compete in a group stage, with the winners advancing to a knockout stage. The day culminates in a series of finals, followed by an evening in the clubhouse bar.

As well as top-class rugby, there will be a BBQ and excellent entertainment from Master of Ceremonies Sandy Rokitta. Families are welcome to come along and join in the party atmosphere.

The teams taking part are: Oban Lorne, Oban Exiles, Oban Old Boys, Mid Argyll, Lochaber, Mull, Cambuslang, Crieff & Strathern, Howe of Fife, Shawlands, Cartha QP, Isle of Bute, Murrayfield Wanderers, Heriot Watt Alumni, Stobswell and an Army Regiment from Ireland.

Oban Hockey club will also be hosting a 7-a-side tournament for the first time alongside the rugby event. Stepps, Gremlins and a selection of Oban teams will make up the tournament. The hockey tournament will also start from 12pm at Glencruitten.



Alan Wright, Argyll and Bute rugby development officer, Linda Lawson, wife of SRU president, Alan Lawson, president SRU, and Douglas Alexander, Labour MP, watch the action.



Oban Lorne's Robert Beattie was brought to ground by this flying tackle.

Weather

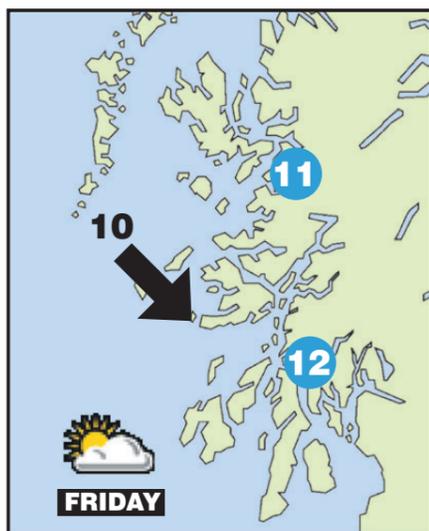
Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate, north north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light, north north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunny intervals
Winds light, west south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 12°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 23, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.34 1.8 09.17 3.1 15.45 1.7 21.25 3.3	
Fri	04.25 1.9 10.06 2.9 16.35 1.7 22.16 3.1	
Sat	05.30 1.9 11.16 2.8 17.32 1.7 23.23 3.1	
Sun	06.43 1.9 13.08 2.8 18.34 1.7 *** **	
Mon	00.53 3.1 07.53 1.7 14.17 3.0 19.36 1.5	
Tues	02.12 3.3 08.50 1.5 15.05 3.2 20.37 1.3	
Wed	03.08 3.5 09.37 1.2 15.46 3.4 21.33 1.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8148

Thursday 23 May, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



Lochaber's the place to be
Page 3

Ancient burial grounds unearthed
Page 5

SPORTS NEWS

Fort looking to end the season on a high note

Earthquake strikes west Lochaber

WINDOWS rattled and the ground shook in west Lochaber on Saturday night when an earthquake with a magnitude of 2.9 hit the area.

The quake was recorded as occurring 12kms underneath Acharacle at 7.18pm and was felt by residents from Glenfinnan to Killochan.

Bid to block shinty shake-up defeated

MOVES to block plans to re-organise shinty's top leagues were narrowly voted down at a meeting in Fort William on Friday.

Skye Camanachd, Kingussie, Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore put forward a resolution to withdraw the restructuring plans and keep the current system in place and to have further consultation of a new league structure.

The Camanachd Association wants to create a new national first division one and reduce the premiership from 10 teams to eight from 2014. Twenty two out of the 51 members voted in favour of Skye's resolution, with 18 voting against. The other 11 clubs did not take part. This meant Skye gained 43 per cent of the vote, falling short of the 75 per cent required.

Walkers step out for Heather

AROUND 100 people are expected to take part in the annual two-mile sponsored 'Heather's Walk' in Corpach this Sunday afternoon.

The event, which has raised more than £50,000 for Highland Hospice since its inception, was set up by Margaret Simpson and Sarah Walker in memory of their close friend Heather Robertson.

The walkers will set off from Kilmallie Hall at 1.30pm and head along the Caledonian Canal to Banavie swing bridge and back. As well as the walk, a number of stalls will be set up at Kilmallie Hall. Ms Walker told *The Oban Times*: 'We're hoping to get around 100 to 150 people taking part.'



The local strongmen who took part in Sunday's event - Jeremy Vickers, Gary Robertson and Cameron Kennedy.

Strongman Jeremy bags Euro place with Scottish win

CAOL man Jeremy Vickers has been named Scotland's Strongest Man under 90kgs after winning a competition in Fort William on Sunday.

The win also means Vickers has booked his place in the Europe's Strongest Man competition for the second year in a row.

Vickers took first place ahead of 10 other competitors at the BA Club, including Spean Bridge pair Gary Robertson and Cameron Kennedy.

Robertson took sixth place overall, winning the 325kg arm-over-arm chain pull event along the way, while Kennedy finished in tenth.

Former national strongman champion Chris 'Goose' Innes of Spean Bridge handed out the trophies after the event.

It wasn't all plain sailing for Vickers, as during the final event, the Atlas stones, he went over on his ankle and ripped ligaments.

The injury is likely to keep him out of action for up to 10 weeks. But Vickers, who helped organise the event, told *The Oban Times* it had been a 'really good day' apart from his injury.

He said: 'We had a good crowd and we managed to raise £153 for STAR for Harris just with people throwing in their loose change.'

'It was a good turnout and the weather was good so I think we timed it well.'

Arisaig goes for own Post Office

A LOCHABER community wants to run its own Post Office after it was announced the village was no longer viable for a stand alone office.

There are now two possible options for the future of Arisaig Post office - either it is taken into an existing business as a sub post office, or the local community runs it for themselves.

A public meeting was held in the village last Friday with both the local Spar store and Arisaig Community Trust (ACT) expressing an interest.

Spar say it is keen to take the office on board, but ACT raised the possibility of refurbishing the Arisaig Land, Sea and Islands Centre and opening a community-run post office there.

ACT member Gordon Stewart told *The Oban Times* although many people in the village seemed happy with it moving into the Spar, the trust was keen to explore all options.

He said: 'The general feeling is that the post office is likely to end up in the Spar. We're trying to tell people there are other options. We just want to keep

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

people thinking and find out as much as possible. If there is a will it wouldn't be impossible, although it would be a lot of hard work to run. The majority seem to think it would be fine in the Spar, but we don't know that yet. We are still following it through and keeping on the back of the Post Office to make sure they do consult fully with the local community. Communication hasn't been brilliant so far.'

Mr Stewart continued: 'The general feeling is that it will probably end up in the Spar but the trust want to make the village think about it and realise there are other options before we just hand it over to another company.'

ACT is due to meet with Post Office Ltd representatives on June 20 to discuss the move.

