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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Emergency tug comes back to the west coast

AN EMERGENCY tug will be publicly funded to serve the west coast of Scotland for the next three years after a U-turn by the UK Government.

Scottish secretary Michael Moore confirmed on Tuesday that funding for a vessel would be provided until 2015.

The announcement brings to an end a hard fought campaign, led by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council and Northern Isles Council, who said maintaining the tug was vital to safety on the west coast.

It remains unclear where the Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) will be based. A second tug is to be contracted under a commercial call-out agreement, although this is likely to serve the Northern Isles and funded by the oil and gas industry.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's leader, Angus Campbell, who has been vocal in his opposition to the plans since they were announced late last year, said: 'I'm absolutely delighted. Securing a publicly funded tug for the Minch has been a very hard fight but I'm really pleased with the outcome.'

'We made the case quite strongly that there was no alternative to providing an ETV except for from public funds.'

Argyll and Bute MP, Liberal Democrat Alan Reid, had previously raised the issue with his own government, making address directly to the Prime Minister. He said: 'This is good news for west coast seafarers and the protection of our environment from leaks from wrecked vessels. I am pleased that the government has now come up with the cash to fund the emergency tug.'

Fellow Liberal Democrat, Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'It's good news that this essential service will be retained, as I and many others have been arguing for. This is the right decision arrived at by Liberal Democrats in government.'

'Congratulations to all who campaigned for this result.'



Following their Olympic dream

These four excited Tayside youngsters were among many who made the trip to various parts of Argyll, west Perthshire and Inverness-shire to see the Olympic torch as it passed through the west coast on its way to Inverness last Saturday. From left to right, Logan Campbell, Calum MacDonald, Megan Day and Katie MacDonald made sure that they had their Olympic mascots Mandeville, Mandeville, Wenlock and... Mandeville...with them as they cheered the torch on its way through Tyndrum.

Argyll Legionnaire's Disease patient's condition deteriorates

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman being treated for Legionnaire's Disease after contracting the illness during a stay in Edinburgh has been moved to Glasgow General for specialised care. The woman was receiving

treatment in Lochgilphead's Mid Argyll Community Hospital but NHS staff decided to move her to Glasgow's Southern General for specialised care. NHS Lothian, which is tracking all cases of the disease

contracted in Edinburgh, said it wouldn't comment on individual cases.

At the time of going to press, 88 cases of Legionnaires' have been confirmed or suspected by NHS Lothian.

It is thought a cooling tower in the south west of the city is the source of the outbreak.

There is no suspected outbreak of the disease in Argyll and Bute. Spread through water vapour, it is not infectious.

Brave could open tourism floodgates

VOLUNTEERS are urgently required if Oban and Lorn is to take full advantage of a potential goldmine in the shape of Disney Pixar's latest blockbuster, Brave.

The animated Scottish tale from the Hollywood giant has its glitzy world premiere on Monday, before going on general release across the States on June 22, opening in Europe the following week.

Keen-eyed locals have already noticed direct comparisons between the film's setting and Argyll's unique topography - with locations such as Loch Etive and Kilchurn Castle recognisable from the film's trailers.

The Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) is keen to take advantage of this to drive extra traffic to the area, but a shortage of manpower is restricting its capabilities.

The organisation is now appealing for committee members to tap into the film's potential.

Linda Battison, who chairs the group, said: 'Brave is, quite

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

up and running as quickly as we can.'

Brave has been described by Disney as an epic tale set in the mystical Scottish Highlands, where headstrong protagonist, Merida, is forced to discover the true meaning of bravery.

In March, VisitScotland announced a world-first marketing agreement with Disney to promote both the film and Scotland as a tourist destination.

VisitScotland chairman Dr Mike Cantley said: 'People would be right to recognise parts of Scotland in the film because Pixar travelled extensively across the country for inspiration.'

'There are very few tourism destinations that get to work so closely with the world's largest entertainment companies - and this gives VisitScotland an unprecedented opportunity to put Scotland on the worldwide stage.'

If you are interested in joining the OLTA committee, contact Linda on 01631 564501 or email l.battison@oban.org.uk.

rightly, a huge opportunity for this area. If we don't grasp it and make the most of it, other areas of Scotland will.

'However, it is all Argyll. We have 60 castles and more medieval castles than anywhere else in Scotland. There are a lot of likenesses in the geography too, mossy woods, hills and lochs.'

'We do want to take advantage of that but we haven't had time to put together something because we're really short on the committee.'

'We just need a couple more people to come and help co-ordinate our advertising. It is absolutely essential we do that.'

'We haven't been able to do that effectively this year so it's something we want to get back

Islanders outraged as irreplaceable plate is stolen



The direction plate on Summit of Beinn nan Gudairean.

Photo: Ruari Cumming.

THE THEFT of a bronze-plated landmark on the Isle of Colonsay has caused outrage among islanders.

The irreplaceable direction plate, which sat at the summit of Beinn nan Gudairean, was commissioned in 1936 and unveiled by islanders two years later.

Its absence was only discovered last Friday when pupils from the island primary school climbed the hill to take a rubbing of the plate. However, the theft is likely to have taken place between September 8, 2011 and April 4 this year.

Islander Kevin Byrne, who is heading up the publicity campaign to find the plate, said everyone on the island is outraged with the crime.

'I have had so many comments from people, expressing outrage

and disgust but we all have the same feeling of revulsion,' he said.

'Scum'

'A long time ago this community raised money to put this plate up and it was restored at the millennium by the late Finlay MacFadyen. It is really important to people.'

'Whoever has done this has been welcomed into this community and has abused our hospitality. What kind of scum behaves like this.'

The plate, which is roughly 30 inches in diameter, has been prized from its concrete base. While the scrap metal value would be minimal, the cost to the community of replacing the plate would run into thousands of pounds.

PC Jeremy Moore of Oban Police, who is investigating

the crime, said: 'I would like to hear from anyone who has information about this theft, or has seen the plate within the last 12 months.'

'Someone, somewhere, will recognise this. The main thing is this plate is returned.'

The plate was designed by James Macaulay, the Glasgow-based town planner, who also designed the indicator for Craigs Top at Greenock. It had been mounted upon a special cairn, within the curtilage of an ancient look-out post, itself a listed monument.

If anyone has information about the theft, they can contact the police on 01631 510 500. Alternatively they can phone Mr Byrne on 01951 200 320, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Kilmore man denies indecency and drugs charges

A MAN who was arrested after processing indecent photographs in an Oban store faces a jury in Oban Sheriff Court this week.

Timothy Robson, 50, of Balnoe Cottage, Kilmore is accused of indecently assaulting a female while she was asleep between July 28 and 29, 2010.

Robson is further accused of supplying his victim with diazepam between January 1, 2010 and July 29, 2010.

The court was shown graphic images of Robson's alleged crime on Tuesday.

The first witness had been working in customer services at Tesco's Oban store. He told the court that Robson had come into the store to have photos taken off a memory stick and put on a cd. While processing the job he saw the photos which

he described as showing a 'girl, relatively young, naked with actions being done to her'.

Police contacted the victim and asked her to attend Oban Police Office where they explained the images that were on the cd.

The court heard accounts of the girl's shock and distress at viewing the images with one officer telling the court she seemed 'disgusted'.

Defence counsel Lewis Kennedy, on cross examination, suggested that it could be the idea of the images being made public that caused the upset.

Robson denies the charges and has lodged a special defence of consent. A jury of nine men and six women will decide the verdict.

As *The Oban Times* went to print the case continued.

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This scheme is funded by the Scottish Government, Scottish and Southern Energy and Energy With Limited and is operated by Alienergy for Argyll and Bute Council. All measures are totally free to the householder, up to a maximum amount.

Kitten dumped to die

A KITTEN just five weeks old has been rescued after its heartless former owner dumped it at Moleigh Recycling Centre, near Oban.

Argyll Animal Aid took the kitten in after it was found by Lorna Wylie last Wednesday.

Luckily, he is anything but quiet and it was only because his meow was so loud that he was rescued.

He is now enjoying a new home with veterinary nurse, Marion Johnson, who has renamed the lively lad 'Brian'.

Pat Blumnsden of Argyll Animal Aid said: 'I'm quite angry because people know we are here and I cannot understand why someone did that without even knowing if he'd be found. He probably would have been dead the next day.'

Pat said the situation highlighted the number of cats abandoned recently, with four cats being rescued in as many weeks.

'The cats get to the neutering age and people just abandon them. I think it's probably the financial situation that's the cause. I'd rather the persons responsible thought more of the life and take more positive action.'

Marion added: 'He's had a little milk but he's not out of the woods yet. He's a lively wee soul and quite a character so hopefully he'll be okay.'



'Brian' is recovering at Oban Veterinary Surgeons, thanks to new owner Marion Johnson. 15_124kitten1

Islay man admits 'drugs by post'

AN ISLAY man admitted supplying drugs by post at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week.

Police found nearly 800 diazepam tablets in packages posted at Port Askaig.

Stephen Charles McPharlane, aged 42, of 16 Gartness Cottages, Ballygrant, pled guilty to being concerned in the supply of diazepam between December 16 and December 22, inclusive, at Port Ellen Post Office, at Port Askaig Post Office, and elsewhere.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court McPharlane had attempted to post three parcels at Port Askaig. Police searched the packages and a total of 799 tablets were discovered.

Sentence was deferred on McPharlane for reports until July 5.

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Oban's Dunollie cultural hub seeks new development manager

'It's the right time to let someone else come in, with the expertise this place requires to move on and thrive.'

A SOCIAL enterprise that has transformed Dunollie into an important cultural hub is entering a new era with the announcement that its driving force is to depart.

Dunollie, the seat of the Clan MacDougall, has this week advertised for new sustainability and development manager to

replace Catherine Gillies, who has worked tirelessly on the Hope MacDougall collection since 1996.

Catherine is to leave in September to work on a PhD with Edinburgh University.

For Catherine, confirmation of her departure is bitter-sweet. On one hand, Dunollie's 1745 House

is now open after years of work and leaving will be a wrench, on the other, driving the project on in a meaningful way means new skills are required.

However, she won't be far away from Dunollie.

Her PhD focuses on Highland Revival costume, the style of traditional tartan clothing that

features heavily in the Hope MacDougall collection, stored at Dunollie, and led to the style of Highland dress favoured today.

Catherine said: 'Dunollie is a fabulous place to start this and then I'm going to open this up to other places.'

'Dunollie is international-stage important and I can't tell you

how excited I am going out to delve further in to this and put it on that kind of stage.'

Research

'It's starting to happen already but there's nothing like good research and being published to bring it to the fore.'

'Leaving is a bit like putting my baby up for adoption, but

when I look at it all the cans I had lined up to get this place open and running are now down. It's the right time to let someone else come in, with the expertise this place requires to move on and thrive. I don't have that expertise.'

Catherine said Dunollie requires someone experienced in

business and social enterprise to build revenue and sustainability for the 1745 House and cultural centre, including managing grant applications and improving estate profitability.

Further details on the position can be found on our recruitment page. For more on Dunollie, visit dunollie.org.

Local business hit hard by Dunbeg roadworks

A LOCAL business saw its takings drop by 50 per cent after two weeks of disruptive peak time roadworks on the A85 near Dunbeg.

Poppies Garden Centre and cafe watched in horror as queues of 100 cars built up while Scotland TranServ contractors operated a convoy system during resurfacing work on the road between Oban and Connel.

Waits of up to 45 minutes were regularly reported by drivers and so bad was the disruption that Poppies had to cut back staff hours to compensate for the hit to trade. Owner Gary MacPherson said the situation was doubly frustrating because it echoes the disruption caused last July.

He has now called for TranServ to consider evening works in the first instance in the interests of business and tourism and to engage more with local business before confirming plans.

He said: 'It's exactly the same situation we experienced in July last year - with roadworks at the same time as the orienteering event. I simply cannot understand why they cannot do this work during the night, like everywhere else.'

'We were notified about a month in advance, but it was worse than we thought it would be. We also heard from tourists that Oban couldn't handle the volumes of traffic that were coming through at once.'

'It was just ridiculous.'

A spokesman for Scotland TranServ said the works could not be carried out overnight due to noise issues, as it is within a built up area with accommodation providers.

Regulations on road width meant a convoy system was required to ensure traffic passed at 10mph, he added.

He further said: 'In April, the scheme designer carried out a full consultation process with all those affected, including the business community.'

'Only one emergency service responded.'

'In addition a letter drop was carried out ensuring that those directly affected were aware of the works.'

Business boost for town centre

Public house re-opens as new upmarket hotel is revealed

A DEAL to buy Oban's Tartan Tavern has been agreed exactly one year after the business closed - as details emerge about a new boutique hotel for the town.

On Friday, Stevie Shaw, who runs the Rowanree Hotel on George Street, agreed a deal to purchase the neighbouring Tartan Tavern, which closed last June after being seized by HM Revenue and Customs.

Meanwhile, local businessman Paul Sloan has revealed details of a new 17-bedroom hotel on Stevenson Street, The Ranald, which is due to open on September 1.

Elsewhere, on Stafford Street Little Bay Cafe's Robert McKay has taken over Scott's on Stevenson Street, which will be renamed Scott's Sandwich Deli and Espresso Bar.

The developments come weeks after commercial agents Colliers confirmed final bidder status had been awarded to a party interested in buying the Oban Inn.

For both Stevie Shaw and Paul

"There is no magic wand. It's about working hard"

Paul Sloan

Sloan, news of new business in the town is giving Oban the feel-good factor.

After agreeing the deal to buy the Tartan Tavern, Mr Shaw said: 'I want to retain the traditional feel to the bar and I see it as part of the rejuvenation of that end of the town, which includes the new Scotch Corner shop and the cinema.'

The licence of the premises has expired, however, and he is working hard to get it reinstated as soon as possible.

The Ranald Hotel, meanwhile, is due to open on September 1 and is to be aimed at the upper end of the market.

Mr Sloan said: 'The hotel is a big thing for us. It's the first brand new hotel and investment at this level in the town for a long time - at a time when people say times are hard.'

'I honestly feel this is a good time for Oban. People are going abroad less - although we don't have the same number of foreign tourists.'

'But we have the MacLeod's hotel progressing and other business moving forward. We have to move forward and I cannot overplay the importance of Oban BIDS.'

'It's all about progress. People talk about recession but we're going to be trading the way we are today for a long time yet. The word recession will just stop being used.'

'There's no magic wand. It's about working hard.'

Mr Sloan also paid tribute to those working towards re-opening the Oban Phoenix Cinema, saying it would be a major boost for the town.



Kebabish Curry House owner Shaukat Chaudhry with the Scottish Curry Awards plaque he picked up after the business was named north west Scotland's take away of the year. 15_124kebabish1

Oban and Fort William come top in Scottish Curry Awards

OBAN'S Kebabish Curry House has been named the producer of one of Scotland's finest take away curries, while Fort William's Spice Tandoori one of the country's finest restaurants.

The businesses were named regional winners of the hungryhouse.co.uk Scottish Curry Awards 2012 at an awards ceremony held in Glasgow's Thistle Hilton on Monday night, facing off stiff competition from throughout the north west region.

In the takeaway of the year awards final, Kebabish triumphed over Inverness' Max's 2, while Spice Tandoori was named winner of the Restaurant of the Year Award

ahead of Oban's Coriander, Fort William's Indian Garden and Inverness' Rajah Indian Restaurant.

More than 7,000 nominations

Even being nominated was an achievement though, with more than 7,000 suggestions being sent to the Scottish Curry Awards from across the country.

With more than 600 guests attending the event on Monday evening, winners were only announced on the night.

Kebabish owner, Shaukat Chaudhry, said: 'It was a total surprise to me. I didn't know anything about it until two weeks ago when the organisers called me.'

'There was thousands of nominations so it's a great achievement.'

Yasmin Mahmood, operations and business development manager for Oceanic Consulting which organises the event, said: 'After five years putting this event on, this year saw old faces and was also fresh with new contenders.'

'It was a fantastic evening and I would like to thank everyone for attending and a big thank you to our sponsors.'

'Congratulations to all our winners and finalists.'

Spice Tandoori was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Council planning team nominated for three awards

ARGYLL and Bute Council's planning department is the only one to be nominated three times in the National Planning Awards 2012.

The council has been nominated in: the Community Engagement category for The Craignish Plan, the Development Plans category for The Woodland and Forestry Strategy and the Quality of Service category for Creating Agile Planners.

Chairman of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee Councillor Sandy Taylor said: 'Who could fail to be impressed by the team's achievement being nominated three times at the Scottish National Planning Awards. Each nomination is for a very different, worthy project that reflects well on the team. I wish the team every success.'

Hill walker dies near Appin

A MEMBER of a walking group died on Sunday after falling while climbing Beinn Sgùlaird, near Appin.

Glasgow man Douglas Connor, aged 48, was part of a walking club from Paisley, which was in the area.

Police received a report at around 4.20pm after the man had fallen and the Strathclyde Police Mountain Rescue Team was mobilised.

The body was removed from the hill at 7.40pm.

Fuel tank emptied at Lochawe

A COMMERCIAL fuel tank in Lochawe was found to have been drained just a day after it was filled.

The tank was filled on Sunday but was found to be empty at around 11am on Monday morning. Anyone who saw any suspicious activity in the village that morning is encouraged to contact PC Iain Young at Dalmailly Police Station.

Teenager charged

A TEENAGER has been charged after challenging people to a fight in Craigard Road, Oban, last Saturday night.

The 15-year-old has been charged with conducting himself in a disorderly manner.

Comedian invited to start Big Strip

ORGANISERS of this year's Big Strip have invited comedian Kevin Bridges to start the event, which takes place the day of his show in Oban's Corran Halls.

BID4Oban is hoping to build on last year's inaugural event in Oban's George Street, which attempted to break the world record for the largest Strip the Willow, and have called on the Glasgow funnyman to kick

things off. For this year's challenge, between 5pm - 8pm on July 14, BID4Oban is seeking 2,012 dancers to reel their way around Stevenson Street and Airds Crescent, aided by some of the town's best traditional musicians.

And by doing so, organisers believe they will set a new world record.

The event will form a mini

street party with stalls, live music, a massed choir, a pipe band and street performers.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'We are getting the town ready for a party and would love to see the whole community, including the schools and businesses, getting involved in the Big Strip.'

'To have Kevin Bridges starting the event would really be the

icing on the cake.' BID4Oban co-ordinator Pauline Cameron said: 'The Big Strip 2012 will show how a well organised community event like this can boost tourism in the town.'

Project

'It is the type of project we could have far more of if we have a BIDS scheme in Oban.'

In order to monitor the numbers taking part in the event pre-

registration is required. Details on how to register online will be announced soon but in the meantime, forms are available from business outlets on Oban.

For more information e-mail info@bid4oban.co.uk

The Oban Times contacted Kevin Bridges' representatives, who were unable to confirm whether Kevin Bridges would be attending the Big Strip.



Kevin Bridges.

Oban man in court on drink driving charge

AN OBAN man appeared from custody at the town's sheriff court on Monday accused of driving while three and a half times the legal limit.

Arthur MacLennan, 68, of 13 Kerrera Terrace, pled not guilty to the alleged offence on June 8 at Corran Brae, Oban.

He was granted bail and is expected to stand trial on August 8.



Some of John's West Highland Walkers in training for their trek. 15_124walk01

Family to walk West Highland Way in memory of John

THE FAMILY of an Oban man who died before he could fulfil an ambition to walk the West Highland Way are taking on the trek in his memory.

Outdoors enthusiast John Bichard died on November 11 last year, 18 months after being diagnosed with bowel cancer. His family and friends have now decided take on the 96-mile walk in his name and will use the trek as a fundraising drive for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The 14-strong group, John's West Highland Walkers, will set out on July 6 and plan to finish on July 13.

The group has a target fundraising total of £2,500 but are more than halfway to achieving the amount.

John's daughter Nicola said: 'The support and advice we received from our Macmillan nurses was incredible. From listening to worries and moans and giving advice to popping in for a cuppa and a chat, whenever we needed them they were always there every step of the way.'

'In a nutshell, they made a horrible time a whole lot easier for us all.'

Donations can be made through the group's JustGiving page, www.justgiving.com/john-bichard

Furnace and Islay win in Scottish Education Awards

THE QUALITY of education within Argyll was celebrated on the national stage this week as two schools won accolades at the Scottish Education Awards.

Furnace Primary School's Alison Robertson was named educational support worker of the year, whilst Islay's Port Ellen Primary School won the learning through technology award.

Celebrated for her overall contribution to school life, Furnace's Ally said she was 'astounded' to be bestowed with such an honour. Speaking after the glittering award ceremony, held in Glasgow on Tuesday, she said: 'I was surprised but delighted. It is great for the school and we are all really proud. I want to thank everyone who supported me; it is a fantastic team that we have at the school.'

Teachers and staff at Port Ellen primary were also praised for using technology and social networking sites like Twitter to boost the learning experiences of their pupils. Speaking to The Oban Times, headteacher Maureen Macdonald said: 'The essence of what we do is opening up the barriers to learning through technology. We try to make learning creative through the use of technology. We use twitter to communicate and parents are really involved in what we do so it is about the whole community and that is one our strengths.'

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OT

Cash promise to boost broadband

AN EXTRA £32million has been pledged by the UK Government to help deliver superfast broadband across Scotland.

The figure adds to the £68.8million funding package pledged last August following a review by Broadband Delivery UK, in recognition of the difficulties in high speed broadband being extended to rural areas.

Scottish Secretary Michael Moore said: 'Providing Scotland with high-speed broadband is essential for businesses to grow and to create the new jobs we need. That is why the UK Government believes broadband is essential not only for everyday life but also for the future economic success of Scotland and the UK.'

Oban walk for diabetes charity

PEOPLE who fancy an afternoon stroll along Oban's promenade, can do so whilst doing something for charity.

Fundraisers are being sought to take part in the one and a half mile Oban Promenade walk on Sunday June 24 to raise funds for Diabetes UK Scotland.

Organisers say the relatively short walk can be taken with children and wheelchair users might like to have a go too. Dogs on leads are also welcomed.

Registration on the day is at 1.30pm with the walk starting at 2pm. To take part contact Susan Williamson on 0141 245 6380 or email susan.williamson@diabetes.org.uk.

Duror man denies Stanley knife charges

A DUROR man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny knife-related charges during a series of incidents in Ballachulish on March 2.

Ciaran Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, pled not guilty to having a Stanley knife in his possession, placing youths in a state of fear and alarm by brandishing the knife at them and assaulting a 14-year-old girl by pointing a knife at her body.

Wilson, aged 26, also denied sending a message via a social networking site to a person in Kinlochleven threatening to kill him. Trial was set for June 19.

Pair deny threatening behaviour and demanding entry to Oban flats

TWO OBAN men have denied threatening another man with violence and demanding entry to flats at the town's Albany

Apartments in Albany Street Ross MacLellan, aged 21, of 19a Glencruitten Drive and Craig Cameron, aged 26, of 4D

Scalpay Terrace, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last Friday. The pair deny banging on

doors and demanding entry to the flats in Albany Street on June 3 this year and also pled not guilty to sending grossly

offensive electronic messages to another man, threatening him with violence and threatening to destroy his works van.

Honorary Sheriff Gordon Seaton granted bail for both accused. An intermediate diet was set for July 24.



Former Oban Celtic player Michael Cooper, left, and former Oban Camanachd player Chris Munro, second left, were back on their home turf last Saturday to play for the armed forces shinty team Scots Camanachd in a Bullough Cup tie against current cup holders Lochside Rovers. Also pictured are Lochside captain Alex Dunning and vice captain Connor Howe. 15_124bullough01

Old shinty rivals join forces for return to Oban cup tie

THEY used to face each other as fierce shinty rivals, but former Oban Camanachd player Chris Munro and former Oban Celtic player Michael Cooper now stand side by side.

The pair serve at RAF Marham as aircraft technicians, and joined the Scots Camanachd armed services shinty team this season. And on Saturday they lined up together against Lochside Rovers in the Bullough Cup.

Chris and Michael admit they remain as loyal as ever to their respective former home clubs, but put that aside when lining up for their new team.

Michael said: 'We're new to this team. It used to be army only, the Highlanders, but now it's open to all the armed services. The local rivalry is still there,' he said. 'Nothing has changed on that front, but we do well in the same team.'

Despite their camaraderie, Michael and Chris ended up on the losing side as cup holders Lochside cruised to a 5-0 victory.

Shaun Morgan got the hosts off to the perfect start after 18 minutes, with Brian MacCallum doubling their advantage on 35 minutes. Lewis Cameron's double on 42 and 81 minutes sandwiched David MacInnes' 47th minute strike.

Historic Mull chapel dig gains funding

Television archaeology team believe Baliscate might be monastery site

AN ANCIENT chapel on Mull is to undergo further archaeological work after £80,000 was raised to continue the dig.

Baliscate Chapel, near Tobermory, underwent a three day dig by the Channel 4 programme Time Team in 2009.

They thought it could be a monastery and now Clare Ellis, of Argyll Archaeology, hopes to expand on the finds they made on the site.

Baliscate, thought to date from the time of St Columba, is estimated at 7th or 8th century and Clare told The Oban Times it would be 'hard to say' what they will find.

She said: 'Time Team thought it might be a monastery so we will be looking to confirm what they found and if it really is a monastery.'

'There are some burials there too, more than they looked at and we will also be trying to find more information about the site in relation to Argyll.'

She added: 'The important thing is it is a community dig. We will be there as professional archaeologists but the dig has two purposes - to further explore the site and train local folk in archaeological skills.'

'We will have 14 volunteers helping us but as it is a scheduled ancient monument we are only allowed a certain number so people must book in advance.'

The money needed to fund the dig was raised by Mull Museum which contributed its own funds as well as gaining grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, LEADER, MICT, the Scottish Government, the

European Rural Development Fund and the Hunter Trust.

The dig starts on August 18 for 28 consecutive days with volunteers coming to help from as far as Australia. Those who don't want to take part in the excavation are still welcome to visit the site during the dig to see what is happening.

Clare added: 'I think it will be great. It is hard to say until we get up there what we are going to find but it is a nice early interesting site and should be very exciting.'

The dig has been organised by Hylda Marsh who first discovered the site - on land owned by the Forestry Commission - near her house. She has been assisted in arrangements by Olive Brown, Jean Whittaker and Andrew Reid.

ALLenergy joins REScoop 20-20-20 project

COMPANIES from across Europe - including one from Oban - are coming together to increase the number of community led renewable energy projects.

ALLenergy is one of 12 organisations taking part in the scheme which sees companies from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands promoting community initiatives.

The project, called REScoop 20-20-20, will raise €100 million for new schemes and provide support in the form of twinning and tutoring to a selection of newly-created community initiatives.

A spokeswoman from ALLenergy said: 'We are delighted to be a partner in this exciting new project. Here in the west of Scotland we have abundant renewable resources such as water, wind and wood fuel. Projects which are initiated and controlled by local groups can help achieve local sustainability, fuel security, increased employment opportunities and other economic benefits.'

Oban woman in court on drugs supply charges

AN OBAN woman accused of supplying drugs appeared in Oban Sheriff Court from custody on Monday.

Elise MacCrone, of 10 Kilchurn Place, was allegedly in possession of diamorphine and diazepam with intent to supply on June 8 at her home.

MacCrone, 24, denies the charges. She was released on bail and is expected to stand trial on August 8.

Laurinburg ceildh

THERE will be a celebration ceildh in Oban next week to mark the town's 20-year link with Laurinburg, USA.

The event will be held on Saturday June 23 at 8pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall. All welcome. Tickets are available at the door or by phoning 07739 404517 or 07990 522537.

Girl Guide leaders recognised in volunteer awards

THREE young women have received awards in recognition of their dedication to volunteering in Oban.

Gemma Campbell, 22, Katie Shearer, 23 and Caitlin Gray, 20, were presented with the MV award of excellence for completing 200 hours of volunteering.

They are all leaders with Girl Guiding Scotland with Gemma having joined as a guide at just 10-years-old.

She said: 'I just love being a leader. The best bit is the camps

and seeing all the wee kids' faces.'

Katie is also a leader with the Rangers at 14 and said: 'I enjoy doing it and taking the girls away and doing the activities with them.'

Caitlin attended rainbows and brownies when she was young then started as a young leader with the rainbows at 17.

She told The Oban Times: 'It is giving something back to the girls and helping them learn

something. It is only an hour a week and it lets them do lots of activities and have fun.'

District Commissioner for Girl Guiding Scotland Stella Melver said she was very proud of the girls: 'It is good to see young girls coming forward and staying with us at guiding. They obviously enjoy what they are doing and we want to thank them for all their hard work over the years.'

Presenting the awards was Argyll and Bute councillor Louise

Glen-Lee who told The Oban Times: 'It is wonderful to see young women taking up such roles in the community and it shows that for years to come we will have a great Girl Guiding organisation.'

The certificates came from Argyll Voluntary Action and Senga Cakebread, development worker said: 'It is important that we recognise that young people are prepared to give up their free time to volunteer and give back to the community.'



Louise Glen-Lee presents the volunteering excellence awards to Caitlin Grey, Gemma Campbell and Katie Shearer. 16_124awards01

GO outdoors

WITH some of the most dramatic scenery and wild terrain on the planet, Scotland's west coast is a must for the would-be adventurer. In fact, many of the area's best visitor attractions are off the beaten track. That's why The Oban Times is here to give you some handy hints on the best places to visit - whether you are local or a visitor. Argyll Adventure, near Inveraray, is one of the county's undiscovered gems, allowing groups to take part in an array of activities, from paintball and laser blast to horse riding and climbing walls. And Achnalarig Stables, near Oban, is one of the best known stables in the area and offers riding and trekking for all abilities, whatever the weather. For the golfers among you, why not try Taynuilt Golf Course, one of the more scenic on the west coast in the shadow of Ben Cruachan. The course will suit all levels of ability. Also in Taynuilt, TFC Boats offers sea fishing and sight seeing from its Loch Etive base. For a feast of family fun, head down to Seil, where you'll find the unique Highland Arts Exhibition. As well as offering plenty to see, you can take in a round of putting at its famed 12-isle putting green. For the ultimate summer adventure, why not enrol the children in one of this year's Struan Summer Camps in July. These camps will be an experience your young ones are not going to forget in a hurry.

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Katie Lamont.

Estate agency appoints new manager

ESTATE agency and legal firm MacPhee and Partners has appointed Katie Lamont as its new Fort William estate agent manager.

Katie, from Acharacle, succeeds Claire MacAlpine in the position, with the latter having completed her law degree. She is now starting her diploma and will take up a position as a solicitor. Catrina Jackson joins the company as Katie's new assistant.

Managing partner Duncan MacPhee said: 'We are delighted to appoint Katie. She is an outstanding estate agent with a remarkably successful sales record, despite the downturn in the market. Katie has more than proved her capabilities to us. She succeeds Claire, from Onich, who remains with the firm but is becoming a solicitor. Together they formed a very effective team.'

'This is a natural progression and we are very pleased to see local people advancing their careers locally. We take our hat off to Katie who commutes daily from Acharacle. No mean feat, she never complains about the roads and she is still often the first here in the morning.'

New smart-phone app brings Tiree history to life

A LOCATION-based smart-phone app delving into the history of Tiree is to be developed thanks to a £21,300 grant.

The Scottish Digital Research and Development Fund for Arts and Culture approved the funding application from Tiree's historical centre, An Iodhlann,

to make historic archive material available through the app whilst 'on the ground', be it walking, cycling or driving round the island.

Importantly, given Tiree's patchy mobile reception, you don't need to have a signal to access the information.

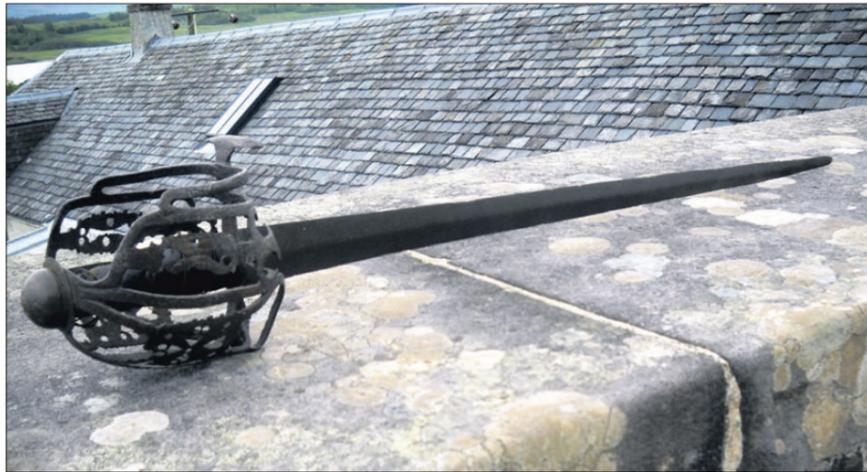
The app, which will also help visitors find nearby sites of interest and artefacts, should be available to download onto any smartphone or tablet from March next year.

Local software developer Alan Dix, who will work on the project, said: 'As the only

rural-based project, this is a great achievement for Tiree and a great challenge for us over the next nine months.'

'As well as adding an extra service for those who already visit An Iodhlann, we hope this will attract new users, especially younger tourists.'

The progress of the project will, like the other schemes to receive funding, be monitored by a team of researchers from the universities of Stirling, Strathclyde and St Andrews as examples of advanced technology adoption in rural communities.



A claymore from Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull similar to the sword which was stolen from the castle recently.

Clan chief appeals for sword's return

A CLAN chief has appealed for the return of a historic part of clan folklore stolen from his castle on the Isle of Mull earlier this month.

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart Castle had a claymore stolen sometime between June 3 and 4. The one metre long black sword was noticed missing during a security check of the castle.

Sir Lachlan, the 28th chief of the Clan

Maclean told *The Oban Times*: 'All of us at Duart are very saddened by the recent theft of the claymore from the castle's banqueting hall.'

'Every summer we are delighted to welcome visitors and Macleans from all over the world to our clan home.'

'It is very sad that one act of theft has taken away a part of the castle's history which we will no longer be able to share with

our visitors in the future. We are working closely with local police and we urge anyone who has information to come forward and help us in this investigation.'

Police said the missing sword is so old it is 'invaluable'.

The term claymore traditionally refers to 'great two-handed' swords which were used in the constant clan warfare and border fights from around 1400 to 1700.

Driver caused Fort William three car crash

A DRIVER'S carelessness at a junction on the A82 through Fort William led to a three-vehicle shunt in which one man was injured.

Larbert man Kevan Guild's Fort Transit pick-up ran into the back of a BMW on North Road, which jolted forward and crashed into a Fiat van.

The February 24 accident saw the Fiat van driver, Henry Marshall, taken to the Belford Hospital with minor injuries and his vehicle written off.

Guild admitted driving without due care and attention, but through lawyer Stephen Kennedy showed photos of the crash scene to Sheriff Douglas Small at Fort William Sheriff Court. Mr Kennedy explained the southbound Fiat had stopped suddenly while turning left into garage entrance, forcing the BMW behind to brake 'akin to an emergency stop'.

Guild, aged 51, could not avoid hitting the BMW.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He was not aware the car in front had been indicating.'

Sheriff Small fined Guild £400 and endorsed his licence with five penalty points.

Mull Lines

A FUNDRAISING appeal to build affordable homes on the Isle of Iona is underway.

Iona Housing Partnership, which aims to provide much needed affordable housing, celebrated the launch with a jubilee barbecue on June 3.

A grant of £180,000 has also been awarded by Argyll and Bute Council to aid development of the homes.

The barbecue, sponsored by the Argyll Hotel, raised £310 for the fund and organisers say more events are planned for the summer.



A DAY at the movies was in order for the 1st Ross of Mull Rainbows recently as they headed to the Screen Machine in Craignure.

The group watched *The Pirates!* In an Adventure with Scientists and enjoyed a play in the park and a packed lunch.

The 1st Ross of Mull Rainbows loved the film and would recommend it to everyone.

MONEY raised at the recent Tobermory Community Fire Station open day was presented to local groups last week.

The firefighters charity received £544.32 while four other organisations benefited from a cash boost of £125.

Watch Commander Willie Hume was delighted to hand over cheques to the Gaelic choir, Isle of Mull junior rugby, the toddlers group and the SWRI. Personnel at the station thank everyone who supported the day.

Send your news and views from the Isle of Mull to Faith Orr at *The Oban Times*
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'Problem' geese in open meeting spotlight

COMMUNITY landowner Stòras Uibhist is to host an open meeting on Monday to discuss 'the growing problem' of geese on Benbecula and South Uist.

The annual goose count has shown greylag numbers continue to increase, with more than 6,000 reported in the Uists at the last count.

The birds cause significant difficulties for local crofters by devouring young grass and corn crops.

Rebecca Cotton of Machair LIFE+ and Johanne Ferguson of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will be present at the meeting in Stoneybridge Hall at 8pm. They will review last year's goose management scheme and identify possible improvements this year.

Information on new plans to significantly cut goose numbers will also be made available at the event. SNH and the Uist Goose Management Group will be applying to the Scottish Government for funding for the scheme and is seeking support from local crofters.

More Fort William break-ins

POLICE are investigating more break-ins to premises in and around Fort William.

Thieves stole food from a burger van near HIS on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate sometime between June 2 and 3 and property was stolen from a works shed near the Moorings Hotel on June 6. Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702 36 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Renamed pressure group fights on

PRESSURE group Outer Hebrides Transport Group has changed its name as it looks to widen its appeal.

Renamed the Outer Hebrides Commerce Group, it was set up to campaign against the Scottish Government's planned removal of ferry subsidies from haulage vehicles. It pledged to continue the fight and expand support in the islands.

NEWSDESK
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Lorna Linfield was met at Lochaber Leisure Centre by local MP Charles Kennedy and Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson.

Hundreds cheer as Lorna lifts Olympic flame aloft

LOCHABER High School pupil Lorna Linfield was the centre of attention on Saturday when she carried the Olympic torch through the streets of Fort William.

The 12-year-old proudly held the flame aloft as hundreds

cheered her on the way from An Aird roundabout to Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Lorna, from Muirshearlich, Banavie, was nominated for the honour by her teacher, Morag Watt.

Lorna told *The Oban Times*: 'It

was really good - I felt honoured. There were a lot of people and it was really exciting. I enjoy climbing, rounders and softball - but I'm not sure if I'll take up any other sports!'

See Olympic torch coverage, page 7.

