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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Susie becomes racing ambassador for women

RACING driver Susie Wolff (Stoddart)'s standing in the world of motorsport continues to rise after she was named as one of only five ambassadors to promote women in the sport. The Oban woman has been appointed to the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission (WMC). The 29 year old, who has recently been awarded a seat with the Williams F1 team as its development driver, said: 'When I started in DTM six years ago I wouldn't have survived if I hadn't been good enough to compete on merit. Motorsport is a competitive world and no one likes to be beaten, male or female; whoever you are, you need to prove yourself.'

### Semple gains HITRANS chair

KINTYRE councillor John Semple has been appointed Chair of HITRANS, the Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership.

The Campbelltown man succeeds councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who had been in the role since June 2007.

Councillor Semple, who was appointed at a board meeting last Friday, said: 'The clear priority of the HITRANS board is to make the case for the Highlands and Islands to be included in Government transport programmes and to support the delivery of transport priorities that have been set out in the Regional Transport Strategy.'

### Children's home closure rumours refuted by council

AN OBAN children's home is to remain open - despite rumours circulating in the town of it closing by the end of the month.

It had been thought by locals that Shellach View children's home was set to close but a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed this is not the case.

She said: 'The Shellach View children's home remains open with absolutely no plans for closure. The home has received excellent reports recently and the future looks bright.'



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Martha Payne has raised nearly £100,000 for Mary's Meals thanks to worldwide interest in her school dinners blog 06\_a25martha02

## Hollywood calls blogger Martha, 9?

### From school dinners blog to silver screen for Lochgilphead girl

HOLLYWOOD has come knocking at the door of a Lochgilphead family after a blog about school dinners hit the global headlines.

Lochgilphead Joint Campus pupil, Martha Payne, made waves across the world at the weekend when Argyll and Bute Council tried to stop the nine year-old's NeverSeconds blog by confiscating her camera.

There was literally worldwide outrage as thousands of followers turned to millions in the wake of the row, forcing the authority to make a dramatic u-turn and give Martha her camera back.

The attention has had a dramatic impact on Mary's Meals, whom Martha started raising money for a fortnight ago through the blog.

Nearly £100,000 has been raised for the Dalmally-based charity at the time of going to press - enough to build a new kitchen shelter and feed an entire school for a year at Lirangwe Primary School in Blantyre, Malawi and feed 5,800 children

**"We have had 10 calls from American media groups looking at film and TV."**

**Martha's father**

One of his and wife Dr Rebecca Helliwell's proudest moments, he said, was when Martha was asked to name the first kitchen she helped pay for in Malawi with her blog.

She said: 'Mary's Meals asked me what I would like to call the kitchen and I said 'Friends of NeverSeconds' because if it was just me I would never have managed to raise enough but now we have.'

Dave said: 'We were chuffed to bits. It certainly is one of the proudest moments of my life.'

It has also drawn the attention of script-writers and production companies, keen to turn the tale into a saga for the silver screen.

Father Dave Payne has been overwhelmed by the response.

'It is absolutely crazy,' he said. 'It's been a lot of work. The blog is getting more than 1,000 emails an hour.'

'We've had about 10 calls from American media groups looking at film and TV.'

'To be fair, we're trying to keep Martha out of the limelight, but you can't stop it all.'

## Thieves target Tobermory treasure

COINS from the sunken Spanish galleon in Tobermory Bay have been stolen from Mull Museum, police have confirmed.

Two 'pieces of eight' have been taken from the museum along with a foot long barnacle encrusted scabbard.

The coins, one from Spain and one from Bolivia came from the *San Juan De Sicilia* which exploded in Tobermory Bay in 1588.

The theft was reported last Thursday but it is unclear when

the items were stolen. Police confirmed that the thief managed to open a locked display case which held the coins.

Island police said the crime was 'really unusual' and although the items could not be replaced, they only had 'historical value'. A spokeswoman for Mull Museum said: 'We are very sad to lose a unique piece of the history of Tobermory.'

'Even if we replaced the items they would not be the ones found in our galleon in our bay.

We just hope that they turn up.'

The Spanish galleon arrived in Tobermory Bay on October 12, 1588 following the failure of the Spanish Armada.

There have been many myths circulating about the sunken ship in Tobermory Bay with people hunting for treasure there for hundreds of years.

Treasure hunters are still attracted to the area but the diving rights are owned by the Duke of Argyll and experts believe that any lost loot is long gone.

There was also a theft on the Isle of Iona last Friday, June 13 when two pieces of jewellery were taken from a craft shop.

A St Columbas pillow cross on a snake chain and a charm bracelet were stolen. The combined cost of the items is £260.

These thefts come less than two weeks after a claymore sword belonging to Sir Lachlan Maclean was stolen from Duart Castle.

Enquiries are ongoing for all three thefts.

### Cinema doors to open in August

OBAN'S Phoenix Cinema will open on August 3.

New manager Fiona Shaw, who took up the post earlier this month, announced on Tuesday the picture house on George Street is in the final stages of refurbishment and is on course to open this summer.

Run by a community enterprise, the cinema has just been fitted with 150 new cinema seats.

It has received high profile support from, among others, the Duke of Argyll and Dame Judi Dench, while the community continues to rally to ensure the old Highland Theatre reopened, attending bring and buy sales in numbers.

It had been previously announced that the cinema would open in April, but complications with building work caused a delay.

### Police believe they have averted 'dodgy' diazepam tablet threat

DRUGS seized by police in Oban are similar to suspected diazepam tablets that hospitalised at least 12 people in Fort William.

Health professionals have been notified and asked to monitor individuals who present symptoms indicating poisoning.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld confirmed his of-

ficers had seized a quantity of diazepam tablets as recently as June 15 and that they were similar to those discovered in Fort William.

There is no indication anyone in the Oban area had suffered health problems but police and NHS Highland has warned anyone with tablets not prescribed by a doctor, not to take them.

## Council to discuss 'managing' pupils

ARGYLL and Bute Council is to devise a social media policy to 'manage' what can be posted online by pupils in response to international support for NeverSeconds.

Lessons to be learned

Council leader, Roddy McCuish, admits lessons have to be learned by the authority in the wake of a story that has spread across the globe.

Every daily newspaper in Britain ran headlines about how the council confiscated Martha Payne's camera, with the editor of the Daily Telegraph, Tony Gallacher, branding Argyll and Bute Council 'the most stupid council in Britain'.



Council leader, Roddy McCuish

The SNP council leader, who admits he hasn't read NeverSeconds, said he and councillors Dougie Philand and Sandy Taylor would sit down with Martha's family this week, with school menus to be looked at in

the summer.

Mr McCuish said: 'There are definitely lessons to be learned by the council and council officers.'

'No council in Scotland has a social media policy and that's something we have to look at. Definitely not a ban, but we have to manage it better.'

Argyll and Bute MSP, SNP education secretary Michael Russell, also wrote to the council asking it to reverse the decision to revoke the camera.

Asked if he regretted that, Mr McCuish said: 'It's not regrettable - he is the MSP for Argyll and Bute regardless of his colours.'

## Commission gets tough on croft absenteeism

### 57 more cases currently at the stage of notices of proposal to terminate tenancy

SEVEN crofters who neglected their crofts have had their tenancies terminated under the new Crofting Commission's declared 'get tough' policy on absenteeism.

First time

Of the seven found to be in breach of 'duty to occupy' rules, four are in the Western Isles, two in Sutherland and one in Skye and Lochalsh.

Five other absent crofters - three in the Western Isles, one in Skye and Lochalsh and one in Argyll, are also in danger of being stripped of their tenancies through neglect.

The Crofting Commission, which had six of its nine members elected at Inverness on March 16, replaced the Crofters' Commission on April 1 with a pledge to make crofters

and owner occupiers comply with their legal duty to occupy and work their crofts.

Until the changeover, the focus was crofters absent from their crofts for over 10 years, but Scottish Government ministers have set occupancy of crofts as a key priority. Now, for the first time under the new commission, orders terminating tenancies of absentee crofters have been approved - freeing up crofts for active use.

Solution

The move gives young entrants the chance to take up vacated crofts, helping to sustain populations in remote crofting townships.

The termination orders came after a long process, which gave the

absentees every chance to resolve their situation.

But this week commissioners explained they have a duty to regulate in accordance with the law, which requires every tenant and owner-occupier to live on or within a specified distance of their croft.

Interim chair, Sandy Cross said: 'We would far prefer for crofters to find a solution to their absentee status.'

'Every opportunity is given to absentee crofters to resolve these situations within a reasonable timescale - but if this does not happen, we must take the ultimate step and free up crofts so that they may be let to new tenants who will be active and play a part in sustaining

crofting communities.'

In total, some 57 cases are currently at the stage of notices of proposal to terminate the tenancy - the final warning stage before termination.

Mr Cross said: 'Absentees in this position have to either submit concrete and feasible proposals to resolve their situation in a reasonable timescale, or prove that it would not be in the community interest for their tenancy to be terminated.'

'Essentially we are reaching the decisive stage for a significant number of cases, and it is quite possible that more termination orders will follow in the coming months.'

**Delay over new commission chair, see page 6**

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The turbine being built at the Frasers' home in Carinish, North Uist.

# Scottish first for 'quiet' Uist turbines

THE FIRST wind turbines of their kind to be erected in Scotland, and only the second in the UK, have risen against the skyline on Uist.

Two Aircon 10S turbines have been put in place at Lochboisdale Hotel in South Uist and one at the home of architect Robert Fraser and his family in Carinish, North Uist.

Mr Fraser formerly worked for Western Isles Council but left a few years ago to go into private practice and fulfill his vision of incorporating renewables into buildings.

The family looked at various green options for their home but eventually opted for wind power to offset their rocketing heating bills and plunged all their savings into the project.

They chose the 15 metre high Aircon turbine based on its German engineering and high aerodynamic efficiency blades. However, of equal importance was the quietness of the turbine given the close proximity to the Fraser's home.

Mr Fraser said: 'The price of oil has gone from 18p a litre to 75p in 10 years. We looked at other options but wind power suited our needs best as we need 10kw to offset our energy use.'

A 20-year Feed In Tariff (FIT) contract guarantees the family some income from selling their excess power to the grid. Mr Fraser estimates it will be

three to five years to recoup their £60,000 investment. Projections show that the turbine should make around £10,000 per year.

Mr Fraser said: 'We are delighted. The turbine is controlled and monitored from Germany, but we can see what is going on in our computer. The other day we had a heavy day of washing, cooking and cleaning and saw that we had only imported two units of electricity from the grid.'

Lochboisdale Hotel owner Calum Macaulay said he hopes his two wind turbines will cut the hotel's annual energy bills dramatically.

He said: 'We didn't put up the turbines to make money from them but because we wanted to make a significant impact on the energy consumption of the building. Projections are that the turbines should supply 80 per cent plus of our needs.'

The hotel was able to put up its turbines with the help of an Energy Saving Trust Scotland soft loan. This loan, capped at £100,000 per business, is interest-free over eight years and available to all Scottish businesses which can demonstrate that the investment will reduce energy costs.

West Coast Energiee of South Uist was contracted to put up all three turbines. Director John Daniel Peteranna said: 'We have excellent energy producing

but very testing conditions for wind turbines here in the Outer Hebrides. With well above national average wind speeds and a saline environment to deal with, small wind turbines must be of the highest quality to survive over the long term. Although the Aircon10 is relatively new to the UK market we were very impressed with its build quality and reliable service over the past decade in its home territory along the German and Dutch North Sea coast.

'Another important factor was its ultra-quiet operation. You cannot hear this turbine operating at 50m distance away which makes it the quietest on the market by a long stretch. We are seeing a lot of interest in small wind turbines recently and are now confident that we can offer our customers a turbine that will serve them well into the future.'

Mr Peteranna added: 'There is a common myth that there are problems getting grid connections, but this is not the case with small scale turbines. Only the large turbines are affected by this restriction at the moment and the grid capacity for all is on a first come first served basis.'

West Coast Energiee works from Shetland and Orkney to Lewis and Harris as well as Skye, the west coast and the Uists.

# Across Falklands in memory of brother

Oban man 'yomps' 120kms of the harshest terrain he has ever faced

AN EMOTIONAL trip to the Falkland Isles on the 30th anniversary of his brother's death in the Falkland's War has resulted in Oban man David MacPherson vowing to return.

The painter and decorator shook off a hamstring strain three days before taking on the island, 'yomping' across 120kms of the harshest terrain he has ever faced over six days as he aimed to pay tribute not only to fallen brother Gordon, who was 20 when he was killed at Two Sisters, but for all those who gave their lives in defence of the islands in 1982.

David travelled to the island with Mike Cole, Zulu Company Commander in 1982, and Colour Sergeant Trev Law, a Royal Marine Mountain Leader serving in the Falkland Islands.

While one of the hardest things he's done, he has developed a deep affection for the island and its people.

He said: 'It went very, very well, although the first part of it was possibly the hardest because it was six kilometres uphill. I wondered then what I was letting myself in for.'

'We were carrying bags weighing 50lbs, so that first day was very hard.'

'I really couldn't imagine how difficult it would be. Luckily, the weather was quite good for us.'

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

At Two Sisters, a lone piper and large numbers of local islanders turned out to pay special tribute to the fallen British Army soldiers who defended the island from Argentinean invasion 30 years previous.

The piper played 'Nam Aonar le mo Smaointinn', translated as Alone with my Thoughts, a Gaelic song written specifically in memory of Gordon.

The 'Yompers', who received terrific support from islanders across the whole trip, ended their march at Port Stanley where local schoolchildren arrived to celebrate their efforts.

David said: 'They applauded us and that brought a lump to the throat. Seeing the children there was a huge surprise. It took me a while to get it.

David took part in the walk as part of a fundraiser for Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund and the South Atlantic Medal Association.

So far, they have raised approximately £21,000 of the £30,000 they've targeted.

To donate, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/YOMP2012.



David MacPherson stopped at Two Sisters to pay tribute to his brother Gordon, who died in action there 30 years ago.

# Passenger numbers take off

GROWING demand for international travel from Scotland's regional airports - coupled with the success of local events - is driving up passenger numbers.

Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) has reported a 7.8 per cent increase in passenger numbers in May, up to 114,366 for the month.

Campbeltown saw the biggest increase in HIAL's 11 airport network, with numbers up 41.8 per cent thanks to golf related charters and growth on the Glasgow route.

Barra enjoyed a 19.4 per cent rise, while Islay festival, Feis Ile, helped drive traffic up by 13.4 per cent. Schools construction at Stornoway drove passenger numbers up by 3.3 per cent.

The busiest airport in the group was Inverness, with 55,519 travelling through the terminal last month. Numbers were boosted by the continuing success of the city's Amsterdam service and additional Gatwick flights. Seasonal flights to Dusseldorf and Zurich also took off last month and are expected to boost international traffic through the summer.

# Drink driver arrested in Oban twice within hours

A MAN who was arrested twice for drink driving within hours appeared at Oban Sheriff Court for sentencing last week.

Sunny Kumar, 25, of 59 Craven Gardens in Barking, Essex, had previously pled guilty to the offence at the same court.

Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that police had seen Kumar travelling 'extremely slowly' in

his transit van just after 1am. He was stopped in the Corran Halls car park, breathalysed and taken to Oban police office.

He had 76mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

The court heard Kumar was released at 3.50am but police officers watched him return to his vehicle and start to drive.

# Man hid cocaine inside own body

A MAN who hid crack cocaine within his own body appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

Thomas Carberry, aged 32, of 198 Haywood Street, Parkhouse, Glasgow, is charged with obstructing police officers and possessing cocaine on May 4 and 5. The court heard police officers had detained Carberry at Glenfoot Terrace after he exhibited symptoms of being under the influence of drugs.

He was brought into a cell at Oban police office for a full search but Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'Officers noticed a bag protruding from his anus. He said he would take it out himself but instead he pushed it further in and refused to remove it.'

The court heard he was taken to hospital in Oban at 5.30am and was told that a doctor would remove the item but he volunteered to remove it himself. The white substance in the bag tested positive for crack cocaine.

Defence agent Miss Wilson told the court her client had been 'trying hard to deal with his drug problems' and that the 'incident was a relapse following an argument with his girlfriend'. Sheriff Small deferred sentencing until July 11 for reports.



Youngsters from Oban's Smarties Nursery accompanied by, from left, Carol MacTaggart, Sandra Irvine and Leanne MacKay, were shown an ambulance by John Barbour last week.

# Toddlers get visit from ambulance team

AMBULANCE Station team leader, John Barbour, visited Oban's Smarties Nursery to give a tour of an ambulance as part of an emergency services project.

Children were shown how the ambulance equipment works, having recently visited the town's fire station and police station.

# Late entries allow Oban Mòd to go ahead

THE OBAN Provincial Mòd will be taking place tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday, despite organisers almost cancelling the event.

An initial low number of entries forced the committee into a discussion on cancelling the event altogether but a number of late entries meant the Mòd could go ahead.

# Shelter advice scheme for homeowners

HOMEOWNERS are being offered advice to help them release their property's potential.

Architect in the House is an innovative scheme run by Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity, and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). They will give homeowners access to a RIBA chartered architect who will donate an hour of their time for a design consultation. In exchange, homeowners can make a suggested donation of £40 to Shelter. Registration closes on July 11 2012 and can be made at http://www.architectinthehouse.org.uk/



BEAG air bheag thig slàinte, ach na thonn an euslainn! Agus mar as sine neach 's ann as buailtiche an tinneas agus 's ann gu nàdarra a bhiodh dùil ri barrachd feum air seirbheasan leigheis. Leis gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid a' cur ri cosgais seirbheis na slàinte tro chiscean de gach seòrsa fad am beatha, chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh iad an làn dùil ri frithealadh nuair a tha feum aca air.

A dh'aindeoin trioblaidan airgid is eile bho am gu am, tha seirbheis slàinte na dùthaich seo na adhbhar farmaid dha dùthchannan eile feadh an t-saoghail. Ged a tha seirbheasan slàinte prìobhaideach rim faotainn tro àrachas neo ri linn a bhith beairteach, tha Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte againne air a bonntachadh air prìonnasabalan urramach co-ionannachd, a' ciallachadh gum bheil an aon ìre aire agus taice air a ghealltainn do gach neach ge 'e de cho domhainn neo tana a chuid sporain! Sin mar a bha mise, agus tha mi a' creidsinn a' mhòr-chuid den t-sluagh, a' smaointinn a bha cùisean.

Nach annasach agus draghail a bhith a-nise a' cluinntinn gum bheil lagh na dùthaich (ach a- mhàin ann an Èirinn a Tuath, ged nach eil mi a' tuigsinn carson) gu bhith air atharrachadh gus gum feum seirbheis na slàinte an aon ìre coibhair a thoirt dha seann daoine 's a tha feadhainn nas òige a' faotainn! Tha an gluasad seo gus an lagh atharrachadh na mhasladh leis gum bheil e na aideachadh gun rohb, agus gum bheil fhathast, dimeas ga dhèanamh air seann daoine.

Tha Ministear a' Chùraim, Pòl Burstow, air daingneachadh gum bheil dearbhadh aig an Riaghaltas nach eil cuid de sheann daoine a' faotainn an inbhe is an urraim air am bheil iad airidh agus gum bheil cuid de dhòigean air a' chuid chunaidhean agus obair-lannsa air sgàth seann aois.

Tha an lagh a-nise a' dìon daoine bho gheur-leannhainn air sgàth seann aois ach a rèir coltais, chan eil dìon fhathast aig na daoine as sine a thaobh co-ionannachd ìre seirbheasan poblach neo prìobhaideach. Nach math gum bheil an ceum seo ga ghabhail a thaobh seirbheis na slàinte agus mar as luaithe a thèid an aon ghealltas a thoirt air gach seirbheis eile 's ann as fheàrr! Tha ìre sìobhaltaidh sluaigh ri a mheas a rèir 's mar a tha iad a' dèiligeadh ri an cuid sheann daoine!

MANY will be astonished to note that the law in Scotland, England and Wales is being amended to prevent ageist discrimination in treatment by some GPs and hospitals. Care Minister Paul Burstow has confirmed that elderly people are not always receiving best treatment. Ageism has already been outlawed in the workplace but it appears that elderly people are not protected in respect of other public or privately administered services.

If a country is best judged by the way it treats senior citizens this action on health is welcome and the sooner other services are guaranteed to a similar level the better.

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

# Mull Lines

A MULL baby born over Loch Awe earlier this year has been reunited with the paramedic who delivered him.

Euan Cameron, who arrived on March 10, made national headlines after becoming the first Scottish baby to be born in an air ambulance.

Now 13 weeks old, the tot met paramedic Chris Aitchison and Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon at a reception to mark a new £120million contract to enhance the Scottish Air Ambulance fleet.

Air ambulance reservist Chris said: 'We were just passing Oban when the young gentleman here decided he was going to make his grand appearance.'

'What way to do it - 4,000 feet above beautiful Loch Awe. This is the first time I have seen him since. He's a strong wee lad.'

A home birth on Mull had been planned but because of Euan's size an ambulance was summoned to take Marion to Paisley. The healthy tot weighed 10lb 5ozs at birth.

Mum Marion added: 'Chris and the team in the helicopter were great. It was really good in the end and it is some experience to look back on.'

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon was there to announce a new seven-year contract for air operator Gama Aviation, including two new helicopters.



There was a double diamond celebration on Mull recently as a Tobermory couple celebrated their wedding anniversary at the same time as the Queen's jubilee. Joan and Ken Walker, who were married for 60 years on May 31, received a special card from the Queen and family travelled from as far as Australia to be with them.

MACLEANS from around the world arrived on Mull this week to celebrate the centenary gathering of the return of Duart Castle to clan ownership.

The main event of the clan week is this Saturday when a large gathering will take place at Duart, beginning with a march.

More than 1,000 Macleans are expected to attend the event from 11am to 4pm with a dance in the evening.

A group photo, replicating that taken in 1912, will also be taken to commemorate the centenary gathering.

A MULL man is cycling across Africa later this year in a bid raise funds to build part of a school in Malawi.

Dan Goodwin, of Tiorann, Isle of Mull, will be taking on the 12,000 kilometre challenge with friend Emma Ryan.

The trek is expected to last for five months and will cross various countries including Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and South Africa.

The pair will be cycling unsupported, mostly camping wild, with just their bikes loaded with gear to keep them going.

The aim is to raise £20,000 for the Chesney Trust to help build a school in Northern Malawi. Dan visited the area last year with a group of young people on a schools expedition.

He said: 'We spent a week there helping make bricks and found a great but very poor community. The Chesney Trust has been building this school for some time and to meet various government requirements has to have a girls' dormitory which would cost around £20,000 so this is our target.'

Emma added: 'Cycling from Cairo to Cape Town to raise funds for resources is an irresistible challenge, and a great chance to help contribute towards giving other people access to opportunities of their own.'

If you want to support the pair head to www.justgiving.com/TheBigAfricanRide or donations can also be made through text - send CHES06 £(amount of donation) to 70070.

Send your news from the Isle of Mull to Faith Orr at The Oban Times oban@obantimes.co.uk Telephone 01631 568000

# Councillors decide grant could cause conflict in recycling sector

A RECYCLING charity has been denied a council grant after councillors feared encouraging competition with a similar group.

Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI), which has been taken over by the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust, had requested

£12,962.80 from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grant Fund.

**Potential trade**

At the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting last Thursday, councillors were advised to recommend £4,250. Councillors were told the recycling group, which is a

third sector enterprise with paid staff and sells second hand furniture and other domestic items for a reduced price, needed a town centre space to increase its trading potential.

However, the seven councillors present agreed not to fund the plan, saying it could jeopardise the work already

undertaken by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust in the White Building.

**Contentious**

Oban North and Lorn councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: "This is contentious. With GRAB taking over LORI the dynamics have changed and it would possibly be competing

with a charity that is already there and run by unpaid volunteers. It is virtually the same service."

Other councillors said they would have liked GRAB and MacQueen Bros to have worked together more closely to find a solution but were told this had proved difficult.

Oban South and the Isles councillor Fred Hall said: "For the fact I think there are other options, I am afraid my vote is against them. We have to be very careful about how we spend this grant money."

Area committee chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen Lee, concluded: "GRAB and Mac-

Queen Bros both do excellent work but the concern is there would be conflict."

The committee voted unanimously to reject the recommendation and make no grant, however, it pointed out this should not deter GRAB from making future applications for funding.

## Lighthouse ship mars yacht race

THERE is anger in the sailing community after the Northern Lighthouse Board's ship, *Pharos*, interfered in a popular Oban yacht race.

The *NLY Pharos* set off at the same time as the Scottish Islands Three Peaks Challenge in Oban's bay on May 18, coming within feet of one of the competitors on three occasions.

The 84.2m vessel appeared to be in no rush, having been docked in Oban for days prior to the incident.

Organiser, Curly Mills, said: "It wasn't dangerous, it could just have been done better."

"There was no reason for the captain to leave when he did and he seemed to think people should move out of his way."

Northern Lighthouse Board did not respond at the time of *The Oban Times* going to press.

# 'Best' event boost for tourism

## Argyll and Bute's best comes to Inveraray

ARGYLL and Bute's finest music, whisky, culture and landscape will be showcased at an ambitious event at Inveraray Castle this summer in a bid to boost tourism.

The Best of the West, marketed Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) is an extravaganza of the county's strongest assets, headlined musically by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Skerryvore.

Held over the weekend of September 15-16, the event is being aimed specifically at capturing more of the lucrative stay-cation market, which is becoming even more important in the wake of global financial troubles and increasing costs of travel.

Some 15 live bands have so far been confirmed to play, while 22 malt whiskies will go head to head in a relaxed tasting session designed to be as friendly as the locals.

Stramash will even be on hand to allow visitors the chance to abseil down the bell tower, joined by a host of organisations proving that Argyll and Bute really is the Best of the West.

It promises to be a colourful and entertaining day, reminding people that Argyll and the Isles is closer than you think.

AIT's director, Mike Story, said: "The Best of the West is a showcase of everything Argyll and the Isles does well."

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

"We visited Expo recently and that was for the foreign markets - this is for the home market, who we can draw up here to experience all the area can offer in one weekend."

"People often forget Argyll starts 20 minutes from Glasgow Airport, this will go some way to act as a reminder."

As well as the central belt, it is hoped the event will prove a big draw to people living in Aberdeenshire, Perthshire and the north of England.

Meanwhile, a marquee will host the AIT stands that went on display at the VisitScotland Expo in Edinburgh earlier this year, which Mr Story said had produced "very positive" results, attracting new business enquiries from across the world.

Some 5,000 people are expected to attend over the course of the two days.

The event is supported by Caldeonian MacBrayne (CalMac), Machrihanish Dunes, West Coast Motors, VisitScotland, Argyll and Bute Council, the Inveraray Marketing Group and Crerar Hotels.



St Columba's Primary School pupils meet Her Majesty The Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall in London

## St Columba's pupils Cook for the Queen at Clarence House

PUPILS of St Columba's Primary School joined Royal company at Buckingham Palace and Clarence House as they helped to prepare lunch for the Queen.

The eight primary seven pupils travelled to London last Thursday with head teacher Sarah Jane MacSween and teacher Imogen McKenna and Pamela Lockhart after winning the Cook for the Queen competition, organised as part of Her Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations. At Clarence House pupils Rebecca Campbell and Jessica Swan joined kitchen staff to prepare scones, mackerel pate, salmon fishcakes and lavender shortbread from St Columba's winning menu.

Six pupils went to Buckingham Palace, where they were given training in silver service.

Pupil Jack Forgive charmed Her Majesty by explaining the pupils made lavender shortbread, because the Queen 'looked lovely in lavender'.

## Missing ministers in Kintyre and Isles

KINTYRE and the islands are the most difficult places in which to recruit ministers for the Church of Scotland's Argyll Presbytery.

Seven out of eight ministerial vacancies in the presbytery are in Kintyre, or within the islands of Islay, Jura and Colonsay.

The Church of Scotland hopes to partially solve the problem by rolling out its Presbytery Plan, which will see more parishes

linked together. The Presbytery Plan makes provision for 43 of the 59 congregations being linked so as to form 31 charges. There are presently 35 charges.

**Plan**

The plan also provides for three youth education ministers, the first of whom is now in post, two associate ministers, two deacons and five attached readers.

The eight congregations that

currently have ministerial vacancies are: Colonsay and Oronsay; Saddell and Carradale linked with Skipness; Kilmalmonell linked with Killeen and Killehenzie; Campbeltown Highland; North Mull; Southend; and Kilchoman linked with Kilmenny linked with Portnahaven.

A spokesman for the Church of Scotland said: "Eight congregations within Argyll Presbytery

have a ministerial vacancy, however there will be a series of changes that will result in some of these being filled as the Presbytery Plan begins to take effect.

"Presbytery planning decisions are based on the demographics of the congregation, the mission needs in the parish, the best use of buildings, the cost of maintaining those buildings, and the availability of ministerial resource."

**How are Scottish schools getting closer to the Games?**

Read on to find out more.

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## Isle of Barra children's centre gains reprieve

BARRA Children's Centre is a step closer to safety after councillors narrowly voted against a proposal to move pre-school nursery provision into Castlebay Community School.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's education committee rejected the proposal by eight votes to seven. The decision was expected to be ratified by the full council as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Children's Centre co-ordinator, Abigail Treffry, said: "We're all happy and thankful we've been listened to. I've been informed it will go to full council though, so we're waiting with baited breath. We don't feel we're out of the woods yet by any means. We'd like to think the full council will be positive about it."

"The Barra and Vatersay families have spoken and I'd like to thank the councillors for listening to them. This could be a very, very positive story at the beginning of the council's new term."

Barra Children's Centre received support from Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, who described the proposed move into Castlebay School as: "Ill conceived."

## 'Spygate' report now complete

A REPORT into allegations of spying by press office staff at Argyll and Bute Council is finished, *The Oban Times* understands.

Investigator, former Audit Scotland chief John Clayton, had gathered all evidence by the middle of April and submitted his completed report in May.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the report will clear press office staff of spying.

Press office manager Jo Smith was suspended by the authority in February after an article in the Herald newspaper accused her of spying on residents of the county on social media websites.

The council said it won't comment on the investigation, adding a report will be presented to councillors at its conclusion.

Meanwhile allegations that Mr Clayton was appointed by text by chief executive, Sally Loudon, have been denied by the authority.

A spokeswoman said: "John Clayton was appointed on February 17 by the disciplinary investigating officer, the council's executive director of development and infrastructure services, Sandy MacTaggart after an assessment process."

Two press officers resigned from the council in April following a suspension over allegations of 'obscene and abusive' messages being sent privately between one another on internal messaging system, Lync. The messages were uncovered by Mr Clayton during his investigation into allegations of spying.

## Coll bunkhouse

COLL is already welcoming new tourists to the island with the opening of An Cridhe's new bunkhouse last week.

Project manager, Emma Grant, said: "It's already drawing in a completely different type of tourist. It's exactly what we hoped would happen."

The hall will be opened in full next month.



Oban Sea Cadets show their feelings after their RIB was grounded thanks to an essential £2,000 repair

## Rockfield rumours unfounded

RUMOURS that the old Rockfield Primary School building in Oban had been taken off the market have been dismissed by its owner.

While some local developers were of the understanding that Argyll and Bute Council had pulled the building from sale, it said this week: "It is still on the market and the council still intend to sell it."

## Barcaldine centre hosts quiz night

A QUIZ night will be held at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, next week to raise funds for the Merin's Magic Wand children's charity.

Starting at 7.30pm, on Friday, June 29 a first prize of £100 is available. To book a table, or for more information, phone 01631 720386

## Young seamen grounded by £2,000 inflatable boat repair bill

OBAN Sea Cadets face being grounded after being hit hard with an expensive repair bill for their rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RIB).

**Training halted**

Hydraulic and electrical problems means the boat has been taken out of commission, with the cost of putting it back into the water hitting £2,000.

As the main training boat, the loss of the vessel has hit the cadets hard.

While some training can be undertaken without it, loss of the RIB means there is no safety back-up when rowing or sailing.

They are now appealing for help from the community to get them back on the water.

Commanding officer of Oban's Sea Cadets, Lt Ewan McCuish, said: "This is one of the cadets' main training boats, as the cadets train to achieve Royal Yachting Association (RYA) qualification in power boating.

"Without this asset the cadets are restricted to paddle sport rowing and sailing, but even these are hit by the loss of the RIB, as it acts as the unit's safety boat.

"Without it, we now have to borrow from other organisations to keep the boating activities going. 'The cadets are actively fund raising to try and cover the cost of the work to be carried out, but any assistance to help fund this would be greatly appreciated.'

If you would like more information on the RIB or would like to contribute towards the cost of the repair, contact Donald Cross on 01631 710650.