A spokesperson for CJ Lang, which runs the Spar shop, confirmed to *The Oban Times* the company had put in a note of interest to take on the post office.

Fort William's Justine all smiles after being named best dental nurse in Scotland

A FORT William woman has been named the best dental nurse in Scotland at a glittering awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Justine MacDonald, 25, of M&S Dental Care, won the award at the Scottish Dental Awards 2013 at Hampden Park last Thursday night.

Justine, who has worked as a dental nurse for the past six years, told *The Oban Times* the ceremony was a 'great night'.

She said: 'It was really nice to win, especially as all the other

people nominated were from big practices down south.'

And Justine isn't planning to rest on her laurels. She is about to embark on a further year of studying to earn a qualification in sedation dentistry.

M&S dentist Gregor Muir said: 'Justine quietly provides a top quality service, there's no hassle, she's just a natural. It's a pleasure to have her here.'

Practice manager Jillian Bruce added: 'She encompasses the whole ethos of a well-trained,

good quality dental nurse. She exudes confidence and that leads to patient confidence in the chair.'

Ms Bruce was also nominated, for a dental lifetime achievement award. She said: 'I was really pleased to be nominated, not that I was ever expecting to win. Just to be shortlisted was a great compliment.'

M&S Dental Care was one of four practices shortlisted for one of the top awards on the night, best NHS practice award.



Fort William's Justine MacDonald with her award. 20_21dentist01

Runners tackle Trotternish Ridge

A CHALLENGING hill race along the Trotternish Ridge in North Skye saw more than 40 runners compete in tough conditions on Saturday.

The unmarked 17.5-mile route, which started at Flodigarry and ended at the Storr, involved 7,500 feet of climbing. Skye

and Lochalsh Running Club's Sarah Stevenson was the first female home, taking ninth place overall. Niall Till was the first local male home, while Alec Keith took the win in a time of three hours 19 minutes and 42 seconds - nearly an hour quicker than the second quickest athlete.



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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President hits back at Gaelic standards decline claim

THE PRESIDENT of Royal National Mòd organisers An Comunn Gàidhealach has hit back at claims Gaelic standards are in decline at the event.

John MacLeod says sharp criticism from Lochaber Gael Charlie MacColl that the showpiece competition was losing its Gaelic roots was 'a shame' and insisted the language was in good heart.

Native Gaelic speaker Mr MacColl recently quit as chairman of Meur Lochabair, the local branch of An Comunn.

And in last week's *Oban Times* he fired a stinging parting shot, claiming Mòds were 'going down' with too many people saying 'what's in it for me?'

But Mr MacLeod refuted that view and did not accept the quality of Gaelic has dipped.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Actually the reverse is true. There has been very strong development in the past 10 years or so to boost Gaelic at the Mòd. Adjudicators are constantly stressing the

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

quality of Gaelic and how difficult it is to separate competitors from each other on the basis of their Gaelic.

'We are getting record numbers of entrants in traditional singing, especially in the younger age groups.

'Thirty years ago the complaint was there was too much English at the Mòd - but it's now the reverse in terms of Gaelic content.'

Mr MacLeod was 'confident' that present Mòd arrangements were popular as competitions and support from the public proved.

He said: 'At Dunoon for example, more than 100 people were involved in traditional singing in three different under-18 competitions and it is very encouraging to see that. We are enthusiastic for the future as far as Gaelic is concerned.'

'Charlie has been very supportive over the years and we did thank him personally at the AGM when he indicated that he was stepping down.'

'We very much appreciate his contribution both to Gaelic and the Mòd over the years.'

'It seems a shame to blame the Mòd for declining standards in Gaelic competitions. All we can do is provide a platform for those who are willing to take part.'

On behalf of An Comunn Gàidhealach, chief executive John Morrison added: 'We are extremely grateful for all the hard work and effort that Charlie has offered the Gaelic language in the Lochaber area over many long years.'

'His good natured presence will be missed by everyone and we hope that he enjoys a long and fulfilling retirement.'

'He will be a hard act to follow but I am certain that his generosity of spirit will allow him to guide and advise others on how to match and surpass his achievements as a champion of the Gaelic language. Moran tainn duibh a Thearlaich.'

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Trial postponed after witness fails to attend

THE TRIAL of a Fort William woman accused of making a racist comment towards another woman in the town was postponed on Monday after an essential Crown witness was not present.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said the witness in the trial of Alexandra McIssac, did not live in Lochaber and had only been informed of the trial date on Saturday.

McIssac, of 33 Wallace Place, denies acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting and swearing at the woman and uttering a racist comment at Wallace Place on November 24.

The 38-year-old is now set to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 4.

No insurance to cover test drive

A BANAVIE man who neglected to get insurance before taking a car for a test drive has been fined £150 and given six penalty points.

Jonathan Bovill, of Camhanaich, was spotted driving the Peugeot 306 on North Road, Fort William, on October 17 by police, who ran a check on the car and discovered it was not insured.

The 23-year-old offshore worker told Fort William Justice of the Peace Court he was insured on his mother's car, but had expected Pavel Zal, who was selling the car, to have sorted cover for the Peugeot.

Defending Bovill, Hamish Melrose said: 'He assumed the vehicle would be insured for someone to test drive it. It was a wrong assumption, but an understandable one.'

Zal, of 168 Kilmallie Road, admitted allowing Bovill to test the car without checking his insurance details and was also fined £150 and given six penalty points.

The 30-year-old mechanic's solicitor Stephen Kennedy said it was 'wholly unrealistic' to expect the seller to sort out insurance.

He said: 'Mr Zal understandably assumed anybody wishing to drive a private vehicle would put insurance in place first.'

Man accused of shouting racist abuse

A CORPACH man has appeared in court from custody accused of shouting racist abuse at a man at Corpach Basin.

John MacKenzie is also accused of driving while nearly three and a half times the legal alcohol limit on the A830 and at Corpach Basin.

Both the alleged incidents occurred on Saturday May 18. MacKenzie, of 17 Clerk Drive, made no plea and the case was continued to a further hearing on June 4.

The 59-year-old was released on bail under conditions not to approach the alleged victim.



Muriel Gray launches the Wild Lochaber Festival at Ben Nevis Distillery on Friday night. Committee member Ian MacLeod helps get the message across. 20.121wild01

Lochaber's the place to be: Muriel's festival message

JOURNALIST and broadcaster Muriel Gray launched the second Wild Lochaber Festival in her own inimitable style at Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William on Friday evening.

Ms Gray, whose 1991 TV series The Munro Show saw her clamber up Lochaber's best known peaks, is a frequent visitor to the area. So when festival organisers invited her to be guest of honour, 54-year-old Ms Gray was delighted to accept. She told *The Oban Times*: 'I am

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

hugely delighted to be involved in something that aims to bring in people to this incredibly beautiful area.

'Lochaber has absolutely everything - the beaches, the scenery, the mountains - from Glencoe to the Small Isles we have it all.