Knoydart, Eigg mourn local father

RESIDENTS on the remote Knoydart peninsula and the Isle of Eigg are this week united in grief following the tragic death of a father in a boating accident.

The body of Victor Stockwell was recovered at Inverie Pier on Monday morning after local people alerted police around 8am.

It is understood Mr Stockwell's rigid inflatable boat collided with the pier's concrete wall at some speed. It is thought he had been returning from Eigg. The 42-year-old was alone in the vessel at the time.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death and a report would be made to the Procurator Fiscal.

Mr Stockwell was head stalker and gamekeeper at Camusory Estate on Knoydart, which is co-owned by Rupert Soames, the chief executive of power hire giant Aggreko.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Mr Soames told *The Oban Times*: 'Everyone involved with the Camusory Estate is devastated by this tragedy. Victor knew every blade of grass, every bird, every beast, and was a staunch defender of everything that makes it unique. 'Our thoughts are with his partner and recently born child, both of whom brought so much happiness into his life, as well as with his mother. He will be hugely missed.'

Eigg, which has close ties to Knoydart, 25 miles across the Sound of Sleat, has been left stunned by Mr Stockwell's death.

The fatal incident coincided with celebrations to mark the 15th anniversary of local people taking over ownership of their island.

One islander, who asked not to

be named, said: 'There were a lot of Knoydart folk over for the weekend. It is a terrible, tragic accident.'

On Knoydart, the 120-strong community has been left devastated. One family friend said: 'Everybody is in a state of shock.'

'It is all still too raw at the moment. He was coming back from Eigg. Nobody knows what happened.'

A police spokesperson said: 'It appears to be a water incident involving a private boat.'

The tragedy also cast a shadow over Saturday's Co-operative MacTavish Cup final at Bught Park in Inverness between Lochaber and Newtonmore.

Mr Stockwell is the nephew of Newtonmore coach Norman MacArthur.

Mr Stockwell's father, also Victor, was killed in a motorbike accident near Kingussie some years ago.

Tree-felling A82 traffic pledge

TRAFFIC disruption along the A82 in Lochaber will be kept to a minimum while tree-felling works continue, Forestry Commission Scotland has pledged.

FCS has started a six-week consultation with local people, councillors and community councils about continuing the project between Glencoe and Inverness over the next 10-15 years. Many of the trees being felled were planted in the 1920s or 1930s.

FC project officer Alex Macleod said: 'People will rightly be concerned over our long term felling plans and the potential for traffic disruption but we will do everything to minimise this as far as we possibly can.'

'We have been working in Glen Righ Forest near Fort William for a while now and local people are very aware of the scale of what we have to do. We'll be staging 'drop-in' meetings ahead of community council meetings, posting public notices and also making full use of our own - and partners - websites.'

Representatives from FCS and partners Transport Scotland and Northern Constabulary met with Highland councillors to explain the extent and complexity of the work.

Representatives from FCS and partners Transport Scotland and Northern Constabulary met with Highland councillors to explain the extent and complexity of the work.

Appeal judges order new crash claim hearing

APPEAL judges have ruled the award of £120,000 made to a Ballachulish woman after her mother was killed in an accident with a lorry on the A82 was 'excessive'.

Kirsty Hamilton was awarded the money by a jury after her mother Caroline Hamilton, aged 50, was crushed by a Ferguson Transport lorry near Fort William in December 2007.

Ms Hamilton sued the Spean Bridge company at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last year.

But a five-judge bench has ruled the claim should be heard again in front of a new jury who will be given additional information.

Lord President Lord Hamilton said juries were not given satisfactory guidance about how much to award and judges should suggest a range in which the award might lie.

Major police hunt launched for 'numpty' copper thieves

WEST Highlands MP Charles Kennedy has called for tighter controls on scrap metal dealing after thousands of people in Skye, Lochalsh and the Western Isles had their telephone and 999 services cut by would-be copper thieves.

A major police hunt is underway after the vandals severed a subsea cable left exposed during low tide at Stromeferry last Thursday afternoon.

The botched hunt for copper proved fruitless as the cable is glass fibre optic.

Engineers were unable to make repairs until the next low tide allowed them to reach the damaged connection around 7.30pm on Friday evening.

Around 9,000 customers on Skye, Wester Ross, Lochalsh,

Harris, Lewis and the Small Isles were affected. Mr Kennedy said rising metal prices meant thieves were stealing even small scraps of copper with no regard to the consequences.

He said: 'This despicable attempt is only the latest in a disturbingly long line of thefts, causing communications blackouts, stopping railway services and costing Scotland thousands of pounds every year.'

'Stronger regulations, licensing all metal dealers and requiring histories of scrap sold, will stop dealers from buying stolen goods on the nod and keep this crime from paying.'

Broadband internet and cash machines were also affected by the attempted theft.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch said: 'The impact of the damage to the telephone cable is massive. The majority of the communities affected are rural and remote, and they depend on the telephone and the internet.'

'The numpties responsible for the damage have caused havoc to countless households.'

Line operators BT Openreach are offering a reward of £1,000 for information which leads to a conviction. Police in Kyle of Lochalsh urged anyone who may have seen a dark van in the area at the time in question to contact Kyle Police Station on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Passengers on the 12.03 Kyle-Inverness train last Thursday are also asked to come forward.

Dave Thompson, MSP for

Advertorial

Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Denture Studio

"I believe that the situation regarding dentures in Scotland is scandalous"

Regarding the report in last weeks Oban Times I feel compelled to explain to the people of Oban and Argyll about the set up of the General Dental Council (GDC).

The GDC is a London based organisation and the Council is made up of twelve dental professionals and twelve lay members. The make up of dental professionals on the council is totally undemocratic as there are more Dental Nurses than there are Dentists. However, Dentists have eight members on the council as opposed to one Dental Nurse; therefore Dentists obviously have more influence when it comes to policy decisions.

I believe that the situation regarding dentures in Scotland is scandalous. Dentists do not actually make the dentures and they require technicians to make them for them. That was all well and good twenty five years ago when the training of Dentists incorporated one year in the Dental Laboratory. Training in denture provision today by Dentists is minimal and it is little wonder that a frustrated denture wearing public seek an alternative.

Dr Clark of St Thomas's Dental Institute in London stated some fifteen years ago in an article in the Sunday Post that the current training of Dentists in denture provision was inadequate and they were not as competent. In the same article a leading Glasgow Dentist went further and said "their skills were dire and they were clumsy and not practised with their hands". Therefore; how can it be in the public interest for the GDC to sanction a system that is so obviously inadequate?

Our association requested a meeting with the Chief Executive of the GDC to discuss the denture issue in Scotland. A meeting was arranged for the spring of 2009 and we asked the Chief Executive if he could supply us with figures over the past fifty years of incidents where Dental Technicians/Denturists had actually harmed patients. There was not one incident that he could report. Where therefore was the safety issue? Making dentures is a totally non invasive procedure.

At a symposium in Edinburgh in 2010 the Chief Dental Officer was asked about the

scandalous situation regarding elderly patients in nursing and care homes where their dentures have been lost. The current system of community Dentists, local Dentists replacing them can take two to three months but in some cases the patients only have weeks to live, therefore this is not allowing the patient to die in a dignified manner. Surely these dentures are required to be made in a day or two? The answer was as long as it was safe to do so. I personally have provided this service on many occasions, and the relatives of these patients have been very grateful even if the powers that be do not think so.

Regarding my erasure from the GDC, I did attend the hearing in London although I vehemently objected to having to leave my own country to do so. My solicitor advised me that I would have to stay in London for five days and regardless of what evidence I provided I would probably be suspended for six months. It is little wonder therefore that I RESIGNED FROM THE GDC before the hearing proceeded. The six members who sit on the panel for

these hearings get paid I believe £300 a day plus expenses. It is therefore little wonder that they want the hearings to last five days. Do the maths. The London based GDC spend millions every year on teams of solicitors and barristers carrying out these investigations. I MAKE FALSE TEETH

I am a working class boy, originally from the Gorbals in Glasgow (of which I am immensely proud) whose ancestral roots are in Clachan Seil Oban to where I intend to retire. My working class parents taught me many values; one of these was honesty and another to stand up for what you believe in. I intend, with every fibre of my being to stand up for my right to continue making dentures and my right to do so are the testimonials I have from hundreds of satisfied clients whom the system (Dentists) could not satisfy. Also the many thousands of other clients who come back to me for dentures on a regular basis.

I would like to thank the many people of Oban and Argyll who have already phoned and e-mailed me offering their support.

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Olympic torch travels through the west coast

THOUSANDS of people turned up to watch the Olympic Torch as it passed through the West Highlands on Saturday - and it certainly enjoyed an adventure.

Journey to Inverness
Not only did the torch enjoy a taste of the World Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William, but it took a chair lift up the Nevis Range and enjoyed

the hospitality of locals in Luss, Tarbet, Crianlarich, Tyndrum, Glen Coe and Spean Bridge on its 8,000 mile trip towards the London Games.

Runners from Argyll and Lochaber joined in the fun, taking a turn at conveying the flame towards its final destination. Once the flame was passed on, locals had a chance to get

their hands on one of the golden torches for themselves.

One spectator at Crianlarich said: "It passed through pretty quickly, but the reception was fantastic. I'm glad I can say I was there."

One of the farthest travelled locals to take part in the relay was David MacPherson, who is originally from Inveraray,

but lives in Glasgow and ran through Banchory on Monday.

He said: "It was a long way to go but it was an amazing experience."

Colleagues at Strathclyde University nominated him in recognition of his work with Friends of the Beatson, where he had treatment for testicular cancer.



Atlantis Leisure deputy manager and Commonwealth Games archer Kyle Dods, from Oban, ran two legs of the relay through Spean Bridge. He said: "It was an unbelievable experience and very exciting. There were a lot of people out cheering, quite a few of them from Oban, and there was a tremendous buzz around the place. Kyle dedicated his run to the late Jim Lay, former head of PE at Oban High School.

Video of this available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK



Young Isla Dunlop from Appin was in Glencoe on Saturday getting to hold the Olympic torch in Glencoe, while helping her dad set up a bouncy castle.



Youngsters Brodie and Carson Sloss, from Oban, were lucky enough to hold one of the Olympic torches at Tyndrum, where they had gone to see the torch run on Saturday.

The Olympic torch enters Crianlarich on Saturday morning as it makes its journey towards Inverness



Tracy Moseley at Nevis Range
Picture Ewan McGlynn

Torchbearer Myles Clark of Lochgilphead handed passes over the Olympic Flame to Peter Bain, from Oban, on the shores of Loch Lomond on Saturday.



Hundreds of people lined the streets of Tarbet on Saturday as 28-year-old Myles Clark, from Lochgilphead, carried the Olympic flame through the village. 06_a24olympic03



The Olympic torch took to the hills for a journey up in a gondola at Nevis Range near Fort William on Saturday
Picture Kevin McGlynn



British professional racing cyclist Tracy Moseley, who specialising in downhill mountain bike racing, took the Olympic torch to new heights at Nevis Range on Saturday. Picture Ewan McGlynn



Students from Lochgilphead High School and Tarbet Academy joined Mid Argyll choir Coisrig Dalriada in performing the specially commissioned song The Flame. 06_a24olympic01

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

ETV welcomed back to the west

NEWS that a publicly funded emergency towing vessel (ETV) is to be restored to the west coast, for a few years at least, is to be warmly welcomed.

It is also a major feather in the cap of all who campaigned so vigorously for the vessel following the cost-cutting decision last year by Westminster to remove the specialist vessels from service in both the Western Isles and Northern Isles.

While there is still debate over exactly where the emergency towing vessel for the Minch area will be based, the need behind its re introduction should not be underestimated. The operating costs are high, the number of actual emergency call-outs low - but balance the bill against the potential capital outlay to counter a major disaster at sea, an environmental clean-up as a result of an oil spill, or a simple loss of human life - and this floating insurance policy is value for money.

The funding of the return of the ETV buys time to allow an alternative scheme, such as the system operating in the Northern Isles, to be activated.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Mela

THIS year's Glasgow Mela, which takes place in Kelvingrove Park on Saturday June 23 and Sunday June 24, promises to be the biggest yet and will strongly feature Gaelic culture, acknowledging the huge impact of the Gaels to the city of Glasgow.

A free event, the Mela will have three stages with world class artists, live music and dance with lots of fun activities. The Kid's Zone is being sponsored by Forestry Commission Scotland and there will be a chance to sample exotic foods.

From the Gaels, there will be Gaelic Step Dance with Danna accompanied by traditional musicians, Gaelic song with Catriona Watt and a Gaelic Gazebo with Jamaican Blues, Gaelic storytelling and a ceilidh.

New technology at National Piping Centre

CONGRATULATIONS to the National Piping Centre which has been awarded a grant of £24,700 to develop new technology to allow its tutors to reach anyone in the world.

To date, internet lessons have been limited by the type of technology available but now it will be able to reach a whole new group of learners. The plan is for the project to be finished by November, a wonderful opportunity for aspiring learners of the bagpipe to access the top quality tutors at the centre.

Stirling Gaelic Choir in France

WHEN Stirling Gaelic Choir won the open choral competition recently at Stirling's 50th anniversary Mod, they did not have much time to savour their success.

A few days later, the choir set off for Embrun in France where they had been invited to take part in the 7ème Festival Européen de chant choral. To the delight of local residents, the choir showcased some of its Gaelic songs in the open air market in Embrun on the morning of Friday May 25 and that evening, alongside choirs from France, Holland and Italy they took part in a concert in the local Salle des Fetes.

The festival culminated with a sell-out grand concert in Embrun's magnificent cathedral, followed by an evening banquet at which the choir presented Chantal Eyméoud, the Mayor of Embrun, with gifts from the City of Stirling.

Choir president Donnie MacKenzie said: 'We made many new friends and choir members were great ambassadors for Stirling and for Gaelic choral music. We even had members of the French and Dutch choirs join us in some of our Gaelic songs during what was an unforgettable trip.'

Stirling Gaelic Choir meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Logie Kirk Hall, Causewayhead, and new members are always welcome.

Provincial Mods

THIS is the season for Provincial Mods as competitors step up their preparation for the Royal National Mod, this year to be held in Dunoon, this coming weekend the venue will be the Gaelic School in Glasgow with the instrumental events taking

place on Friday evening with the orals and singing competitions taking place on Saturday.

Last Saturday, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir flew the flag for Glasgow at Aberfeldy and District Mod with considerable success by winning the four-part harmony competition and each of the three trophies awarded in a competition which attracted five choirs.

Glasgow Skye Association

GLASGOW Skye Association had a good attendance at its end of season social in the Redhurst Hotel when, after a meal, there was dancing to accordionist Charlie Kirkpatrick and songs from Margaret MacLeod and Kenna Campbell.

This was a good start to Mrs Margaret Elder's period of presidency of the association having been elected at the recent annual general meeting. Other appointments were Christine MacLeod as vice president and Christine MacDonald as assistant secretary.

Daimh in concert

WITH a piper from Cape Breton, a fiddler from California and other members of the group from more local traditional music areas of Scotland and Ireland, Daimh is one of the most exciting bands on our scene.

They often perform at Celtic Connections and Piping Live but an extra bonus is that they are to feature at this year's West End Festival in the Cottier Theatre at 7.30pm on Friday June 22. Festival organisers have increased the role of Gaelic in recent years and this Daimh concert is certainly one which all supporters of Gaelic music should aim to attend. Tickets can be bought at the theatre or online at www.cottiers.com.

Incidentally, I have now eaten a 'Chef's Curry' on every CalMac vessel and the *Isle of Arran* is the winner. I intend to sample a healthier dish for my next challenge.

Diary dates

Thursday June 14: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies. Taste of the Accordion, An Leanaig, Mansfield Street, 7pm. Folk Sessions, Dram, Woodlands Road.

Friday June 15: Glasgow Provincial Mod, Gaelic School. **Saturday June 16:** Glasgow Provincial Mod, Gaelic School, 9am. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Glasgow of the Gael - a bilingual bus tour of the historic locations of the Gaels within the city, depart An Leanaig 10am. Taste of Bodhran, An Leanaig, 2pm.

Sunday June 17: Ashton Market, Ashton Lane, 11am to 5pm. **Tuesday June 19:** Sing Gaelic, An Leanaig, 7pm. Singing Sessions, Hillhead Sports Club, 7.30pm. **Wednesday June 20:** Taste of Ceilidh Dancing, An Leanaig, 7pm. Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm. Angus Nicolson Trio, Islay Inn, Singing Sessions, Hillhead Sports Club, 7.30pm. **Thursday June 21:** A Wee Blas of Scottish Gaelic, An Leanaig, 7pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Vincent Garbutt. **Friday June 22:** Daimh at Cottier Theatre - see above.

Pub scene
BALLOCHMYLE will play in the Park Bar on Friday, Scott Harvey on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.

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



Oban High School pupils - 1948

Betty Veitch, nee Craig, of Dunedin, New Zealand, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows a class of Oban High School pupils in 1948. Back row, left to right: Duncan Campbell; Dugald Kennedy; Peter Omand; Donald Carmichael; Mr Milne, English and History teacher; Hew Craig; Nicol Sinclair; Charles MacDougall and Ewan Kennedy. Front: Moira Smith; Elizabeth Buchanan; Elda MacPherson; Buntly Irvine; Peggy MacCallum; Anne Black; Netta Macnaughton and Betty Craig. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Make use of spare vessels

Sir, Now that the *MV Finlaggan* is settled into the Islay run and CMAL is to replace the *MV Isle of Lewis*, this leaves the potential for two spare vessels which could be used elsewhere.

The *MV Isle of Arran*, Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) current spare vessel, could be used immediately on the Campbelltown to Ballycastle route giving a welcome boost to the Kintyre economy or used to pilot the Lochboisdale-Mallaig route which everyone appears to see desirable.

When relieved of her current duties, the *MV Isle of Lewis* could then enhance the Campbelltown service with great capacity. Yes, there are technical details but where there is a will there is a way.

Incidentally, I have now eaten a 'Chef's Curry' on every CalMac vessel and the *Isle of Arran* is the winner. I intend to sample a healthier dish for my next challenge.

Donald Morris, Beauty.

Grass-roots democracy at work

Sir, As your readers may be aware, the government has this week announced its decision against a 20 per cent VAT levy on static holiday caravans, as originally announced in the last Budget.

Instead the tax will now be applied at five per cent and its introduction delayed until April next year.

In coming to this decision, the

government listened to the representations of MPs who expressed concern at how increasing the cost of static caravans would impact on jobs and our economy here at Loch Awe.

I would like to put on record our gratitude to Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, who took a close interest in this matter and who supported our holiday park, our customers, our staff and all those whose livelihoods rely on our business.

I see this as evidence both of grass-roots democracy at work and of a government listening and responding to the concerns of MPs' constituents.

Keith Campbell, Argyll Holidays, Loch Awe Holiday Park, Bridge of Awe, Taynuilt.

A first class service from denture studio

Sir, I write in response to last week's *Oban Times* article regarding Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Denture Studio.

Myself and my wife both attended Mr McIntosh's studio in 2010 and the service we received was excellent. The dentures Mr McIntosh provided for us both are undoubtedly the best dentures we have ever had; not only in aesthetic appearance but also the fit. At all times, Mr McIntosh treated us in a professional manner with respect and dignity.

I did, however, decide to do some research into the General Dental Council and I concur with Mr McIntosh's statement regarding the structure of this organisation.

There are more dental nurses than dental surgeons, however, there is only one dental nurse

and one dental technician on the council compared to eight dentists.

In my view, Mr McIntosh's statement regarding the General Dental Council being undemocratic is tame.

I would suggest that many people would view the General Dental Council as operating a protectionist regime.

I have spoken to many friends who have attended the denture studio in Combie Street and they agree wholeheartedly with me that Mr McIntosh provides a first class service.

It would be a tragedy for the residents of Oban and Argyll if Mr McIntosh decides to stop practising as his business gives people real freedom of choice as to where to buy their dentures.

Frank Toman, Glencruitten Road, Oban.

Armed Forces Day

Sir, May I take this opportunity to remind your readers of the second Lochgilhead Armed Forces Day, on Saturday June 23, for all of Argyll and Bute and surrounding areas.

The event is due to start at 11.30am at the Drill Hall in Lochgilhead with a parade of Cadets, TA, serving personnel and veterans to the Front Green for an inspection and march off.

The day will be completed by a gala day on the Front Green.

I urge all readers to attend and make this an even bigger success than last year.

Bruce Rhodick, Secretary, Cruachan, 2 Bank Park, Lochgilhead.

Campaign to end inconsiderate parking

Sir, Inconsiderate parking forces pedestrians onto the road and into the path of vehicles.

It is a major barrier for people with visual or mobility impairments, wheelchair or mobility scooter users, families with pushchairs and cyclists. It can damage the pavement, creating additional costly obstacles. With

an ageing, less mobile population, more cars on the road and less money for maintenance, we need to prevent inconsiderate parking blocking pavements, raised crossings and dropped kerbs.

Joe Fitzpatrick MSP has launched his proposed Responsible Parking bill in the Scottish Parliament to enforce restrictions across Scotland on pavement parking, dropped kerb parking and double parking.

Eighteen major charities have come together in the Responsible Parking Alliance to support the proposals and end the inconsiderate parking that stops us getting around our streets.

We urge readers to respond to this consultation before the deadline of June 30 2012.

You can find out further details and respond in just two minutes via the Living Streets Scotland or Guide Dogs Scotland websites. **Keith Irving, Living Streets Scotland & Jane Horsburgh, Guide Dogs Scotland on behalf of the Responsible Parking Alliance.**

Happy memories of Achnacloich

Sir, I was sorry to read in *The Oban Times* that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) will no longer have the use of Achnacloich House for its annual fundraising day.

It was always a day for the calendar and one much looked forward to by helpers and visitors. The combination of enjoying a beautiful garden, marvellous food, whilst supporting such a worthy cause, was a unique experience.

The late Mrs Jane Nelson was always unfailingly generous in her giving and loved doing whatever she could for local good causes.

I'm sure the public is grateful for the many, many years that she allowed them to enjoy the garden that she and her late husband created.

I hope the WWF is able to find another location which will soften the blow of losing Achnacloich.

T Martin, Fasheairn, Oban.

Times Diary

RONNIE Child had reason for a double celebration on May 19. His nephew Ossian got married at Temple Newsham House, Leeds, and Hearts won the Scottish Cup.

Ronnie, who along with his wife Gill and his four children are Hearts season ticket holders, was initially put out when he realised that there was a clash of dates.

However, he was philosophical about it. 'I would rather go to Ossian's wedding and Hearts win, than vice versa'.

When news came through of the score from Hampden, there was additional rejoicing at the wedding reception.

As the evening wedding celebrations progressed, Ronnie removed his dress shirt to reveal a Hearts strip.

Ronnie, who has supported Hearts since he was at primary school, is an ex-resident of Connel and a former pupil of Achalaven primary and Oban high schools. His youngest daughter Eilidh is the current Scottish 400 metres hurdles record holder. She represented Scotland in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi where she obtained a silver medal.

His eldest daughter Catriona is an up and coming writer and recently had her first novel 'Trackman' published.

A couple of aerial photographs taken by Ronnie on a flight to Mull were included in recent editions of *The Oban Times*.

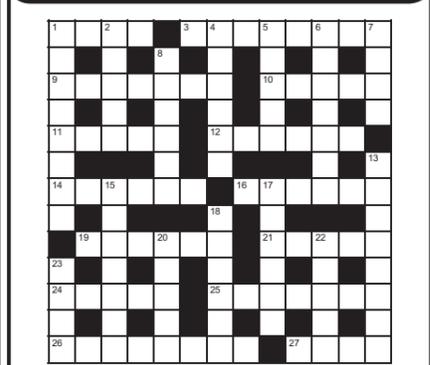


Ronnie reveals his Hearts strip at his nephew's wedding.



Many photographs live long in the memory. They capture a moment, an emotion and can remind the snapper of stories to tell and laughter shared. We can only imagine the words shared between the photographer and the flag waver after this perfectly timed photograph of the Olympic Torch passing through Tyndrum was taken. We certainly couldn't print them in a family newspaper...

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Brawn (4)
 - 3 Union of tissues (8)
 - 9 Oil jug (7)
 - 10 Sag (5)
 - 11 Infant's illness (5)
 - 12 Causing vomiting (6)
 - 14 Gorge (6)
 - 16 Leave (6)
 - 19 Harden (6)
 - 21 Cake part (5)
 - 24 Munch (5)
 - 25 Wages without the government's cut (3-4)
 - 26 Lose (8)
 - 27 Doctrines (4)

- Down**
- 1 Tofu (4,4)
 - 2 Cough up (5)
 - 4 Drive out (6)
 - 5 Provide, as with a quality (5)
 - 6 Worship (7)
 - 7 Back of the neck (4)
 - 8 Item to make life easier (3,3)
 - 13 They seize (8)
 - 15 Thick (7)
 - 17 Star system (6)
 - 18 One who claims insight (6)
 - 20 Drive (5)
 - 22 Imperial measurements (5)
 - 23 Lowlife (4)

Last week's solution

W	V	E	A	S	C
F	A	C	I	N	G
N	Y	L	G	D	E
H	O	V	E	T	O
U	T	O	P	I	A
S	T	A	T	E	S
O	D	C	A		
S	T	A	T	E	S
R	S	D	R	N	
W	I	S	H	L	I
P	E	C	E	A	A
C	O	A	R	S	E
D	D	Y	E	L	V

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CO-GHÀIRDEACHAS le Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean is e air A Mòrachd Rìoghail 'A Bhana-phrionnsa Rìoghail a stèidheachadh mar chaid Sheansalair aig cuirm eachdraidheil ann an Cathair Eaglais Inbhir Nis air an t-seachdain seo chaidh.

Togaidh an obair an fhianais! Agus gun teagamh, tha na ghabh àite aig an tachartas seo na fhior theisteanas air saothair mhòr iomadh neach thairis air còrr is fichead bliadhna chun an deach inbhe Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean a dhearbhadh gu h-oifigeil anns a' Ghearran 2011. Mar a bhiodh dùil, bha cuid de na daoine sin an làthair aig a' chuir ach tha cuid a' chuir ris an spairm nach eil beò agus toradh an cuid saothrach fhaicinn. Tha sin duilich, ach tha mi cinnteach gun tèid clàr den luchd-taice uile a stèidheachadh agus bidh an Oilthigh na chuimhneachan urramach orrasan uile fad iomadh linn romhainn. Tachraidh sin gu sònraichte ri linn a' mhìsneachd agus na còrthran ura a bheir an caidhealtachd de thri-deug ionad-foghlaim a tha nam buill den Oilthigh dhan cuid sgìrean agus

dha oileanaich às gach àite a roghnaicheas oideachadh a ghabhail aig an oilthigh as ùire ann an Alba.

A dh'aindeoin a chuid oige, tha inbhe aig an oilthigh seo mar-thà ri linn clù na colastean sin a tha nam buill d'heug agus bha an tachartas seo ann an dòigh a' comharrachadh clach-mhìle agus clach-stèidh shònraichte agus eachdraidheil. Tha iomhaigh calltainn na phàirt mòr de na tha a' nochdadh air a' ghearradh-arm ùr aig an Oilthigh a' samlachadh a' cheangail a bh' aig a' chraoibh sin ri foghlam is ghloacas ann an sealladh nan seann Cheilteach. Mar a bhiodh dùil cuideachd, tha cànan is cultair na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean a-staigh, a-muigh agus mu thuath, aig cridhe curraicealaim an Oilthigh.

Tha fìor ghloireas luachmhor againn an seo agus tha e a-nise an urra rinn am feum as fheàrr agus as cruthachail a dhèanamh dheth.

Gun teagamh, coisnidh cuid de sgoilearan Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean clù airson obair-rannsachaidh is eile, ach 's e àirde ire teisteanais an Oilthigh na chuireas e ri beatha agus tearainteachd na coimhearsnachd a chruthaich e.

CONGRATULATIONS to the University of the Highlands and Islands on last week's historic ceremony to install its first Chancellor. This was a 'coming of age' for an initiative which commenced in 1990, with university status awarded by the Privy Council in February 2011.

HRH The Princess Royal will undoubtedly be an effective ambassador for UHI, but the university's ultimate success depends on the community using this valuable resource to the maximum benefit of the area and its people.

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Duror man denies Stanley knife charges

A DUROR man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny knife-related charges during a series of incidents in Ballachulish on March 2. Ciaran Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, pled not guilty to having a Stanley knife in his possession, placing youths in a state of fear and alarm by brandishing the knife at them and assaulting a 14-year-old girl by pointing a knife at her body. Wilson, aged 26, also denied sending a message via a social networking site to a person in Kinlochleven threatening to kill him. Trial was set for June 19.

Court hears assault allegations

A FORMER Fort William man has denied a racially aggravated assault at a flat in the town. It is alleged Gary Wallace, of Flat 1, Caley House, Millburn Road, Inverness, punched the man on the body and racially abused him at the High Street property on April 9. Wallace is also charged with assaulting a woman during the same incident by pulling her hair, putting her in a headlock and squeezing her throat, which the accused also denies. Wallace was granted bail by Sheriff Douglas Small at Fort William Sheriff Court on condition he does not approach the Fort William flat or contact the individuals staying there.

Alleged 'satanist' accused of pet torture

AN ALLEGED 'satanist' has appeared at Fort William Sheriff court to deny charges of torturing two pet guinea pigs. It is alleged Jo Watson, of 43 Lochaber Road, subjected the animals to unnecessary suffering at the same address on April 13 and 14. Watson pled not guilty to pushing the pets around their cage, turning them onto their backs, repeatedly squeezing them, throwing them in the air, shaving one with foam and a razor, dropping them both from a height and putting them in a microwave. It is also alleged Watson stuck a pen inside the rear end of one of the animals. Watson, aged 20, further denies acting in a threatening and abusive manner and alarming five teenage girls at the address by saying he would kill the guinea pigs, that he was a satanist and that he had knocked out a cat and caused it brain damage. Sheriff Douglas Small granted bail on condition Watson did not attempt to contact or approach the girls. The case was continued to July 4. Trial was provisionally set for July 19.

Bakery owner backs employee in court

A LETTER of support from Nevis Bakery owner Archie Paterson persuaded a sheriff not to jail one of his employees who racially abused three Asian men on a bus. Martin Lawrie, aged 23, admitted acting in a racially aggressive manner towards the men on the vehicle between the Nevis Bank Hotel and Kilmallie Road in Caol on April 23. Lawrie, of 22 Glenpane Street, Caol, had been drinking when he insulted the Asians and told them to speak English, causing them alarm and distress. At Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small considered a custodial sentence, but opted for a £570 fine instead after reading Mr Paterson's glowing testimonial and hearing Lawrie was returning to work at the bakery. He told Lawrie: 'Were it not for the fact you have a job starting on Monday and a very favourable character reference from your employer I would be sending you to prison.'

Car thief used own bank card to buy fuel

AN ACHARACLE car thief took his mates on a joyride to Glasgow - but was caught after using his own card to buy petrol. Craig Cope broke into a portable office owned by Slipway Motors at Corpach on June 21 last year, stole a set of keys then, with two unnamed accomplices, used them to steal a car parked in the firm's yard. Cope, of Treetops, Moss Road, had earlier pled guilty to both charges and was appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court to be sentenced. Prosecutor Alison Wylie told how the illegal daytrippers were captured on a speed camera in Glasgow. Cope, aged 32, also made the mistake of buying fuel - only two miles into the journey. She said: 'They managed to trace the accused because he had paid for £15.20 worth of petrol at Ben Nevis Filling Station using his own card.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Cope, a bricklayer, got the bus into Fort William on the day in question. He 'had too much to drink' and with two other persons stole the car. He said: 'It was taken for a round trip to Glasgow and later found in Inverloch. The car ended up only two miles from where it was stolen in the first place.' The vehicle's steering and suspension were damaged and costs to the owner for repairs were around £1,400. Cope, said Mr Melrose, returned to his family in Acharacle a year ago to help his father build two new houses. He had had a drug habit but was placed on a methadone programme and was now drug free. Mr Melrose asked Sheriff Douglas Small not to jail his client and impose a community service order instead. He said: 'Mr Cope intends to return to Sandwich in Ramsgate to work with his brother.' After hearing Cope had a

previous conviction for a similar offence, Sheriff Small told him: 'Were it not for the fact that your analogous offence was 10 years in the past I would seriously consider a custodial sentence.' The sheriff banned Cope from driving for two years and ordered him to perform 180 hours unpaid work in the community.



Dorota Palicka - announced as best nail technician in Scotland in the Glasgow Hilton.

Fort William beautician nails top award

A FORT William beautician is celebrating after being announced as Scotland's top nail technician. Dorota Palicka beat off stiff competition from hundreds of entrants at the INAA Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards in the Glasgow Hilton. The talented 27-year-old won a beautiful cut-glass trophy - and a stunning half-carat diamond worth £2,000. Dorota, who moved to Fort William from Slupsk, near the Polish Baltic port of Gdansk, six years ago,

Lochaber duo impress at strongman contest

TWO LOCHABER men took on some of the toughest men in the country in the Scotland's Strongest Man competition in Dumfries on Saturday. Caol man Jeremy Vickers managed a tenth place finish while Stuart Whyte finished a fantastic fourth and was awarded the best newcomer trophy. Whyte, of Spean Bridge, surprised the watching crowds with an impressive display in his first appearance in the competition. The 31-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'I got fourth place and the shield for best newcomer so I was chuffed with that. It was really good, a really good venue and great atmosphere as well. I did quite well in the truck pull and the Atlas stone, but the squat lift was quite hard. Only a few guys managed it.'

Vickers, who recently set a new Scottish record for his weight by lifting a 132.5kg log, will next compete in Scotland's Strongest Man under 90kgs in August and is confident about his chances. He said: 'I've been runner up for the last two years, so hopefully I can go one better this time.'



Jeremy Vickers impressed in the Scottish Strongest Man competition last weekend.

Junior pipers celebrate success on shores of Loch Duich

LOCHALSH'S annual junior piping competition on the shores of Loch Duich on Saturday again attracted a good entry of young players keen to take home the silverware. And the Eilean Donan Piping Competition in Dornie saw no fewer than 18 players take part in the beginners' chanter. The event, open to pupils attending schools in the South Skye and Lochalsh area, was first held in Eilean Donan Castle in the late 1990s but moved to Dornie Hall next to the castle when Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band took over the running of the competition three years ago. Big prizewinners on the day were Martin MacRae from Kyleakin Primary, who won the overall B-Grade Piping, and Cameron Sharp from Plockton, who won the overall A-Grade. Owen Jack from Loch Duich Primary won the B-Grade chanter, while Lucy Martin from Kyle Primary won the A-Grade. Judges were Karen MacLean from Inverinate and John Don MacKenzie from Dornie.



Winners from last weekend's Eilean Donan Piping Competition show off their trophies.

Kirsty MacAskill. Piobaireachd Ground Hamish Macrae Cup - 1 Calum Harper; 2 Martin MacRae; 3 Paddy MacInnes. March (B Grade) Glenelg Shield - 1 Paddy MacInnes; 2 Martin MacRae; 3 Calum Harper. Strathspey and Reel (B Grade) Loch Duich Cup - 1 Owen Jack; 2 Caleb Wilson; 3 Martin Robertson; 4 Forest Bone; 5 Loudon Mackay; 6 Shield - Martin MacRae. Ceol Mor Highland Council Quaich - 1 Cameron Sharp; 2 Connor Kellett; 3 Finlay Burstow. March (A Grade) George Mackenzie Cup - 1 Cameron Sharp; 2 Finlay Burstow; 3 Connor Kellett; 4 Sean Grant; 5 Mathew Young. Strathspey and Reel (A Grade) The Donald Macpherson Glenelg Cup - 1 Cameron Sharp; 2 Connor Kellett; 3 Sean Grant; 4 Mathew Young; 5 Finlay Burstow. Gaelic Air - Dornie Quaich - 1 Connor Kellett; 2 Cameron Sharp; 3 Sean Grant; 4 Calum Harper; 5 Martin MacRae. Jig - John Macaskill Cup Glenelg - 1 Connor Kellett; 2 Cameron Sharp; 3 Finlay Burstow; 4 Calum Harper; 5 Sean Grant. Overall Winner (A Grade) Lochcarron Tartan - Cameron Sharp.

Stòras Uibhist ballot papers issued

BALLOT papers for the election of directors to the Hebridean company operating as Scotland's largest community landowner have been sent out by Electoral Reform Services. Some 817 members of Sealladh na Beinne Mòire, which operates as Stòras Uibhist, can vote for up to two of four candidates bidding to fill the two vacancies. The community-run estate covers all of South Uist and Eriskay, and 90 per cent of Benbecula. Each year, the two longest-serving directors on the seven-strong board stand down to give others the chance to put their names forward. All ballot papers must be returned to Electoral Reform Services by midday on June 21 to be included in the count. Results are expected on the afternoon of Friday June 22 in advance of this year's AGM on Thursday June 28 in South End Hall, Daliburgh. The four candidates are: Sarah Margaret Anne MacEachen - proposer, Neil MacDonald; seconder, Donald John MacDonald. Ronald J MacKinnon - proposer, Ralph G Thompson; seconder, Flora Thompson. Calum MacMillan - proposer, Lynne Elizabeth MacMillan; seconder, Angus A MacDonald. Mary Theresa Schmolter - proposer, Alexander Campbell Sinclair; seconder, Margaret Catherine Walker.

Music school students stage concert

LOCHABER Music School (LMS) youngsters will put on its popular annual summer concert in Kilmallie Hall on Sunday afternoon. The pupils will demonstrate their musical abilities with instrumental and choral, classical and traditional performances. As well as the older children, nearly 40 pre-school kids - some as young as six months - will sing songs they've learned in recent months with their parents and tutors. After the concert, a fun day will be held. LMS music director Peter Rose said: 'The concert will be a dazzling showcase for all the activities that the music school continues to offer Lochaber's youngsters.'

