

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Holly's picture wins award

Page 3

Oban to host 'the people's games'

Page 4

SPORTS NEWS

Lovat end 60-year cup drought



Oban CHORD all talk, no action

Project manager claims: 'There has been many years of discussion but yet no delivery.'

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
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things, I started with a small pot of money in Southbank in London and it ended in a multi-billion project. The public sector can't do what the private sector does but they can enable the private sector.'

Linda's stance was welcomed by councillors, with council leader Roddy McCuish thanking her for her 'frank and honest opinions'.

Acknowledging Linda was waiting for a 'political green light', he said: 'It is all about delivery - it is absolutely vital the momentum keeps going.'

'We need a confidence builder in Oban.'

Councillor Iain MacDonald said: 'Oban CHORD has been going on a while but with nothing happening - everything you have said is music to my ears.'

But Linda stressed her need for the go-ahead from councillors, adding: 'I have no approval to even tender for a consultant - the CHORD board needs to meet and make a decision - it is a political decision.'

Councillor McCuish agreed with Linda, adding: 'This is the start of something even bigger for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.'

The ball is firmly in our court now and it is up to us to get the political motivation to move things on.'

Linda has years of experience working on development projects, including being involved with The Shard in London, and plans to use this knowledge to benefit Oban.

She added: 'The allocation of £6.9 million is a catalyst for something great - it is not all that is on the table. Oban does need regeneration. It is quite evident talking to businesses and the community there is a great desire for it.'

'There is private money out there if you can provide the vision and the confidence. This is very much the catalyst for other



Oban High School show 'We Will Rock You' - one audience member said: 'I have seen the London show, and these guys were just as good. I couldn't believe that I was watching school pupils.'

Picture: Kevin McGlynn See more on Page 11

Popular councillors claim they are frozen out as leadership battle looms

THE FOUR best-supported councillors in Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI), including the current council leader, claim they are being frozen out by the group expected to take power next Thursday.

Strongly denied

SNP councillors Roddy McCuish, the current leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Louise Glen Lee, Mary Jean Devon and independent councillor Elaine Robertson have told *The Oban Times* that deals are being made in private at Kilmory, without their consultation - a claim that is strongly denied by opponents.

In a letter, the councillors, who polled the four highest OLI votes in the previous council elections, state: 'We believe that Argyll and Bute for Change has already selected those councillors it wants to work with.'

'It has excluded those people who would, we believe, continue to keep a change agenda in the council and have the skills to deliver it and formed an exclusive group of self-selected councillors without the seal of approval of the council, flying in the face of open and transparent government - something they say are striving for.'

'We have even been asked to leave meetings where the mat-

ter was discussed and other colleagues have been excluded.'

Leadership struggle

In the letter, the rogue SNP councillors also criticised the SNP's national executive committee for not allowing councillor McCuish to form an administration with the Liberal Democrat and Conservative members of the council.

The councillors' claims have been rubbished by fellow OLI councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who heads up Argyll and Bute for Change, the group expected to take control of the council at its full meeting next Thursday.

Councillor MacIntyre, who was defeated by councillor Mc-

Cuish in last month's leadership vote, said all SNP members have had the opportunity to attend five meetings in the past month to discuss changes in how the council is run, adding that some had chosen not to.

He added: 'There are absolutely no done deals.'

'We have had a group of six councillors working on a new council structure and we have asked the SNP to be involved in that.'

'We have three SNP members within our group but we want to take the SNP - warts an' all.'

'We are not going to be selective; we want them as a collective.'

ACHA tenants hit by 'bedroom tax'

OVER 10 per cent of tenants of a housing association in Argyll will be affected by benefit reforms dubbed the 'bedroom tax'.

The change, which sees housing benefit recipients who have an extra room penalised, was introduced by the Westminster Government two months ago.

Now Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has revealed that 583 of its 5,000 tenants are affected by the change.

The association's research has shown that this has resulted in £350,000 worth of annual income coming out of the pockets of some of its poorest tenants and it is causing difficulty for many in paying rent.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'Like many housing associations across Scotland we made representations to the Westminster Government concerning these proposals.'

'We believe that the current safeguards through discretionary housing payments do not provide sufficient resources to protect people and the reality is that many already vulnerable people are going to run up rent arrears. This is neither healthy for them, nor their landlords.'

ACHA's research shows that of the 583 tenants affected many will be left with as little as £20 per week to buy food and cover expenses after paying energy bills. This particularly applies to single unemployed people or low earners.

But families are also badly affected with those whose incomes are low enough to get some help with their rent seeing a cut of an average of £50 per month to their household finances. The cut to housing benefit for those with a spare room can only be avoided by moving to a smaller property - something ACHA says is near impossible in remote areas.

The association is concerned that there simply isn't enough one-bedroom properties in Argyll for people to downsize to and people may feel they have to leave communities that they were born and brought up in to be able to afford housing.

Mr MacGregor added: 'The association supports the call by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and others to repeal the bedroom tax.'



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Island mother didn't know her options

AN ISLAND mum who spent more than a fortnight away from her family in an Oban bed and breakfast prior to giving birth has called on NHS Highland to clarify options for expectant island mothers after finding she could have stayed at home.

Options

Stacey Inglis' ordeal came to light after she left Lorn and Islands District General Hospital at half past midnight - just two and a half hours after giving birth on June 5.

Ms Inglis, from Tobermory, said she had been told she would only be able to stay in

the Oban hospital for six hours after having her daughter, meaning leaving at 4am at the latest. She decided to leave sooner and returned to the guesthouse she had been staying in.

Ms Inglis, 29, said she had been told by a midwife during a home visit while pregnant that home births were no longer an option and she would have to leave the island two weeks before her due date.

She said: 'I would definitely have taken the option of a home birth if I had known it was available.'

'The NHS needs to be making this a lot clearer.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said mums-to-be on the Isle of Mull had three options: a healthy mum with no anticipated complications can stay at home on the island; low risk deliveries can take place in Oban; while those with complicating factors are advised to travel to Glasgow.

For those who choose to stay at home the spokesman said two midwives would travel to the island a fortnight before the baby is due and would stay until the birth.

Lucky Lily wins Spot the Shinty Ball for third time

LUCKY Lily Wilson has scored her third jackpot in the Spot the Shinty Ball Competition.

Last week the Taynuilt woman bagged a hat-trick of wins, this time claiming £600.

Asked how she was able to produce three winning coupons, Mrs Wilson replied: 'There's no big secret. It is just pure luck.'

Lily has been playing Spot the Shinty Ball since it began and has previously pocketed £1,600.

'I love playing it,' said Lily. 'My oldest son, Kenneth takes the coupon in for me but I'll be picking up the cheque!'

Katie Morag filming boost for Coll

A HIGHLAND production company says it battled with the BBC to allow filming for a new Katie Morag series to take place in the Highlands and Islands.

The Katie Morag books are set on the Isle of Struay, which is based on the Isle of Coll, where author Mairi Hedderwick

lived for a number of years. Filming is taking place on the Isle of Lewis, mostly within the former STV studios in Stornoway, and Black Isle-based production company Move On Up has revealed to *The Oban Times* some of the final scenes will be filmed on Coll.

However, the couple behind the 26-episode series, executive producer Lindy Cameron and director Don Coutts, said they had been encouraged to film the majority of scenes in Glasgow. Lindy said: 'We felt it was quite a statement to say we could film this series in the Highland and Islands because there can be an anti-Highland bias in the central belt.'

The television series has been adapted for 21st century island life - Granny Island has a mobile phone and fashions have been updated - but Katie Morag's famous woolly jumper and wellies remain untouched.

'She's a bit like Batman,' Don said of the character. 'She has her own costume.'

Lorn and Isles population bucks Argyll trend

THE POPULATION of Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) is increasing - bucking the trend of the rest of Argyll and Bute.

At a meeting of the area committee, council leader Roddy McCuish said the population of OLI was up 6.8 per cent while in the rest of Argyll and Bute the population is falling.

He said: 'The news that the population is up in OLI is good news - we just need young families in.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon told the meeting the example in Iona of next year's school roll increasing should be replicated throughout the OLI, with the area attracting young families.

Continental Market

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Continental Market

Dalmally man assaulted woman

A DALMALLY man who assaulted a woman at his home address has had sentence deferred to be of good behaviour.

Stuart Saunders, 41, whose address was given in court as 6 Scott Terrace, admitted assaulting a woman by seizing her arms, pulling her towards a door and pushing her towards it on June 10.

He further admitted assaulting the same woman the following day by throwing a deck of children's playing cards at her face, causing minor scratches.

Saunders, who appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week, was ordered to return to the court in December.

Drink driver banned for 18 months

AN OBAN student who crashed his mother's car while nearly twice the legal alcohol limit has been disqualified for driving for 18 months.

Alexander Bichener, 23, whose address was given as Thornloe Guest House, Albert Road, Oban, had crashed his mother's car after enjoying drinks with colleagues after finishing work in the early hours of June 4.

Bichener, a student chartered surveyor, was also fined £400 after pleading guilty to driving with 75mics of alcohol in his breath, when the legal limit is 35.

Crafters' fayre in aid of Inveraray senior citizens

INVERARAY'S Nic Hall will host a crafters' fayre this month in aid of the Royal Burgh's senior citizens' fund.

There will be ten tables featuring a host of locally-produced goods including decoupage, jams and preserves, fabrics, home-made toys and Gemstone Jewellery.

One of three events to be held this year, the fayre, on Saturday June 29, will be held between 11am-4pm.

Speeding A82 drivers in court

TWO SKYE men were caught speeding on the A82 along the shore of Loch Lochy on the same day.

Alexander Coghill, of the Sligachan Hotel, Carbost, was clocked at 85 mph in the 60mph zone at Corrigour on April 13. The 60-year-old was fined £300 and given five penalty points.

Shortly after, Coghill's fellow islander Kamil Kaczkowski, of 17 Urquhart Place, Portree, was seen by police doing a speed of 81mph at the same spot.

The 30-year-old Pole was also fined £300 and given five points.

A third man, Gary Grant, of 35 Telford Street, Inverness, was caught travelling at a speed of 92 mph - more than 30mph over the limit.

Justice of the Peace John Hutchison deferred sentencing the 36-year-old until July 11 saying: 'In view of the speed I think it's best to defer sentence for a personal appearance.'

Argyll beaches retain Blue Flag status

TWO ARGYLL beaches have retained their Blue Flag status for another year.

Ganavan near Oban and Machirishian in Kintyre have been selected as two of the country's cleanest.