'I've been coming here since I was a child and even did a summer job as a waitress in the

Alexandra Hotel. I absolutely loved it and that sold the deal for me. I have a very close bond with Lochaber and its people, so much so that I leave fingernail marks when I get dragged home.'

Festival committee member Ian MacLeod, from South Laggan near Invergarry, said the eight-day event was all about raising Lochaber's profile as an outdoor destination.

The wildlife guide and semi-professional photographer told *The Oban Times*: 'Scottish

Natural Heritage has launched its 'Big 5' animals as a must see in the Year of Natural Scotland.

'They are the red squirrel, red deer, golden eagle, common seal and the otter. Mull and Speyside have some - but Lochaber has them all.'

The eight day festival, an Outdoor Capital of the UK event, ends on Saturday.

For programme details visit <http://www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/whats-on/wild-lochaber-festival-2013>.

Match date row throws doubt over local shinty derby

LOCHABER'S derby match against Fort William at Spean Bridge this weekend has been thrown into doubt after a disagreement over when the match should be played.

A decision was made at the start of the season to play the tie this Sunday, but at the start of the month Fort William asked for the game to be moved to a more usual Saturday slot.

But Lochaber were not happy, saying some of their players were not available to play in the relegation battle on Saturday.

Speaking on Monday, Lochaber manager Callum Cameron said: 'We have quite a few players who have made arrangements as per the fixture list. This is all very last minute.

'Our position is that we're not available for the Saturday.'

Moved
Fort William chairman Richard Gall told *The Oban Times* his club asked for the game to be moved to Saturday a number of weeks ago as some of their players are not available on a Sunday.

The Camanachd Association agreed to reschedule the game for Saturday, prompting an official complaint from Lochaber.

CA chief operating officer Torquil Macleod said the CA did not have the power to force teams to play on Sundays and that the two clubs had arranged this fixture themselves.

He said: 'We look to give at least seven days notice and that's what we've done here.'

'I can understand the frustration but there's not much we can do.'

Caol man had stolen goods in his house

A FORMER Caol man was caught in possession of stolen goods following a police investigation into a series of thefts in Lochaber last year.

Dean Conn, pled guilty to reset of laptop and three cash boxes at 82 Kilmallie Road on February 13 last year.

Police launched the investigation following thefts from Banavie quarry and Hawco car garage in Caol and gained a search warrant for Conn's house.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'The items were recovered from his premises a number of days after they were taken.'

Conn, of 10 Dunbeath Court, Coatbridge, was sentenced to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work in the next three months.

The unemployed 23-year-old had been accused of carrying out the thefts but the Crown accepted his guilty plea to the lesser charge.



Father Tom Wynne and local girl Catriona Sutherland officially open Cup 'n' Cake.

Father Wynne opens new café and toilets

ROY Bridge's new café and public toilets were officially opened last week, with a number of locals gathering to see village priest Father Tom Wynne cut the ribbon.

The Cup 'n' Cake Coffee Shop, an extension to Roy Bridge Stores, was packed out with local schoolchildren also attending the ceremony.

P7 pupil Catriona Sutherland's

Crianlarich bypass contract put out to tender: work to start this summer

THE £5.5 million contract to construct the Crianlarich bypass on the A82 has been put out to tender, with work expected to start this summer.

Five firms - Balfour Beatty, John Paul Construction, RJ McLeod, I&H Brown and Graham Construction - will bid to carry out the work, with construction work expected to last around 12 weeks.

Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'Our recognition of the A82 as a vital

economic and social lifeline means, through local consultation, we have developed a programme of road closures that will have less impact on road users, local residents, businesses and visitors.'

Vital
'Connecting businesses and communities in the Highlands and Islands with the central belt is vital to the area's future prosperity.'

'This investment will benefit local residents with less noise and congestion in

the village, whilst road users can avoid the current delays experienced at the junction where the A82 meets the A85.

'The work we are doing along this vital route will lead to improved road safety and journey time reliability and meet the needs of business, communities and visitors.'

Transport Scotland has also announced Halcrow Fairhurst Joint Venture will start design work on the Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade later this month.

Drink driving charge denied

A LOCHABER Rugby Club player has denied driving near the clubhouse while almost twice the legal alcohol limit.

Pawel Fronczek, of Drim Sallie Mill, Glenfinnan, pled not guilty to drink driving in the Moorings Hotel car park in Banavie on April 21. The 32-year-old's case is set to go to trial, with a further hearing set for June 4.

Lawyer's surgery delays trial

THE TRIAL of a Banavie man accused of stealing from the BSW sawmill in Corpach has been postponed due to his lawyer having surgery on his wisdom tooth.

Darren Woods, of 9 Crown Cottages, denies stealing a flat pack garage on December 3. The 42-year-old is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 18.

Former ScotRail worker admits assault

A FORMER ScotRail employee drunkenly head butted a cleaner at Fort William Railway Station who he thought had taken his job.

Alan Tomlin admitted assaulting the man at around 10.30pm on October 26, two months after the 48 year-old lost his position as station maintenance operator.

Tomlin had held the post as an agency worker for a year. When it was advertised as a permanent position, he applied but was not offered the job.

After getting off the train from Glasgow, Tomlin spotted the victim and shouted at him before head butting him. The incident was caught on the station's CCTV.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He spoke to police and admitted having a drink in him. He said he basically lost it because the victim had taken his job.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered Tomlin, of 7 Camanachd Crescent, to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Boxing club bounces back with car boot sale

A KINLOCHLEVEN boxing club which was recently the victim of a theft raised nearly £200 for its upcoming home show with a car boot sale.

Claymores Amateur Boxing Club had alcohol and a small amount of cash stolen from its gym just weeks before hosting a Scotland vs England match up on June 15.

Stalls offering homebaking, clothes, toys and DVDs were put up outside the club gym, and despite the weather a number of locals came down to join the fun. Face painting and a barbeque were also on offer.

Club head coach Martin Glenesk said the local community had offered support to the club following the theft.

He said: 'We are really starting to come together as a club. I mean as a whole, not just the boxers but the boxers' families and friends and the communities around the area.'

'We have had offers of help and donations from Onich, Duror and Glencoe, including sponsors for bouts at our next show and a few bottles for a raffle.'

'The whole of the Nether/South Lochaber area has been brilliant and I would like to thank everybody for their help and continued support.'

The alcohol stolen had been saved up to stock the bar at the show, with Mr Glenesk estimating the value of the drink taken was around £1,000.

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Rockfield offered 'for free'?

Council may give former school site away for housing

AFTER rejecting bids approaching £400,000 for the former home of Oban's Rockfield Primary School, Argyll and Bute Council is considering giving it away.

The *Oban Times* revealed last year that talks between the authority and Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) had begun in a bid to have the site reused for housing for the elderly and low income families. The council this year gave ACHA £50,000 to carry out a feasibility study to aid the plans.