Man fined for verbally abusing partner

A FORT William man verbally abused his partner after she went out on a drinking spree. Cameron Kirkham, aged 37, of 14 Young Place, admitted placing the woman in a state of fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at her at the address on June 24 last year. Prosecutor Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court Kirkham had been drinking when he challenged his partner where she had been all day. She said: 'The suspicion was that she had been with somebody else. He called her a useless bitch and a whore. All this was heard by a neighbour at 6.20pm. The relationship still appears to be volatile.' Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Kirkham's partner has a drink problem and he was

Ambitious Western Isles tourism project

AN AMBITIOUS project to establish the Western Isles as a 'must visit' tourist destination is underway. The Outer Hebrides Tourism Industry Association (OHTIA) will develop a destination brand for the islands and launch a new website later this year. The £150,000 initiative, supported by LEADER, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Scottish Natural Heritage is expected to bring wide-ranging benefits to the local economy and wider community. Ian Fordham, OHTIA chairman said: 'We need to make our voice heard above the competition by developing a strong, vibrant and recognisable brand and a website which presents clear, fresh and surprising information about all the islands. 'We hope this will encourage more people to visit more of our islands and stay longer than they otherwise would.' Workshops to promote the project will be held in Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist and Barra next week.

Drink driver handed himself over to police

A FORT Augustus man meekly handed himself over to police after an Invergarry petrol station attendant reported him for suspected drink driving. Fort William Sheriff Court heard Andrzej Pacek, of 2 Station Road pulled into Invergarry Filling station on the evening of February 7. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He spoke to the lady behind the counter, who was sure he was under the influence. She asked if he had been drinking, took his keys off him and made him wait until police arrived.' Defending, Eilidh MacDonald said the self-employed labourer had finished night shift before drinking in the early hours, but believed he was safe to drive. 'He fully co-operated with police,' she said. Pacek admitted driving while one and a half times over the permitted limit. Sheriff Small banned him from driving for 13 months and fined him £300.

Fort William volunteers rise to Caledonian Challenge

CHARITY volunteers in Fort William are to help co-ordinate this weekend's RBS Caledonian Challenge. Spean Bridge Senior Citizens Association (SBSCA) and Friends of Nevis (FoN) will both help out at the event on June 16 and 17. Hundreds of charity teams will attempt to walk 54 miles from Gairloch on the Caledonian Canal to Strathfillan near Crianlarich in just 24 hours. The Lochaber volunteers will act as trail markers, register entrants and help boost the walking teams' morale. In return, both organisations will receive a portion of the money raised from the event. John Fotheringham, who runs the SBSCA, said: 'We are delighted to be taking part for the fourth time and be in a position to help again this year and look forward to cheering the teams on. 'We're hoping the donations this year will allow the charity to fund a trip to Portree and organise our Christmas plans for lunches

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Pipe band carries hopes of Western Isles to championship

LEWIS Pipe Band will carry 'Western Isles' hopes at the British Pipe Band Championship in Annan on June 30 - only the second time in the band's 108-year history they have competed at a 'major'.

Months of hard work and dedication will culminate in the band's four-minute performance in the competition circle on the big day.

Band members will set off from Stornoway on June 29 and head for their weekend base in Carlisle, just a few miles over the Border from the venue.

On competition day itself, the band's particular grade is split into two heats with six from each progressing to the final, in which the 12 qualifiers battle it out to be crowned British Pipe Band Champions 2012.

Lewis Pipe Band plays 13th in their heat, with their performance taking place just after 11.30am.

Chairman Sandy Gomez told *The Oban Times*: 'The band are thoroughly looking forward to the trip, and are excited about the prospect of representing the island. They've all put in tremendous effort over the last few weeks especially, and hope to put in a flawless performance on the day and do the island proud.'

'The opportunity of being amongst some of the best pipe bands will also be a great learning experience for all the members. We hope that everyone will have their fingers crossed for us for a great result!'

He added: 'A lot of fundraising has taken place over the last few months to raise the funds necessary to take the band on this trip, and we'd all like to thank everyone who has contributed to our events and raffles. Without the public support we receive, the band wouldn't be able to continue.'

Lewis Pipe Band, who played at the European Championships in Inverness in 2007, will compete alongside 140 bands from all over the British Isles.



P1-4 choirs brought the Lewis Mod to a conclusion with Gaelic songs in Stornoway Town Hall

Lewis Mòd heralded as great success

COMMUN Gaidhealach Leòdhais has hailed the local Mod as a great success after 650 individual competitors took part in over 50 competitions.

The event, which concluded on June 1, was the first Lewis Mòd to be held since a re-

organisation in the schools estate on the island and competitor numbers held up very well.

Thriving culture
Mod convener Amy MacAulay said Gaelic language and culture is thriving in what is regarded as the traditional

stronghold of the language.

She said: 'This was once again a very good mòd.'

'We are very impressed with the levels of fluency among the children and particularly with how strong the local dialects remain. It just shows the work

that is going on in all our schools in the islands and among the parents.'

A new non-competitive event for P1-4 choirs featured as part of this year's mòd programme, which saw a number of schools perform in Stornoway Town

Hall to a packed and very appreciative audience.

Ms MacAulay added: 'We would like to thank all our helpers, the adjudicators, the stewards and the teachers, but especially the children who make all the effort worthwhile.'



Leah Phillip and Ewen MacQueen piped-in 87 Lochaber High School sixth years at their graduation ceremony in the school hall last Thursday evening. After the speeches were over and prizes presented, the young people enjoyed a social night in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

Craignish festival aims to dance into the Guinness Book of Records

Dancers wanted for early August world record attempt

PEOPLE from across Argyll are being urged to don their dancing shoes and earn their place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The call comes as Craignish residents redouble their efforts to create a record giant Reel of the 51st Highland Division at this year's Craignish Festival after a failed attempt last year.

It is hoped 250 people will volunteer to take part in the reel on the final day of the festival, dancing for five minutes and

winning the coveted world record.

'We want to invite all comers to help us break the record this year,' Jan Brown, organiser and Scottish Country Dance enthusiast said. 'Sunday, August 5 will be the big day and we aim to take over the main street in the village. You can wear whatever you want, and it's great fun.'

There will also be a fancy-dress Pirate Parade for the children that weekend, and a Sunday market for fresh local

food and crafts outside the Galley of Lorne, and live music later on that day.'

The world record attempt will be the culmination of Craignish's two-week festival of arts and summer games, with art and craft exhibitions and workshops all over the Craignish peninsula, a scarecrow trail, fun family days at Kintraw Farm and Craobh Haven Watersports, with live music every night.

To find out more visit www.craignishartsfestival.org.uk.

Celtic musical feast for Nevis Centre

Show part of a musical exchange by Colmcille and Pan Celtic Alba

LOCHABER can look forward to a great musical occasion at the Nevis Centre next Friday when 18 young Gaelic performers from County Donegal will be among a host of singers and musicians from Scotland and Ireland taking the stage.

Talented
An Crann Og, from Gweedore, are a talented young ensemble with a varied repertoire of song, music and dance and are in much demand throughout Ireland and abroad.

Singer Noeleen Ni Colla, an Eisteddfod and Pan Celtic winner, with top Irish Dancer Tim O'Flatharta will be joining them for the visit.

Scotland will be well represented with Margaret MacLeod of Na h-Oganaich, Glasgow based Pan Celtic Traditional Group winners Macanta, and the Laxdale Gaelic Choir.

Lochaber participants will include Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar, Donna MacLeod, the Alec

MacLean Ceilidh Band and the Lochaber Senior Pipe Band. Weather permitting it is hoped that some outside performances can also be arranged.

The show, part of a musical exchange run by Colmcille and Pan Celtic Alba, is being presented by local Gaelic enthusiasts 'Cairdean Colmcille Loch Abar'.

Scottish performers are expected to visit Gweedore in the near future under the cultural initiative, which aims to build on existing friendships by bringing both communities closer together through the two Gaelic languages and music.

County Donegal has strong past links with Lochaber - the forefathers of next week's visiting musicians worked on railways, roads, the Alcan Factory tunnel through Ben Nevis and the Kinlochleven Dam.

Colmcille and the Highland Council are sponsoring the project.

Local Culture

WE MAY not have the brightest weather and it can sometimes be difficult to get around but there is one ace card that brings people to the west Highlands from all over the world - its culture.

Few destinations can boast the range of arts, music, history and poetry that Highlands and Islands can. The area can trace its roots through hundreds of years and its culture is as alive today as it has ever been.

A resurgence in traditional music has brought the sounds of the Highlands and Islands to a younger and more international audience. Bands such as Skerryvore have taken their music around the world, but are just as likely to be found in any venue throughout the west Highlands. They are just one of the acts heading up the bill at this year's Tìre Music Festival (July 21 - 22), which, just like Skerryvore, fuses traditional music with more modern styles.

Another festival that brings excitement to the summer is the Kintyre Music Festival.

Also expecting a big summer is west Highland ceilidh band Drams Allowed, which is offering up their latest album, the humorously titled *Aye, Tunes*.

Combining Gaelic and history is the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre, while the Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum will also take you back in time.

But the area's history is not always seen in museums, as the Glenbarr Abbey and Clan MacAlister Centre proves, while the Torosay Castle and Gardens is well worth a visit too.

For the art enthusiast, there is plenty to admire on the west coast: F.W. Holroyd art gallery and picture framer (established 1912) in North Ballachulish is holding a series of events to mark its centenary.

Also worth visiting this summer is the Iona Gallery Exhibition and the popular Tighnabruaich Gallery of fine art.

Many establishments combine fine art with fine food and there are two excellent examples of this in The Barn at Millcroft, near Tighnabruaich, and The Pottery Restaurant in Tobermory, Mull.

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Brothers Calum, 9, and John Robertson, 4, tested their might with the mallet at one of the stalls during Saturday's charities day at Station Square. 15_124charday3



Oban Pipe Band drew the crowds as they led the Oban Lions Club Charities Day parade. 15_124parade01

Sun-soaked Charities Day raises £16,000

EXCEPTIONAL weather brought the crowds out for this year's Oban Lions Club Charities Day, which raised £16,000 for local causes.

Despite an exodus of locals to follow the Olympic torch as it passed through Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Fort William, the event still attracted hundreds of visitors to Station Square, keen to look round the 47 stalls.

One of the organisers, Alex Milligan, said:

'The town wasn't that busy but the crowd that appeared seemed to stay all afternoon. Every stall made a lot of money.'

'On average they made more than £300 each. It was highly successful.'

A planned Salsa theme had to be cancelled for various reasons but that didn't deter participants from putting on a show to remember.

The Oban Express Best Overall Stall award

went to School's Out, while the Oban Express Best in Parade award was won by the First Oban Rainbows.

Alex said: 'Thanks to our sponsors who, as always, are very supportive and to *The Oban Times* for helping publicise the event.'

The Lions' next big fundraising event is the Raft Race on August 11, which will be held at the same time as Oban Lifeboat's open day.



The Hollow Mountain String Band gathered a crowd for their acoustic performance during Charities Day. 15_124charday5



Kevin Baker takes a sponge to the face while Stevo Finlayson watches on at Spotlight's slightly soggy stall. 15_124charday1



Evelyn Gibb, Sheila McIntyre and Jayne Donn had little time to spare when manning Soroba Young Families' stall. 15_124charday6

Oban woman's close shave in aid of Macmillan

A BRAVE Oban woman is to shave off all her hair for charity later this month.

Margaret Menassa is taking on the daunting prospect in aid of Macmillan nurses after her best friend lost her husband to cancer.

Margaret said: 'The nurses were fantastic to them. I'm shaving my head in honour of Donald Macleod. He's probably rolling around laughing at the thought of it.'

The close shave will take place on June 22 in Trinity at 9.30am. Anyone who wishes to support Margaret's effort can do so at her just giving page, margaretmenassa.

The money raised will be used to fund Macmillan nurses.

Margaret added: 'I'm really nervous but I can't chicken out now.'



The medal winners celebrate their success. 16_124sports01

Mull and Iona pupils' sports day to remember

EVERY primary school on Mull and Iona gathered at Garmony last week for a sports day to remember.

The event, organised by Active Schools, saw children taking part in a variety of sports in an Olympic themed day.

The teams were even named after the Olympic ideals

— respect, excellence, friendship and dedication. Activities included long jump, 100m race, cricket ball throw and high jump which saw a record breaking performance from Tobermory's primary seven pupil Molly Reade.

See the next issue of Mull and Iona Life for more photos and full results.



The group celebrate their second birthday. 16_124sing01

Singing group celebrates second birthday

OBAN'S singing for the brain group celebrated its second birthday with some musical fun last week at Soroba House Hotel.

With endless enthusiasm and energy, Elizabeth Little led the Alzheimer Scotland group in songs and activities while they also received £1000 towards their funding costs.

She said: 'Today was about

having a happy birthday and saying thank you to the council for supporting us with our costs. 'This is a group that Alzheimer Scotland wanted to start for people that have dementia. It is a singing and activities group that provides friendship, stimulation and memories. We are not a choir but we do sing very nice music.'

The group meets every Tuesday at 1.30pm in Soroba House Hotel. People are welcome to just turn up and there is no requirement to attend every week.

Robertson attended the birthday party to present the group with a cheque and told *The Oban Times*: 'The area committee is delighted to support such a worthwhile group that is bringing pleasure to so many.'

The group meets every Tuesday at 1.30pm in Soroba House Hotel. People are welcome to just turn up and there is no requirement to attend every week.



Ashleigh Kilgour, Lochgilhead, takes on the jumps during the working hunter competition at Oban and District Riding Club's annual show on Sunday. 15_124rdoopen1

High standard at riding club show

A HIGH standard of riding was evident when the Oban and District Riding Club held its annual show at Dalintober Farm on Sunday.

More entries had been recorded for this year's event than the previous year, with moderate weather providing perfect conditions for the show.

Overall winner was Kirsty Munn, although a number of competitors in the working hunter and style jump competitions qualified for the horse trials at Blair Atholl.

Organiser Lindsay MacDonald said: 'It was a really good event and we had a higher entry than last year with entries from pretty much all over.'

Results from the show will be printed in next week's *Oban Times*.

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Markie Dances
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CONNEL

A CASUAL lunch conversation has led to two Connel cousins trekking across Peru in a fundraising effort for a Scottish hospice.

Ellen Alexander and Aileen Anderson will take on the challenge to Machu Picchu in aid of Ayrshire Hospice. Ellen, 52, was brought up on a croft in Connel and attended Oban High School. Aileen, 51, grew up in Bishopton but returned to Oban to work in later years.

The pair will set off on their 10-day trek on August 23 and are trying to raise as much as possible before they go.

Ellen said: 'Over lunch one afternoon in Princes Square in Glasgow, Aileen and I very casually discussed the trek and what a wonderful experience it might be.

'We subsequently attended an information meeting which was very inspiring and we were excited to take up the challenge.

'Since beginning this challenge I have been amazed at the ripple effect of people from one community giving willingly of their time, talent and money to help another community and I am indebted to everyone who has helped or contributed.

'We are trying to raise £3,800 each and I would like to thank members of the Etive Club in Connel, members of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and the ladies of the Thursday morning badminton club in Connel who have all been so generous.'

Machu Picchu is a pre-Columbian 15th century Inca site located 2,430 metres above sea level and is situated on a mountain ridge above the Urubamba Valley in Peru.

It is often referred to as the Lost City of the Incas and is perhaps the most familiar icon of the Inca world.

Anyone who wishes to donate can do so at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ellenalexander@machupicu.chu.2012>.

LUING

AN APPEAL has been launched for the restoration of Luing war memorial which residents say is badly in need of repair.

The appeal fund needs



The Argyll Scouts, Cubs and Beavers with Chief Scout Bear Grylls in Lochgoilhead.

Chief Scout Bear meets his match in Argyll

ADVENTURER and television star Bear Grylls has overcome some major challenges but he recently met his match when he was quizzed by more than 200 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from Argyll.

The Argyll boys had assembled at Lochgoilhead Activity Centre to meet the Chief Scout, who was undertaking a flying visit round the UK.

Scouts from Ardrachattan parish, Oban, Southend, Dunoon and Lochgilphead had an activity weekend at the centre.

The Beavers had a fun day event, organised by Heather MacPherson of Ardrachattan

Scout Group. The Cubs competed for the John Logan Trophy, organised by Chris MacPherson of Ardrachattan Scout Group, and the competition was won by Sandbank Cubs, whose leader is Beth Aitken.

Beth, along with Scout Edward Childs of Benderloch, was part of the Chief Scout's escort during his visit.

Recently, new Scout groups have started in Glendaruel and Southend and Dunoon has grown considerably.

There is a Beaver group on Tiree, which it is hoped will grow in the near future to all sections of Scouts.

£10,000 to carry out the necessary restoration work and fundraising has already begun.

A ceilidh held on Saturday June 2 raised £325 while Luing Community Council has also donated £500 towards the appeal.

Organiser Jean Alexander told *The Oban Times*: 'The community has tried to look after the memorial but it has now got out of hand.

'The steps up to the memorial have been hit a number of times by traffic going along the narrow road and they are really damaged. The islanders thought it would be better to make a path to go up the steps to the monument so the side didn't have to be used again and a local farmer has offered to donate the land.

'He has started making a basic path but the war memorial trust want the steps to be assessed to make sure they can't be repaired.'

Other damage to the monument, which is the responsibility of Argyll and Bute Council, includes the naming, the base and the railings.

Mrs Alexander added: 'The wrought iron railings around the top of the monument are rotten. They have been repaired before but can't be this time and need replaced. To replace them with galvanised steel would cost £3,000 but we might have to make a like-for-like replacement

and I don't know how much that will cost.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the authority is responsible for the upkeep of the memorial and said they had 'made arrangements for its condition to be assessed'.

For more information on the appeal contact Jean Alexander on 01852 314242 or alexj@live.co.uk.



The memorial is 'badly in need of repair'.

ISLAY

A NEW biomass boiler heating system at Islay High School has been given the go ahead by councillors.

The new system was recommended for approval by council officers at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee on May 30.

The council can now install a biomass boiler, including plant room and woodchip store, with the condition that calculations of flue heights from the boiler plant are submitted to, and approved by, planners.

This is so the planning authority can be satisfied there will be no loss of amenity to neighbouring premises as a result of atmospheric pollutants.

The Bowmore-based school will also erect security fencing, new retaining walls and pipework and will alter the access and relocate existing gates and fencing.

DRIMMIN

IT USED to be said in Morvern that if it wasn't for Drimmin the people in Tobermory would have nothing to look at.

During the past few weeks Drimmin has certainly lived up to its reputation

On Wednesday May 23, HRH Prince Edward, Earl of

Wessex, landed in a field below Drimmin House in a helicopter of the Queen's Flight to unveil a plaque to mark the restoration and re-opening of St Columba's chapel as a non-denominational place of worship and a centre for music and the arts for the local community.

The former Roman Catholic place of worship, conspicuous on a high rocky knoll overlooking the Sound of Mull and on the site of a 16th century Maclennan castle, was built in 1838 by Sir Charles Gordon, proprietor of Drimmin Estate. A little more than a century later it lay in ruins providing shelter only for a few sheep and cattle. In 1997 a planning application to convert it and the adjoining graveyard into a house and car park was rejected by The Highland Council until finally a change of ownership ensured its preservation.

Affirming the ecumenical future of the chapel the Right Reverend Joseph Toal, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, and other clergy representing the Scottish, Catholic, English and Episcopal churches, joined together in the presence of the Earl of Wessex to conduct a short service and blessing.

During the time Prince Edward was at Drimmin his standard flew from the chapel's flagpole - the first time on record that a royal standard has been displayed in Morvern. In bygone days, when the chapel was used for worship, the Gordons would hoist a flag to let Roman Catholics in Tobermory know there was to be Mass that day.

Following on from the Royal visit, the Lewis family, who bought Drimmin Estate in 2002, applied to register an official bonfire to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The site chosen was on a hill above Drimmin House with spectacular views over Mull, Ardnamurchan and the Outer Isles. On the evening of Monday June 4, prior to setting light to one of the largest bonfires ever seen in Morvern since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 or the Relief of Mafeking three years later, more than 50 members of the local community - some travelling by boat from as far afield as Kinlochteaicus - were

entertained at Drimmin House - specially flood-lit for the occasion - in the time honoured tradition. As the sky darkened, more beacons could be seen on Cnoc and Teime - the field of fire - near Aros; at Ardnacross, also on Mull; Mingary Castle, Ardnamurchan and above Castlebay on Barra 60 miles distant.

On Sunday June 3, five enterprising local ladies organised a successful Diamond Jubilee Lunch in Drimmin Village Hall which was suitably decorated for the occasion. Between 50 and 60 people came from all over the parish and beyond and more than £200 was raised for hall funds. The weather was fine which allowed some of the diners to sit outside.

- Iain Thornber.

Newsdesks
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TAYNUILT



Nursery enjoys fun packed Olympic sports day

Taynuilt Nursery youngsters enjoyed a fun packed Olympic sports day on May 31. They were joined by the village playgroup, family and friends.



Port Ellen Primary School Gaelic Choir had a successful local Mòd.

High standards at Islay Mòd

THE HIGH standards of performance achieved by competitors at Islay local Mòd, held in the island's high school on June 2, greatly impressed both Gaelic and music adjudicators who had particularly high praise for the children competing in the junior section.

Among those greatly impressing was Port Ellen Primary School Choir, conducted by head teacher Maureen MacDonald, who led them to success in the primary unison competition, the psalm singing and the puirt a beul class.

Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, directed by Arlene McKerrill, also covered themselves in glory by winning the silverware in the under-19s two-part harmony and puirt a beul competitions.

The Port Ellen Primary School infants enjoyed success in the action song and the folk group top award went to Bowmore Primary School's 'Na H-Uiseagan'.

Lucy MacNiven and Katie Wright were the champion chanter players and the most promising newcomer in this class was Chelsea Campbell.

The main piping award went to Katie MacNiven, Hannah Gillies was the top clarsach player and Mairi MacGillivray and Abbie Morris scooped the fiddle playing honours.

The piano playing prize was awarded to Anna MacDonald, Eilidh MacNiven was the ace accordionist and the tin whistle supremos were Rachel MacKinnon and Eilidh MacDonald.

In the junior solo singing classes the top prizes went to Emily Gray, Iona Middleton, Eilidh MacDonald, Ryan Johnston, Kayla Woodrow, Alec MacDonald and Mairi MacGillivray, while the top duettists were Anna and Eilidh MacDonald.

Shining brightly in the poetry section were Morven Brown, Alec MacDonald, Abbie Morris, Ryan Johnston, Eilidh MacDonald and Abbie Brown.

Sharing first place and the Alastair MacEachern Cup in the Bible reading competition were Kimmi Rae and Ryan Johnston.

The 'Oscars' in the senior section were handed over to soloists Lynn MacDonald, Fergus Muir, Ruairidh MacKinnon, Kirsten Laurie and duettists Alison Gray and David Ferguson. There was also silverware for Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, under the baton of Iseabail Mactaggart, and the only senior choir competing.

Main prizewinners showed their mettle at the ensuing packed-out Mòd concert chaired by Conisby Gaelic stalwart Iain MacPherson who is no stranger to Mòd competitions.

Mòd Ìle was instituted in 1924 and during the past 88 years it has remained the premier Gaelic event on the island's social calendar.

RESULTS

JUNIORS: Chanter, 12 and under: 1 and Annette Sinclair Trophy, Lucy MacNiven; 2 Chelsea Campbell; 3 Isobel Ferguson. Tom Shaw Memorial Cup for most promising chanter player, Chelsea Campbell. Chanter, 13 and over: 1 and Mòd Ìle Tray, Katie Wright; 2 Nicole Summers; 3 Andrew MacNeill. Clarsach, 13 and over: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Hannah Gillies. Fiddle, 12 and under: 1 and Mòd Ìle Tray, Abbie Morris; 2 Isobel Ferguson; 3 Emma MacNicol. Fiddle, 13 and over: 1 and Mòd Ìle Tray, Mairi MacGillivray; 2 Clare Bell. Piping: 1 and Bobby Hammond Trophy, Katie MacNiven; 2 Rachel MacKinnon; 3 Heather Hope. Accordion, 12 and under: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Eilidh MacMillan; 2 Elinor Baker; 3 Catriona MacIntyre. Piano, 13 and over: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Anna MacDonald; 2 Hannah Gillies. Tin whistle, 12 and under: 1 and Mòd Ìle Tray, Rachel MacKinnon, 2 Ryan Johnston. Tin whistle, 13 and over: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Eilidh MacDonald; 2 Hannah Gillies. Bible Reading: 1 equal and Wilie Christie Trophy, Kimmi Rae and Ryan Johnston; 2 Elizabeth Aitchison; 3 Isla MacCalman. Poem, fluent, 5 to 6: 1 and Mòd Ìle Shield, Alec MacDonald; 2 Daira Patterson; 3 equal, Brett Wilson and Eliza Jackson. Poem, learners, 7 to 8: 1 and Archibald

Fletcher Cup, Morven Brown; 2 Emily Gray; 3 equal, Abbie Brown and Isla MacKechnie. Poem, learners, 9 to 10: 1 and Mòd Ìle Tray, Abbie Morris; 2 Sophie Baker, 3 equal, Elinor Baker and Elizabeth Aitchison.

Poem, learners, 11 to 12: 1 and Islay Lions' Cup, Ryan Johnston; 2 Fiona Ann Fletcher; 3 equal, Aileas Colthart and Ellen Johnston. Poem, learners, 13 to 15: 1 and Mòd Ìle Shield, Eilidh MacDonald; 2 Natalie Dunn; 3 Anna MacDonald.

Conversation, fluent, primary: 1 and Diageo Shield, Alec MacDonald; 2 Anna Mitchell; 3 Eliza Jackson. Conversation, learners, primary: 1 equal and Rev William Dundas Shield, Morven and Abbie Brown; 2 Maggie Brown. Solo singing, 5 Fergus Muir, 2 Mòd Ìle Cup, Alec MacDonald. Solo singing, 7 to 9: 1 and Lily MacLean Trophy, Emily Gray; 2 Abbie Morris; 3 Elizabeth MacMillan. Solo singing, boys, 10 to 12: 1 and Mòd Ìle Shield, Ryan Johnston; 2 Dylan Wilson; 3 Lewis Davey. Girls - 10 to 12: 1 and MacDugall Goldie Trophy, Kayla Woodrow; 2 Lily Anne Doyle; 3 Elizabeth Aitchison. Girls - 13 to 15: 1 and Bank of Scotland Cup, Eilidh MacDonald; 2 Mairi MacGillivray; 3 Siobhan MacNab. Girls - 16 to 18: 1 and Royal Bank of Scotland Cup, Iona Middleton. Puirt-a-beul, under 12: 1 and Mòd Ìle Shield, Ryan Johnston. Duets, under 18: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Anna and Eilidh MacDonald; 2 Lily Ann Doyle and Emma McHarrie. Former winners, under 18: 1 and Jubilee Cup, Mairi MacGillivray; 2 Emily Gray; 3 Siobhan MacNab. Folk Group: 1 and Flora MacDonald Cup, Na h-Uiseagan, Bowmore primary; 2 Na Smeoraich, Bowmore primary. Psalm singing, under 18: 1 and Alastair MacEachern Cup, Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir. Unison singing, primary: 1 and Glasgow Islay Association Cup, Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir; 2 Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir; 3 Keills Primary Gaelic Choir. Two part harmony, under 19: 1 and Morrison Challenge Cup, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle. Puirt-a-beul, under 19: 1

and Tom Crawford Memorial Quach, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle; 2 Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir; 3 Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir. Action song: 1 and Margaret Earl Memorial Trophy, Port Ellen Primary Infants; 2 Na Claiseachan Gàidhlig Bunscoil Bògh Mor; 3 Port Charlotte Primary School.

SENIORS: Solo singing, prescribed: 1 and Mòd Ìle Cup, Lynn MacDonald; 2 Alasdair Gillies. Solo singing: 1 and Mòd Ìle Shield, Kirsten Laurie; 2 Fergus Muir, 3 Ruairidh MacKinnon. Duncan Johnston competition: 1 and Iain Johnston Memorial Cup, Fergus Muir; 2 Ron Goudie; 3 Ruairidh MacKinnon. Gilbert MacPhail competition: 1 and Gilbert MacPhail Memorial Trophy, Fergus Muir, 2 Ruairidh MacKinnon, 3; David Ferguson. Duncan Ban MacIntyre competition: 1 and MacIntyre Memorial Cup, Fergus Muir. Puirt-a-beul, solo: 1 and Ina MacDonald Challenge Quach, Ruairidh MacKinnon; 2 Fergus Muir. Duets: 1 and Ina MacDonald and Family Quach, Alison Gray and David Ferguson; 2 Helen and Alasdair Gillies. Former winners: 1 and Colmar Memorial Trophy and Jean Carmichael Rosebowl, Kirsten Laurie. Three part harmony, females: Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle. Three part harmony, males: Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle. Puirt-a-beul: Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle. Four part harmony: 1 and Morrison Cup, Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle.

AGGREGATE TROPHIES: Fiona Rountree Cup, highest music mark under 10s - Emily Gray. Schroder Cup, highest aggregate in Gaelic 13 to 18 years - Eilidh MacDonald. Joan Campbell Cup, highest Gaelic marks, under 18 - Morven Brown. John Ferguson Cup, highest aggregate in Gaelic, under 13 - Ryan Johnston. Campbell Tray, highest Gaelic aggregate, ladies, Lynn MacDonald. Woodrow Cup, highest aggregate in Gaelic - Men - Fergus Muir. District Cup, highest aggregate in music and Gaelic - seniors - Fergus Muir. Margat Duncan Shield, highest aggregate in choral music - Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle.

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TRAIGH GOLF COURSE

Traigh golf course (pronounced Try) near Arisaig in the West Highlands overlooks white sands and turquoise seas towards the islands of Rum, Eigg and Skye and according to Golf Monthly "there's surely no more beautiful setting for golf anywhere in the world."

The high quality well-maintained nine hole course presents a fair challenge but is suitable for all standards of golf. The golf course green fees start at £20 a day and clubs and trolleys can be hired at the clubhouse.

The Oban Times has a year's free golf at Traigh Golf Course to give away to one lucky reader. To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to Wyvex Media, Traigh Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday, June 25 2012.



QUESTION: Which of the following islands can be seen from Traigh Golf Course?
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ARDNAMURCHAN

MOD AIRD nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan Mod) is being held tomorrow in Ardnamurchan High School and Arainn Shuaincirt in Strontian.

Competitions start at 9.30am and run on through the day until 5pm. The Mod Concert is held that evening at 7pm in Arainn Shuaincirt.

All visitors are warmly welcome both during the day and in the evening. Competitors are drawn from the five peninsular primary schools, from Mallaig and Fort William, and, of course, from the high school itself.

GLENCOE



The photographic exhibition in Glencoe provided a fascinating look at the past.

A TWO-DAY photographic exhibition took place recently in St Mary's church hall, when Glencoe Heritage Trust (GHT) displayed 14 different categories including weddings, transport, sheep farming, deerstalking and sport.

People came from The Midlands, Kilmarnock, Inverness and, closer to home, Kinlochleven, Ballachulish and Glencoe primary schools to attend the event.

Local artist Karen MacAulay also had a range of her work on display.

Trust secretary Ros MacDonald was overwhelmed by the response of pictures submitted, due in part to the initial GHT picture in *The Oban Times* which depicted a funeral party leaving Tighphuir Pier for Eilean Munde. A small raffle helped to swell the funds to £400 for the GHT appeal.

A huge thank you was extended to everyone who helped with setting up, supplying raffle prizes, donations and submitting pictures.

After the event, the trust received requests from a number of people for copies of certain photographs and they were duly supplied. - Ros MacDonald.

PLOCKTON

AFTER Highland Council closed the public toilets in Plockton two years ago because they couldn't afford to repair the flat roof which had collapsed, Plockton Harbour Association bought them and repaired them and they re-opened on June 1.

Plockton and District Community Council held its AGM in Plockton Hall on May 28.

Office-bearers were re-elected and the treasurer's report was passed.

Business:
 □ Roads - Improvements are required on Harbour Street, Station Road and the Plockton to Balmacara road.

□ Plockton play area - a pre-planning application has been made.

□ Plockton railway station - following complaints regarding litter at the station, a meeting was held at the high school and the school has agreed to adopt the station.

□ Abandoned cars at Ceann an Uib car park still need to be removed.

□ Fish farm at Airidrishaig - the community council had no knowledge of any planning application and has asked councillor Audrey Sinclair to investigate.

□ Duirinish village sign is still to be replaced by Highland Council.

□ Diamond jubilee - no official celebrations were planned in the village.

□ Next meeting - July 2. Sport: It has been a good spell for sport in Plockton. The football team beat Kyle 1-0 in a league match.

Lochalsh Hockey Team won a tournament at Plockton with teams from Nairn, Inverness and Golspie also competing.

Lochalsh beat Nairn 1-0 in the final and captain Kenneth MacRae from Plockton was presented with the trophy.

Finally, 42-year-old Alex

Glasgow from Plockton became British Veterans Cycling Champion at an event in Selkirk, competing against 120 competitors, Alex retaining the title he won when the event was last held in 2010.

KILMORE

THE KILMORE 100 Club winners for June were E Clunie, £200, and P Ross, £100.

A successful cream tea event was held in Kilmore Hall on Tuesday June 5 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. More than 100 locals and holidaymakers enjoyed cream cakes and scones in a flag decorated hall and thanks go to everyone who helped make it such a success.

Special thanks to those who donated baking and especially the ladies serving teas.



Sam MacKinnon enjoys the home baking at the Queen's Jubilee celebrations at Kilmore Hall last week. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

PORT ELLEN

FIVE primary six pupils from Islay reached the final of an international essay writing competition.



Primary pupils get into Olympic spirit

Pupils from all five South Lochaber primary schools took part in a 'mini-Olympics' at Glencoe Primary School ahead of the Olympic torch's arrival. More than 100 children competed in athletic and field events, cheered on by hundreds of spectators. Above, P1-3 marathon gold medallist Logan Thomson of Glencoe Primary School, representing Sweden, enjoys his moment of glory on the podium with silver medallist Liamhainn MacLachlan and Canada, and bronze winner Ollie Leitch, Glencoe and South Africa. 20.1240y01

The pupils from Port Ellen Primary School wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General regarding the destruction of the world's rainforests.

The finalists were Eilidh Macmillan, Emily Logan, Ewan Mackinnon, Jason Baker and Scott Kinloch.

PORT Ellen Primary School has been awarded its fourth Green Flag by Eco Schools Scotland.

The school said the award was testament to the hard work and commitment shown by the pupils, staff and friends of the school.

PORT Ellen youngster Asher

Borthwick has won a poetry competition for primary schoolchildren on Islay.

The Port Ellen primary five pupil was awarded first place for his poem, The Crashing Sea.

The Islay Life Poetry Competition was run by James Knox Whittet who is the poet organising the Islay Voices And Images Exhibition being held at Ionad Chalum Chille on June 15.

FIVE pupils from Port Ellen Primary School travelled to Glasgow last Friday to attend the National Celebration of Science and Engineering at the Glasgow Science Centre - and came home with a top prize.

The pupils gave a presentation on work carried out during National Science Week and at their science club.

They were awarded the BT award for best presentation by a science club, beating 61 other schools to the prize.

which they invited members of the local community to.

The youngsters worked together to make the day a success and thank everyone who came along and parents and staff for their help. Special thanks go to Sir Lachlan MacLean for planting the tree.

FORTINGALL

FORTINGALL Art's summer exhibition will be held from July 28 to August 5.

The selling exhibition, which runs between July 28 and August 5 features a selection of paintings, photography, printmaking, jewellery and sculpture.

ABERFELDY

WORK to restore and transform Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema is underway, with supporters and funders this week being thanked for their support.

A large banner reading 'Thank you' has been unfurled on fencing at the site, with Friends of the Birks Cinema patron, Hollywood actor Alan Cumming, welcoming the latest step in the project. The Aberfeldy-born actor said: 'It is so great to think that work is finally starting to bring the Birks back to its former glory and even greater the place will be open for business next spring. I am so proud of the Birks team and the Aberfeldy community for making this happen.'

Charlotte Flower, chairperson of the Friends of the Birks Cinema, said: 'Seeing the fencing go up and the builders going in is just fantastic. We are so grateful to all of our supporters and funders.'

'We are really looking forward to next year when the cinema becomes a living breathing fixture in Highland Perthshire's arts and culture landscape.'

KILMELFORD

THE ANDERSON family of Melfort House has made a plea to the community for information about their missing dog, Coco.

The brown Jack Russell went missing last Sunday and was last seen at Melfort Pass.

Anyone who may know what happened to the family pet can contact the Andersons on 01852 200326.

LOCHDONHEAD

LOCHDONHEAD Primary School recently planted a tree in commemoration of the Queen's diamond jubilee.

The pupils also had a street party on Wednesday June 6

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DUROR AND KENTALEN



Litter pick leads to learning outdoors

Duror and Kentallen pre-school centre and adult helpers joined forces with Duror Primary School pupils and staff to pick up litter at Cuil Bay on Friday June 1. The pupils admired all the wildlife around the bay and were made aware of how pollution affects wildlife. After the tidy up, when bags were counted and contents discussed, the pupils enjoyed making creative land art using natural materials found on the beach. It was a great day learning outdoors.

KILLIN

KILLIN Drama Club has enjoyed more success with its performance of Swan Song, after finishing second at the East Kilbride Rep Theatre's Festival of One Act Plays.

The club picked up the Arts Council Trophy for its production, which the group recently performed at the final of the Scottish Community Drama Association's Festival of One Act Plays.

KILLIN, Crianlarich and Strathyre primary schools will hold their own Olympic Games next week as part of their social studies' Olympic theme.

Transport for visiting schools for the event on Monday June 18 has been arranged by Kingshouse Travel.

CRIANLARICH

CRIANLARICH Primary School's P7 pupils will attend a ceilidh at McLaren High School this week.

ROSS OF MULL

A CAFÉ which gives local people on Mull the chance to come together as a community and enjoy lunch and a chat has been given a grant of £220 towards its running costs.

Ross of Mull Community Café, run entirely by volunteers, received the cash from Mull Environmentally Sensitive Solutions.

The monthly café was started in Bunnessan Village Hall in 2011 by Dianne Farley and Scott Gates. It is supported by Morven Gibson, the area's local development officer who works for Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT).

Dianne said: 'The café is going from strength to strength and we would like to thank

MICT for assisting us achieving charitable status and for the financial support.'

The grant will be used to buy crockery, a toasted sandwich maker and to help improve the café. Surpluses raised from the café are being donated to the Ross of Mull Community Transport Association.

Moray Finch of MICT said: 'We are delighted to be able to help the Ross of Mull Com-

munity Café committee with this grant.'