Blue Flag status is awarded by Keep Scotland Beautiful, an independent environmental charity that awards high standards of beach cleanliness, safety procedures and water quality.

Advice to help prevent falls

MEMBERS of NHS Highland's 'Positive Steps, Falls Prevention' team in Lochaber will be in Fort William Library today to offer over 65s advice on foot health and maintaining mobility and balance.

The event is being staged as part of Age UK's Falls Awareness Week which this year has 'best foot forward' as its theme.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Largest ever single donation boosts Oban Lifeboat funds by £100,000



The Harebell Centenary Trust trustee Angela Fossick and her husband, William, flanked by lifeboat crewman Ian Stevenson, left, and coxswain John Hill. 15_124lifeboat01



Fort William coastguards, coastal safety officer Ewen Leslie and deputy station officer Darren Chambers, gave instruction on water safety and dangers, and river rescue. Caol Primary School pupils, from left, Cara Lees, Kein Johnstone, Stephanie Brown and Elise Marshall enjoyed their day. 20_f25safety01

Pupils learn life-saving skills

HUNDREDS of P7 pupils from Lochaber primary schools learned about community safety and crime prevention at a 'Safe Highlanders' event at the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

Police, fire and rescue, coastguard and Highland Council staff were among those giving advice and instruction on potentially hazardous situations through simulated practical exercises.

Scottish Southern Energy, British Red Cross, and NHS Highland were also represented at the all-day event.

In a series of hands-on workshops, the children acquired life-saving skills including first aid, fire and water safety, safety on roads and internet safety. They also learned of the dangers of electricity, building sites and substance misuse.

Minority languages in conference spotlight

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye, will host a major conference next week celebrating the arts and culture of the Celtic and Europe's other minority languages.

'Tional' will see delegates from Scotland, Ireland and Wales joined by their peers from Galicia, the Basque Country, Friesland, the Faroes and Croatia to share ideas and collaborate on projects. Keynote speaker at the June 26-28 event will be Finbarr Bradley, the Dublin-based economist and writer.

Organisers Celtic Neighbours are holding the gathering in Scotland for the first time after previous biennial gatherings in Ireland and Wales. Live arts performances and exhibitions will take place over the three days of lectures, discussions and informal networking sessions.

SMO arts development officer Kath MacLeod said: 'Our overriding aim is that new cutting-edge initiatives grow out of this event, building audiences across Europe, creating jobs and opportunities and broadening everyone's horizons.'

This is the first time the Celtic Neighbours gathering has been held in Scotland, having been previously held in Ireland and Wales, and we are looking forward to an event where delegates from different lesser-used language cultures will have the chance to explore opportunities to collaborate and be inspired by each other's work.'

Meic Llewellyn from Celtic Neighbours said: 'Our over-riding aim is that new cutting-edge initiatives grow out of this event, building audiences across Europe, creating jobs and opportunities and broadening everyone's horizons.'

National and international minority language organisations will be among those represented at 'Tional'.

Commenting on the legislation, which could prevent Argyll and Bute Council from pursuing closures at the 25 schools previously identified, a spokeswoman said: 'The detail around the Scottish Government's legislative intent is yet to be confirmed and we have asked for

clarification on this point.'

She added: 'We have not carried out any review of the school estate since the 2010/11 proposals.'

News of the five-year closure ban and other recommendations made in the report have been welcomed by Tracy McGregor, chairwoman of Minard Parent Council. The Mid Argyll school faced closure up until June 2011 when the Scottish Government called a moratorium on school closures.

'Obviously anything that gives Minard and other small schools more security is going to be a good thing,' Tracy said. 'I think a lot of the problems, when they tried the school closures, came about because people didn't know what was happening; the council were playing by their own rules. Things were difficult to follow so anything that makes the process clearer and easier to understand will be helpful.'

The only recommendation not accepted by the Scottish Government was recommendation 20 which lessened the need to show education benefit in the consideration of a school closure.

Trustee unveils plaque to mark contribution from nurse who kept money secret for 20 years

OBAN Lifeboat Station has received its largest ever single donation - from a trust established by a former resident of the town who kept her wealth a secret.

Former nurse Frances Reed, who died three years ago, created The Harebell Centenary Trust, which has given more than £1m to good causes since 1991 and last week donated £100,000 to Oban Lifeboat Station.

The grant was marked last Tuesday when trustee Angela Fossick unveiled a plaque at the station.

Ms Reed lived on her NHS pension and kept her money a secret for more than 20 years.

Mrs Fossick said: 'She was a nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital but moved to Oban when she retired because she loved it here.'

'She inherited money from her parents but she put that into the trust fund.'

'She lived a simple life and I think even the people who knew her would be amazed if they knew about her wealth.'

The Harebell Centenary Trust trustee Angela Fossick shares a joke with Billy Forth, Oban Lifeboat operations manager, as she unveils the plaque. 15_124lifeboat02

'When she died she had particularly wanted money to come to Oban lifeboat because she would often see the lifeboat going back and forward.'

Oban RNLI volunteer Peggy Robertson's grandson, Nicholas Lane, currently lives in Ms Reed's former home at Dalriach Road.

It is so well appreciated by the crew and station management. It will go towards the general running of the station and is extremely valuable to us.'

Billy Forth, Oban Lifeboat

operations manager, said: 'This donation was something we were not expecting and when it was confirmed, we were speechless.'

Council's new bid to meet recycling target

RECYCLING bins to help Argyll and Bute Council reach its waste reduction targets will be used around Oban, Lorn and the Isles from September.

Certain areas will be exempt from the scheme, including Oban's George Street where there is no room for the additional blue bins.

Soroba currently has 45 communal bins and the council plans to replace at least 15 of these with similar sized recycling bins.

The blue bins can be used for paper, card, plastic and cans. They will be collected fortnightly - on alternate weeks from the general waste bins.

Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'We need to make clear this is not a reduction in service, this is an extra service. Bins will still be emptied weekly it will just be different bins on different weeks.'

No changes are planned for Mull and Iona as residents already sort their recycling. Seil and Luing will be on the scheme but other islands will continue as they are.

A Scottish Government ban on biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill will take effect on January 1 2021.

Lewis Castle museum contractor chosen

THE PREFERRED main contractor for the £8.5 million Lewis Castle Museum and Archive project in Stornoway has been chosen following a tendering process conducted under EU procurement rules.

Graham Construction will be in charge of work to build a new museum and archive extension on the site of the former glasshouses as well as extensive works to repair and restore the historic interior of the castle.

It is anticipated construction work will start in August with completion and opening by summer 2015.

Thistle Award success for Argyll tourism businesses

ARGYLL tourist businesses have once again fared well in the VisitScotland Thistle Awards, with four clinching accolades in the central south west region.

Clan Cottages in Oban won the best self serve accommodation jointly with Solway View Holidays from Dumfries and Galloway, while Mull's Ninth Wave restaurant won the best cafe, bar or restaurant award.

The Village at Machrihanish Dunes won the training and skills development award, while Ardtorna in Barcaldine won the best guest house or bed and breakfast award - see separate story, page 17.

The winners could now be named Scotland's finest as they will now go forward to represent their regions at the national awards gala in November.

David Adams McGilp, Argyll and the Isles' regional director for VisitScotland, said: 'Being awarded with a Scottish Thistle Award is a tremendous accolade to the quality of the tourism product we have in Argyll and the Isles. The shortlisted businesses from this area as well as the winners show a real commitment to tourism and these awards cement the importance of tourism at both a local and national level.'

I'm delighted to see Argyll and the Isles businesses triumphant at this stage. I look forward to seeing all of the winners again at the grand finale of this year's Scottish Thistle Awards in November.'

Mike Cantlay, VisitScotland chairman said: 'Scotland is set to be in the international spotlight like never before; 2014 presents a host of opportunities through the Ryder Cup, the Commonwealth Games and Homecoming 2014. It is therefore imperative that the tourism industry in Argyll and the Isles does all it can to ensure we're ready to welcome the world.'

As part of the year of Natural Scotland, this year's regional winners received bespoke, hand-crafted trophies. Craftsman Philip Coles, owner of The Woodworks in Fife, hsieng-handled and meticulously chiselled, carved and buffed all 39 trophies for the regional finals. He will also be responsible for creating the awards for the national finals in November.

The winners could now go forward to represent their regions at the national awards gala in November.

Mike Cantlay, VisitScotland



Clan Cottages, Oban, was jointly named Best Self Serve Accommodation for the central south west region of the VisitScotland Thistle Awards. From left, Manus Fullerton, board member of VisitScotland, John and Mary MacLeod, executive director of British Hospitality Association (BHA) Scotland.

Project manager moves on

THE MAN behind Islay's tidal power project is leaving the island to take up a new job in Glasgow.

Andrew Macdonald is leaving his post as Islay Energy Trust's (IET) tidal project manager in mid-July to take up a new job as Engineering Technology Manager with Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Centre, based in Glasgow.

Mr Macdonald has been connected with IET since its formation in 2005. ScottishPower Renewables said its development of the Sound of Islay Tidal Project was progressing well and that it would work alongside IET to recruit a new tidal project manager.

Contributions

Philip Maxwell, chairman of IET, said: 'Andy has been a key member of the team at IET for many years and he has made very significant contributions to IET's development.'

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Council seeks clarification on school closure rules

ARGYLL and Bute Council is this week seeking clarification on legislation being introduced by the Scottish Government that prevents any school previously threatened with closure from facing further closure proposals for five years.

The local authority, which proposed closing 25 primary schools in 2010, said it wants more 'detail' on the Scottish Government's plans for education after it formally accepted 37 recommendations made in the Commission on Rural Education report.

Recommendation 31 of the report

states once a school closure proposal has undergone full consideration under the Schools Consultation Scotland Act 2010, local authorities should make no further closure proposal for at least five years unless there is a 'significant relevant change'.

Commenting on the legislation, which could prevent Argyll and Bute Council from pursuing closures at the 25 schools previously identified, a spokeswoman said: 'The detail around the Scottish Government's legislative intent is yet to be confirmed and we have asked for

clarification on this point.'

She added: 'We have not carried out any review of the school estate since the 2010/11 proposals.'

News of the five-year closure ban and other recommendations made in the report have been welcomed by Tracy McGregor, chairwoman of Minard Parent Council. The Mid Argyll school faced closure up until June 2011 when the Scottish Government called a moratorium on school closures.