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Ka Fairley, left, won the poetry competition for ages 7-8 with her recitation of 'An Tuisge', while Megan MacLeod won the conversation competitions for ages 5-6. 10\_f25mod02

# Ardnamurchan Mod hits the high notes

SOME of the finest young Gaelic musical talent in the west Highlands competed in Mod Aird nam Murchan in Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan High School) and Arainn Shuaineirt (The Sunart Centre) in Strontian on Friday. The event attracted the usual strong turnout from across

Lochaber, with competitors drawn from the five Ardnamurchan primary schools, Mallaig, Tobermory and Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan itself. Parents and teachers watched on as more than 130 children took to the stage.

Competitions included Gaelic choir and solo singing, action song, Gaelic poetry recital, conversational Gaelic as well as music competitions including fiddle and clarsach playing. Gaelic storyteller Scot AnSgeulaiche kept the children entertained between their performances by telling old folk tales in the school library.

Mod convenor Fiona MacLean told *The Oban Times* the Mod has been a success. She said: 'It's been really good. It's really nice to see the high school pupils getting more and more involved with the Mod as well.'

Mod secretary Val Barker added: 'It was a very good day and we should like to thank all the participants for their hard work in preparing for the Mod. We hope you will all come again next year.'

The prizewinners performed at a concert in Arainn Shuaineirt in the evening after the competition.



Ardsgoil Aird nam Murchan youngsters enjoyed success in the folk band ages 13-18 category. 10\_f25mod03



Above: Intermediate clarsach: Niamh Henderson, right, of Mallaig High School, took second place while Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan's Isabelle Tilling finished first. 10\_f25mod05



Joanne Ford, aged 14, of Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan, had a double win in the fiddle Gaelic air and two-part march and keyboard ages 13 and over. 10\_f25mod01



Ardsgoil Aird nam Murchan's Sara MacKinnon took top spot in the solo singing for ages 13-18 competition. 10\_f25mod06

## TROPHY WINNERS

**Instrumental:** Iain MacPherson Trophy for Primary Fiddle - Mirren Lindsay; Ardnamurchan Mod Mini Silver Cup for Chanter beginners - Donald Boyd; Cuach for highest mark attained in fiddle - local U13 - Mirren Lindsay; Sunart Oakwoods Initiative Trophy for fiddle 13-18yrs - Joanne Ford; Gillespie MacMillan Trophy for Accordion - Martin Ross; Mod Ardnamurchan Cup for highest mark attained in Clarsach - local - Isabelle Tilling; Ardnamurchan Mod Cup for Bagpipes - Wallace Dempster; Ardnamurchan Mod Shield for Drumming - Matthew Bradley; Ardnamurchan Mod Mini Cup for Guitar - Nathan Fleming.

**Solo singing:** Daily Record Cup for the highest mark in Gaelic, local primary - Holly Cameron, Emma MacLachlan

and Kate Bradley; Kate Stewart Memorial Cup for highest mark in music, local primary - Emma MacLachlan; Peter MacQueen Ardgour Memorial Cup, for highest mark in any music competition - Emma MacLachlan; Scottish Natural Heritage Trophy for highest total in Gaelic and Music, solo 13-18yrs - Shannon MacLean/Sara MacKinnon.

**Oral competitions:** Swordale Cup for the highest Gaelic mark attained by a local learner - Rachel Bolton; Graham Croll Trophy for highest Gaelic mark attained in any oral competition - Ka Fairley, Grace Henderson; Lochaber Development Cuach for conversation: Open 5-8 yrs - Ka Fairley, Grace Henderson; Lochaber Development Cuach for conversation: Open 9-12 yrs - Eilidh Ross, Kayleigh Morrison; Lochaber Development

Cuach for Drama - Bunscoil Malaig; Caitness Glass Trophy for Drama - Bunscoil Malaig.

**Choral singing:** Campbell Memorial Shield for highest total mark in Gaelic and music, Primary - Strontian Primary School; Joan Smith Memorial Cup for highest total in Gaelic and music, primary and secondary - Acharacle Primary School; Convenor's Cup for highest total mark in Gaelic and music in Puirt - a- Beul, primary and secondary - Acharacle Primary School; The Finuary Cup, for attaining the highest total mark for Gaelic and music - Acharacle Primary School.

**Special competitions:** Mod Ardnamurchan Shield for action song under 10yrs - Acharacle Primary School; Longrigg Cup for music making - Acharacle Primary School, P4-7G.



Kayleigh Morrison, 9, of Bunscoil Malaig, won the conversation competition for ages nine and 10. 10\_f25mod07



Bunscoil Malaig pupils line up for *The Oban Times* during the Mod. 10\_f25mod04

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# Summer Weddings

SURELY one of the best things about having a wedding in Scotland is the law, which allows you to exchange your vows anywhere you choose to do so. And while standing on top of a mountain may not be quite possible in the middle of winter, for those having a summer wedding the sky can literally be the limit for your choice of venue. You could be standing among the golden sands on your favourite beach or going back to the special place the pair of you spent your first holiday. It could be among the ruins of an old castle, beside a stunning loch or lighthouse or the place you got engaged. The clergyman carries a licence that means you can choose your venue, no matter how wild or romantic. And wherever you choose to have your ceremony, it should have special resonance for the two of you and still enthrall your guests. There are also incredible Scottish wedding suppliers that may be right on your doorstep. These could be wedding planners, florists or photographers. The preparations for a wedding can seem endless but surely first and foremost on the bride's mind is what she's going to wear on the day. The summer weather allows for a multitude of dresses on your big day, from light and pretty to much heavier on the sparkle. The bride can have an endless choice of fabric and styles without worrying about covering up against cold, wind or rain. The bouquet can be more colourful in summer, with stunning blooms twisted together into the perfect centerpiece to carry into the church. The weather also favours outdoor decoration with trees, shrubs, lawns and flowers looking their best for your chosen backdrop. When it comes to transport on your big day having a summer wedding allows for open-top carriages or cars to take the bride to the venue. Long hours of daylight allow the wedding reception to carry on well into a romantic dusk, and the light is perfect for photography and video filming. There are also a number of wedding traditions that you can indulge in during or prior to the wedding. They can vary from traditions which take place in many areas of Scotland to those which are only heard of in specific areas. One ritual that is performed with great gusto is a blackening. This involves a bride and groom being captured by their friends either individually or together. The unlucky groom is then stripped to the waist while the bride could have an old t-shirt thrown on before the pair are the 'blackened'. Everything from feathers to syrup and flour is thrown on the unfortunate pair before they are paraded through the streets on the back of a trailer with their friends making as much noise as possible to attract attention. Blackenings are seen much more rarely these days than in previous years so why not revive this fun tradition but remember to leave enough time before the wedding to get the treacle out your hair!

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# 600 dancers open Argyll and Bute Youth Games at Oban

## Argyll school pupils come together for Scottish Country Dance start to special Olympic year event

SIX HUNDRED dancers stretched the length of Mossfield Park, Oban, to mark the opening of this year's Argyll and Bute Youth Games.

Junior secondary school pupils from all over Argyll and Bute and their sports leaders performed the Olympic-themed dance, entitled Olympic Reel.

All the high schools in the county were represented at the youth games in Oban last Thursday and took part in 14 different competitions held in Oban High School, Mossfield Stadium, Atlantis Leisure, Glencruitten and Glencruitten Golf Club.

Oban was the best performing school on the day, winning five titles, while Lochgilhead won four events.



Willie Young, Principal Leisure Officer at Argyll and Bute Council, welcomed the competitors and organisers to the Argyll Youth Games.

You can do it to any type of music, as long as the rhythm stays the same. There will probably be people who will frown at that but it got 600 pupils moving to the steps and I think it was a great idea.

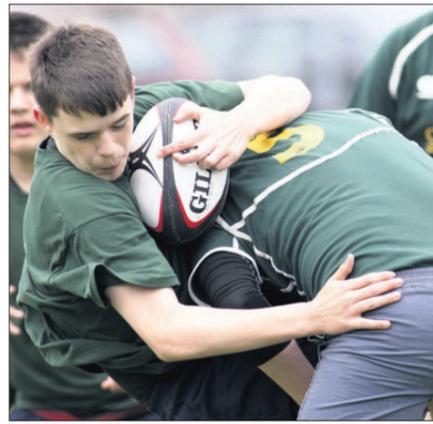
After the dance, pupils went off to all different locations in

Oban and took part in activities such as athletics, shinty, basketball, dance, softball, hockey, badminton, tennis, football and rugby.

Nicola Hackett, Active Schools manager, said the games took six months to bring schools all across Argyll together, to get to know each other, and to participate in extra-curricular activities to keep secondary pupils active, especially since this year is Olympic year.

'We opened with a country dancing event because we wanted to do something for everyone and raise the profile of country dancing across Argyll.'

- Results**
- Rugby (girls) – Oban;
  - Rugby (boys) – Dunoon;
  - Football (girls) – Oban;
  - Football (boys) – Lochgilhead;
  - Athletics (girls) – Lochgilhead;
  - Athletics (boys) – Oban;
  - Softball – Tarbert;
  - Basketball – Hermitage;
  - Tennis – Dunoon;
  - Golf – Oban;
  - Hockey – Lochgilhead;
  - Dance – Oban;
  - Badminton – Lochgilhead;
  - Shinty – Oban.



### Music awards nominations near closing date

SUBMISSIONS to this year's Scottish New Music Awards close at the end of this month.

The last submission must be in by June 30 and the organisers have urged all unsigned bands and artists that have released a recording between January 1 2010 and June 30 2012 to submit. For more information, visit [www.scotmusicawards.co.uk](http://www.scotmusicawards.co.uk).

### Rum wildlife project calls for volunteers

A CALL has gone out for helpers with a rhododendron clearance project to support native wildlife on Rum.

The Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) will be clearing the invasive plants from July 13-16. IRCT ranger Mike Werdly said the work promised to be 'a great experience' for the successful applicants.

He said: 'People should be physically fit, have a good sense of humour - and we will provide midge jackets!'

Accommodation in new cabins and ferry tickets to and from Rum will be paid. Contact [rangerisleofrum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rangerisleofrum@yahoo.co.uk).

### Isle of Skye hotel goes on market

THE BROADFORD Hotel in Broadford on Skye has been put on the market for offers over £1,050,000.

Local hotel company MacLeod Hotels is selling the property to allow it to concentrate on its other hotel interests in Portree.

### Highland youth parliament holds conference on Skye

HIGHLAND Youth Voice (HYV), the elected youth parliament for the Highlands, will conclude a three-day conference at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye tomorrow.

Speakers at the event, which has youth employment as its theme, include Highland Council's director of education Hugh Fraser and Susan Johnston from Job Centre Plus. HYV gives young people their say and meet decision makers.

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# Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Denture Studio

Quote from Gary Marshall Clyde 2 DJ "it is the best denture I have ever had"

These are people who have encountered real problems in seeking Denture solutions. These are only a fraction of the testimonials I have from clients all over Scotland who had all but lost hope until they contacted my studio. As Mrs Gruber alluded to, she was very happy with her Dentist regarding DENTISTRY, providing Dentures however, is a totally different matter. It is not the Dentist's fault that they do so little training in Denture provision. The fault lies squarely on the shoulders of the London based General Dental Council who have sanctioned a system which provides inadequate training. This London based organisation sit in their ivory towers pontificating over policy, which thousands of SCOTS believe has a detrimental effect on end users regards Denture provision. Regulatory bodies themselves should not be above scrutiny and one only has to look at the

Financial Service Authority who regulated the BANKS. We are all too aware of the outcome of that fiasco. I will be inviting Ken Russell the MSP for Argyll to discuss with me the plans for the make up of a Scottish General Dental Council if and when Scotland achieves independence. For example, will they be following the totally undemocratic London model? I have been overwhelmed with the number of phone calls I have received from all over Scotland regarding last week's article, and I had no idea the Oban Times was so widely read. I intend to do an Argyll wide survey of the problems Denture wearers have encountered regarding waiting times, quality of Dentures, appearance, fit, etc. and most importantly the service or lack of service which is provided for our elderly

population in hospitals, nursing and care homes. If you or your loved ones have encountered

problems please write to me at [1bCombie Street](mailto:1bCombieStreet@argyllandbutedentures.com) or E-mail me at [argyllandbutedentures.com](mailto:argyllandbutedentures.com).

To whom it may concern

I was badly in need of a new set of dentures, however I had a problem in that I am terrified of and under no circumstances will I ever visit a dental surgeon or a dental hospital.

My fear of dentists goes back to when I was a young man and as a result I have worn the same dentures for over twenty years.

I was recommended to a denture studio in Glasgow where the Denturist Mr McIntosh made me feel at ease and made me a new set of dentures which I am delighted with.

He did however make me aware of the importance of having my mouth checked out at least once a year by a Dental Surgeon or indeed the Dental hospital due to the large amount of cases of oral cancer in the West of Scotland.

As a result of Mr McIntosh's advice I will seriously consider having my mouth checked.

He also made me aware that Denturists like him are not recognised by the NHS and indeed according to the General Dental Council they should not be working directly with patients as they are allegedly working above their remit.

I find this is a ludicrous situation as it is apparent to me that Denturists like Mr McIntosh are highly skilled and are a valuable asset to the community.

I am sure there are thousands of people in Scotland with the same fear of Dental Surgeons that I have and without the services of Mr McIntosh and his colleagues we will be left with no service at all.

I have advised Mr McIntosh to forward this letter on to who ever sees fit in his campaign and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr K King  
Dunbartonshire

Dear Mr McIntosh,

May I begin by thanking you for the excellent service you recently provided and the very thoughtful follow up phone call to check that all was well with my new oral prostheses.

When I visited your studio you advised me of the General Dental Council's plans regarding the right of Dental Technicians to fit oral prostheses. I was very shocked to learn that it is the intention of the G.D. Council to disallow dental technicians to undertake this essential work, leaving it only in the domain of Dental Surgeons.

I would very much like to know why the G.D. Council has come to such a decision and I have been unable to find any information on this subject on the internet. I would also be interested in knowing whom they have consulted - dental surgeons, dental technicians, the general public who rely on a good and reliable service?

I, like a number of people I know, have a good relationship with my dental surgeon and trust his advice and experience with regard to fillings, extractions, crowns, etc. But he is a young man, fairly recently qualified and has a whole very limited knowledge of fitting oral prostheses. He is not alone. A whole generation of dental surgeons are under-trained in this department. It is my understanding that their University course work has been severely paired back on this subject.

My dental surgeon did attempt to fit me for a new prostheses - which I paid for but was unable to wear - it was ill fitting, painful and wobbled - and I was in desperation until I visited yourself.

I certainly do not want to see the demise of the Dental Technician. They are a much needed profession especially in light of today's training levels. I also firmly believe that the public have the right of choice. The G.D. Council should not consider removing this option without very good reason and wide consultation which includes the end users - the general public.

I state again - I am shocked that such a decision could have been taken. You are welcome to share this letter in your campaign to fight this decision.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Gruber  
Campbelltown

To Whom it may concern,

My other recently lost her top denture, so I therefore contacted the community dentist a few weeks ago and was put on the waiting list and as yet nothing. In desperation I have felt the need to seek another solution to allow my mother to regain her dignity and the ability to function correctly.

Unfortunately this is the second time within the space of two months my mother's denture has been lost and on both occasions I have not been able to get a set made quickly on the NHS. The first time the teeth were lost was when she was in Stobhill hospital and the second time was a result of the care home she was in Stobhill hospital and the second time was a result of the care home she was in Stobhill hospital and the second time was a result of the care home she was in Stobhill hospital.

After searching in the internet I found a Denture studio in Shawlands, Glasgow who replaced my mum's denture and provided this service in a day. Why therefore are Company's like this prevented from providing this service on the NHS when they are very willing to do so?

Having looked at the General Dental Council's website it appears their remit is to protect the public. I would suggest they are neglecting their duty if they are allowing this type of situation to affect the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

Could you please look into this situation for me as I believe it is the General Dental Council's remit which should be questioned.

I intend to pass this letter on to the Glasgow Denture studio to use as they wish in their association's campaign to be allowed to provide this type of service on the NHS.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the address above.

Yours truly  
M Duncan  
Lanarkshire

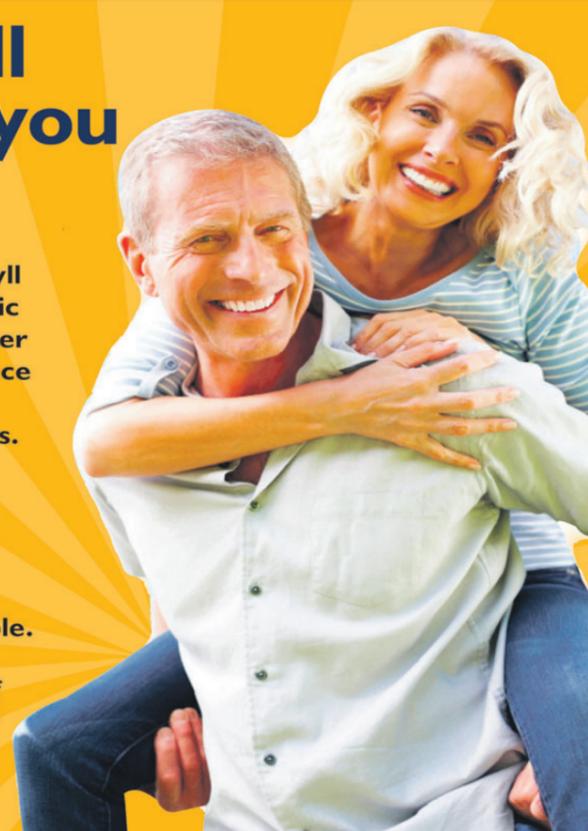
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OT

## Cameron Square plans to be unveiled at public meeting

PLANS to transform Cameron Square on Fort William's High Street into a venue for public performances will be unveiled at a public meeting next Thursday. Highland Council will propose the square be developed to provide a more relaxed seating and events area, possibly with a covered section to allow all-weather shows. The council is inviting the public to view and comment on the plans in the Council Chambers, Lochaber House, at 6pm. The revamp would be the third and final stage of High Street's makeover. Phases one and two saw the underpass refurbished and Gordon Square

at the west end become the new end of the West Highland Way, with artwork and tiered grassed areas. No funding has yet been identified for the work, but a recent ward forum in Fort William agreed promoting more events in the town centre could boost the High Street. Councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of Fort William Steering Group, said: 'The Outdoor Capital of the UK is doing excellent work by promoting Lochaber as the home for events and this offers an opportunity to provide a base for small events and performances in the heart of Fort William.'

## North Uist wool mill on track as training begins

A WOOL-WORKING training programme on North Uist got off to a successful start last week-end when 11 people attended a two-day workshop at the Kallin Canteen on Grimsay. The Uist Wool-led CALANAS event, which attracted trainees from Uist, Lewis, Skye and Barra, came as Uist Wool (UW) received news that the committee had granted £50,000 towards buying machinery for UW's proposed wool mill on a croft at Scotvein on Grimsay. UW is also waiting for news on a £90,000 application to LEADER towards mill construction and start-up costs - and now has most of the project funding in place to allow building work to start later this year. UW Committee member Dana MacPhee said: 'A lot of hard work has gone into getting the project

to this point and this wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiasm and encouragement from our loyal membership, local crofters and professional advisors. 'We're optimistic that construction of the mill will start this year and by 2013 the first Uist Wool yarns will be ready to launch to the public - personally, I can't wait.' The workshop saw tutors Sheila Roderick and Sam Goates give expert guidance on wool work, from grading unwashed fleece and fibre analysis, to carding and spinning. A second CALANAS workshop is planned for the autumn ahead of an intensive 10-week part-time course in wool-work and mill machinery. The training will ensure local skills are in place in time for the mill opening.



Come on Lochaber! Young rugby players celebrate another successful season at the Banavie clubhouse. 20\_125rugby02

## Young Lochaber rugby players celebrate successful season

AROUND 50 primary school age rugby players attended a fun training session and prizegiving at Lochaber Rugby Football Club's clubhouse at Banavie on Saturday to bring the curtain down on another season. With club stalwart Garry Hendrie acting as compere, club captain Kenny Turnbull presented trophies and certificates as the boys' families, club officials and players looked on. Mr Hendrie thanked the players, coaches and volunteers for all their efforts throughout the

season. He said: 'Our rugby club would not be here if it was not for you. 'It is a super sport to be involved in. It is a great club we have here and you boys and girls are the future of it.' Trophies: Best attendance, P3 - Ethan Linfield; P4/5 Ben MacDonald; P6/7 Greg Hendrie. Most improved player, P3 - Dylan Monk; P4/5 - Fraser Davis; P6/7 - Ben Fulford. Player of the Year, P4/5 - Johnnie Forster; P6/7 - John Clark. See rugby club's new committee, back page.

# Anger over top crofting post delay

THE CONVENOR of the new body charged with reviving crofting may not be decided for several months, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY**

STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

It had been hoped the Crofting Commission (CC) chief would be in place to guide work on a new 'five-year plan' for crofting due to be presented to environment minister Stewart Stevenson on September 16. But the post has become caught up in strict new government rules governing public appointments because Scottish Ministers picked three of the CC's nine commissioners and opted to appoint the convenor as well. The remaining six commissioners were elected at Inverness on March 16 following a postal vote of all crofters. Any of the nine can now apply for the convenor's job, but must be vetted according to the new guidelines. This is despite the three appointees having already gone through the process - and the other six being voted in on their crofting manifestos. Shetland crofting estate owner Sandy Cross, one of the government appointees, is currently acting as interim convenor until the new convenor is chosen. Mr Cross has intimated he is not applying for the job. Scottish Government Minis-

ters brought in the guidelines to attract new talent and to counter criticism that well-paid appointments to public bodies only go to a select few. But crofters' group the Scottish Crofting Federation said the snail-like progress towards choosing the convenor was 'not good enough' with urgent business pending. Chief executive Patrick Krause told *The Oban Times*: 'When the government said they were not going to have the commission appoint its own convenor, we thought at the time that did not put out a very good message. 'Given that they [the commission] are charged with producing a crofting plan within six months, it makes it more difficult when they don't have a leader. It is an unacceptable delay.' Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, who chairs the Scottish Parliament standards, procedures and public appointments committee overseeing the selection procedure, acknowledged growing frustrations and accepted lessons could be learned. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We need to look again at the fact

that it [the convenor's post] has got caught by the process and see if there is some way we can streamline it in the future.' Asked when the convenor would be appointed, he said: 'I think it could be quite a lengthy process.' Under The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, the CC board must produce a 2012-17 crofting plan within six months from its first meeting on April 3. Feedback from a 12-week public consultation will inform commissioners as they draw up the document. A CC spokesperson confirmed application packs for the convenor's post had yet to be sent out to all nine commissioners. She added: 'Though Sandy Cross has formally stated he does not intend to stand, he will still receive a pack for information.' Elected commissioners are Kathleen Sinclair, Shetland; Arnie Pirie, Orkney and Caithness; Donnie Ross, East Highlands; Murdo MacLennan, Western Isles; Ian Macdonald, West Highlands and Colin Kennedy, South West Highlands. Appointed commissioners are Mr Cross, and William Swann and Susan Walker, both from Skye. See Crofting Commission terminates tenancies, page 6.

## Earthquakes go unnoticed

THE EARTH may have moved in south Lochaber in recent days - but local residents didn't seem to notice. Two small earthquakes were recorded around Ballachulish last Thursday by the British Geological Society with

magnitudes of 1.4 and 0.8. Another quake of magnitude 1.5 was reported on Sunday, with a similarly sized tremor on Monday evening. But Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* media reports of earthquakes had left locals distinctly underwhelmed. He said: 'I never noticed anything. I've not even heard anyone mentioning it.'

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## Councillor switches allegiance to SNP

CAOL and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark has switched allegiance to the Scottish National Party after claiming he was frozen out by the Independent group. Councillor Clark had carried the Independent ticket for 10 years, but told *The Oban Times* he was informed he would have to join the Independent bloc to be nominated for committees. He said: 'I felt I was excluded as an Independent councillor and that I wouldn't be able to do the job I was elected to for

my constituents, so I had a choice to make. They decided to effectively set themselves up as a political party. I couldn't go along with it. 'If I have to join a party, I'm going to join one that has views which are consistent with my own. With my support of Scottish independence this is in many ways a very natural move for me.' He added: 'The days of the truly independent councillor in Highland Council are well and truly over.'

Caol and Mallaig Independent councillor Eddie Hunter said: 'For a man that's been thumping the Independent long before I came on to the council it seems a bit strange. The honourable thing would be to stand down and seek re-election under the banner of the SNP.' Council administration and SNP group leader Drew Hendry said: 'We believe Bill Clark is a talented councillor who can have a huge positive impact on the council's business and how it serves the Highland public.'

## Tiree Community Development Trust hosts careers open day

FINDING a job on a remote island community can be difficult, but senior pupils on Tiree showed no signs that it should be a barrier to starting a career. Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT) organised the Careers Open Day in the island's community hall, An Talla, at Crossapol recently, inviting representatives from a host of high profile businesses and organisations to give presentations on working with them. Representatives from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig College on Skye, Coll's Project Trust, Argyll College, The Oban Times, Skills Development Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Power Renewables made the journey to Tiree for the event where they joined Will Wright of Tiree Fitness, Tiree Trust, representatives from the Tiree Music Festival team, NHS Highland in the form of the island-based community nurses and Strathclyde Police.



Lisa Moyes of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig talks to youngsters about their careers 16\_123tiree01



Stewart MacKenzie of The Oban Times was kept busy 16\_123tiree02

Technology Event organisers, TCDT local development officer Lynne MacKinnon and youth project worker Sophie Isaacson were delighted with the response and hoped to extend the careers programme for local youngsters. Sophie has been working for the TCDT since she was 19. She told *The Oban Times*: 'As well as showing the young people some of the opportunities out there for them I also wanted to explore the possibilities of furthering their education while still living on Tiree. 'Technology nowadays allows us to study and work from almost anywhere in the world and courses provided by UHI and other learning providers are becoming more and more accessible. 'Learning on the island is something I am very keen to build on for our future on Tiree. 'Lots of the youngsters want to stay on Tiree but the trend tends to be that they leave and go off to university and then maybe come back six or seven years later,' explained Sophie. 'I think quite often they realise that Tiree is the only place they want to be.' The opening session offered a selection of workshops where the young people learned about writing CVs, skills development, basic engineering and how to

utilise teamwork. The youngsters then had the opportunity to browse around the various stands and displays while discussing their thoughts and ambitions with the business and community representatives. The afternoon concluded with an inspiring talk from The Project Trust. A second session, held in the evening was less formal than the afternoon programme and aimed at a slightly older audience. Ralf Thornton from Scottish Power Renewables spoke about career opportunities in the expanding renewables market while Lisa Moyes from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig highlighted the increasing opportunities within the Gaelic sector and what the Skye-based college had to offer. The participants then split into smaller discussion groups to focus on relevant issues for young people growing up on Tiree. John McLuckie, curriculum manager for Argyll College, said that career fairs, like this one on an island, are a great opportunity to show local youngsters what is often available on their doorsteps. Lisa Moyes of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig at the University of Highlands and Islands in Skye, said she was impressed with the level of interest from the teenagers.

Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director at *The Oban Times* said that the level of interest that the youngsters showed in their future was very encouraging. He said: 'We were delighted to be involved in this very worthwhile project and were impressed by the standard of initiative and positive attitude shown by the youngsters. 'Many appear to be targeting further education off the island then aim to return to settle and strengthen the local community. There appears to be a well thought-out structure to their development which would suggest that the future of the island as a whole is in good hands.' Sophie added: 'We would like to thank everyone who travelled to Tiree for the event. We realise it is a long journey and very much appreciate the input and effort. 'Thanks also went to 16+ Learning at Argyll and Bute Council for supporting the event and to all workshop leaders and staff holders on the day. 'I really hope the young people who attended enjoyed the day and got something useful out of it. Now I better get planning next year's,' Sophie added. For more information about what's going with the youth on Tiree visit www.youthtiree.com and www.tireetrust.org.uk.

## Mull fish farm plan splits the community

A PROPOSED fish farm on the Isle of Mull is causing a rift, with a community council objecting despite fishermen and residents' support. The proposal, in Loch Tuath, Gometra, for a fin-fish farm, producing salmon has been made by the Scottish Salmon Company. However, there has been a division of opinion among islanders, with even the community council failing to agree - some members wholly supporting the proposal. An online petition against the proposal has registered over 500 signatures - but with some coming from as far away as Australia. The community council objection

states: 'We have listened to and read reports from both sides in this matter and we are quite frankly aghast that something of this scale is even being considered. 'These proposals are way beyond anything we have experienced before and with them comes the main reason for our objection, that is, the environmental impact of such proposals. 'But many residents who would live near the proposed fish farm disagree, with Rebecca Munro telling *The Oban Times* she backs the plans. 'There is a lack of jobs in this area and if the fish farm brings in jobs and families to the area then we are

in support of it,' she said. 'There is a lot of selective facts going around about fish farms by those who are against the proposals. 'There is a lot of people in favour but who don't speak up, they think it is fine so don't feel the need to say anything. 'Another resident of Ulva, Nick Mawhinney also supports the fish farm. He has lived in the area for 40 years and said: 'I'm concerned that there has been so much put out about it that is misleading and inaccurate by individuals that purport to live here but don't really have an interest in the area.' Mr Mawhinney, who has farmed oysters for 20 years, added: 'Every-

thing to do with the environment in relation to the fish farm have given us no problem at all. 'Fish farms are the only growing industry in the area, they employ people with families, they are an all year round employer and they are a big benefit to the local community.' And a letter of support, written by Nick Turnbull on behalf of the Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association, states: 'This proposed site does not affect navigation provided it is well lit and maintained properly. Scottish Salmon employ a number of local people and this site should increase the number, we are very much in favour of supporting this application.'

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**Lorn Lines**

A NEW award has been created by Oban, Lorn and the Isles' area committee to mark the achievements of people in the area.

The Lorn Achievement Medal will be awarded to those who have had major success or gone beyond the call of duty.

The first recipients were acknowledged at the area committee meeting last Wednesday: St Columba's Primary School pupils who cooked for the Queen as part of a jubilee competition; Danny MacMaster, from Oban, who rescued a five-year-old boy who was adrift at sea on an inflatable near Ganavan Sands, and Oban Pipe Band which has made an excellent start to the 2012 piping season.



OBAN Lifeboat overcame a challenging eight-knot tidal flow while helping a stricken yacht in Cuan Sound.

The lifeboat launched last Thursday at 9.15am to assist the yacht *Solets*.

The yacht had sent out a Pan Pan distress call on VHF channel 16 after running aground.

At 9.51am Oban Lifeboat arrived on scene and immediately launched its inflatable XP boat to ascertain the depth of water alongside the yacht before moving in for a closer inspection.

A tow line was successfully passed to the vessel, which was then towed to deeper water and onto Oban Marina for inspection.



AFTER 46 years as an office bearer with Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain, Robin Banks, has decided to hang up his pen and notebook.

But the 80-year-old has agreed to remain on the local committee and will continue to work with An Comunn at the Royal National Mod - a job he has had for 56 consecutive years.

Following Robin's resignation from the president's role, Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain said his departure would leave behind a legacy of knowledge and organisation that few would be able to match.

Robin said: 'I have had many great experiences on the committee throughout the years and met a lot of people who I created friendships with.

'But it is time to give others a chance and, of course, one gets older.'

Robin became involved with Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain because he was interested in the Gaelic language and wanted to



keep it alive. In 1966 he was appointed secretary until 1982 when he took up the president's position.

Robin stood down at the recent Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain AGM, where Cameron Fletcher was appointed new branch president.



Mr Muslim and his family and colleagues from the Light of India Restaurant raise the Bangladeshi flag in Oban.

FOOD and music from Abdul Muslim's native Bangladesh greeted those who gathered in Oban's Argyll Square to see the restaurant owner raise his nation's flag.

For the third year in a row, Mr Muslim and his family and colleagues from the Light of India Restaurant raised the Bangladeshi flag in the town centre.

Councillors, council staff, residents and tourists gathered in Argyll Square to sample fine Indian cuisine and to see the flag unfurled.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee said that she was delighted to see the flag raised as Mr Muslim had lived in the town for more than 30 years, during which time he had established a successful charity, funding medical treatment in his home country. A proud Mr Muslim said: 'I wanted to make a bit of an occasion of it, so I am glad so many people came out to see the flag go up.'



RETIRING after 27 years of 'never a dull moment' should be enough to tire anyone out, but that was not the case at the Lorn Resource Centre last week.

Ann Logan, who retired on May 23, received a quai and flowers to mark her length of service.

Pamela MacLeod, area manager, presented the gifts and shared fond memories of picnics, trips and fundraising during Ann's time with the social work department of Argyll and Bute Council.

Ann started in the council's catering department in 1968 before completing an Open University degree and moving into social work.

She said: 'This presentation is such a surprise. I would like to thank Pamela and Argyll and Bute Council for this lovely quai and flowers in honour of my long service.'

'My years in social work were very, very happy years. I really enjoyed my job. Working with folks and getting to know them so well has really been a privilege and a great joy to me.'

Ann, who also spent 18 years in Willowview, added: 'Over the years there was never a dull moment. You never knew what was going to happen next.'