Talks were also ongoing with Historic Scotland to have the Grade-B building de-listed to make demolition easier.

But it is now understood the council is considering transferring the site to ACHA for free, with the social housing provider said to be unwilling to pay for the former school.

A council source told *The Oban Times* 'ACHA expects to get the site for nothing or the development won't happen,' adding that bids close to the asking price had been rejected in the past.

If the building is given away, it would eliminate any potential financial boost to the authority's education budget, which was supposed to receive the proceeds from the sale.

ACHA chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'The association is involved in discussions with the council regarding the feasibility study we've been commissioned to do. We have no comment to make on that as of yet.'

Mr MacGregor neither confirmed nor denied the talks were based on ACHA getting the site for free.

Asked instead if the association would pay the previously advertised £475,000 asking price for the property,

"ACHA expects to get the site for nothing or the development won't happen."

he said: 'It's not ACHA's position that we would want to pay that amount of money to acquire the building.'

When asked if Argyll and Bute Council was considering giving the building away for free, a spokeswoman for the authority said: 'The feasibility study at Rockfield is still ongoing. When this is complete, further discussions will take place.'

The Oban and Lorn Area Committee originally agreed to move to de-list the building in 2011 after rejecting two offers from potential developers. The intention at that time was to remarket the building after de-listing had been achieved.

Two further offers were received in January 2012, but again, these were rejected.

Meanwhile, recent studies into the safety of Rockfield showed that the building is structurally sound, despite a leaky roof.



MS Serenissima was stranded on the Corran Ledge in Oban Bay until freed by the rising tide and assistance from Oban lifeboat. Picture - John MacTavish

Cruiser with 112 aboard runs aground in Oban Bay

A CRUISE ship which ran aground in Oban Bay on Monday evening is a regular visitor to Oban over the summer, according to operators.

Navigational buoy
MS Serenissima, formerly the MS Andrea and operated by Noble Caledonia, went aground, bow first, on a sandy bank around 6.30pm after approaching the bay on the wrong side of a navigational buoy.

None of the 112 people on board

were injured during the incident and the vessel was refloated on the incoming tide just before 1am.

Initial attempts had been made by Oban lifeboat to assist the ship by using the vessel's engine power while pulling at the stern. An RNLI spokesman said: 'Unfortunately the attempt was hampered by a strong wind blowing the ship towards the shore, and was unsuccessful.'

The 2632 tonne, 87-metre Serenis-

ima was finally freed from Corran Ledge during a rising tide with the assistance of the lifeboat.

The cruise ship was entering Oban's north channel at the end of a 10-day cruise around the UK and Ireland. Divers inspected and passed the seaworthiness of the Serenissima as *The Oban Times* went to press, and she was expected to leave on Tuesday evening on her next cruise.

Tim Cochrane, the cruise com-

pany's commercial manager, said: 'Noble Caledonia confirms that a cruise vessel on charter to them, MS Serenissima, was refloated in the early hours of Tuesday morning having run aground in the approaches to Oban Harbour the previous evening.'

'The RNLI Oban lifeboat assisted with the attempt to refloat the vessel at high water just after midnight.'

'None of the 61 passengers or 51 crew were injured in the incident and

the ship was never in any danger, having grounded, at its forward end, on a sandy bank.'

'There was no pollution or water ingress to the vessel. The captain kept the passengers fully informed and the atmosphere on board was extremely calm.'

Noble Caledonia operates cruises all over the world and has been visiting Oban for the past 10 years with a variety of vessels.

Report highlights potential air link between Oban, Glasgow and Barra

THREE new air links could be provided from Oban Airport after a report confirmed there would be interest in running commercial flights between Glasgow, Barra and Campbeltown.

Survey
The Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership,

HITRANS, has launched an online survey to gauge the interest in such west coast routes and whether the link would be commercially viable.

It will also gather information on potential enhancements to the current Barra-Glasgow air service. Encouraging people to complete

the online survey, HITRANS said: 'The greater the number of survey responses then the more solid will be the evidence against which potential demand for these air services can be assessed.'

'Therefore, HITRANS is very keen that residents and businesses throughout the area take part in the

survey.'

Lead councillor for development and infrastructure at Argyll and Bute Council, John Semple, said: 'It is important as many people as possible complete this survey to make their views known.'

'These three proposed routes could make a big difference to

people in Argyll and Bute and in the Western Isles.'

HITRANS director, Ranald Robertson added: 'This study will provide an invaluable evidence base that will consider in detail the complex operational, regulatory and budgetary constraints which impact on the provision of air serv-

ices in the Highlands and islands.'

'This work will also investigate the feasibility of any new operations and forecast the impact these are likely to have in terms of fleet, crewing and operating costs.'

The survey can be found at survey.monkey.com/s/highlands_and_islands_air_services.

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West Coast Energee has chosen to work with leading wind turbine manufacturers Lely-Aircon and Evance. The company, which operates in the north and west of Scotland, has installed and continues to service over 110 wind turbines that they have installed over the last five years. Its latest completed work is the installation of ten

turbines for Scottish Water in Stornoway. Eddie Johnstone Scottish Water project manager stated 'we are delighted that the Stornoway wind project is completed, we chose Evance turbines as energy can be generated and used on site reducing the need to purchase from the grid, resulting in lower energy costs. Evance have over 1,600 number R9000 wind turbines installed in the UK.
Lely-Aircon is huge in the agri sector with a turnover of over 600 million last year, their turbine's ace, other than its german build quality, is its virtual total lack of noise, being un audible at 70 meters away.
On a 6.5 m/s wind site, an Evance 5kW turbine can produce 18000 units every year, generating an annual tax-free income of £6,300.
On a 6.5 m/s wind site, Lely-Aircon's 10kW turbine can produce 31,000 units yearly, generating an annual tax-free income of £10,850.
Above examples are based on the current fits rate of 0.22 pence for each 'fit' unit and the existing cost of 0.14

pence per unit currently being paid, also all energy produced being used on site. For all new applicants the fits rate is 0.22 pence this rate will remain fixed until March 2014, when the fits rate will hugely decrease.
As the average cost of installation for Evance R9000s is £28,000, including VAT, Lely-Aircon 10kW turbines, which cost £66,000 inclusive of VAT these turbines could effectively pay for themselves within five or six years.
Both wind turbines come with a full five year manufacturer's warranty; as part of installation costs, West Coast Energee will include insurance for such issues as damage caused by adverse weather conditions, loss of earnings and technical breakdown for the first twelve months for both turbines.
Subject to customers' provisions of land and grid connection points, Evance can arrange a free energy model, essentially connecting their homes to free electricity. Lely-Aircon will be able to discuss lease finance options with customers, example of lease £1,130 monthly over 5 years or

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Argyll missing out on millions claims King Arthur historian

'If the council plays this right, they will get world-wide publicity for Argyll'

A RESEARCHER who says there is proof the legendary King Arthur came from Argyll will next month urge the council to make millions from his theory.