'Obviously anything that gives Minard and other small schools more security is going to be a good thing,' Tracy said. 'I think a lot of the problems, when they tried the school closures, came about because people didn't know what was happening; the council were playing by their own rules. Things were difficult to follow so anything that makes the process clearer and easier to understand will be helpful.'

The only recommendation not accepted by the Scottish Government was recommendation 20 which lessened the need to show education benefit in the consideration of a school closure.

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Short list of sites for new Oban High School moves closer

PLANS for the site of the proposed new Oban High School are moving from a long list to a short list - as the school's head teacher highlights that the current building does not have enough classrooms to accommodate specific subjects.

Malcolm MacFadyen, head of

facility services for Argyll and Bute Council, told a recent meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee that the council was at the stage of moving from a list of sites suggested by a range of stakeholders towards a short list which will then be subject to much more 'detailed

scrutiny'. He said: 'This work is going on in the background, everything is progressing in accordance with the timetable and the plan is that a report will be brought to the next local meeting by the executive director of community services to highlight the

move from the long list to the short list of sites.'

But Peter Bain, head teacher at Oban High School, said the existing school was running out of classrooms and 60 high specification laptops had recently been purchased by the school as there is a lack of

computer suites. He said: 'We took a janitors cupboard and changed this to an office space to make an office upstairs into an ICT suite. We don't have enough technical facilities.'

Mr Bain added that the school was currently delivering an engineering class in a former drama studio. He said: 'pupils are still doing these qualifications just not in the best environment.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'I think it is imperative a sensible capital investment is made given that we are going into a new school.'

Controversial Oban road junction plan is 'promoted'

A PLAN to shut off Miller Road in Oban to right turning traffic from Soroba Road was 'promoted' by members of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee last week.

The proposals for a traffic regulation order would see vehicles that currently turn up Miller Road travel on Sinclair Drive and Quarry Road instead.

Consultants Aecom recommended these measures to 'improve traffic flow' but engineer Ian Imlah was forced to admit at a previous meeting he had not made a site visit.

This admission came amid accusations from local residents the proposals were 'ridiculous' due to the alternative routes being being busy with industrial vehicles.

Argyll and Bute Council hope the change in the road rules will allow more green traffic light time to northbound vehicles on Soroba Road, reducing delays.

With the current system if traffic is stationary due to waiting for vehicles to turn right the traffic signal controllers believe there is no demand and change lights to give other junctions green lights.

Any objections from members of the public will be considered by the council before a decision to approve the order is made.

A85 road closure re-think

TRUNK road agency BEAR Scotland has been forced to change plans for resurfacing the A85 to avoid two road closures in the same area.

From June 16 until June 21, night-time roadworks will result in a convoy system at Innis Chonain, between 9pm and 6am.

The second period of road works will take place between June 25 and June 28 and will involve the closure of the same stretch of road between 9pm and 6am. The alteration comes as work got underway to widen the A82 at Pulpit Rock between June 10 - 24. The overall Pulpit Rock upgrade is due to be completed in May next year.

Eddie Ross, of BEAR's North West unit said: 'Works are being carried out at night when traffic through the area will be at a minimum, so we do not anticipate significant delays for motorists.'

Strachur school extension plan

A PROPOSED extension to Strachur Primary School was set to be given the green light yesterday (Wednesday).

Argyll and Bute's planning committee considered the council's own application to erect a single-storey extension on the west side of the building and an extension that would provide an entrance, office and staff room.

As part of the plan, the existing vestibule on the east side of the building would be demolished.

Family aim to raise sunken vessel in bid to find body

THE FAMILY of a fisherman lost at sea have taken matters into their own hands in a desperate attempt to find his body.

Scott MacAlister, 40, was last heard from on April 25 when he issued a mayday call to say the boat he was on, the *Speedwell*, was 'going over'.

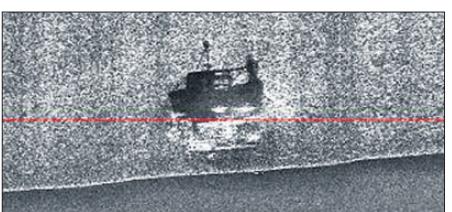
Now his family are attempting to move the boat into shallower water so that divers have access to attach flotation aids in the hope of getting it to the surface.

Peter MacAlister, Scott's father, said the family would be undertaking the operation with the help of the local community and reiterated his thanks to all of the volunteers who had helped so far.

He said: 'We really appreciate all the volunteers' work - I'm sure there are some we don't even know about but we want to thank them all for their efforts.'

'We certainly don't want volunteers annoyed that their effort wasn't appreciated - it most definitely is - it is the official side of things we have a problem with.'

He added: 'It is our intent now to try and lift the boat. Police and the Marine Accident Investigation Board have no objection



Sonar imagery helped identify the location of the sunken vessel *Speedwell* and the Maritime Coastguard Agency said go ahead. Despite being unwilling to

take on the task themselves it is understood all three authorities want to be there when the boat

is lifted.

The family hope to move the boat into shallower water - around 20 metres deep - to start with, where a diver can carry out a search.

Once the *Speedwell* is in shallower water a diver will attach bags to the vessel which will be filled with air, bringing the boat to the surface where it can be pumped out of water. It is hoped the initial move will be completed this week.

The family are also reiterating their call for a better local system to be put in place for when an incident happens at sea.

This comes after authorities spent a lot of time searching in the wrong area for the *Speedwell* while locals with marine knowledge struggled to get their voices heard.

The MacAlisters are keen to hear from anyone interested in assisting them in creating a legacy in Scott's name and pushing authorities to ensure no other family has to endure their ordeal.

'We're very lucky we have a family boat and a lot of good friends in the fishing industry - but what would happen if we didn't,' questioned Peter.



Holly Wesley's iPhone picture of seven-year-old Appaloosa Irish Draught cross Shamva, at Tullich Stables, has won her an international competition. 15_125holly4

Holly's iPhone picture just clicked

AN ARGYLL teenager has

device.

Holly's photo of a horse taken at Kilmelford's Tullich Stables, where she works and rides, was taken on her iPhone 5 and edited using the Snapseed application.

The 16-year-old from Seil told *The Oban Times* she came across the competition when looking online for tips on iPhone photography.

She said: 'I was shocked to

have won. I had taken lots of photos of the horse that day and my entry wasn't even my favourite because I thought it was too "arty". A couple of people convinced me to enter this picture - I'm glad they did.'

Holly is a keen photographer and has started using a Canon 20D but will also soon be the proud owner of a new iPad mini after winning the competition.

Church of Scotland charity may walk away from Craignish housing plan

Planners label suggested affordable development as 'overtly suburban', 'bland' and 'unimaginative'.

THE GENERAL Trustees of the Church of Scotland have been told 'they alone' bear the responsibility of creating affordable housing in Craignish after a tense public hearing on Monday.

At the meeting to determine a planning application for 11 houses on the lower glebe in Ardfern, representatives of the Church of Scotland charity were told to submit a fresh planning application for the development, after they threatened to pull the project completely.

Argyll and Bute councillors agreed to continue the planning application whilst allowing the trustees to submit an additional application with more suitable

designs for the homes, which include six affordable units.

But in his closing remarks to the Planning Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) committee hearing, Paul Houghton, consultants to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, said: 'There's a real and considerable doubt that the general trustees would support a future application, so we are asking you to support this planning application and grant permission.'

He told councillors that the trustees had already questioned their support for the project after forking out more cash for tree and otter surveys.

The call for a new application

came after planning officers for Argyll and Bute Council branded the designs for five private four-bedroom houses and six affordable units 'overtly suburban', 'bland' and 'unimaginative'.

Councillor Robin Currie joined a number of councillors in expressing his distaste at the threat of pulling the application all together, adding: 'If they don't take this opportunity it is them and them alone that are going to be stopping affordable housing in this area.'

The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland were due to confirm whether they would submit another application as *The Oban Times* went to press.



Michael Heads, Ardbeg Distillery manager, greets Sir Mervyn King.

Bank governor checks Islay's 'gold'

THE DEPARTING Governor of the Bank of England has made a private visit to Ardbeg Distillery on the Isle of Islay.

Sir Mervyn King visited the distillery on June 8 as part of his final regional visit around the UK to see first-hand how businesses are faring.

The 65 year old said he had a long-held an affection for Islay malt whiskies but had never had an opportunity to visit the island.

Guests from the island's distilleries included John Campbell, representing Laphroaig Distillery, together with David Turner, Bowmore Distillery and Anthony Wills of Kilchoman Distillery.

The Glenmorangie Company, led by its chairman Paul Neep, hosted the governor and his party as well as Gavin Hewitt, Distillery manager.

The chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association.

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Standout moments were a scholarly analysis of the 1856 Balephul Fishing Disaster, *Fuadach Bhail* 'a Phuil, by the conference's youngest speaker, 19 year old Ian

Dinners for the conference were

prepared by An Talla's hall committee, led by Josie Brown.

The final night's conference ceilidh showed why Tiree is 'Scotland's best wee music island', with Eilidh MacFadyen, Ian and Bernie Smith and Anna MacDonald bringing out the best of a host of performers and dancers.

A book of conference talks has been commissioned by the trust and will be published next year.

Conference on Tiree's 'secrets' attracts international audience

AT A THREE-DAY conference on the Isle of Tiree saw delegates come from Australia, Switzerland and Canada, plus Glasgow, Scalpay and the island itself.

Tiree's community hall, An Talla, was packed for last week's conference - *The Secret Island: towards a history of Tiree*.

An audience of 110 heard 18 talks about the island, ranging from the history of the land struggle

in the 1880s by Professor Donald Meek to a new detailed graveyard survey by Catriona Smyth.

The Island Books Trust (IBT) set

up the conference in partnership with the island's historical centre, An Iodhlann, with funding from the Tiree Trust's Windfall Fund.

IBT said that the event had been one of the best-attended it had ever organised.

Dr John Holliday, chairman

of An Iodhlann's, added: 'The island's history is emerging, blinking, into the sunlight, and there is a real buzz on Tiree after the meeting. History sometimes seems like a minority sport, but this was our Olympic moment.'

There was a real passion during the debate about Tiree Gaelic, led by Ailean Boyd and Iona Brown. Many speakers felt that Tiree Gaelic should be taught in the island's Gaelic unit.

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What is the birthstone for April? Cheryl was picked from nearly 100 entries by correctly answering the year the company was founded as 1870 and the birthstone for April as diamond.

Cheryl said last Thursday: 'We bought our engagement ring in this shop and I have had some lovely jewellery from here before, so I will be having a good browse today.'