Ann receives her quai and flowers from Pauline MacLeod.



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



Professor Donald Meek will visit the Isle of Lewis in October to deliver the Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture.

**Tiree man to give Lewis memorial lecture**

THREE'S Donald Meek, formerly professor of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, has been chosen to deliver one of the west coast's most prestigious lectures.

Professor Meek will visit Lewis in October to deliver the Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture, one of the highlights of the historical calendar on the island. His talk, *Pushing at an Open Door? An Alternative*

View of Crofting History and Highland Development since 1930 from Gaelic Writings of the Rev Dr TM Murchison, will be delivered in English.

Professor Meek is well-known as an outstanding Gaelic scholar and the author of many books on the history of the Highlands and Islands, its people, language and literature.

He notes that Tom Murchison had a distinctive Gaelic perspective on Highland history which deserves much greater recognition. He represented a very different view of, and approach to, crofting matters from that presented by many other writers. His ideas were in many ways revolutionary - so much so that Special Branch kept a file on his Highland activities.

John Randall of the Islands Book Trust, which co-hosts the annual lecture with Comunn

**Committee chairwoman highlights parking 'nightmare'**

PARKING in Oban has been described as a 'nightmare' by the chairwoman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee said it was an issue the council took seriously and in the absence of traffic wardens, suggested council officers could help police parking bays.

She was supported by fellow SNP councillor Fred Hall, a former police chief inspector, who said more yellow lines on the road would help clear the roadway of abandoned cars.

He identified the example of Gallanach Road, where fire engines can be obstructed by cars left by the roadside.

'The cost of sorting this problem is the cost of a tin of yellow paint and a bit of legislation and I would like to help the roads department get things moving. We have to get away from the institutionalised reasons of why things don't happen and focus on how we can make things happen.'

**Jury finds Kilmore man guilty of indecent assault**

'Professional' photographer put graphic images into supermarket

A KILMORE man who photographed himself performing sexual acts on an unconscious female was unanimously found guilty of indecent assault at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Timothy Robson, 49, of Balnoe Cottage, Kilmore, was caught when he put a memory card containing the graphic images into an Oban supermarket for processing, the court heard. Robson had befriended his victim, an aspiring model, with promises of creating a portfolio for her. He claimed to be a professional photographer who had photographed celebrity weddings. The young woman broke down in tears in court as she described what happened to her at Robson's house on the night of July 28 into July 29 2010.

She had been taking valium regularly and on arrival at the house Robson gave her '30 to 40' valium, which she took.

During the evening, she spilled some of her drink on her top and took it off, but said she lay down on a blanket so he couldn't see her in her bra.

She had another sip of her drink and fell asleep on her front. After waking naked on her back the next morning, with Robson standing over her, she pulled a sheet over herself.

She said: 'He told me I woke up during the night and took my clothes off.'

'He said I was acting crazy. I wasn't sure, but I thought something had happened.'

The court had been shown graphic images taken by Robson, in which he admitted his hand was depicted.

Asked by Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty if she'd consented to the images, she said: 'Absolutely not.'

Defending, advocate Lewis Kennedy suggested she had more than a platonic relationship with

Robson and things had become 'intimate'. She said: 'I had a boyfriend at the time. Why would I want to have a sexual relationship with someone a lot older than me? Your suggestion is wrong.'

The court was also shown images from another memory card seized from Robson's home. The photos showed a young woman asleep on a sofa as he photographed her without her knowledge. Mr McGinty suggested Robson had a habit of photographing sleeping girls and clearly thought it was 'perfectly acceptable'.

A jury of nine men and six women took less than an hour to find Robson guilty of indecent assault.

A separate charge of supplying drugs had earlier been dropped.

Sheriff Small deferred sentence on Robson, who has a previous record including High Court convictions, until July 11 for reports.



A jury found Timothy Robson guilty of indecent assault.

**Portree school wins top Gaelic education award**



Top of the class: Portree High School pupils Helen Taylor, Dianne MacVicar and Grace Wright celebrate with Portree Gaelic department Ruairidh MacVicar, second left, and head teacher Catherine MacDonald, third right.

Judges noted Portree's breadth of opportunities to use the language, with eight subjects currently offered

STAFF and students from Portree High School have claimed a top accolade at the recent Scottish Education Awards 2012.

The school collected the Gaelic Language and Culture in Learning Award after judges praised the school's commitment to preserving Scotland's native tongue.

Head teacher Cath MacDonald led efforts to create an ethos of involvement and creativity for Gaelic, ensuring school pupils viewed the language in a positive light.

Ms MacDonald said: 'We are delighted the school's efforts to promote our language and culture have been recognised.'

'Portree High School is proud to be a school community that promotes Gaelic and has an inclusive approach to its promotion.'

'Our young people have been involved in a number of projects

this year which have showcased our successes and this award is a highlight.'

Education awards judges noted Portree's breadth of opportunities to use the language, with eight subjects currently offered through Gaelic in S1 and S2.

Registration and religious assemblies are regularly conducted in Gaelic, official school letters are sent to parents in both Gaelic and English and Gaelic signs are used throughout the school.

Extra-curricular activities include a one-day mini-fèis for all pupils in S1 to introduce them to Gaelic singing, drama, whistle and percussion.

Portree also provides an after school club offering drama, singing and art in Gaelic, giving students the confidence to organise a concert and céilidh at which they perform with professional musicians.

**Oban man accused of hitting ex - and himself**

AN OBAN man appeared from custody at the town's sheriff court on Monday to deny assaulting his ex-girlfriend and then punching himself.

Michael McPhee, 27, of 4 Burnside Court, allegedly assaulted the woman at her home by lunging at her, grabbing and compressing her neck and pinning her to the floor.

McPhee, who sat in court with a visibly black and swollen eye, is then alleged to have followed her and punched himself repeatedly on his own head.

McPhee denies the charges and is expected to stand trial on August 22. He was released on bail with special conditions attached.

**'As you were' conclusion on Pulpit Road problems say Oban road officials**

COUNCIL roads officials who reviewed traffic problems on Oban's Pulpit Hill have reported back with their conclusion - do nothing.

The council was reacting to calls from some residents to enforce a one-way system to avoid cars meeting on bottle-necked sections of the road.

However, following recent investigations, roads officers concluded that would cause more problems.

Addressing Argyll and Bute Council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, recommended maintaining the status quo.

He said: 'We looked at a one-way system, clockwise and anti-clockwise,

and would make the problems worse. 'There would be difficulty with the access to driveways and would encourage speeds to increase.'

'As it stands there is an expectation that drivers are going to meet traffic on the road and as a result, they tend to drive more carefully and cautiously.'

Mr Smith added there had only been two incidents of slight damage to vehicles on Pulpit Road in the previous five years.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson, who lives on Pulpit Hill, said there was a need for greater pedestrian safety measures on the road, as well as yellow lines to stop drivers parking on the hill.

**New specialist vehicle handed over to Glencoe rescue team**



Left to right, Glencoe climbing legend Hamish MacInnes, John Grieve, leader of Glencoe Mountain Rescue, and Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie MacGrigor joined local people to celebrate the arrival of a new rescue vehicle at the team's base in the village on Saturday. The fully-equipped Ford Transit was donated by the Order of St John (OSJ), a regular supporter of Scotland's mountain rescue teams. Mr Grieve said: 'It means we can now have two command vehicles that can go to separate incidents. It is a more modern vehicle in so many ways.' Thanking the OSJ, he added: 'Capital expenditure like this is always problematic, so this sort of thing is a lifeline for us.'

**£400 fine follows fall-out with fiancée**

A FALKIRK man who was visiting Oban for a weekend away with his fiancée ended up in police cells when he turned to drink after falling out with her.

Stuart Burden, 33, of 17 Potter Place, Falkirk, was left on his own in the town after his fiancée got on a train back to Glasgow without him last Saturday.

Missed last train

Oban Sheriff Court heard that Burden then missed his last train home and went in search of accommodation.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that Burden, who had been drinking, threatened hotel reception staff who refused him accommodation due to his level of intoxication.

He then verbally abused Polish nationals who were watching an international football match in another Oban public house.

Defence agent Mr Seaton said: 'My client made very unfortunate remarks. He accepts he said things which he should not have done and regrets his actions.'

Fining Burden £400, Sheriff Robin Banks said: 'These are serious offences Mr Burden, causing trouble of this nature. It is very much in the public eye.'

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Every cloud has a silver lining

THEY say that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Argyll and Bute Council may disagree after the pummeling they received at the hands of the international media as a result of their reaction to, and attempted stifling of, Lochgilphead school girl Martha Payne's school dinner online blog site.

Argyll-based children's famine relief charity Mary's Meals certainly won't disagree.

The school dinners blog story, which grew faster and grabbed more headlines world-wide than the recent Glasgow Rangers FC debacle, threatened to engulf the new council and systematically trample into the mud the standard raised high in the name of democracy, transparency and public interaction by the newly elected.

As world-wide publicity maintained and fuelled the momentum, the main benefactor became Martha's chosen charity Mary's Meals. As the number of hits on her blog site spiralled ever skywards so did the volume of donations that poured into the coffers of Mary's Meals. When *The Oban Times* sent its pages to bed for another week, the fund, started and driven by a nine-year old, had gathered almost £100,000, with the counters still regularly rolling.

## New crofting body adds bite

CONGRATULATIONS to another newly elected body, the restructured Crofting Commission which has been quick to activate one of the key proposals of its remit - to get tough on absenteeism within crofting.

Seven 'crofters' who have breached 'duty to occupy' rules have already had their tenancies terminated, five others, including one in Argyll, may have their tenants' rights revoked due to 'neglect', while the Commission's new interim chairman confirms that a further 57 cases are in the final stages of investigation.

Crofters will warmly welcome a Commission with teeth and purpose that can create a structure that takes crofting forward.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Glasgow Provincial Mod

WELL done to Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir who won both choral competitions at this year's Glasgow Provincial Mod held in the Gaelic School on Saturday June 15.

The number of entries was much the same as for the previous year with the majority being Glasgow Gaelic School pupils. Hopefully I will be able to provide details of the prizewinners next week.

#### Hebridean Fiddle

BUILDING on the success of the Taransay Fiddle Camp, the workshop will take place this year from July 16 to 20 in the village of Tarbert on the Isle of Harris.

It will be a unique chance for fiddle players to focus on local repertoire, playing techniques and the development of personal interpretation and style and places are still available for intermediate and advanced players aged 16 years and over. The ethos of the course will be same as it was in Taransay with the emphasis on relaxed learning and playing with excellent tutors followed by ample opportunity in the evening to enjoy a tune or two. There will also be a range of activities, arranged by local businesses, away from the music and craic. For more information, including tutor roster, pricing, travel and accommodation, email [hebfiddle@gmail.com](mailto:hebfiddle@gmail.com), get in touch on Facebook or visit the website [www.hebfiddle.com](http://www.hebfiddle.com)

#### Karen Matheson at Oran Mor

THERE was disappointment for the audience which attended Karen Matheson's recent concert in Oran Mor as she took unwell shortly before the doors were due to open.

All was not lost, however, as the backing band, Donald Shaw, Ewan Vernal, James Grant, Anna Massie, Jarlath Henderson and Alistair Ogilvie, gave a free concert and the audience entered into the spirit of the evening. It is hoped a rescheduled date for this concert will be announced by the beginning of July.

#### Glasgow Uist and Barra Association

AT ITS recent AGM, it was agreed that the association continue with the same

number of functions as last session.

Julia MacIsaac was re-elected as president and the other office bearers remain the same.

#### Reminder

TOMORROW evening, Friday, Daimh will be performing at 7.30pm in the Cottier Theatre as part of the traditional input to the West End Festival.

The following Friday they will be in the MacLaren Hall, Killin, as part of Stirling District Council's excellent summer traditional music entertainment.

#### Young Traditional Musician

IT IS not too late to enter the Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year 2013 competition as the closing date for competitors aged 16 to 27 years is Friday July 6.

More information is available at [www.handsupfortrad.co.uk](http://www.handsupfortrad.co.uk).

#### Diary dates

**Thursday June 21:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Vin Garbutt, Angus Nicolson Trio, George Hotel, Inveraray. Taste of the Accordion, An Leanaig, Mansfield Street, 7pm.

**Friday June 22:** Daimh, Cottier Theatre - see above. **Saturday June 23:** Glasgow Fiddle Workshop - Come and Try, Stow College West, 10am to 4pm. Taste of Bodhran and Whistle, An Leanaig, 2pm. Michael Marra, Cottier Theatre, 8pm

**Sunday June 24:** Glasgow Mela, Kelvingrove Park, 12pm to 8pm, Sunday Ashton Market, Ashton Lane, 11am to 5pm.

**Thursday June 28:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Munro/O'Callaghan/Titchener. **Friday June 29:** Daimh, MacLaren Hall, Killin - see above.

**Saturday June 30:** Dougie MacLean, Milngavie Folk Club, telephone 07743 885991.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Gunna Sound on Saturday and Scott Harvey on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Country Folk on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.

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

### YOUR LETTERS

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk).

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



## Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association at Aberdeen Mod - 1955

Mrs Mary Hannah of Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, submitted this week's flashback photograph which features Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association at the Mod in Aberdeen in 1955. Included in the line-up is Norma McDougall, nee Campbell, well-known piano accompanist in Gaelic circles, front row, second left; Mary Hannah, nee Campbell, front row, third left, and Sheila McDougall, a well-known soloist, front row, fourth left. The conductor was J Norman McConnachie. 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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### Registration numbers not valuable

Sir,  
Further to the letter in *The Oban Times* on May 31 regarding the private registration number ESB 1X, I would like to thank Mr Johnstone for his suggestion.

I have looked into the situation and can provide the following response. The registration number ESB 1X was inherited by the current council from the former Argyll and Bute District Council and the registration number is now used on the council's van. There is another private registration number owned by the council which is currently on the Provost's car.

Neither of the registration numbers are particularly valuable and the potential income to be gained from the sale of either of them would most likely be outweighed by the costs and time involved in the re-registering of the vehicles and the marketing of the private registration numbers.

I would like to thank Mr Johnstone for raising this matter and would reinforce the fact that we welcome all feedback and suggestions from community members.

**Roddy McCuish, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council.**

### Demand for full time English teacher

Sir,  
I would like to ask, through your letters page, for support from your readers to help us to fight for our children's education.

Once again this is being undermined by bureaucrats with an eye to balancing the books and no thought for the future.

For the last seven years,

Kilmuir Primary School has had a series of probationer teachers in our English medium class.

Although we have been lucky to have had some excellent teachers, they are forced to move on after a year.

We have pleaded with the education department to give us a full time teacher for the sake of continuity for the children but to no avail. It seems that the cheap way wins every time and Highland Council employs no one, filling in every time with a probationer teacher paid for by the government.

Since the closure - sorry 'mothballing' - of Uig Primary School and with Staffin now having Gaelic status with a small English medium unit, Kilmuir is the only English medium school in the north end, although with a Gaelic unit. Surely it is time we had a dedicated, full time, permanent English medium teacher.

On Monday June 18, parents, friends and children protested at Kilmuir school. We need a full time English teacher.

Our children are already disadvantaged by the loss of visiting teachers for specialist subjects.

Some have been forced to change schools from Uig and now they are going to have to adjust once again to another new face who is also finding their feet in a new environment and in a new career.

**Martin Madigan, Uig Bay Campsite, Isle of Skye.**

### Remarkable schoolgirl

Sir,  
I have been an avid reader of the remarkable schoolgirl who has been blogging about school meals and raising funds for Mary's Meals.

Last week Argyll and Bute Council banned any photographs from being placed on this blog.

Although this decision has now been overturned, this was an outrageous attempt to shut down a site which was inspiring and engaging children from all over the world.

We need to identify who took this decision and expose them.

The message the ban sent to our children was disgraceful and we need to fight on her behalf to protect her rights and freedom of speech.

**James Weir.**

### Standard of school meals

Sir,  
I was shocked and saddened to see Argyll and Bute Council's response to the fantastic efforts of Martha Payne in highlighting the standard of food on offer at her school.

I hope this now brings a reform of the standard of food in our schools.

As a parent with four children in the education system, it concerns me that the nutritional quality of the food on offer is so low when the demand for optimum nutrition for our children is so high.

At a time when science is showing us that the human brain is shrinking for the first time in our evolutionary history due to the poor quality of nutrition on offer throughout the land, it has been very worrying to watch the lack of freshly made produce and fresh fruit and vegetables on offer at Martha's school, through her blog posts.

How can we expect our children to be nourished and perform well in school on a diet of frozen pizzas and potato croquettes?

Why is there pudding available every day when the number one cause of the majority of our health issues, especially things like ADHD, can be directly linked to too much sugar and processed foods in the diet.

I would like to know what guidelines the council is following for supplying an optimal level of nutrition to our children.

The problem is obvious at Oban High School as well when a huge number of pupils leave the school every lunchtime to eat chips, crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks.

There has to be something done to address the attitude of these pupils toward healthy eating. It can be done but it is education that is required. Is that not the reason they go to school in the first place?

**Andrew Johnston, owner, Energie Fitness, Oban.**

### Wonderful Achnaolich Gardens

Sir,  
I read T Martin's letter in last week's *Oban Times* and my wife and I would like to add our voices to his.

We were frequent visitors to Achnaolich Gardens, both when it was opened for the annual fundraising event in aid of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and throughout the year when it was open to support the work of Scotland's Gardens Scheme (SGS).

It was wonderful to be allowed to enjoy the gardens and Mrs Nelson herself was such a pleasure to meet when we would come across her working in her garden.

She was so happy to share it with others and was so knowledgeable and friendly and the garden seemed to reflect her spirit and made it a special place to visit.

We will miss our visits there greatly now it is to be closed to the public and so will the SWT and SGS which were for so long supported by it.

**Bob Blackford, Ardross, Argyll.**

### ISLAY LETTER

#### Home gathering chairman

ALASTAIR Carmichael, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland and the Coalition Government's Deputy Chief Whip, will be guest chairman at Glasgow Islay Association's home gathering in Bowmore on July 28.

The politician was born into a hill farming family in the Mull of Oa and attended Port Ellen Primary School and the island's high school at Bowmore.

Prior to entering politics, he worked in the hotel industry before graduating in law from Aberdeen University in 1992.

He served as Procurator Fiscal Depute for Edinburgh and Aberdeen before being elected as Northern Isles MP in 2001.

Alastair, his veterinary surgeon wife Kathryn and their two sons live in Orkney. They also have a home in Shetland. He also serves as the Liberal Democrat Chief Whip and is the Comptroller of the Household.

The MP is no stranger to the gathering chair having presided at the association's Glasgow-based 143rd annual gathering in 2005. The home gathering continues a year-long celebration marking An Comunn Ileach's 150th anniversary.

#### MacBrayne Circle

WHEN around 30 members of the MacBrayne Circle met on the island they brought with them three vintage buses which were once a familiar sight on the local highways prior to the 1970s.

The vehicles, complete with their Highlander logo, proved a high point of

interest to both locals and tourists as they travelled along routes which they once plied daily carrying the Royal Mail.

The circle members were based at Port Ellen's Islay Hotel and among the places visited were Port Askaig, Ardbeg Distillery, Finlaggan and the Kildalton Cross.

During their Rhinnis sojourn, they met up at Bruichladdich Distillery with fellow vintage vehicle enthusiasts from the local motor club.

The MacBrayne Circle was set up in 1990 to restore and preserve a mode of transport which was once an integral part of transport in Highland and Island communities.

Among their most ardent members is Glasgow Ileach Alastair Aitken whose interest and knowledge of matters pertaining to west coast transport and shipping is encyclopaedic.

#### Poetry and pictures

A COLLABORATION of photographs and poetry entitled 'Voices and Images of Islay 2012' was the latest exhibition to grace the walls of Ionad Chalum Chille Ile.

The photographs, watercolours and textile works were by Margaret Bathgate, a graduate of Edinburgh School of Art and holder of the Burns-Graham award from the Royal Scottish Academy. She now lives in Glenrothes and was a music teacher in Fife for a number of years.

The accompanying poems were penned by eminent poet James Knox Whitteit who spent his boyhood in Kilmenny when his father was head gardener at Dunlossit Estate. Following local schooling, James

trained in horticulture before going on to read English at Cambridge. His poetry is now much acclaimed and he won the George Crabbe award on three separate occasions and was awarded the Neil Gunn Memorial prize in 2009.

The poems and pictures captured people and places, the wide variety of the local scenery and the valuable contribution made to island life by the Ilich featured in the well supported exhibition.

The images were unveiled on June 10 and the exhibition was officially opened by Neil Woodrow, manager of the St Columba Gaelic College.

#### Birthday girls

PORT Ellen resident Flo Johnston was in celebratory mood on June 6 when she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Family and friends gathered at the Islay Hotel at a tea party marking her nonagenarian status and the entertainment was provided by a group of young local performers.

Also blowing out the nonagenarian candles on June 12 was Madge Bremner who lives in Bowmore's Donald Caskie Square. Madge enjoyed a happy day with family and friends but insisted the celebration should be kept low key.

Ten years younger is Bowmore resident Bunty Darroch who was 80 on June 20. Family members ensured the occasion did not go unmarked and provided a happy celebration.

Everyone wishes these Ileach 'golden girls' many happy returns.  
**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

### Times Diary

DONALD MacPherson tells us that several middle-aged men met in a well-known Inverness public house and were having hours of fun and banter at their friend Archie's expense on the subject of his new gold loop earring.

'Are ye no' a bit auld for jewellery?' asked one. 'Most husbands have a ring in the nose, no' their ear,' jibed another. In a quieter moment, Donald asked the red-faced Archie: 'How long have you been wearing the ring in yir ear?' Archie looked about before answering: 'Ever since the wife found it on the back seat of the car.'

LONG-TIME friend and contributor to *The Oban Times* Donald MacKinnon reminded us of an incident when phone banking was relatively new.

Donald, with some trepidation, phoned his bank and found himself talking to someone several continents away. While the telephone call centre operative was very patient and pleasant, like Donald, English was not her first language. The discussion became increasingly agitated as neither party was 100 per cent sure of what the other was telling them. Eventually, Donald asked for details to be sent in writing. 'Certainly, sir,' agreed the nice lady. 'What is your full postal address, including postcode, please?'

Donald carefully spelt out the Gaelic name of his house. After two attempts he spelt out the name of the road it stood on. At this stage he opted to go straight to Oban - 'O, B, A, . . . no A for apple - N, . . . no N, not M, . . . N for Nigel. 'The postcode is P - . . . no P, P for Peter, A for apple, 3, 7, S, no not F, S for sugar, and Q, . . . no Q for . . . for. . . cucumber!'

WARY of this becoming a series, *Diary* has yet more Olympic torch-themed exploits to share.

This rather too cheery individual, right, raised a few laughs when he showed off the 'forgotten the gym kit' look, running in the middle of the official torch convoy in only his pants when the flame was carried through Tyndrum.

*Diary* doubts he'll do the same if the Winter Olympics comes to the UK any time soon.



MANY public organisations are criticised for a lack of 'consultation' when it comes to making big decisions.

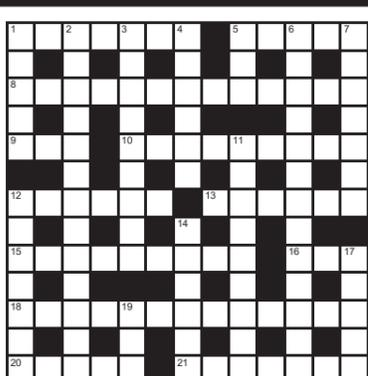
However, sometimes a widespread consultation process does not always get the response that was perhaps required. Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) recently 'consulted with' all of its 5,115 tenants during January this year on a proposed rent increase of 6.6 per cent for 2012. However, despite facing a fairly high price hike, tenants did not exactly stage a protest in response, with only three responses received by the association. Saying that, the three who did respond must have made good cases, as the ACHA board approved a reduced increase of 5.8 per cent.

THERE are moments in everyone's lives when the words just don't exist to convey the full scale of a reaction to something unexpected.

Just such a moment was had by one of our roving reporters this week. When returning from a trip to Callander, he was left agog when spotting an abandoned pair of shoes, next to a wheelchair, in a lay-by near Lochearnhead.

The question is - how does someone forget their wheelchair?

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Putting money away (7)
  - German chemist or a Dutch painter (5)
  - Drives in the direction when moved (8,5)
  - Hooper (3)
  - If I used it, there wouldn't be words here! (6,3)
  - Scribe (6)
  - The astringent taste in red wine (6)
  - Field events (9)
  - Dried leaves, used to make a beverage (3)
  - One who starts it all (7,6)
  - Apprehensive (5)
  - Consumer (3,4)

- Down**
- Catch, in a ring (5)
  - Place to live (8,5)
  - Illumine (9)
  - Kind (6)
  - Fiddle stick (3)
  - Voice carrier on a ship (8,5)
  - Carefree (7)
  - Exceed (9)
  - Frolicsome (7)
  - Passionate (6)
  - Dryer (5)
  - Calendar square (3)

Last week's solution

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

**BB gun trial postponed**

THE TRIAL of a Fort William teenager accused of shooting an 11-year-old with a BB gun has been postponed because a witness did not appear in court after being given the wrong date by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Procurator Fiscal Eilidh Robertson said a letter sent to one of the witnesses against David Alexander stated the trial would be held on July 18, rather than June 18. Alexander, of 1 Banff Crescent, denies striking the youngster on the body with the air gun pellet, injuring him, at Lochaber Road play park on February 16. The 16-year-old is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 15.

**Verbal abuse costs man £300**

A MAN has been fined £300 after verbally abusing two women in Caol.

Raymond McPhee, 20, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosneath, Dumbarton, appeared from custody to plead guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by uttering threats of violence and shouting and swearing at the women on Kilmallie Road on June 15.

**Stolen boat and trailer found abandoned**

AN ORKNEY Day Angler boat and trailer were found abandoned last Friday after being stolen from Acharacle sometime over the previous two days.

A punctured wheel had prevented the boat being taken any further and it was recovered undamaged in a layby on the A830 at Loch Eilt Side near the AA phone box. Police are appealing for witnesses to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, Strontian Police Station on 01967 402022 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Lotto draw jackpot rises to £200**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw at the weekend. Numbers were 02-03-14. The jackpot goes up to £200 this week.

**Guilty of unprovoked attack**

A MAN has been found guilty of launching an unprovoked attack on another man in Fort William. Alexandria man John McPhee assaulted Graham Campbell by repeatedly punching him on the head and kicking him on the legs on The Parade on December 30.

Local man Mr Campbell, aged 20, was walking with his partner Eilidh Sillers when McPhee and a 14-year-old boy ran towards him.

Mr Campbell told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'He came right up to my face shouting and swearing. I tried to move him out the way, then he punched me a couple of times.'

The pair began battling and McPhee kicked Mr Campbell on the shins.

Ms Sillers said McPhee threw the first punch, but McPhee claimed Mr Campbell attacked him and he reacted in self-defence.

Citing a previous incident between one of his relatives and Mr Campbell, 22-year-old McPhee said: 'He came running up the stairs towards us and threw a punch at me. I started punching him back to get him away from me.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I am satisfied the Crown witnesses were both credible and reliable. I did not believe the accused when he said he was the one who was attacked first.'

McPhee, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosneath, is due to be sentenced next month.

**Teenager admits brandishing knife**

A DUROR teenager has admitted brandishing a Stanley knife at a group of youths in Ballachulish.

Ciaran Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by brandishing the blade at the group, including

a 14-year-old girl, near the Co-op on Loan Fern Road on March 2. The 16-year-old also admitted having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse. Fort William Sheriff court heard.

Sentencing was deferred until July 19 for reports.

**Man repeatedly kicked victim**

A CAOL man who repeatedly kicked a man on the head during a drunken fracas has been fined £450.

Iain MacKay, of 15 Clunes Avenue, previously pled guilty to assaulting Thomas Bell at a taxi rank on Fort William High Street by striking him on the head and repeatedly kicking him on the head in the early hours of May 8 last year.

Sentencing was deferred in December for MacKay to be of good behaviour.

Procurator Fiscal Eilidh Robertson said Mr Bell approached MacKay, aged 33, and his wife with his belt wrapped round his hand following a verbal altercation.

Mr Bell attempted to hit Mrs MacKay and was punched to the ground by another man.

Ms Robertson said: 'Mr MacKay walked away, but then turned round and walked back towards Mr Bell, struck him on the head and repeatedly kicked him on the head.'

**Evidence** Fort William Sheriff Court heard MacKay had earlier given evidence in a trial against a relative of Mr Bell.

Hearing MacKay had stayed clear of trouble since his last court appearance, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was a serious assault, although I accept there was a considerable degree of provocation.'

**Alleged assault on partner denied**

AN ARISAIG man has denied assaulting his partner by punching her on the head and face and throwing her to the floor, all to her injury.

Appearing from custody, Danus Laurinavicius, of 11 Canon Gillies Place, also pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing and throwing items around the house.

It is alleged the incidents took place in the house the couple share on June 11.

The 45-year-old was released on bail on condition he does not contact the woman or approach her property.

He told the court he planned to live on his fishing boat 'Faster Fishing', which sits on land near Mallaig harbour.

The trial is due to be held on July 30.



Jessie Corson: MBE for Mallaig community work. Photograph by Alexander Mathieson.

**Mallaig pensioner awarded MBE**

Modest Jessie claims: 'I don't think I'm doing anything special.'

A MALLAIG pensioner's years of dedication to her local community have been rewarded with an MBE.

And Jessie Corson almost turned down the award through modesty after being given news she would be in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Jessie, who lives in Fank Brae with husband Bobby, told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought I was going to say 'no'. I have been very embarrassed for the last few days. I don't think I'm doing anything special - I think everybody should be doing something for a small community.'

She added: 'I think the village has been recognised - and I want Mallaig to be recognised as having a good community spirit. We have taken our living from the area and I think you should always give something back.'

In 1964, Jessie helped found Mallaig Whist Club, which celebrates its golden jubilee in 2014. She said: 'When the club started we would regularly get 40 tables - now we're lucky if we have six. We are always on the lookout for new members.'

The sprightly 74-year-old - a former Mallaig Secondary and Mallaig High School secretary - retired nine years ago but still helps out at Mallaig and Morar primaries as a knitting tutor.

Jessie, who is originally from Inverloch, is also a keen supporter of Christian Aid and Mallaig Church of Scotland, where she is an elder.

Carloway crofter and former Western Isles Council convener Alex MacDonald received an OBE in recognition of his 28 years of dedicated work as a local councillor.

Western Isles health worker Peggy MacLeod was awarded an MBE for services to nursing and people with motor neurone disease.

**Court names fatal accident inquiry date**

A FATAL accident inquiry into the road accident on the A82 in March in which two Lochaber men died is due to be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 13 and 14.

Stewart McGifford of Caol and Ronnie MacPhee of Mallaig were both killed when their vehicles collided a mile south of Glencoe on Thursday March 8.

Mr MacPhee, a father of two, had been driving home when his Fiat Punto collided with the Ferguson Transport lorry being driven by Mr McGifford. The lorry was heading south with a delivery of planks from BSW's sawmill at Corpach. Fiscal Alison Wylie

said: 'The Sheriff of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Fort William will hold an inquiry on August 13 and 14, with a preliminary hearing to be held on August 1, into the circumstances of the deaths of Ronald Anthony MacPhee and Stewart McGifford.'

Mr McGifford, 48, who lived with his wife Joan in Kilmallie Road, had been a driver for Ferguson Transport for five years. Mr MacPhee, 45, lived in Dalburgh in South Uist before he moved to Mallaig. He was brought up on the family croft and has an extended family on the island. He had worked for CalMac for 27 years.

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The Big Minch Swim Team: hoping to strike out for Stornoway from Ullapool on Monday.

**Swimmers in bid to be first to conquer Minch**

IT IS a stretch of water with a fearsome reputation - but next week nine brave Isle of Lewis swimmers will attempt to be the first to conquer The Minch.

Hazards along the 102km route from Ullapool to Stornoway include jellyfish, hypothermia and exhaustion, but The Big Minch Swim Team is determined to raise thousands for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The team has a ten-day window from June 23-July 3 to make the 50-hour swim from pier to pier, tracing the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry route.

Current plans - if fair weather prevails - will see the first swimmer enter Loch Broom on Monday. Working in relay day and night, each team member will be accompanied by a kayaker and swim for around an hour before being relieved.

Support boat *MV Cuma*, donated by Murdani Macdonald of Lewis company Island Cruising, will escort the swimmers across. Estimated arrival time at South

Beach opposite the Caledonian Hotel is sometime on Wednesday - if the swim goes ahead as planned.

Stornoway RNLI press officer and team member Eilidh Whiteford told *The Oban Times* weather was key.

She said: 'Anything from force five upwards means it's not possible. We are trying to talk to the big man upstairs for some good weather!'

'We have been training hard and sea swimming from local beaches. We'll have one hour each in the water and six or seven turns per swimmer.'