'If the council plays this right, they will get world-wide publicity for Argyll,' claims Adam Ardrey who has spent years researching the truth behind the stories of Arthur.

Dunadd link
Last year Mr Ardrey published a book, Finding Merlin, underlining the evidence he has

uncovered to indicate Arthur was in fact Arthur Mac Aedan.

Not only does he explain the legend of Arthur's famed magician Merlin, but he identifies the stone from which Arthur drew a sword in 574 in Dunadd, near Lochgilphead.

The author also identifies the location of Arthur's most famous battle, the battle of Badon, as the lands of Badden that lie between Dunadd and Dunardry on the Crinan Canal.

He also claims the Isle of Iona, where Arthur Mac Aedan's

family was buried, as Avalon - where King Arthur was buried.

He will release his second book on the subject, Finding Arthur, in October, which will be published in the USA first in recognition of the increased interest there.

Now he hopes Argyll and Bute councillors will take advantage of his theories and the success of his book to stake a claim for Arthur's heritage - potentially opening up a tourism goldmine.

Ahead of next month's meet-

ing, the advocate Mr Ardrey said: 'Carmarthen, Wales, makes £6million per annum from a Merlin Festival inspired by its claim to be Merlin's home.

English Heritage too use Arthur to promote tourism - especially in Tintagel. The tourist industry in Glastonbury is Arthur based - even the French have learned symposiums anent Arthur and Merlin based on a spurious claim.

'Leicester and York are currently fighting over the millions that will come to whoever gets

the body of Richard III. Inverness makes £40million a year from a monster that does not exist.

'King Arthur is a bigger deal than Richard III and a bigger deal - and more real - than the Loch Ness Monster.

Mr Ardrey believes a visitor centre should be established and a friendly rivalry with Southwest England would help boost visitor figures.

Acknowledging cash may be hard to come by initially, he added: 'Frankly, to begin with,

it need not cost much. All they have to do is stake a claim for Argyll and when they start to get publicity, to keep up the momentum.

'In effect, there is money to be made whether I am right or wrong about Arthur. France, England and Wales cannot all be right and they still do well out of Arthur.'

Mr Ardrey will make his presentation to councillors at the Oban, Lorn and Isles community planning group on June 11.

Hopes high in rent row

'I felt it was an exceptionally positive meeting.' - SYF manager

HOPES are high that a compromise can be reached between ACHA and the Soroba Young Family Group (SYF) after a 'constructive' meeting between the groups on Monday.

SYF had previously said they could be forced to leave their home in Soroba after the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) said its peppercorn rent of £100 per annum was to be revoked, being replaced with a rent 36 times higher.

The charity said it cannot afford that and a parents' petition calling on ACHA to review its decision has so far attracted 550 signatures.

But there could yet be a compromise. Janice Kay, SYF manager, said she was encouraged by Monday's meeting with ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor and hopes a deal that works for both parties can be agreed.

She said: 'We put our view on the table and Alastair put his. We've agreed to send financial projections and give ACHA our accounts for the current year to demonstrate our expenditure.'

'Alastair will take that to his committee on June 9 and we can go on from there.'

'I felt it was an exceptionally

positive meeting.'

Mr MacGregor said: 'I have asked for financial details to be provided - it would be helpful to determine whether the rate they will pay is affordable.'

'The association will look at that and make a decision at our meeting in June.'

Referring to the 550 signature petition, Janice added: 'It's been excellent to see the support because you don't always appreciate how people see your group and the work it does.'

Meanwhile, the Office for Scottish Charity Regulators (OSCR) has admitted it was a 'technical issue' on its website that saw it reporting the SYF Nursery's expenditure for 2011 as nil.

Mr McGregor quoted the erroneous figures published on the OSCR website in last week's *Oban Times*, sparking concern from parents.

However, *The Oban Times* has since seen a copy of the audited accounts that show expenditure for the SYF Nursery was broadly level with income for that period.

A spokesperson for OSCR said: 'It's something we're looking at; it is a technical issue with the website.'



Oban community councillor Duncan Martin, second from left, raises the burgh flag as Argyll and Bute Council representatives Sandy Mactaggart, councillor Elaine Robertson and Derek Crooks.

Oban unfurls its colours

OBAN'S official burgh flag is flying over the town once more after it was raised in Argyll Square.

The banner is one of four flags within the square, including the Scottish Saltire, Union Flag and the European Flag. The four standards replace the flags of various nationalities that previously marked out the edges of Argyll Square.

The official burgh flag was raised by community council secretary Duncan Martin, after Argyll and Bute Council had arranged the new flags and poles to be put in place.

Sandy Mactaggart, Argyll and Bute Council's executive director of development and infrastructure, said there was an intention to reduce the number of flags in the square and to renew the flag poles. He added: 'The flag poles were beginning to look a bit worn and we had got to the stage where we had too many flags, none of which were owned by the council. We were keen to get the correct burgh flag and this has been confirmed by the Court of the Lord Lyon.'

Mr Mactaggart added that while the four flags would be retained all year round, exception could be made in special circumstances, or during the Argyllshire Gathering, when clan banners could be flown. Councillor Elaine Robertson and technical officer Derek Crooks were also present at the raising of the flag.

Lorn Lines

THE DEADLINE for entries to Oban in Bloom has been extended to June 30 after a clerical error meant Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) tenants were not invited to enter.

Organiser Andy MacDowall is now making clear that the competition is open to all ACHA tenants, with the ACHA Tenants Cup up for grabs as usual.

He said: 'We do have a trophy and it is open to them all, I would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Entry forms can be picked up at the ACHA office, all Oban garden centres or the Municipal Buildings on Albany Street. Completed forms must be returned to Mr MacDowall by June 30.



Chris Hammond presents Doreen Henderson with her certificate as Margaret Melville, Pauline Evans and Anita Marshall look on.

A NORTH Connell woman has raised £1,148 for the Oban and Lorn branch of Alzheimer Scotland by running the London marathon.

Doreen Henderson was presented with a certificate thanking her for her efforts by branch chairwoman Chris Hammond.

Doreen, 65, completed the race in four hours and nine minutes - coming third in her age group.

She said: 'I run for fitness and a challenge but I decided to do this for Alzheimer's because I heard how well the money was being used and I felt it could be locally targeted.'

Chris added: 'You can't fail to be impressed by Doreen and we just want to say thank you. The money is used locally, the only money we put out is to research and the rest is spent in Oban.'

MORE than 200 people are expected to turn up when Stramash opens the Highlands' first outdoor nursery next month.

Held on June 1 to coincide with International Children's Day, the fenced site near Ganavan, Oban features several Mongolian yurts for shelter, offering an ideal base for fun and games for all the family.

Winnie the Pooh will be on hand from 11am-2pm for the opening, which will incorporate a host of activities for all ages, including archery, orienteering, face painting and a great deal more. Entry is by donation.