I'm not sure what to buy but no doubt the money will be spent before I leave.'

Mr May, a fifth-generation owner of the family company, toasted Cheryl's win with champagne.

Oban Times reader Cheryl won the competition by answering two questions: When was Shipton and Co. founded and

what is the birthstone for April? Cheryl was picked from nearly 100 entries by correctly answering the year the company was founded as 1870 and the birthstone for April as diamond.

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Kinlochleven woman wins Oban Gem Box competition

A COUPLE who bought an engagement ring from Oban's Gem Box 44 years ago returned to the shop last week to spend a gift voucher worth £250, after winning a competition through *The Oban Times*.

Cheryl and Willie Lawrie, from Kinlochleven, were in the shop last Thursday to receive their prize from Jasper May, managing director of Shipton and Co., the Gem Box's parent company, and shop manager Mairi McAuley.

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MORVERN LINES

EVERY month many of our Armed Forces are returning home from Iraq, Afghanistan and other trouble spots in the world for some well earned rest and recuperation.

Where better for them and their families to recover and enjoy a few peaceful days to forget the horrors of conflict and separation than in the West Highlands and Islands? Do you have a holiday cottage, mansion house, castle, flat or a caravan, and would consider offering a week or a few days free accommodation to service personnel as a contribution towards their great effort?

If so please contact either SSAFA, The Soldiers Charity; Help for Heroes or The Afghan Heroes - to name only a few of the national armed forces charities whose addresses can be found on the internet.



CONTINUING on the subject of war and conflict, of all the many castles, duns and forts scattered through the Morvern Peninsula, there is none more mysterious and has so little recorded about it, than Drimmin Castle whose scant remains lie on top of a rocky headland guarding the northern entrance to the Sound of Mull.

Thought to have been erected at the end of the 16th century by the Macleans of Coll, it was demolished in 1838 by the estate owner, Sir Charles Gordon, to make for St Columba's Roman Catholic Chapel.

Until recently the only known visual record of this important castle was to be found in plan-form on an estate-map of 1836. Now, however, sketches made in 1831 by the famous English Romantic artist, Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) who was travelling out to see Staffa and Fingal's Cave, have come to light showing several castles along the Sound - one of which is almost certainly Drimmin.

Following Sir Charles Gordon's death in 1845, his widow, Helen Fletcher of Dunans, Argyllshire, began carrying out what today would be described as 'ethnic cleansing' by evicting several hundred indigenous people from Drimmin Estate.

In 1851 many of the 115 inhabitants of the 22 house settlement above Aulston Point, were moved to Oronsay - an island at the mouth of Loch Sunart consisting of little more than heather, bog and rock.

In time the people improved the land by carrying soil in creels on their backs from the adjacent mainland and built better houses. Their rents were raised accordingly until a neighbouring farmer offered more and they were evicted a second time as there was no security of tenure in these days.

For this and other atrocities, Lady Gordon became one of the most hated of Morvern's resident landowners.

John MacDougall (1801-82) a local bard, composed a long Gaelic song rhyming a plague of rats to death in which he urged us to spend a night with Lady Gordon, 'S bithidh oidhach aig ban-tighean Gordon,' before crossing to Mull.

It was not just the poor crofters and cottars who disliked Lady Gordon. A tramp, originally from Tiree and suffering from a form of St Vitus' Dance, was in the habit of calling at the back door of Drimmin House for food whenever he was passing but was turned away. Coming down the drive he met Lady Gordon with a friend and heard her say when they passed, 'pay no attention this man is drunk', to which he retorted, 'Well if I am it would not be on your Ladyship's charity that I would get fu'.



Drimmin House: home of the Gordon family.



ALTHOUGH it was written many years after the events in Drimmin, this simple and affecting elegy by classical scholar, nationalist, conscientious objector and kilt-wearer, Douglas Young (1913-1973) well captures these bygone times.

For the Old Highlands

*That old lonely lovely way of living
in Highland places, - twenty years a-growing,
twenty years flowering, twenty years declining, -
father to son, mother to daughter giving
ripe tradition; peaceful bounty flowing;
one harmony all tones of life combining, -
old wise ways, passed like the dust blowing.*

*That harmony of folk and land is shattered, -
the yearly rhythm of things, the social graces,
peat fire and music, candle light and kindness.
Now that they are gone it seems they never mattered,
much, to the world, those proud and violent races,
clansmen, and chiefs whose passionate greed and blindness
made desolate these lovely lonely places.*

Contact Iain Thornber at iain.thornber@btinternet.com



Carol Logan keeps an eye on her recipe for success. 12_t25logan01

Entrepreneur's recipe for Oban town centre success

THE ENTREPRENEUR behind a small confectionery business believes she has the recipe to stir up fresh interest in Oban's town centre, as more properties come up for lease.

Business graduate Carol Logan, 30, who started up Logan's Chocolates in June last year while still working with Argyll and Bute Council, is happy with the way business has gone, having sold 700 boxes in her first year. However, she is concerned that expanding into premises away from her Soroba Road home could be too costly.

The former Glasgow Caledonian University student

feels the council and landlords should take more notice and allow for 'pop-up' shops.

Carol said: 'Pop-up' shops allow charities or small companies to use empty premises and boost their trade at a fraction of rental costs, but because they do not make any money from it, the council and landlords, some of them living elsewhere, have not shown much interest. This could help brighten up the place a little.'

Her call comes as a report by

the Centre for Retail Research suggests that 20 per cent of UK high street shops could close within five years. Carol said:

'I thought about opening up a shop, but it just wouldn't make any money.'

Carol uses Belgian chocolate for her produce, and has received orders for her specialty chocolate boxes from Spain and the United States, but she has been equally encouraged by local reception towards Logan Chocolates.

She said: 'The support from people in and around Oban has been brilliant.'

'Obviously being local helps, as people tend to know you. I'm trying to keep the prices down and now I'm starting to see return customers.'

North Argyll carers praised by MSP

THE WORK of an Oban carers centre has earned praise in the Scottish Parliament.

North Argyll Carers Centre picked up Organisation of the Year Award at the Argyll Voluntary Action awards, prompting Highlands and Islands MSP John Finnie to make their efforts known at Holyrood.

Mr Finnie said: 'The support available from the North Argyll Carers Centre is vital to many carers and I am glad to see it recognised.'

Council backs Islay turbine plan

A PLAN to erect a 61-metre wind turbine east of Glenegadale on the Isle of Islay was recommended for approval at a recent meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee.

The planning application is from the community-owned charity Islay Energy Trust, which aims to develop and operate renewable energy projects for the benefit of the community.

Although the turbine height is regarded as excessive by the council's own Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (2012) and by Scottish Natural Heritage, council planners recommended its approval on the basis that it would not have a significant adverse impact on the landscape, given the turbine's remote location.

Teenager denies breaching peace

A TEENAGER has denied a breach of the peace after appearing from custody at Oban Sheriff Court.

Bethany James, 17, of Atholl Villa, Rockfield Road, Oban, pled not guilty on Tuesday to attempting to engage others in a fight and acting in a disorderly manner on June 10.

She will appear again at Oban Sheriff Court on July 23 and is due to stand trial on August 6.

Inveraray holiday park plan goes before planners

A PLAN to build a self-catering holiday complex on the site of the former wildlife park in Inveraray was recommended for approval at Argyll and Bute Council's recent planning committee meeting.

Natural Retreats had applied for permission to build 22 self-catering units, one self-catering apartment building capable of providing between nine and 23 letting units, one staff accommodation unit and six waste water treatment plants.

The application also includes upgrading the existing track to a private road and a connection to public water main.

Report 'spiked' drink fears urge Oban police

ANYONE who fears they may have had their drink spiked should report a crime immediately, police have said.

Oban Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson made the comments after rumours started circulating that someone was discreetly drugging people's drinks in the town.

Saying such a crime would be taken 'extremely seriously', he added that it was not recognised as a problem in Oban.

However, it was only by reporting suspicions straight away that an investigation can be carried out in good time.

Chief Inspector Davidson said: 'Dealing with emergencies is what Police Scotland does on a daily basis. I know from experience that the extreme weather we have had in recent times has presented many challenges for us all.'

A

handbook has now been prepared by the council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Highland, HM Coastguard, Argyll and Bute Council, Red Cross, WRVS, Scottish and Southern Energy and Scottish Power.

The

plan

includes

details

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MULL LINES

A BALLOT for a community buyout out of Tioran Forest on the Isle of Mull passed with 90 per cent of voters saying yes.

A total of 322 people of 470 in the south Mull community voted in the ballot. Of that, 289 voted yes while 32 said no.

The project is being led by Ross of Mull and Iona Development Group and would see Glen Seilisdeir Forest, Tioran, taken under community ownership to provide employment and recreation opportunities.

The steering group now has 18 months to prepare a full business plan for the purchase of the forest. The scheme involves a partnership with TSL Contractors and profits would be shared. A no vote would have put the forest on the open market.

Morven Gibson, local development officer, said: "This is a great result and is one of a number of stages to progress through the National Forest Land Scheme towards community ownership of Tioran Forest."

"When local communities own their own forests there are many opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy, experience and learn from the forest and these are currently being explored."

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A new BBC series, presented by Neil Oliver, centre, was being filmed on Iona last week. The as yet unnamed production looks at the significance of Iona over the past 1,000 years as well as other sites in the UK. 16_125oliver01

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PUPILS from Tobermory High School have been busy scraping and painting railings along the front of Tobermory Harbour.

The youngsters also completed a number of smaller projects throughout the week including litter picks in the town and clearing rubbish and broken branches and brambles from the lighthouse path.

The students also prepared and served lunch to residents at Glen Isal and to the Aros Hall Lunch Club.

The hard work of these enterprising youngsters raised £450 in charity collections which will be split between local projects.

The pupils and staff involved thank all of the people who supported them including the Co-operative and MacDonald Arms Hotel, the Chocolate Factory, Tobermory Bakery and Island Crafts as well as everyone who offered their thanks and kind words throughout the week.

They would also like to take this opportunity to apologise to the one or two people they inconvenienced during the week.

The money raised will be distributed between the scout hall, Christmas lights fund, Glen Isal, cadet hall and junior golf.

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Planes converged on Glenforsa during the around Britain microlight trip.

A FLYING event which has raised £20,000 for a cancer charity over the past ten years stopped in at Glenforsa Airfield on Mull at the weekend.

Around 50 aircraft are taking part in this year's event which sees pilots fly from the Scilly Isles to Orkney. All money raised goes to Children with Cancer.