Other Big Minch Swim Team members are Saul Hindson, Colin Macleod, Rodney Jamieson, Chris Baker, Tariq Hussain, Laura Maynard, Scott Connor, Mark Doug Maciver, and reserve Douglas Forbes.

The appeal has almost reached its £5,000 target and comes as Stornoway RNLI Station celebrates its 125th anniversary. Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/thebigminchswim.

**Council gets tough on bin bill dodgers**

HUNDREDS of commercial holiday home owners are to have their bin collections stopped by Highland Council for failing to set up waste collection contracts.

The move follows a council letter to the owners of around 1,650 non-domestic rated holiday home properties in February advising the collection service would cease if no response was received by March.

Just over half responded and after granting more time the council is now stopping the service to those owners who did not reply.

Stickers reading 'no contract, no uplift' will be attached to unauthorised bins presented for collection.

A council spokesperson said holiday home business owners have a legal duty to have a waste collection contract in place.

She said: 'It has to be recognised that these businesses are committing a criminal offence. They are also avoiding paying for their collection service and these costs are being borne by the tax payer. I am sure taxpayers and those businesses which are meeting their legal obligations and are paying for their collection service would expect the council to take a firm stance against these businesses.'

'The annual cost for servicing 1 x 240litre residual bin and 1 x 240litre recycling bin on an alternate weekly collection basis averages out at £2.74 per week and most holiday homes charge several hundred pounds per week.'

**Plockton Music School sets up new charitable trust to help raise funds**

SGOIL Chiùil Na Gàidhealtachd, The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School, has set up a new charitable trust to support its activities.

'Friends of Plockton Music School' will be launched at the centre's end of year concert in the school on Saturday. The trust will aim to top up funding from Highland Council, which has been reduced.

Centre director Dougie Pincock said 'fringe' activities such as CD production, touring and outreach and buying

equipment were 'immediate priorities'. He said: 'These are the kind of things we took out of the budget when the council asked us to make some savings and although we could get along without them, they're all really valuable things to have.'

We need about £30,000 a year to keep them happening, so that's the initial target income.'

The new trust supporting the centre, which provides specialist tuition in traditional music for talented youngsters of secondary school age, will be funded

by annual membership subscription and donations.

Chairman of the board of trustees is BBC broadcaster, money expert and piper Fergus Muirhead.

Saturday's concert will feature all 24 students in seven bands and playing together for the finale.

Accordion, clarinet, fiddle, pipes, piano, guitar, whistle, flute and Scots and Gaelic song will feature strongly on the programme.

Tickets can be reserved by contacting Rhona Sharp on 01599 544706.

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Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. The £500 vouchers can only be spent in Lidl stores in Fort William and Oban, Scotland.



**Angus D MacColl - Live**  
 Angus, who hails from Benderloch, near Oban in Argyll, is ranked among the world's greatest pipers. Recorded live in Oban, this CD features highland bagpiping at the highest level. He comes from an illustrious piping family and is the Great Grand Nephew of the legendary John MacColl. This CD is dedicated to his father and piping teacher, Dugie MacColl, who died very suddenly at home in 2002, aged 67. He excels as an entertainer and is constantly in demand at recitals throughout the country.

**Peter Nardini - Hug**  
 A singer-songwriter whose songs conjure up vivid images of Scottish life - full of wit, perceptive, tender, filled with off-the-wall images. Peter's songs have the politics of Billy Bragg, the edge and wit of Loudon Wainwright, the dark romance of Jacques Brel and the accent of Billy Connolly. What shines through is the unique talent of Peter Nardini, brush-artist and wordsmith. On his fifth album, Peter is joined by a select group of musicians, led by producer Mike Katz, best known for his role as bagpiper and multi-instrumentalist with Scottish traditional music legends Battlefield Band.

**Ewan McLennan - The Last Bird To Sing**  
 Second album from this acclaimed young folk singer and guitarist. He has been making a name for himself performing at festivals, clubs and concert halls across the UK and is the winner of several awards including the 2011 BBC Radio 2 Horizon Award. The CD is a mix of traditional songs, covers and self-penned material, bringing together songs which champion the downtrodden. His guitar playing is influenced by the rigour and technique from years of studying classical guitar for his music degree, followed by further tuition from guitar supremo Martin Simpson - it retains a unique, compelling sound in which his immersion in folk music is evident.

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# Celtic supergroups to star in Oban charity concert

## Oban publican lines up Skerryvore and Manran

AN OBAN publican is bringing two heavyweights of the traditional music scene to the town in a bid to raise thousands of pounds for cancer charities.

Neil 'Nonnie' MacInnes and his wife Karen, who have recently lost family and a friend to cancer, will bring Celtic supergroups *Skerryvore* and *Manran* to the Corran Halls on September 29.

The concert, 'We Will Walk Together', will be the first time the groups have performed together on stage at such an event and they will be supported by up-and-coming Oban band, Ceol an Aire.

By ensuring his costs are covered through a generous response from sponsors, Nonnie has made sure every penny from ticket sales will go towards the two charities: Marie Curie Cancer Care and Cancer Research.

'Once we realised we were getting so much support from sponsors we were overwhelmed. A lot of them have personal reasons for getting involved.'

'I want the event to be a celebration of the people we have lost, but also of the people who have survived cancer and the people who are going through it just now.'

Tickets for the event will be available from Coasters, the Corran Halls, or through the DMI Cancer Trust Facebook page.

Sponsors of the event are: RA Clements, SEC Builders, Jimmy Buchanan, Caley Fisheries, Hamish Matheson, MGM Timber, Fusion Marine, JM Boyd Plumbers, Coasters and John MacLennan Contractors (Barra).

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their families.

Cancer Research UK spends more than £18 million a year in Glasgow on some of the UK's leading scientific and clinical research.



Celtic supergroup Manran will return to Oban for the concert. ©25manran02



Tiree's oldest Jubilee party-goer, Margaret Jones, Kilmoluag, with the island's youngest, Mackenzie Macarthur, Caolas.

## Tiree gets into jubilee spirit

MORE than 200 islanders on Tiree converged at community hall An Talla for a hugely successful Diamond Jubilee Tea Party.

The hall was decked out with balloons, flags and bunting, while tables were laid in the style of a street party, with Union Flags, tablecloths and napkins.

Music from the 1950s helped the party swing into action and, after a delicious tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls and cream scones, there were traditional games, a Royal quiz, colouring books for the children and a Royal Raffle.

Margaret Jones cut a jubilee cake and Tere Beavers handed out more than 40 potted plants to older members of the island.

Jackie Jones, Rosemary Omand, Jessie Gray, Josie Brown, Pat Campbell and Rona Campbell, who organised this event, said: 'We would like to thank Tere Windfall Fund for a contribution towards the cost of this event - which allowed us to make this a free ticket party - and to everyone who helped to make this happen.'



An Talla was packed as the Isle of Tere celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style.

## Uist hosts first Corncrake Festival

WITH festival season in full swing an inaugural - and rather unusual - event is coming to Uist.

The first Uist Corncrake Festival is taking place at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Balranald reserve on Friday June 22 and 23. Marion Ferguson, information officer at the reserve, said: 'It's going to be a lot of fun. There'll be guided walks, free barbecues, beer and whisky tastings and free games and activities for children.'

Activities planned include a machair race, corncrake origami, badge making, face painting and 'pin the beak on the corncrake'. Children are also invited to create a corncrake picture, to be judged in a competition with a prize for the winner.

Jamie Boyle, RSPB Balranald reserve site manager, said: 'Corncrakes were once common across much of the UK but changes in farming practices saw the population plummet and by the early 1990s it became a globally-threatened species. But crofters and farmers here in the Hebrides, with support from agricultural schemes, have produced an increase in corncrake numbers in recent years, and that has to be worth celebrating.'



A calling corncrake. Photograph by Andy Hay.

## Scottish artists' work goes on show in Ullapool

ULLAPOOL Visual Arts' latest exhibition, West Coast Open 8, opens at an Ullapool tomorrow evening at 7pm.

The annual open exhibition, now in its eighth year, features artists from across Scotland.

Exhibition officer Charlotte Watters said: 'This year promises to be a really super show with a broad range of work from paintings, photographs, prints and sculptural pieces.'

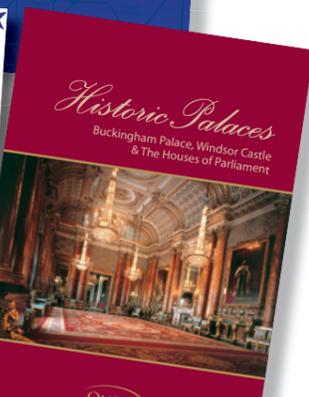
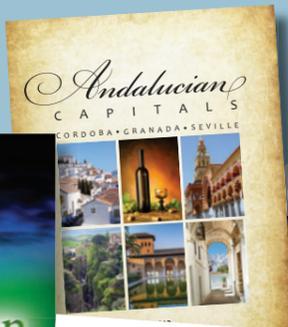
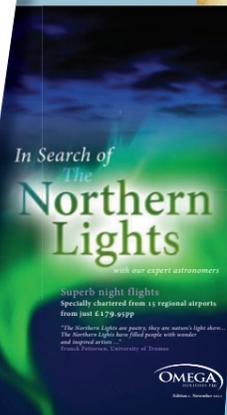
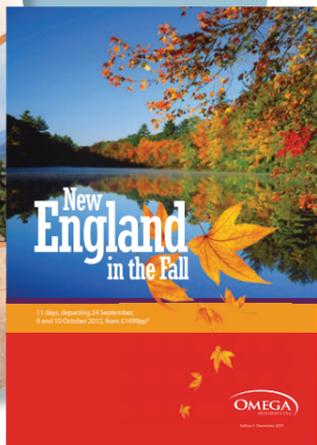
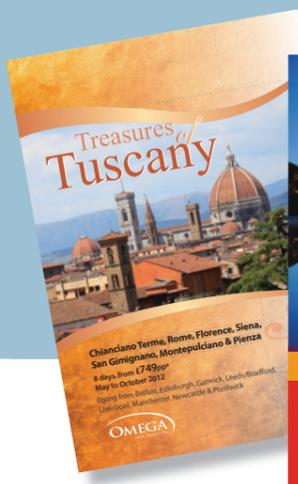
The show runs from 10am to 4pm daily until July 15. Admission is free.

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Quote OBT

**Down your way**

ONE OF Britain's best jive bands will headline this year's Callander Jazz and Blues Festival, which promises to be bigger and better than last year's hugely successful event.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys, an eight-piece jump jive band from Birmingham, will headline the first day of the musical extravaganza, which so far has confirmed 18 acts for this September's three day event.

Firmly established as one of the country's largest, most eclectic and entertaining rural music events, the festival's organisers say this year's line-up will be its best yet.

While King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys will top the bill on September 28, the Jacqui Dankworth and her Quartet will headline the second day. A superb jazz vocalist in her own right, she is the daughter of Grammy award winning jazz singer and actress, Dame Cleo Laine, and Sir John Dankworth - one of the finest jazz composers and saxophonists the UK has produced.

Now, with a distinctive style of her own and with two award-winning albums behind her, Jacqui is recognised as one of the country's leading jazz vocalists.

Other top names so far confirmed to play at this year's festival include iconic band, The Revolutionaries, The Lyndon Anderson Band, The Jiveoholics, the Guy Tortora Band and Howlin' Mat.

Others include the Pentatonics, Swing Sensation, Jazz Maine, Baby Isaac and Lewis Hamilton and the Boogie Brothers - who can play just as fast as they sound.

As always, there will be a host of open mic and jam sessions to give local and visiting musicians a chance to show their skills.

A regular attraction and one of the hottest tickets in town for the event is the Jazz Cruise across Loch Katrine. Last year's cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott was a sell-out, so tickets are sure to go quickly when confirmed for this year.

Some 45 acts appeared at last year's festival.

For more information on the event, visit callanderjazz.com.

PUPILS from Callander were in Stirling last week - to see the Olympic Torch on its way to London.

The Olympic Citizenship group, who were instrumental in the school being awarded the Get Set Network Olympic award, travelled to see the torch on Wednesday.

□ □ □



IT IS a place of unbridled joy; everything from Aston Martins, GI Joe to the cast of Star Wars and even Pooh Bear and vintage dollhouses. Hamilton's Toy Collection in Callander will bring a smile to even the hardest to please visitors.

Situated at 111 Main Street, the unassuming entrance opens into a treasure trove of memories and fun, with thousands of collectable and sometimes not so collectable toys sitting side by side - bringing out the inner child in all that enter.

For owners Philip and Patsy Hamilton, they never tire of seeing the smile on people's faces as they delve into the collection, with each of the museum's five rooms evoking emotions and imaginations long since forgotten.

The same is true of the Hamiltons, who turned their hobby - or obsession - into one of Callander's most interesting and popular attractions 17 years ago. Now in their mid 70s, they demonstrate a youthful energy and enthusiasm that reverberates throughout each of its five rooms - each one made up of toys specially selected by each member of their family.

But it could all never have happened.

Philip explains: "It started when we lived in Dartmoor. I had quite a collection at that time and I used to go around jumble sales picking things up. We filled the loft, the garage and even the kids' bedrooms when they left. Patsy then said either sell them or open a toy museum."

The couple fell in love with Callander and quickly found what would be their new home at 111 Main Street.

It makes for a thoroughly enjoyable day for all the family, but Patsy says the adults enjoy it most. "Older children now have computer games so they don't get it as much, but adults tend to love it most," she said. Philip added: "We once had a lady of 89 who was almost dragged in by her family because she didn't think she'd like it. While here, she found a small black doll like the one she had as a child and she wept with joy."

"The toys just bring back great memories."

# Oban primary pupils 'Dare to Dance' at Corran Halls

PUPILS from Oban's primary campus took to the stage in the Corran Halls last week to a sold out crowd.

The children dared to dance to raise funds for the school - but more importantly put on a fun show.

Youngsters from primary one right through to primary seven took part in the performances which saw a variety of dances choreographed by Adele Gillies.

At least 125 children and 25 staff took part on the night in front of the 600 strong audience.

Jack Degnan, head teacher said: "This

is just for fun to show that education in school can be fun.

"It was intended as a fund raiser and that's great but the main aim is to have a bit of fun and it lets the kids see the staff in a different light which is why I do it."

Last year the event was held on campus with 400 parents attending but it was felt the stage was too small.

The event was moved to the Corran Halls this year to provide a bigger venue and Mr Degnan added: "We sold out of tickets a couple of days ago but still had people phoning up this morning looking for tickets."



Moves like Jagger was the tune for primary four. 16\_125dare02



Pupils from primary one and two showed off their moves to Hakuna Matata. 16\_125dare03



Children from primary one, two and three on stage to Marry You. 16\_125dare04

## Nether Lochaber country dancers celebrate



Nether Lochaber Scottish country dancers celebrated another successful season at a recent ceilidh and awards presentation in Alltshalach Country House Hotel in North Ballachulish. On display were the trophies won in competitions, which included three from the Inverness Music Festival and two at Lochaber Music Festival. Local woman Kate Ward tutors the young dancers, assisted by Fiona Borland, and Duror and Glencoe primary schools head teacher Marylin MacDonald. Ms MacDonald told The Oban Times: "We have 34 dancers in the class and membership continues to be strong, with great support from the parents." Classes are held at Nether Lochaber Village Hall in Onich on Tuesday evenings.

**what's on oban**

Thursday 21st June > Ceilidh Night  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm-till late

Thursday 21st June > Disco  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am

Friday 22nd June > Stretch & Archie  
Markie Duns

Saturday 23rd June > Nightclub with DJs  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am, £5 entry

Saturday 23rd June > Chris Suckle  
Markie Duns

Sunday 24th June > Quiz  
Markie Duns with Quizmaster Stevo

**what's on lochaber**

Friday 22nd June > Nightclub with DJ Irish Al  
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock

Saturday 23rd June > Nightclub 10pm till 2am  
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Beats

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# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<p><b>AYE TUNES</b> DRAMS ALLOWED Ceilidh Dance and CD Launch Argyllshire Gathering Halls Oban Fri 22nd June 8pm £5 per adult, children under 16 free Tickets: Oban Music or Sileas; 07881656245</p>	<p><b>BIG QUIZ</b> Big Quiz Night At Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine £100 First Prize Friday 29th June @ 7.30pm £10 per table of 4 Book your table on 01631 720386 BYOB</p>	<p><b>St Orans &amp; Dunbeg Churches</b> Summer Lunches in Connell Church Hall Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays 12-2pm From 26th June - 30th August Soup, Rolls, Home Baking Tea &amp; Coffee Price £3.50 Children £1.50 A Warm Welcome to All</p>	<p><b>Alzheimer Scotland</b> Action on Dementia Family Fun Day Inveraray castle Saturday 23rd June 12pm - 4pm Largest knitted blanket World record attempt. Free Admission (To Fun Day)</p>
<p><b>Spotlight Musical Theatre Group</b> Proudly Presents "ONE NIGHT ONLY" An evening of cabaret featuring songs From the West End and Broadway Thursday 21st June 7.30pm Corran Halls Tickets £7.50 / £5.50</p>	<p><b>OBAN - LAURINBURG</b> 20th Anniversary Celebration Ceilidh Saturday 23rd June 2012 Argyllshire Gathering 8pm All welcome For tickets phone 07739404517 or 07990522537 Tickets Adults £5; Children £3 Also available at door</p>		

## TV documentary looks at life in the Falkland Islands

IN 1982, war broke out between Britain and Argentina over ownerships of the Falkland Islands - the Malvinas to Argentina.

Explore To mark the 30th anniversary of the conflict, next Monday at 9pm BBC ALBA will broadcast Trusadh: The Falklands Islands, a poignant documentary on the landscape, wildlife and population of the remote South Atlantic isles.

The programme will feature James MacLethie examining what life is like

30 years on, with traces of the war still scattered across the landscape.

Eco-tourism consultant James first visited the Falkland Islands in 2005 when he worked on a project and helped write their tourist brochure.

He now returns to explore the impact of the conflict, and to see how the islands are embracing tourism - particularly through the draw of its unique wildlife, which includes a million penguins nesting there each summer.

Trusadh: The Falklands Islands is produced by MacTV.



BASED on the shores of the picturesque Loch Katrine, Callander is one of Scotland's undisputed beauty spots - and well worth a visit.

Boasting a lively town centre with thriving retail and catering businesses, it is little wonder it is as popular with locals as it is with far-flung tourists.

With a town-centre regeneration project set to revamp its image further, not only is Callander a place with an attractive history, but it is a location determined not to rest on its laurels and continue to provide a first-class experience now and in the future.

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LISMORE

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura and Robbie Cook on the birth of their daughter Isabella Marie, a sister for Katie, Fionn and Fergus.

LISMORE Lumiere, Lismore's first Festival of Film was, to quote the attractive brochure, "an exciting new cinema extravaganza" held over the long hot holiday weekend in June.

The event was a lengthy collaboration with Pix in The Stix - a volunteer-run community cinema from East Linton which is successfully bringing films into remoter areas - and a group of talented islanders, Sarah Campbell, Christina Cass, Dot Hay, Hazel MacCormick and Marlene MacKinnon.

The festival, as the enthusiastic audiences soon discovered, was a great deal more than a few films on a big screen. There were cocktails and canapes on arrival, a wide ranging film selection for all ages, a transformed hall with cosily arranged seating around tables, themed programmes with dressing up encouraged and an intermission with a cinema pianist, ice creams, hamburgers and popcorn.

The result was it became a community event where socialising was as important as the film, which is not the normal cinema experience. It was ceremoniously opened on Friday evening when Morag Fowler, the first to arrive, cut the golden ribbon and the first film 'The Help' began to roll. A midnight performance of 'The Rocky Horror Show' followed for which the audience was invited to dress up and offered props in goody bags.

Saturday offered matinees for children, 'Chipwrecked' and 'Mysterious Island' in 3D and a red carpet event with great

frocks in the evening for a screening of 'The Artist' with a special appearance by Buzz the lookalike 'Artist' dog.

The house was packed on Sunday for Lismore's own 'Port Ramsay - Cradle of Master Mariners', the premiere of a film about the heyday of the sailing smacks in which Mary MacDougall interviewed three retired Master Mariners - Duncan Black, Johnnie McFadyen and Calum MacCorquodale. This can be seen daily on the small screen at Lismore Museum.

And to follow - what else but 'Whisky Galore' served with a dram. 'The Descendants' was Sunday evening's film and on Monday there was 'The Secret Book of the Kells' for children in the morning and 'The King's Speech', served with cream teas - a nod to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - in the afternoon.

Such was the success of this event that the organisers hope to continue to show films on a regular basis so watch www.lisloremore.com and the usual notice boards for details. Pix in the Stix was also filming the event and this film will be available later in the year.

LISMORE'S jubilee celebrations followed the film festival and started in fine style with a Royal Treasure Hunt in the fields beside the museum, organised by Beth Campbell and Lorraine King.

Several teams competed to find treasures from the museum that had been cleverly spirited away.

The street party in the museum car park which lacked in expertise they made up for in enthusiasm and, with Anne's clear instruction and amazing crowd control, several dances were accomplished and everyone had a great time.

It was back to the café for a popular Royal Barbecue which was to have been outside but the balmy weather was threatening to break and Beth successfully served up a feast inside to bring jubilee day to a fitting close.



Kyleakin pupils enjoyed their Diamond Jubilee day.

Kyleakin Primary School's jubilee day fun

KYLEAKIN Primary School staff and pupils enjoyed a great day when they staged a Diamond Jubilee celebration on June 8.

The children took part in a fancy hat parade, a competition to draw themselves as kings or queens and an afternoon tea party.

They also sang a song called 'Diamond Day' and Martin MacRae played the pipes.

Fancy hat competition winners were Martin MacRae, Wilson Innes, Isabella Langlands.

Runners-up were Jazzy Supper, Sarah MacQuarrie, Catriona MacLennan, Rachel Morrison, Catherine Vass and Eilidh Ann MacLean.

Drawing competition winners were Bethany Stewart, Rachel Morrison and Martin MacRae.

School administrator Gayle Morrison said: 'We had lots of people from the village attending with lots of fancy hats. We made bunting and flags too. We had a great day and thank everyone who came and supported us.'

great games - and the prizes. At 6pm the celebrations moved to the hall where a packed house joined Anne Livingstone for a Royal Country Dance.

What some of the dancers lacked in expertise they made up for in enthusiasm and, with Anne's clear instruction and amazing crowd control, several dances were accomplished and everyone had a great time.

It was back to the café for a popular Royal Barbecue which was to have been outside but the balmy weather was threatening to break and Beth successfully served up a feast inside to bring jubilee day to a fitting close.



The Festival of Film's organising group from Pix in the Stix and Lismore.



Lismore's street party was popular with children and adults.



Donald MacCormick inspects his jubilee coin prize.



Alastair Maclean Fleming looks on as Lismore's jubilee celebrations get underway.

NORTH UIST



North Uist Primary School Sports trophy winners.

Paible School hosts North Uist Primary School Sports

THE 55TH North Uist Primary School Sports (NUPSS) were held at Paible School on Friday June 8.

The weather was dry, bright and chilly; the bonus was no rain or midgets!

The whole event ran very smoothly thanks to everyone involved.

A special thank you was extended to all the volunteer helpers who helped in various roles.

Pre-school up to P3 pupils took part in the traditional events, short, long, sack, egg

and spoon and obstacle races. P4 to 7 competed in 100m, 150m, long jump, shot putt and cricket ball throw.

Kenny Campbell presented the boys' prizes and both the cups. The Valley Trophy which was donated by his father the late Calum Campbell who along with other teachers in North Uist founded the NUPSS 55 years ago. Kenny also presented the Calum Campbell Memorial Cup for throwing.

Chrissie MacCuish presented the girls' prizes and the Ronay Cup donated by the late Jean

APPIN

FOLLOWING Barcaldine Primary School's success in The Big Pedal Competition, their near neighbours in Appin were also prizewinners.

Strath of Appin Primary School came first in one of the local stages and were awarded two local BMX bikes, 12 copies of The Boy Who Biked The World and a similar commemorative plaque to Barcaldine.

Every pupil and staff member in school and pre-school took part in the competition, which encourages pupils to cycle more.

PLOCKTON

COMMUNION was held at the Free Church in Plockton on Sunday June 10. Visiting minister was the Rev Dr Colin Dew from Glasgow.

Plockton Historical Society presented a talk in Plockton Hall on June 7. It was given by Anne MacLaren and was on the sinking of the HMS Curacoa.

Sailing: The third of six races for local boats for the Moore Bowl as held on Saturday June 9. Three boats sailed and results were: 1 Michael Hay, Nan; 2 Neil MacRae, Ajax; 3 Morag Amos, Eala Bhan. At the halfway stage the Nan has seven points and the Ajax has seven points.

Congratulations to Tom MacIver who lives at Muir of Ord who was 105 on June 13. Tom is a founder member of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club and was also present at the first meeting of Plockton Hall.

He was headmaster at Plockton and Kyle primary schools.

Actor Gerard Butler stayed in Plockton for one night on May

Canna Criomagan

CANNA'S two white-tailed eagle chicks are sporting new jewellery after a team of intrepid bird-ringers came to the island last week.

The venture involved a hairy-looking descent down a steep cliff face to the nest to ring the young birds, while mum - who has rather large talons and an even bigger and more vicious-looking beak - circled around nearby anxiously until, the deed done, the magnificent birds were left in peace to get on with family life.

Ringing the chicks will enable scientists to monitor the birds' movements and find out more about their survival and where the youngsters go when they leave Canna to establish new territories.



The mother of Canna's two white-tailed eagle chicks circles anxiously as the young birds are ringed.

Photograph by: Olivia Uney, cannainniseophotography.co.uk

A BIT of a party was held at the Gille Brighde later that day, to celebrate the success of the ringing expedition.

A Taste of Canna buffet was laid on and all the residents of the island, plus holidaymakers, friends from Rum and Skye and various other visitors came along.

Local delicacies including haggis roll, smoked venison and rabbit pate - fast becoming a staple food for Canna - went down very well. Our neighbours from Rum were jealous that we have such a great meeting place on Canna.

MEANWHILE, down on the farm, visitors to the island have been delighted that the herd of Highland cows and their uncannily teddy-bear-like calves have been brought down from the high pastures to the field behind The Rocket to graze.

Day-trippers, yachting and gnarly workmen can all be seen leaning over the wall behind the church to coo and chuckle at the delightfully hairy youngsters, while their mums peer short-sightedly and suspiciously through their long fringes.



Canna's Highland cows are delighting visitors and residents.

IT'S BEEN a great month for the Canna Community Shop, only its second since opening. Total takings for May were in excess of £1,370, raising £345 for Canna Community Association (CCA).

The shop is stocked with arts, crafts and other goods created by members of the community and drinks and snacks for visitors. Twenty per cent of all takings go to the CCA, which aims to support community development on Canna and to ensure the long-term stability and viability of the island.

31 and enjoyed the lovely dry weather.

Calum Mackenzie held a cruise in his boat *Sula Mhor* on June 8 at which curry was served and musicians played. More than £600 was raised for Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers.

Emma Siedle-Collins and David Collins presented an exhibition of mixed media and textiles with watercolour landscapes from June 4 to 9 in Plockton Hall.

DUROR

DUROR Primary School pupils will be getting on their bikes for an 18-mile torch relay this Sunday.

Sixteen pupils will take on the sponsored relay on the Sustrans cycle route on June 24.

The children will all be carrying their own Olympic torch as they aim to raise money for the school to help towards the costs of sporting activities.

KINLOCHLEVEN



P1 pupil Daisy McGarry, aged 5, was among the Kinlochleven Primary children who enjoyed a picnic to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the school.

PLOCKTON



Unfortunately the Olympic Torch did not visit Skye and Lochalsh or Ross-Shire. But a visitor arrived in Plockton with one he made - and it attracted a lot of attention from visitors and locals, reports local Oban Times correspondent Charlie MacRae.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN woman Loes Knopper is asking local people to support a charity in aid of horse welfare.

Ms Knopper is looking for supporters to stage an 'On Horses for Horses' sponsored ride or other event on any day in September.

Ms Knopper said: 'The idea is to have fun and raise money for Equine Charity World Horse Welfare.'

'Last year was the first year and so far we have raised £2,290.15 and ridden a combined 3,394.75 miles in 10 countries. I want it to be a success and really make a difference for horses.' More information at www.onhorsesforhorses.org/blog.php.

GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY Singers' last practise session before they take a summer break will be in Invergarry Primary School on Wednesday June 27.

The group will re-start on August 15. Anyone interested in joining can come along.

KILCHOAN

SCOTLAND'S most westerly football club Kilchoan FC travelled south to take on Giffnock Crocs in its first game of the summer, losing a close match 3-2.

The Ardnamurchan team consisted of 10 locals and four with Kilchoan connections and showed some slick passing in the first half. The away side made the breakthrough when Craig Lindsay slotted the ball into the back of the net.

The lead didn't last long as Giffnock pulled themselves back into the game before half time and Kilchoan keeper Justin Cameron had to pull off a good save to keep the scores level.

After the break Giffnock exerted more pressure as the rain started to fall and scored twice to take a 3-1 lead.

After some substitutions - including a debut for Lewis Mackenzie - and a change in formation, Kilchoan came back into the game and Richard Van de Peer pulled one back from the edge of the box just before the final whistle.

INVERGARRY

PUPILS from Invergarry Primary School are setting out on a litter pick to tidy the village for the start of summer today (Thursday).

The youngsters will split into groups in an attempt to cover as much of the village and surrounding area as possible.

ROY BRIDGE

ROY BRIDGE youngster Francesca Rose's photograph of a young hare hiding in the grass has won her a Lochaber-wide competition.

Francesca, aged 11, won the Wild Lochaber under 12s competition with her close up picture. Her winning shot will be framed and the Roy Bridge Primary pupil will get to attend a half-day photography class with Ian MacLeod of Nevispix.

Francesca's father Peter Rose told *The Oban Times*: 'She was delighted. She's done very well to get there.'

Local landscape and wildlife photographer Michael MacGregor was chief judge for the competition, which was held as part of the recent Wild Lochaber Festival. An exhibition of the best images was at Lochaber College during the festival.

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BALLACHULISH



Summer outdoor fun for youngsters

Ballachulish Primary School youngsters enjoyed a summer picnic lunch recently and brought their own teddies and soft toys with them for the day. The picnic had a sporting theme and the food was prepared by the school's kitchen staff. Head teacher Sam Clark said: 'Hugs were scattered in the grass area and pupils then enjoyed the picnic.'

# Heating bills – help is at hand



Rising fuel costs and concerns about future energy supplies are encouraging thousands of householders to seek advice about how they can save energy, reduce their fuel bills and access free support to improve their homes. Especially when there is so much information and so many choices that many people become confused about what is best for their home.

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre provides services to householders who want to save energy and money by making their homes more energy efficient or to change to renewable

technologies to heat their home. This is particularly important in areas where people do not have access to mains gas and have to rely on oil, electricity or coal for their heating.

The advice centre is managed by the Energy Saving Trust and funded by the Scottish Government, so all of the advice is completely impartial and offers householders the peace of mind that they are being advised on what is best for their situation. A simple free phone call to the advice centre on 0800 512 012 will put you in touch with a friendly advisor who will ask some simple questions

about your home so that they can give you the advice you need. They can also refer you to support for measures to improve your home, ranging from free insulation up to new central heating in some cases. The advice is free, whether you are a homeowner or tenant.

If you are interested in renewable energy, the advice centre can talk you through different options to suit you, or arrange a visit from a specialist home renewable advisor. The specialist advisor can discuss all forms of renewable energy, including solar turbines, heat pumps

and wood fuelled systems, along with advice on improving the energy efficiency of the home. They can provide a tailored report with estimates of likely cost savings, advice on how to deal with installers and ongoing support. The tailored reported also allows householders to access interest free loans and grants from the Energy Saving Trust to help fund the cost of installing a new heating system.

Brian Barker, the home renewable advisor for Argyll and Bute, said, "It is important for householders to get impartial advice about their home, especially if they are unfamiliar

with what may be best for them. Many of the systems we advise on will be in place for 20 years or more, so spending some time understanding the options can give a householder confidence to make the decision that best suits them, their family and their home."

The Energy Saving Trust also has a Green Homes Network where householders across Scotland have volunteered to share their experiences of using renewable technologies. Further details are available by calling 0800 512012 or going online to www.greenhomenetwork.org.uk.

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# Water advice



When you live in a place like the west of Scotland with a lot of rainfall you could be mistaken in thinking that conserving water isn't an issue. We use water everyday without thinking about it.

There are over five million people in Scotland and on average we currently use about 150 litres of water every day. Around 30 per cent of the average household's heating bills are

spent on heating water - that's around £200 a year. The cost could be even higher if you use an electric immersion heater. With energy bills increasing, using water efficiently is a simple and

easy way to save money. Considerable savings can be made on your energy bills by only using the hot water you really need. If you follow these top tips, you could start saving today.