OLYMPIAN and Commonwealth Games medallist Susan Egelstaff will visit Oban High School next week to show how the right diet can lead to a healthier lifestyle.

The Scottish badminton player, who announced her retirement from the sport after competing at the London Olympics, will show how eating the right things can make a significant difference to sporting performance, leading to a healthier lifestyle.

Held as part of Scottish Sea Farms' healthy hearts of the community roadshow, Susan will answer questions after a presentation from Irene Riach, nutritionist from sportscotland.

Scottish Sea Farms has sponsored the roadshow as part of its heart of the community initiative and Oban is the first stop on a schedule that will take the roadshow event to Shetland, Orkney and other parts of Scotland later this year.



Cameron receives his cheque at the sanctuary

Barcaldine sanctuary staff help Appin boy

AN APPIN boy has been given a helping hand towards a new wheelchair from staff at one of his favourite places to visit.

Cameron Allen suffers from a rare condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, more commonly called brittle bone disease. The 11 year old has so far endured over 100 fractures in his bones during his lifetime.

Due to the weakness of his bones, spine, ligaments and muscles, Cameron is a full time wheelchair user and, as yet, is unable to walk.

The youngster is in need of a new wheelchair, which will cost £3,000, to help his bones get stronger with

the aim of standing unaided in the future. It will also help him fulfil his ambition of wheelchair racing.

Moved by Cameron's story, staff at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine have raised £978.21 to help fund the new wheelchair.

Craig Connor, general manager at the sanctuary, said: 'The Allen family are frequent visitors to the sanctuary and live in Appin which is only a few miles down the road.'

'Cameron's story touched our hearts, he does so much to help raise money for other people, we wanted to give him something back which would make his life a bit easier.'

Island hotel declares 'business as usual' despite legal wrangle and bankruptcy

THE MISHNISH Hotel in Tobermory's Main Street is open for 'business as usual' despite the owner being declared bankrupt.

The move follows a civil court case between Mishnish Enterprises Ltd, the company which runs the Mishdish Restaurant and Mishrooms, and Robert MacLeod, who owns the whole building and whose family run the pub in the hotel.

A spokeswoman for Mishnish Enterprises said on Tuesday: 'We are in litigation with Robert MacLeod over the monies we have lent him.'

'We only found out this morning he is bankrupt and right now our main objective is to protect our loan and investment as security holders of the Mishnish Hotel. We are currently in discussions with fellow creditors.'

The restaurant and rooms, leased by Mishnish Enterprises since April 2011, are currently out of action as staff were removed from the premises during the Mull Music Festival.

A court order has since been granted to allow sheriff officers access to the building but this was refused by those in the Mishnish Hotel.

When a further court date was set for last Tuesday to deal with the breach of this court order Robert MacLeod was declared bankrupt.

A representative from the Mishnish Hotel said: 'This doesn't mean anything and it is business as usual here.' The hotel has been in the MacLeod family since it was built in 1861.

Car ploughs into house at Taynuilt

A 46-YEAR-old man has been charged with careless driving after his vehicle ploughed into a house on the outskirts of Taynuilt.

The driver lost control of his vehicle on the B845 Taynuilt to Kilchrean road and crashed into Heather Cottage at around 11.30am last Saturday. The driver and his passenger suffered slight injuries in the crash.

Bikes stolen at Bridge of Orchy

TWO BICYCLES worth £4,000 have been removed from the back of a Renault Espace in Bridge of Orchy.

Between 10.30pm last Friday and 8am last Saturday thieves cut through a padlock and chain that fixed the bikes to a rack on the back of the vehicle. The owners of the bikes were camping in the area at the time of the incident.

Oban police can be contacted on 01631 510500 if any witnesses have information.

Police follow lead on assault

OBAN Police are following a positive line of enquiry in relation to an assault on a 19-year-old French tourist in the town. The man was allegedly attacked around 2.15am on Sunday morning in Dunollie Road.

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Successful day at the Mull Rugby Sevens for Oban Lorne

Men's and women's teams win the 'world's most sociable sevens'

OBAN Lorne's winning streak continued on Saturday as both their men's and women's teams won their respective tournaments at the Tobermory Distillery Isle of Mull Rugby Sevens.

The men defeated the host team in a closely fought final, while the women defeated the newly-formed Inverness Craig Dunain team to make it a double win for the Oban club.

But the Mull club was not to be overshadowed on the most important day of their season, as it was presented with a Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) award to recognise its youth coaching set-up.

Mull is the 17th club in Scot-

land, the first island club and first Argyll and Bute club to win the award.

Fergus Whyte of Mull Rugby Club said: 'The PCS award was a massive part of the whole day but that was a more serious part of the weekend, which is billed as the world's most sociable sevens.'

Fundraising

'The sevens is not only about the serious competition but is also a great fundraising day for the club.'

The 'world's most sociable sevens' also gives out awards for the most sociable teams, this year won by Stirling County and Lismore Ladies.

RUGBY

There was also the welcome return of the Bute sevens team after years away from the tournament.

Earlier in the day an inter-island primary school tag tournament was held at Garmony.

Tobermory Primary School won the Scarlet Cup for upper primary teams and Lochdonhead Primary School, which fielded every one of its 10 pupils, won the Garmony Quaich for smaller schools.

The club thanked tournament sponsors Tobermory Distillery for its support.



Oban Lorne defeated hosts Mull 15-7 to win the Mull Rugby Sevens. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Mull Rugby Club get their compliance plaque from the Bill MacLaren Foundation presented by Linda Lawson, daughter of the late Bill MacLaren. Pictured are Linda Lawson, Fergus Whyte, children's coach, Tom Nelson, president of Mull RFC, and Alan Lawson, former Scotland scrum half and now president of the SRU.



Action during the children's tag rugby.



Oban Lorne completed the double as their ladies team defeated Craig Dunain in the final.



Action from the Oban Lorne Ladies versus Mull match.



Mull versus the Highlanders.



Oban Lorne took on Stirling in a pool game



Joint winners of the tag team tournament celebrate.

Oban Lorne host Sevens tournament this weekend

OBAN Lorne 7's tournament, sponsored by Yorkshire Building Society, will be taking place at Glencruitten this Saturday from 12pm.

Come and see 15 teams from Scotland and Ireland compete in one of the most exciting games in sport - Rugby Sevens. This fast-paced game has entertained fans in Oban for a number of years and this season's tournament is shaping up to be the biggest and most successful yet!

Throughout the day, the participating teams will compete in a group stage, with the winners advancing to a knockout stage. The day culminates in a series of finals, followed by an evening in the clubhouse bar.

As well as top-class rugby, there will be a BBQ and excellent entertainment from Master of Ceremonies Sandy Rokitta. Families are welcome to come along and join in the party atmosphere.