The week long event covers 2,000 miles but with a variety of routes for pilots of different abilities. Argyll and Bute Council halved the landing fee at Glenforsa for participating aircraft.

Children with Cancer is a national charity which funds research into the causes, prevention and treatment of childhood leukaemia and other childhood cancers.

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A NEW Mull Community Council website has been launched.

The site contains contact information for the island's community councillors as well as minutes of previous meetings. There is also an opportunity to leave feedback. The website can be found at www.community-council.org.uk/Mullcommunitycouncil.

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A STUDENT from Tobermory High School has been selected as one of 12 youngsters to go on a trip to CERN in Switzerland.

Sam Dyer joins 11 other students from schools throughout the west of Scotland as a winner in a competition to attend a master class in particle physics as well as the CERN trip.

Head teacher Craig Biddick said: "To win the students had to be very high achieving, not otherwise be able to afford to go and in any medium explain why they should be awarded a chance to go."

Sam wrote an essay. He hopes to go to Cambridge to study natural sciences next year and is a straight A student.

"The event was open to all west of Scotland schools and it is great a smaller island school like ours has won a place."

□□□

TASTY Scotch lamb was on offer to passengers on Caledonian MacBrayne's *MV Isle of Mull* last Friday.

Those on the ferry between Oban and Mull were greeted by local sheep farmers tempting them with tasty bites of delicious Scotch lamb. Lamb dishes were also on the boat's restaurant menu and farmers were onboard to tell passengers how they produce fresh, tasty lamb in the hills of Argyll and the islands.

The ferry promotion was set up by Argyll Hill Lamb, the farmer group which provide lambs to Oban-based food service company Forteiths, who in turn supply the lamb to Caledonian MacBrayne.

Fergus Younger, of Argyll Hill Lamb, said: "What a fantastic opportunity to remind passengers on this ferry route that sheep farmers in Argyll and the islands not only produce some of the best tasting lamb in the world, but it's being reared and sold right here on their doorstep."

Scotch lamb is among the finest in the world and here in the spectacular hills and mountains of Argyll, we believe we produce some of the best."

He added: "For us as local sheep farmers, the message to shoppers is simple. We believe we are producing a top quality product to very high standards and by giving the passengers a taste, we hope they will keep supporting local farmers by buying a bit more Argyll hill lamb in the future."

Send your news from Mull and Iona to Faith Orr at forr@obantimes.co.uk or call her on 01631 568000

Electric car scheme could move forward on Isle of Mull

ELECTRIC cars could be travelling around the Isle of Mull soon thanks to the island's community trust.

Two charging points are currently going through the planning process and could be installed at An Roth in

Craignure and Island Castaways in Bunessan as soon as August. The installation of these points is funded by the Scottish Government as part of its Plugged in Places scheme which requires organisations who receive funds to provide electricity free of charge up to December 2014.

Moray Finch, general manager of Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), said he was trying

to identify a means of bringing the latest electric cars to Mull and has found a scheme which researches the impact of several cars charging at the same time on the local electricity network.

The project would allow participants to lease a car at a subsidised rate.

In return, data loggers in the vehicles and in the charging points will send information to the sponsors of the project and users will also be required to provide feedback.

Lease

Lease</

COLL

LEGENDARY British Asian musician Kuljit Bhama will play on the isle of Coll next month as part of the Red Note Ensemble's Reels to Ragas 2013 tour.

A cross-genre fusion of global and Indian music styles, the tour will offer free workshops as well as an exciting concert, all at An Cridhe.

Kuljit Bhama is one of the most inspiring and influential musicians, composers and record producers on the British Asian music scene. A pioneer of the worldwide Bhangra phenomenon and a master of the tabla, he has composed and produced more than 2,000 songs and is responsible for the rise to fame of numerous Bhangra and Bollywood stars.

Joining Kuljit are Robert Irvine on cello, Jacqueline Shave on violin and Tom Hankey on viola. Both Robert and Jackie spend part of the year living in the Hebrides and have used the area's idyllic and stunning landscapes as inspiration for music featured on this tour.

The children's workshop will be held at 10am on July 18, before the adult workshop is held at 5pm the following day. The concert, also on Friday July 19, starts at 7.30pm.

KINTYRE

PUPILS and parents at two schools in Kintyre are to benefit from cycling and walking paths using £10,000 worth of funding from Argyll and Bute Council and Sustrans.

The council has applied for funding from sustainable travel charity Sustrans for a number of different walking and cycling projects across Argyll.

Dumrablem and Southend Primary Schools are to be part of the Kintyre schools route, which will build walking and cycling paths for those going to the two schools.

The £10,000 of funding put forward so far - half from the council and half from Sustrans - is for design and land negotiations to prepare the routes.

RESIDENTS in Kintyre are being called upon to share their experiences of March's power cuts as part of a parliamentary inquiry.

The Scottish Affairs Committee will be re-opening an inquiry into local power supply after the severe snowfall in March left thousands of people without electricity for several days.

As part of the inquiry, power companies will be asked how they can strengthen the network and improve their reactions when there are serious incidents, while local authorities will be asked about how well prepared they were to keep roads open and look after vulnerable people.

Mobile phone operators will also be asked how they can make their networks more resilient in emergencies.

The first evidence session will be on June 26 with Argyll and Bute Council and anyone

who wishes to share their experiences should email scotaffcom@parliament.uk before then.

INVERGARRY

ONE OF Invergarry's highlights of the year, the Glenarry Highland Games, will be staged on the village shinty field on Saturday July 6.

All the usual track and field events will feature, while Lochaber Pipe will perform throughout the day.

ARDNAMURCHAN

ARDNAMURCHAN High pupils beat off competition from other local school teams to win the Lochaber finals of the Construction Bridge Building Challenge.

The event organised by Construction Skills in partnership with Highland Construction Training Group and West Highland College, gave second year pupils an insight into practical engineering and construction.

Nine teams of four pupils - one from Kinlochleven, two each from Mallaig and Ardnamurchan High Schools and four from Lochaber High School - were set a challenge of designing and building a wooden bridge to span a 1.1m gap to carry the maximum load for the minimum cost, using plywood, fibreboard and glue.

All bridges were tested to destruction and AHS engineers Sam Docker, Frederik Ewers, Calum MacArthur and Annie MacDonald were clear winners. Their sturdy design supplied a massive 100kgs without breaking.

Ardnamurchan 'B' - Kit Mavius, Mitchell Cameron, Zander McKenzie and Martin Ross - were second.

SPEAN BRIDGE

SOME paths and tracks at Killiechonate Woodlands near Spean Bridge are temporarily closed as trees blown over by wind are cleared.

The routes are expected to be entirely re-opened by August.

ULLAPOOL

AN TALLA Solais, Ullapool Visual Arts, will launch 'Voyage: A Journey in Tiny Steps' alongside its major solo



Eeyore joins some of the children at the Dunbeg Fun Day. 16_t23funday01

JULY ISSUE OUT NOW

BLAZING PADDLES - The landscape and wildlife of the west coast by canoe

Kyleen McKerlich -
On her Ross-shire upbringing

SCOTLAND THROUGH A LENS -
Doug Corrance's 50 years of
photographing Scotland

The first cowboys were Scots!

10 OF THE WORST
SCOTTISH RAILWAY
DISASTERS

Scotland's top
salmon beats are
under threat

THE ESTATE WHERE
BLACK GROUSE
THRIVE

The world's top
female jockey
Lucy Alexander

WIN A 5 STAR
WEEK FOR
EIGHT ON
LOCH TAY

BUMPER
LIFE&STYLE
SECTION
Fashion,
interiors,
food & drink,
Gardens

SKYE AND LOCHALSH

A SMALL abattoir in Skye and Lochalsh would be viable, according to a report commissioned by the Scottish Crofting Federation.

The study, by SAC Consulting envisages the micro-facility having a maximum capacity for 4,000 sheep, 200 cattle and 130 pigs per year.

A projected initial throughput of 100 cattle, 800 sheep and 130 pigs could produce a modest profit if the development, costed at around £570,000, was fully funded. The report also stresses remote abattoirs are a key part of the rural infrastructure which meet Scottish Government policy of shortening the food production and distribution chain.

The Scottish Government-funded report, which was presented to rural affairs minister Richard Lochhead at the recent 'Highland Sheep' event in Dingwall, will be launched at a public meeting to be announced.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson backed the proposal in parliament. The full SCF document is available at www.crofting.org/uploads/news/abattoir_report.pdf.



The Spean Bridge youngsters put on a great show for the visiting school.
Follow us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Estate manager Allan Irvine said: 'A big bonus for visitors is that we have created a number of nice walks through the estate woodland where walkers can catch sight of wildlife, so it will be a nice day out for a family.'

A special feature this year will be two competitions for youngsters who will be challenged to create pieces of art from materials provided at the show.

ARMADALE

CLAN Donald Skye is hosting a mid-summer food fair in Armadale Castle visitor centre gardens next Saturday, June 29 from 11am-3pm.

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Trust has appointed Glenelg man Calum Stiven as graduate enterprise officer.

Mr Stiven starts work in his new post on July 1 and will be involved with the trust's community broadband and forest enterprise projects.

STRONTIAN

THE SCOTTISH Chamber Orchestra wind and brass section is to perform a concert in Strontian next month.

The orchestra will perform pieces by Beethoven, Dvorak and Haydn at the Sunart Centre from 8pm on Saturday July 13.

NORTH SKYE

'LEARNING Gaelic in Flogdairy Week' will form part of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's short courses this summer.

Students on the Gaelic college programme will immerse themselves in the language, heritage and communities of north Skye. Those taking part in 'Flogdairy Week' will have the opportunity to improve their Gaelic and learn about the culture, history and literature of the area. The courses, which are aimed at advanced Gaelic learners, run over five days and feature daily trips to meet Gaelic speakers in the Trotternish peninsula.

Items on show include local timber carvings, clothing and paintings.

Entry to the fair is free and includes tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Local air cadets will sell soup and snacks to raise money for their squadron.

The courses run from July 15-19 and August 26-30.

Surprise guest at Dunbeg fun day

EYORE was a surprise guest at this year's Dunbeg Fun Day, which raised £2,065 for the village's primary school.

The annual event, organised by the parent council, saw residents of all ages come to the school and take part in fun games, such as the welly boot throw, coconut shy, golf challenge and beat the goalie.

Parent council member and event organiser Deirdre MacFarlane said: 'The fun day and the school triathlon are the only two fundraising events we do for the school and we aim to get around £3,000 as a total from both.'