## Water saving tips for inside the home

- **Snub the tub** - By replacing one bath a week with a five minute shower, a four person family can save on average around £18 on energy bills.
- **Fill 'em up** - Make sure that your dishwasher and washing machine are full before putting them on and always use the most water and energy efficiency settings. When it is time to replace your appliance, look out for Energy Saving Trust Recommended products.
- **Suds law** - Using a bowl to wash up rather than leaving the hot tap running could save around £34 a year on a household's gas bills if you wash up twice a day. Use cold water where possible and don't keep the tap running.
- **Go off the boil** - Only boil as much water as you need to avoid unnecessarily heating water you won't even use!
- **Turn it off** - A running tap uses around six litres of water a minute so turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face and use cold water where you don't need hot.
- **Don't be a drip** - A dripping tap wastes over 5,500 litres of water a year so make sure your taps are properly turned off and change washers when the tap starts dripping.
- **Make it go further** - Where possible try and reuse unused water, for example pour your left over glasses of water on houseplants, and avoid wasting water from running taps whilst waiting for hot water.

## Water saving tips for outside the home

- **Get your butt in gear** - Your roof collects enough rainwater to fill 450 water butts every year. Invest in a water butt and use this to water your garden, houseplants and wash your car. Rainwater is better for plants than tap water as it is softer.
- **Become a fan of the can** - Your hosepipe can use as much water in an hour as a family of four in a day, so get back to basics and swap your hose for a watering can filled with water from your water butt when watering your garden.
- **Bucket the trend** - Avoid jet washes and energy wasting auto car washes. Use the water from your water butt to wash your car using a good old bucket and sponge.
- **Mulch ado about something** - Mulches such as pebbles, gravel and chipped bark require low maintenance and are perfect for keeping moisture in the ground and weeds at bay.

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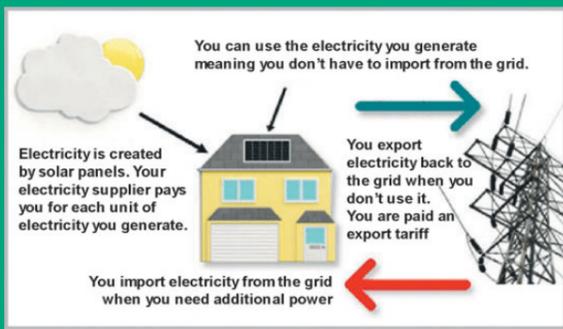
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# It's Show Time

SUMMER months see the rural community throughout the west of Scotland come together in a series of local and regional country shows which offer an opportunity for fierce, but good natured, competition; traditional country sports, and a social gathering of old friends amid legendary hospitality.

While many of these rural shows remain loyal to their agricultural roots, with some of the finest livestock in the country on hand to be judged, pondered over and paraded, there is also an increasing element of catering for the visitor. A blend of all that is best in the West Highlands and Islands, viewed in its stunning natural environment but presented in a manner that provides entertainment and interest for local and visitor alike.

While some of this early season's shows have already been held, the period from the end of July until the beginning of September sees the west coast show circuit reach its peak with a combination of mid-week and weekend events.

Our show trail opens on the Isle of Tiree on Friday, July 20 with one of the smaller local shows but one with a big reputation for the exceptional quality of its livestock, stunning beach backdrops and a warmth of welcome from the islanders. This year, watch out for the sheep racing and the Clydesdale horses. However, you should be warned that this show, and its after-show dance, can become highly addictive with many people arranging their annual holidays around this date. Book your travel early to avoid disappointment.

From Tiree, we cross the sea to the south end of the Isle of Mull and a trip to Bunessan Show on Friday, August 3. Again, wonderful scenery and a warmth of welcome at this traditional island show which starts sharp and 9.30am and goes on long into the night with an after-show dance and knees-up in the village hall.

The following day, Saturday, August 4, one of the bigger shows on the circuit, Lorn Show, will be held in a beautiful new setting close to Tralee beach, Benderloch. Another west coast show famed for its quality of livestock, this event attracts competitors and spectators from throughout Argyll and further afield, and is easily accessible from the main road with ample parking and plenty of attractions for a great day out for all the family.

On Thursday, August 9 it's back to the Isle of Mull, this time to the north end of the island for Salen Show. Again a wonderful scenic backdrop, set conveniently beside

the main Tobermory road, provides a combination of local and open livestock competitions, trade stands and great catering. Climb the hill to enjoy the view and find the horse and pony competitions which are an increasing part of the Salen set-up. Like its island counterpart, Bunessan, there is a traditional show dance that is well worth waiting for - if you can stand the pace!

Mid Argyll Show, on Saturday, August 11 is another of the bigger county events. Held on the outskirts of Lochgilphead it offers a large entry of all types of livestock on an easily accessible showground that utilises the car parking facilities of the local high school. In addition to the traditional farming based stands there are several good craft, home industries and information marquees to be browsed at leisure.

Few shows can boast a scenic setting to match that of Appin Show which has a loch shoreline field and a historic castle within a stones-throw of the judging. This year the local show will be held on Saturday, August 18 and will bring together the farming skills of the local community to test themselves not only against other locals but against the crofters and farmers of the neighbouring island of Lismore. If you like vintage tractors and engines or knitting and handcrafts, a day at Appin could be just the ticket.

Slightly further north, Lochaber Show, held on the outskirts of Fort William on Saturday, August 25, is another of the larger county shows which regularly attracts fine quality livestock from the high hills of the west and blends them with a host of activities for the visitor.

The show, which nestles under the shadow of Ben Nevis and benefits from a regular bus service from Fort William, attracts around 1500 locals and visitors and is a celebration of what rural Lochaber has to offer. Among the stands worth a visit will be the Lochaber Food Tent - a showcase of local food producers and local craft. Add a children's farm and rides, vintage tractor parade and terrier racing and there is just about something for all the family.

Marking the finale of the west coast show season is Dalmally Show on Saturday, September 1 when again tradition ensures that there will be a top class field of livestock on offer with special attention being shown to the ever-popular Highland cattle, with one of the largest entries of pedigree Highlanders to be found anywhere in the country, matched by a large entry of Blackface sheep from some of the top hill farms in Scotland.

The show, held handily beside the main road, also has the added attraction of senior and junior shinty, a wealth of arts and crafts and a bulging home industries tent which is worth sampling.

Whatever shows you find your way to in the coming months, you will find a warm welcome and a day out to remember!

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INVERLOCHY CASTLE FARM, TORLUNDY, FORT WILLIAM  
Showfield Opens 9.30am  
Entry Adult £7, Senior Citizens £5, Children under 16 Free  
www.lochaberagriculturalshow.co.uk

**Lorn Agricultural Show**  
Saturday 4th August 2012  
Exciting New Venue  
Common Grazing's Tralee, Benderloch  
Showfield opens 9.00am  
Entry Adults £5, Child £3, Family £12  
No Highland Dancing this year due to change of venue.

**Tiree Show**  
Friday 20th July 2012  
The Rural Centre, Crossapol  
Judging starts at 11.00am  
Cattle, Sheep, Ponies, Pet Show, Home Ind  
Clydesdale Horses, Pipe Band  
Chainsaw Wood Carving  
Tiree YFC Sheep Racing

**MID-ARGYLL SHOW 2012**  
Saturday 11th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead  
Showfield Opens at 9am  
All the usual competitions plus a few new ones!!  
Entry Fee, Adults £6, Conc. £3  
www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk

**Appin Agricultural Show**  
Saturday 18th August 2012  
Stalker Coft, Appin  
Judging Starts 10am  
Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Handcrafts, Floral Art, Flowers and Veg  
Highland Dancing, Vintage Engines and Lots More  
Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3  
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**SALEN SHOW**  
THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST 2012  
SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS  
GATES OPEN 10AM  
ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3, FAMILY £12  
DANCE TO FOLLOW

**BUNESSAN SHOW**  
Friday 3rd August 2012  
Bunessan School Ground  
Gates open 9.30am  
Traditional Highland and Island Agricultural Show  
Entry Adult, £3.00, Conc £1.00,  
Car Parking £2.00  
Licenced Dance to follow in Village Hall  
Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band 9pm  
Admission £5.00

**Dalmally Agricultural Show**  
Saturday 1st September 2012  
The Mart Park, Dalmally  
Gates open 9am  
All the Usual Attractions, Plus Senior and Junior Shinty  
Entry fee: £6 Adult, £3 Sen. Citz., £2 Child  
Licenced Dance To Follow at 9pm

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

TIREE SHOW Friday, July 20 2012	MID ARGYLL SHOW, Saturday, August 11 2012
BUNESSAN SHOW, Friday, August 3 2012	APPIN SHOW, Saturday, August 18 2012
LORN SHOW, Saturday, August 4 2012	LOCHABER SHOW, Saturday, August 25 2012
SALEN SHOW, Thursday, August 9 2012	DALMALLY SHOW, Saturday, September 1 2012

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# Farming

## Tyree Cross ewes with lambs at foot to £150 at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had 522 store, breeding and feeding sheep, plus 78 store cattle at Oban last Tuesday when ewes with lambs at foot sold to £150 and store cattle to 285p per kilo.

Ewes with lambs at foot sold to a top of £150 for Cross ewes with twin lambs from D Macdonald, Tyree Farm, Benderloch.

Feeding ewes sold to £76 for Crosses from A MacColl, Ballimackilichan, Isle of Lismore, while cast tupes sold to £94 for Texels from I Campbell & Sons, Strongorm.

Blackface hoggs sold to £63 from Fiart and £61 Aird.

Bullocks averaged 225p and sold to 285p per kg for a 235kg Limousin from Inshaig, Duror of Appin and £870 for two 340kg Limousin's from Fiddan, Isle of Mull.

Heifers averaged 208p and sold to 253p per kg for three 225kg Simmentals from Frackersaig, Lismore and £700 for a 335kg Simmental from Lochdar, Mull.

## Blackface ewes with lambs sell to £170 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 535 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Thursday when feeding lambs and ewes met an excellent demand, ewes with lambs at foot also sold exceptionally well.

Ewes with twin lambs at foot sold to £170 for Blackfaces with Blackface lambs from Auchnafearn.

Gimmers with twin lambs at foot sold to £150 for a Texel with Texel cross lambs at foot from Croft Martin, Kingussie.

Ewes with single lambs at foot sold to £142 for Texels with Texel lambs from Croft Martin.

Lambs sold to £76 for a Suffolk cross from Fassock, Kiltarlity.

Prime and feeding ewes sold to £92 for Texels from Woodside, Muir of Tarradale.

Rams and feeding sheep sold to £80 for a Texel ram from Eilean Darrach, Dundonnell.

## Sea eagle control licences likely to be almost unobtainable

SEA-EAGLES could theoretically be shot by farmers - if they can gather enough evidence to prove the birds are significantly damaging livestock, according to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The impact of birds of prey in general and sea eagles in particular has been felt by farmers throughout Scotland with those on Mull suffering most. Farmer Bert Leitch told a meeting of Mull Community Council: 'As the number of sea eagles get greater the number of lambs go down.'

'All these birds are protected, but SNH now accept that if we have evidence we can apply for a licence to shoot them.'

Ron Macdonald, head of policy at SNH, said the 'bar would be very high' for those applying for licences.

Asked what evidence would be required to back up a licence application, he said that post mortems confirming lambs had been taken alive by eagles would be necessary but Mr Macdonald did not know how many would be required.

He admitted that 'lambs are taken both dead and occasionally alive' but didn't 'want to undermine the impact of that to farmers looking after their stock.'

When questioned if a farmer applying for a licence with proof they had lost a lot of lambs to eagles would be granted it he said: 'We would look at the issue as to whether there are alternative solutions available, creating hill parks with sweeter grass and stopping stock from ranging too widely. This wouldn't stop the eagles but it would make the management and shepherding of stock easier. Sea eagles are less afraid of humans than golden eagles but the presence of humans tends to make them very wary.'

Mr Macdonald also suggested that funding could be provided for lambing sheds from capital works scheme which was launched in 2011 and is open for applications until autumn 2013.



'A lot of this is about trying to minimise the effect of the eagles, but people have a right to apply for a licence,' said Mr Macdonald.

'We thought we had been making progress with this, we can fully understand that people are concerned and think it is hard enough to farm without having to face losses due to birds of prey.'

Tim Barnes from Rhemore, Drimmin, Morvern said: 'From the point of view of hill farmers in this area, the control of sea eagles is a necessity. If the average 80 per cent lambing is reduced by sea eagle predation, even a relatively small number of lambs lost can push a farm to the tipping point of 70 per cent where a spiralling decline in the quality of the ewe flock is reached.'

'SNH and the RSPB employed people to study sea eagles' predation of lambs on Mull in 2003 and appear to have come up with less than robust conclusions which they are reticent about substantiating.'

RSPB Mull Officer Dave Sexton said: 'Personally speaking, if such a licence was ever issued I believe the British public would view it as a very dark day for Scotland on the world environment stage.'

Golden eagles, regarded by many as Scotland's national bird and white-tailed eagles only slowly recolonising their native land are both still regular victims of illegal persecution.'

## Bracken control workshops planned

WITH a serious threat hanging over the future of the only effective chemical for controlling bracken, farmers and crofters in Argyll and the islands are becoming increasingly concerned.

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) have planned two, practical, farm workshops to update local land managers on the latest control techniques. There will be demonstrations of bracken crushing and weed wiping as well as the helicopter spray companies in attendance.

'The Asulox ban was really imposed because of problems with spinach crops on the European mainland,' said Niall Campbell, senior consultant for SAC in

Oban. 'But given the steep rocky ground in our area it remains the best option for bracken control and many clients fear they will be in a situation where they can do nothing as bracken marches across their grazing land. These control workshops are proving popular and have been well attended.'

The workshops will be held on the Isle of Gigha and Dalmally over July 3 and 4. The event on Tuesday July 3 will be at Tarbert Farm, Gigha, courtesy of J Rennie. There will be a minibus to meet the 11am ferry from Tayinloan. Attention moves to Dalmally on Wednesday, July 4 when the McLarens have made Craig Farm available for a meeting at 1.30pm.

## Sunart & District Agricultural Society STOCK JUDGING AND SHEARING



KEIL FARM, ARDGOUR  
SATURDAY  
7TH JULY AT 1.00PM

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Polaris 500 4x4 ATV, 2008 model, 200hrs	£3,495 + VAT
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## Market reports

### OBAN

#### Caledonian Marts

**Bullocks**  
0-250kgs - £670 Frackersaig, 285p Inshaig; 251-300kgs - £710 & 278p Lochdar; 301-350kgs - £870 & 256p Fiddan; 351-400kgs - £865 & 249p Aunim; 401-450kgs - £870 Drimmin, 204p Stoney-bridge.  
**Heifers**  
0-250kgs - £570 & 253p Frackersaig; 251-300kgs - £635 Stroneskar, 217p Fiddan; 301-350kgs - £700 & 209p Lochdar; 351-400kgs - £595 & 165p Knockvoulagan.  
**Sheep**  
Ewes with lamb at foot  
Cheviot ewes with lambs - £120 Acharn, £112 Innisraig  
Blackface ewes with lambs - £100 Pulpit Rock.

**Feeding ewes**  
Texel: £76 Strongorm, Ballimackilichan; £72 Stronacraobh, Tirluir; - £70 Balnagown; Bluefaced Leicester: £70 Seaview;  
Cheviot: £69 Aird;  
Blackface: £65 Tirluir, Stroneskar, Knockvoulagan;  
Hoggs  
Blackface: £63 Fiart; £61 Aird; £58 Aird; £55 Turnault;  
Texel: £59 Aird;

### DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Ewes with single lamb at foot:  
Cheviot: Eilean Darrach, £138;  
Blackface: Auchnafearn, £150.  
Ewe with twin lambs at foot:  
Blackface: Auchnafearn, £168;

Cheviot: Mid Coul, Culblair, £60  
Suffolk: 13 Nether Inshes, £54;  
Cross: Kilmartin, Glenquhart, £50;  
Blackface: Kilmartin, £44.  
Ewes:  
Suffolk: Redhill, Allanfean, £91;  
Texel: Wester Raddery, Fortrose, £87;  
Cheviot: Bogburn, Duncanston, £84;  
Mule: Druid Temple, Old Edinburgh Road, £83;  
Dors - Bogburn, £78;  
Cross: Balnabual, Dalcross, £71;  
Blackface: Wester Rarichie, Nigg, £66.  
Rams and Feeding Sheep:  
Bluefaced Leicester: Druid Temple, £80;  
Texel: Mid Coul, £76;  
Cheviot: Rhiail Farms, £76;  
Blackface: Fassock, £61.  
Ewes with single lamb at foot:  
Cheviot: Eilean Darrach, £138;  
Blackface: Auchnafearn, £150.  
Ewe with twin lambs at foot:  
Blackface: Auchnafearn, £168;

## West Coast property service

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## UNDER THE FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

The Sheriff of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Fort William will hold an Inquiry on 13 and 14 August 2012, with a preliminary hearing to be held on 1 August 2012, both at 10 am, within the Sheriff Court House, High Street, Fort William into the circumstances of the deaths of Ronald Anthony MacPhee, 7 Gordon Brown Place, Mallaig, and Stewart McGifford, 166 Kilmallie Road, Caol, Fort William.

(signed) Alison Wyllie  
Procurator Fiscal  
For the District of Fort William

### Alan Reid MP will hold surgeries on

Friday 29 June  
Campbeltown - Council Chambers  
- 2.00pm - 3.00pm  
Saturday 30 June  
Oban - Kilmore & Oban Church of Scotland Centre - 10.00am - 11.00am

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### Proposed Let of a Croft/ Part of a Croft

Thomas Lorne Nelson is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Achaleven, Connel, Argyll to Neil MacLean of Achaleven Farmhouse, Connel, Argyll. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

### THE CROFTING COMMISSION CROFT OCCUPANCY INITIATIVE

The Crofting Commission is proposing to terminate the tenancy of Sholto David Prior at Croft 1 Tighphuirist, Lismore and Appin as an absentee crofter under the terms of section 22 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 21 days of the date of this newspaper.

Case number: 1.22.25284

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW occupancy@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW occupancy@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

### Argyll Bute COUNCIL

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @  
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/00986/PP	Sub division of dwellinghouse to provide ground floor living accommodation and self contained first floor office accommodation	West Manse House Kilmoran Argyll And Bute PA35 1HG	Sub Post Office Tainmuil
12/01033/PP	Erection of porch	Tigh An Duin Glenmore Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PG	Oban Area Office
12/01080/PP	Formation of access road	Land South East Of Free Church Hill Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/01179/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Land To East Of Hill House Ardaraun Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
12/01263/PP	Erection of timber fencing and installation of rubber matting covers to existing apparatus	Sewage Works Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/01264/PP	Erection of wooden fence, interpretation board supports and extension to existing retaining wall	Pumping Station South West Of Crauchan Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/01021/PP	Redesign of part of golf course	Islay Golf Club Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AN	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
12/01267/PP	Variation to condition number 4 relative to planning permission 09/00581/DEI - Alteration to timber mock sash and case windows and substitute white Upvc mock sash and case windows.	Land South West Of Islay Museum Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
12/01310/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Mid Nerabus Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

#### 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
12/01238/PP	Erection of porch.	27 Shore Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 75T	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

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 85T.

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.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at wam.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
12/02185/FUL	58 Lochell Road Inverloch Fort William	Alterations and extension to house	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

### The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

www.highland.gov.uk

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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, Ardinglas 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](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk**

**Gaelic Medium Primary Teacher**  
 Education & Children's Services  
 £21,438 - £34,200 pro rata - (Fixed Term until June 2014)  
 Breadalbane Academy - Primary Department  
 Closing date: 27 June 2012  
 Online applications only at [pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk)

If you have a disability which prevents you applying online, please call 01738 475000 to discuss any reasonable adjustments.

Perth & Kinross Council is committed to equality and diversity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community

**Experienced Forwarder Driver required for contract in Lochaber area.**

Must have relevant tickets  
 Tel: 07815318644

**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](mailto:reservations@crinanhotel.com). Telephone enquiry 01546 830 261.**

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 bringing people together since 1923

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We are seeking to recruit a full time PCV driver based at our Oban depot. This position will cover a range of services including local bus, schools, express coach and private hire.

If you hold or would like to acquire a PCV licence and are interested in such a position, please apply in writing (enclosing your c.v.) to:

**Personnel Department**  
 West Coast Motors  
 Benmhor  
 Campbeltown - Argyll PA28 6DN  
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 Closing date 29th June 2012

**Seasonal Stalker**  
 (20 August to 21 October)  
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Experienced stalkers only, capable of handling ponies and boats.

**Apply by email: [lmilne@savills.com](mailto:lmilne@savills.com) Or by phone: 01356 628621**

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Salary is negotiable dependant on skills and experience.

Please submit your CV to [enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk) or contact Steve Clarkson, Business Services Manager, on 01631 565740. Alternatively please send your CV to North West Marine Ltd, 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG

**Argyll Voluntary Action**

**Community Empowerment Outreach Worker**

The post-holder will work to encourage and facilitate engagement with communities who are the hardest to reach, assist and support delivery of training and engage and work with our partners in the public sector to help to embed the value of co production.

The post will involve travel and delivering a service across Argyll & Bute. Base will preferably be Cowal or Kintyre.

This is a fixed term post to 30th June 2013. Application packs can be requested by contacting main office 01631 564839 or email [Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk](mailto:Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)

Closing date for applications 12 noon Wednesday 4th July 2012.  
 Interviews will be held Thursday 12th July.  
 Reg Charity No. SC029947 Company No 277345

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 Bealach an Rìgh, Oban PA34 5TG  
 Tel: 01631 562168

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 6 month contract

For an application form contact **Manager Morag A Telfer**

**G McNaughton & Son**  
 LOCHGILPHEAD

**Experienced 360 Degree Excavator Operator required**  
 Driving Licence essential

Tel (01546) 602389 during office hours for an application form or email CV to [gmnargyll@gmail.com](mailto:gmnargyll@gmail.com)

**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.

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For further information please contact:  
 Argyll & Bute Care & Repair, 120 George Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 5NT.  
 or email: [amay@abcarerepair.co.uk](mailto:amay@abcarerepair.co.uk)  
 Closing date for applications Friday 13 July 2012.

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 Tel 01397 707120

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PERSONALS

The Kerrera Walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support Group thank everyone for their support and donations.

Special thanks to the pipers, Michael Mackinnon and Jamie Killorn. £1,300 was raised.

Stuart MacEachen, family and friends would like to thank everyone who contributed to his sponsored walk which raised £2,540 for the Options Charity in the Spinal Unit of the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

Happy 40th Yvonne Mum, Colin, Janie, Laura and Greg xxxxx

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BIRTHS



HARRIS

Martin and Mairi (née Menzies) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Eilidh Elizabeth on June 11, 2012. First grandchild for Robert and Helen and second for Bob and Lin, Weymouth.

**MACGREGOR** - Duncan and Julie are delighted to announce the birth of baby Lucy on May 25, 2012, a wee sister for Emma and Sophie.

ENGAGEMENTS

**SHAW & BURTON** The Hon. and Mrs M Shaw, Kilbrandon House, Seil Island, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tamara Caroline, to Mr Benjamin Burton, son of Mr Robert Burton, Clover Ley Farm, Retford, Nottinghamshire.

MARRIAGES

**McLAUGHLIN & ANGOOD** - At Seamlie Hydro on Monday June 4, 2012, in glorious sunshine, John Andrew eldest son and step son of Stella and Donald Leitch Kilchrenan to Kirsty only daughter of Roger Angood, Arbroath and Chris Angood Preston. A truly wonderful day with families and friends.

DIAMOND WEDDING

**FARQUHARSON & SILLARS** - Margaret (Peggy) Farquharson, Portsonachan, Argyll to John (Jacky) Sillars, Clydebank on June 26, 1952. Congratulations Mum and Dad with lots of love from Jim and Elspeth, Christine and Richard and all family and friends.

DEATHS

**FRASER** - Peacefully at home with his family around him on June 4, 2012. John Alexander, beloved husband of Cathie, loving father of Iain and Louise and the late Ann, much loved grampa of Hamish and Michael, father-in-law of Christopher, Hamish and Pauline, dear brother-in-law and uncle and friend to many. Funeral service took place at Duncansburgh/MacIntosh Church on Friday, June 8. Interment New Kilmallie Cemetery.

**FULLARTON** - Tragically on May 26, 2012, in his 66th year, Iain, husband of Marilyn, father to David, Christopher and Mark and grandpa to Eilidh. Funeral will take place from Kilbrandon Church, Balvicar on Monday June 25, at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for MND Scotland and Oban Lifeboat Station.

**GUNN** - Gordon Ian Houston. Gordon passed away peacefully at the Southern General Hospital on June 12, 2012, beloved husband of the late Mae Sweetin. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral took place at Craigton Crematorium, Berryknowes Road, Glasgow, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

**KOBIELA** - Peacefully at Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow, on Friday, June 15, 2012. Mary Bella Cameron (formerly of Lynn Court, Oban), beloved wife of the late Bolek and much loved mum, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service at Falkirk Crematorium on Friday, June 22, at 2pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow.

**LOGAN** - At the Monklands Hospital, Coatbridge on June 16, 2012, after a short illness bravely borne Ina (née McAllister) formerly of 10 Miller Road, beloved wife of Jimmy, dear mum of Caroline and Ann, loving gran of Adrienne and Logan, 5 Oak Place, Viewpark, Uddingston. Service at Viewpark Parish Church on Monday, June 25, thereafter to Daldowie Crematorium.

**MACCOLL** - Peacefully, but suddenly, at her new home, Kinnaird, Villa Road, formerly of 24 Alexandra Place, Corran Esplanade, Bethia Elizabeth, dear wife of Kenneth, beloved mother of Sarah and treasured Granny to James and Joanna. Funeral on Thursday June 21 at Glenclutrie Road Church, Oban at 1.30 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**MACFADYEN** - Peacefully, but sadly, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on June 13, 2012. Marion (Morag), 6 Laggan Road, Dunollie, Oban, loving wife of the late Hughie and devoted mother to Angus and the late Archie. Will be sorely missed.

**ROBERTSON** - Passed on peacefully at Dunarob Hospital on June 15, 2012, with his wife Mary by his side, Iain Mackinnon Robertson, aged 85 years of Tobermory, Isle of Mull, loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Sadly missed by all his family. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on June 20, 2012 thereafter to Tobermory top Cemetery.

**SEDDON** - Roger Seddon, aged 65 years, passed away peacefully at Bethesda Hospice, Stormroyal on June 5, 2012 after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Chrissie, devoted dad of Maria and Matthew and much loved papa of Molly and Calum. Sorely missed by Alan, brother Peter, sister Anne, their families and all his friends.

**SHEPHERD** - Peacefully, at the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch, on Sunday June 17, 2012, aged 98, Marion Jane, formerly of "Cuiil", North Connel, beloved wife of the late Philip, dearest mother of Alexander, Christopher and Jane. Cremation Service will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Main Road, Cardross, on Friday June 22, 2012 at 12.15 p.m. Family flowers only.

**THOMSON** - Dr Sam Thomson, husband of the late Nancy Thomson, Mansfield, Easter Street, Duns, passed away peacefully in the Borders General Hospital, Galashiels on Wednesday, June 13, 2012. Funeral service at Christ Church, Duns, Monday, June 25, at 2pm. Family flowers only. Any donations to medical work in Nigeria. Pioneers UK.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**FRASER** - Cathie and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to them by way of cards, flowers, telephone calls, home baking, visits and support, since the sad loss of John, a loving husband, dad, grampa and father-in-law. Special thanks to Mr David Sedgwick and Belford Hospital Staff, Dr Feeney and Glen Mor Medical Practice, Macmillan and District Nurses for their excellent care and compassion, which went far beyond the call of duty. Grateful thanks to Mabel Wallace and Rev Donald MacQuarrie for such a comforting, moving service, May MacIntyre organist, Shiona and Serena of MacDonald Brothers Florists, Mike McFall and staff for their efficient and caring funeral arrangements and Caol Community Centre for refreshments. We also wish to thank very much all who travelled from near and far to pay their respects at Church and Cemetery and for the generous sum of £1,760 donated to Macmillan Nurses, 26 Clunes Avenue, Caol, Fort William.

**MACKAY** - The extended Mackay family wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during the loss of their mother, Isabella, for their cards, letters and floral tributes received. To all members of staff at An Acaarsaid and the former Graham House we extend our deepest gratitude for the very special care and attention she received. Grateful thanks go to Rev Roddy MacRae for his comforting service to Mrs Mary Ross the organist and to Duncan MacLean of M&D MacLeod, Portree, for his sympathetic and professional handling of the funeral arrangements. Finally many thanks to all who joined us to pay their last respects and staff of Glenelg Inn for their warm hospitality.

**McKEE** - The family of the late William McKee, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kind words, cards and flowers they received following their sad loss. Special thank you to Dr Alison Smith and District Nurse Nicky Turner for their care and attention during his short illness. He will be very sadly missed.

**SEAGO** - The family of the late Muriel Seago who died on June 10, 2012, would like to thank all her neighbours and friends in the Duror area for their friendship and help both during her lifetime and after her death. Thank you all so much. - Alastair and Morag.

MEMORIAMS

**CAMERON** - Precious memories of our dear parents, Anne who died June 21, 2001 and Duncan who died January 6, 2003. Forever in our thoughts - Irene, Junie, Catherine Anne and families.

**CHISHOLM** - In memory of my dear son, Scott, who died June 20, 1992. This time comes with sad regret. The day, the hour, I will never forget. You slipped away without goodbye. My love for you will never die.

**FERGUSON** - In loving memory of Donnie who died June 26, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Ann, John, David, Lorne and the family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Allan who died June 16, 2010, much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grampa. We often visit the place you rest. And thoughts of you are simply the best. And when we turn and walk away. We know you are with us every day. The precious years we had together. Are memories we will have forever. Love always.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of my beloved son Allan who passed away so suddenly on June 16, 2010. Loved and remembered every day. - Mother xx

**MACLEAN** - Precious memories of Christy, a devoted sister and a dearly loved mum who passed away on June 24, 1994. We think about you every day. And miss you more than words can say. - Archie and Chrissie x

**MACLEOD** - Lewis 23/06/07. Treasured memories of my darling son. Forever in my heart. - Mum xxx

**MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of our dear mum and gran Jean who died June 23, 2001. Also our dad and papa Alastair who died April 13, 1994. Thank you for the years we shared. The love you gave, the way you cared. Deep in our hearts your memories are kept. Too dearly loved to ever forget.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Ann MacEachen who passed away June 25, 1988. RIP. The years pass by. But memories stay. Loved and remembered always. - Inserted by her loving daughter Flora.

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of my dear mother Marion Lawrie, who died June 21, 1992. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered everyday. - Dugald, Janis and family.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of my wife Mary who died on June 18, 2010. Always in my thoughts. - Billy

**ROBERTSON** - Treasured memories of Mary, beloved mother and granny who died June 18, 2010. Sorely missed - Scott, Lorne and families.

**ROBERTSON** - Treasured memories of Mary, a sorely missed sister, sister-in-law and auntie. - Johnny, Janet and family.

**ROSS** - In ever loving memory of my darling husband Eddie, who departed this life on June 23, 2011, also our beloved dad. Memories are a gift to treasure. Ours of you will last forever. -Your sorrowing wife Anne xx and your four lovely daughters. Good-night Darling.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny Nan, who died June 25, 2002. Gone are the days we used to share. But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**SUTHERLAND** - Ray, died June 19, 1998. It does not take this special day. To bring you to our mind. A day without a thought of you is impossible to find. - Sheena, girls and Ross.

**VIOLA** - In loving memory of a dear Stepdad John Viola who died June 16, 2011. Sadly missed always - Linda, Kevin, Children and Grandchildren. No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God knows why.

**WRIGHT** - Treasured memories of my son Stephen, who died June 21, 1994. Forever in my thoughts. - Mummy x

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 24 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 24 June 2012  
Trinity 3  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion..... 08.00  
Choral Mattins..... 10.15  
Sunday School Picnic  
Parish Eucharist..... 11.30  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion..... 11.00  
St Columba,  
Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00  
Evensong..... 20.15  
Holy Eucharist.....  
..... Wed 27 June 14.30

Obituary

Jock Fraser (1927 - 2012)

JOHN Robertson Fraser was born on 8th July 1927 and brought up in Cawdor, Morayshire.

Jock was the eldest of the four children in the family, and made his way to school by taking a short cut through the grounds of Cawdor Castle.

The family made several moves on leaving the East Coast, spending time in Northern Ireland, Islay and Jura, before settling at Sron Lerrig Estate near Whitebridge.

From there Jock went back to Jura to work as a gamekeeper, taking over a position his father had previously held. While on Jura Jock met Morag and they married in 1954.

Jock and Morag then moved back to Islay and from there onto Ederline Estate at Loch Awe-side before settling in Glen Etive in 1960. Jock then spent the next 31 years in Glen Etive working as a gamekeeper for the Fleming and Schuster families until his retirement in 1991.