'Their hard work is really appreciated by the local people and visitors who turn out in high numbers for the café each month.'

'It is particularly impressive to see surpluses being ploughed back into community transport which also figured very high on the community development plan.'

IONA



Pupils have situated a cross in the garden of Iona Primary School with the help of artist Sally Purdie. It is hoped that the cross - which lies flat on the ground - will last several hundred years in the garden.

STRATH OF APPIN



An eco fashion show was held in Strath of Appin Primary School, organised by the school's eco committee. A total of 41 outfits were shown off by 15 models, who all wore recycled clothes, donated by families and friends of the school. The £170 raised on the night will be shared between Mary's Meals and school funds. Thanks went to all those who donated items, Port Appin Hall for the 'catwalk', all the backstage helpers and Brenda MacLeod for her commentary.



Wha's fur Scots? Matthew Fitt with Lochside pupils after his reading.

Author visits Lochside RC Primary

SCOTS language author and poet Matthew Fitt visited Lochside RC Primary School to give a presentation to pupils recently.

Mr Fitt read from his book 'The Eejits', a Scots adaptation

of Roald Dahl's 'The Twits'.

The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to him reading a chapter and describing the characters in colourful detail.

Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'Scots language is one

of the components of the Curriculum for Excellence. It enhances the children's knowledge and understanding of language and literacy as well as raising their awareness of their Scottish culture.'

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... NOW ON SALE

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Scottish Field - FOOD & DRINK

Ardanaisig Hotel

- taking a little walk on the wilder side of life

THIS stunning hotel really is at the end of a long and winding road, but it's a journey well worth taking.

Head chef Gary Goldie has been here for 15 years yet his five-course set menu shows no signs of fatigue. On the contrary, it's packed with energy and enthusiasm, but with an underlying maturity and confidence. His tender fillet of Angus beef carpaccio, for instance, was coolly placed on a white plate in generous pink rippled slices, and simply garnished with a variety of foraged herbs, tiny pearly heads of wild garlic sitting prettily alongside little violet flowers and providing crunch and well as flavour. With a drizzle of greenest olive oil and a crystal sprinkle of the new Hebridean sea salt this made for a spectacular starter - especially so when savoured with a piece of chef's delicately pungent cep bread. Before that, a pre-starter of Strathdon Blue and apple jelly trifle, in a little chilled shot glass, was surprisingly soft and tangy, its opposite flavours blending beautifully and the whole thing brought together with a dinky walnut crisp and of tomato relish. It was also fun, like having a deconstructed cheese board before rather than after the meal. But before that again, while we perused the menu over a glass of Lombardian white (£8.50), we'd been served a little boiled half quail's egg, sitting on a silver spoon and garnished with shaved truffle on a bed of chopped sorrel. I'm putting this back to front on purpose, to try to convey our sense of being played with.

Clearly chef Goldie is big on the wilder side of life. He goes foraging every morning and, depending on what he finds, then decides the day's menu.

For us, though, the setting sun was covering Beinn Laoigh with the most exquisite pinky orange glow and stilling Loch Awe to a glassy mirror in front of our very eyes. But even while gazing at this thing of wonder, we felt we were being taken on a jaunt into the Argyll landscape.

Another piece of culinary fun next. Described obliquely by our waitress as "a fancy soup", three slices of a hand-dived Oban scallop lay inside its shell with five earthy morels, bacon bits and snips of wild sorrel,

an interesting enough creation which came alive the minute you tumbled them round with a fork to reveal the secret ingredient: a pool of the brightest green wild sorrel soup, just enough to coat the other elements of this delightful little rock pool. The detail here was testimony to the thought and imagination that went into it.

Things got deeply serious with the next stage: a large, succulent tranche of Gressingham duck breast so tender and deeply pink as to suggest the all-too-ubiquitous sous vide treatment. This was very tender and delicious though I do feel sous vide is a bit of a cop-out, removing real cooking skill. But with its

pat of thick, creamy, densely flavoursome liver pate, topped with pieces of crunchy duck crackling I really couldn't sing this triumphant dish's praises highly enough. I could say it was a coup de foie gras - only it wasn't; it was the duck's own natural liver. With its dressing of wild sorrel, every element of this dish stood up for itself individually but taken as a whole it was simply superb.

Just as we were passing into a state of passive bliss, along came the knock-out punch in the form of a palate cleanser that made us feel we'd suddenly plunged into Loch Awe itself. This wasn't a sorbet; this was a passion fruit sour, pure fruit juice laced with

Talisker - and the two matched each other perfectly. Three gulps and it was gone, and you could almost feel it cut through the fatty duck as it went. A total shock to the system, and a culinary-sensory triumph.

This is exactly the kind of imaginative daring that the Scottish eating out scene is crying out for, yet bizarrely Goldie is relatively unknown - a victim, perhaps, of Central Belt metrocentricity.

Less successful was a chocolate mangiare tart served with star anise ice-cream, a pairing which looked and sounded better than it tasted. The chocolate was way too sweet and not nearly dense enough, and it wasn't helped by the aniseedy sweetness of the ice-cream. But the kitchen came up trumps with a fun, whimsical range of tiny retro biscuits with coffee to turn the concept of petits fours on its head. Here was a custard cream, a chocolate Bournville, a fig roll, a jammy dodger, all tiny replicas of the 1970s branded versions but more intensely flavoured and deliciously buttery.

Metaphorically speaking, we'd been out along the coastline and deep into the forest and now here we were, returning as it were, to the comforts of the fireside. With Gary Goldie as tour guide it was a culinary journey I'd happily take again.

Ardanaisig Hotel, Kilchrenan by Taynuilt 01866 833333. www.ardanaisig.com

Tasting menu £50 a head without wine

Rating: 4.5 out of 5.

Cate Devine is food writer of The Herald

Read more in the July edition of Scottish Field - out now!

THAT's the Entrepreneurial spirit!



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Joanne & Michael Wright opened the Sugar House in March 2012. Noticing that retro sweets were making a comeback, and were a talking point on Facebook and Twitter, the couple decided to open a good old-fashioned sweet shop complete with the traditional fixtures and fittings.

Joanne says 'We wanted to create a shop where you didn't see the products anywhere else. We had to appeal to all ages, as well as locals and not just the tourists. We have been delighted with the popularity of the shop so far, and are now offering party bags, wedding favours, sweetie buffets and our sweet trees which

you can see in the window. They are great for table centrepieces or birthday gifts.' In addition to the fantastic array of boiled sweets, the shop also stocks organic and dairy, gluten-free and wheat-free chocolate. There is truly something for everyone, no matter what your age!



Dolce Vita

62 George Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 5SD
Tel: 01631 571221



Dolce Vita has now been open for two years, and the owner, Morven Summers says 'I am delighted with the support I have had from locals and tourists alike. Its success is not only due to that support but also the hard work of the team of staff I have had since we

opened. We are a family and based on that we use old and new family recipes along with some of the best local produce. I am very proud of the fact that everything is home-made on the premises, especially all the homebaking which has been a huge

success. This year we will be concentrating on introducing daily specials for the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all customers for their support during the last 2 years and hope to see them in the future.

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looking for a good quality fence for the back garden, or timber for a raised bed, to requests for 20km of deer fence. Customers can ask for quotes and prices but we also give people hints and ideas on how to achieve their aims. We try to work closely with our trade customers to support their businesses and above all we provide the best quality materials we can find because

we know that we are being paid for our specialist knowledge in choosing the right products as much as for the product itself. If what you want involves treated timber, rylocks, decking, wire, livestock handling equipment, gates, cattlegrids or electric fencing then please ring, for the price of a phone call you might save yourself money, time and energy.

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are made from 100% fair-trade, organic and rainforest certified beans. The menu includes: freshly made doorstep sandwiches, wraps, baguettes, paninis, rolls, salad boxes, homemade Tiffin, Rocky Road and Mars Bar crispy cakes. Some new additions include our Sandwich of the Week

(this week - Crayfish tails with lemon mayonnaise and rocket), Jacket Potatoes, Steak Burgers, Jumbo Hot Dogs, Pizza Bites and Sausage Rolls. Breakfast is served from 8am. Our outside catering menus are extensive and can be tailor-made to suit any budget.

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Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

The firm of R A Clement Associates has expanded again. Based in Oban for over 50 years, we opened a Fort William office in 2004 and took over the Fort William based accountancy practice of French Duncan. Our Fort William office continued to expand under the leadership of Duncan Grout, Managing Partner and in May 2012 we took over the accountancy firm of J C Harvey & Company. We adapted their premises at 3 Cameron Square to accommodate their staff and ours and moved in on 1st June this year. If you were a J C Harvey client prior to the take-over, don't

worry, you will still see the same friendly staff - and as a bonus, you can meet our friendly staff too! Our friendly, approachable staff have many years experience in all aspects of accounts and taxation. We have helped many west coast individuals and businesses and we aim to look after the financial interests of many more. In addition to doing accounts, we offer local, personal, confidential advice on such topics as personal tax, business start-ups and disposals, management, PAYE, VAT, Limited

Company formation, retirement planning and much more. Visit our website www.raclement.co.uk for full details of what we can do for you. The website also contains lots of free advice on such topics as pensions and the latest government business regulation. Our business news is updated daily so visit regularly for the latest information. We think that we embody true "entrepreneurial spirit" and would like to help you do the same. Call us for a free, no obligation, initial meeting in Fort William (Tel: 01397 700 171) or Oban (Tel: 01631 562 643).

Your Chef Today.....

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margaret kirk

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Margaret Kirk started her catering company 'Your Chef Today.....' in 2011, catering for private functions, shooting lodges, golf lets and on yachts, to name but a few locations. Margaret was previously a Head Chef in a hotel, and admits that even she is surprised at the speed and

success with which her new venture has taken off, with every booking that she had last year making a repeat booking for this year. Based in Oban, she will travel anywhere to do a catering job, and always makes sure that she takes the freshest seafood from Oban with her for that first night wow factor!

"I consider myself so lucky to be doing this job which I love, and with access to quite simply the best seafood you can get, right here on the doorstep in Oban" says Margaret. To book 'Your Chef Today.....' for your private function, please call Margaret to find out more.

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another local company, retirement didn't come easy, so it wasn't a difficult choice when it was suggested that I set up my own business selling office furniture, something I had been doing for a long time. From here it wasn't a great leap to where we are now, when I was joined by my partner and fellow director, Eddie Wrightson. From our shop on Combie Street, we supply everything for your

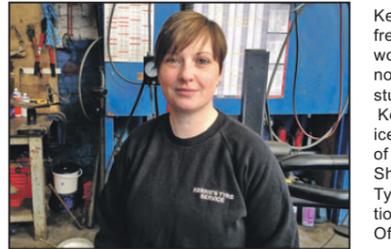
office, home office and student. We take our supplies from the two largest office product distributors in the UK, giving us the opportunity of being able to offer overnight delivery on orders and stock. We will shortly have our discount printer cartridge centre up and running. We are a small business with big ideas where a good deal costs a good deal less."

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Kerrie MacPhail is a breath of fresh air in the male dominated world of motoring - and she is not afraid of hard work or getting stuck in herself. Kerrie set up Kerrie's Tyre Service in 2005 but has over 18 years of experience in the trade. She went to work in National Tyres in Argyll Street as a receptionist after doing secretarial and Office studies at college, but got

bored and started fitting tyres. They put her through qualifications and Kerrie went on to be a workshop manager for a haulage company for 4 years. Kerrie has now been trading for 8 years and has three great employees, Brian Todd, Neil O'Hara, Nicole Carson. Her father Jim Hastings is always there to lend a hand when needed.

She is proud to be providing a service which is not often fronted by a woman, having found herself that it can be intimidating as a female going in to an all male garage. Kerrie is also a Retained Fire-fighter, another job that she loves doing. Being self employed and working with a great team she can rely on allows her to drop everything when necessary.

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HAVING started his own commercial vehicle and plant servicing company just two years ago, Barcal-dine's Peter McGregor is expanding by introducing cutting edge technology to his business. PMG Services is now offering the industry-leading JOSAM Laser Alignment Service throughout Scotland for HGV, PSV and trailers. The system offers laser-guided tracking on vehicles, typically reducing fuel consumption by four per cent and increasing tyre life by up to 12

per cent. Peter said: 'The laser alignment saves thousands of pounds on fuel and tyres; a typical saving on a tractor unit can be as much as £6,000 a year. There are lots of companies in the area that use the JOSAM Laser Alignment Service already but in the past they have had to travel to the central belt - and further. Now they can have this done locally, or I can come to them. The service I offer is fully mobile.' PMG Services, which has taken on an apprentice as part of its expansion, also offers servicing and MOTs and plant repairs and engineering.

Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021



Argyll trust aims to bolster funding to aid fledgling enterprises

A CHARITABLE trust dedicated to supporting new or growing businesses in Argyll by the way of grants or loans is seeking fresh donations to meet increased demand.

Tough economic times means fledgling businesses are finding it tougher than ever to secure funding to help grow.

Recognising that success

breeds success, the SJ Noble Trust is appealing for as many businesses or individuals as possible to make a contribution to the cause, inviting donations from £50 to £5,000.

The trust was established in 2004 in the memory of Johnny Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters, who died in 2002.

By September 2011, the

trust had granted or loaned approximately 75 enterprises £264,875, generating around 175 to 200 jobs in the process.

However, donors to the trust have begun to fall away and the trustees are looking to bolster funds to allow their work to continue.

Trustee Christina Noble, Johnny's sister, said: 'We

restrict our area of benefit to Argyll, where there has been a poor record for small scale business and enterprise. Our overriding aim is to promote rural regeneration and the well-being of communities.

'We are aware it's not just start ups that are finding it hard - it's tough for all businesses. However, we write to ask you

to donate to the fund to allow the trust to encourage and support aspiration. It is in all our interests that Argyll should thrive. If it is to do so, we have to address the current demography; our population is falling and the percentage of population above 65 is well above the UK average. We need to encourage enterprise and opportunism, especially

among the young.' Among those businesses to receive support from the trust is marine sciences firm Glycomar which is now working with a Norwegian company to commercialise a nutritional supplement worth up to £4million a year in gross sales.

Others assisted by the trust include Tiree Glass, Forbes

Boatcare in Barcaldine, and Barbreck Farms, near Lochgilphead, all of which have established reputations as successful and reliable businesses.

For more information about the trust or to arrange a donation, email enquiry@sjnobletrust.com or visit the website, sjnobletrust.com.

Melfort Village strikes gold from green scheme

A FOUR-STAR holiday rental and timeshare village on the shores of Loch Melfort has received a gold award from the prestigious Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Melfort Village has been a member of the scheme since 1999 and this is the ninth successive year it has achieved gold. The management and team at Melfort Village were congratulated as being a great example of a green holiday village and for their commitment to delivering the green message to staff and guests.

Club manager Christine Roberts said: 'One of our proudest achievements is to have achieved this rating without expending a great deal of money. We believe that green tourism can be affordable and very beneficial to businesses and guests.'

Melfort Village recently took part in Green Tourism week from May 21 to 27, organised by the staff 'Green Team'.

Activities included taking part in the local beach clean, a staff swap shop and a day of free bike hire to encourage guests to stay local. For more information, see www.melfortvillage.co.uk.

Global investors look to skills of Highland workforce

HIE sets up register to secure valuable work throughout the Highlands and Islands

THE SKILLS and reputation of the Highlands' workforce is attracting strong interest from global investors, according to Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Last week Capita announced a further 30 jobs in the region and it has now emerged that Sensec, which provides employed home-based advisers for contact centres, is hoping to fill 45 positions from across the region.

Further global companies including Vertex, Caggeini and Atos are also recruiting.

Head of inward investment at HIE Alison Wilson said of more than 50 investment enquiries, more than 30 per cent are in the business services sector.

She said: 'This interest is coming both from firms already operating in the Highlands and Islands who are planning expansion and from new investors considering a move into the region.'

'HIE has been working directly with the industry for many years, supporting business growth, leadership and skills training and piloting innovative working

models. This work is seeing results and our businesses' award winning reputation in customer care and for delivering exceptional returns for their clients is bringing real investment to the area.'

The sector offers career paths across a diverse range of specialisms including retail, finance, IT, legal and medical.

HIE is collating a skills register to highlight the region's talent and to keep its members informed of new opportunities in the sector.

Ms Wilson added: 'We are seeing considerable potential for further growth in the pipeline and with that in mind we have created the skills register.'

'We are calling for those with relevant skills to sign up. The data will allow us to demonstrate the skills and expertise available here and to secure valuable work for the Highlands and Islands.'

REPORT
by
STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

New 'male salon' offers first-class experience

Mid Argyll entrepreneur raises the bar for standards of male grooming in Scotland's capital

RARELY do keen rugby players and fish farmers head into the world of personal styling - but Mid Argyll entrepreneur Andrew Cannon has done exactly that.

Having grown up on the shores of Loch Melfort, the 29-year-old is opening Ruffians in Edinburgh.

He claims the business is Scotland's first 'male salon' aimed at providing a first-class experience to its customers - without being girly.

That means customers are greeted with iPads to while away the wait for a cut, a bottle of beer - or a dram of local whisky - or coffee and the kind of furnishing you'd more reasonably expect to find in a pub rather than a barber.

This is complemented with a bespoke range of male grooming products, from shampoos and moulding mud for hair to shaving gels.

Andrew raised £500,000 in capital for the project, which long term will see two more salons open in Scotland by enticing 'Angel investors' to back his vision.

Formulating a firm vision was a big part in attracting investors.

The former Mid Argyll rugby player and Kilniver Primary School pupil, whose parents started and grew the Kames Fish Farming business, said: 'I came up with the idea because I became fed up of the experience men have when getting their hair cut.'

'Going into a salon was another experience that influenced my decision - it wasn't comfortable and very geared towards women. I wanted to change that so eventually came up with the



Andrew Cannon with some of the products he's launched under his new Ruffians brand. 15_124acannon1

idea of Ruffians.' Andrew was living in London at the time and having drawn up a business plan, set about speaking to friends and acquaintances in a bid to find and secure investors.

'I had worked with venture capitalists before and they're always looking for ideas.'

'I was looking to move back to Scotland and Edinburgh was ideal for that so I carried out extensive market research.

The target market is 25-45 and basically it involved hanging around on street corners counting the number of people within that market that passed.

'Queensferry Street was the ideal spot and we were lucky to find a place quickly.'

Potential

Andrew convinced investors that his plan would meet a gap in the market and had potential for expansion, leading to the

opening of his first barber shop. It's a long way from rugby and fish farming.

'The response to Ruffians has been great. It's a totally new brand and so far working really well.'

'To be honest, it's not something I saw myself doing and while I won't be cutting the hair I'm really keen to see it work.'

Lastly, some may question the sense of opening a premium

barber during a double-dip recession, but Andrew insists the period offers more encouraging prospects for new and innovative business.

'To me the recession is an opportunity. When you're looking at retail in the High Street, both are struggling against the internet, but there are always services and shops the High Street won't be able to do without.'

New managing director appointed at Clark Thomson



Ben Bailey new managing director at insurance brokers Clark Thomson.

CLARK Thomson Insurance Brokers has appointed Ben Bailey as its new managing director, while Ian Bowie takes over as chairman from company founder John Clark.

The company, which has an office in Oban, also announced that Derek Barnes, previous MD, has stepped down as part of a phased retirement plan and remains on the company board.

This announcement follows a recent acquisition in Scotland by the company which supports its continuing strategy of achieving break-out growth through further acquisitions and organic means.

Clark Thomson now has a gross turnover in excess of £40million annually.

Ben Bailey was previously a director of Willis Insurance Brokers for 14 years and latterly led the commercial division across Scotland and Northern Ireland to be one of their most successful business units in the UK.

Ian Bowie is a well-known industry figure having previously established and developed his own successful insurance broking business.

Chamber of commerce could maintain momentum of growth in Campbeltown

BUSINESSES in Campbeltown are calling for an established chamber of commerce to help continue growth in the South Kintyre economy.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) business breakfast at the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, saw various organisations and businesses represented, with a number of topics discussed.

While feedback was broadly positive, the need for a chamber of commerce was quickly identified.

with Ian Wardrope, chairman of Machrihanish Airbase Community Company, explaining: 'There are a lot of things happening in this area.'

'I think working together we can push this even further,' he told the meeting.

'There is a big demand now for a type of chamber of commerce in the area here, to get together and try and help each other.'

Marion MacKinnon of the town's Ardshiel Hotel said they are now at

a point where Kintyre needs to be pushed as a tourist destination.

'We have been steadily growing since we came here,' she explained. 'We need to look at different ways of marketing the area and a chamber of commerce may be the way forward.'

Key points were drawn from the meeting, which HIE will now feed back to colleagues across the organisation. Key points and themes will be shared with the Scottish Government.

'Feedback from the Campbeltown event has been positive and will be extremely useful in shaping how we engage with and support the local business community in the future,' said Claire Gibb of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The objective of the breakfast was to gain insights from individuals involved in enterprise on the current economic situation, the opportunities they see for the future and the barriers they face to realise these.

Report highlights fall in numbers in shellfish farming workforce

Shetland remains leader in £9.8 million industry

EMPLOYMENT levels in shellfish production have fallen by 14 per cent according to recently released figures.

The Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey report from 2011 shows that despite production levels remaining fairly stable, employment levels have fallen.

Mussel and Pacific oysters remained the main species produced in terms of both value and tonnage.

Mussel production decreased by three per cent while Pacific oyster production increased by four per cent during 2011.

The report also showed a reduction in queen scallop production but an increase in scallop production while native oyster production was static, producing 350,000 shells.

Despite these figures employment levels showed a 14 per cent fall from the previous year, with 343 full, part-time and casual staff being employed during 2011.

According to official figures, Shetland employed the most staff at 122 while the Highland region paid wages to 67 individuals and 30 were employed in the Western Isles.

According to the Scottish Government, the decrease in employment can be attributed to the 'reduced number of authorised businesses'.

Sixteen businesses had their authorisations revoked during 2011 while only six new businesses became authorised.

The Scottish shellfish farming industry is estimated to be worth £9.8 million.

Scottish timber harvesting reaches new heights



TIMBER harvesting in Scotland reached record levels last year with 7.5 million cubic metres of forest being cut in 2011 - more than half a million cubic metres more than in 2010.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has highlighted in a new report that last year's timber harvest was the highest ever recorded with Scottish sawmills also producing seven per cent more sawn timber last year compared to 2010 figures, the bulk of which was sold in English markets.

Timber prices are currently two per cent higher than last year and favourable exchange rates are helping Scots businesses boost the home market as imports reduce.

Neil Proctor, area operations manager for West Argyll said: 'There is a very high level of economic activity based on forestry work in Argyll and a lot of people

depend on it for their employment. 'These are long term jobs and this is a positive outlook for the years ahead.'

Environment and Climate Change Minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'In a difficult global economic environment this is excellent news and goes to show that Scotland's forestry sector is in robust good health.'

'As a mainstay of our rural economy, forestry plays a vital role in safeguarding communities and businesses across the country and is increasingly winning a bigger stake in the domestic and international timber markets.'

Maturing

'The other good news is that Scotland's forests are maturing and over the next 10 to 15 years we expect to see further increases in harvesting. 'This should result in a steadier supply and bigger volumes of timber produced from Scotland's forests.'

'This is an excellent position from which to build a stronger sector in the years to come.'

The forestry sector contributes £670 million each year to the Scottish economy and supports around 31,000 jobs, mainly in rural areas.

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Farming



Highland cattle champion and overall livestock champion - a three year-old heifer from Mr & Mrs Schuster, Duiletter Farm, Dalmally shown by Robert Dempster

Highlander is Road to the Isles champion

THE 17th Road to the Isles Agricultural Show attracted a healthy attendance to its traditional home at Camusdarach, Arisaig, on Saturday.

A three-year Highland heifer from Mr and Mrs D Schuster, Glenstrae, Dalmally and shown by the Dempster family was judged overall livestock champion.

In the sheep sections, non-Blackface champion was A.T. MacDonald from Portnadoran with a Suffolk ram, with A & H MacDonald reserve with Cheviot ewe and lamb.

The Blackface championship went to John Nudds of Torrna Fàire, Lochaline with an aged tup on its first outing. The tup was also judged overall sheep champion.

Reserve Blackface sheep champion went to A. MacGillivray with a shearing tup.

Other major trophy winners included R & D Wright of Clovullin, Ardgour, who took the reserve cattle champion ticket and the Alick Craig-Mhor Cup.



Michelle Milligan, the owner of the Steam Inn in Mallaig, won the dog show with her great dane.



Audrey MacDonald from Portnadoran won with her Suffolk ram

Trophy winners: Sheep Frank O'Donohue Cup- Blackface Champion - J. Nudds

Invergusaran Cup-Blackface Shearing - A. MacGillivray
MacGillivray Trophy- Home Bred B.F. Shearing Tup - A. MacGillivray
Arisaig Stores Salver- Champion other Breeds - A.T. MacDonald
Knoydart Cup- Best B.F. ewe in milk - D. Cameron
Best B/F Ewe and Lamb Cup - N. MacPhail
Moinneach Mhor Trophy-Best Non B/F Ewe & Lamb - A.H. MacDonald
Steven Ferguson Cup - Best Blackface Lamb - N. MacPhail
Cameron Head Trophy- Overall Sheep Champion - J. Nudds

Portnadoran Cup- Best Cow and Calf - D. Campbell
Best Beef Calf Cup - H. MacDonald
Donald Campbell Cup- Best A.I. Calf - H. MacDonald
Phosyn Shield - Best in calf Heifer - R. & D. Wright

Scamdale Cup- Best Native Animal - Mr & Mrs Schuster
Iain Stewart Cup- Best Highland Animal - Mr & Mrs Schuster
Roshven Cup- Reserve Highland Cattle - D. C. Lewis
MacMillan Shield- Overall Cattle Champion - Mr & Mrs Schuster
Alick Craig-Mhor Cup- Reserve Cattle Champion - R. & D. Wright
Bank of Scotland Cup-Overall Livestock Champion- Mr & Mrs Schuster

Dog Show
Cameron Macintosh Cup- Michelle Milligan with a Great Dane
Best Visiting Dog- Krystin Jozwiak with a Black Labrador

Ardnave calves are feature of United Auctions' Islay sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual June sale of grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart last Friday when 164 head were sold.

A good entry of quality bred stock sold readily at levels comparing favourably to principal mainland centres.

A feature of the sale was the annual

Lamb back in demand as Lossit Blackfaces sell to 151p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,383 prime sheep including 545 spring lambs avg 211.5p/£92.64 (+20.3p/wk), 268 hogs averaging 143.7p (+0.7p on wk) and 570 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Spring lambs averaged £92.64 and 211.5p per kilo and sold to £105 for Texels from Elmscleuch and to 247p per kilo for Texels from Wester Mye.

Texel hogs averaged 143.7p per kilo (+0.7p on the week) and sold to £99 for Suffolks from Inchgall and £86 from Fullarton and Merryhill. Blackfaces sold to £69 from Balnaboth and to 151p per kilo from Lossit.

Cheviot ewes from Bankhead sold to £127.50, with Texels from Scart selling to £124.50. Macharich sold Mules to £82.50, with Blackfaces from Easter Howgate to £72.50.

Rams sold to £118.50 for a Texel from Fortveit and £110.50 for a Cheviot from Halls.

consignment of calves from Ardnave which sold to £1015 per head four times and to 266pence per kilo.

Sale averages for bullocks were 212.5 pence per kilo or £692.15 per head whilst heifers averaged at 200.9 pence per kilo or £581.36 per head.

Breeding cows sell to £1500 at Dalmally sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual June sale of 987 head of all classes sheep and 146 cattle at Dalmally Auction Mart.

All classes of stock sold at firm rates and to a good following of buyers from throughout the country.

Bullock calves from Fingals View sold to £825 and to 247pence per kilo from Glenshellach.

Heifer calves from Blarghour Farm sold to £685 and to 227pence per kilo from Glenfochan.

Breeding cows from Barguilean sold to £1500.

Ewes with lambs at foot sold to £164 from Ellery Farms and the same home sold eild ewes to £86.

Prime trade up at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 205 prime sheep at Dingwall.

New season lambs averaged 193.8p (+1.3p) and sold to 215.1p per kg and £92.50 for 43kg Beltex crosses from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen. Lambs averaged 151.7p (+0.1p) and sold to 162.5p for 40kg Cheviots from Easter Sheep Park, Balblair and £74. for 54kg Texels from Dunain Mains.

Market reports

ISLAY United Auctions

Bullocks
British BlueX: £855 Claggan £835(4) and £755 Starshell.
Blonde D' AquitaineX: £805 Blackrock £795 and £765 Ardnave.
CharolaisX: £1015(4), £990 and £985 Ardnave £965 Tallant £955, £940(3), £935 and £845 Ardnave £805 Claggan £785 Ardnave.
LimousinX: £1100 Claggan £985 Coillabus (Carmichael) £975 Blackrock £965 Claggan £895(6) Coillabus (Carmichael) £885(2) Blackrock £835 Starshell £825 Claggan £825(3) Coillabus (Carmichael) £810 Duich £805 Blackrock £795 Coillabus (Carmichael).
SimmentalX: £765 Claggan.

Heifers
Blonde De AquitaineX: £815(2) and £745 Ardnave.
CharolaisX: £965(2), £815, £800 and £785(2) Ardnave £775 Claggan £745, £735(4) and £725(3) Ardnave.

LimousinX: £765 Blackrock £725(5) Coillabus(Carmichael) £720 Tallant.
SimmentalX: £955 Coillabus (Sinclair).

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
British BlueX: 231p, 225p(4) Starshell 201p Claggan £234p
Blonde De AquitaineX: 234p Blackrock 223p Ardnave.
CharolaisX: 266p, 247p(3), 246p, 244p & 234p Ardnave 231p Tallant 230p, 228p, 218p(2), 216p Ardnave 211p Claggan 209p Ardnave.
LimousinX: 240p Claggan and Blackrock 236p(3) Coillabus (Carmichael) 234p Blackrock 231p(3) & 225p Starshell 225p Coillabus (Carmichael) 220p(2) Blackrock 214p Claggan 214p(6) and 212p Coillabus (Carmichael) 206p(3) Keppels 205p Duich.
SimmentalX: 207p Claggan.

Heifers
Blonde De AquitaineX: 228p, 216p and 213p Ardnave.
CharolaisX: 228p, 224p, 221p(2), 217p, 210p(3) and 208p Ardnave 207p Claggan.
LimousinX: 229p Blackrock 226p Tallant 220p(4) Coillabus (Carmichael).
SimmentalX: 206p Coillabus (Sinclair).

DALMALLY United Auctions

Bullocks
CharolaisX: £760 Drimore Farm, S.Uist.
Highland: £600 5 Kilvaree LimousinX: £825 Fingals View 780(2), £760 and £755(2) Drimore Farm £640(4) Glenshellach.

Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: £680, £630(3) Glenfochan Estate.
CharolaisX: £640(2) Drimore Farm, S.Uist.
LimousinX: £650(2) 3 Hougharry, N.Uist & £50 Ellery Estate £620 Drimore Farm £600 Glenshellach.
SimmentalX: £685(2), £680(2) and £620(2) Blarghour Farm.

Cows with calves at foot:
£1500 and £1290 Barguilean
£1250 & £136 Strathgarry, S.Uist
£1140 8 Drimdale, S.Uist
£1140 Barguilean £1020 Bagh Na Craobh, N.Uist.

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
CharolaisX: 229p Drimore Farm, S.Uist.
Highland: 169p 5 Kilvaree.
LimousinX: 247p(4) Glenshellach 237p Ardeonaig and Tullochcan 229p Drimore Farm, S.Uist 224p 3 Hougharry, N.Uist and Drimore, S.Uist(2).

Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: 227p (3) Glenfochan.
LimousinX: 226p (2) Glenshellach 213 (2) 3 Hougharry, N.Uist and Ellery Farms 210p (2) Tullochcan.
SimmentalX: 215p (4) Barguilean 200p (2) Blarghour.

Sheep
Ewes with lambs at foot
Cross ewes with twins:
£164 Ellery Farms £154 8 Kilkeneth, Tiree £150 383 Garrynamonie, S.Uist £146 Ellery Farms £140 Dunans £138 Crofhoose Tiree £136 Strathgarry £122 83 Borve, Barra.
Blackface ewes with twins:
£148 Ellery Farms £128 138 Stillgarry, S.Uist.
Cross ewes with singles:
£142 Dunans £122 Crofhoose, Tiree £120 Ellery Farms £112 8 Kilkeneth, Tiree £110 Dunans.
Blackface ewes with singles:
£112 123 Craighaon, Barra £108 Ellery Farm £106 Strathgarry.
Hoggs
Blackface hoggs: £66 2 Trelaig.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks
Up to 250kgs East Dowally £495, 215.2p.
251-300kgs Skipness £700, 261.2p.
301-350kgs Skipness £880, 258.1p.
351-400kgs Killoccraw £1000, 269.9p.
401-450kgs Craighhead £945, Stralochy 221.1p.
451-500kgs Clonrae £1130, 233p.
501-550kgs Clonrae £1160, 222.6p.
551-600kgs Clonrae £1200m 209.1p.
651-700kgs Hoodyard £1270, 190.1p.

Heifers
Up to 250kgs Skipness £520, 236.4p.
251-300kgs Skipness £680, 237.9p.
301-350kgs Gibley £700, Malling 217.1p.
351-400kgs Killoccraw £875, 240.1p.
401-450kgs Clonrae £980m 218.8p.
451-500kgs Clonrae £990, Woodcockfauld 211.8p.
501-550kgs Gibley £980, 192.9p.
551-600kgs Ledrisbeg £1060, 179.1p.

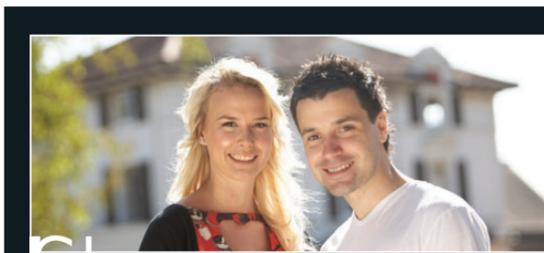
Cast cows
Todhall (BRB) £1355, 189.8p.
Immeroin (Lui) £1295, 162.3p.
East Bangour (BF) £1275, 142.6p.
South Falfield (HF) £1135, Hood 151p.
Inchgall (HF) £1115, Gowston 145.6p.
Ruchlaw (Lim) £1095, Greenyards 170.2p.
Ruchlaw (Sim) £1085, South Falfield 160.4p.
Marchfield (AAX) £975, 150p.

Cast Bulls
Dalchirla (Lim) £1570, 152.7p.
Craighhead (Cha) £1430, 137.8p.
Milhillis (AAX) £1240, Kirkland 162.6p.

Forward Cattle
Loanleven (Lui) and (Sim) £1145, 186.4p.
196.1p.
Croftintyng (Lim) £1105, Greenyards 195.1p.

Sheep
Dunalastair Estate (TexX Gimmers & Twins) £210 and (TexX Gimmers & Singles) £160.

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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	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/01052/PP	Reduction of impounding structure, construction of new stream channel, ground re-profiling, landscaping, formation of temporary access and associated works.	Polvinister Reservoir Polvinister Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
12/01069/PP	Repairs and re-roofing of byre and installation of replacement rooflights.	Breacacha Farmhouse Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
12/01161/PP	Installation of air source heat pump	6 Lismore Crescent Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AX	Oban Area Office
12/01162/PP	Erection of conservatory and decking (revised design to that approved under planning application reference 11/00279/PP - Extension and alterations to dwellinghouse and erection of outbuildings).	Coille Grianach Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6GR	Sub Post Office Dervaig
12/01169/PP	Blocking up of window and installation of new deposit point and CCTV camera	Bank Of Scotland Station Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LL	Oban Area Office
12/01178/PP	Installation of air source heat pump	An Cala South Cuan Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TU	Sub Post Office Cullipool
12/01181/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank.	Portnacraich Croft Portnacraich Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BL	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/01194/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses and installation of a sewage treatment tank and soakaway.	Land South West Of Dalnara Kilmore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QT	Oban Area Office
12/01241/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and removal of existing chalet and sheds	Garden Ground Of Pennyfuir Cottage Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/01070/LIB	Repairs and re-roofing of existing byre from scottish slate to cement fibre slate, installation of replacement roof lights and replacement guttering and downpipes.	Breacacha Farmhouse Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
12/01171/LIB	Blocking up of window, installation of new deposit point and CCTV camera and internal alterations	Bank Of Scotland Station Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LL	Oban Area Office
12/01226/LIB	External alterations and partially retrospective internal alterations	Kilcheran Farmhouse Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UQ	Sub Post Office Lismore

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/01151/PP	Building up and resurfacing of road access (retrospective)	Access To 20-23 King Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Whitegates Offices, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY, 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
12/00904/MFF	Formation of fin fish (Atlantic Salmon) farm.	Proposed Fin Fish Farm Loch Scridain Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan
12/01176/MFF	Formation of fin fish (Atlantic Salmon) farm.	Proposed Fin Fish Farm North Gometra Loch Tuath Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Aros

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 ADOPTION OF ROADS

In terms of Section 1(4) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Argyll and Bute Council propose to add to their List of Public Roads, the following road:
Scott Terrace, Dalnally (No.183) - From its junction with Glenview Housing Scheme Road, extending in a southerly thence north westerly thence westerly direction for a distance of 130 metres or thereby and including the branch extending southwards for a distance of 25 metres or thereby, the footways and the visitor car parking area.
The draft adoption certificate together with a plan is available for public inspection during normal office hours inclusive at the offices of:
1. Dalnally Post Office, Main Road, Dalnally;
2. Roads and Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban.
Any person wishing to object to the proposal should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Roads & Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD, F.A.O Aileen Simpson, by Friday 13th July 2012.
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Time period for comments
12/01790/FUL	4 Kingie Invergarry	Demolition of existing house, removal of static caravan and erection of house and self contained unit	(14 days)
12/01863/542	Land 150m SE of Bothan Nan Creag Roshven Glenuig	Section 42 application to vary condition 6 of planning permission 11/01268/FUL to change the external finish of the house from natural stone to Siberian larch cladding	(14 days)
12/02077/FUL	Lochaber High School Camaghach Fort William	Partial demolition, alterations, extension and landscaping	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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of the business community read the regional press




Fish Farm Technicians: Loch Etive
Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.
We are seeking to recruit 2 individuals to fulfil roles as Seawater Fish Farm Technicians. These positions will be based at our seawater cage farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt.
The role of Fish Farm Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.
Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work, who feel comfortable working over water and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job.
Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.
These posts will be initially offered on 6 months fixed term contract basis, but with good potential for leading to full time positions, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days. Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.
If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Friday the 22nd June 2012, to:
Lindsey Elder, HR Officer Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk
Informal enquires can be made to Sean Lydon, Etive Farm Manager, Office 01866 822549, E-mail sean.lydon@dawnfresh.co.uk



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To apply, please visit our website www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies
☎ 0131 314 6459 or
✉ derek.gunn@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Please quote ref 0001-67.
Closing date: Sunday 24 June 2012.
No recruitment agencies please.
We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.