'It is such a great day for the whole community and I like to see the ex-pupils coming to help out on the day.'

A stall selling burgers from Jackson Bros Butchers sold

out of stock and the five face

painters had a continuous flow of young customers.

Down Your Way**Killin**

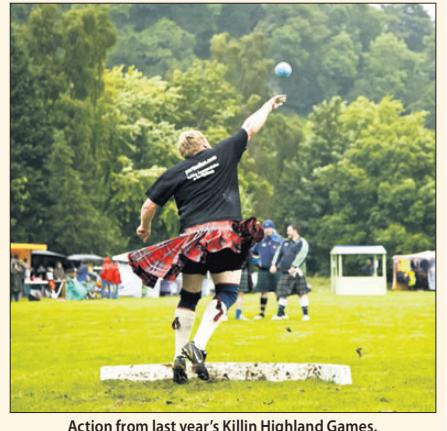
A £10,000 grant will allow Killin and Ardeonaig Trust (KAT) carry out a feasibility study into the best site for a public toilet in the village.

While KAT doesn't have the budget to fund or maintain a toilet, it will look at where would be best served by such a facility.

It's hoped the provision of a public toilet would make the village a much more appealing tourist attraction.

Willie Angus, chairman, said: 'The audit will look at what options are available and for the best site for a public toilet in Killin.'

'That site must service tourist and service buses, visitors, tourist hot spots, shoppers, tBreadalbane Park, fishermen and free campers who set up their tents beside the Lochay and Dochart. It must also be capable of servicing two to four coaches each holding up to 50 people.'



Action from last year's Killin Highland Games.

PLANS are nearly complete for this year's Killin Highland Games, held on August 7, but consideration is being given to moving to a Saturday games in 2014.

The village's games have proved popular over the years despite its mid-week scheduling, with the Wednesday event regularly attracting large numbers.

However, with Callander Highland Games now folded, a Saturday spot is free in the schedule for next year and the organisers are discussing rescheduling to take advantage of larger crowds.

Organiser Charlie Grant said: 'Callander Games is cancelled so there is a slot free for the last Saturday in July. We are talking about it but it would be a massive effort.'

If we are going to do it, we'd have to do it as a team as there's no way anyone could do it on their own. It's too big to rush as well.'

'It's not going to happen this year though, we're definitely still going ahead on August 7.'

This year's games will once again be held at Breadalbane Park from 10am. The heavy games will once again take centre stage, while piping and dancing competitions are sure to once again prove popular.

The open hill race is usually keenly contested and this year is sure to be no different. Running from the field to the top of Sron a Chlachain and back, it is a stern test of endurance and sure to throw up a couple of surprises.

As ever, the parade from the Falls of Dochart will be led by the Games' chieftain and will no doubt attract a large crowd.

More details on this year's Killin Highland Games will appear in *The Oban Times* in July.



Stewards watch cautiously as one rider tries to navigate one of the trickier points on the Killin circuit. Photo by The Studio, Killin. t25macgregor trials 5no

ORGANISERS of the Bob MacGregor Memorial Trials were delighted with this year's competition after a bumper entry and two terrific days of competition.

Riders of all ages and from across the UK made their way to the Falls of Dochart for the competition, which saw competitors negotiate two circuits of a course consisting of 15 sections.

The competition was set up in memory of Bob MacGregor, the only Scotsman to win the prestigious Scottish Six Days Trial. Bob ran his business from Killin and rode for the Rudge Factory team.

Bobby Lafferty, who organises the trials, said: 'I'm delighted with the standard of riders in all sections and I'm sure these trials will become one of the most popular throughout Britain.'

Competitors already regard the trials as one of the UK's finest, given its unique backdrop and challenging circuits.



SCARECROWS are set to line the roads of Killin this summer - all as part of a crafty promotion for the village's agricultural show.

Scarecrows will be on display from Monday August 12, ahead of the show on Saturday, with entrants encouraged to be as creative or as cunning as they can be.

Lynsey Campbell is taking registrations for the event and hopes locals will devise some interesting scarecrows.

She said: 'Your scarecrow should be displayed within reasonable walking distance of the village. Use your imagination.'

'Your scarecrow can take any shape, size or form. The scarecrows will be judged on Friday, August 16 and results will be announced at the show after the parade enters the main ring.'

'A map of the village with the locations of all the scarecrows marked will be available from the paper shop in the village from Wednesda, August 15 so everyone can take part in their own scarecrow hunt.'

For more information about the scarecrow competition or any other aspect of Killin Show, including stands, contact Lynsey on 07795 247 541.

Next week Down Your Way visits
Arran with senior reporter Jenny Lyon. Contact Jenny on 01770 302142 or email editor@arranbanner.co.uk.

Community council group considers future

THE ASSOCIATION of Lochaber Community Councils (ALCC) may be forced into restructuring due to a lack of interest.

Numbers attending the group's meetings have been dwindling, with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achinacarry Community Council the latest to say they cannot attend future sessions.

A letter has been sent out to community council members to canvas opinion on if the ALCC is worth keeping, and in what form.

ALCC's Tricia Jordan told The Oban Times the large distances some members had to travel to attend monthly meetings was having a negative effect. She said: 'The only way we can get everyone together is on a Saturday morning, which isn't ideal for everyone. We are considering rearranging the structure. We want to know if people want it to continue.'

Chart topper Fergie's delight

'CEILIDH King' Fergie MacDonald has had a whirlwind week of media interviews since his quirky song 'The Shinty Referee' shot to the top of the iTunes UK world music chart.

And box player Fergie, 75, still can't believe the catchy number reached No 1 - almost 47 years to the day since his song Loch Maree topped the Scottish hit parade in 1966. He said yesterday: 'I am a very modest guy really and this took me totally by surprise. It was Gary Innes who phoned me up in the middle of the night to tell me.'

'He said Fergie, you'll never guess - you're at number one in the world iTunes chart! I said don't be daft, but from then on it's been non-stop interviews. I was even on Radio Brisbane on Tuesday.'

The song was at number five



Fergie MacDonald.



Twins hit the high notes at Mòd Aird nam Murchan

Acharacle twins Josephine, left, and Serena Matheson were two of the stars of the show at this year's Mòd Aird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan Mod), which was held in Strontian on Friday. The nine-year-olds took home a number of trophies and medals between them, with Serena winning the beginners clarsach and the trophy for highest clarsach mark, while Josephine picked up four trophies in solo singing and came first in the under 13s fiddle. The event drew in record numbers of young Gaelic singers and musicians. For a full report and photo special see page 4. 20_f25mod01

Mallaig pool celebrations culminate with gala day

WEEK-LONG celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool culminate with a gala day on the pier on Saturday at 11am.

Attractions include Disney characters, barbecue and

children's stalls - while pool manager Brian Gordon-Wilkin could be in for a 'gunning' if £300 is raised.

The events programme kicked off with a pyjama swim on Tuesday - 20 years to the day

since the pool first opened its doors on June 18, 1993.

Since then, according to assistant manager Sarah Boyce, the pool has become a 'central part' of village life.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Pi-

kids get lessons right through the school system and get access to different classes and activities.'

'For social, mental and physical well-being point of view the pool is ideal.'

'And it's a great pulling point

for visitors, who are impressed by the number of services available and the standard of the building.'

Tomorrow the pool presents

'Slide Mayhem' - featuring an inflatable whale chute.

Figures reveal big reduction in number of crimes

CRIME in the north of Scotland saw another big fall in the year to March 31, latest figures show.

Northern Constabulary reported a overall decrease of recorded crime to 11,355 compared with 13,556 in the previous 12 months.

Overall clear up rate for crimes

in the force area was 68 per cent - 17 percentage points higher than the Scottish average.

However, there was a 33 per cent increase sexual offences recorded, up from 355 in to 471.

Scottish Government officials say this figure should be treated with caution because sex crimes

are now categorised differently under the Sexual Offences Act.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson welcomed the findings but warned the rise in sexual offences reported 'showed the need for continued vigilance'.

He said: 'The rate of crimes

in the former Northern Constabulary area, at 390 per 10,000 population, was the second lowest in Scotland and I congratulate all the staff who

have delivered these reductions.

'I understand that crimes have continued to fall during the first months of operation under

the new Highlands and Islands Division of Police Scotland, and I look forward to welcoming more progress as the new single police force settles in.'

Across the country as a whole, recorded crime fell for the sixth year in a row to its lowest level for 39 years.

Meanwhile, Ms Commander is



MEMBERS of the Musical Memories group, formerly Singing for the Brain, gathered at the Glencruitten Church Centre in Oban last week to celebrate the organisation's third birthday. Music has been shown to help dementia and Parkinsons patients and the therapy has proved popular over the years. Members of the Mull group and the Lynne Lorn care home gathered to celebrate the birthday and share a celebratory cake. Founder Elizabeth Little, centre, is joined by councillor Elaine Robertson and member Bernard Childs in cutting the cake. 16_125musmem1



Kerra walkers raise more than £1,000

ALMOST £1,000 was raised by walkers on the island of Kerra at the weekend for Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of 57 people turned out for the three-hour route around the island on Saturday with special guests, including Elspeth Atkinson, director of Macmillan Cancer Support for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, piped over on the ferry by James MacPherson, from Oban High School Pipe Band. Jim Heward, race volunteer, said: 'The day started grey and cold and then the sun came out. The cold greyness may have put a few people off; however we had a turnout of 57 people who all enjoyed the walk.' The total of £954 raised is expected to increase as there is sponsorship money yet to be collected.

Skye 'otter' brew to raise awareness of sanctuary work

AN OTTER rescue charity on Skye is raising a glass to a new ale brewed specially on the island to promote its work.

The International Otter Survival Fund at Broadford appealed for business support - and Uig-based Isle of Skye Brewery obliged by producing the Skye Otter Ale.

Head brewer Pam MacRury told *The Oban Times*: 'The IOSF came to us after approaching a number of businesses to see if anybody could come up with ideas to raise awareness and funds for their work. We jumped at the chance - and from every sale we make money will be donated to the IOSF.'

The ruby-coloured beverage was launched to rave reviews at the Aberdeen Beer Festival last month.



A total of £1,100 was raised for school funds over coffee 'n' craic on Saturday at Barcaldine Primary School. Head teacher Jeanette Morrison said: 'It is a get together for the community and a fundraiser for the children. It went really well, we had a fantastic raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. All the local community support us.'