The job in Glen Etive came with its fair share of challenges, and none more so than keeping the young members of the Fleming and Schuster family in check - though not always successfully!

The stalking in Glen Etive was also fairly challenging, and in Jock's first season at Glen Etive Estate he climbed to the top of Beinn Starav 19 times.

There were no Argo cats or quad bikes in these early days and Jock had to drag stags back to the pony across new forestry plough. He would never take the easy option and nor would he ever give you the heavy end of the lift.

While based in Glen Etive, Jock successfully ran the Blackmount and Kingshouse clay pigeon shoots for 14 years. On one occasion, 125 guns turned up for a 50-bird shoot and on another, 80 guns turned up for a 100 bird international qualifying shoot.

Jock was a great community man; he loved a fitting and had seen 23 families move out of the Glen while he was there.

Accordingly, his own flitting was also a very enjoyable day. As befits someone of his age Jock remembered the bad winter of 1947, the dry summer of 1955, the big gale of 1968 and living in Glen Etive he saw more than his fair share of big floods.

Both Jock and Morag enjoyed a ceilidh and were regular attenders at the accordion and fiddle club in Fort William.

For many years Jock was the Presid-

ing Officer on election days firstly in Glen Etive and then, once he retired, in Glencoe.

When Jock and Morag retired to Invercoe, Jock was recognised with a long service award for his work for Glen Etive Estate.

When you went to visit Jock at Invercoe, the first thing he would say was 'Go to the press and pour yourself a dram,' and the next would be 'What's news in the Glen?'

You would tell him the latest news, which wasn't always to his liking, and he would say 'I think I have seen the best of it.'

In Jock's later years he attended the Belford Hospital regularly and on the outside of his medical record it wasn't John Robertson Fraser, it was just Jock and I'm sure that is how he would like to be remembered because that's who he was to everyone, just Jock.

All these things only touch briefly on Jock's life and other people will have many other memories, but this is the Jock we knew. He was a great friend and neighbour and we will miss him dearly.

Jock is survived by Morag, his three children John James, Margaret, and Kay, and two grandchildren Glen and Amanda.



Rev Dugald Cameron with the new members of the congregation and the youngsters who have been christened at the church in recent months. 07.125church01

Bonnie Baby joins 'church of welcome'

THE OBAN Times Bonnie Baby winner, Abbey Prosser, was christened at Oban's Glencruitten Parish Church, as the congregation also welcomed new members into its care.

Five new members: Lawrence Nugent, Jenny Sapiano, Kay McDonald, Caitlin Gray and Helen Jordan, joined the Kilmore and Oban church on Sunday, in front of a large congregation,

following Abbey's baptism. A number of other children who have had recent christenings in the church were also in attendance, making it a special day for minister, Rev Dugald Cameron.

He said: 'We have had 10 christenings so far this year, which is a lot nowadays, and it is great to see five new members joining us.'

'I think today has been a real affirmation of life and shows Kilmore and Oban is a church of welcome.'

There was also an announcement of new godparents for young Alexander Gregory, who had been christened in the church a few years previously. John and Kay McDonald said they were proud to take on the role.

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer.  
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In memory of Dawn Joyce

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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Soroba Road, Oban  
01631 571009

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WEDDINGS



Eilidh Cameron and Mark MacInnes, both of 3 Selkirk Place, Fort William were married at Loch Ness Country Hotel, where they also held their reception.  
Photograph Stuart Photography, Dingwall.



MACDONALD - MACKINNON  
Hayley MacDonald married Douglas McKinnon on May 24th 2012 at Taychreggan Hotel, Kilchrenan. They celebrated their marriage at this beautiful venue with family and friends.  
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



SMITH - CUMMING  
Heather Smith and Kenny Cumming were married at The Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban. The happy couple and their guests celebrated at The Soroba House Hotel before being joined by many more friends at the Oban Rugby Club for their wedding dance.  
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



McMANUS - McLEMAN  
Alison McManus and Neill McLeman were married at the Ballachulish Hotel on May 5th 2012. The intimate gathering of family & friends celebrated with the happy couple at the hotel.  
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



GORROD - CONROY  
Lynsey Gorrod and Paul Conroy were married at Castle House, Dunoon on May 26th 2012. They celebrated with family and friends at the Abbots Brae Hotel, Dunoon.  
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

Thought for the week

Revise and renew

ONE PREVIOUS Prime Minister was reputed to have commented 'preparation and planning produce perfect results'.

Sufficient to say he is no longer in office. It sounds good but as we witnessed recently sometimes the best laid schemes don't always run so smoothly and we would be wise to ease back and see what unfolds.

The following piece of advice was given to me while a student many years ago; in those disappointments that to us seem so grievous God often has plans that are very gracious.

Unpredictable seems to cover so many of our present circumstances, whether it be the jet stream heading further south than usual causing the south coast of England to endure our usual deluge of rain or athletes training so hard for years to find themselves not being chosen to represent their country this summer.

Learning to go with the flow is sometimes harder than you might think.

Certainly as the years catch up some of us become resentful of just getting the hang of something and 'oops' its been upgraded, or no longer current.

Move on, my grandchildren advise me!

Sadly I was reminded to do just that a few weeks ago when a lady I had known for over 40 years passed away suddenly.

Being ages with me I know now I need to try and make each day count, try to leave someone or something the better for my being alive today.

My dear old dad was regularly heard to remind anyone who would listen: 'We all get 24 hours. It's what you do with them that counts.'

Pam Gibson

Blood donors

PEOPLE in Mid Argyll are again being urged to become a blood donor as the blood transfusion service visits Lochgilphead this month.

The mobile unit will be at Lochgilphead Community Centre on June 27 between 2.30pm and 3.45pm and in the evening between 5.15pm and 7.30pm.

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# Taynuilt vs Inveraray

AJG PARCELS CELTIC SOCIETY CUP FINAL SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2012  
STRACHURMORE SPORTS CENTRE, STRACHUR THROW UP 4.05PM

THE TWO sides matching up in this season's AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup final have two very different histories in the competition.

Inveraray, who in recent times have referred to shinty's oldest trophy as 'our cup', have won it nine times between 2001 and

2010. Glasgow Inveraray also contested the first ever final in 1879, losing out to Glasgow Cowal.

Within the current team, Inveraray brothers Garry and Graeme MacPherson and captain Scott Robertson have 38 Celtic Cup winner's medals between them.

For Taynuilt, Saturday will be the club's first senior cup final and only three of the squad (Willie Gillies, Stuart Scott and Ewan Neilson) have ever played in a Celtic Cup final.

But despite Inveraray being outright favourites for good reason, there are indicators that David could shock Goliath.

Taynuilt's poor league form in South Division One (a league below Inveraray) has suffered from intense focus on the cup competition and the village team will be bringing bus loads of supporters to Strachur - a pitch Taynuilt have already played on this season.

With the wedding of Inveraray defender Andrew McMurdo also taking place this Saturday, The Royal Burgh will be missing an experienced trio of Andrew, his twin brother Euan and David MacPherson.

Iain Cameron, honorary secretary of Glasgow Celtic Society, said: 'I'm looking forward to a great final. Inveraray have strength in depth and more experience than Taynuilt.'

'Taynuilt will be stretched against the Inveraray attack but there's a lot of optimism in Taynuilt and I know their team is expecting a good support.'

'The 1974 final in Strachur was one of the best attended finals. We wanted to acknowledge Strachur by taking a more flexible attitude to where the final is played. The place has been starved of big occasions.'

Preceding the AJG Celtic Society Cup final will be the climax to the MacQuiston Cup, the under-17 equivalent of the Celtic Cup, which will be contested by Oban Celtic and Oban Camanachd, a repeat of last year's final that was won by Camanachd.

**John Smylie, Inveraray manager**

This is our first chance of silverware this season and we didn't get close to winning anything last year, so the boys will be making a huge effort to bring this trophy back to Inveraray.

We have won the Celtic Society Cup more than a few times, so we see it as 'our cup'. It means a lot to us because it was the first major title we won after the club reformed in 1982. It is a cup everybody involved with the club targets each season.

We definitely have the experience required to win: Garry and Graeme MacPherson have 13 winner's medals each, our captain Scott Robertson has 12 and many of the other players have won it a few times too.

I think having Scott as captain is a good omen, as we have won quite a few trophies when he's had the armband.

I have to confess we don't know much about Taynuilt, apart from what we read in The Oban Times, but they have players who have been around for a while and we know no-one is going to hand us the trophy for turning up. We have got to go and win it.'

**Davy Thomson, Taynuilt manager**

We had a disappointing defeat last week and we will be changing the team around to try to counteract Inveraray's strong points but we know they are overwhelming favourites.

To have a chance of winning, every player must be at their best and maybe Inveraray will think it is a foregone conclusion. Our results over the past few weeks certainly make it seem like a foregone conclusion but we have saved our best form this season for the cup and I hope that continues on Saturday.

It has been great to see people in the village getting excited about the final, putting up flags and decorating their windows. We haven't had a good league season but this will be a welcome break. There's no pressure on the boys on Saturday.

There are only two teams that can win the Celtic Society Cup this season and we are one of them.

**Stuart Scott, Taynuilt captain**

It is a great honour to be captain for a cup final and everyone in the village is looking forward to it.

When I joined Taynuilt from Glenorchy three years ago the team had so much enthusiasm. They wanted to play against the best teams in shinty and Inveraray are certainly one of the best.

We are underdogs but we deserve to be in the final and we will be well prepared. Fortunately, we have a few players, including myself, who have had cup final experience and we can help the younger lads on the day. The whole day of a cup final is different to a normal Saturday, from putting on your shirt and tie in the morning to being piped onto the pitch.

Saturday will be about the younger guys who have worked really hard to get to this point and have never experienced a final before. Once they get a taste for the occasion they will want to be there every year.



Match referee Robert Baxter holds the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, flanked by team captains Stuart Scott and Scott Robertson.

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## Welcome to Strachurmore

IT MAY be Inveraray and Taynuilt contesting the Celtic Society Cup Final, but Saturday's clash will also be a big day for the people of Strachur.

The Cowal village will host the final for only the second time in its history, and it will be the first to be contested on the new Strachurmore Sports Centre pitch.

The new sports facility is the result of a decade's worth of hard work by community members and the Strachur and District Development Company (SDDC) and the result is a pitch that is 'one of the best in the west of Scotland' according to SDDC chairman Douglas Currie.

He said: 'We are all very proud of it. All of the Strachur Shinty Club players and members of the [Strachurmore Sports Centre] management committee are working hard to make sure the park looks spectacular on the day.'

Strachur previously held the final back in 1974, when Inveraray beat Kyles Athletic 4-3 in front of one of the biggest Celtic Cup Final attendances in history.

The game was such a success that when the two teams faced up against each other in the following year's final they insisted the match be played in Argyll rather than the traditional Glasgow venue in Old Anniesland.

When their request was refused the teams withdrew from the match and the final was never contested that year.

Strachur will no doubt be hoping to emulate the final of '74 when the Celtic Cup returns this weekend.

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# Newtonmore lift MacTavish Cup for the 38th time

NEWTONMORE will be looking to return to the summit of the Orion Group Premiership this weekend, but will have to get past a resurgent Fort William side to do so.

The 'More will be on a high after securing the MacTavish Cup last weekend with a 5-1 win over Lochaber in Inverness. But their league form has been less stellar recently, allowing both Kyles and Lovat to move ahead.

With neither of those sides playing, Norman MacArthur's men know a win at Black Parks would put them back in first place, while a Fort win would move them to within two points of Newtonmore and back into contention for the title.

The 'More got off to a perfect start in last weekend's final, with Glen Macintosh opening the scoring in the first minute. Chris Sellar made it 2-0 14 minutes later and added a third goal after the break.

Newtonmore had to deal with a potential Lochaber comeback when Shaun Nicolson pulled a goal back on the hour mark, but captain John MacKenzie slid the ball into an empty net to make the score 4-1 after 72 minutes. MacKenzie then sealed the win just before full time for the Badenoch team.

KINGUSSIE welcome Kinlochshiel this Saturday with both sides looking to book their place in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup quarter final.

Fans at The Dell may be in for an entertaining tie, as the two previous meetings between the sides this year have produced 16 goals.

Kings manager Russell Jones told The Oban Times he knew what Kinlochshiel were capable of, but was confident his side could get through.

He said: 'Kinlochshiel have got a lot of good young players and on their day they can beat anyone. We know we're in for a tough game. But like everyone else in the Premiership they seem to be quite inconsistent.'

'We lost 5-3 to them earlier in the season but then three weeks later we went up there and beat them 6-2 so we'll be looking for that kind of performance again.'

Jones added: 'We've got home advantage and we'll be looking to use that. We hardly had any home game recently so we're keen to play at The Dell again.'

'Everyone is fit and free from suspension so we should have a full squad.'

KYLES ATHLETIC'S Whyte brothers combined to help their team avenge earlier defeats to Inveraray this season.

Gordon Thomas and John Whyte scored a goal each and Robbie MacLeod added a late penalty to record a 4-1 win and keep up Kyles' title challenge.

The win will also boost confidence ahead of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup replay against Glasgow Mid Argyll this Saturday in Tighnabruich.

Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'It was disappointing not to beat GMA in Glasgow but we had a short break in fixtures after that and the boys are refreshed after that.'

'The chat in the dressing room was less about beating Inveraray and more about how we are not playing particularly well but are still joint second in the premier league. It means that if the boys listen to the coaching staff and we start playing well, we could actually win this league.'

'We need to get back to basics, things were good at last year. Against Inveraray we manage to get the early goal and when we do that, the team becomes confident and that mood carries through the whole game.'

GLENURQUHART take on Kilmallie at Canal Parks on Saturday in a game which could have a massive say in this season's relegation dogfight.

Glen slipped behind Kilmallie into ninth place last weekend after losing 3-1 at home to Fort William.

The two teams are tied on seven points, although Kilmallie have played three more games, but Glen co-manager Drew McNeil said having games in hand was not necessarily a huge advantage.

He told The Oban Times: 'I'd rather have points on the board than games in hand. I always knew Kilmallie would improve and I wasn't surprised to see them beat Lovat at the weekend.'

'But we would like to think we can beat anyone on our day, no matter who we are playing.'

Glen were 2-0 down after half an hour against Fort through two strikes from Ryan Campbell. Gary Innes added a third with 10 minutes to play before James MacPherson got a consolation for the home side with two minutes left.

McNeil said: 'We started really well but then lost two poor goals. It was a really important game, because we could have dragged Fort William right back into it if we had managed to get a win.'

LOVAT have no game this weekend and will use the mini-break to regroup after their shock 1-0 home defeat to Kilmallie last Saturday.

The loss meant Kyles leapfrogged Lovat to become the Orion Group Premiership's new leaders as 2012 continued to live up to its billing as the most unpredictable in years.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae

and 'Shiel will be desperate to avoid falling out of two cup competitions in successive games after their 6-2 loss to Fort William in the Artemis MacAulay Cup last time out.

Coach Johnston Gill will be missing club captain Gordy MacDonald through injury, and will again have to decide whether to play Finlay MacRae in defence or attack.

Kings will present a formidable test, but the Lochalsh men are well capable of beating anyone when they fire on all cylinders.

Gill said: 'We went up there in the first game of the season and beat them, but Kingussie have improved since then. They will be pushing for the win because it's their last chance of winning silverware.'

'So we are going to have to be at our very best if we are to get a result - but it is not beyond us.'

'Where will I play Finlay? I can't tell you that. We are a wee bit short up front, but I will have to give it some thought. We played him up front at Kingussie last time - but I'm not sure that's going to happen on Saturday.'

FORT WILLIAM could haul themselves to within two points of Saturday's opponents Newtonmore if they beat the newly crowned Co-operative MacTavish Cup champions at Black Parks.

'More will be buoyed by their 5-1 over Lochaber in the cup final, but their form in the league has been much more suspect, with a 3-0 reverse at Lovat the most recent example.'

Fort have been even more unpredictable, but recent results show that, if Peter MacIntyre can field something close to his strongest side, they are a formi-

## SHINTY

a massive boost - and lifted them out of the relegation places for the first time in months.

After a desperate start to the season, the Blues have won their last three matches and are at last beginning to show the kind of form they are capable of.

The revival has delighted club chairman Hugh MacIntyre - but he knows that if Kilmallie are to escape the drop, they have to keep winning.

He said: 'All of a sudden the forwards are clicking and the defence is playing well. Glenurquhart beat us earlier in the season, but we were short of players on that day. Now the boys have more confidence.'

'We are above Glenurquhart now and they have games in hand, but if we beat them it will help our chances of staying up.'

Kilmallie should have their full squad available apart from Peter MacIntyre, who has yet to recover from injury.

LOCHABER will return to the scene of their MacTavish Cup final loss last weekend when they take on Inverness at Bught Park on Saturday.

The game will be the Spean Bridge side's first league action since they beat Caberfeidh 5-2 on April 28.

In the meantime both Caber and Skye have leapfrogged them at the top of the league, but unbeaten Lochaber are just two points off the top with games in hand.

Manager Michael Delaney said he was looking forward to returning to league competition. 'The league is the most important thing for us; Saturday was a



A delighted Newtonmore skipper John MacKenzie holds aloft the Co-operative MacTavish Cup after their 5-1 win over Lochaber at the Bught Park, Inverness last Saturday. Photo: John MacTavish

now like Nick Dalgety, who is 14 years-old, so we'll be looking to slot a few more in there.'

Gregor Cushnie and Iain MacKenzie both scored in the first half last weekend as Lochcarron moved ahead of Inverness into sixth place.

SKYE CAMANACHD will pick up their camans in anger for the first time in three weeks when they welcome on Saturday when they welcome Lochcarron to Pairc nan Laach.

The Skyemen have got the better of their derby rivals twice already this season, but Lochcarron's recent form - including a 2-1 win over Beaulieu and Caberfeidh - means Skye coach Willie MacRae is taking nothing for granted - especially after being out of action for so long.

He said: 'A three-week lay off is not very good. Hopefully the boys will still remember what to do.'

'Lochcarron have had a couple of good wins, they are a sturdy side and it will probably be quite a tight game.'

'With it being a derby, they will want to get one over on us and we will not underestimate them at all. We want to keep on Lochaber's tails in the league. It is very important that we keep winning - especially our home games. But the boys are up for it and eager to get back into things.'

Skye will be without Gibs MacDonald (broken finger) and Jamie MacDonald (broken kneecap), but Stevie Morrison should return to full back.

This weekend's AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup finalists, INVERARAY and TAYNUILT, both go into the match following defeats in their respective leagues.

Inveraray's Euan McMurdo scored his side's only goal last Saturday in a 4-1 defeat to Kyles Athletic.

Taynuilt were on the wrong end of a 6-1 scoreline at Glasgow Mid Argyll, with captain Stuart Scott scoring their consolation goal.

OBAN CAMANACHD proved they still have what it takes to compete in shinty's top division by dumping Orion Group Premiership side Bute out of the MacAulay Cup.

New manager Gussie Campbell persevered with his tactical

changes and they once again paid dividends with Andrew 'Papa' MacCush scoring twice in a 2-0 victory.

MacCush has re-invented himself as a clinical striker after being moved forward from centre and his replacement, Scott MacMillan, was his team's standout player, according to Gussie.

'I don't like to single players out but Scott was outstanding on Saturday in the centre,' Gussie said. 'And Andrew scored both goals, so I can't fault him.'

'My one concern was we didn't kill Bute off sooner. In the time between scoring our first and second goals our goalkeeper, Robert Dunning, had to make three brilliant saves.'

'We got the ball forward very well but we were a bit over-elaborate at times in front of goal.'

The win sets up a Macaulay Cup semi-final with Inveraray at Mossfield in what may be a sterner test for the resurgent Oban Camanachd.

OBAN CELTIC recorded a fine win against Strachur last Saturday to haul themselves out of the Marine Harvest South Division One relegation zone.

A Lee Askew hat trick and an Alan Miller goal ensured the two points but it took until the second half to register a score.

Oban Celtic's David Hamilton said: 'I think the team is finally starting to get this season although we struggled in the first half at times.'

'The difference this week was we got shots on target. That's something I always ask of the boys; if we concentrate on getting shots on target, we are going to get goals.'

'We had to get something from the Strachur game to keep our momentum going and defeats for Taynuilt and Kilmory helped us a lot.'

Oban Celtic have no game this weekend but their supporters will be cheering on their under-

17 team in the MacQuiston Cup final.

GLENORCHY maintained their grip on second place in Marine Harvest South Division One with victory over Kilmory.

Grant MacPherson (2) and Kieran MacKay put the Mid Argyll side to the sword.

OBAN CAMANACHD'S Under 14s are celebrating a fine league win for the second successive season after two emphatic wins in five days - scoring 12 goals in the process.

They started their vital double-header on June 8 at Ganavan, taking on local rivals Oban Celtic in what would be a hotly contested affair.

It was a close game and the half time score of 4-2 in favour of Camanachd could be deemed harsh on the hosts.

However, the title-chasers underlined their credentials by thumping a further four in during a lively second half. Scoring for Camanachd were Connor Howe, Liam Higgins, Craig MacMillan and Danile MacMillan, with Ross MacMillan and Daniel MacVicar both grabbing braces.

Keegan MacMillan scored both counters for the hosts. Camanachd then travelled to Glasgow's Yoker park on Tuesday, knowing that victory over closest rivals Milngavie and Bearsden would see them retain the South Division One title.

Daniel MacVicar, Liam Higgins and Connor Howe (2) completed what was an emphatic rout.

The final league game of the season against Aberdour is still to be scheduled, but Camanachd's attention turns to the Ken MacMaster Trophy when they will play Kilmallie in the semi-final.

A date for the tie is to be arranged, but a recent friendly between the two - finishing 2-0 for Camanachd - teased what could be a promising contest.

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Boleskine 4 - 3 Strathspye Lochcarron 2 - 0 Lochbroom Lewis P - P Strathglass Strathglass unable to field a team points to Lewis

Womens Camanachd Association Results Sunday 10th June Marine Harvest National Division 1 Aberdour 0 - 2 Tir Conaill Harps Glengarry 2 - 1 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Glengarry 2 - 6 Lovat

Youth Results Sunday 10th June Under 17 MacQuiston Cup Semi-Final Glasgow MA P-P Oban Camanachd Mid Argyll unable to field a team, walkover to Oban Camanachd.

Saturday 16th June The Co-operative MacTavish Juvenile Cup - Final Kinlochshiel 4 - 2 Skye

## Fixtures

Saturday 23 June 2012

Orion Premiership Kilmallie v Glenurquhart Deek Cameron - 2pm Fort William v Newtonmore Duncan Kelly - 2pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Inverness v Lochaber Daniel MacRae - 2pm Caberfeidh v Strathglass Graham Irving - 2.30pm Skye v Lochcarron Innes Wood - 2.30pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Aberdeen Uni v Glengarry Robert Morrison - 2pm Lochaber v Newtonmore John Matheson - 2pm

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Lewis Caman v Lochbroom Evan MacRae - 2pm Lochcarron v Caberfeidh John Angus Gillies - 2pm

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup - Final at Strachur Inveraray v Taynuilt Robert Baxter - 4pm

Sutherland Cup Kingussie v Kilmallie Graeme MacMillan - 12pm

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA Billy Witherspoon - 12pm Kingussie v Kinlochshiel Graham Cameron - 2pm

Strathdearn Cup Fort William v Boleskine Ronnie Campbell - 12pm Skye v Lovat Donald MacRae - 12pm Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel Neil Ferguson - 12pm



Action from last Saturday's Marine Harvest South Division One game between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Taynuilt. Mid Argyll won the game 6-1. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	11	7	2	2	29	19	16
Lovat	11	6	3	2	27	16	15
Newtonmore	10	6	2	2	34	17	14
Kinlochshiel	11	5	2	4	29	27	12
Fort William	10	4	2	4	18	17	10
Kingussie	9	4	2	3	20	20	10
Inveraray	9	4	0	5	14	20	8
Kilmallie	12	3	1	8	23	28	7
Glenurquhart	9	3	1	5	15	24	7
Bute	10	0	3	7	5	26	3

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	9	5	1	3	29	17	11
Skye	6	5	1	0	16	11	10
Lochaber	5	4	1	0	23	5	9
Beaulieu	9	4	1	4	17	21	9
Lochcarron	10	3	2	5	14	27	8
Inverness	9	2	2	4	17	16	6
Strathglass	9	1	1	7	14	33	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	7	7	0	0	35	3	14
Glenorchy	9	7	0	2	21	9	14
Glasgow MA	8	6	0	2	23	10	12
Strachur	12	3	3	6	16	21	9
Kilmory	10	3	2	5	22	24	8
Oban Celtic	9	3	1	5	14	23	7
Taynuilt	10	1	4	5	14	29	6
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
Fort William	10	6	0	4	18	13	12
Skye	9	4	2	3	21	14	10
Aberdeen Uni	11	4	2	5	21	22	10
Kingussie	11	3	3	5	23	26	8
Glengarry	10	4	0	6	13	22	8
Lochaber	11	2	2	7	26	47	6
Lovat	11	2	1	8	14	32	5

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	13	12	0	1	70	23	24
Ballachulish	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	13	4	3	6	37	35	11
Col Glen	11	4	2	5	22	33	10
Bute	9	4	1	4	27	16	9
Glasgow MA	14	4	0	10	15	68	8
Ardnarmurchan	13	3	1	9	32	34	7
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	21	50	5

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulieu	11	11	0	0	59	8	22
Boleskine	11	8	1	2	48	23	17
Lochbroom	12	8	1	3	30	14	17
Kilmallie	12	6	2	4	41	30	14
Lochcarron	11	5	1	5	26	26	11
Caberfeidh	10	5	0	5	27	26	10
Strathglass	11	3	2	6	20	37	8
Strathspye	13	3	2	8	29	46	8
Inverness	13	2	1	10	12	52	5
Lewis Caman	12	1	2	9	16	46	4

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Argyll's karate kids take centre stage

**KARATE**

KYOKUSHIN Schools of Karate (Scotland Branch) held its annual junior tournament on May 27 at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead, the Senshi Do Open.

Fighters from all over Argyll competed for the trophies in seven different categories of kumite (fighting) and two categories of kata (set forms).

**KUMITE**  
Novice - 7th kyu, up to 8 years old: 1 Charlie McLaughlin (Oban); 6th kyu and over, up to 8 years old: 1 Lewis Donn Oban; Novice - 7th kyu, 9 - 11 years: 1 Erin Downie (Lochgilphead); 6th kyu - 3rd kyu, 9 - 11 years: 1 Kaitlyne MacLeod (Oban); 2nd kyu and over, 9 - 11 years: 1 Gregor Dickison (Oban); 6th kyu - 3rd kyu, 12 - 15 years: 1 Andrew Smart (Kilmartin); 2nd kyu and over, 12 - 14 years: 1 Owen Allen (Tarbert). Spirited fighter award: Shannon Gallagher (Lochgilphead).

**KATA**  
Novice - 6th kyu: 1 Damien Williamson (Oban); 5th kyu - 1st kyu: 1 Peter Tyler (Tarbert).

**Tobermory Golf Club results**

**GOLF**

ALASDAIR Brown Trophy, 1 Ross Laurie 39 points; 2 Andrew McHaffie 38 points; 3 John Weir 36 points.

Captains Prize, 1 Alasdair MacLeod 38 points; 2 Graham Davidson 37 points; 3 Paul Brown 37 points.

Nearest the pin at the 9th and 18th Graham Davidson. Longest Drive on the 8th Iain Wilshire.

## Cage cricket launched by James Bond film star

JAMES Bond actor Colin Salmon was at Oban's Atlantis Leisure at the weekend for the Scottish launch of Cage Cricket.

The *Tomorrow Never Dies* star and cricket fan is an ambassador for the new sport, which overcomes the problems of a lack of space to play and is designed to allow players of all abilities to take part.

Following the UK launch in Westminster on Tuesday last

week, Cage Cricket's charity ambassador Charmaine Gooding, who lives in Oban, brought the Scottish launch to the town.

Members of Oban Cricket Club and Atlantis Leisure coaches joined primary school children from the area for games last Saturday.

Asked why Oban was chosen for the Scottish launch, Mr Salmon replied: 'I played street cricket growing up in Luton but

**CAGE CRICKET**

never played for a club. But now, with the lack of space in these towns, the chances of people like me coming through to play cricket is low.

'Cage Cricket is played in a small, enclosed space with not very much equipment, so the kids can just turn up and play. 'Oban has a good club and is a gateway to the isles and the Highlands. The ability to establish a cricket team on Islay, for example, is very difficult but to produce a few cage cricketers is do-able.'

The game is quite different to the traditional game, with a team of six rotating to a different role - including that of umpire - after each over.

Every player has the potential to score points, through batting, bowling or fielding well.

Asked if the establishment in cricket was behind the new form of the game, Mr Salmon explained: 'Anyone who loves the game will get on board.'

'We are ready when they are ready to join in but we have to get a move on with this.'



Colin Salmon, back row, centre, joins Oban Cricket Club members and primary school children from Oban at the Cage Cricket launch. 07\_125cricket01



Robert Wilson in action at the Isle of Man TT

## Taynuilt road racer finishes a creditable 13th at the world famous Isle of Man TT

TAYNUILT road racer Robert Wilson has returned from this year's Isle of Man TT, recording a best finish of 13th place in only his second attempt at the world famous race.

The architect was riding for Taylor Lindsay Kawasaki Racing on a 600cc supersport bike and 1000cc superbike and entered all five main event races but only finished three because of fuel pump problems and the bike cutting out. He was

**ROAD RACING**

also disappointed this year's Senior TT race was cancelled because of the weather.

Robert was assisted by: Stoddarts of Oban; Steven Carson Parcels; Robertson Van Sales; iShot energy drinks; Dawson Energy; MacNiven Electronics; Taylor Lindsey; MacKenzie Engineering. Photo: Graham Norton of White Line Images.

## Lorn primary schools tackle tag rugby

MORE than 150 primary school children from the Oban and Lorn area attended the recent Spring Tag Rugby Festival hosted by Oban Lorne RFC.

The non-competitive event, which was organised by Scottish Rugby Modern Apprentices

Emma Roxburgh and Fergus Matheson, was run in Partnership with Active Schools co-ordinator Dale Kupris and Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright.

Teams from Park, St Columba's, Dunbeg, Barcaldine, Loch-

**RUGBY**

nell and Easdale all attended. Argyll and Bute RFC thanked Active Schools, Oban Lorne RFC, Oban High School and the Argyll and the Islands LEADER project for their support.

## Youth football tournament at Mossfield

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

THE annual AMP Youth Football Tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club will take place at Mossfield Stadium this Saturday.

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, Queens Park and last year's winners Hamilton Accies.

The tournament gets underway at 10.30am.

## Teams confirmed for Keyline Cup

**FOOTBALL**

THE annual Keyline Cup Tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club and sponsored by Keyline Builders Merchants takes place at Mossfield and Glenruitten on Saturday, July 14.

Taking part are Scottish Premier League teams Dundee United, St Johnstone and Scottish Cup winners Hearts, along with Hamilton Accies from Scottish League Division One and Division Three champions Alloa Athletic who won the Keyline Cup last year.

Amateur host club Oban Saints make up the six team tournament. The competition starts at 11am.

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## Saints youth players pick up awards

THE youth section of Oban Saints Football Club held its end of season awards ceremony in the assembly hall of Oban High School last Friday evening where a large turnout of parents, coaches and players attended.

Before the awards were handed out a Powerpoint presentation of the achievements of the youth section was shown as well as a brief run-down of the season from the various coaches.

Chairman of the youth section at the club Iain Alexander then

introduced senior team secretary David Buchanan who presented the various awards.

At the end of the evening youth secretary Janice Alexander and treasurer Carol MacPherson were presented with gifts from the club as a thanks for all their hard work over the season.

Trophy winners - Under 13s: Player of the Year - Liam Higgins; Players' Player of the Year - Jay Cooper; Most Improved Player - James MacIntyre; Top Scorer - Jay Cooper.

Under 14s: Player of the Year - Daniel MacVicar; Players' Player of

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

the Year - Jamie MacPherson; Most Improved Player - Kieran Hendry; Top Scorer Stuart MacLean.

Under 15s: Player of the Year - Iain MacFarlane; Players' Player of the Year - Daniel MacMillan; Most Improved Player - Rhys Cooke; Top Scorer - Fraser MacFarlane.

Under 16s: Player of the Year - Liam MacEachen; Players' Player of the Year - Coll MacKenzie; Most Improved Player - Craig Maitland; Top Scorer - Ryan MacDougall. Not in the photo are Daniel MacVicar, Kieran Hendry and Rhys Cooke.



Players from the various Oban Saints youth teams pictured with their trophies after last week's awards ceremony. 07\_125saints01



Willie Gemmill encourages an aspiring Andy Murray at the open day. Picture by Bob McCulloch.