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Full Time NURSERY PRACTITIONER
Training available to right applicant. Applicants must be highly motivated with a natural aptitude with children. Salary dependant on experience.
To apply please contact **Jennifer Campbell** Tel 01546 600072

BID4OBAN
Exciting opportunities to help make the first Business Improvement District in Argyll & Bute a reality. Both posts Min 14hrs per week, Fixed Term Mid June - end Sept 2012 freelance basis.
Campaign Co-Ordinator
Will co-ordinate a campaign directed at all businesses operating within Oban town with the object of securing a "yes" vote in a ballot in favour of a Business Improvement District. Requires excellent communicator ideally with Sales campaign experience and a target driven marketing background.
Rate of Pay - Negotiable
Part-time Administrator
Will be responsible for database management, contacting businesses to check we hold accurate details for voting purposes, co-ordinating updates to social media and website, supporting events and campaign team. Requires proficiency on Microsoft Excel, excellent communication skills and high levels of accuracy.
Rate of pay: £8.00 - £9.00 per hour dependent on experience
Closing date: 19 June 2012 Please send you application letter with C.V. to info@bid4oban.co.uk. Enquiries to Pauline on 07930 313172.

WANTED QUALIFIED HAIRDRESSER
for new salon opening in Lochgilphead. Please send CV to:-
Mark Weldon
Hairdressing
18 Argyll Street
Lochgilphead
PA31 8NE

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times



The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba
The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.
We are currently recruiting for the following located at our Marine Sites on the Island of Mull and Loch Fyne:
Marine Operatives x4
(Ref MO/Mull/06/12 and Ref MO/QP/06/12)
(Salary £16284.30 to £19,961.40 per annum dependant on experience)
The ideal candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have good communication skills and be able to demonstrate prior experience of working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Previous aquaculture and boat handling experience is desirable but not essential as the company will also offer further development opportunities through its in-house training and also through external providers. Ideal applicants should also have experience of using computers.
Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.
A full, clean driving licence is also essential for these positions.
Preference will be given to those residing on the Isle of Mull in relation to the Mull Vacancies.
In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme after the qualifying period.
For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department,
The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 435 / 415
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 4.00pm Thursday, 28th June 2012
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



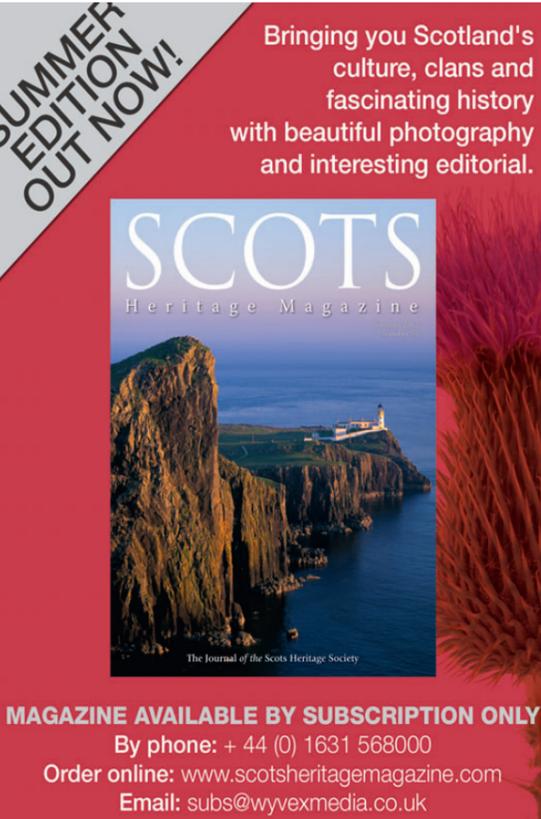
Marine Site Manager
Orkney Islands
Scottish Sea Farms wish to recruit a proven and exceptionally skilled salmon farm manager to join their management team within the Northern Isles of Orkney.
Orkney is a unique and challenging marine environment with exceptional potential and sensitivity. Candidates must demonstrate excellence in all aspects of fish husbandry including fish health and welfare, feeding optimisation, containment, infrastructure maintenance and skilled seamanship. If successful you will be hardworking, focused on achieving your own key performance indicators and developing the potential within your staff.
To be considered you must ideally already be a site manager within the aquaculture industry. You will have excellently developed risk assessment skills and be able to demonstrate your commitment in developing a strong safety culture. You will be open, honest and communicate with ease at all levels. Your ability to plan ahead will be matched by close attention to detail. It is essential to value the unique Orkney identity and have the skills to grow premium-quality differentiated salmon for a customer with the highest expectations.
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd site managers are already expected to be industry leading - with competence in finance, budget control and planning, stock management, stakeholder interactions, personnel management and promotion of health and safety. In return Scottish Sea Farms Ltd will offer an attractive salary package, company vehicle, pension support and production bonus, along with a commitment to support your development with training and close mentoring.
All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.
If you would like to know more please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email Claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com to obtain an application pack.
Closing date for applications is Friday 29th June 2012

Business Manager : Machrihanish Airbase
MACC Developments Ltd require a motivated and capable individual to play a major role in the future development of this 1,025 acre estate with an extensive property portfolio, and a commercial airport. Salary £30,000- £40,000 pa (depending on experience)
Required
Educated to degree standard you will be a competent facilities manager with IT skills and an understanding of financial and leasing systems, with experience in working closely with local and / or national government.
Applications may be made by forwarding your CV with a covering handwritten letter to:
Michael Taylor, Macc Developments Ltd, Building 71, DE Machrihanish, Campbeltown PA28 6NU
Michael Taylor can be contacted on: 07785542811
For further information if required
Closing date for applications is Friday 29 June 2012-06-08

Galmore Sheep Stock Club Self-employed part time Clerk required
The successful applicant will be responsible for all Club correspondence, stock records, minutes of meetings, accounts and other duties including the administration of revenue-generating projects. It would be an advantage if the applicant had some agricultural knowledge. Remuneration negotiable.
Further information and applications to: Linda Campbell, BOSS, Dykelands, Camaghach, Fort William PH33 7NF
Email: linda@bosslocher.co.uk



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BOOKKEEPER

at the Crinan Hotel.

This is a varied role inclusive of purchase ledger, sales ledger, reconciliations, credit control and payroll. Applicants must have previous Sage experience. Salary is negotiable and the position is available immediately.

Please send your CV to The Manager, Crinan Hotel, PA31 8SR or email reservations@crinanhotel.com. Telephone enquiry 01546 830 261.

DUNOLLIE Sustainability and Development Manager: DUNOLLIE

The 1745 House

Full-time £29,000 per annum. Initial contract 2 years. Based in Oban, Argyll.

An experienced business and social enterprise all-rounder is required to build revenue and sustainability at The 1745 House Museum and Cultural Centre at Dunollie through expansion of visitor facilities and commercial activities, and improved estate profitability.

The postholder will play the key role in the small staff team and will be responsible for the management of The 1745 House, with specific duties focussed on project development and management, including grant applications and international fundraising.

This new post represents an exciting opportunity to help bring a major new cultural tourism development into successful and sustainable longterm operation.

Applications by email comprising covering letter and CV to Catherine Gillies at info@dunollie.org by 5pm Friday 29th June.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Bryden Enterprises require a young apprentice who is looking for a career as a restorer to work alongside Bryden Enterprises.

Carpet Fresh & Aftercare

The work is physically demanding and you should be capable of managing yard and maintaining equipment to a high standard while learning the trade. Accommodation will be provided when working outwith the local area.

Applications should be sent to Bryden Enterprises, Craiglea, Lochailort PH38 4LZ. Telephone 01687 470404 or email john@brydenenterprises.co.uk

Bryden Enterprises is looking for someone who is career minded, self motivated and IT literate.

Carpet Fresh & Aftercare

They will be based in the office, answering telephones and managing the office but will also be required to have a knowledge of building websites. They will be career driven and motivated in pushing a small business forward and building online sales. The position is based in Lochailort and is flexible.

Applications should be sent to Bryden Enterprises, Craiglea, Lochailort PH38 4LZ. Telephone 01687 470404 or email john@brydenenterprises.co.uk

ALSO TRANSPORT SERVICES

Due to an increase in work we require a HGV Driver for Artic work

Please apply: 01852 300393

Rycroft, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban PA34 4RJ

Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia

Singing Leader Required

Alzheimer Scotland (Oban Branch) is seeking a Singing Leader for its weekly Singing for the Brain group. The Singing Leader will design and deliver a programme of musical activities aimed at helping people with dementia to retain as many personal skills as possible.

If you are interested in this post which pays c. £50 per weekly session, you are invited to contact Elizabeth Little on 01631 564215 for further details.

Please submit CV and covering letter to: Alzheimer Scotland Resource Centre, 12 High Street, Oban, PA34 4BG or email to obandrc@alzscot.org

Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland 149069. Registered Office: 22 Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7RN. It is recognised as a charity by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, no. SC022315

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Lynn of Lorne Care Home

An excellent opportunity has become available for a Deputy Manager at our Nursing Home in Benderloch

We are looking for a professional and motivated person with at least two years' experience in dementia and elderly care at management level.

Candidates must be a part of the NMC register and hold a current pin number. Mental Health Registration would be an advantage but not essential. Salary negotiable depending on experience.

We also require Bank RN & Bank Care Assistants

To apply for these positions please contact Arlene Campbell (Manager) or Barbara Cowan (Administrator) on 01631 720 278 for an Application form and Job Description

PART TIME DOCTORS RECEPTIONIST

25 HRS

MON-FRI 07.45 - 12.45 (with requirement to work additional flexible hours to cover leave etc)

Required to work as part of a small admin team in a busy gp reception. Applicants must be able to "multitask" by way of taking phone calls, dealing with the public face to face and assisting with admin work.

High standard of verbal/written communication and IT skills required.

Previous reception work or work dealing with the public desirable.

Applications in writing with cv to: Practice Manager, Tarbert Medical Practice, Campbeltown Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TY

Closing date 29th June 2012

Fort Cricket Club's cup dream dashed

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club's dreams of reaching the Cup semi-final were dashed on Saturday by a rampant Highland team at the BA Club.

The Inverness club chose to bat first, and in ideal conditions quickly racked up a big score with Jonathan Crabtree reaching 106 before being well caught by Sean Fraser on the boundary.

Fort's Ewan McNeil slowed the Highland onslaught and Ronnie Maclean was at his athletic best behind the stumps, backed up by some keen fielding. However, Highland added a further 50 runs to finish on 262 for two from 30 overs.

In reply, Fort struggled to 21 runs for four wickets. The home side floundered as they lost wickets in pairs on four separate occasions, but amongst it all McNeil stood firm and responded with some punishing shots to reach 48, recovering the score to 111 having made good partnerships of 41 with Maclean and 48 with George Rodger.

When the final wicket fell, Fort had reached 118 in the 27th over.

Fort captain O'Meara said: 'Although we were missing some key players today, it's hard to see what more we could have done to contain Jonathan Crabtree. We gave it our best shot, and we'll have another go at the cup next year, but in the meantime we'll keep our spirits high and look forward to our trip to Ross County next week.'

Fort travel to take on Ross County in the league this Saturday, and will take part in the 'Cricket in the Community' in Glenfinnan on Sunday.

Duncan takes a commanding lead

GOLF

THE FIRST two rounds of the Fort William Golf Club championship were played last weekend, with Duncan Rodger taking a commanding lead.

Rodger shot a round of 72 on Saturday and followed that up with a 73 the next day to leave himself nine shots clear of Paul Campbell and David Matheson.

Rounds three and four will be held on June 16 and 17.

On Sunday the June senior medal was played with Jimmy Ross taking the win. His net round of 63 was enough to hold off runner up Ronald MacDonald and third placed John Cameron.

The ladies June medal was held on Sunday, with Rosemary Macintyre's net round of 71 giving her a narrow one stroke lead over Kathleen Leitch. Macintyre also won a medal and eclectic competition held last week.

The club's annual open competition, sponsored by The Moorings Hotel, will be held on Sunday June 24. Tee times can be booked at the clubhouse.

Results: Club championship: 1, Duncan Rodger 145 (72+73); 2, Paul Campbell 154 (82+72); 3, David Matheson 154 (75+79)

Senior medal: 1, Jimmy Ross 80-17=63; 2, Ronald MacDonald 84-15=69 (bih); 3, John Cameron 88-19=69.

Ladies medal: 1, Rosemary Macintyre 82-11=71; 2, Kathleen Leitch 85-13=72; 3, Kay Jerram 99-22=77.

Joe takes on top mountain bikers at UCI World Cup

Newly refurbished track features some of the biggest jumps in the UK

MOUNTAIN BIKING

FORT William rider Joe Barnes took on some of the world's top downhill racers in the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup round three at on Sunday.

Barnes, aged 23, completed the tricky route at Nevis Range in a time of 5m 11.27s to finish 23 seconds behind the eventual race winner in 52nd place.

Thousands of fans packed out the venue across the weekend to see around 250 riders from around the world tackling the track. The newly refurbished course now features some of the biggest jumps of any track in the UK - some up to 16 metres long.

American rider Aaron Gwin took the win in a time of 4m 48.21s, from British competitors Danny Hart and Gee Atherton, who finished in 4m 49.04s and 4m 0.72s respectively.

French flyer Emmeline Ragot won the women's race, competing the course of 5m 27.08s to beat British rider Rachel Atherton by just 1.3 seconds. A second



Lochaber through to semi final

FOOTBALL

LOCHABER are through to the Lochaber Welfare League's John Baird Cup semi-final after edging out the BA Club in a hard-fought encounter at the BA Club last Thursday night.

Lochaber opened the scoring on 15 minutes when Jonathan Hewitt rifled in a low shot, and doubled their lead through diminutive forward Mark Hagan before half-time.

After the break, the BA Club began to show the form they are capable of and pulled a goal back through a Leon Lopez penalty.

When Stephen Lopez equalized to make it 2-2 with 15 minutes left it looked as though the BA would complete a remarkable comeback.

But with just five minutes remaining that man Hewitt popped up to grab the winner and earn his side a fine 3-2 win.

Lochaber will face Mallaig in the semi final after they recorded a 5-2 win over Ballachulish at Island Park. Lundavra and Caol Cosmos will battle out the other semi. Lundavra put their indifferent league form behind them to record a thumping 8-2 win over Celtic, while Caol Cosmos dumped Balla United out of the cup with a 3-1 win at Canal Parks.

Meanwhile in the league, BA Club sit six points clear in of Caol Cosmos and Balla Utd, although they have played more games than either of their rivals. Ballachulish are rooted to the bottom having lost six out of six so far.



Brothers Keiran and Stephen Lopez team up to deny Lochaber's Neil Cameron. (23/06/12)



Speedster Joe Barnes flew round the new-look Nevis Range track.

Isle of Skye Half Marathon

HALF MARATHON

MORE THAN 250 runners took to the roads around Portree for the Isle of Skye Half Marathon on Saturday, with local runners posting some impressive times.

The competitors came from across the country to compete on a warm sunny day, setting out from the Fingal Centre at Portree High School. The route took them along the B885 to Carbost, uphill about 120metres to meet the A87, and then looped back to Portree.

Local

Jeremy Rossiter was the fastest local man, completing the 13.1-mile course in a time of 1hour 23minutes and 57seconds to take sixth place overall. Skye and Lochalsh Running Club's Paul Dewar also managed a top 10 finish in a time of 1h 27m 50s.

Youngster Josephine MacDonald was the quickest local woman on the day, finishing in a time of 1h 43m 24s for a final placing of 59th overall. SLRC's Wilma MacRuary was close behind in 1h 45m 12s, coming in 68th.

Renfrewshire man Paul Arcari of Kilbarchan finished more than six minutes ahead of the field in 1h 12m 29s to win the event for the third time. Gordon Lennox of Forres Harriers was second in 1h 18m 39s.

Sheenagh MacLulich of Edinburgh Athletic Club was the fastest woman home in 1h 37m 58s, finishing 34th overall.



Winners of the Railway Bowling Club's recent James Fitzsimons Pairs were Jimmy Miller, left and Kenny McInnes. Also pictured are runners up Geordie Strangeways and Bill Gibbons with some of the other competitors.

Skye Golf Club championship

GOLF

SKYE Golf Club's championship second round last weekend saw a dramatic conclusion as Murdo Gordon took a narrow one shot victory over Sandy Ross and Alex Munro.

In category one (handicaps of 1-12), Gordon's score of 77 was added to his 68 in round one to give him a total score of 145, while Sandy Ross had two rounds of 73 to finish on 146 in second place. Alex Munro had the best score in round two with a 72, but a score of 74 in round one meant he finished third.

In category two (13-28) Mike Mace took the win after an equally tight battle. Mace scored 79 in both rounds for a total of 158, just one shot ahead of Martin Bird, who shot 159 (81, 78). Al Campbell was third with 160 (79, 81).

Ian Marr finished first in the Strath Cup round two held last week with 43 points, while John Alan MacLeod took a six shot victory in the seniors medal with a net score of 62.

Results: Championship - Overall category one - 1, Murdo Gordon 145 (68,77); 2, Sandy Ross 146 (73,73); 3, Alex Munro 146 (72,74). Overall category two - 1, Mike Mace 158 (79,79); 2, Martin Bird 159 (81,78); 3, Al Campbell 160 (79,81).

Strath Cup round two - 1, Ian Marr 43 points; 2, Jeff Geary 42; 3, Alasdair Grant 41.

Seniors medal - 1, John Alan MacLeod 74-12=62; 2, Mike Mace 81-13=68; 3, Martin Bird 85-17=68.

Lochaber sailing regatta

SAILING

LOCHABER Yacht Club is gearing up for its annual weekend sailing regatta, which gets underway on Monday evening with a keelboat race on Loch Linnhe.

Events will be held every evening, including a team up with Lochaber Athletic Club for the One Peak Race on Tuesday and dinghy racing on Wednesday.

Non-members will be able to give sailing a go at the 'try a boat' evening on Friday night, while more dinghy and keelboat races will be held across the weekend.

Charlie wins Ellis Cup competition

GOLF

FORT Augustus Golf Club held the Ellis Cup competition on Saturday, with Charlie Marshall taking the win after rounding the course with a net score of 70. Runner up Alec Barnett shot a net score of 74.

The club will hold the Nelson Trophy pairs competition this Saturday.

Pam under Attack

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER eight weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller still leads by 95 points to 91 in the scratch division.

Tim Attack sits third place on 76 points. Attack took the lead in the handicap competition on 74 points ahead of John Weller, Pam Weller and Tony Whitelocke, who are tied on 71 points

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B L A C K B A L L A C H U L I S H SLATES approx 3,500, excellent quality, reasonable offered considered. Telephone 07809 828277.

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SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

The Blue Family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved in helping to make Brian Blue's Trust Fund such a memorable day and for the effort and love that was put in to the day.

The prize draw of two week self catering holiday in Turkey was won by Yvonne Jackson. Total raised £800.10

Happy 21st Kevin

11/06/91 Lots of Love Mum, Julie and all the family xxxx

To Joan and Leslie Mills

Happy Diamond Anniversary Love Kev, Ana, Rob, Len and Graham

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Happy 21st Kevin 11/06/91 Lots of Love Mum, Julie and all the family xxxx To Joan and Leslie Mills Happy Diamond Anniversary Love Kev, Ana, Rob, Len and Graham VISIT US AT www.obantimes.co.uk UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL? The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Be seen by over 40,000 readers Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

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BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - Neil and Eilidh (née Taylor), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Katie Joanne Taylor on May 17, 2012, a sister for Isobel and Grace, a granddaughter for Helen and the late John Taylor, Ardeonaig and Donnie and Isobel Campbell, North Connel.

HALLIDAY - Ross and Cara (née Breslin), are delighted to announce the birth of Ella Rose born on May 27, 2012, at Dumfries Hospital.

MERCER - Colin and Jane (née Cameron) are delighted to announce the arrival of Cameron David on May 16, 2012 at Ninewells Hospital, wee brother for Katie, grandson for Ron and Betty, Luncarty and Rena and the late Johnny Cameron, Duror.

WRIGHT - David and Petreana (nee McNeill) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Roan Gordon Ian, on May 11, 2012. Another grandson for Carol Wright of Jura and Mollie McNeill of Lochaline.

WEDDING

MACALLISTER - ACEY
Both families are delighted to announce the marriage and handfasting of Rowan, daughter of Linda and Scott, and Michael, son of Melanie and Andrew. Made legal at Melrose Registrar's Office on May 25, 2012 followed by a traditional handfasting ceremony at Fairmile House, Galashiels on May 26. Family and friends, sunshine, beautiful surroundings and love in the air made it a truly wonderful wedding.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CAMPBELL - SINCLAIR - On June 12 1962 in St Orans Church Connel, by the Rev Duncan MacCallum, Ann Sinclair to Archie Campbell.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully, with dignity and his family at his side, on June 6, 2012, in his 72nd year, Duncan Farquhar Cameron (Brochgur), beloved husband of the late Elma MacFarlane, father of Gary and Julie and Seanair to Alona, Breagh, Josie, Jess, Ezra and Emma.

GRAHAM - At the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Friday, June 8, 2012, after a long illness bravely borne, David J, beloved husband of the late Isobel, a dear father, grampa and great grampa. Funeral will take place at Christ Church, Esplanade, Oban, on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired will be taken for the Oban Stroke Support Group and Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (known as ABCD).

MACMILLAN - Peacefully, at his home, 31 Balliemore, Kilmichael Glassary, surrounded by his loving family, on June 11, 2012, Willie MacMillan, aged 86 years, beloved husband of Rose, loving father of Francis and Agnes-Mary and dear father-in-law of Tina and Malcolm. Much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, former work colleague and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Kilmichael Parish Church today, Thursday, June 14 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRASER - Morag and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their cards, calls and kind words of sympathy following their sad loss of Jack. Special thanks to the girls who cared for him while at home and the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish in his final days, to Mike McFall for the handling of the funeral, Rev Moira Herkes for conducting a lovely service, also to Alistair Hunter for his rendition of Jack's life. Alistair MacDonald for playing the music in the church, the Ballachulish Hotel for refreshments, £586.19 was collected and will be shared between the Belford Hospital and Abbeyfield Home and the Macmillan Nurses.

JACKSON - The family of the late Jessie Jackson (née Gillies), would like to thank all family and friends for the cards, flowers and donations. Special thanks to Rev Alan Reid for his comforting words and service, thanks also to Stewart Funeral Directors.

MEMORIALS

BANEY - Treasured memories of my beloved wife Helen, who died June 16, 2007.
- Trevor.

BOA

In loving memory of Isobel, who passed away June 17, 2007. Your memory lingers forever in our hearts.
- Willie and family.
CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our dear mum, nanna and mother-in-law, Marion L Campbell, taken from us on June 19, 2007. Never far from our thoughts.
- From all the family in Bunessan (Mull), Oban and away.

FLANNIGAN - In loving memory of mum Isabella (Sybil), died June 13, 2011. In our thoughts everyday.
- Linda and William.

FLANNIGAN - In loving memory of my dear friend Sybil who died June 13, 2011. Sadly missed.
- Katie

JAMIESON - In loving memory of Laurie, a dearly loved husband, dad and granda, died June 18, 2004. Sunshine fades
Sweet remembrance outlasts all.
- Love Irene, David, Sharon, Paul and girls xxx.
Lovingly remembered.
- Dad and family in Australia and New Zealand.

LANGLEY - Treasured memories of Stewart MacLean, beloved husband of Ann and loving father of Craig, who passed away on June 12, 2011.
Love and miss you always.
- Ann and Craig.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents Margaret who died on June 17, 1995 and William who died July 20, 1996. Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.
- Phemie and Alex, Margaret, John, Fay and family.

MACDONALD - With fond memories of Angus, a beloved husband, father and grandfather who passed away on June 11, 1993, aged 67 years.
Gar cuimhneachadh gu brath.
- Katie and family, Torlum, Benbecula.

MACDONALD - Allan died June 16, 2010. Simply the best.
- Pat and Dave

MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of my son Alexander died tragically on June 14, 1998. Remembered with love everyday.
- Mum, Gordon, Michael, Lynda, Louis and Mhairi. R.I.P.

MACKINNON - Remembering our parents and grandparents, Alan and Isobel, who passed away in June, 1994.
- Ian, Fiona and Nicola.

MACNEILL - In loving memory of Michael, died June 16, 2007. With me always.
- Marie
MACPHERSON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father Gordon, who died June 16, 1990. Also a dear son and brother. Royal Marine Commando, Gordon Cameron, killed in action during the Falklands conflict on June 12, 1982. Although we smile and make no fuss
You're deeply missed by all of us.
Memories are a gift to treasure
Ours of you will last forever.
- Dorothy and David.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of my dear wife Isa, who passed away June 15 2005, a loving granny and great-granny. Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
Missing you is the heartache
That never goes away.
- Peter, Jacqueline, Donna, Christine and families.

PETERSON - In loving memory of a caring loving mother Chirsty taken away on June 17, 2011. The pain, hurt and loss still go on
Missing you so much
Your oldest son Colin Neil I'll always remember you
REECE - Cherished memories of Alec devoted husband, dad and pappy who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine, who died on September 1, 2009. Greatly missed
But our love and memories ever strong and clear.
- Sandy, Kathleen and families.

SINCLAIR - Precious memories of Ronnie who passed away June 17, 2008, husband, dad, father-in-law and grampa. Our hearts are filled with memories which we gathered through the years
all the happy times we shared
are treasured souvenirs.
Forever in our thoughts, Joan and family.

SMITH - In loving memory of James (Pop), a loving husband, father, father-in-law and granddad, who passed away on June 14, 2000.
Precious memories last for ever.
- From his loving wife Rena and family.

THORBURN - Cherished memories of Gary, who passed away on June 17, 2011, loving son of Kathleen and the late Bert.
- Mum.

To one of the bravest soldiers that I have ever known, but will never be forgotten.
- Robert.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 17 June 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 17 June 2012
Trinity 2
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Holy Cross, Portnacroish, Appin
Holy Communion..... 18.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.15
Holy Eucharist..... 20.15
..... Wed 20 June 14.30

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Thought for the Week

Do we imitate Christ in our praying?

If Jesus spent such time in prayer, should we not as well? In fact, how much more important should it be for us?

Paul encourages us by telling us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). Persistence in prayer is repeatedly urged in the scriptures. It is something we are commanded to do (Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2). Jesus told a parable that taught this (Luke 18:1-8), and examples abound of the apostles and early church doing so (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4).

All of these passages give us overwhelming evidence that this should characterize who we are as children of God.

We should be people of prayer! But how many of us live lives devoted to prayer? It is not enough to say we need to pray. We know as much, but for so many it is still a struggle to do so with the frequency we ought. It is perhaps when we look at others needs and come alongside them in earnest prayer then we can see change when the prayers made in Jesus name are answered.

Pray for others without ceasing and reach out with that great love just as our Saviour Jesus did.

Bill Harvey

Church News

MUCKAIRN Church of Scotland Guild hosted the lorn area group rally in Tainuill village hall on Saturday afternoon, May 16, 2012.

Members from most of the guilds in the area were welcomed by Stella Huntingford and Marlene Stanners gave a reading of the call to Matthew.

The company joined in singing Hymns 694 'Brother, Sister, Let me serve you' and 237 'Look forward in Faith.'

Christine Johnson gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the Bethany Christian Trust which was formed by the Baptist Minister Alan Berry in Edinburgh in 1983.

This organisation demonstrates the unconditional love of Christ to everyone regardless of background race, or religion and has spread over

many areas of Scotland. It runs care shelters with hot meals for the homeless.

Homelessness is often the result of breakdown in relationships so Bethany has a gateway visiting support project for families vulnerable due to finance or domestic problems or lack of general life-skills.

Help and advice can often keep families together in their residential homes.

Bethany supports people with drug and alcohol addictions, many of the project workers themselves being former addicts. A homemaker centre helps folk on low incomes to furnish and equip their homes. There are also charity shops.

Everyone enjoyed fellowship over a splendid cup of tea.

Those Were The Days
The Oban Times

40 Years Ago



Thursday, June 15, 1972



The last bottleneck on the main road to the west was removed on Friday with the opening by the Secretary of State for Scotland of the Loch Duich Causeway in Kintail, Wester Ross. The opening ceremony marked the end of the Government's 50-mile reconstruction of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh.

'Fence us in,' plead Skye residents

Tenants of a new housing scheme at Carbot, Skye, have a problem.

Recently they received a reminder of their obligations to keep their gardens tidy.

But the answer is: 'How on earth can we, when our open-plan scheme is invaded by sheep every day?' They want Inverness Country Council to fence the gardens in.

Since the 10 houses were occupied last September, the tenants have become more than displeased with the ineffectiveness of the overall layout for sheep - and cattle on one occasion - appear to have a particular liking for the rose bushes and shrubs planted by the occupiers in the communal area fronting their homes.

One irate householder said he had bought daffodils which

were growing untouched in the wild in open sheep country and planted them - yet the next day only the bulbs remained.

Roadworks 'slackness'

Complaints about the lack of warning signs when sections of roads in Fort William were temporarily closed were made at Monday night's meeting of the burgh services committee.

The town clerk said that 'a general slackness' seemed to be creeping in, and contractors often ignored the rule that they were supposed to give 28 days notice before closing the road to traffic. It was not good enough for a workman to appear without warning, and hold up oncoming traffic while work was being carried out, he said.

There were other complaints of poor drainage and large puddles on road throughout the town. This was the respon-

sibility of Inverness County Council, it was pointed out, and the town clerk said he would ask them to look into this.

Baillie W. S. Stewart voiced strong concern at the fact that the second of the town's pedestrian crossings was still not working, although it had been placed in position for weeks now. There was a studded bar across the High Street beside the automatic crossing, and many people were using this as if the crossing were fully in operation.

No seniors at Mid Argyll Mod

For the first time in many years there were no senior entries at the 44th Mid Argyll Mod held in Lochgilphead on Friday.

Although there was a noticeable drop in the number of junior entries, the standard was praised by adjudicator, Mr Donald Thomson, Oban.



Pupils have situated a cross in the garden of Iona Primary School with the help of artist Sally Purdie. It is hoped that the cross - which lies flat on the ground - will last several hundred years in the garden.



Prayers were said recently at Kilchrenan Church for the Queen when the Reverend Robert Brookes led the congregation in celebration of the Queen's 60 years on the throne. The church was decorated with flags and pictures of the Queen. Carol Johnston, wife of one of the elders, baked a lovely cake which everyone enjoyed after the service. Above, two children from the Hague blew out the candles on the cake.

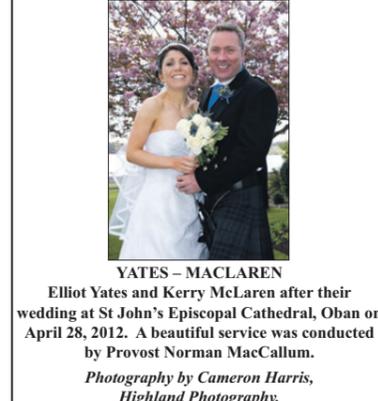


Lochalsh Ladies Choir who competed at this month's SW Ross Provincial Mod.

WEDDINGS



Judith King and John McVicar, Kirriemuir, who were married at Ballathie House in Perthshire.
Photographer - Shaun Ward



YATES - MACLAREN
Elliot Yates and Kerry McLaren after their wedding at St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban on April 28, 2012. A beautiful service was conducted by Provost Norman MacCallum.
Photography by Cameron Harris, Highland Photography.



MACKECHNIE - LEACH
Karen MacKechnie and Calum Leach were married at the Parish Church, Oban on February 29th 2012. Their wedding celebrations were held at The Argyllshire Gathering Halls, where they celebrated long into the night with family and friends.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



HAMILTON - AUCKLAND-CHILD
The wedding of Dr Mary Jane Hamilton and Dr Ossian Auckland-Child took place on May 19th, at Temple Newsham House, Leeds, followed by a reception at Thorpe Park Hotel. Mary Jane is the daughter of Sally and Alan Hamilton, Darlington, Ossian is the son of Mary Auckland and Stewart Child, Mortimer, Berkshire and the grandson of the late Margaret and Ron Child of Stru-mhor, Connel.



McILROY - CLARK
Catherine McIlroy and Murray Clark were married at the Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban on April 14th 2012. They celebrated their marriage with family and friends at The Oban Bay Hotel.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



CLIFFORD - CORRIERI
Eloise Clifford and John Stephen Corrieri were married at The Ballachulish Hotel on April 27th 2012. They celebrated at this beautiful venue with friends and family.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

The Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final 2012



Newtonmore booked their place in the Cooperative MacTavish Cup Final following an exciting penalty shootout decider against Glenurquhart at Drumadrochit



Newtonmore manager Norman MacArthur

Norman MacArthur has seen many big games as a player with Newtonmore and more recently at the helm of the club as he steered them to Camanachd Cup, Premier Division and Co-operative MacTavish Cup over a relatively short six year period. And he is under no illusions as to the importance of Saturday's Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final against Lochaber.

He is quick to play down Lochaber's tag of underdogs. 'We know how good they are and we

will need to be at our very best if we are to take anything from the game,' said Norman.

'We need to bounce back from last Saturday's league disappointment and the players know what is expected of them. They have looked good in training this week and there may be a surprise or two in store, but we will just have to wait and see,' he added with a grin.

As part of shinty's 'Old Firm' a lot is expected by Newtonmore's army of supporters who will travel to Inverness by the bus load for Saturday's final.

MacArthur adds: 'The Premier Division clubs, and those at the top of Division One, are all of a similar standard at the moment and this makes every match in league and cups a tough test. Nobody has the right to simply turn up and win - these days a long gone. Anyone who has watched Lochaber over recent weeks will know that they have been scoring freely while conceding very few goals. We will show them every respect - but play our game and let them worry about us.'

All eyes on Inverness for the Cooperative MacTavish Cup Final

WHEN Duncan MacTavish of Stratherrick first presented his rose bowl to be played for by the top shinty players in the North of Scotland back in 1898 he could not have expected the important role that his trophy was to play in the development of the game.

Designed as a knock-out cup competition, the first winners of that 1898 test of skill was Skye Camanachd, since then, the Badenoch teams have dominated the tournament. The growing interest in both this cup and shinty as a whole led to The Co-operative MacTavish Cup becoming an attractive proposition for potential commercial sponsors, and when the tournament final

was first televised in 2009, with one of this season's finalists, Newtonmore, eventual winners, the sport became even more into the media spotlight.

Bught Park
This year's Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final takes place this Saturday at Bught Park, Inverness; throw-up is 4.05pm.

Taking the field will be Newtonmore, current Scottish champions and Premier division champions but a team who have missed out on Co-operative MacTavish Cup glory over the last couple of seasons and this is a failing that they are keen to rectify.

Their opponents on Saturday will be Lochaber Camanachd, a team which now play their shinty in North Division One but who have proved more than worthy cup finalists. Enjoying a tremendous league season, the Spean Bridge-based club, who have never played in a major senior final, proved their metal by knocking out cup holders Kingussie in an exciting semi-final.

History shows that the current Lochaber club evolved from the memory of the old Brae Lochaber, a team which won the MacTavish Cup final three times in 1922, 1925, and 1933.

For the last two years the competition has been sponsored by

The Cooperative and both sport and sponsor have proved well matched.

Sponsors
Aileen Walters, The Co-operative's sponsorship manager told *The Oban Times*: 'At The Co-operative we are delighted to be partnering with The Camanachd Association and to be sponsoring The Co-operative MacTavish Cup for a second year.'

'The north of Scotland is an important trading area for The Co-operative across our family of businesses - The Co-operative Food, The Co-operative Pharmacy, The Co-operative Bank including Britannia, The Co-operative Travel and The

Co-operative Funeralcare. Through sponsorship of sport and other events, we support the communities where we operate and in which our colleagues live and work.'

'The Co-operative MacTavish Cup receives good exposure in the local media, but most importantly of all, it commands a place in the hearts and minds of fans, players, clubs and communities who are involved with it.'

'We wish the best of luck to all four teams who will be playing on Saturday - Kinlochshiel and Skye in the Juvenile Final and then Lochaber and Newtonmore in The Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final itself.'

Newtonmore's captain John MacKenzie said: 'We had a great season last year, but missed out on the Co-operative MacTavish Cup, so we are all delighted to have made it this far. Lochaber have been very strong this season and I am sure will be as determined as us to get their hands of the trophy.'

Lochaber's Hughie Innes said: 'We are under no illusions about taking on one of shinty's strongest sides, but as John said, we have been playing very well this year and that showed in the semi-final against Kingussie.'

'The players, coaches and fans are all very much looking forward to it.'

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Wishing both teams the best of luck in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final



Newtonmore captain John MacKenzie

Former Oban Camanachd player, John is one of the most versatile players in the game and can play in any position on the field. He has also represented Scotland at under 21 level on several occasions. A very physical player who hits the ball well John plays with unrivalled passion, and has been dubbed 'supersub' for his knack of coming off the bench and changing the pattern of games. He has winners' medals in MacTavish Cup, Camanachd Cup and two Premier Division championships.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'For a player to captain their team is an honour that few achieve.'

'To be captain of a club with the history and character of Newtonmore is a position that I view as a huge privilege and one that I take very seriously.'

'We have several excellent young players coming into the first team this season and Saturday's Cooperative MacTavish Cup Final will be another new experience for them which I hope they will enjoy and do both themselves and the club proud.'

'While Lochaber may have been described as underdogs for Saturday's final anyone who has followed their progress knows that they are very much there on merit and we are anticipating a tough and testing 90 minutes during which only a top class performance as a team will earn Newtonmore victory.'