Soroba Young Family Group
Soroba Young Family Group have nursery places available for children born between

1st March 2010 and 28th February 2011.
We also have a few places available in the Project which supports children from birth to 3 years and their families.

Both sections have an amazing programme organised for the start of the new session in August 2013.

If you are interested in joining the nursery please contact Mrs Janice Kay on 01631 565263 or email sorobayoungfamilygroup@gmail.com for further information.

Schools to share head teacher

Move ends fears Fort William Primary would close ahead of merger with Upper Achintore

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhadcock@obantimes.co.uk

planning to move to Dundee to be closer to her family once the current term ends.

She told *The Oban Times* she had 'really enjoyed' her time in Fort William.

'I've got mixed feelings about retirement really,' she said. 'In many ways I'm looking forward to it, but I'll be very sad to leave the school and the town.'

I loved working here most of the time, it's been a really great school for me.'

She added: 'I'm going to spend some time indulging my hobbies and looking after the wee one while my daughter is at work. After 42 years of teaching I think I'll enjoy a bit of time to myself.'

The school is holding a special surprise celebration to mark Ms Commander's retirement on Monday, with pupils, staff and parents all invited to take part.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

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FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6BT.
Tel. 01397 706220

www.ellis-brigham.com

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MOUNTAIN
SPORTS



Kenmore Highland Games
Kenmore Sports Field
3 July 2013
5.30pm – 9.30pm
Heavy Events, Track Events, Highland Dancing, Hill Race, Children's Races
Contact: Sarah Kelly
Tel: 01887 830281 or mobile 07754 497889

139TH BALLATER HIGHLAND GAMES
Ballater Highland Games
Thursday 8th August
Commencing 12.30pm
All traditional events - dancing, piping, hill race, heavy events, pipe bands, etc.
Evening entertainment - Concert & Dance in Village Hall
Contact - Secretary 01339 755771
info@ballaterhighlandgames.com
www.ballaterhighlandgames.com

THE FINEST pipers, athletes and dancers in the west Highland and islands will create a Scottish showcase for locals and visitors on this summer's Highland games circuit.

And with the newest games in Scotland being held this weekend in Oban, the celebrations start now.

Check out The Oban Times' guide to the biggest, best and bizarre events on offer and decide where you will be this summer.



BRAEMAR GATHERING
Saturday 7th September 2013
Ringside Seats Available £16.00
Piping Entries close 17th August
Download Entry forms from www.braemargathering.org or by post from W.Meston, Colacriech, Ballater AB35 5UH
Tel: 01339 755377

Southend Highland Games
Saturday 20 July 2013
Gates open 6pm – 9pm
Full range of field and track events with good cash prizes.
Piping competition, Highland Dancing competition, Children's Races... and much more!
Contact: Mr John Galbraith 01586 830255
Email: polliwilline@btconnect.com

THE LORNE HIGHLAND GAMES
MOSSFIELD PARK, OBAN
SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 2013 FROM 11AM

MEN, LADIES & YOUTHS • TRACK & FIELD EVENTS • HEAVY EVENTS
TUG OF WAR • HILL RACE • HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION
OBAN PIPE BAND • BEER TENT & REFRESHMENTS & TRADE STANDS

CASH PRIZES

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GAMES

ADMISSION:
Adults £6 - Child £3 - Family £16
www.lorne-highland-games.org.uk

LORNE
The newest Highland games in Scotland, the maiden Lorne Highland Games at Oban's Mossfield Stadium is out to prove itself and organisers have pulled out all the stops to impress in this Highland games heartland. There is something for everyone to see at the games this Sunday (June 23) and competition for men, women and children. A healthy dose of track and field, heavy events, pipers and dancing will complement the less competitive events and sporting exhibition matches. Come and support these fledgling games.

KENMORE

An evening games, this traditional Perthshire event is held in a beautiful setting. Entertainment for all the family, from children's races and Highland dancing to heavy events and hill races. The event takes place at Kenmore Sports Field on July 3.

ROSNEATH

Those visiting the Rosneath Peninsula Highland Gathering on July 14 are always sure to find a warm welcome to this fun family occasion. From the more serious St Modan's Stone Lift to the less serious bungee jump trampolines, this is a unique games not to be missed.

INVERARAY

Steeped in tradition and talented athletes, the Inveraray Highland Games can justly claim to be the best one-day Highland games in Scotland. The games are a real spectacle of Highland tradition and will be held on Tuesday, July 16, at Winterton Park in the grounds of Inveraray Castle.

MULL

The Mull Highland Games take centre stage on July 18 at Erray Park in Tobermory. A traditional event, the games include a spectacular venue above colourful Tobermory with piping, dancing and track and field events, cycling, wrestling and performances by pipe bands.

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN

The West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports on July 19 combines the best of an agricultural show and Highland games. Following the morning show, afternoon fun includes heavy events, athletics and even a pet parade.

TAYNUILT

Often basking in sunshine and with an ideal venue in the shadow of Ben Cruachan, the Taynuilt Highland Games, on July 20, produces a big annual turnout. An afternoon highlight is the '12 o'clock toss', a caber-tossing competition with a £1,000 prize.

SOUTHEND

Blessed with the stunning scenery of the surrounding Kintyre peninsula, Southend Highland Games, held at Hotel Park on July 20, are well worth a visit. A traditional Highland Games, it offers visitors piping, Highland dancing and a host of other events and activities.

BALQUHIDDER

Also on July 20 at the Games Park in Lochearnhead there are the Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games.

These games always keep guests well entertained and also provide the spectacle of a traditional Highland clan gathering of the clans McLaren, Stewart, McGregor and Macnab.

BALLATER

The Ballater Highland Games on August 8 is one steeped in history and continues many traditions of the past, with Highland dancing, piping and athletics events, followed by a popular dance in the evening.

OBAB (ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING)

At Mossfield Park on Thursday August 22, the Argyllshire Gathering Oban Highland Games is a very traditional Highland games with piping, Highland dancing competitions, athletics, heavy events, junior shinty and a fascinating heritage tent. The previous day's piping competition attracts some of the best in the world and the winner leads the march to the games field. A real feast of Scottish heritage.

BRAEMAR

HM the Queen is patron to the annual Braemar Gathering, which boasts an international field of heavyweight and track and field athletes and is held on September 7 this year.

Pipers and dancers will be of the usual high standard while teams from H.M. Forces will compete in the Inter-Services Unit Tug of War Championship and in the Services Medley Relay Race.

ROSENTH PENINSULA HIGHLAND GATHERING
Sunday 14th July 2013
HOWIE PARK, ROSNEATH, Nr HELENSBURGH, G84 0RJ
9.00 am Gates Open.
12 noon Grand Parade.
The St Modan's Manhood Stone Lift, Bungee Jump Trampolines, "Walk on Water" Hammer Balls, Stalls, Children's Rides, Entertainments, Refreshment Stalls & Beer Tent And More!
Come along and join us for a fun day out for all the family.
Contact Katrina Wreford Tel: 01436 831 112
www.rosneath.games@btconnect.com
Lottery Funded by Awards For All Scotland

Taynuilt Highland Games
Saturday 20th July 2013 from 11am
1pm march from Taynuilt Hotel to the sports field led by Oban Pipe Band
£1000.00 Prize Money for tossing the Taynuilt Caber-12 O'clock Toss.
Highland Dancing, Piping, Heavy Events, Athletics and Junior events

West Ardnamurchan Show & Sports
Friday 19th July 2013
Enjoy a fantastic family fun day in beautiful surroundings of Kilchoan's well established Show and Sports. Agriculture Show runs from 09.30 to 12.00 and all the Main Events start at 13.00.
Attractions include: All Day BBQ & Bar; Senior & Junior Heavy Events; Junior Sports; Children's Bouncy Castle & Climbing Wall; Pet Parade & Races; Tug-o-War; Stalls; Baking & Horticulture Competitions; Senior & Junior Road Race.
More information online at <http://westardnamurchannews.blogspot.com>

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES
ERRAY PARK TOBERMORY
THURSDAY 18th JULY 2013
by kind permission of Tobermory Golf Club.

The band will lead the March from Main Street to the Field at 10.00am approx.
In attendance: Mull & Iona Pipe Band & Oban High School Pipe Band.
Piping, Dancing, Heavy & Light, Field & Track Events.
Refreshments available on the field.
A Great Day Out For All The Family.
Suitable boat & bus services.

The Argyllshire Gathering OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES
Mossfield Park, Oban
Thursday 22nd August 2013
March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND 12noon from Station Square
Highland Dancing • Track & Field Events • Traditional Heavy Events • Piping
Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (starts 9.30)
Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN
Wednesday 21st August 2013
PIORAIREACHD Silver Medal Gold Medal Silver Medal Final
MacGregor Memorial Competition Senior Piobaireachd LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners)

Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Highland Games and Gathering
The Games Park, Lochearnhead
Saturday, 20th July 2013
Chieftain: Sandy Stewart of Ardvorlich
Clans march into the field at 12pm Badenoch and Strathspey Pipe Band
"Pure Malt" traditional folk band will play in the beer tent from 4.30pm until 8pm
Food, refreshments, trade stalls and children's amusements on field

Inveraray Highland Games
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds
Tuesday 16th July 2013
Local and Open Events from 9.00 am

SOLO PIPING (Local and Open)
HIGHLAND DANCING (Local and Open)
HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS (Local and Open)
incl. **WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLING, WRESTLING**

INVERARAY & DISTRICT PIPE BANDS (Grade 1 & Juvenile)
will parade from Church Square to the Games Field at 10.45am
Full Catering Facilities on Field
Trade Stalls; Side Shows, Children's Entertainment

ADMISSION: Adults £8.00; OAP's £5.00
Children £3.00; Family Ticket £18.00
FREE PARKING
For further info – tel: 01499 302458
Website : www.inveraray-games.co.uk

**Provisional
licence holder
drove alone with
no insurance**

A PROVISIONAL licence holder has admitted driving by himself to a Corpach shop to buy food for his animals.

Neil Stoddart, of Craigard, Banavie, also pled guilty to not having insurance to drive the car on December 20.

The 53-year-old plumber was stopped by police on the A830 Road to the Isles.

Defence lawyer Niall MacBeath said Stoddart had held the provisional licence since he was 17 and had 'taken a chance' by going out driving alone.

Stoddart was fined £455 and given six penalty points at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court.

Thomas Donoghue, 60, of East Glen Mhor, North Road, Fort William, was accused of allowing Stoddart to drive the vehicle but had not his guilty pleas accepted.