The teams taking part are: Oban Lorne, Oban Exiles, Oban Old Boys, Mid Argyll, Lochaber, Mull, Cambuslang, Crieff & Strathern, Howe of Fife, Shawlands, Cartha QP, Isle of Bute, Murrayfield Wanderers, Heriot Watt Alumni, Stobswell and an Army Regiment from Ireland.

Oban Hockey club will also be hosting a 7-a-side tournament for the first time alongside the rugby event. Stepps, Gremlins and a selection of Oban teams will make up the tournament. The hockey tournament will also start from 12pm at Glencruitten.



Alan Wright, Argyll and Bute rugby development officer, Linda Lawson, wife of SRU president, Alan Lawson, president SRU, and Douglas Alexander, Labour MP, watch the action.



Oban Lorne's Robert Beattie was brought to ground by this flying tackle.

Rotary Am-Am date decided

THE ROTARY Club of Oban will hold its 28th Am-Am at Glencruitten on Sunday June 2. Money raised will go to local charities.

The event has so far raised more than £130,000 since it started 28 years ago.

A good turnout is expected and 50 teams will play for the Bank of Scotland Trophy, which was won last year by Lonan Properties.

Glencruitten is in great shape for the event and with the assistance of local sponsors it is hoped £6,000 will be raised.

Teams of four from across Scotland will take part.

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Glencruitten success at Tobermory Ladies Open

The Tobermory Ladies Open was held on Saturday with a very good turnout and great weather. The winner was Angela McLaughlin, ahead of Glencruitten Golf Club teammate Helen Pearson and Rosie Barbour, also Glencruitten, in third. Home winner was Doris Hargreaves, longest drive went to Diana Dalgetty (Glencruitten) and nearest the pin was Diana Dalgetty (Glencruitten).

Amateur footballer wins chance to play at Hampden

AN AMATEUR footballer will fulfil part of his childhood ambition next week by playing at Scotland's national football stadium.

Youth worker Innes Paterson, who is from Taynuilt but now lives in Lochgilphead, will play at Hampden on Tuesday - but not on behalf of his country.

Innes, who turns 26 on Sunday, is the lucky winner of a competition. Innes won the Vauxhall Big Pitch Scotland competition on twitter.

It asked football enthusiasts to name the most capped player in Scottish history and tell them why they deserved the opportunity of playing at the Glasgow stadium. Innes said: 'I have



Innes Paterson

win for a while. I looked back at Scotland's results and I thought that I haven't seen them win since 1999 against Bosnia.

'I tend to go to one or two games a year so you can imagine how much heartache I've been through.'

'I basically explained all of this in my competition entry and that I deserved some joy at Hampden for once.'

Innes is one of a number of winners from across Scotland who could be sharing the pitch with former Scottish footballing greats.

The Lochgilphead Red Star defender also won tickets to the next World Cup qualifier against Belgium and a full Scotland kit.

been going to Scotland games for years and after the Wales game in March it dawned on me that I hadn't seen Scotland

Oban Cricket Club begins 2013 season with Helensburgh victory

OBAN Cricket Club has started its 2013 season with a comfortable win over Helensburgh at an overseas Taynuilt.

Batting first, the hosts had Leach and Kelly to thank for a strong opening 15 overs. Kelly was brilliantly caught at mid-on for 24 and Leach scored seven fours before retiring for 57.

This brought big-hitting Tristan Carre and the equally as explosive Daniel Booker to the middle.

The Helensburgh fielders were in for a work-out as the Oban

pair smashed a succession of boundaries.

Booker scored 47 and Carre blasted five sixes in his 48 to leave Oban 208 for 7 after 40 overs.

Helensburgh would have to score just over five runs an over to win and their chase got off to a poor start when Santos bowled Sullivan.

Booker continued his fine form with three wickets to leave the visitors on the ropes at 10 for 4.

Helensburgh needed their tail to wag and it did just that with Chambers adding a crucial 28. Just when it looked like the fightback was on, Thornton was undone by a ball from Kelly which spun and clipped the top of the off-stump.

Belshaw took the final wicket to bowl-out Helensburgh for 96 and to leave Oban winners by 112 runs.

This Sunday Oban welcome Carradale to Taynuilt for the opening Argyll League game of the season.

Busy weekend at Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club started a busy weekend with the Craig Paterson Trophy on Saturday, Jimmy Ross shooting a net 70 to take the win.

David MacPherson was second with Owen Sweeney in third.

On Sunday the 1912 Cup was held with Neil Young taking a one shot victory.

Toby Richardson was runner up with a net round of 64, with Andrew Brown in third.

The second round of the ladies' Cameron Trophy was also played on Saturday, with Helen Brian finishing as winner. Rosemary Macintyre was second with Hazel Cameron third.

Macintyre however won the May Medal on Sunday, with a net round of 71. Kim Topping was some five shots back in second, with Hazel Cameron third.

Results-Saturday: Craig Paterson Trophy - 1, Jimmy Ross 87-17=70; 2, David MacPherson 79-8=71; Owen Sweeney 98-25=73. Cameron Trophy second round - 1, Helen Brian 32 points; Rosemary Macintyre 28 points; Hazel Cameron 26 points.

Sunday: 1912 Cup - 1, Neil Young 77-14=63; 2, Toby Richardson 75-11=64 (BII); 3, Andrew Brown 75-11=64. Ladies May Medal - 1, Rosemary Macintyre 82-11=71; 2, Kim Topping 90-14=76; 3, Hazel Cameron 93-17=76.

Isle of Skye GC

ISLE of Skye Golf Club's May stableford competition saw Willie Cowie win by one stroke last weekend. Cowie scored 41, with Mike Williams second on 40 points and Craig Irvine-Smith third on 37.

Last week the club held the May Black and White Shield, with John Finlayson winning category one (handicap 0-12). Jamie Beaton was second with Alasdair I Campbell third.

In category 13-28, Martin Bird took the win from John Marshall and John D Mackenzie.



Lochaber's relegation fears increased as they went down 3-2 at home to Kinlochshiel on Saturday. Gordie MacDonald struck twice in two first half minutes of the Orion Group Premiership tie, only to see Shaun Nicolson reduce the deficit after the break. But John MacRae's strike with 24 minutes left to play was enough to seal two points, despite Ben Delaney's last minute penalty. Oliver 'Ach' Macrae is pictured firing over a dangerous cross as Lochaber's Brian MacDonald attempts to block.

For a full roundup, see the shinty page. 20_f21lochaber02

Ken Buchanan guest of honour at boxing show

KINLOCHLEVEN based Claymores Amateur Boxing Club are gearing up for their latest home show on Saturday June 15, with boxing legend Ken Buchanan MBE the guest of honour.

The former Undisputed World Lightweight Champion will hand out the trophies after the bouts, with some local youngsters hopeful of getting their hands of the prizes at the Scotland vs England select show.