'Above all, I hope it is an entertaining and sporting cup tie after which I can have the honour of taking the trophy back to a village where shinty remains at the heart of the community.'



Norman Campbell

Defender
One of the most accomplished players in shinty with both a physical presence and an impressive turn of speed. Norman has captaining Scotland in 2007 and winning the man of the match award



Glen Mackintosh

Forward or midfielder
A strong hard player who wears his heart on his sleeve, Glen has been a regular in the first team since he was a teenager. Equally at home in midfield, he has been utilised mainly as a forward this season and has been finding the back of the net on a regular basis. Glen is another player with Camanachd Cup and Premier Division honours and was a MacTavish Cup winning goalscorer in the 2009 final.



Jamie Robinson

Midfielder
A very strong player who has represented Scotland at juvenile and under 21 level. Can launch hit-ins a tremendous distance creating attacking opportunities unexpectedly. Has had problems with injuries at the start of this season but has forced his way back into the team and has popped up out of the blue with the odd spectacular goal. This will be his third MacTavish Cup Final with two winners medals to join Camanachd Cup and Premier championship honours.



Paul MacArthur

Forward



Paul MacArthur Midfielder
Captain of the 2003 Newtonmore Sutherland Cup winning team, Paul is another Newtonmore player who has represented Scotland and is a first team regular. His powerful runs from midfield are a notable feature of his play and his goal contribution in Newtonmore's last Cooperative MacTavish Cup Final ensured the trophy was won in spectacular style.



Fraser Mackintosh

Defender
Another player who can fulfil several positions, Fraser is not only one of the tallest players in the game, but also one of the most skilful. Scored in the 2002 MacTavish Cup Final win, but his clever and thoughtful play is now finding greater expression in more defensive roles. Missed most of last season after travelling to Australia but is back and keen to collect a third MacTavish winners medal.



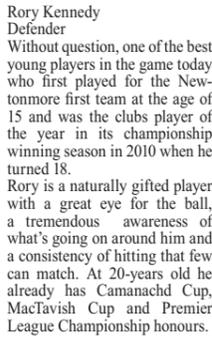
Blair Mackintosh

Blair Mackintosh Midfielder
Blair had two excellent seasons for Newtonmore's successful reserve team before breaking through into the first team squad earlier this season. He is an excellent hitter of the ball, keeps his concentration and is a tireless runner. This will be his third senior final.



Rory Kennedy

Forward



Rory Kennedy

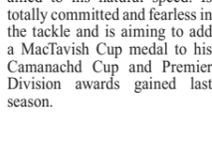
Without question, one of the best young players in the game today who first played for the Newtonmore first team at the age of 15 and was the clubs player of the year in its championship winning season in 2010 when he turned 18.

Rory is a naturally gifted player with a great eye for the ball, a tremendous awareness of what's going on around him and a consistency of hitting that few can match. At 20-years old he already has Camanachd Cup, MacTavish Cup and Premier League Championship honours.



Michael Ritchie

Goalkeeper
Michael has been a regular in the first team for several years, starting as a forward and now has made the position of goalkeeper his own. The 40-year old is one of the calmest players in the game and has won many honours within the game including a MacTavish winners medal in 2002 and 2009, Premier League Championship winner in 2010 and 2011 and Camanachd Cup medal winner in 2011.



Ackie Macrae

Forward



Steven Macdonald

Midfielder
The former Ross Country footballer has quickly established himself as an integral part of the Newtonmore team and has produced several outstanding performances in blue and white this season. His versatility has seen him play in almost every position and he has developed into a powerful driving force that typifies Newtonmore's style of play.



Andy Mackintosh

Defender
Andy has played in midfield and up front in the past but has now been turning in strong performances as part of the Newtonmore defence. Quick and a good reader of the game, he has been virtually injury free this season which has allowed him to show his true potential and is in a great run of form recently. He already holds a Cooperative MacTavish Cup medal from 2009, plus Camanachd Cup and Premier League Championship honours.



Calum Stewart

Forward
Calum has been scoring freely in Newtonmore's second team and got his opportunity in the first team since when he has scored more vital goals. Causes problems to defences with his speed and he has a keen eye for goal. First senior final.



Chris Sellar

Forward
Chris played a major role in the high scoring reserve team forward line of 2011 and has already started scoring goals regularly since joining the first team squad this year. He is one of the most natural shinty players in the squad and has great potential. Another young, talented player making his debut in a senior final.



Connor Jones

Forward
Another young talent who has scored regularly for the reserve team and has recently been given his first team debut.



Evan Menzies

Forward
Evan was a first team regular until injury early in 2011. Since then he has the reserve team win a league and cup double on his return and has been scoring regularly again this season though still unable to train consistently. Evan has MacTavish Cup and Premier league honours.



Michael Russell

Defender
Michael has developed into a fine accomplished defender, with a keen eye for the ball and a talent for being able to read the game well. Had an outstanding season in 2011 and was reserve team player of the season. Son of John the 1985 Grand Slam winning captain.

The Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final 2012



Lochaber manager Michael Delaney

LOCHABER manager Michael Delaney's men booked their place with a dramatic but deserved 2-1 win over Kingussie in front of a bumper crowd in Spean Bridge four weeks ago, and the excitement has been building ever since.

Delaney told *The Oban Times* his players were eager for Saturday to arrive.

He said: 'The boys are all keen and we've been looking forward to it for a few weeks now and we just want to get out there. They know their own limitations and their abilities. We've got a squad capable of scoring goals, but it is a big ask to beat Newtonmore.'

'We're rightly the underdogs. We're not only a division below them, but it's our first ever major final. There's no expectation in the community or in the squad which is good. We can just go out there and relax, express ourselves and enjoy the occasion.'

'We'll approach the game exactly the same as every other game. To change it up would just add extra pressure on the boys and there's no need for that.'

'They are a cracking outfit. They've had a lot of injuries to deal with the season and they're still right at the top of the division. They've got such a strong squad you couldn't second guess their team, that's why they're the best side in shinty.'



Stuart Callison

Wing forward Stuart Callison scored an outstanding goal in the semi final against Kingussie to help book Lochaber's place in the final. The 18-year-old from Inverlochty has been in the first team for two years. He continued dazzling form with a hat trick against Premiership side Bute in the Camanachd Cup two weeks ago.



Lochaber pictured after their Cooperative MacTavish Cup Semi-final victory over Kingussie at Spean Bridge



James MacRae

Wing back James MacRae stays in Spean Bridge, and has been with the team for the last nine years. The 25-year-old former Lochaber High School pupil currently works as a cadet engineer.



Ryan Toal

Wing forward Ryan Toal has been a regular member of the Lochaber first team since he made the break through six years ago as a 14-year-old.



Zands Ferguson

Lochaber player of the year for 2011 Zands Ferguson will be looking to grab the goals in the final against Newtonmore. The forward celebrated his 21st birthday last week.



Ian Love

Corpach man Ian Love, aged 28, has been with the club for 16 years. The electrical engineer is likely to line up at wing centre for Lochaber in the final.



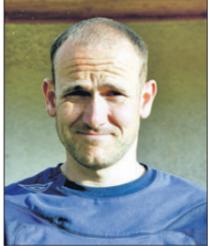
Lochaber captain Hugh Innes

LOCHABER captain Hugh Innes will line up in the final knowing he and his team mates could etch their name into the history of the club if they can upset the odds and beat Newtonmore.

Lochaber Camanachd first formed in 1946 after a merger between Brae Lochaber and Spean Bridge. The clubs split again three years later but finally reformed in 1958. Since then the club has never been to a major shinty final - until the current crop defeated Kingussie to reach Saturday's final.

Innes, in his first year as team captain, has been with the club for most of his adult life and currently plays at full centre.

The 26-year-old said: 'We are under no illusions about taking on one of shinty's strongest sides, but we have been playing very well this year and that showed in the semi-final against Kingussie. The players, coaches and fans are all very much looking forward to it.'



Lachlan Campbell

Experienced full back Lachlan Campbell, aged 34, has seen plenty of action during his 20 years with the club, but is yet to represent the club in a major final.



Martin Johnstone

Midfielder Martin Johnstone, aged 20 from Invergarry, has been in the Lochaber first team for the last four years. Johnstone was a scorer when Lochaber upset local rivals Fort William with a 2-1 win in the Macaulay Cup in 2009.



Daniel Delaney

Daniel Delaney broke into the first team at the age of 14. Now aged 18, he is hoping to make an impact against Newtonmore.



Shaun Nicolson

Half forward Shaun Nicolson has been one of Lochaber's outstanding players this year with 16 goals to his name already - including five in the MacTavish Cup. The 25-year-old from Fort Augustus, who has spent 12 years with Lochaber, will be looking to add to his haul in the final.



Scott Paterson

Wing forward Scott Paterson, aged 28, will be hoping to get a chance to make an impact in Lochaber's first ever senior final. Paterson missed a number of games this season through injury but has still managed to score a number of goals, including one in the quarter final against Skye.



Calum Cameron

Left - Calum Cameron is in his first season as assistant manager after making the step up from the reserve team at the end of last season.



Ben Delaney



Neil MacDonald

Veteran Scottish international half back Neil MacDonald has



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The Co-operative wishes good luck to Lochaber and Newtonmore and to The Co-operative MacTavish Juvenile Cup Finalists Kinlochshiel and Skye






Winners of the Alastair Campbell Shield - Inverloch. Photo: John MacTavish



Kingussie won the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy, defeating Ballachulish in the final. Photo: John MacTavish

Big crowd turns out for Macaulay Sixes

Kingussie and Inverloch take the honours

BRILLIANT sunshine and an immaculate playing surface greeted the 34 teams and 280 players to Mossfield Stadium, Oban, last Saturday for the 29th staging of the Artemis-sponsored Macaulay Sixes competition for primary age children.

There was no shortage of fast entertaining shinty throughout the day, with the P5 and under competition for the Alastair Campbell Shield being won by

an excellent Inverloch team who defeated Lochaber in the final.

Well organised

The senior event for P7 and under saw a skilful and well organised Kingussie lift the Ian Cummings Memorial Trophy for the first time since 1996, when they defeated a plucky Ballachulish team in a hard-fought final.

The Lochcarron Quaich for

best girl player was awarded to Chloe Wilson of Tighnabruich and the Hector Campbell award for best boy player was won by Keiran MacPherson of Kingussie. The Peter English Trophy for Sportsmanship and Endeavour was won by Inveraray.

Semi finals

Results: Alastair Campbell Shield (P5 and under) - Semi-finals - Lochaber 4, Tighnabruich 2; Boys of Dell 2, Inverloch 3.

PRIMARY SHINTY

Final - Lochaber 0, Inverloch 3. Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy (P7 and under) - Quarters Finals - Lovat 1, Rockfield 5; Ballachulish 1 Inverloch 0; Kingussie 1, Banavie 0. St Columba's 3, Lochnell 2. Semi Finals - St Columba's 0, Ballachulish 1, Kingussie 2, Rockfield 0. Final - Ballachulish 1, Kingussie 6.



The action was fast and furious at the Artemis Macaulay Sixes held at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. Photos: John MacTavish



Meadowburn. 15_124shinty6



Laggan. 15_124shinty3



Chloe Wilson won the best girl player award. Photo: John MacTavish



Park Primary School's two teams, in white Park Sparks and in red Dunollie. 15_124shinty4



Best boy player was Keiran MacPherson. Photo: John MacTavish



Glasgow Gaelic School's P7 team. 15_124shinty7



Newtonmore. 15_124shinty5



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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This week's nearest ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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P Lang Hillside Road, Campbeltown



One of Rockfield Primary School's shinty teams, Achad na Creige. 15_124shinty2



St Columba's shinty team. 15_124shinty1

Lovat go top after win over Newtonmore

'I know it's a cliché, but we are just taking one game at a time'

LOVAT have been stealthily transforming their 'dark horses' reputation to genuine Orion Group Premiership title contenders in recent weeks – and confirmed that status in the most emphatic way possible with a comprehensive 3-0 defeat of champions Newtonmore at Balmacara Park on Saturday.

The stunning win, which came courtesy of goals from Duncan Davidson and Fraser Gallagher double, lifted Lovat to the top of the table, a point ahead of 'More and Kyles.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae, although delighted with the result and performance, has his feet firmly on the ground.

He told The Oban Times: 'I'm over the moon. We played great and are really getting it together now across the board. Our preparations before the season are now paying big dividends and the squad getting bigger helps as well. If we have boys from the second team pushing to come through it means the competition for places is that much sharper.'

Now Lovat face resurgent Kilmallie at Balmacara Park Saturday in a game MacRae knows will not be easy.

He said: 'I know it's a cliché, but we are just taking one game at a time. We are just looking to put points on the board – that's first and foremost.'

'Kilmallie have a good, hard team and their league position probably belies where they should be.'

Greg Matheson will return to the team, but Lorne MacKay will be missing through injury.

KINLOCHSHEL are without a game this weekend – and will use the break to regroup after their defeat at Fort William in the Macaulay Cup last Saturday.

'Shiel got off to a nightmare start and were three down inside 20 minutes to a Gary Innes double and a Bryan Simpson strike.

But the Lochalsh men fought back and a Duncan 'Ach MacRae' brace had cut Fort's lead to one two minutes before the break.

Seconds later came the game's most controversial incident which left the 'Sheil bench fuming with a sense of injustice.

Finlay MacRae smacked in a shot which Fort keeper McKay saved. MacRae rifled home the rebound but the goal judge's flag went up for offside and after some deliberations referee Graham Irving disallowed the goal.

'Shiel were visibly punctured, and with the momentum lost went on to concede three more in the second half, Gary Innes bagging two more either side of Gordie MacKinnon's goal.

Disappointed 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told the Oban Times: 'Major decisions have gone against the smaller teams and it's not the referee's fault. They have to have assistance from goal judges who should be open and fair – and most of them are.'

INVERARAY take on Kyles Athletic for the third time this season on Saturday, looking to maintain a winning streak over their Argyll rivals.

Having dumped the Tighnabruich side out of both the Macaulay and Celtic cups, the focus turns to the league this weekend and a trip to Cowal.

Inveraray manager John Smylie said: 'We will be missing a few players and Kyles are very strong at home, so we know this will be a difficult game.'

'They will be out for revenge, so I will be happy if we can come away with a point.'

With the AJG Celtic Society Cup final scheduled for the following weekend, John is keen his players come through this potentially bruising encounter free of injury.

Last Saturday, the on-form Chris Crawford bagged four goals and Garry MacPherson added another as Inveraray comfortably advanced through to the semi-final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

'GMA are quite a good team,' said John. 'But we wore them

down in the second half and deserved the win.'

FORT WILLIAM return to league duty on Saturday following their Artemis MacAulay Cup success against Kinlochshiel last weekend, when they travel to Glenurquhart for a vital Orion Group Premiership clash.

Fort's league form has been indifferent of late and Peter MacIntyre's side occupies the unaccustomed position of fifth bottom place in the league.

Kilmallie's 10-0 demolition of Bute has concentrated minds higher up the table and neither the Fort nor the Glen will be able to count themselves safe from the drop until it is a mathematical fact.

MacIntyre is likely to be without the services of Duncan Rodger – who made a real difference in defence against 'Shiel – but will be bolstered by the return from suspension of Liam MacIntyre.

The Fort coach is all too aware how competitive the top flight is this season – and has no intention of coming away from Blairbeg Park empty-handed.

He told The Oban Times: 'Taking something from the game is absolutely vital. We have to start picking up points now and get into a safe position. There's nothing to pick between the teams this year.'

MacIntyre will demand a repeat of the commitment shown in the 6-2 win over 'Shiel.

He said: 'We upped it again in the second half and in the end it was fairly comfortable.'

BUTE will have a point to prove in the Artemis Macaulay Cup this weekend after a crushing

10-0 defeat to relegation rivals Kilmallie.

A weakened Bute team had no answer to the rampant Lochaber side and find themselves two points adrift at the bottom of the Orion Group Premiership.

However, manager Barry Martin remains calm about his team's league prospects and is not worried by the heavy defeat.

'I'm not too worried by the result because we were missing six first team players, including Hector Whitelaw and Iain MacDonald,' he said.

'We had only conceded 16 goals in nine games before last Saturday, so this is just a freak result.'

'Kilmallie just seemed to click and everything they hit was on target. They scored some brilliant goals.'

Barry admitted his players were 'a bit subdued' at training this week, but insisted they would be ready for the trip to Mossfield and the Macaulay Cup tie against Oban Camanachd on Saturday.

'The boys need to lift themselves for this weekend and we'll take confidence from the return of some first team players.'

'Hector should be back and Iain may be fit after resting his hamstring injury the last two weeks.'

NEWTONMORE'S preparations for this weekend's Co-operative MacTavish Cup final against Lochaber took a blow when they lost 3-0 to new Orion Group Premiership leaders Lovat last Saturday.

The 'More's second league defeat of 2012 meant they slipped a point behind surprise package Lovat and level with third-placed Kyles, with all three

SHINTY

having played 10 games.

Lovat took the lead just a minute before half time when Duncan Davidson stuck against a sluggish Newtonmore side. The reigning champs improved in the second half but could not make the breakthrough. Fraser Gallagher then scored in the 70th and 85th minutes to secure the win.

KINGUSSIE were dumped out of the Macaulay Cup by an impressive Glenurquhart display at Blairbeg Park last Saturday.

'Russell Jones' side have a free weekend before they refocus on league duty after being knocked out of a second cup competition in a matter of weeks.

Neale Reid opened the scoring for the home side in the 28th minute, and doubled Glenurquhart's lead three minutes into the second half.

James MacPherson made the score 3-0 to the delight of the home fans in the 68th minute, before Ronald Ross scored a late consolation with 10 minutes left – his 18th of the season in all competitions.

GLENURQUHART manager Fraser MacKenzie is looking for his side to continue the good form they showed in last weekend's 3-1 win over Kingussie when they welcome Fort William this Saturday.

Although his side sit just one place and two points outside the relegation spots, MacKenzie said the fact Glenurquhart have three games in hand on Kilmallie means the table is giving a 'false reading'.

He told The Oban Times: 'But they are scoring goals now – and we are desperate to take something away from the game. Lovat had a good win against Newtonmore last week, but now that our forward line has struck form I am fairly confident we can do something up there.'

Apart from Peter MacIntyre, who is injured, Kilmallie should have a full squad available.

LOCHABER will be looking to shock the shinty world by beating favourites Newtonmore in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final at Bught Park this Saturday.

The following weekend the Spean Bridge side will return to the same venue for what is likely to be a slightly more low-key game – a north division one tie with Inverness.

Due to the club's strong cup runs this year Lochaber have



'Shiel's Paul MacRae and Fort forward Gordie MacKinnon fought out a tough duel all afternoon.

KYLES ATHLETIC will seek to avenge two painful cup defeats against Inveraray this season, while maintaining their title challenge, with victory over the Royal Burgh this Saturday.

Having regained their undisputed status and Argyll's number one team last season, Kyles have lost twice to their rivals in two cup competitions this year.

But the Tighnabruich side still maintain league superiority and currently sit third, just a point behind leaders Lovat.

KILMALLIE travel to new league leaders Lovat on Saturday for a game in which no-one would have given them an earthly three weeks ago – but not now.

The Blues' last two matches have seen them dump local rivals Fort William out of the Camanachd Cup followed by last weekend's 10-0 demolition of

will pose a much more serious threat.

Gregor Cushnie scored both the goals for a young Lochcarron side last weekend as they picked up just their second league win of 2012.

MacKenzie said: 'It was quite a good game; the boys played very well. It was the first time they've really shown some self-belief. The defence played very, very well. Danny MacRae was back in and played at full centre and he did really well.'

SKYE CAMANACHD have no game for the second week in succession as the club's younger players look forward to the Co-operative Junior MacTavish Cup final against local rivals Kinlochshiel on Saturday at Bught Park.

Skye take on Lochcarron in North Division One at Paicr nan Laoch next weekend.

GLENORCHY travel to Lochgiphead this Saturday to take on Kilmory in a reverse of last weekend's fixture.

And the Dalmally men will fancy their chances at picking up both points, having beaten their Argyll neighbours 5-1 last weekend.

Grant MacPherson, Keiran MacKay, Scott Livingstone, John McNulty and Lorne Brown all got on the scoresheet.

Centre Neil Carmichael could return for **OBAN CELTIC** on Saturday following his recovery from a knee injury.

The rejuvenated Oban side host Strachur this weekend and club stalwart David Hamilton knows games like this will have a big say in league survival.

He added: 'We have to take something from the teams around us and Strachur are one of those teams.'

'We beat them down there but I won't read too much into that because they are an improved team since then.'

New signing Gavin Stobart is doubtful because of a toe injury.

OBAN CAMANACHD'S caretaker management team of Gussie Campbell and Peter MacCuish have quickly imprinted their own ideas on the first team.

Gussie admitted that his tactical 'experiment' against Aberdeen last weekend worked well but knows this Saturday's Macaulay Cup visit by Bute



Lochside Rovers and The Scots pictured before their Bullough Cup tie at Ganavan last Saturday. The Oban side ran out 5-0 winners.

15_124bullouch2

'Hopefully we can take the form and belief into this weekend. We played Fort William already away from home and won so hopefully we can get another win on Saturday.'

MacKenzie said Andrew Corrigan and Lewis MacLennan have an outside chance of playing, while Billy Urquhart, Rhuaridh Cameron and Liam Girvan will continue their injury comebacks after playing last weekend.

MacKenzie said he was happy with the reaction of his players against Kings after the previous week's loss to Skye.

He said: 'I'm really pleased especially considering the result we had the week before.'

'I told the boys to sort out the attitude – they went up there thinking they had already won before the game – and we got a lot more fight in the team.'

fellow strugglers Bute at Canal Parks – raising hopes down Caol way that escaping relegation is a real possibility.

On their day, Kilmallie's forward line is the match of any in the Premiership and evidence that John Stewart, Michael Rodger and co are finally scoring freely will have teams higher up the table looking nervously over their shoulders.

Rodger scored four against Bute and Stewart two, while Grant MacKenzie and Liam MacIntyre also bagged two each.

The win took Kilmallie two points closer to their rivals – now Lovat must be overcome if the revival is to be maintained.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'We have played them already in the league, but our forwards were not really on form.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	10	6	3	1	27	15	15
Newtonmore	10	6	2	2	34	17	14
Kyles Athletic	10	6	2	2	25	18	14
Kinlochshiel	11	5	2	4	29	27	12
Kingussie	9	4	2	3	20	20	10
Fort William	9	3	2	4	15	16	8
Inveraray	8	4	0	4	13	16	8
Glenurquhart	8	3	1	4	14	21	7
Kilmallie	11	2	1	8	22	28	5
Bute	10	0	3	7	5	26	3

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	8	5	1	2	28	15	11
Skye	6	5	1	0	16	11	10
Lochaber	5	4	1	0	23	5	9
Beaulieu	8	3	1	4	15	20	7
Inverness	8	2	2	4	17	16	6
Lochcarron	9	2	2	5	12	26	6
Strathglass	8	1	1	6	13	31	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	7	7	0	0	35	3	12
Glenorchy	8	6	0	2	18	8	12
Glasgow MA	7	5	0	2	17	9	10
Strachur	11	3	3	5	16	17	9
Kilmory	9	3	2	4	21	21	8
Taynuilt	9	1	4	4	13	23	6
Oban Celtic	8	2	1	5	10	23	5
Aberdour	9	2	0	7	9	35	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	11	9	0	2	50	12	18
Kinlochshiel	12	6	3	3	25	28	15
Glenurquhart	10	6	1	3	23	18	13
Skye	9	4	2	3	21	14	10
Aberdeen Uni	10	4	2	4	19	19	10
Kingussie	11	3	3	5	23	26	9
Fort William	8	4	0	4	13	11	8
Glengarry	10	4	0	6	13	22	8
Lochaber	11	2	2	7	26	47	6
Lovat	10	2	1	7	14	30	5

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	13	12	0	1	70	23	24
Balachulish	10	7	1	2	23	14	15
Tayforth	12	7	1	4	31	23	15
Kyles Athletic	10	7	0	3	37	19	14
Inveraray	12	4	3	5	37	30	11
Col Glen	10	4	2	4	21	27	10
Bute	9	4	1	4	27	16	9
Glasgow MA	14	4	0	10	15	68	8
Ardnamurchan	13	3	1	9	32	34	7
Aberdour	11	0	1	10	10	49	1

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulieu	10	10	0	0	55	7	20
Lochbroom	11	8	1	2	30	12	17
Boleskine	10	7	1	2	44	20	15
Kilmallie	12	6	2	4	41	30	14
Caberfeidh	9	5	0	4	26	22	10
Lochcarron	10	4	1	5	24	26	9
Strathspey	12	3	2	7	26	42	8
Strathglass	11	3	2	6	20	37	8
Inverness	13	2	1	10	12	52	5
Lewis Caman	12	1	2	9	16	46	4



Results

Saturday 9 June 2012

Orion Group Premiership
Kilmallie 10 - 0 Bute
Lovat 3 - 0 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lochcarron 2 - 1 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart 2 - 1 Newtonmore
Kingussie 5 - 0 Glengarry
Kinlochshiel 6 - 4 Lochaber

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Beaulieu 5 - 1 Inverness
Lewis Cam 1 - 5 Caberfeidh
Strathglass 3 - 3 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy 5 - 1 Kilmory
Taynuilt 2 - 2 Strachur
Aberdour 1 - 11 Oban Cam

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour v Inveraray
Postponed Inveraray unable to field a team points to Aberdour
Ballachulish 2 - 2 Tayforth
Glasgow MA 1 - 0 Ardnamurchan

Artemis Macaulay Cup
Glasgow MA 0 - 5 Inveraray
Fort William 6 - 2 Kinlochshiel
Glenurquhart 3 - 1 Kingussie

Bullough Cup
Lochside Rovers 5 - 0 The Scots

Fixtures

Saturday 16 June 2012

Orion Premiership
Lovat v Kilmallie
Innes Wood - 1pm
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Colin MacDonald - 1pm
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Ted McDonald - 2.30

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu v Strathglass
Daniel MacRae - 1pm
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron
Duncan Kelly - 1pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Jun 13
Fort William v Lovat
Duncan Kelly - 7.30pm
Fort William v Aberdeen Uni
Billy Wotherspoon - 2pm

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Jun 15
Caberfeidh v Beaulieu
Graeme Irvine - 7.30pm
Boleskine v Strathspey
Duncan Freshwater - 1pm
Lochcarron v Lochbroom
John Sloggie - 2pm
Lewis Camanachd v Strathglass
Robert Morrison - 2pm

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Three out of three for Oban cricketers

CRICKET

OBAN made it three wins in three games in the Argyll and Islands League after a comfortable win at Carradale.

Batting first, Oban raced to 17 runs from the first over thanks to three boundaries from Mal Mackenzie.

Carradale's Aidan Keogh bowled with genuine pace and he stole the momentum for the home side when he removed Mackenzie, Leach and Laycock to leave Oban at 28 for 3.

Taj Islam took his season's tally to 220 runs with a typically cavalier innings of 36, including three sixes and four fours. Koyes Khan, Kenny Mackenzie and Davie Brown added useful runs to take Oban to 127 all out.

Andrew Leach continued his fine bowling form when he took the early wicket of McMillan and took two more wickets himself.

The young Carradale tail-end impressed but wickets from Brown and Khan left Oban winners by 74 runs.

Oban next travel to Dunadd for a league fixture against Mid Argyll on June 17.

Invitation triples at Oban Bowling Club

BOWLING

OBAN Bowling Club hosted its annual Invitation Triples last Saturday, with teams from Tarbert and Colintravae joining local teams to make a total of 15 entries.

After the round robin section was completed three Oban teams and one visiting team made up the semi-finalists with two Oban teams making it to the final.

The final was contested by young skip Andrew Forbes, his grandmother, Helen MacLean, and his Mum, Donna Forbes with the eventual winners being the experienced team of skip Gus MacGillivray, his wife, Elizabeth MacGillivray, and Iain Smith.

The following day the Oban Green hosted a friendly game with some of the carpet bowlers from the area.

Alasdair in Brick & Steel line-up

RALLYING

TOBERMORY'S Alasdair Currie will be on the starting line for this weekend's 2012 Brick & Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge third round.

The 14 year old will be joined by co-driver Garry Muir, from Mintlaw, at the Craig Junior Summer Rally on Saturday, on the old Craig aerodrome.

June medal held at Islay Golf Club

GOLF

JUNE Medal: 1 Alistair MacMillan, 91 less 19 net 72; 2 Paul Cairns, 99 less 24 net 75; 3 Lachlan Gairns, 86 less 11 net 75. Css 74.

Summer League: 1 Paul Cairns 39pts; 2 Kenny Gillies 39pts; 3 Alistair Thomson 38pts. Css 71.

Quy Quaich Trophy: 1 Calum Davey, 70 + 66 = 136; 2 Donald Logan, 72 + 70 = 142; 3 Angus MacAllister, 74 + 70 = 144.

Rugby's just a beach on Islay

IT WAS another home victory at the Islay Beach Rugby Tournament when Kilchoman Distillery took the Laddie Cup, but Oban Lorne were the surprise package of the day by finishing runners-up.

The five-a-side tournament, which is backed by Bruichladdich Distillery and Islay Rugby Club, escaped the threat of rain to entertain a total of 32 teams at the White Hart beach.

Oban Lorne reached the semi-final the previous year, when they lost out to eventual winners Bruichladdich Distillery.

Placed in a touch group with Ardbeg, Glasgow High Old Boys, Dumfries and Loch Lomond, Oban set themselves a target of progressing from the group.

But the men in green, led by new captain Robin MacQueen, eased through their pool games with a 1-0 win over Ardbeg, 5-1 win versus Glasgow High Old Boys, an impressive 6-0 win against Dumfries and a 4-1 win over Loch Lomond.

This set up a semi-final with Strathmore, which saw Oban



Oban Lorne were the surprise package at this year's Islay Beach Rugby Tournament.

Lockhart brothers do well in Jim Clark Rally

RALLYING

OBAN'S Lockhart brothers, Stephen and Kevin, won their group and came 10th place overall in the recent Jim Clark Reivers Rally.

The rally held in the village of Duns was part of the Scottish Rally Championship.

Difficult
Weather conditions made tyre choices difficult but Stephen took the decision to go out on slicks on their Mitsubishi Evo for stage one, but a quick shower on that stage made it a difficult run causing the boys to

Medal success for Oban and Taynuilt orienteers

ORIENTEERING

THERE was medal success for school pupils from Taynuilt and Oban at the weekend in the Scottish Schools Orienteering event.

Taynuilt's Eilidh Shearer won the p5/6 girls individual event and later teamed up with Ceri Powell and Emily Hunter to place second in the P5/6 team event.

Ewan Shearer, Alistair Lilley and Sorley Inall, also from Taynuilt Primary School, won the boys event in the same age group.

Roanne Lilley, Emma Baird and Jade Dowell from Oban

Lockhart brothers do well in Jim Clark Rally

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SYFA chief executive praises standard as Oban hosts six team tournament

THE SCOTTISH Youth Football Association's (SYFA) chief executive praised the standard of football in Oban on Sunday,



Oban Saints' Craig Easton weaves his way past several defenders during one of his many mazy runs. 15_t24syfa3

before insisting trophy-less tournaments for kids is working.

David Little took three teams from Glasgow to Oban High School's artificial pitch as part of a P7s tournament on Sunday, giving budding players the opportunity to test themselves against new opposition.

The round-robin tournament had no prize for first – or any other – place, but there was no sign from the players that they weren't taking it seriously.

Parents and managers too were keen to see their sides win, but Little insists offering no top prize is a winning solution to youth development.

He said: 'The bonus about it is the money clubs and associations would spend on trophies can now be invested in coaching and having fields such as this one at Oban High School. That's good for the game.'

Important
'It is a development thing as well. The game grows with the children and I think its important to introduce medals and trophies at the right time to aid development.'

SYFA development will continue, he added, saying 24 coaches have just returned from a trip to Braga and Benfica to study youth development.

After it was pointed out that both teams have a higher percentage of foreigners than most teams in Europe, he said: 'That's a fair point, but if you look at the percentage of those players developed there. It's all about the ethos.'

'It's a successful development programme and it's much easier to say to kids, look at [Portuguese footballer] Ronaldo. If you want to be like him, you've got to practise.'



Harry Powell and his daughter Anne are welcomed to Atlantis Leisure by Linda Oxlund of the West Highland Tennis Committee. Harry and Anne unveiled a plaque and trophy cabinet commemorating the late Grace Powell, who was a stalwart of Oban Tennis Club and the West Highland Tennis Championship. t24cabinet

Youth football tournament

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THE annual AMP Youth Football Tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club will take place at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday 23 June.

Six pro-youth teams - Kilmarnock, St Mirren, Hamilton Accies, Clyde, Queens Park and Dumbarton along with Oban Saints and Lochgilphead will take part.

Saints find themselves in a tough group with Kilmarnock, Hamilton Accies, last year's winners and Queens Park.

The tournament gets underway at 10.30am.

Centenary Open at Glencruitten

GOLF

GLENCRUITTEN Centenary Open was held at the weekend with Graham MacColl winning the handicap section with a score of 59 - 3 = 56.

Alan Jamieson was second with 70 - 7 = 60, Gerry Davis (Dalmally) was third with a score of 67 - 7 = 60 (B/H) and Paul Kersley fourth.

Allan McKie won the scratch prize with a score of 62 (B/H), with Kevin Mackie taking second place.

Entries are now being taken for the Glencruitten Open on August 11.

This Saturday the competition is in aid of Cancer Research.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THIS weekend's results: Under 13s 1, Renton 3. Scoring for Saints was James MacIntyre.

Friendly - Ardencaple 4, Under 15s 2. On target for Saints were DJ Orr and Stuart MacLeod.

The youth teams are holding their end of season awards ceremony in Oban High School on Friday evening.

The players will now be having a well earned break from games, but training sessions are to continue during the summer.

Peter wins Western Approaches Trophy

GOLF

WESTERN Approaches Trophy played on June 9: 1 Peter MacCrone, 39 points; 2 Shaun Fisher, 28 points; 3 Graham Davidson, 36 points; 4 Fulton Sweeney (Vaul), 35.

Cadden Cup played on June 10: Tobermory v Vaul (Three) - Tobermory Golf Club won five games to one.

Saints pre-season training schedule

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team will start pre-season training on Wednesday 4 July. New players are welcome to attend and are asked to report to Oban Lorne Rugby Club at 6.30pm.

Dates for pre-season tournaments and games - Keyline Cup Tournament, 14 July; Westerlands, 21 July; East Kilbride, 28 July; Greenock, 4 August; Fort William, date to be arranged. The Scottish Amateur League programme starts on Saturday 11 August.

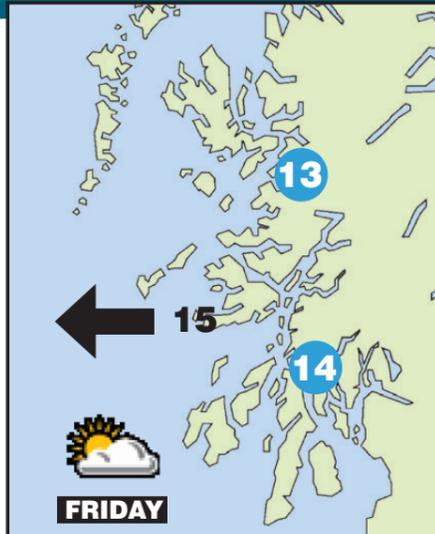
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light east, south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°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, June 14, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

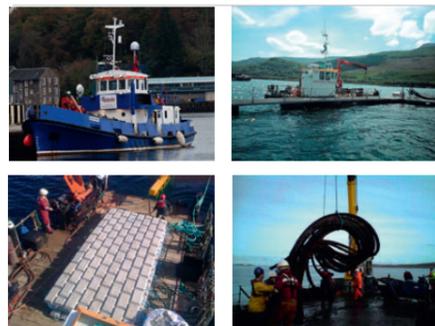
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	07.53	1.7	14.09	2.9	20.26	1.7
Thur	01.44	3.0	07.53	1.7	14.09	2.9	20.26
Fri	02.42	3.1	08.51	1.6	14.59	3.0	21.32
Sat	03.30	3.2	09.40	1.5	15.43	3.2	22.20
Sun	04.12	3.3	10.22	1.3	16.24	3.4	23.00
Mon	04.53	3.5	11.01	1.2	17.03	3.6	23.36
Tues	05.33	3.6	11.39	1.1	17.42	3.7	** ** *
Wed	00.12	1.3	06.12	3.7	12.17	1.0	18.18

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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'Problem' geese in open meeting spotlight

COMMUNITY landowner Stòras Uibhist is to host an open meeting on Monday to discuss 'the growing problem' of geese on Benbecula and South Uist.

The annual goose count has shown greylag numbers continue to increase, with more than 6,000 reported in the Uists at the last count.

The birds cause significant difficulties for local crofters by devouring young grass and corn crops.

Rebecca Cotton of Machair LIFE+ and Johanne Ferguson of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will be present at the meeting in Stoneybridge Hall at 8pm. They will review last year's goose management scheme and identify possible improvements this year.

Information on new plans to significantly cut goose numbers will also be made available at the event. SNH and the Uist Goose Management Group will be applying to the Scottish Government for funding for the scheme and is seeking support from local crofters.

More Fort William break-ins

POLICE are investigating more break-ins to premises in and around Fort William.

Thieves stole food from a burger van near HIS on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate sometime between June 2 and 3 and property was stolen from a works shed near the Moorings Hotel on June 6. Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702 36 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Renamed pressure group fights on

PRESSURE group Outer Hebrides Transport Group has changed its name as it looks to widen its appeal.

Renamed the Outer Hebrides Commerce Group, it was set up to campaign against the Scottish Government's planned removal of ferry subsidies from haulage vehicles. It pledged to continue the fight and expand support in the islands.



Lorna Linfield was met at Lochaber Leisure Centre by local MP Charles Kennedy and Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson.

Hundreds cheer as Lorna lifts Olympic flame aloft

LOCHABER High School pupil Lorna Linfield was the centre of attention on Saturday when she carried the Olympic torch through the streets of Fort William.

The 12-year-old proudly held the flame aloft as hundreds

cheered her on the way from An Aird roundabout to Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Lorna, from Muirshearich, Banavie, was nominated for the honour by her teacher, Morag Watt.