## Open day is a smash hit

WIMBLEDON fever has begun early in Oban, if the attendance at Oban Tennis Club's open day is anything to go by.

More than 80 people of all ages turned up to play on June 10 at Atlantis Leisure.

West of Scotland tennis development officer Mike Cohen joined local coach Willie Gemmill for coaching tips and fun games.

Willie said: 'It was a really good day and I was delighted with the turnout.'

'It was fantastic to see so many people trying tennis and enjoy-

**TENNIS**

ing it and especially nice to see families playing together.'

Atlantis Leisure and Oban Tennis Club offer tennis coaching from primary one to adult age groups.

Willie was the winner at Oban Tennis Club's most recent monthly super set series, beating Billy Thompson 6-2 in the final.

The doubles competition was won by Kenny Drummond and Mohammed Arshad, who beat Kevin Keen and Roheel Arshad 6-4.

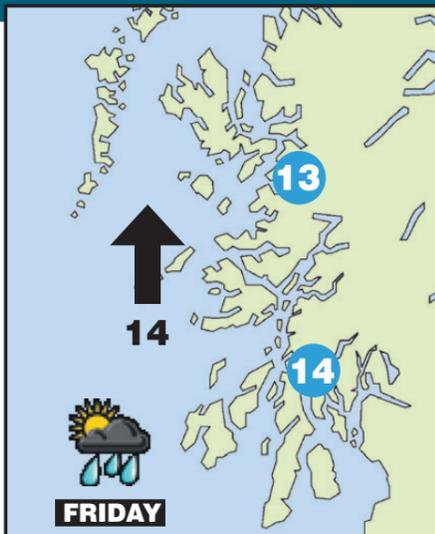
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate easterly  
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C

**Friday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds light east, north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain showers  
**Outlook** Winds moderate north easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 14°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 21, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.50	1.2 06.48 3.7 12.52 1.0 18.52 3.8	
Fri 01.27	1.2 07.22 3.6 13.27 1.0 19.26 3.8	
Sat 02.02	1.2 07.53 3.5 14.01 1.0 20.00 3.7	
Sun 02.35	1.3 08.28 3.4 14.39 1.0 20.37 3.6	
Mon 03.11	1.4 09.08 3.3 15.22 1.1 21.20 3.5	
Tues 03.57	1.4 09.55 3.2 16.12 1.2 22.11 3.4	
Wed 04.57	1.5 10.53 3.1 17.12 1.3 23.14 3.3	

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.

# The Oban Times

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Thursday 21 June, 2012

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## Cameron Square plans to be unveiled at public meeting

PLANS to transform Cameron Square on Fort William's High Street into a venue for public performances will be unveiled at a public meeting next Thursday. Highland Council will propose the square be developed to provide a more relaxed seating and events area, possibly with a covered section to allow all-weather shows. The council is inviting the public to view and comment on the plans in the Council Chambers, Lochaber House, at 6pm. The revamp would be the third and final stage of High Street's makeover. Phases one and two saw the underpass refurbished and Gordon Square

at the west end become the new end of the West Highland Way, with artwork and tiered grassed areas. No funding has yet been identified for the work, but a recent ward forum in Fort William agreed promoting more events in the town centre could boost the High Street. Councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of Fort William Steering Group, said: 'The Outdoor Capital of the UK is doing excellent work by promoting Lochaber as the home for events and this offers an opportunity to provide a base for small events and performances in the heart of Fort William.'

## North Uist wool mill on track as training begins

A WOOL-WORKING training programme on North Uist got off to a successful start last weekend when 11 people attended a two-day workshop at the Kallin Canteen on Grimsay. The Uist Wool-led CALANAS event, which attracted trainees from Uist, Lewis, Skye and Barra, came as Uist Wool (UW) received news that the comhairle's sustainable development committee had granted £50,000 towards buying machinery for UW's proposed wool mill on a croft at Scotvein on Grimsay. UW is also waiting for news on a £90,000 application to LEADER towards mill construction and start-up costs - and now has most of the project funding in place to allow building work to start later this year. UW Committee member Dana MacPhee said: 'A lot of hard work has gone into getting the project

to this point and this wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiasm and encouragement from our loyal membership, local crofters and professional advisors. 'We're optimistic that construction of the mill will start this year and by 2013 the first Uist Wool yarns will be ready to launch to the public - personally, I can't wait.' The workshop saw tutors Sheila Roderick and Sam Goates give expert guidance on wool work, from grading unwashed fleece and fibre analysis, to carding and spinning. A second CALANAS workshop is planned for the autumn ahead of an intensive 10-week part-time course in wool-work and mill machinery. The training will ensure local skills are in place in time for the mill opening.



Come on Lochaber! Young rugby players celebrate another successful season at the Banavie clubhouse. 20\_125rugby02

## Young Lochaber rugby players celebrate successful season

AROUND 50 primary school age rugby players attended a fun training session and prizegiving at Lochaber Rugby Football Club's clubhouse at Banavie on Saturday to bring the curtain down on another season. With club stalwart Garry Hendrie acting as compere, club captain Kenny Turnbull presented trophies and certificates as the boys' families, club officials and players looked on. Mr Hendrie thanked the players, coaches and volunteers for all their efforts throughout the

season. He said: 'Our rugby club would not be here if it was not for you. 'It is a super sport to be involved in. It is a great club we have here and you boys and girls are the future of it.' Trophies: Best attendance, P3 - Ethan Linfield; P4/5 Ben MacDonald; P6/7 Greg Hendrie. Most improved player, P3 - Dylan Monk; P4/5 - Fraser Davis; P6/7 - Ben Fulford. Player of the Year, P4/5 - Johnnie Forster; P6/7 - John Clark. See rugby club's new committee, back page.

## Anger over top crofting post delay

THE CONVENOR of the new body charged with reviving crofting may not be decided for several months, *The Oban Times* can reveal. It had been hoped the Crofting Commission (CC) chief would be in place to guide work on a new 'five-year plan' for crofting due to be presented to environment minister Stewart Stevenson on September 16. But the post has become caught up in strict new government rules governing public appointments because Scottish Ministers picked three of the CC's nine commissioners and opted to appoint the convenor as well. The remaining six commissioners were elected at Inverness on March 16 following a postal vote of all crofters. Any of the nine can now apply for the convenor's job, but must be vetted according to the new guidelines. This is despite the three appointees having already gone through the process - and the other six being voted in on their crofting manifestos. Shetland crofting estate owner Sandy Cross, one of the government appointees, is currently acting as interim convenor until the new convenor is chosen. Mr Cross has intimated he is not applying for the job. Scottish Government Minis-

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

ters brought in the guidelines to attract new talent and to counter criticism that well-paid appointments to public bodies only go to a select few. But crofters' group the Scottish Crofting Federation said the snail-like progress towards choosing the convenor was 'not good enough' with urgent business pending. Chief executive Patrick Krause told *The Oban Times*: 'When the government said they were not going to have the commission appoint its own convenor, we thought at the time that did not put out a very good message. 'Given that they [the commission] are charged with producing a crofting plan within six months, it makes it more difficult when they don't have a leader. It is an unacceptable delay.' Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, who chairs the Scottish Parliament standards, procedures and public appointments committee overseeing the selection procedure, acknowledged growing frustrations and accepted lessons could be learned. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We need to look again at the fact

that it [the convenor's post] has got caught by the process and see if there is some way we can streamline it in the future.' Asked when the convenor would be appointed, he said: 'I think it could be quite a lengthy process.' Under The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, the CC board must produce a 2012-17 crofting plan within six months from its first meeting on April 3. Feedback from a 12-week public consultation will inform commissioners as they draw up the document. A CC spokesperson confirmed application packs for the convenor's post had yet to be sent out to all nine commissioners. She added: 'Though Sandy Cross has formally stated he does not intend to stand, he will still receive a pack for information.' Elected commissioners are Kathleen Sinclair, Shetland; Arnie Pirie, Orkney and Caithness; Donnie Ross, East Highlands; Murdo MacLennan, Western Isles; Ian Macdonald, West Highlands and Colin Kennedy, South West Highlands. Appointed commissioners are Mr Cross, and William Swann and Susan Walker, both from Shetland. See Crofting Commission terminates tenancies, page 6.

## Earthquakes go unnoticed

THE EARTH may have moved in south Lochaber in recent days - but local residents didn't seem to notice. Two small earthquakes were recorded around Ballachulish last Thursday by the British Geological Society with magnitudes of 1.4 and 0.8. Another quake of magnitude 1.5 was reported on Sunday, with a similarly sized tremor on Monday evening. But Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* media reports of earthquakes had left locals distinctly underwhelmed. He said: 'I never noticed anything. I've not even heard anyone mentioning it.'

## Councillor switches allegiance to SNP

CAOL and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark has switched allegiance to the Scottish National Party after claiming he was frozen out by the Independent group. Councillor Clark had carried the Independent ticket for 10 years, but told *The Oban Times* he was informed he would have to join the Independent bloc to be nominated for committees. He said: 'I felt I was excluded as an independent councillor and that I wouldn't be able to do the job I was elected to for

my constituents, so I had a choice to make. They decided to effectively set themselves up as a political party. I couldn't go along with it. 'If I have to join a party, I'm going to join one that has views which are consistent with my own. With my support of Scottish independence this is in many ways a very natural move for me.' He added: 'The days of the truly independent councillor in Highland Council are well and truly over.'

Caol and Mallaig Independent councillor Eddie Hunter said: 'For a man that's been thumping the Independent long before I came on to the council it seems a bit strange. The honourable thing would be to stand down and seek re-election under the banner of the SNP.' Council administration and SNP group leader Drew Hendry said: 'We believe Bill Clark is a talented councillor who can have a huge positive impact on the council's business and how it serves the Highland public.'

## Fury as teachers shown the door

FURIOUS parents in Skye and Lochaber have accused Highland Council of not giving talented trainee teachers the chance to apply for permanent posts in a crude attempt to save cash. Kilmuir and Lady Lovat primaries are among dozens of schools with a probationer teacher whose first year salaries are paid by the Scottish government. The teachers have excelled - but will be replaced by new probationers after the summer holidays. Lady Lovat will lose P1-P3 teacher Gemma Stevenson, from nearby Arisaig. Ms Stevenson is getting married in two weeks. Kilmuir, meanwhile, will say goodbye to English medium teacher Donald MacDonald, a native of Skye and a Gaelic speaker. Parent councils at the two-teacher schools say both probationers are 'outstanding' and deserve the chance to continue their work. Should the council decide to advertise the posts as permanent, it is understood both Ms Stevenson and Mr

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk MacDonald would apply. At Morar, head teacher Maureen Sutherland is also retiring - meaning there will be a 100 per cent turnover in staff for session 2012/13. A new non-teaching 'composite' head teacher, also with responsibility for Inverie, Canna and Rum, has been appointed. A P4-7 teacher from Mallaig will start next term, while a new probationer will teach P1-P3 children. The parent council feels aggrieved because they only agreed to a composite head after the council indicated a 100 per cent staff turnover was 'inappropriate' - leading them to believe Ms Stevenson could apply for the permanent post. Parent Sue Currie said of Ms Stevenson: 'She has turned out to be a fabulous teacher. We expected the P1 to P3 job to be advertised and that she would have a chance of getting it. We feel

that we have been misled.' Meanwhile at Kilmuir, parents and children demonstrated on Monday in support of Mr MacDonald. Uig Bay Campsite owner Martin Madigan, whose son is in the Gaelic medium class, told *The Oban Times*: 'If we lose Mr MacDonald I think the school will have lost one of the best teachers they have ever had. 'For a teacher who is only 23 or 24 to do all he has done with the kids is remarkable. To say to the boy 'there's the door, now b\*\*\*\*\* off' is tragic - he should have a permanent post at Kilmuir. The kids are gutted, really.' A council spokesman said: 'The [new] probationer teacher at Lady Lovat Primary will be one of two class teachers working to a cluster head teacher. 'Kilmuir Primary School has had three probationer teachers in recent years. The council is still heavily engaged in the teacher staffing exercise for next year.'



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Lochaber High School sixth years line up ahead of their graduation ceremony. 20\_125grad01

Lochaber High School sixth years graduate in style at ceremony

POSH frocks and kilts were in abundance when Lochaber High School (LHS) held its annual graduation ceremony in the school hall on Thursday June 7.

receiving their certificates from head teacher Jim Sutherland.

A vote of thanks was delivered by Kirsty Turner and musical entertainment was provided by the LHS Ceilidh Band and by Christina Wilkie on clarinet.

The graduation is the culmination of six years

of secondary education and an opportunity to celebrate achievements and pass on good wishes for the future.

Many of the students will continue their studies at college or university, some will travel or take a gap year while others move straight into employment or training.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr Sutherland said: 'I hope that you look back on your time at LHS with pride and affection - channel your energy wisely and aspire to great things.'

After the ceremony, students and staff moved on to the Ben Nevis Hotel for a dinner dance with the former pupil band Broken Spectre.



Ardnamurchan pupils say farewell

Ardnamurchan High sixth year pupils said goodbye to their school and teachers with an evening at Glenfinnan House Hotel. Eighteen youngsters with members of staff celebrated the end of their time at the school in style with a three-course meal, accompanied by embarrassing stories and photos from the pupils' childhoods.

Arisaig playing field celebration

ARISAIG Community Trust is holding an informal community Midsummer picnic on the afternoon of Sunday June 24 on the village playing field.

organisers felt summer would be a better time to celebrate - midges and rain apart. Trust development worker Alison Stewart told The Oban Times: 'We hope the community - and visitors too - will come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon on the field.'

for the more energetic, a duck race for those of a competitive nature and the amazing and popular Lochaber Swing Band to entertain the picnickers.

Admission is free, but donations to Arisaig Community Trust will be welcome to support current and future local Arisaig projects.

Young carers win recognition

A GROUP of young people from Skye and Lochalsh have been recognised nationally for their selfless dedication to others.

The 69 youngsters, all under 18, look after a family member in need of constant care - and this year made a DVD to show the authorities what young carers face.

recognised and acknowledged at this national level.

'Our service is privileged to be led by and work with young carers and our success today is down to their creativity and their enthusiasm to work for the benefit of others.'

Around 400 people gathered at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket for the ceremony.

New bridge could replace rockfall-prone A890 by-pass

A NEW £60 million bridge across Loch Carron to replace the rockfall-prone A890 Stromeferry by-pass is likely to receive strong local backing next Monday.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The structure, which if built would span the narrows between the slipways at Lochcarron and Stromeferry, will be one of several engineering solutions outlined at Highland Council's exhibition and public meeting in Lochcarron Village Hall.

A by-pass through Attadale Estate and a 2km tunnel to replace the vulnerable section of road will also be up for discussion.

Initial costs for the three projects range from £23million to £115 million - figures likely to change as the options are worked up in more detail.

The bridge price tag means Highland Council would require substantial extra funding from the Scottish Government.

However, one catalyst for extra cash could be nearby Kishorn Port, which is earmarked as a major hub for the developing offshore renewable industry.

loch. It's vitally important that road stays open - it is a very important route. If you work in Kyle and live in Lochcarron, or vice versa, it is very disruptive if you can't get through.'

Councillor Graham Philips, transport environmental and community services chairman, will chair the meeting.

He said: 'We are honouring our commitment to discuss with the local community the long-term plans for the upgrade of this important route.'

'We appreciate fully the inconvenience the local communities have suffered as a result of past and more recent prolonged periods of closure caused by rockfall. We will welcome the views of the public on the options we will be displaying at the exhibition and others that we may have overlooked.'

'This will be the first of a number of consultations with the public as we take the project through its various stages of design development.'

The exhibition runs between 3pm and 6pm, followed by the public meeting at 7pm.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

BEAG air bheag thig slàinte, ach na thonn an euslainn! Agus mar as sine neach 's ann as buailtiche an tinneas agus 's ann gu nàdarra a bhiodh dùil ri barrachd feum air seirbheasan leigheis.

Leis gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid a' cur ri cosgais seirbheis na slàinte tro chisean de gach seòrsa fad am beatha, chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh iad an làn dùil ri frithealadh nuair a tha feum aca air.

A dh'aindeoin trioblaidan airgid is eile bho am gu àm, tha seirbheis slàinte na dùthcha seo na adhbhar farmaid dha dùthchannan eile feadh an t-saoghail.

Ged a tha seirbheasan slàinte prìobhaideach rim faotainn tro àrachas neo ri linn a bhith beairteach, tha Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte againne air a bonntachadh air prionnsabalann urramach co-ionannachd, a' ciallachadh gum bheil an aon ire aire agus taice air a ghealltainn do gach neach ge b' e dè cho domhainn neo tana a chuid sporain! Sin mar a bha mise, agus tha mi a' creidsinn a' mhòr-chuid den t-sluagh, a' smaointinn a bha cùisean.

Nach annasach agus draghail a bhith a-nise a' cluinntinn gum bheil lagh na dùthcha (ach a- mhàin ann an Eirinn a Tuath, ged nach eil mi a' tuigsinn carson) gu bhith air atharrachadh gus gum feum seirbheis na slàinte an aon ire cobhair a thoirt dha seann daoine 's a tha feadhainn nas òige a' faotainn! Tha an gluasad seo gus an lagh atharrachadh na measladh leis gum bheil e na aideachadh gun robh, agus gum bheil fhathast, dimeas ga dhèanamh air seann daoine.

Tha Ministear a' Chùraim, Pòl Burstow, air daingneachadh gum bheil dearbhadh aig an Rìghaltas nach eil cuid de sheann daoine a' faotainn an inbhe is an urraim air am bheil iad airidh agus gum bheil cuid de dh'athairan ag àicheadh chungaidhean agus obair-lannsa air sgàth seann aois.

Tha an lagh a-nise a' dìon daoine bho gheur-leannhainn air sgàth seann aois ach a rèir coltais, chan eil dion fhathast aig na daoine as sine a thaobh co-ionannachd ire seirbheasan poblach neo prìobhaideach.

Nach math gum bheil an ceum seo ga ghabhail a thaobh seirbheis na slàinte agus mar as luaithe a thèid an aon ghealltanais a thoirt air gach seirbheis eile 's ann as fhearr! Tha ire sìobhaltachd sluaigh ri a mheas a rèir 's mar a tha iad a' dèiligeadh ri an cuid sheann daoine!

MANY will be astonished to note that the law in Scotland, England and Wales is being amended to prevent ageist discrimination in treatment by some GPs and hospitals.

Care Minister Paul Burstow has confirmed that elderly people are not always receiving best treatment.

Ageism has already been outlawed in the workplace but it appears that elderly people are not protected in respect of other public or privately administered services.

If a country is best judged by the way it treats senior citizens this action on health is welcome and the sooner other services are guaranteed to a similar level the better. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.



Take the strain: the P1s during their tug 'o war battle. 10\_125sport01

Lochside primary pupils enjoy sports day

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School pupils got into the Olympic spirit by holding a sporting day of their own last week.

Perhaps inspired by the Olympic torch passing through Lochaber last weekend, the children showed off their sporting prowess and tried their hands at new activities, going round a circuit including tug 'o war, football skills, boxercise,

volleyball and an obstacle course. Head teacher Violet Smith told The Oban Times the children had enjoyed the event.

She said: 'It gave them a taster session of different sports that they might not have tried before. It's been very successful and we've got great weather for it.'

'The volleyball is something completely new to most of them and the boxercise is proving very popular.'

Fèis Gleann Albainn

PREPARATIONS are well underway for the 10th Fèis Gleann Albainn summer fèis in Fort Augustus next month.

Constituted in 2003, the fèis gives young people aged from five to 18 a unique chance to develop an appreciation of traditional music and Gaelic.

The structured programme of tuition in a range of instruments, song and Gaelic language caters for youngsters of all abilities.

Most classes are taught by local musicians - some of whom have come up through the fèis themselves.

Organiser Tracey MacCallum told The Oban Times: 'We have classes in accordion taught by local musician Fiona Young. 'Fiddle is being taught by lo-

cal musicians Ann Stewart and Rona Cooper and Ann will also be teaching the Fèis Bheag - wee fèis - Gaelic class.

'Whistle and chanter is taught by Fèis Farr's own Heather Forbes, Martin MacDonald is back to teach guitar and local musician Rebecca Skeoch will be teaching keyboard. We also have classes for drama and shinty as well as Celtic art and step dance.'

Tracey added: 'This is our tenth annual summer fèis so we hope to make it a great week for those attending.'

A special early booking discount for the fèis, which runs from July 16-20, ends on June 30. For more information contact Tracey on 01809 501468.

Gaelic primary football finals

Gaelic primary school children from across the country will compete at a national football tournament at Lochaber High School on Saturday.

Fort William RC and Portree primaries will be among the 10 teams taking part in the Cuach na Cloinne (Children's Quach) finals, organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig. The other qualifiers from regional heats are Back Primary School; Laxdale Primary School; lochdair Primary School; Stafainn and Cille Mhoire primary schools; Craighill Primary School, Tain; Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; Sandbank Primary School and Tollcross Primary School.

Duirinish media club screens record shop documentary

DUIRINISH Media and Culture Club will screen the next in its series of summer films in Dunvegan Community Hall on Saturday.

Sound It Out, a documentary about the last record shop in Teesside, will start at 7.30pm.

The club has received funding from Regional Screen Scotland to show four special films up to October in the presence of visiting directors and producers.

Entry to the non-profit making event is £5 for non-members, members free.

The audience is asked to bring their LPs!

Duror cycling star Ben carries Olympic torch

DUROR cycling star Ben Miller took time out from training for a very special reason last Monday - to carry the Olympic torch through Aviemore.

Ben was nominated to carry the flame by South Lochaber Active Schools co-ordinator Roz Newman for his achievements in mountain biking.

Ms Newman said in her submission: 'Ben has managed to squeeze in some dedicated volunteering hours for Active Schools, helping four to eight year olds with their mountain bike skills sessions.'

'He has a very approachable attitude and is always keen to help out. I believe he is an ideal candidate for Olympic Torch bearer as he is a real inspiration to the younger and older people of the Highlands.'

Although Ben has just left Kinlochleven High School (KHS) to start college in September, head teacher John McGilp arranged for all KHS pupils to go into the school theatre so they could watch the live stream and cheer Ben on as he carried the torch.

Ben has just turned 17, which means he has moved into the junior category for racing.

In October last year he became part of Scottish Cycling's performance programme for cross-country mountain biking, which focuses on the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Prior to that Ben was on the Olympic Talent Team for two years, which is for 14-16 year olds.



Duror lad Ben Miller carries the torch through Aviemore.

Logs taken from Kirkton field

A SUBSTANTIAL amount of wooden logs were removed from a field in Kirkton, Lochalsh, sometime between 3pm on Friday June 8 and 10.30am on Monday June 11.

Doors damaged

MINOR damage was caused to two entrance doors of Pier House in Broadford sometime between 6pm on Wednesday June 6 and 5.20pm the following evening.

Anyone with information on these incidents should contact Kyle police on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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MORVERN LINES

Clounlaid was a well-known halt in the days when people drove their cattle to the southern markets and carried their forebears across the hill to Strontian for burial.

APPLICATIONS to build three new hydro electric schemes on Loch Sunarstide at Allt na h' Airigh, Allt na Cloiche and Liddesdale, Loch Sunarstide, have been lodged with the Highland Council by Hydro Plan UK on behalf of Laudale Estate.

The production of electricity by hydropower is not new on the estate, which in former days, stretched from the head of Loch Sunart to Kinlochteacus and included the Island of Carna.

A century ago there was dam in Glen Cripesdale which provided electricity for the mansion-house which was demolished in the 1960s. Two others generated power for the farmhouses of Laudale and Rahoy.

SOME OF the largest and earliest catches of mackerel in living memory are being landed at the Old Pier in the entrance to Loch Aline. Iain Thornber.

completed, the bridge, one of the biggest to be built in Morvern for some years, will provide access to a proposed run-of-river hydro scheme and allow timber extraction from the Sitka-spruce forest block behind Ullin. The main bridge builder is D A MacDonald Contractors Ltd, Lochgilphead, which have been carrying out other large contracts in Morvern.

THE LOCH Tearnait hydroelectric scheme on Ardnorn Estate has been producing electricity since August 2011 and another larger concrete dam downstream on the River Rannoch is nearing completion.

When finished, both will feed electricity into the National Grid.

The Loch Tearnait dam was designed to protect the ancient crannog in the centre of the loch, which is popular for its trout fishing.

THE HISTORIC and attractive former shepherd's house at Clounlaid in the White Glen is being offered for sale for only the second time since it was built by Octavius Smith of Ardnornish in 1866.

**BB gun trial postponed**

THE TRIAL of a Fort William teenager accused of shooting an 11-year-old with a BB gun has been postponed because a witness did not appear in court after being given the wrong date by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Procurator Fiscal Eilidh Robertson said a letter sent to one of the witnesses against David Alexander stated the trial would be held on July 18, rather than June 18. Alexander, of 1 Banff Crescent, denies striking the youngster on the body with the air gun pellet, injuring him, at Lochaber Road play park on February 16. The 16-year-old is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 15.

**Verbal abuse costs man £300**

A MAN has been fined £300 after verbally abusing two women in Caol.

Raymond McPhee, 20, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosneath, Dumbarton, appeared from custody to plead guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by uttering threats of violence and shouting and swearing at the women on Kilmallie Road on June 15.

**Stolen boat and trailer found abandoned**

AN ORKNEY Day Angler boat and trailer were found abandoned last Friday after being stolen from Acharacle sometime over the previous two days.

A punctured wheel had prevented the boat being taken any further and it was recovered undamaged in a layby on the A830 at Loch Eilt Side near the AA phone box. Police are appealing for witnesses to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, Strontian Police Station on 01967 402022 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Lotto draw jackpot rises to £200**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw at the weekend. Numbers were 02-03-14. The jackpot goes up to £200 this week.

**Guilty of unprovoked attack**

A MAN has been found guilty of launching an unprovoked attack on another man in Fort William.

Alexandria man John McPhee assaulted Graham Campbell by repeatedly punching him on the head and kicking him on the legs on The Parade on December 30.

Local man Mr Campbell, aged 20, was walking with his partner Eilidh Sillers when McPhee and a 14-year-old boy ran towards him.

Mr Campbell told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'He came right up to my face shouting and swearing. I tried to move him out the way, then he punched me a couple of times.'

The pair began battling and McPhee kicked Mr Campbell on the shins.

Ms Sillers said McPhee threw the first punch, but McPhee claimed Mr Campbell attacked him and he reacted in self-defence.

Citing a previous incident between one of his relatives and Mr Campbell, 22-year-old McPhee said: 'He came running up the stairs towards us and threw a punch at me. I started punching him back to get him away from me.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I am satisfied the Crown witnesses were both credible and reliable. I did not believe the accused when he said he was the one who was attacked first.'

McPhee, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosneath, is due to be sentenced next month.

**Teenager admits brandishing knife**

A DUROR teenager has admitted brandishing a Stanley knife at a group of youths in Ballachulish.

Ciaran Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by brandishing the blade at the group, including

a 14-year-old girl, near the Co-op on Loan Fern Road on March 2. The 16-year-old also admitted having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse. Fort William Sheriff court heard.

Sentencing was deferred until July 19 for reports.

**Man repeatedly kicked victim**

A CAOL man who repeatedly kicked a man on the head during a drunken fracas has been fined £450.

Iain MacKay, of 15 Clunes Avenue, previously pled guilty to assaulting Thomas Bell at a taxi rank on Fort William High Street by striking him on the head and repeatedly kicking him on the head in the early hours of May 8 last year.

Sentencing was deferred in December for MacKay to be of good behaviour.

Procurator Fiscal Eilidh Robertson said Mr Bell approached MacKay, aged 33, and his wife with his belt wrapped round his hand following a verbal altercation.

Mr Bell attempted to hit Mrs MacKay and was punched to the ground by another man.

Ms Robertson said: 'Mr MacKay walked away, but then turned round and walked back towards Mr Bell, struck him on the head and repeatedly kicked him on the head.'

**Evidence** Fort William Sheriff Court heard MacKay had earlier given evidence in a trial against a relative of Mr Bell.

Hearing MacKay had stayed clear of trouble since his last court appearance, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was a serious assault, although I accept there was a considerable degree of provocation.'

**Alleged assault on partner denied**

AN ARISAIG man has denied assaulting his partner by punching her on the head and face and throwing her to the floor, all to her injury.

Appearing from custody, Danus Laurinavicius, of 11 Canon Gillies Place, also pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing and throwing items around the house.

It is alleged the incidents took place in the house the couple share on June 11.

The 45-year-old was released on bail on condition he does not contact the woman or approach her property.

He told the court he planned to live on his fishing boat 'Faster Fishing', which sits on land near Mallaig harbour.

The trial is due to be held on July 30.



Jessie Corson: MBE for Mallaig community work. Photograph by Alexander Mathieson.

**Mallaig pensioner awarded MBE**

Modest Jessie claims: 'I don't think I'm doing anything special.'

A MALLAIG pensioner's years of dedication to her local community have been rewarded with an MBE.

And Jessie Corson almost turned down the award through modesty after being given news she would be in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Jessie, who lives in Fank Brae with husband Bobby, told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought I was going to say 'no'. I have been very embarrassed for the last few days. I don't think I'm doing anything special - I think everybody should be doing something for a small community.'

She added: 'I think the village has been recognised - and I want Mallaig to be recognised as having a good community spirit. We have taken our living from the area and I think you should always give something back.'

In 1964, Jessie helped found Mallaig Whist Club, which

celebrates its golden jubilee in 2014. She said: 'When the club started we would regularly get 40 tables - now we're lucky if we have six. We are always on the lookout for new members.'

The sprightly 74-year-old - a former Mallaig Secondary and Mallaig High School secretary - retired nine years ago but still helps out at Mallaig and Morar primaries as a knitting tutor.

Jessie, who is originally from Inverloch, is also a keen supporter of Christian Aid and Mallaig Church of Scotland, where she is an elder.

Carloway crofter and former Western Isles Council convener Alex MacDonald received an OBE in recognition of his 28 years of dedicated work as a local councillor.

Western Isles health worker Peggy MacLeod was awarded an MBE for services to nursing and people with motor neurone disease.

**Court names fatal accident inquiry date**

A FATAL accident inquiry into the road accident on the A82 in March in which two Lochaber men died is due to be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 13 and 14.

Stewart McGifford of Caol and Ronnie MacPhee of Mallaig were both killed when their vehicles collided a mile south of Glencoe on Thursday March 8.

Mr MacPhee, a father of two, had been driving home when his Fiat Punto collided with the Ferguson Transport lorry being driven by Mr McGifford. The lorry was heading south with a delivery of planks from BSW's sawmill at Corpach. Fiscal Alison Wylie

said: 'The Sheriff of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Fort William will hold an inquiry on August 13 and 14, with a preliminary hearing to be held on August 1, into the circumstances of the deaths of Ronald Anthony MacPhee and Stewart McGifford.'

Mr McGifford, 48, who lived with his wife Joan in Kilmallie Road, had been a driver for Ferguson Transport for five years. Mr MacPhee, 45, lived in Dalburgh in South Uist before he moved to Mallaig. He was brought up on the family croft and has an extended family on the island. He had worked for CalMac for 27 years.

**How are Scottish schools getting closer to the Games?**

Read on to find out more.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
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The Big Minch Swim Team: hoping to strike out for Stornoway from Ullapool on Monday.

**Swimmers in bid to be first to conquer Minch**

IT IS a stretch of water with a fearsome reputation - but next week nine brave Isle of Lewis swimmers will attempt to be the first to conquer The Minch.

Hazards along the 102km route from Ullapool to Stornoway include jellyfish, hypothermia and exhaustion, but The Big Minch Swim Team is determined to raise thousands for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The team has a ten-day window from June 23-July 3 to make the 50-hour swim from pier to pier, tracing the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry route.

Current plans - if fair weather prevails - will see the first swimmer enter Loch Broom on Monday. Working in relay day and night, each team member will be accompanied by a kayaker and swim for around an hour before being relieved.

Support boat *MV Cuma*, donated by Murdani Macdonald of Lewis company Island Cruising, will escort the swimmers across. Estimated arrival time at South

Beach opposite the Caledonian Hotel is sometime on Wednesday - if the swim goes ahead as planned.

Stornoway RNLI press officer and team member Eilidh Whiteford told *The Oban Times* weather was key. She said: 'Anything from force five upwards means it's not possible. We are trying to talk to the big man upstairs for some good weather!'

'We have been training hard and sea swimming from local beaches. We'll have one hour each in the water and six or seven turns per swimmer.'

Other Big Minch Swim Team members are Saul Hindson, Colin Macleod, Rodney Jamieson, Chris Baker, Tariq Hussain, Laura Maynard, Scott Connor, Mark Doug Maciver, and reserve Douglas Forbes.

The appeal has almost reached its £5,000 target and comes as Stornoway RNLI Station celebrates its 125th anniversary. Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/thebigminchswim.

**Council gets tough on bin bill dodgers**

HUNDREDS of commercial holiday home owners are to have their bin collections stopped by Highland Council for failing to set up waste collection contracts.