Current Scottish novice champion Callum Clement of Tyndrum will be hoping to impress in front of his home crowd, while Ballachulish pair Kerr Mackin, aged 12, and 13 year old Cameron Sutherland will also be hoping to make an impact.

Inchree fighter Ally Banks will also take to the ring on the night. The 14 year old recently took part in his first boxing show in Lin-

wood, where he took on an experienced opponent.

After impressing for the first two rounds, Banks tired and eventually lost by just a single point.

Club coach Martin Glenesk said: 'We are in great shape, we now have nine carded juniors, two of them are girls, so this bodes well for the club's future.'

We also have local DJ and Nevis Radio station manager David Ogg as our announcer for the night so we are looking forward to a fantastic evening.'

For tickets contact 07799 705 742 or call into the club which is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm-8:30pm.

CYCLING

Fort looking to end the season on a high note

'If we can get a squad together we can compete with most teams in the league'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will look to end another trying season with a good result against fellow strugglers Lossiemouth at Claggan Park on Saturday.

The sides have each lost 30 out of 33 games in 2012/13 and occupy the bottom two positions in the Highland League.

Fort are four points behind meaning even a win on Saturday would not be enough for them to leapfrog Lossie.

But manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times a good performance and result would boost confidence at the club which was shattered by last weekend's 12-2 hammering away to big-spending Brora Rangers.

Conlon said: 'A good result would give us all a bit of a boost and I think that's something we

all need right now, certainly the younger players. It would be good to get the last result out of our system.'

'It's the last game, the season has gone for us now. Whatever happens this Saturday is not going to affect next season. Lossie might want to look at some new players for next season, and we'd like to do that as well.'

He continued: 'We've got three big players - Michael Gillespie, Andy Martin and Darren Quigg. If we're missing one of them, we'll struggle, if we're missing two then we're in trouble.'

'If we can get a squad together we can compete with most teams in the league - but the problem is getting the squad together.'

Darren Quigg and Darren Duncan will both sit out the Lossie game, but Conlon is hopeful Davie Forbes, Iain MacLellan and Andy Maclean will all be involved.

Conlon had a skeleton squad available for last weekend's trip to Brora, due to a cocktail of injury, illness, work commitments and a wedding in Fort William.

But Fort's requests to get the tie switched to a midweek date fell on deaf ears.

Conlon said: 'We really struggled to get 11 players on the park. I had a 17 year-old playing up against Ross Tokely, and I had a 15 year-old and a 16 year-old playing.'

'I was a bit disappointed with Brora. They played their strongest side, and after some of their goals some players were running into the net to pick the ball out. I thought it showed a lack of respect.'

A bumper rollover jackpot of £900 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 8, 10 and 16.



The winning Lochside team with their trophy and defeated finalists Banavie

20_f21netball02

Lochside RC win netball festival

NINE Lochaber primary school teams competed in this year's Primary Netball Festival organised by Active Schools at Lochaber High School.

And it was Lochside RC who continued their recent domination, winning the tournament to add to their recent league and netball festival successes.

They were pushed all the way in the final, with Banavie A taking the match to extra time before Lochside came through to take the win. Inverloch A finished third.

Tight at the top in bowling league

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER five weeks of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller leads the scratch league with 66 points.

Colin Pinkett is close behind in second place on 64 points with Tommy McKnight in third on 60 points.

The handicap league for the Robert Cairns trophy is led by David Cameron on 55 points followed by Chris McCaig on 48 points and Gilbert Mullen on 47 points.

Colin Pinkett is the leader in the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 2,192 pins closely followed by Pam Weller in second with 2,188 and Rossamy Wareing in third with 2,058.

This week's top performer and gaining this week's maximum 15 points in both scratch and handicap divisions was Tony Whitelocke, with the top three game scratch series of 528 and the top three game handicap series of 651. The top individual scratch games this week were a 231 from Tony Whitelocke which included five strikes in a row and a 201 from Pam Weller which included four strikes in a row.

NETBALL

Banavie A also finished as runners up to Lochside in the league, with Caol A and Banavie B in third place.

Lia Hunter of High Life Highland said: 'Special thanks go to Carol Cairns, Primary PE teacher and Claire Lumley Holmes of the Fort William Falcons Netball club for umpiring such a terrific tournament and supporting netball in the primary schools.'



Wet start to the bowling season

The first tournament of the season for Lochaber Bowling Club was held with a wet start in the morning which gave way to a drier afternoon. A small band of six pairs played an exciting contest with the top two pairs tied on points with shots up deciding the outcome. Pictured above are the winners, right to left, Bill Clark and Keith Brannigan with runners-up Eddie Downs and Liz Kennedy.

Easy win for Ewan

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest time trial saw 13 riders tackle an 18 miles hilly route anti-clockwise around Loch Leven into a strong headwind.

Ewan Thorburn led the field and eventually took a comfortable win, finishing in a time of 50 minutes and 42 seconds.

Stephen Burns edged out Doc Shirley in a photo finish for third place, with both men recording times of 54 minutes and 15 seconds.

Emma Holgate was the fastest female rider in a time of 62 minutes and 34 seconds.

Time trial stalwart Davy Gunn made his return following a back injury, and recorded a time of 59 minutes and 32 seconds.

Wild win for Finlay

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER Athlete Club's Finlay Wild won the Goat Fell Race on the Isle of Arran ahead of a record field of 204 runners last Saturday.

Wild completed the eight mile climb and back in a time of one hour, 15 minutes and 56 seconds, over three minutes ahead of second placed Andrew Fallas of Carnethy.

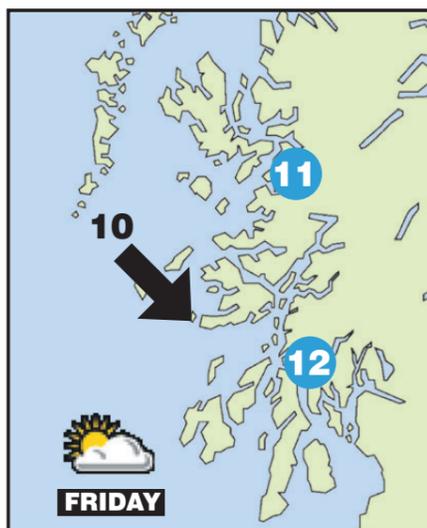
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate, north north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light, north north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds light, west south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 12°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 23, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.34 1.8 09.17 3.1 15.45 1.7 21.25 3.3	
Fri	04.25 1.9 10.06 2.9 16.35 1.7 22.16 3.1	
Sat	05.30 1.9 11.16 2.8 17.32 1.7 23.23 3.1	
Sun	06.43 1.9 13.08 2.8 18.34 1.7 *** **	
Mon	00.53 3.1 07.53 1.7 14.17 3.0 19.36 1.5	
Tues	02.12 3.3 08.50 1.5 15.05 3.2 20.37 1.3	
Wed	03.08 3.5 09.37 1.2 15.46 3.4 21.33 1.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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