Lorna told *The Oban Times*: 'It was really good - I felt honoured. There were a lot of people and it was really exciting. I enjoy climbing, rounders and softball - but I'm not sure if I'll take up any other sports!'

See Olympic torch coverage, page 7.

Knoydart, Eigg mourn local father

RESIDENTS on the remote Knoydart peninsula and the Isle of Eigg are this week united in grief following the tragic death of a father in a boating accident.

The body of Victor Stockwell was recovered at Inverie Pier on Monday morning after local people alerted police around 8am.

It is understood Mr Stockwell's rigid inflatable boat collided with the pier's concrete wall at some speed. It is thought he had been returning from Eigg. The 42-year-old was alone in the vessel at the time.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death and a report would be made to the Procurator Fiscal.

Mr Stockwell was head stalker and gamekeeper at Camusory Estate on Knoydart, which is co-owned by Rupert Soames, the chief executive of power hire giant Aggreko.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Mr Soames told *The Oban Times*: 'Everyone involved with the Camusory Estate is devastated by this tragedy. Victor knew every blade of grass, every bird, every beast, and was a staunch defender of everything that makes it unique. Our thoughts are with his partner and recently born child, both of whom brought so much happiness into his life, as well as with his mother. He will be hugely missed.'

Eigg, which has close ties to Knoydart, 25 miles across the Sound of Sleat, has been left stunned by Mr Stockwell's death.

The fatal incident coincided with celebrations to mark the 15th anniversary of local people taking over ownership of their island.

One islander, who asked not to

be named, said: 'There were a lot of Knoydart folk over for the weekend. It is a terrible, tragic accident.'

On Knoydart, the 120-strong community has been left devastated. One family friend said: 'Everybody is in a state of shock.'

'It is all still too raw at the moment. He was coming back from Eigg. Nobody knows what happened.'

A police spokesperson said: 'It appears to be a water incident involving a private boat.'

The tragedy also cast a shadow over Saturday's Co-operative MacFavish Cup final at Bught Park in Inverness between Lochaber and Newtonmore.

Mr Stockwell is the nephew of Newtonmore coach Norman MacArthur.

Mr Stockwell's father, also Victor, was killed in a motorbike accident near Kingussie some years ago.

Tree-felling A82 traffic pledge

TRAFFIC disruption along the A82 in Lochaber will be kept to a minimum while tree-felling works continue, Forestry Commission Scotland has pledged.

FCS has started a six-week consultation with local people, councillors and community councils about continuing the project between Glencoe and Inverness over the next 10-15 years. Many of the trees being felled were planted in the 1920s or 1930s.

FC project officer Alex Macleod said: 'People will rightly be concerned over our long term felling plans and the potential for traffic disruption but we will do everything to minimise this as far as we possibly can.'

'We have been working in Glen Righ Forest near Fort William for a while now and local people are very aware of the scale of what we have to do. We'll be staging 'drop-in' meetings ahead of community council meetings, posting public notices and also making full use of our own - and partners - websites.'

Representatives from FCS and partners Transport Scotland and Northern Constabulary met with Highland councillors to explain the extent and complexity of the work.

Appeal judges order new crash claim hearing

APPEAL judges have ruled the award of £120,000 made to a Ballachulish woman after her mother was killed in an accident with a lorry on the A82 was 'excessive'.

Kirsty Hamilton was awarded the money by a jury after her mother Caroline Hamilton, aged 50, was crushed by a Ferguson Transport lorry near Fort William in December 2007.

Ms Hamilton sued the Spean Bridge company at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last year. But a five-judge bench has ruled the claim should be heard again in front of a new jury who will be given additional information.

Lord President Lord Hamilton said juries were not given satisfactory guidance about how much to award and judges should suggest a range in which the award might lie.

Major police hunt launched for 'numpty' copper thieves

WEST Highlands MP Charles Kennedy has called for tighter controls on scrap metal dealing after thousands of people in Skye, Lochalsh and the Western Isles had their telephone and 999 services cut by would-be copper thieves.

A major police hunt is underway after the vandals severed a subsea cable left exposed during low tide at Stromeferry last Thursday afternoon.

The botched hunt for copper proved fruitless as the cable is glass fibre optic.

Engineers were unable to make repairs until the next low tide allowed them to reach the damaged connection around 7.30pm on Friday evening.

Around 9,000 customers on Skye, Wester Ross, Lochalsh,

Harris, Lewis and the Small Isles were affected. Mr Kennedy said rising metal prices meant thieves were stealing even small scraps of copper with no regard to the consequences.

He said: 'This despicable attempt is only the latest in a disturbingly long line of thefts, causing communications blackouts, stopping railway services and costing Scotland thousands of pounds every year.'

'Stronger regulations, licensing all metal dealers and requiring histories of scrap sold, will stop dealers from buying stolen goods on the nod and keep this crime from paying.'

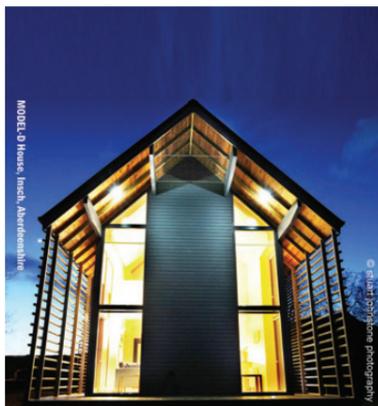
Broadband internet and cash machines were also affected by the attempted theft. Dave Thompson, MSP for

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch said: 'The impact of the damage to the telephone cable is massive. The majority of the communities affected are rural and remote, and they depend on the telephone and the internet.'

'The numpties responsible for the damage have caused havoc to countless households.'

Line operators BT Openreach are offering a reward of £1,000 for information which leads to a conviction. Police in Kyle of Lochalsh urged anyone who may have seen a dark van in the area at the time in question to contact Kyle Police Station on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Passengers on the 12.03 Kyle-Inverness train last Thursday are also asked to come forward.



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Glendale set to celebrate

THE GLENDALE Trust has announced the programme for its third annual homecoming weekend from July 19-22.

The celebration of local life and culture traditionally sees hundreds of people with Glendale connections return to Duirinish.

An exhibition of material held by the Portree Archive Centre and the trust's expanding collection of local items will be on display. The homecoming opens with a Thursday evening Gaelic service led by the Rev Kenneth Macdonald at The Free Church of Scotland in Glendale. Professor Norman Macdonald will give the annual Glendale lecture on the life and poetry of 'The Glendale Bard' Neil MacLeod on the Friday evening.

Full details at www.theglendaletrust.org.



Leona's top of the class

A HARD-WORKING Caol Primary School girl has had her efforts over the year rewarded by being named 'best Primary 7 pupil'.

Leona Falconer received the Catherine MacKenzie Memorial Cup at a presentation at the school last Thursday along with a £30 gift voucher.

Among other achievements, the 11-year-old was named most improved player at football, shinty and netball. Caol headteacher Steven Hamilton told *The Oban Times*: 'The cup is awarded not just for academic achievement, but also for sports, citizenship, responsibility and general good behaviour.'

Left: Best pupil: Leona Falconer proudly shows off her trophy.

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Tongue in cheek jubilee celebrations at Kilmuir

A HEALTHY disregard for rank and privilege still appears to be alive and well at Kilmuir on Skye, where the crofters' revolt against eviction and extortion by their landlords began in 1877. On being 'advised' along with all other schools by Highland Council to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee, Kilmuir Primary did just that - with tongue firmly in cheek. Costumes were duly made up and images of the royal family painted for display, but the highlight was the children performing a song and tune composed by P1-7 teacher Donald MacDonald.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

ous response to recent wall-to-wall TV coverage of the jubilee celebrations. He said: 'In the paper for writing a song for the Jubilee? My dad would shoot me! It was as rebellious as you could be in a primary school!'

The children sang: 'Well it's been 60 years to the day/They call it the Jubilee/Queen Lizzy first sat on the throne

'A terribly big deal you see. 'She's done well our queen Lizzy/Since on the throne she sat/Fine speeches, jewels and Corgies/And even nicer hats!'

'And thanks for the day off! We'll see you at Buckingham's gate/Waving to the masses/ Our gracious head of state. 'And teachers are off too/A little pay back for our taxes/Spent rightly on her travels/Her hats, scarves and waxes. 'Thank you for all your work/ For this country of ours/You've seen us through some great times/And some of Britain's darkest hours. 'So for today alone/Let's sip tea and baine/And even Mr Macdonald/Might sing rule Britannia!'

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all attended the jubilee tea party, where children and staff entertained their audience with a varied programme.



Kilmuir Primary School children celebrated Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee with a tongue in cheek song.

The afternoon finished with everyone taking part in a royal quiz which was followed by a fabulous spread of tea, cakes and goodies provided by parents, staff and the wider community. The school also raised money for the Scottish Cot Death Trust through donations from all who dressed up in their finery for the day. In 1877 the Kilmuir estate in Northern Trotternish doubled the rental charged to its crofting tenants, provoking the widespread unrest which eventually forced the London government to pass the 1886 Crofting Act.

Mallaig man spared jail sentence despite admitting three offences

A WELL-KNOWN Mallaig man has been spared jail after being caught with drugs, threatening to stab police and refusing a blood alcohol test. Instead, Sheriff Douglas Small handed Allan Morrison a three-year driving ban and ordered him to perform 240 hours of unpaid work in the community. Morrison, of 7 East Bay, had admitted failing to provide a blood sample at Fort William police station, after being suspected of being drunk behind the wheel of his flat back Fort

By STEPHEN NORRIS
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Transit at Aird Mhor in Mallaig on April 7. He had also pled guilty to being in illegal possession of Diazepam tablets - a class 'C' drug - and, in the back of a police car, continually challenging police officers to fight and threatening to stab and shoot them, their families and their animals. Fort William Sheriff Court heard how 35-year-old Morrison, a cleansing worker and part-time

scrap metal dealer, ran off and was caught by police after being stopped in his truck at 1.30am. After enduring violent threats on the way to Fort William, officers found 74 Diazepam tablets on the back seat. And at the station, Morrison became aggressive and abusive towards a doctor trying to assess him. Defending, Gerry Sweeney said Morrison's behaviour was caused by being bullied at work. He said: 'This particular evening he had reached breaking point. The stress he is



Head teacher soaked at summer fête

Upper Achintore Primary School head teacher Nick Thompson went over and above the call of duty to help raise funds at the school's summer fête. Mr Thompson was in the stocks as children queued up to pelt him with water-filled sponges - all in a good cause, of course. Above, Nicki Clark and son Kenzie, aged 3, weren't slow in joining in the fun. The evening raised around £3,300. 20_124upper01



New strips for Banavie school shinty team

Banavie Primary P1-3 shinty team has new strips - thanks to the generosity of a local sponsor. Stuart Young of building firm AA Young Ltd presented the new kit to the school during shinty practice.

Ceilidh marks Scalpay school move

SCALPAY Community Centre will host an evening ceilidh tomorrow to mark the closing of Scalpay School and the move to Sir E Scott School in Tarbert on Harris. Anyone with connections to the school, past and present, is invited to attend the event, which starts at 7pm. Scalpay head teacher Aileen MacSween said: 'We are anticipating a large

gathering of people. We hope that this event will provide a wonderful opportunity for folk to meet, to reminisce and to enjoy even in the midst of the sadness of the school closure. 'I would like to thank the working group which has put a tremendous amount of work into the organisation of our event, along with support from Tasglann Nan Eilean Siar which

has provided effective advice and funding. 'I hope everyone enjoys the evening and that there will be plenty of opportunity for reminiscing and conversation.' An exhibition of photographs and artefacts tracing the school's history also goes on display tomorrow in the school until June 29. Locals and visitors are encouraged to drop in.

Woman injured man with punch

A FORT William woman has admitted assaulting a man in the town's High Street. Sandra MacLachlan, of 3 Maryburgh Court, punched Alexander MacPhee on the head to his injury on March 24. Sentence was deferred at Fort William Sheriff Court until July 4.



Campaigners against sectarianism: Kinlochleven pupils swapped Old Firm strips to get their message across.

Campaigning pupils swap Old Firm strips

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils took a novel approach in their campaign for a zero-tolerance approach to sectarianism on Friday - by swapping Old Firm strips. The S1- S3 shinty team came in to school wearing the colours of their rivals, with Celtic fans sporting Rangers tops and vice versa. The exchange of jerseys was done for two reasons - to highlight the school is against sectarianism

and secondly, to raise cash to help pay for a visit to Northern Ireland later this month. The boys are heading on a shinty trip to Belfast, where they will play in a tournament with Plockton High School and the Belfast Cuchulainns. The Cuchulainns is a team set up across the religious divide involving four schools in Belfast - two Protestant and two Catholic, including St Patricks and Boys Model.

Corpach man pleads not guilty to Lochside assault

A CORPACH man has denied assaulting another man by attempting to strike him with an iron bar on Lochside. Angus Kennedy, aged 46, of 7 Guisach Terrace, also pled not guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to two other charges of shouting and swearing while brandishing the bar and being in possession of it at Camus-Cruin on May 19. Kennedy was granted bail on condition that he does not approach or contact the complainer or approach Camus-Cruin.

Speakability Group appeal

FORT William Speakability Group is keen to encourage more people with aphasia - speech impairment caused by head injury, stroke or other serious conditions - to join them at their monthly meetings. The group provides a relaxed and mutually supportive environment where people can practice communication skills and rebuild self-esteem.

The appeal comes in 'Speak Aphasia Month', which highlights the need for shop managers and staff to think more about how they communicate with customers who have aphasia and other language difficulties.

For further information contact Annette Cameron on 07557 682744 or email annette.speakability@gmail.com.

Defendant denies falsely claiming benefits

A CAOL woman has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny claiming benefits to which she was not entitled from the Department of Work and Pensions. Catherine Johnston, aged 56, of 92 Kilmallie Road, pled not guilty to claiming income support, incapacity benefit, housing benefit and council tax benefit totalling £4,713.82 between April 4, 2008 and September, 12 2010 while working in a shop in the Lochaber village. Trial has been provisionally set for July 3.

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Duror man denies Stanley knife charges

A DUROR man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny knife-related charges during a series of incidents in Ballachulish on March 2. Ciaran Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, pled not guilty to having a Stanley knife in his possession, placing youths in a state of fear and alarm by brandishing the knife at them and assaulting a 14-year-old girl by pointing a knife at her body. Wilson, aged 26, also denied sending a message via a social networking site to a person in Kinlochleven threatening to kill him. Trial was set for June 19.

Court hears assault allegations

A FORMER Fort William man has denied a racially aggravated assault at a flat in the town. It is alleged Gary Wallace, of Flat 1, Caley House, Millburn Road, Inverness, punched the man on the body and racially abused him at the High Street property on April 9. Wallace is also charged with assaulting a woman during the same incident by pulling her hair, putting her in a headlock and squeezing her throat, which the accused also denies. Wallace was granted bail by Sheriff Douglas Small at Fort William Sheriff Court on condition he does not approach the Fort William flat or contact the individuals staying there.

Alleged 'satanist' accused of pet torture

AN ALLEGED 'satanist' has appeared at Fort William Sheriff court to deny charges of torturing two pet guinea pigs. It is alleged Jo Watson, of 43 Lochaber Road, subjected the animals to unnecessary suffering at the same address on April 13 and 14. Watson pled not guilty to pushing the pets around their cage, turning them onto their backs, repeatedly squeezing them, throwing them in the air, shaving one with foam and a razor, dropping them both from a height and putting them in a microwave. It is also alleged Watson stuck a pen inside the rear end of one of the animals. Watson, aged 20, further denies acting in a threatening and abusive manner and alarming five teenage girls at the address by saying he would kill the guinea pigs, that he was a satanist and that he had knocked out a cat and caused it brain damage. Sheriff Douglas Small granted bail on condition Watson did not attempt to contact or approach the girls. The case was continued to July 4. Trial was provisionally set for July 19.

Bakery owner backs employee in court

A LETTER of support from Nevis Bakery owner Archie Paterson persuaded a sheriff not to jail one of his employees who racially abused three Asian men on a bus. Martin Lawrie, aged 23, admitted acting in a racially aggressive manner towards the men on the vehicle between the Nevis Bank Hotel and Kilmallie Road in Caol on April 23. Lawrie, of 22 Glenpaine Street, Caol, had been drinking when he insulted the Asians and told them to speak English, causing them alarm and distress. At Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small considered a custodial sentence, but opted for a £570 fine instead after reading Mr Paterson's glowing testimonial and hearing Lawrie was returning to work at the bakery. He told Lawrie: 'Were it not for the fact you have a job starting on Monday and a very favourable character reference from your employer I would be sending you to prison.'

Car thief used own bank card to buy fuel

AN ACHARACLE car thief took his mates on a joyride to Glasgow - but was caught after using his own card to buy petrol. Craig Cope broke into a portable office owned by Slipway Motors at Corpach on June 21 last year, stole a set of keys then, with two unnamed accomplices, used them to steal a car parked in the firm's yard. Cope, of Treetops, Moss Road, had earlier pled guilty to both charges and was appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court to be sentenced. Prosecutor Alison Wylie told how the illegal daytrippers were captured on a speed camera in Glasgow. Cope, aged 32, also made the mistake of buying fuel - only two miles into the journey. She said: 'They managed to trace the accused because he had paid for £15.20 worth of petrol at Ben Nevis Filling Station using his own card.' Defending, Hamish Melrose

said Cope, a bricklayer, got the bus into Fort William on the day in question. He 'had too much to drink' and with two other persons stole the car. He said: 'It was taken for a round trip to Glasgow and later found in Inverloch. The car ended up only two miles from where it was stolen in the first place.' The vehicle's steering and suspension were damaged and costs to the owner for repairs were around £1,400. Cope, said Mr Melrose, returned to his family in Acharacle a year ago to help his father build two new houses. He had had a drug habit but was placed on a methadone programme and was now drug free. Mr Melrose asked Sheriff Douglas Small not to jail his client and impose a community service order instead. He said: 'Mr Cope intends to return to Sandwich in Ramsgate to work with his brother.' After hearing Cope had a

previous conviction for a similar offence, Sheriff Small told him: 'Were it not for the fact that your analogous offence was 10 years in the past I would seriously consider a custodial sentence.' The sheriff banned Cope from driving for two years and ordered him to perform 180 hours unpaid work in the community.



Dorota Palicka - announced as best nail technician in Scotland in the Glasgow Hilton.

Fort William beautician nails top award

A FORT William beautician is celebrating after being announced as Scotland's top nail technician. Dorota Palicka beat off stiff competition from hundreds of entrants at the INAA Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards in the Glasgow Hilton. The talented 27-year-old won a beautiful cut-glass trophy - and a stunning half-carat diamond worth £2,000. Dorota, who moved to Fort William from Slupsk, near the Polish Baltic port of Gdansk, six years ago,

Lochaber duo impress at strongman contest

TWO LOCHABER men took on some of the toughest men in the country in the Scotland's Strongest Man competition in Dumfries on Saturday. Caol man Jeremy Vickers managed a tenth place finish while Stuart Whyte finished a fantastic fourth and was awarded the best newcomer trophy. Whyte, of Spean Bridge, surprised the watching crowds with an impressive display in his first appearance in the competition. The 31-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'I got fourth place and the shield for best newcomer so I was chuffed with that. It was really good, a really good venue and great atmosphere as well. I did quite well in the truck pull and the Atlas stone, but the squat lift was quite hard. Only a few guys managed it.'

Whyte is now looking to compete in the UK's Strongest Man competition in Belfast in August and will enter the qualifying competition in July. Vickers, aged 25, told *The Oban Times* he had enjoyed taking part against the elite competition. He said: 'It was quite brutal but I managed to do everything. I was the lightest guy there by about four stones. I think the heaviest guy was nine stones more than me. It was my first time there and it was a good experience. I'll definitely go back.' Vickers, who recently set a new Scottish record for his weight by lifting a 132.5kg log, will next compete in Scotland's Strongest Man under 90kgs in August and is confident about his chances. He said: 'I've been runner up for the last two years, so hopefully I can go one better this time.'



Jeremy Vickers impressed in the Scottish Strongest Man competition last weekend.

Junior pipers celebrate success on shores of Loch Duich

LOCHALSH'S annual junior piping competition on the shores of Loch Duich on Saturday again attracted a good entry of young players keen to take home the silverware. And the Eilean Donan Piping Competition in Dornie saw no fewer than 18 players take part in the beginners' chanter. The event, open to pupils attending schools in the South Skye and Lochalsh area, was first held in Eilean Donan Castle in the late 1990s but moved to Dornie Hall next to the castle when Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band took over the running of the competition three years ago. Big prizewinners on the day were Martin MacRae from Kyleakin Primary, who won the overall B-Grade Piping, and Cameron Sharp from Plockton, who won the overall A-Grade. Owen Jack from Loch Duich Primary won the B-Grade chanter, while Lucy Martin from Kyle Primary won the A-Grade. Judges were Karen MacLean from Inverinate and John Don MacKenzie from Dornie. Results: Chanter (A Grade) Loch Duich Quaiach, Karen Fraser - 1 Lucy Martin; 2 Finn MacPherson; 3 Iona MacAuley-Smith; 4= Brighde Rankin, Eosaph Chaimbeul. Chanter (B Grade) Loch Duich Cup - 1 Owen Jack; 2 Caleb Wilson; 3 Martin Robertson; 4 Forest Bone; 5 Loudon Mackay; 6



Winners from last weekend's Eilean Donan Piping Competition show off their trophies.

Stòras Uibhist ballot papers issued

BALLOT papers for the election of directors to the Hebridean company operating as Scotland's largest community landowner have been sent out by Electoral Reform Services. Some 817 members of Sealladh na Beinne Mòire, which operates as Stòras Uibhist, can vote for up to two of four candidates bidding to fill the two vacancies. The community-run estate covers all of South Uist and Eriskay, and 90 per cent of Benbecula. Each year, the two longest-serving directors on the seven-strong board stand down to give others the chance to put their names forward. All ballot papers must be returned to Electoral Reform Services by midday on June 21 to be included in the count. Results are expected on the afternoon of Friday June 22 in advance of this year's AGM on Thursday June 28 in South End Hall, Daliburgh. The four candidates are: Sarah Margaret Anne MacEachen - proposer, Neil MacDonald; seconder, Donald John MacDonald. Ronald J MacKinnon - proposer, Ralph G Thompson; seconder, Flora Thompson. Calum MacMillan - proposer, Lynne Elizabeth MacMillan; seconder, Angus A MacDonald. Mary Theresa Schmolter - proposer, Alexander Campbell Sinclair; seconder, Margaret Catherine Walker.

Music school students stage concert

LOCHABER Music School (LMS) youngsters will put on its popular annual summer concert in Kilmallie Hall on Sunday afternoon. The pupils will demonstrate their musical abilities with instrumental and choral, classical and traditional performances. As well as the older children, nearly 40 pre-school kids - some as young as six months - will sing songs they've learned in recent months with their parents and tutors. After the concert, a fun day will be held. LMS music director Peter Rose said: 'The concert will be a dazzling showcase for all the activities that the music school continues to offer Lochaber's youngsters.'

Man fined for verbally abusing partner

A FORT William man verbally abused his partner after she went out on a drinking spree. Cameron Kirkham, aged 37, of 14 Young Place, admitted placing the woman in a state of fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at her at the address on June 24 last year. Prosecutor Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court Kirkham had been drinking when he challenged his partner where she had been all day. She said: 'The suspicion was that she had been with somebody else. He called her a useless bitch and a whore. All this was heard by a neighbour at 6.20pm. The relationship still appears to be volatile.' Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Kirkham's partner has a drink problem and he was 'annoyed' she had been taking alcohol. 'Words were exchanged and he claims he was set upon by his partner,' he said. 'Mr Kirkham himself has had problems with drinking, but he has been taking steps to address this.' Unemployed Kirkham, who had earlier admitted the charge, was fined £150 by Sheriff Douglas Small.

Ambitious Western Isles tourism project

AN AMBITIOUS project to establish the Western Isles as a 'must visit' tourist destination is underway. The Outer Hebrides Tourism Industry Association (OHTIA) will develop a destination brand for the islands and launch a new website later this year. The £150,000 initiative, supported by LEADER, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Scottish Natural Heritage is expected to bring wide-ranging benefits to the local economy and wider community. Ian Fordham, OHTIA chairman said: 'We need to make our voice heard above the competition by developing a strong, vibrant and recognisable brand and a website which presents clear, fresh and surprising information about all the islands. 'We hope this will encourage more people to visit more of our islands and stay longer than they otherwise would.' Workshops to promote the project will be held in Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist and Barra next week.

Drink driver handed himself over to police

A FORT Augustus man meekly handed himself over to police after an Invergarry petrol station attendant reported him for suspected drink driving. Fort William Sheriff Court heard Andrzej Pacek, of 2 Station Road pulled into Invergarry Filling station on the evening of February 7. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He spoke to the lady behind the counter, who was sure he was under the influence. She asked if he had been drinking, took his keys off him and made him wait until police arrived.' Defending, Eilidh MacDonald said the self-employed labourer had finished night shift before drinking in the early hours, but believed he was safe to drive. 'He fully co-operated with police,' she said. Pacek admitted driving while one and a half times over the permitted limit. Sheriff Small banned him from driving for 13 months and fined him £300.

Fort William volunteers rise to Caledonian Challenge

CHARITY volunteers in Fort William are to help co-ordinate this weekend's RBS Caledonian Challenge. Spean Bridge Senior Citizens Association (SBSCA) and Friends of Nevis (FoN) will both help out at the event on June 16 and 17. Hundreds of charity teams will attempt to walk 54 miles from Gairloch to the Caledonian Canal to Strathfillan near Crianlarich in just 24 hours. The Lochaber volunteers will act as trail markers, register entrants and help boost the walking teams' morale. In return, both organisations will receive a portion of the money raised from the event. John Fotheringham, who runs the SBSCA, said: 'We are delighted to be taking part for the fourth time and be in a position to help again this year and look forward to cheering the teams on. 'We're hoping the donations this year will allow the charity to fund a trip to Portree and organise our Christmas plans for lunches

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FW

Former Mallaig girl cooks jubilee lunch for royals

A FORMER Mallaig girl celebrated the Queen's diamond jubilee - by cooking up a tasty meal for the monarch and Prince Philip on the luxury barge leading the Thames flotilla.

Jacqueline Moffatt left the Lochaber port in March last year to take up a post as chef on the barge *The Spirit of Chartwell* before being headhunted as head chef by a local restaurant.

But when the barge owners asked if they could borrow Jacqueline back for a day to prepare a dainty dish for the Queen, she jumped at the chance. Proud mum Adelle Moffatt said: 'Not bad for a 24-year-old girl from a wee fishing port in the northwest Highlands of Scotland!'

Mòd Lochabair success



Winners from Mòd Lochabair line up after the presentation of trophies in Fort William RC Primary School on Friday afternoon.

Youngsters hit the high notes

MÒD Lochabair celebrated another successful event with a closing concert in Fort William RC Primary School on Friday afternoon.

Mod chairman Charlie MacColl told *The Oban Times* around 100 young people entered across all competitions. He said: 'I thought the overall standard was excellent. There were some outstanding children there and Rona Nicolson, the young piper from Skye, was among the absolute best.'

Trophy winners: Accordion and Fiddle Club Trophy for 13-18 fiddle - Hannah MacRae, Lochaber High School; Mary MacKillop Memorial Cup - John Stewart, Upper Achintore; Accordion/Fiddle Club Trophy for under-18 accordion - Liam Stewart, Lochaber High School; Lexie Campbell Memorial Trophy for Fluent Solo 5-6 - Donald Henderson, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Mrs Hobbs Cup, girls, for fluent solo 9-10 - Rachael Fraser, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Meur Loch Abair Cup for Chanter Under 10 - 1st equal - Laura Robertson and Archie Clark; Mrs Hobbs Cup, boys, for Fluent Solo 9-10 - Ragnhall MacKinnon,

Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain.

Lochaber Pipe Band Cup for Strathspey & Reel 13-15 - Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band and Finlay Cameron, Spear Bridge; Meur Lochabair Cup for Slow Air 6/8 March 13-15 - Rona Nicolson; Annie Sinclair Memorial Trophy for Jig Under 18 - Rona Nicolson; Meur Lochabair Cup for Fluent Poetry 5-6 - Jana Narvaez, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Kenny & Eileen Cameron Memorial Trophy for Jig Under 18 - Rona Nicolson; Meur Lochabair Cup for Fluent Poetry 5-6 - Jana Narvaez, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Highest combined marks in orals (13-18) and Caitness Glass Bowl - Ally Weir, Ard Sgoil Loch Abair; Ronald MacEachan Memorial Cup for under 13 Traditional Solo - Donna MacLeod, Banavie Primary; Kay Drummond Memorial Trophy for 13-15 Learners Solo (girls) - Hannah Calder, Lochaber High School; Annie Foster Memorial Trophy for Traditional Solo 13-15 - Fergus Munro, Lochaber



Faye MacKinnon, left, won Gaelic recitation (7-8 years) and Laura Robertson was joint winner in the chanter, 10 and under.



Jordan Currie, Gaelic song winner Amy MacKay and Connor Anderson show off their medals.

High School; Margaret Logan Memorial Trophy for 11-12 Learners Solo (girls) - Donna MacLeod; Winner of the MacColl Cup for most points in Highland Dancing - Jenna MacDonald.

Bluebell Croft wins top green business award

A STRONTIAN self-catering business has been honoured as the most sustainably minded in the whole of the UK.

At the Green Tourism Business Scheme Goldstar awards in Edinburgh last week, Bill and Sukie Barber of Bluebell Croft won the self-catering section.

Out of more than 2,300 contenders, 52 businesses were shortlisted and the Goldstar Awards went to just eight category winners.

A delighted Mr Barber said:

'With our own wind turbine, solar array and log boiler we can provide comfortably warm accommodation throughout the year without burning any oil - and this is still a working croft with cattle, pigs, ducks and more.'

Sukie added: 'Almost all of the food eaten by our family and what we sell to our guests comes from our croft - and it's this thorough approach to sustainability which we think appealed to the judges.'



Fort William RC P5 Gaelic medium pupils Rachael Fraser and Ragnhall MacKinnon won Gaelic solo singing for girls and boys, respectively.



Lewis MacRae took first prize for Gaelic poem and Gaelic conversation.

Walker airlifted to hospital from Skye

A FRENCH woman was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital after falling 100 feet while out walking at Uig on Skye last Thursday.

The 69-year-old was among a party hillwalking at Shearer, Uig, when she fell around 6pm, sustaining ankle and back injuries.

Fèis Day fun in high school

FÈIS Lochabair is holding a special 'Fèis Day' in Lochaber High School next Saturday.

Classes in piping, chanter, guitar, bodhran, whistle and accordion will take place in the morning, with group-work taking place in the afternoon.

The event, which is open to intermediate-advanced participants, will be followed by a dance in Skipinnish Cèilidh House, Fort William, with the Angus Nicolson Trio. For more information on the fèis day or the dance contact 01397 704132 or maria@feiscan.org.

GO

outdoors

WITH some of the most dramatic scenery and wild terrain on the planet, Scotland's west coast is a must for the would-be adventurer. In fact, many of the area's best visitor attractions are off the beaten track. That's why The Oban Times is here to give you some handy hints on the best places to visit - whether you are local or a visitor.

Argyll Adventure, near Inveraray, is one of the county's undiscovered gems, allowing groups to take part in an array

of activities, from paintball and laser blast to horse riding and climbing walls. And Achnalarig Stables, near Oban, is one of the best known stables in the area and offers riding and trekking for all abilities, whatever the weather. For the golfers among you, why not try Taynuilt Golf Course, one of the more scenic on the west coast in the shadow of Ben Cruachan. The course will suit all levels of ability. Also in Taynuilt, TFC Boats offers

sight seeing from its Loch Etive base. For a feast of family fun, head down to Seil, where you'll find the unique Highland Arts Exhibition. As well as offering plenty to see, you can take in a round of putting at its famed 12-isle putting green. For the ultimate summer adventure, why not enrol the children in one of this year's Struan Summer Camps in July. These camps will be an experience your young ones are not going to forget in a hurry.

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Taynuilt Golf Club is surrounded by mountains and overlooks picturesque Loch Etive. Visitors are welcome at any time - no handicap certificate is required. There may be restrictions for short periods on Tuesdays and Sundays for club competitions. The club recently opened a new clubhouse with modern toilet and changing facilities

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FW

Emergency tug comes back to the west coast

AN EMERGENCY tug will be publicly funded to serve the west coast of Scotland for the next three years after a U-turn by the UK Government.

Scottish secretary Michael Moore confirmed on Tuesday that funding for a vessel would be provided until 2015.

The announcement brings to an end a hard fought campaign, led by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council and Northern Isles Council, who said maintaining the tug was vital to safety on the west coast.

It remains unclear where the Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) will be based. A second tug is to be contracted under a commercial call-out agreement, although this is likely to serve the Northern Isles and funded by the oil and gas industry.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's leader, Angus Campbell, who has been vocal in his opposition to the plans since they were announced late last year, said: 'I'm absolutely delighted. Securing a publicly funded tug for the Minch has been a very hard fight but I'm really pleased with the outcome.'

'We made the case quite strongly that there was no alternative to providing an ETV except for public funds.'

Argyll and Bute MP, Liberal Democrat Alan Reid, had previously raised the issue with his own government, making address directly to the Prime Minister. He said: 'This is good news for west coast seafarers and the protection of our environment from leaks from wrecked vessels. I am pleased that the government has now come up with the cash to fund the emergency tug.'

Fellow Liberal Democrat, Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'It's good news that this essential service will be retained, as I and many others have been arguing for. This is the right decision arrived at by Liberal Democrats in government.'

'Congratulations to all who campaigned for this result.'

NEWSDESK
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Following their Olympic dream

These four excited Tainuult youngsters were among many who made the trip to various parts of Argyll, west Perthshire and Inverness-shire to see the Olympic torch as it passed through the west coast on its way to Inverness last Saturday. From left to right, Logan Campbell, Calum MacDonald, Megan Day and Katie MacDonald made sure that they had their Olympic mascots Mandeville, Mandeville, Wenlock and... Mandeville...with them as they cheered the torch on its way through Tyndrum.

Argyll Legionnaire's Disease patient's condition deteriorates

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman being treated for Legionnaire's Disease after contracting the illness during a stay in Edinburgh has been moved to Glasgow after her condition deteriorated. The woman was receiving

treatment in Lochgilphead's Mid Argyll Community Hospital but NHS staff decided to move her to Glasgow's Southern General for specialised care.

NHS Lothian, which is tracking all cases of the disease

contracted in Edinburgh, said it wouldn't comment on individual cases.

At the time of going to press, 88 cases of Legionnaires' have been confirmed or suspected by NHS Lothian.

It is thought a cooling tower in the south west of the city is the source of the outbreak.

There is no suspected outbreak of the disease in Argyll and Bute. Spread through water vapour, it is not infectious.

Islanders outraged as irreplaceable plate is stolen



The direction plate on Summit of Beinn nan Gudairean.

Photo: Ruari Cumming.

THE THEFT of a bronze-plated landmark on the Isle of Colonsay has caused outrage among islanders.

The irreplaceable direction plate, which sat at the summit of Beinn nan Gudairean, was commissioned in 1936 and unveiled by islanders two years later.

Its absence was only discovered last Friday when pupils from the island primary school climbed the hill to take a rubbing of the plate. However, the theft is likely to have taken place between September 8, 2011 and April 4 this year.

Islander Kevin Byrne, who is heading up the publicity campaign to find the plate, said everyone on the island is outraged with the crime.

'I have had so many comments from people, expressing outrage

and disgust but we all have the same feeling of revulsion,' he said.

'Scum'

'A long time ago this community raised money to put this plate up and it was restored at the millennium by the late Finlay MacFadyen. It is really important to people.'

'Whoever has done this has been welcomed into this community and has abused our hospitality. What kind of scum behaves like this.'

The plate, which is roughly 30 inches in diameter, has been prised from its concrete base. While the scrap metal value would be minimal, the cost to the community of replacing the plate would run into thousands of pounds.

PC Jeremy Moore of Oban Police, who is investigating

the crime, said: 'I would like to hear from anyone who has information about this theft, or has seen the plate within the last 12 months.'

'Someone, somewhere, will recognise this. The main thing is this plate is returned.'

The plate was designed by James Macaulay, the Glasgow-based town planner, who also designed the indicator for Craigs Top at Greenock. It had been mounted upon a special cairn, within the cartilage of an ancient look-out post, itself a listed monument.

If anyone has information about the theft, they can contact the police on 01631 510 500. Alternatively they can phone Mr Byrne on 01951 200 320, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Brave could open tourism floodgates

VOLUNTEERS are urgently required if Oban and Lorn is to take full advantage of a potential goldmine in the shape of Disney Pixar's latest blockbuster, Brave.

The animated Scottish tale from the Hollywood giant has its glitzy world premiere on Monday, before going on general release across the States on June 22, opening in Europe the following week.

Keen-eyed locals have already noticed direct comparisons between the film's setting and Argyll's unique topography - with likenesses in the geography too, mossy woods, hills and lochs.

'We do want to take advantage of that but we haven't had time to put together something because we're really short on the committee.'

'We just need a couple more people to come and help coordinate our advertising. It is absolutely essential we do that.'

'We haven't been able to do that effectively this year so it's something we want to get back

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

up and running as quickly as we can.'

Brave has been described by Disney as an epic tale set in the mystical Scottish Highlands, where headstrong protagonist, Merida, is forced to discover the true meaning of bravery.

In March, VisitScotland announced a world-first marketing agreement with Disney to promote both the film and Scotland as a tourist destination.

VisitScotland chairman Dr Mike Cantley said: 'People would be right to recognise parts of Scotland in the film because Pixar travelled extensively across the country for inspiration.'

'There are very few tourism destinations that get to work so closely with the world's largest entertainment companies - and this gives VisitScotland an unprecedented opportunity to put Scotland on the worldwide stage.'

If you are interested in joining the OLTA committee, contact Linda on 01631 564501 or email l.battison@oban.org.uk.

Kilmore man denies indecency and drugs charges

A MAN who was arrested after processing indecent photographs in an Oban store faces a jury in Oban Sheriff Court this week.

Timothy Robson, 50, of Balinoe Cottage, Kilmore is accused of indecently assaulting a female while she was asleep between July 28 and 29, 2010.