The move follows a council letter to the owners of around 1,650 non-domestic rated holiday home properties in February advising the collection service would cease if no response was received by March.

Just over half responded and after granting more time the council is now stopping the service to those owners who did not reply.

Stickers reading 'no contract, no uplift' will be attached to unauthorised bins presented for collection.

A council spokesperson said holiday home business owners have a legal duty to have a waste collection contract in place.

She said: 'It has to be recognised that these businesses are committing a criminal offence. They are also avoiding paying for their collection service and these costs are being borne by the taxpayer. I am sure taxpayers and those businesses which are meeting their legal obligations and are paying for their collection service would expect the council to take a firm stance against these businesses.'

'The annual cost for servicing 1 x 240litre residual bin and 1 x 240litre recycling bin on an alternate weekly collection basis averages out at £2.74 per week and most holiday homes charge several hundred pounds per week.'

**Plockton Music School sets up new charitable trust to help raise funds**

SGOIL Chiùil Na Gàidhealtachd, The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School, has set up a new charitable trust to support its activities.

'Friends of Plockton Music School' will be launched at the centre's end of year concert in the school on Saturday. The trust will aim to top up funding from Highland Council, which has been reduced.

Centre director Dougie Pincock said 'fringe' activities such as CD production, touring and outreach and buying

equipment were 'immediate priorities'. He said: 'These are the kind of things we took out of the budget when the council asked us to make some savings and although we could get along without them, they're all really valuable things to have.'

We need about £30,000 a year to keep them happening, so that's the initial target income.'

The new trust supporting the centre, which provides specialist tuition in traditional music for talented youngsters of secondary school age, will be funded

by annual membership subscription and donations.

Chairman of the board of trustees is BBC broadcaster, money expert and piper Fergus Muirhead.

Saturday's concert will feature all 24 students in seven bands and playing together for the finale.

Accordion, clarsach, fiddle, pipes, piano, guitar, whistle, flute and Scots and Gaelic song will feature strongly on the programme.

Tickets can be reserved by contacting Rhona Sharp on 01599 544706.

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**Susie becomes racing ambassador for women**

RACING driver Susie Wolff (Stoddart)'s standing in the world of motorsport continues to rise after she was named as one of only five ambassadors to promote women in the sport. The Oban woman has been appointed to the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission (WMC). The 29 year old, who has recently been awarded a seat with the Williams F1 team as its development driver, said: 'When I started in DTM six years ago I wouldn't have survived if I hadn't been good enough to compete on merit. Motorsport is a competitive world and no one likes to be beaten, male or female; whoever you are, you need to prove yourself.'

**Semple gains HITRANS chair**

KINTYRE councillor John Semple has been appointed Chair of HITRANS, the Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership.

The Campbeltown man succeeds councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who had been in the role since June 2007.

Councillor Semple, who was appointed at a board meeting last Friday, said: 'The clear priority of the HITRANS board is to make the case for the Highlands and Islands to be included in Government transport programmes and to support the delivery of transport priorities that have been set out in the Regional Transport Strategy.'

**Children's home closure rumours refuted by council**

AN OBAN children's home is to remain open - despite rumours circulating in the town of it closing by the end of the month.

It had been thought by locals that Shellach View children's home was set to close but a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed this is not the case.

She said: 'The Shellach View children's home remains open with absolutely no plans for closure. The home has received excellent reports recently and the future looks bright.'

**NEWSDESK**  
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Martha Payne has raised nearly £100,000 for Mary's Meals thanks to worldwide interest in her school dinners blog 06\_a25martha02

**Hollywood calls blogger Martha, 9?**

From school dinners blog to silver screen for Lochgilphead girl

HOLLYWOOD has come knocking at the door of a Lochgilphead family after a blog about school dinners hit the global headlines.

Lochgilphead Joint Campus pupil, Martha Payne, made waves across the world at the weekend when Argyll and Bute Council tried to stop the nine year-old's NeverSeconds blog by confiscating her camera.

There was literally worldwide outrage as thousands of followers turned to millions in the wake of the row, forcing the authority to make a dramatic u-turn and give Martha her camera back.

The attention has had a dramatic impact on Mary's Meals, whom Martha started raising money for a fortnight ago through the blog.

Nearly £100,000 has been raised for the Dalmally-based charity at the time of going to press - enough to build a new kitchen shelter and feed an entire school for a year at Lirangwe Primary School in Blantyre, Malawi and feed 5,800 children

**"We have had 10 calls from American media groups looking at film and TV."**

**Martha's father**

One of his and wife Dr Rebecca Helliwell's proudest moments, he said, was when Martha was asked to name the first kitchen she helped pay for in Malawi with her blog.

She said: 'Mary's Meals asked me what I would like to call the kitchen and I said 'Friends of NeverSeconds' because if it was just me I would never have managed to raise enough but now we have.'

Dave said: 'We were chuffed to bits. It certainly is one of the proudest moments of my life.'

Mary's Meals founder and chief executive, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, said: 'I am humbled by Martha and her friends. We feel extremely proud of them.'

Gilbert Chigomere, also 9, is an orphan and pupil at Lirangwe, who is forced to live on the streets. He said: 'Please say hello to Martha for me! I want to thank her for all of her hard work.'

The blog can be found at neverseconds.blogspot.co.uk.

**Thieves target Tobermory treasure**

COINS from the sunken Spanish galleon in Tobermory Bay have been stolen from Mull Museum, police have confirmed.

Two 'pieces of eight' have been taken from the museum along with a foot long barnacle encrusted scabbard.

The coins, one from Spain and one from Bolivia came from the *San Juan De Sicilia* which exploded in Tobermory Bay in 1588.

The theft was reported last Thursday but it is unclear when

the items were stolen. Police confirmed that the thief managed to open a locked display case which held the coins.

Island police said the crime was 'really unusual' and although the items could not be replaced, they only had 'historical value'. A spokeswoman for Mull Museum said: 'We are very sad to lose a unique piece of the history of Tobermory.'

'Even if we replaced the items they would not be the ones found in our galleon in our bay.'

We just hope that they turn up.'

The Spanish galleon arrived in Tobermory Bay on October 12, 1588 following the failure of the Spanish Armada.

There have been many myths circulating about the sunken ship in Tobermory Bay with people hunting for treasure there for hundreds of years.

Treasure hunters are still attracted to the area but the diving rights are owned by the Duke of Argyll and experts believe that any lost loot is long gone.

There was also a theft on the Isle of Iona last Friday, June 13 when two pieces of jewellery were taken from a craft shop.

A St Columbas pillow cross on a snake chain and a charm bracelet were stolen. The combined cost of the items is £260.

These thefts come less than two weeks after a claymore sword belonging to Sir Lachlan Maclean was stolen from Duart Castle.

Enquiries are ongoing for all three thefts.

**Cinema doors to open in August**

OBAN'S Phoenix Cinema will open on August 3.

New manager Fiona Shaw, who took up the post earlier this month, announced on Tuesday the picture house on George Street is in the final stages of refurbishment and is on course to open this summer.

Run by a community enterprise, the cinema has just been fitted with 150 new cinema seats.

It has received high profile support from, among others, the Duke of Argyll and Dame Judi Dench, while the community continues to rally to ensure the old Highland Theatre reopened, attending bring and buy sales in numbers.

It had been previously announced that the cinema would open in April, but complications with building work caused a delay.

**Police believe they have averted 'dodgy' diazepam tablet threat**

DRUGS seized by police in Oban are similar to suspected diazepam tablets that hospitalised at least 12 people in Fort William.

Health professionals have been notified and asked to monitor individuals who present symptoms indicating poisoning. Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld confirmed his of-

ficers had seized a quantity of diazepam tablets as recently as June 15 and that they were similar to those discovered in Fort William.

There is no indication anyone in the Oban area had suffered health problems but police and NHS Highland has warned anyone with tablets not prescribed by a doctor, not to take them.

**Council to discuss 'managing' pupils**

ARGYLL and Bute Council is to devise a social media policy to 'manage' what can be posted online by pupils in response to international support for NeverSeconds.

**Lessons to be learned**

Council leader, Roddy McCuish, admits lessons have to be learned by the authority in the wake of a story that has spread across the globe.

Every daily newspaper in Britain ran headlines about how the council confiscated Martha Payne's camera, with the editor of the Daily Telegraph, Tony Gallacher, branding Argyll and Bute Council 'the most stupid council in Britain'.



Council leader, Roddy McCuish

The SNP council leader, who admits he hasn't read NeverSeconds, said he and councillors Dougie Philand and Sandy Taylor would sit down with Martha's family this week, with school menus to be looked at in

the summer. Mr McCuish said: 'There are definitely lessons to be learned by the council and council officers.'

'No council in Scotland has a social media policy and that's something we have to look at. Definitely not a ban, but we have to manage it better.'

Argyll and Bute MSP, SNP education secretary Michael Russell, also wrote to the council asking it to reverse the decision to revoke the camera.

Asked if he regretted that, Mr McCuish said: 'It's not regrettable - he is the MSP for Argyll and Bute regardless of his colours.'

**Tiree Community Development Trust hosts careers open day**

FINDING a job on a remote island community can be difficult, but senior pupils on Tiree showed no signs that it should be a barrier to starting a career.

Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT) organised the Careers Open Day in the island's community hall, An Talla, at Crossapol recently, inviting representatives from a host of high profile businesses and organisations to give presentations on working with them.

Representatives from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig College on Skye, Coll's Project Trust, Argyll College, The Oban Times, Skills Development Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Power Renewables made the journey to Tiree for the event where they joined Will Wright of Tiree Fitness, Tiree Trust, representatives from the Tiree Music Festival team, NHS Highland in the form of the island-based community nurses and Strathclyde Police.

**Technology**

Event organisers, TCDT local development officer Lynne MacKinnon and youth project worker Sophie Isaacson were delighted with the response and hoped to extend the careers programme for local youngsters.

Sophie has been working for the TCDT since she was 19.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'As well as showing the young people some of the opportunities out there for them I also wanted to explore the possibilities of furthering their education while still living on Tiree.'

'Technology nowadays allows us to study and work from almost anywhere in the world and courses provided by UHI and other learning providers are becoming more and more accessible.'

'Learning on the island is something I am very keen to build on for our future on Tiree.'

'Lots of the youngsters want to stay on Tiree but the trend tends to be that they leave and go off to university and then maybe come back six or seven years later,' explained Sophie.

'I think quite often they realise that Tiree is the only place they want to be.'

The opening session offered a selection of workshops where the young people learned about writing CVs, skills development, basic engineering and how to



Lisa Moyes of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig talks to youngsters about their careers 16\_123tiree01



Stewart MacKenzie of The Oban Times was kept busy 16\_123tiree02

utilise teamwork.

The youngsters then had the opportunity to browse around the various stands and displays while discussing their thoughts and ambitions with the business and community representatives.

The afternoon concluded with an inspiring talk from The Project Trust.

A second session, held in the evening was less formal than the afternoon programme and aimed at a slightly older audience.

Ralf Thornton from Scottish Power Renewables spoke about career opportunities in the expanding renewables market while Lisa Moyes from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig highlighted the increasing opportunities within the Gaelic sector and what the Skye-based college had to offer.

The participants then split into smaller discussion groups to focus on relevant issues for young people growing up on Tiree.

John McLuckie, curriculum manager for Argyll College, said that career fairs, like this one on an island, are a great opportunity to show local youngsters what is often available on their doorsteps.

Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director at *The Oban Times* said that the level of interest that the youngsters showed in their future was very encouraging.

He said: 'We were delighted to be involved in this very worthwhile project and were impressed by the standard of initiative and positive attitude shown by the youngsters.'

'Many appear to be targeting further education off the island then aim to return to settle and strengthen the local community. There appears to be a well thought-out structure to their development which would suggest that the future of the island as a whole is in good hands.'

Sophie added: 'We would like to thank everyone who travelled to Tiree for the event. We realise it is a long journey and very much appreciate the input and effort.'

'Thanks also went to 16+ Learning at Argyll and Bute Council for supporting the event and to all workshop leaders and staff holders on the day.'

'I really hope the young people who attended enjoyed the day and got something useful out of it. Now I better get planning next year's', Sophie added.

For more information about what's going with the youth on Tiree visit www.youthtiree.com and www.tireetrust.org.uk.

**Commission gets tough on croft absenteeism**

SEVEN crofters who neglected their crofts have had their tenancies terminated under the new Crofting Commission's declared 'get tough' policy on absenteeism.

Of the seven found to be in breach of 'duty to occupy' rules, four are in the Western Isles, two in Sutherland and one in Skye and Lochalsh.

Five other absent crofters - three in the Western Isles, one in Skye and Lochalsh and one in Argyll, are also in danger of being stripped of their tenancies through neglect.

The Crofting Commission, which had six of its nine members elected at Inverness on March 16, replaced the Crofters' Commission on April 1 with a pledge to make crofters

and owner occupiers comply with their legal duty to occupy and work their crofts.

Until the changeover, the focus was crofters absent from their crofts for over 10 years, but Scottish Government ministers have set occupancy of crofts as a key priority. Now, for the first time under the new commission, orders terminating tenancies of absentee crofters have been approved - freeing up crofts for active use.

The move gives young entrants the chance to take up vacated crofts, helping to sustain populations in remote crofting townships.

The termination orders came after a long process, which gave the

absentees every chance to resolve their situation.

But this week commissioners explained they have a duty to regulate in accordance with the law, which requires every tenant and owner-occupier to live on or within a specified distance of their croft.

Interim chair, Sandy Cross said: 'We would far prefer for crofters to find a solution to their absentee status.'

'Every opportunity is given to absentee crofters to resolve these situations within a reasonable timescale - but if this does not happen, we must take the ultimate step and free up crofts so that they may be let to new tenants who will be

active and play a part in sustaining crofting communities.'

In total, some 57 cases are currently at the stage of notices of proposal to terminate the tenancy - the final warning stage before termination.

Mr Cross said: 'Absentees in this position have to either submit concrete and feasible proposals to resolve their situation in a reasonable timescale, or prove that it would not be in the community interest for their tenancy to be terminated.'

'Essentially we are reaching the decisive stage for a significant number of cases, and it is quite possible that more termination orders will follow in the coming months.'

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# Councillors decide grant could cause conflict in recycling sector

A RECYCLING charity has been denied a council grant after councillors feared encouraging competition with a similar group.

Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI), which has been taken over by the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust, had requested

£12,962.80 from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grant Fund.

**Potential trade**

At the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting last Thursday, councillors were advised to recommend £4,250. Councillors were told the recycling group, which is a

third sector enterprise with paid staff and sells second hand furniture and other domestic items for a reduced price, needed a town centre space to increase its trading potential.

However, the seven councillors present agreed not to fund the plan, saying it could jeopardise the work already

undertaken by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust in the White Building.

**Contentious**

Oban North and Lorn councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: "This is contentious. With GRAB taking over LORI the dynamics have changed and it would possibly be competing

with a charity that is already there and run by unpaid volunteers. It is virtually the same service."

Other councillors said they would have liked GRAB and MacQueen Bros to have worked together more closely to find a solution but were told this had proved difficult.

Oban South and the Isles councillor Fred Hall said: "For the fact I think there are other options, I am afraid my vote is against them. We have to be very careful about how we spend this grant money."

Area committee chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen Lee, concluded: "GRAB and Mac-

Queen Bros both do excellent work but the concern is there would be conflict."

The committee voted unanimously to reject the recommendation and make no grant, however, it pointed out this should not deter GRAB from making future applications for funding.

## Lighthouse ship mars yacht race

THERE is anger in the sailing community after the Northern Lighthouse Board's ship, *Pharos*, interfered in a popular Oban yachting race.

The *NLY Pharos* set off at the same time as the Scottish Islands Three Peaks Challenge in Oban's bay on May 18, coming within feet of one of the competitors on three occasions.

The 84.2m vessel appeared to be in no rush, having been docked in Oban for days prior to the incident.

Organiser, Curly Mills, said: "It wasn't dangerous, it could just have been done better."

"There was no reason for the captain to leave when he did and he seemed to think people should move out of his way."

Northern Lighthouse Board did not respond at the time of *The Oban Times* going to press.

## 'Dumped' kitten recovering from op

BRIAN, the seven week old kitten left to die at Oban's dump, is recovering after emergency surgery last week.

Veterinary nurse Marion Johnson took the cuddly kitty under her wing after he was recovered from the Moleigh Civic Amenity site and given to Argyll Animal Aid earlier this month.

While he was doing well, Brian was ill last Thursday and he quickly went into surgery to repair a suspected twisted intestine.

Thankfully, the surgery revealed a case of peritonitis – an inflammation of the abdominal organs – and a course of antibiotics seems to have him on the mend.

Oban Veterinary Surgery's Eilidh Paterson said: "A lot of people are asking how he's getting on and we're glad to say he's hopefully on the road to recovery."

# 'Best' event boost for tourism

Argyll and Bute's best comes to Inveraray

ARGYLL and Bute's finest music, whisky, culture and landscape will be showcased at an ambitious event at Inveraray Castle this summer in a bid to boost tourism.

The Best of the West, marketed Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) is an extravaganza of the county's strongest assets, headlined musically by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Skerryvore.

Held over the weekend of September 15-16, the event is being aimed specifically at capturing more of the lucrative stay-cation market, which is becoming even more important in the wake of global financial troubles and increasing costs of travel.

Some 15 live bands have so far been confirmed to play, while 22 malt whiskies will go head to head in a relaxed tasting session designed to be as friendly as the locals.

Stramash will even be on hand to allow visitors the chance to abseil down the bell tower, joined by a host of organisations proving that Argyll and Bute really is the Best of the West.

It promises to be a colourful and entertaining day, reminding people that Argyll and the Isles is closer than you think.

AIT's director, Mike Story, said: "The Best of the West is a showcase of everything Argyll and the Isles does well."

## Isle of Barra children's centre gains reprieve

BARRA Children's Centre is a step closer to safety after councillors narrowly voted against a proposal to move pre-school nursery provision into Castlebay Community School.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's education committee rejected the proposal by eight votes to seven. The decision was expected to be ratified by the full council as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Children's Centre co-ordinator, Abigail Treffry, said: "We're all happy and thankful we've been listened to. I've been informed it will go to full council though, so we're waiting with baited breath. We don't feel we're out of the woods yet by any means. We'd like to think the full council will be positive about it."

"The Barra and Vatersay families have spoken and I'd like to thank the councillors for listening to them. This could be a very, very positive story at the beginning of the council's new term."

Barra Children's Centre received support from Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, who described the proposed move into Castlebay School as: "Ill conceived."

## Coll bunkhouse

COLL is already welcoming new tourists to the island with the opening of An Cridhe's new bunkhouse last week.

Project manager, Emma Grant, said: "It's already drawing in a completely different type of tourist. It's exactly what we hoped would happen."

The hall will be opened in full next month.

## Rockfield rumours unfounded

RUMOURS that the old Rockfield Primary School building in Oban had been taken off the market have been dismissed by its owner.

While some local developers were of the understanding that Argyll and Bute Council had pulled the building from sale, it said this week: "It is still on the market and the council still intend to sell it."

## Barcaldine centre hosts quiz night

A QUIZ night will be held at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, next week to raise funds for the Merin's Magic Wand children's charity.

Starting at 7.30pm, on Friday, June 29 a first prize of £100 is available. To book a table, or for more information, phone 01631 720386

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

"We visited Expo recently and that was for the foreign markets – this is for the home market, who we can draw up here to experience all the area can offer in one weekend."

"People often forget Argyll starts 20 minutes from Glasgow Airport, this will go some way to act as a reminder."

As well as the central belt, it is hoped the event will prove a big draw to people living in Aberdeenshire, Perthshire and the north of England.

Meanwhile, a marquee will host the AIT stands that went on display at the VisitScotland Expo in Edinburgh earlier this year, which Mr Story said had produced "very positive" results, attracting new business enquiries from across the world.

Some 5,000 people are expected to attend over the course of the two days.

The event is supported by Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), Machrihanish Dunes, West Coast Motors, VisitScotland, Argyll and Bute Council, the Inveraray Marketing Group and Crerar Hotels.



St Columba's Primary School pupils meet Her Majesty The Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall in London

## St Columba's pupils Cook for the Queen at Clarence House

PUPILS of St Columba's Primary School joined Royal company at Buckingham Palace and Clarence House as they helped to prepare lunch for the Queen.

The eight primary seven pupils travelled to London last Thursday with head teacher Sarah Jane MacSween and teacher Imogen McKenna and Pamela Lockhart after winning the

Cook for the Queen competition, organised as part Her Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations. At Clarence House pupils Rebecca Campbell and Jessica Swan joined kitchen staff to

prepare scones, mackerel pate, salmon fishcakes and lavender shortbread from St Columba's winning menu.

Six pupils went to Buckingham Palace, where they were given training in silver service. Pupil Jack Forgivee charmed Her Majesty by explaining the pupils made lavender shortbread, because the Queen 'looked lovely in lavender'.

## Missing ministers in Kintyre and Isles

KINTYRE and the islands are the most difficult places in which to recruit ministers for the Church of Scotland's Argyll Presbytery.

Seven out of eight ministerial vacancies in the presbytery are in Kintyre, or within the islands of Islay, Jura and Colonsay.

The Church of Scotland hopes to partially solve the problem by rolling out its Presbytery Plan, which will see more parishes

linked together. The Presbytery Plan makes provision for 43 of the 59 congregations being linked so as to form 31 charges. There are presently 35 charges.

**Plan**

The plan also provides for three youth education ministers, the first of whom is now in post, two associate ministers, two deacons and five attached readers.

The eight congregations that

currently have ministerial vacancies are: Colonsay and Oronsay; Saddell and Carradale linked with Skipness; Kilmalcolm linked with Killean and Kilchenzie; Campbeltown Highland; North Mull; Southend; and Kilchoman linked with Kilmeny linked with Portnahaven.

A spokesman for the Church of Scotland said: "Eight congregations within Argyll Presbytery

have a ministerial vacancy, however there will be a series of changes that will result in some of these being filled as the Presbytery Plan begins to take effect.

"Presbytery planning decisions are based on the demographics of the congregation, the mission needs in the parish, the best use of buildings, the cost of maintaining those buildings, and the availability of ministerial resource."

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## 'Spygate' report now complete

A REPORT into allegations of spying by press office staff at Argyll and Bute Council is finished, *The Oban Times* understands.

Investigator, former Audit Scotland chief John Clayton, had gathered all evidence by the middle of April and submitted his completed report in May.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the report will clear press office staff of spying.

Press office manager Jo Smith was suspended by the authority in February after an article in the Herald newspaper accused her of spying on residents of the county on social media websites.

The council said it won't comment on the investigation, adding a report will be presented to councillors at its conclusion.

Meanwhile allegations that Mr Clayton was appointed by text by chief executive, Sally Loudon, have been denied by the authority.

A spokeswoman said: "John Clayton was appointed on February 17 by the disciplinary investigating officer, the council's executive director of development and infrastructure services, Sandy MacTaggart after an assessment process."

Two press officers resigned from the council in April following a suspension over allegations of 'obscene and abusive' messages being sent privately between one another on internal messaging system, Lync. The messages were uncovered by Mr Clayton during his investigation into allegations of spying.

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Oban Sea Cadets show their feelings after their RIB was grounded thanks to an essential £2,000 repair

## Young seamen grounded by £2,000 inflatable boat repair bill

OBAN Sea Cadets face being grounded after being hit hard with an expensive repair bill for their rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RIB).

**Training halted**

Hydraulic and electrical problems means the boat has been taken out of commission, with the cost of putting it back into the water hitting £2,000.

As the main training boat, the loss of the vessel has hit the cadets hard.

While some training can be undertaken without it, loss of the RIB means there is no safety back-up when rowing or sailing.

They are now appealing for help from the community to get them back on the water.

Commanding officer of Oban's Sea Cadets, Lt Ewan McCuish, said: "This is

one of the cadets' main training boats, as the cadets train to achieve Royal Yachting Association (RYA) qualification in power boating.

"Without this asset the cadets are restricted to paddle sport rowing and sailing, but even these are hit by the loss of the RIB, as it acts as the unit's safety boat."

"Without it, we now have to borrow from other organisations to keep the boating activities going. 'The cadets are actively fund raising to try and cover the cost of the work to be carried out, but any assistance to help fund this would be greatly appreciated.'"

If you would like more information on the RIB or would like to contribute towards the cost of the repair, contact Donald Cross on 01631 710650.

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## Lochaber lose out to Newtonmore in MacTavish final

'We had a terrific support. I think we had something like 700 or 800 people there'

LOCHABER manager Michael Delaney says he is proud of players despite them returning from their first major final empty-handed.

The north division one side went down 5-1 to Newtonmore



in the MacTavish Cup final in Inverness on Saturday, as the Strathspey side lifted the trophy for the 39th time.

The game captured the imagination of Lochaber shinty fans, with hundreds travelling up to Bught Park in hope of seeing Lochaber lift the trophy for the first time.

Delaney told The Oban Times the players had enjoyed the occasion, despite the result.

He said: 'The first goal was a shocker, and it unsettled us. We had been looking to try and keep it tight for the first 20 minutes.'

'We had a great spell for 20 minutes or so before the break, but the half time whistle came at the wrong time for us.'

'But the boys can be proud of themselves; I'm proud of them. They've done what no one at this club has done before. It's all Referee Graham Irving gets the 2012 MacTavish Cup final underway with Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson and Lochaber's Hughie Innes contesting the throw-up. Photo: John MacTavish

about steps and that was a big step for us.

'I think we had something like 700 or 800 people there, there was busloads of them going up. It makes a big difference, and we have great support from the shinty community as well as the local community.'

'More manager Norman MacArthur said he was delighted with how his team performed on the day.'

He said: 'I think our experience made a difference. They froze after the first goal went in and their game plan would have gone right out the window.'

'The performance was a lot better, maybe some of them had had this game in the back of their heads.'

Lochaber got off to the worst possible start, going a goal down within 60 seconds after 'More's Glen Macintosh struck.

Chris Sellar doubled the lead in the 14th minute as 'More piled on the pressure. Lochaber improved as the first half went on but six minutes into the sec-

ond half Sellar gave Lochaber a mountain to climb with his second of the game.

Shaun Nicolson gave the Spean side hope pulling one back on the hour mark from 20 yards out, but the comeback was not to be as Newtonmore captain John MacKenzie restored the three goal cushion 10 minutes later.

Danny MacRae came off the bench to flick in a fifth goal before full time to start the celebrations.



Lochaber's Bryan MacDonald and Newtonmore's Chris Sellar challenge for the ball during last Saturday's Co-operative MacTavish Cup final at Inverness. Photo: John MacTavish

## BA Club stay top but Cosmos keep up the pressure

### FOOTBALL

BA CLUB maintained their 100 per cent record by beating Balla Utd 3-1 to stay top of the Lochaber Welfare League last week.

But Caol Cosmos are keeping up the pressure, and are just three points back with a game in hand. Caol recorded a 3-0 win over Mallaig and followed it up with a 13-3 crushing of bottom side Ballachulish.

Lochaber stay in fourth after a tight 3-2 victory over Lundavra at the BA Club, while the game between Celtic and Mallaig was called off as Celtic could not raise a team. Mallaig were awarded a 3-0 win.

## Pam still leads

### TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER nine weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller still leads Tony Whitelocke by 107 points to 104 in the scratch division.

Rosamy Wareing and Tim Attack share third place on 84 points.

Whitelocke has drawn level with Attack in the handicap competition on 84 points. Pam Weller, Wareing and Tommy McKnight sit third tied on 80 points.

The top scratch game was a 205 from Whitelocke, while Wareing chipped in with a 174.

The highest three game scratch and handicap series went to Whitelocke with 495 scratch, 612 handicap.

In the race for the Nevis Radio trophy for the highest total scratch pinfall Pam Weller leads with 3,883 pins followed by Whitelocke in second with 3,819 and John Weller in third with 3,343.

## Lochside retain trophy

YOUNGSTERS from across Lochaber took part in the second annual Rio Tinto Alcan Primary Schools championship recently with Lochside managing to retain the trophy they won last year.

Ten teams from seven local schools took part in the competition at the BA Club in Fort William, and despite the constant rain put on a good display of football.

After the group stages, Lochside took on Inverloch 'A' in the first semi final winning 4-1. The

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

other semi saw Banavie 'A' take on St Mary's 'A', with Banavie recording a 4-1 win.

In a tense final Ryan Henderson scored the only goal to ensure the trophy stays at Lochside for another year.

Thanks to Alan MacKinnon and Calum MacQueen for organising the event, Andy Grant and Stirling Cairns for refereeing, Ann Neilson and the BA Club for the facilities and Willie and Bob for their help.

## Duncan is Fort champion

### GOLF

DUNCAN Rodger has been crowned Fort William Golf Club champion for the first time after winning the club championship by one shot at the weekend.

Rodger had a nine stroke lead going into the third round on Saturday, but a round of 88 saw him tied with David Matheson going into Sunday's final round. But Rodger managed to go round the course in 79 for a total score of 312 to take his maiden win. Scott MacEachan finished third with a score of 315.

### MEANWHILE

the club held the Bader mixed greensome Stableford competition recently, with Gail Anderson and Stewart Duncan taking a two point win.

Results: Club championship - 1. Duncan Rodger 312 (72,73,88,79); 2. David Matheson 313 (75+79+79+80); 3. Scott MacEachan 315 (82+76+81+76). Bader mixed greensome Stableford - 1. Gail Anderson and Stewart Duncan, 42 points; 2. Ann Lovatt and Paul Brian, 40 points; 3. Kay Jerram and Ken Jerram, 38 points.

## Rugby club look forward to new season

LOCHABER Rugby Club is looking ahead to next season with optimism after enduring a tough 2011/2012.

The Banavie club had a number of games postponed due to the poor state of their home pitch and only played two games between the start of November and the middle of February.

The club finished the season bottom of the pile, but new team manager Ali Revitt told The Oban Times he was optimistic about the season ahead.

He said: 'Finishing in the top half of the league is the main aim, as well building on and im-

proving what we've got. We've got a lot of good young guys coming through this year.'

The club will employ a new management structure with Revitt supported by three coaches - Mark Watkins, Gary Hendrie and Stewart Sandison. Revitt said the new arrangement would take pressure of the manager.

Coaches He said: 'Hopefully we can split it up a bit, and have a back coach and a forward coach. It's a lot easier than one guy doing it all by himself.'

Revitt has also been named clubhouse convenor, while

### RUGBY

Pamela Donald is now the club's treasurer. Last season's manager Blair MacRaid is now match secretary with Steve McAleer. On the pitch, Ross McTaggart has been named vice captain to Kenny Turnbull, who stays on as captain.

The RBS Caledonia Leagues have been restructured, with division two north expanding from eight teams to 12.

Lochaber's first game of the season will be at home to Stornoway on September 1.



The new Lochaber Rugby Club committee outside the clubhouse. 10\_f25rugby01



Champs! The winning Lochside team celebrate with their trophy.

## MacDonald Charity Pairs

A LARGE entry of bowlers entered the recent Mairi MacDonald Charity Pairs competition at the Railway Club.

The club kindly offered their green, as it is normally played at the BA Club, in order to get the fixture completed.

### BOWLS

After a gruelling day's bowling in showery weather the winners from left Eddie Downes and Agnes Boyle with runners up Moogie Keenan, left and Robert Hunter.



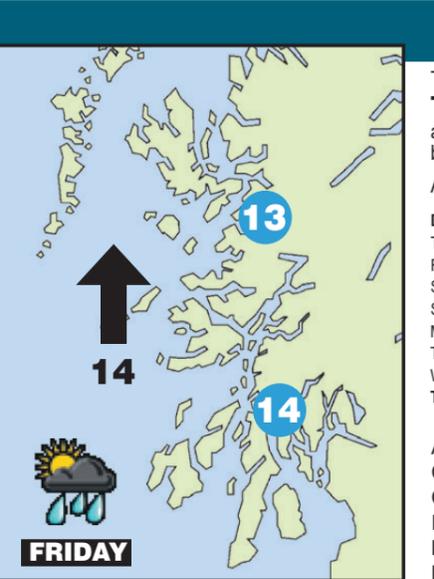
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate easterly  
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C

**Friday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds light east, north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain showers  
**Outlook** Winds moderate north easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 11°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 21, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.50	1.2 06.48 3.7 12.52 1.0 18.52 3.8	
Fri 01.27	1.2 07.22 3.6 13.27 1.0 19.26 3.8	
Sat 02.02	1.2 07.53 3.5 14.01 1.0 20.00 3.7	
Sun 02.35	1.3 08.28 3.4 14.39 1.0 20.37 3.6	
Mon 03.11	1.4 09.08 3.3 15.22 1.1 21.20 3.5	
Tues 03.57	1.4 09.55 3.2 16.12 1.2 22.11 3.4	
Wed 04.57	1.5 10.53 3.1 17.12 1.3 23.14 3.3	

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		

## The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

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