Robson is further accused of supplying his victim with diazepam between January 1, 2010 and July 29, 2010.

The court was shown graphic images of Robson's alleged crime on Tuesday.

The first witness had been working in customer services at Tesco's Oban store. He told the court that Robson had come into the store to have photos taken off a memory stick and put on a cd. While processing the job he saw the photos which

he described as showing a 'girl, relatively young, naked with actions being done to her'.

Police contacted the victim and asked her to attend Oban Police Office where they explained the images that were on the cd.

The court heard accounts of the girl's shock and distress at viewing the images with one officer telling the court she seemed 'dismayed'.

Defence counsel Lewis Kennedy, on cross examination, suggested that it could be the idea of the images being made public that caused the upset.

Robson denies the charges and has lodged a special defence of consent. A jury of nine men and six women will decide the verdict.

As *The Oban Times* went to print the case continued.

Advertiser

Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Denture Studio

"I believe that the situation regarding dentures in Scotland is scandalous"

Regarding the report in last weeks Oban Times I feel compelled to explain to the people of Oban and Argyll about the set up of the General Dental Council (GDC).

The GDC is a London based organisation and the Council is made up of twelve dental professionals and twelve lay members. The make up of dental professionals on the council is totally undemocratic as there are more Dental Nurses than there are Dentists. However, Dentists have eight members on the council as opposed to one Dental Nurse; therefore Dentists obviously have more influence when it comes to policy decisions.

I believe that the situation regarding dentures in Scotland is scandalous. Dentists do not actually make the dentures and they require technicians to make them for them. That was all well and good twenty five years ago when the training of Dentists incorporated one year in the Dental Laboratory. Training in denture provision today by Dentists is minimal and it is little wonder that a frustrated denture wearing public seek an alternative.

Dr Clark of St Thomas's Dental Institute in London stated some fifteen years ago in an article in the Sunday Post that the current training of Dentists in denture provision was inadequate and they were not as competent. In the same article a leading Glasgow Dentist went further and said "their skills were dire and they were clumsy and not practised with their hands". Therefore; how can it be in the public interest for the GDC to sanction a system that is so obviously inadequate?

Our association requested a meeting with the Chief Executive of the GDC to discuss the denture issue in Scotland. A meeting was arranged for the spring of 2009 and we asked the Chief Executive if he could supply us with figures over the past fifty years of incidents where Dental Technicians/Denturists had actually harmed patients. There was not one incident that he could report. Where therefore was the safety issue? Making dentures is a totally non invasive procedure.

At a symposium in Edinburgh in 2010 the Chief Dental Officer was asked about the

scandalous situation regarding elderly patients in nursing and care homes where their dentures have been lost. The current system of community Dentists, local Dentists replacing them can take two to three months but in some cases the patients only have weeks to live, therefore this is not allowing the patient to die in a dignified manner. Surely these dentures are required to be made in a day or two? The answer was as long as it was safe to do so. I personally have provided this service on many occasions, and the relatives of these patients have been very grateful even if the powers that be do not think so.

Regarding my erasure from the GDC, I did attend the hearing in London although I vehemently objected to having to leave my own country to do so. My solicitor advised me that I would have to stay in London for five days and regardless of what evidence I provided I would probably be suspended for six months. It is little wonder therefore that I RESIGNED FROM THE GDC before the hearing proceeded. The six members who sit on the panel for

these hearings get paid I believe £300 a day plus expenses. It is therefore little wonder that they want the hearings to last five days. Do the maths. The London based GDC spend millions every year on teams of solicitors and barristers carrying out these investigations. I MAKE FALSE TEETH

I am a working class boy, originally from the Gorbals in Glasgow (of which I am immensely proud) whose ancestral roots are in Clachan Seil Oban to where I intend to retire. My working class parents taught me many values; one of these was honesty and another to stand up for what you believe in. I intend, with every fibre of my being to stand up for my right to continue making dentures and my right to do so are the testimonials I have from hundreds of satisfied clients whom the system (Dentists) could not satisfy. Also the many thousands of other clients who come back to me for dentures on a regular basis.

I would like to thank the many people of Oban and Argyll who have already phoned and e-mailed me offering their support.

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Oban's Dunollie cultural hub seeks new development manager

'It's the right time to let someone else come in, with the expertise this place requires to move on and thrive.'

A SOCIAL enterprise that has transformed Dunollie into an important cultural hub is entering a new era with the announcement that its driving force is to depart.

Dunollie, the seat of the Clan MacDougall, has this week advertised for new sustainability and development manager to

replace Catherine Gillies, who has worked tirelessly on the Hope MacDougall collection since 1996.

Catherine is to leave in September to work on a PhD with Edinburgh University.

For Catherine, confirmation of her departure is bitter-sweet. On one hand, Dunollie's 1745 House

is now open after years of work and leaving will be a wrench, on the other, driving the project on in a meaningful way means new skills are required.

However, she won't be far away from Dunollie.

Her PhD focuses on Highland Revival costume, the style of traditional tartan clothing that

features heavily in the Hope MacDougall collection, stored at Dunollie, and led to the style of Highland dress favoured today.

Catherine said: 'Dunollie is a fabulous place to start this and then I'm going to open this up to other places.'

'Dunollie is international-stage important and I can't tell you

how excited I am going out to delve further in to this and put it on that kind of stage.

Research

'It's starting to happen already but there's nothing like good research and being published to bring it to the fore.'

'Leaving is a bit like putting my baby up for adoption, but

when I look at it all the cans I had lined up to get this place open and running are now down. It's the right time to let someone else come in, with the expertise this place requires to move on and thrive. I don't have that expertise.'

Catherine said Dunollie requires someone experienced in

business and social enterprise to build revenue and sustainability for the 1745 House and cultural centre, including managing grant applications and improving estate profitability.

Further details on the position can be found on our recruitment page. For more on Dunollie, visit dunollie.org.

Local business hit hard by Dunbeg roadworks

A LOCAL business saw its takings drop by 50 per cent after two weeks of disruptive peak time roadworks on the A85 near Dunbeg.

Poppies Garden Centre and cafe watched in horror as queues of 100 cars built up while Scotland TranServ contractors operated a convoy system during resurfacing work on the road between Oban and Connel.

Waits of up to 45 minutes were regularly reported by drivers and so bad was the disruption that Poppies had to cut back staff hours to compensate for the hit to trade. Owner Gary MacPherson said the situation was doubly frustrating because it echoes the disruption caused last July.

He has now called for TranServ to consider evening works in the first instance in the interests of business and tourism and to engage more with local business before confirming plans.

He said: 'It's exactly the same situation we experienced in July last year - with roadworks at the same time as the orienteering event. I simply cannot understand why they cannot do this work during the night, like everywhere else.'

'We were notified about a month in advance, but it was worse than we thought it would be. We also heard from tourists that Oban couldn't handle the volumes of traffic that were coming through at once.'

'It was just ridiculous.'

A spokesman for Scotland TranServ said the works could not be carried out overnight due to noise issues, as it is within a built up area with accommodation providers.

Regulations on road width meant a convoy system was required to ensure traffic passed at 10mph, he added.

He further said: 'In April, the scheme designer carried out a full consultation process with all those affected, including the business community.'

'Only one emergency service responded.'

'In addition a letter drop was carried out ensuring that those directly affected were aware of the works.'

Business boost for town centre

Public house re-opens as new upmarket hotel is revealed

A DEAL to buy Oban's Tartan Tavern has been agreed exactly one year after the business closed - as details emerge about a new boutique hotel for the town.

On Friday, Stevie Shaw, who runs the Rowan Tree Hotel on George Street, agreed a deal to purchase the neighbouring Tartan Tavern, which closed last June after being seized by HM Revenue and Customs.

Meanwhile, local businessman Paul Sloan has revealed details of a new 17-bedroom hotel on Stevenson Street, The Ranald, which is due to open on September 1.

Elsewhere, on Stafford Street Little Bay Cafe's Robert McKay has taken over Scott's on Stevenson Street, which will be renamed Scott's Sandwich Deli and Espresso Bar.

The developments come weeks after commercial agents Colliers confirmed final bidder status had been awarded to a party interested in buying the Oban Inn.

For both Stevie Shaw and Paul

"There is no magic wand. It's about working hard"

Paul Sloan

Sloan, news of new business in the town is giving Oban the feel-good factor.

After agreeing the deal to buy the Tartan Tavern, Mr Shaw said: 'I want to retain the traditional feel to the bar and I see it as part of the rejuvenation of that end of the town, which includes the new Scotch Corner shop and the cinema.'

The licence of the premises has expired, however, and he is working hard to get it reinstated as soon as possible.

The Ranald Hotel, meanwhile, is due to open on September 1 and is to be aimed at the upper end of the market.

Mr Sloan said: 'The hotel is a big thing for us. It's the first brand new hotel and investment at this level in the town for a long time - at a time when people say times are hard.'

'I honestly feel this is a good time for Oban. People are going abroad less - although we don't have the same number of foreign tourists.'

'But we have the MacLeod's hotel progressing and other business moving forward. We have to move forward and I cannot overplay the importance of Oban BIDS.'

'It's all about progress. People talk about recession but we're going to be trading the way we are today for a long time yet. The word recession will just stop being used.'

'There's no magic wand. It's about working hard.'

Mr Sloan also paid tribute to those working towards re-opening the Oban Phoenix Cinema, saying it would be a major boost for the town.



Kebabish Curry House owner Shaukat Chaudhry with the Scottish Curry Awards plaque he picked up after the business was named north west Scotland's take away of the year. 15_124kebabish1

Oban and Fort William come top in Scottish Curry Awards

OBAN'S Kebabish Curry House has been named the producer of one of Scotland's finest take away curries, while Fort William's Spice Tandoori one of the country's finest restaurants.

The businesses were named regional winners of the hungryhouse.co.uk Scottish Curry Awards 2012 at an awards ceremony held in Glasgow's Thistle Hilton on Monday night, facing off stiff competition from throughout the north west region.

In the takeaway of the year awards final, Kebabish triumphed over Inverness' Max's 2, while Spice Tandoori was named winner of the Restaurant of the Year Award

ahead of Oban's Coriander, Fort William's Indian Garden and Inverness' Rajah Indian Restaurant.

More than 7,000 nominations

Even being nominated was an achievement though, with more than 7,000 suggestions being sent to the Scottish Curry Awards from across the country.

With more than 600 guests attending the event on Monday evening, winners were only announced on the night.

Kebabish owner, Shaukat Chaudhry, said: 'It was a total surprise to me. I didn't know anything about it until two weeks ago when the organisers called me.'

'There was thousands of nominations so it's a great achievement.'

Yasmin Mahmood, operations and business development manager for Oceanic Consulting which organises the event, said: 'After five years putting this event on, this year saw old faces and was also fresh with new contenders.'

'It was a fantastic evening and I would like to thank everyone for attending and a big thank you to our sponsors.'

'Congratulations to all our winners and finalists.'

Spice Tandoori was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Council planning team nominated for three awards

ARGYLL and Bute Council's planning department is the only one to be nominated three times in the National Planning Awards 2012.

The council has been nominated in: the Community Engagement category for The Craighish Plan, the Development Plans category for The Woodland and Forestry Strategy and the Quality of Service category for Creating Agile Planners.

Chairman of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee Councillor Sandy Taylor said: 'Who could fail to be impressed by the team's achievement being nominated three times at the Scottish National Planning Awards. Each nomination is for a very different, worthy project that reflects well on the team. I wish the team every success.'

Hill walker dies near Appin

A MEMBER of a walking group died on Sunday after falling while climbing Beinn Sgualaid, near Appin.

Glasgow man Douglas Connor, aged 48, was part of a walking club from Paisley, which was in the area.

Police received a report at around 4.20pm after the man had fallen and the Strathclyde Police Mountain Rescue Team was mobilised.

The body was removed from the hill at 7.40pm.

Fuel tank emptied at Lochawe

A COMMERCIAL fuel tank in Lochawe was found to have been drained just a day after it was filled.

The tank was filled on Sunday but was found to be empty at around 11am on Monday morning. Anyone who saw any suspicious activity in the village that morning is encouraged to contact PC Iain Young at Dalmailly Police Station.

Teenager charged

A TEENAGER has been charged after challenging people to a fight in Craigard Road, Oban, last Saturday night.

The 15-year-old has been charged with conducting himself in a disorderly manner.

Comedian invited to start Big Strip

ORGANISERS of this year's Big Strip have invited comedian Kevin Bridges to start the event, which takes place the day of his show in Oban's Corran Halls.

BID4Oban is hoping to build on last year's inaugural event in Oban's George Street, which attempted to break the world record for the largest Strip the Willow, and have called on the Glasgow funnyman to kick

things off. For this year's challenge, between 5pm - 8pm on July 14, BID4Oban is seeking 2,012 dancers to reel their way around Stevenson Street and Airds Crescent, aided by some of the town's best traditional musicians.

And by doing so, organisers believe they will set a new world record.

The event will form a mini

street party with stalls, live music, a massed choir, a pipe band and street performers.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'We are getting the town ready for a party and would love to see the whole community, including the schools and businesses, getting involved in the Big Strip.'

'To have Kevin Bridges starting the event would really be the

icing on the cake.' BID4Oban co-ordinator Pauline Cameron said: 'The Big Strip 2012 will show how a well organised community event like this can boost tourism in the town.'

Project

'It is the type of project we could have far more of if we have a BIDS scheme in Oban.'

In order to monitor the numbers taking part in the event pre-

registration is required. Details on how to register online will be announced soon but in the meantime, forms are available from business outlets on Oban.

For more information e-mail info@bid4oban.co.uk

The Oban Times contacted Kevin Bridges' representatives, who were unable to confirm whether Kevin Bridges would be attending the Big Strip.



Kevin Bridges.

Oban man in court on drink driving charge

AN OBAN man appeared from custody at the town's sheriff court on Monday accused of driving while three and a half times the legal limit.

Arthur MacLennan, 68, of 13 Kerrera Terrace, pled not guilty to the alleged offence on June 8 at Corran Brae, Oban.

He was granted bail and is expected to stand trial on August 8.



Some of John's West Highland Walkers in training for their trek. 15_124walk01

Family to walk West Highland Way in memory of John

THE FAMILY of an Oban man who died before he could fulfil an ambition to walk the West Highland Way are taking on the trek in his memory.

Outdoors enthusiast John Bichard died on November 11 last year, 18 months after being diagnosed with bowel cancer. His family and friends have now decided take on the 96-mile walk in his name and will use the trek as a fundraising drive for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The 14-strong group, John's West Highland Walkers, will set out on July 6 and plan to finish on July 13.

The group has a target fundraising total of £2,500 but are more than halfway to achieving the amount.

John's daughter Nicola said: 'The support and advice we received from our Macmillan nurses was incredible. From listening to worries and moans and giving advice to popping in for a cuppa and a chat, whenever we needed them they were always there every step of the way.'

'In a nutshell, they made a horrible time a whole lot easier for us all.'

Donations can be made through the group's JustGiving page, www.justgiving.com/john-bichard

Furnace and Islay win in Scottish Education Awards

THE QUALITY of education within Argyll was celebrated on the national stage this week as two schools won accolades at the Scottish Education Awards.

Furnace Primary School's Alison Robertson was named educational support worker of the year, whilst Islay's Port Ellen Primary School won the learning through technology award.

Celebrated for her overall contribution to school life, Furnace's Ally said she was 'astounded' to be bestowed with such an honour. Speaking after the glittering award ceremony, held in Glasgow on Tuesday, she said: 'I was surprised but delighted. It is great for the school and we are all really proud. I want to thank everyone who supported me; it is a fantastic team that we have at the school.'

Teachers and staff at Port Ellen primary were also praised for using technology and social networking sites like Twitter to boost the learning experiences of their pupils. Speaking to The Oban Times, headteacher Maureen Macdonald said: 'The essence of what we do is opening up the barriers to learning through technology. We try to make learning creative through the use of technology. We use twitter to communicate and parents are really involved in what we do so it is about the whole community and that is one our strengths.'

FLOORSHOP

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The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven on Tuesday 26 June 2012

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DUNOLLIE Sustainability and Development Manager: DUNOLLIE

The 1745 House
Full-time £29,000 per annum. Initial contract 2 years. Based in Oban, Argyll.

An experienced business and social enterprise all-rounder is required to build revenue and sustainability at The 1745 House Museum and Cultural Centre at Dunollie through expansion of visitor facilities and commercial activities, and improved estate profitability. The postholder will play the key role in the small staff team and will be responsible for the management of The 1745 House, with specific duties focussed on project development and management, including grant applications and international fundraising. This new post represents an exciting opportunity to help bring a major new cultural tourism development into successful and sustainable longterm operation. Applications by email comprising covering letter and CV to Catherine Gillies at info@dunollie.org by 5pm Friday 29th June.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Bryden Enterprises require a young apprentice who is looking for a career as a restorer to work alongside Bryden Enterprises.

The work is physically demanding and you should be capable of managing yard and maintaining equipment to a high standard while learning the trade. Accommodation will be provided when working outwith the local area.

Applications should be sent to Bryden Enterprises, Craiglea, Lochailort PH38 4LZ. Telephone 01687 470404 or email john@brydenenterprises.co.uk

Bryden Enterprises is looking for someone who is career minded, self motivated and IT literate.

They will be based in the office, answering telephones and managing the office but will also be required to have a knowledge of building websites. They will be career driven and motivated in pushing a small business forward and building online sales. The position is based in Lochailort and is flexible.

Applications should be sent to Bryden Enterprises, Craiglea, Lochailort PH38 4LZ. Telephone 01687 470404 or email john@brydenenterprises.co.uk

ALSO TRANSPORT SERVICES

Due to an increase in work we require a HGV Driver for Artic work

Please apply: 01852 300393
Rycroft, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban PA34 4RJ

Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia

Singing Leader Required

Alzheimer Scotland (Oban Branch) is seeking a Singing Leader for its weekly Singing for the Brain group. The Singing Leader will design and deliver a programme of musical activities aimed at helping people with dementia to retain as many personal skills as possible.

If you are interested in this post which pays c. £50 per weekly session, you are invited to contact Elizabeth Little on 01631 564215 for further details.

Please submit CV and covering letter to: Alzheimer Scotland Resource Centre, 12 High Street, Oban, PA34 4BG or email to obandrc@alzscot.org

Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland 149069. Registered Office: 22 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7RN. It is recognised as a charity by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, no. SC022315

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Lynn of Lorne Care Home

An excellent opportunity has become available for a Deputy Manager at our Nursing Home in Benderloch

We are looking for a professional and motivated person with at least two years' experience in dementia and elderly care at management level.

Candidates must be a part of the NMC register and hold a current pin number. Mental Health Registration would be an advantage but not essential. Salary negotiable depending on experience.

We also require Bank RN & Bank Care Assistants
To apply for these positions please contact Arlene Campbell (Manager) or Barbara Cowan (Administrator) on 01631 720 278 for an Application form and Job Description

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Applications in writing with cv to:
Practice Manager, Tarbert Medical Practice, Campbelltown Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TY
Closing date 29th June 2012

Three out of three for Oban cricketers

CRICKET

OBAN made it three wins in three games in the Argyll and Islands League after a comfortable win at Carradale.

Batting first, Oban raked to 17 runs from the first over thanks to three boundaries from Mal Mackenzie.

Carradale's Aidan Keogh bowled with genuine pace and he stole the momentum for the home side when he removed Mackenzie, Leach and Laycock to leave Oban at 28 for 3.

Taj Islam took his season's tally to 220 runs with a typically cavalier innings of 36, including three sixes and four fours. Koyes Khan, Kenny Mackenzie and Davie Brown added useful runs to take Oban to 127 all out.

Andrew Leach continued his fine bowling form when he took the early wicket of McMillan and took two more wickets himself.

The young Carradale tail-end impressed but wickets from Brown and Khan left Oban winners by 74 runs.

Oban next travel to Dunadd for a league fixture against Mid Argyll on June 17.

Invitation triples at Oban Bowling Club

BOWLING

OBAN Bowling Club hosted its annual Invitation Triples last Saturday, with teams from Tarbert and Colntariva joining local teams to make a total of 15 entries.

After the round robin section was completed three Oban teams and one visiting team made up the semi-finalists with two Oban teams making it to the final.

The final was contested by young skip Andrew Forbes, his grandmother, Helen MacLean, and his Mum, Donna Forbes with the eventual winners being the experienced team of skip Gus MacGillivray, his wife, Elizabeth MacGillivray, and Iain Smith.

The following day the Oban Green hosted a friendly game with some of the carpet bowlers from the area.

Alasdair in Brick & Steel line-up

RALLYING

TOBERMORY'S Alasdair Currie will be on the starting line for this weekend's 2012 Brick & Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge third round.

The 14 year old will be joined by co-driver Garry Muir, from Mintlaw, at the Craill Junior Summer Rally on Saturday, on the old Craill aerodrome.

June medal held at Islay Golf Club

GOLF

JUNE Medal: 1 Alistair MacMillan, 91 less 19 net 72; 2 Paul Cairns, 99 less 24 net 75; 3 Lachlan Gairns, 86 less 11 net 75. Css 74.

Summer League: 1 Paul Cairns 39pts; 2 Kenny Gillies 39pts; 3 Alistair Thomson 38pts. Css 71.

Quy Ouach Trophy: 1 Calum Davey, 70 + 66 = 136; 2 Donald Logan, 72 + 70 = 142; 3 Angus MacAllister, 74 + 70 = 144.

Rugby's just a beach on Islay

RUGBY

IT WAS another home victory at the Islay Beach Rugby Tournament when Kilchoman Distillery took the Laddie Cup, but Oban Lorne were the surprise package of the day by finishing runners-up.

The five-a-side tournament, which is backed by Bruichladdich Distillery and Islay Rugby Club, escaped the threat of rain to entertain a total of 32 teams at the White Hart beach.

Oban Lorne reached the semi-final the previous year, when they lost out to eventual winners Bruichladdich Distillery.

Placed in a tough group with Ardbeg, Glasgow High Old Boys, Dumfries and Loch Lomond, Oban set themselves a target of progressing from the group.

But the men in green, led by new captain Robin MacQueen, eased through their pool games with a 1-0 win over Ardbeg, 5-1 win versus Glasgow High Old Boys, an impressive 6-0 win against Dumfries and a 4-1 win over Loch Lomond.

This set up a semi-final with Strathmore, which saw Oban



Oban Lorne were the surprise package at this year's Islay Beach Rugby Tournament.

Lockhart brothers do well in Jim Clark Rally

RALLYING

OBAN'S Lockhart brothers, Stephen and Kevin, won their group and came 10th place overall in the recent Jim Clark Reviers Rally.

The rally held in the village of Duns was part of the Scottish Rally Championship.

Difficult

Weather conditions made tyre choices difficult but Stephen took the decision to go out on slicks on their Mitsubishi Evo for stage one, but a quick shower on that stage made it a difficult run causing the boys to spin four times. Weather quickly dried up and when they ran the stage again the boys were making great time, stopping the clocks 38 seconds quicker.

Looking forward

The brothers, who are sponsored by Gregor Johnstone Joiners, Sinclair Plant and Dawson Energy Limited, are looking forward to their next round taking place on June 30 in Dumfries.



Oban High School S1 girls team, Roanne Lilley, Jade Dowell and Emma Baird, show off their trophy.

Medal success for Oban and Taynuilt orienteers

ORIENTEERING

THERE was medal success for school pupils from Taynuilt and Oban at the weekend in the Scottish Schools Orienteering event.

Taynuilt's Eilidh Shearer won the p5/6 girls individual event and later teamed up with Ceri Powell and Emily Hunter to place second in the P5/6 team event.

Ewan Shearer, Alastair Lilley and Sorley Inall, also from Taynuilt Primary School, won the boys event in the same age group.

Roanne Lilley, Emma Baird and Jade Dowell from Oban High School won the S1 team event.

At the event in Lanark, which attracted 30 schools, Callum Hunter took second place for the S1 Boys, Roanne Lilley came third in the S1 girls and Murray Peden achieved third in the S5/6 boys event.

Meanwhile, EckO orienteering club members Rona Shearer and Louis Macmillan both came in third place in the Scottish Championships in Braemar, also at the weekend.

SYFA chief executive praises standard as Oban hosts six team tournament



Oban Saints' Craig Easton weaves his way past several defenders during one of his many mazy runs. 15_1245yfa3

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

THE SCOTTISH Youth Football Association's (SYFA) chief executive praised the standard of football in Oban on Sunday, before insisting trophy-less tournaments for kids is working.

David Little took three teams from Glasgow to Oban High School's artificial pitch as part of a P7's tournament on Sunday, giving budding players the opportunity to test themselves against new opposition.

The round-robin tournament had no prize for first - or any other - place, but there was no sign from the players that they weren't taking it seriously.

Parents and managers too were keen to see their sides win, but Little insists offering no top prize is a winning solution to youth development.

He said: "The bonus about it is the money clubs and associations would spend on trophies can now be invested in coaching and having fields such as this one at Oban High School. That's good for the game."

Important

"It is a development thing as well. The game grows with the children and I think it's important to introduce medals and trophies at the right time to aid development."

Parents and managers too were keen to see their sides win, but Little insists offering no top prize is a winning solution to youth development.

After it was pointed out that both teams have a higher percentage of foreigners than most teams in Europe, he said: "That's a fair point, but if you look at the percentage of those players developed there. It's all about the ethos."

"It's a successful development programme and it's much easier to say to kids, look at [Portuguese footballer] Ronaldo. If you want to be like him, you've got to practise."



Harry Powell and his daughter Anne are welcomed to Atlantis Leisure by Linda Oxland of the West Highland Tennis Committee. Harry and Anne unveiled a plaque and trophy cabinet commemorating the late Grace Powell, who was a stalwart of Oban Tennis Club and the West Highland Tennis Championship. 124cabnet

Youth football tournament

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THE annual AMP Youth Football Tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club will take place at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday 23 June.

Six pro-youth teams - Kilmarnock, St Mirren, Hamilton Accies, Clyde, Queens Park and Dumbarton along with Oban Saints and Lochgilphead will take part.

Saints find themselves in a tough group with Kilmarnock, Hamilton Accies, last year's winners and Queens Park.

The tournament gets underway at 10.30am.

Centenary Open at Glencruitten

GOLF

GLENCRUITTEN Centenary Open was held at the weekend with Graham MacColl winning the handicap section with a score of 59 - 3 = 56.

Alan Jamieson was second with 70 - 7 = 60, Gerry Davis (Dalmally) was third with a score of 67 - 7 = 60 (BIH) and Paul Kersley fourth.

Allan McKie won the scratch prize with a score of 62 (BIH), with Kevin Mackie taking second place.

Entries are now being taken for the Glencruitten Open on August 11.

This Saturday the competition is in aid of Cancer Research.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THIS weekend's results: Under 13s 1, Renton 3. Scoring for Saints was James MacIntyre.

Friendly - Ardencaple 4, Under 15s 2. On target for Saints were DJ Orr and Stuart MacLeod.

The youth teams are holding their end of season awards ceremony in Oban High School on Friday evening.

The players will now be having a well earned break from games, but training sessions are to continue during the summer.

Peter wins Western Approaches Trophy

GOLF

WESTERN Approaches Trophy played on June 9: 1 Peter MacCrone, 39 points; 2 Shaun Fisher, 28 points; 3 Graham Davidson, 36 points; 4 Fulton Sweeney (Vaul), 35.

Cadden Cup played on June 10: Tobermory v Vaul (Tiree) - Tobermory Golf Club won five games to one.

Saints pre-season training schedule

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team will start pre-season training on Wednesday 4 July. New players are welcome to attend and are asked to report to Oban Lorne Rugby Club at 6.30pm.

Dates for pre-season tournaments and games - Keyline Cup Tournament, 14 July; Westerlands, 21 July; East Kilbride, 28 July; Greenock, 4 August; Fort William, date to be arranged. The Scottish Amateur League programme starts on Saturday 11 August.

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Fort Cricket Club's cup dream dashed

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club's dreams of reaching the Cup semi-final were dashed on Saturday by a rampant Highland team at the BA Club.

The Inverness club chose to bat first, and in ideal conditions quickly racked up a big score with Jonathan Crabtree reaching 106 before being well caught by Sean Fraser on the boundary.

Fort's Ewan McNeil slowed the Highland onslaught and Ronnie Maclean was at his athletic best behind the stumps, backed up by some keen fielding. However, Highland added a further 50 runs to finish on 262 for two from 30 overs.

In reply, Fort struggled to 21 runs for four wickets. The home side floundered as they lost wickets in pairs on four separate occasions, but amongst it all McNeil stood firm and responded with some punishing shots to reach 48, recovering the score to 111 having made good partnerships of 41 with Maclean and 48 with George Rodger.

When the final wicket fell, Fort had reached 118 in the 27th over.

Fort captain O'Meara said: 'Although we were missing some key players today, it's hard to see what more we could have done to contain Jonathan Crabtree. We gave it our best shot, and we'll have another go at the cup next year, but in the meantime we'll keep our spirits high and look forward to our trip to Ross County next week.'

Fort travel to take on Ross County in the league this Saturday, and will take part in the 'Cricket in the Community' in Glenfinnan on Sunday.

Duncan takes a commanding lead

GOLF

THE FIRST two rounds of the Fort William Golf Club championship were played last weekend, with Duncan Rodger taking a commanding lead.

Rodger shot a round of 72 on Saturday and followed that up with a 73 the next day to leave himself nine shots clear of Paul Campbell and David Matheson. Rounds three and four will be held on June 16 and 17.

On Sunday the June senior medal was played with Jimmy Ross taking the win. His net round of 63 was enough to hold off runner up Ronald MacDonald and third placed John Cameron.

The ladies June medal was held on Sunday, with Rosemary Macintyre's net round of 71 giving her a narrow one stroke lead over Kathleen Leitch. Macintyre also won a medal and eclectic competition held last week.

The club's annual open competition, sponsored by The Moorings Hotel, will be held on Sunday June 24. Tee times can be booked at the clubhouse.

Results: Club championship: 1, Duncan Rodger 145 (72+73); 2, Paul Campbell 154 (82+72); 3, David Matheson 154 (75+79)

Senior medal: 1, Jimmy Ross 80-17=63; 2, Ronald MacDonald 84-15=69 (bth); 3, John Cameron 88-19=69.

Ladies medal: 1, Rosemary Macintyre 82-11=71; 2, Kathleen Leitch 85-13=72; 3, Kay Jerram 99-22=77.

Joe takes on top mountain bikers at UCI World Cup

Newly refurbished track features some of the biggest jumps in the UK

FORT William rider Joe Barnes took on some of the world's top downhill racers in the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup round three at on Sunday.

Barnes, aged 23, completed the tricky route at Nevis Range in a time of 5m 11.27s to finish 23 seconds behind the eventual race winner in 52nd place.

Thousands of fans packed out the venue across the weekend to see around 250 riders from around the world tackling the track. The newly refurbished

course now features some of the biggest jumps of any track in the UK - some up to 16 metres long.

American rider Aaron Gwin took the win in a time of 4m 48.21s, from British competitors Danny Hart and Gee Atherton, who finished in 4m 49.04s and 4m 0.72s respectively.

French flyer Emmeline Ragot won the women's race, competing the course of 5m 27.08s to beat British rider Rachel Atherton by just 1.3 seconds. A second

MOUNTAIN BIKING

French woman completed the top three, with Myriam Nicole home in 5m36.5s.

As well as the downhill races, the course played host to the 4X Pro Tour event - which sees four riders starting side by side taking on the same descending course.

Czech rider Michal Prokop won the men's race with American Melissa Buhl taking the win in the women's.



Speedster Joe Barnes flew round the new-look Nevis Range track.

Skye Golf Club championship

GOLF

SKYE Golf Club's championship second round last weekend saw a dramatic conclusion as Murdo Gordon took a narrow one shot victory over Sandy Ross and Alex Munro.

In category one (handicaps of 1-12), Gordon's score of 77 was added to his 68 in round one to give him a total score of 145, while Sandy Ross had two rounds of 73 to finish on 146 in second place. Alex Munro had the best score in round two with a 72, but a score of 74 in round one meant he finished third.

In category two (13-28) Mike Mace took the win after an equally tight battle. Mace scored 79 in both rounds for a total of 158, just one shot ahead of Martin Bird, who shot 159 (81, 78). Al Campbell was third with 160 (79, 81).

Ian Marr finished first in the Strath Cup round two held last week with 43 points, while John Alan MacLeod took a six shot victory in the seniors medal with a net score of 62.

Results: Championship - Overall category one - 1, Murdo Gordon 145 (68,77); 2, Sandy Ross 146 (73,73); 3, Alex Munro 146 (72,74). Overall category two - 1, Mike Mace 158 (79,79); 2, Martin Bird 159 (81,78); 3, Al Campbell 160 (79,81).

Strath Cup round two - 1, Ian Marr 43 points; 2, Jeff Gearty 42; 3, Alasdair Grant 41.

Seniors medal - 1, John Alan MacLeod 74-12=62; 2, Mike Mace 81-13=68; 3, Martin Bird 85-17=68.

Lochaber sailing regatta

SAILING

LOCHABER Yacht Club is gearing up for its annual weeklong sailing regatta, which gets underway on Monday evening with a keelboat race on Loch Linnhe.

Events will be held every evening, including a team up with Lochaber Athletic Club for the One Peak Race on Tuesday and dinghy racing on Wednesday.

Non-members will be able to give sailing a go at the 'try a boat' evening on Friday night, while more dinghy and keelboat races will be held across the weekend.

Charlie wins Ellis Cup competition

GOLF

FORT Augustus Golf Club held the Ellis Cup competition on Saturday, with Charlie Marshall taking the win after rounding the course with a net score of 70. Runner up Alec Barnett shot a net score of 74.

The club will hold the Nelson Trophy pairs competition this Saturday.

Pam under Attack

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER eight weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller still leads by 95 points to 91 in the scratch division.

Tim Attack sits third place on 76 points. Attack took the lead in the handicap competition on 74 points ahead of John Weller. Pam Weller and Tony Whitelocke, who are tied on 71 points



Isle of Skye Half Marathon

MORE THAN 250 runners took to the roads around Portree for the Isle of Skye Half Marathon on Saturday, with local runners posting some impressive times.

The competitors came from across the country to compete on a warm sunny day, setting out from the Fingal Centre at Portree High School. The route

Crossing the line: Race winner Paul Arcari breaks the tape, held by last year's winner Hugh Campbell - the only local to win the race.

Photo by Iain Smith.

took them along the B885 to Carbost, uphill about 120metres to meet the A87, and then looped back to Portree.

Local

Jeremy Rossiter was the fastest local man, completing the 13.1-mile course in a time of 1hour 23minutes and 57seconds to take sixth place overall. Skye and Chalcath Running Club's Paul Dewar also managed a top 10 finish in a time of 1h 27m 50s.

Youngster Josephine MacDonal was the quickest local woman on the day, finishing in a time of 1h 43m 24s for a final placing

HALF MARATHON

of 59th overall. SLRC's Wilma MacRuary was close behind in 1h 45m 12s, coming in 68th.

Renfrewshire man Paul Arcari of Kilbarchan finished more than six minutes ahead of the field in 1h 12m 29s to win the event for the third time. Gordon Lennox of Forres Harriers was second in 1h 18m 39s.

Sheenagh MacLulich of Edinburgh Athletic Club was the fastest woman home in 1h 37m 58s, finishing 34th overall.

Lochaber through to semi final

FOOTBALL



Brothers Keiran and Stephen Lopez team up to deny Lochaber's Neil Cameron. f23football

LOCHABER are through to the Lochaber Welfare League's John Baird Cup semi-final after edging out the BA Club in a hard-fought encounter at the BA Club last Thursday night.

Lochaber opened the scoring on 15 minutes when Jonathan Hewitt rifled in a low shot, and doubled their lead through diminutive forward Mark Hagan before half-time.

After the break, the BA Club began to show the form they are capable of and pulled a goal back through a Leon Lopez penalty.

When Stephen Lopez equalized to make it 2-2 with 15 minutes left it looked as though the BA would complete a remarkable comeback.

But with just five minutes remaining that man Hewitt popped up to grab the winner and earn his side a fine 3-2 win.

Lochaber will face Mallaig in the semi final after they recorded a 5-2 win over Ballachulish at Island Park. Lundavra and Caol Cosmos will battle out the other semi. Lundavra put their indifferent league form behind them to record a thumping 8-2 win over Celtic, while Caol Cosmos dumped Balla United out the cup with a 3-1 win at Canal Parks.

Meanwhile in the league, BA Club sit six points clear in of Caol Cosmos and Balla Utd, although they have played more games than either of their rivals. Ballachulish are rooted to the bottom having lost six out of six so far.



Jimmy and Kenny win Fitzsimons Pairs

Winners of the Railway Bowling Club's recent James Fitzsimons Pairs were Jimmy Miller, left and Kenny McInnes. Also pictured are runners up Geordie Strangeways and Bill Gibbons with some of the other competitors.

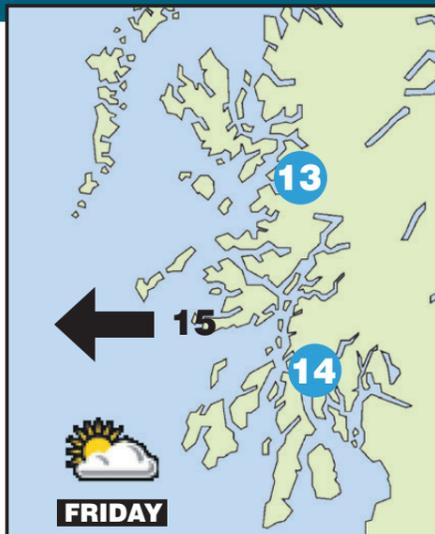
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light east, south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°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, June 14, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.44 3.0 07.53 1.7 14.09 2.9 20.26 1.7	
Fri	02.42 3.1 08.51 1.6 14.59 3.0 21.32 1.6	
Sat	03.30 3.2 09.40 1.5 15.43 3.2 22.20 1.5	
Sun	04.12 3.3 10.22 1.3 16.24 3.4 23.00 1.4	
Mon	04.53 3.5 11.01 1.2 17.03 3.6 23.36 1.4	
Tues	05.33 3.6 11.39 1.1 17.42 3.7 *** **	
Wed	00.12 1.3 06.12 3.7 12.17 1.0 18.18 3.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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