**Drugs found on
Claggan man**

A CLAGGAN man was caught with £30 of cannabis after drunkenly asking police to search his pockets to find his house keys.

Steven Stewart was 'the author of his own downfall', according to fiscal Stewart Maciver, after calling police at 2am on April 20 to say he was locked out his house.

When officers arrived, the 37 year-old labourer allowed them to look in his pockets for his keys but they instead found 7.2 grams of the class B drug.

After hearing Stewart, of 4 The Corries, had previous convictions for drug possession, Justice of the Peace John Hutchison fined him £240.

Police files

TOOLS were stolen from two unlocked vans on the Isle of Skye overnight between Wednesday June 12 and Thursday June 13.

One vehicle was parked near 10 Stenshol, Staffin, while the other was parked near 8 Linicor, Portree.

POLICE investigating thefts from Ben Nevis Industrial Estate wish to speak with anyone who saw a Blue VW Golf being driven by a man around the estate or saw it parked in Ardnevis Road, Fort William, between 9pm on Wednesday June 12 and 12.30am Thursday June 13.

A RED Audi parked in Morrisons car park, Fort William, was scratched between 10am and 12pm on Wednesday June 12.

TOOLS were stolen from a shed near Drynoch Junction, Isle of Skye, overnight between Wednesday June 12 and Thursday June 13.

ITEMS were stolen from a property on Kennedy Road, Fort William, between 3.30pm and 10.30pm on Tuesday June 11.

A BIKE was stolen from an unlocked outbuilding at Kinloch House, Lochcarron, between Thursday June 6 and Sunday June 16.

A QUANTITY of live prawns were stolen from Scotwest Seafood at Kyle Industrial estate, Kyle of Lochalsh, between 10.45pm on Saturday June 8 and 9am on Sunday June 9.

FORTY creels were stolen from the main pier of Broadford Pier, Isle of Skye between May 17 and May 19.

Anyone with any knowledge of the above incidents is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Sheriff drops assault case

THE TRIAL of a Ballachulish man accused of assaulting a woman in the village has been dropped after prosecutors forgot to cite an essential witness.

Prosecutor Fiscal Karen Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court a police officer had not shown up to give evidence against Kevin Cairns, of 4 Lorn Cottages, as they had not been told when the trial was being held.

Ms Smith asked for the case to be postponed to another day, saying: 'We would



Talent show winners, from left, Cody McCorley, Siobhan Chambers, Aidan Murphy, Rhianna Drummond, Gracie Henderson, Fraser Disher and Stewart Petrie. 20_f2slochy01

Event proves Lochyside's got top talent

THE X-FACTOR was put in the shade by Lochyside RC Primary School pupils last Thursday as the children entertained their families, classmates and teachers in 'Lochyside's Got Talent'.

The competition had too many highlights to mention but one star of the show was not even performing as compere Michael White

of P5 has his audience in stitches with his impromptu jokes and repartee.

The judges - teacher Andy Stoddart, former Lochyside Jamie Joe Wilson and playground assistant Geraldine MacKay - had a tough task in deciding the category winners but head teacher Violet Smith praised all the children who took to the stage.

'You were all absolutely outstanding,' she said. 'I am proud of every single one of you.'

Biggest laugh of the morning came from budding comedian Aidan Murphy of P4.

Aidan: 'What do you call a nun walking in her sleep?' Audience: 'We don't know!'

Aidan: 'A roamin' Catholic!'



Archaeologist Ross Cameron during excavations of Mingary Castle's old stairway. Photograph by Jon Haylett.

Mingary Castle reveals secrets

WORK to underpin an 800 year-old castle in Ardnamurchan is ahead of a restoration project is nearly complete.

A team from rope access experts Vertical Technology has been working at Mingary Castle, near Kilchoan, to reduce any chance of the building collapsing into the sea.

Meanwhile, archaeologists recording the site have found several pieces from the site dating back to the 17th century - including china, glass, bones, the tooth of a dog and bits of iron.

The team also found a block of stone which may have formed part of the main entrance.

Local man Jon Haylett said one of the more surprising finds has been a small cannonball which was lodged between stones in the floor of the main building.

He said: 'Quite how it got there, and how it was missed by the men who did the controlled demolition of the building in the mid-18th century, is a mystery, but it's a thrilling find.'

The work is being done ahead of a full restoration, which aims to restore the castle to its medieval glory by the end of 2014. The project is being carried out by local charity Mingary Castle Preservation and Restoration Trust, which was set up by castle owner Donald Houston, of Ardnamurchan Estates.

Mingary dates back to 1200s and there is some evidence suggesting Vikings fortified the site even earlier.

The stronghold was once part of a chain of castles in the Lordship of the Isles and was the seat of the Clan MacLain.

Since it was last inhabited in the mid-19th century, it has been deteriorating and was in danger of collapse unless the restoration work was carried out.

The event runs from 11am to 3pm.

Fund hosts fundraising day

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Christmas Lights Fund committee is holding a fun day on Saturday to boost its £5,000 campaign for a new artificial tree and festive lights for the village.

Attractions at the Ice Factor include a barbecue, stalls, beat the goalie, archery and abseiling. Co-organiser Pat McElhinney said: 'We have raised over £1,600 so far and hope a good attendance will raise even more. Some other local charities are benefiting from the day but it would be good if we tried to get families from further afield to attend.'

The event runs from 11am to 3pm.

not be in a position to proceed without this witness.'

But defence solicitor Hamish Melrose objected, pointing out the trial had already been put off on a previous occasion.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin refused to grant a further delay, meaning the case was deserted. Cairns, aged 34, had denied seizing the woman by the throat and compressing it and holding her forcibly on a coach, all to her injury on February 16.

Glen Righ slope work to re-start

FORESTRY Commission Scotland is preparing to re-start slope stabilisation work at Glen Righ above the A82 next week.

One lane south of the Loch Linnhe picnic site between Fort William and the Corran Ferry will be closed between June 24 to June 28 to allow protective fencing to be installed. Traffic lights will be in operation between 7am and 7pm.

Project manager Alex Macleod said:

'There are some boulders and rocks in this area and catch fencing will help protect road users when the work is taking place.'

'Once the fencing has been put up, we will be able to get on with work on the hillside throughout the summer with no further need for traffic management until mid September at the earliest.'

'We'd like to apologise for any inconvenience this work might cause but we hope this will be kept to a minimum.'

Demolition of cottage sparks planning fury

HIGHLAND Council's planning procedures are being branded 'a joke' after a historic Morvern cottage was demolished without permission.

Local residents had backed businessman Jason Steen's original improvement plan for Achabeg House, on the road between Lochaline and Drimnin.

But that support turned to fury after contractors completely levelled the 19th century dwelling and began building a new house.

It had been one of two cottages built in the early 1860s by John Sinclair, founder of the Tobermory Distillery and owner of Lochaline Estate.

Mr Steen, who earlier this year secured approval to alter and extend Achabeg, has now applied for retrospective permission to completely reconstruct the property and build a new rear extension.

Work is well underway and council planners have recommended the revised bid be approved. South planning applications committee councillors will decide the issue on June 25.

Morvern Community Council, one of 11 formal objectors, assumed when contractors removed the roof a substantial restoration was underway - but were stunned to find the cottage one a few days later.

In a letter to Highland Council, chairman John Hodgson said:

'The site was more akin to a quarry than a cottage garden and many people started to ask how on earth could something like this be allowed to happen.'

'Now, well and truly cocking a snook at and treating the planning authorities as a complete joke, the contractors continue to build walls at an alarming rate in total assumption that you will do nothing about it.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obahtimes.co.uk

'If you allow this to continue how on earth do you expect our local community to have any respect and trust in your judgements in the future?'

He added: 'How is it that the agents for this development had an amended application all ready to present within a matter of days of the demolition?'

'Although the cottage was not a listed building, it had been there since the 1860s and was an excellent example of our vernacular architecture and a visible part of the heritage and identity of Morvern. It is now just another example of a valuable asset to the area wiped out of existence.'

Ardrornish Estate director Hugh Raven was one of two formal supporters of the development.

He wrote: 'The house at Achabeg West...is picturesque, but hopelessly impractical. As the immediate neighbour, we support Mr Steen's plans to invest in creating an unusual contemporary house of a high standard, while retaining much of the limited historical interest

of the original.' The estate leases part of its Acharn farmhouse to Dierdre and Nigel Leask, who is Mr Steen's brother-in-law.

In his objection, Lochaline retired doctor Douglas Watt said: 'The cavalier contravention of planning law and the cynical submission of this "reconstruction" should require very clear direction from the planning authority that this will not be tolerated. Riding roughshod over the regulations must not be rewarded.'

London-based Mr Steen, a partner in international mergers and acquisitions company Steen Associates Ltd, said in correspondence he was 'very upset' by the turn of events, but was told demolition was the most sensible option.

He said: 'The end result is to be the exact same house, same dimensions, same height, width, length.'

'The old house was beautiful but very weather beaten, without damp coursing and with dry and wet rot. We hope you will agree when you see the finished project that Achabeg has been faithfully preserved with a new lease of life for this and future generations.'

PLANNING team leader Susan MacMillan said an unlisted building could be demolished without full planning permission through a process called prior notification - although that process has not been followed in the Achabeg case.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I understand how the community feels but you can only deal with the planning issues. We have to look at the proposal that is in front of us. We have had to assess whether to proceed with any enforcement action and what the nature of that action would be.'

'In certain instances unlawful work can be regularised by a retrospective application. Any works currently being done are at [Mr Steen's] own risk until such time as planning permission is in place. That's why Highland councillors will be determining the issue on June 25.'

The council has not placed a stop order on the work pending the committee's decision.

Man admits pub assault

A CLAGGAN man has been placed on the Crofters Bar on March 15. The 42-year-old's lawyer Hamish Melrose told Fort William Justice of the Peace Court their had been 'ill will' between Kerr and the victim for a period before the incident.



Barra lifeboat coxswain Donald Macleod: MBE honour.

Margaret Ann Campbell was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the postal service and the island community, while Christine MacRae from Lewis was made an MBE for her voluntary service in the Western Isles.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Call to action over CHORD regeneration

CALLS for the delivery of CHORD project promises rather than continuing years of discussion are to be warmly welcomed and encouraged.

The fact that the criticism this week is coming from the Oban CHORD regeneration project manager is a sign that the frustration that has been building within the community is filtering through. Linda Houston was appointed to oversee the project in May of this year. She has a pedigree in 'getting things done' and recognises the £6.9 million CHORD fund would trigger further private investment in the town.

However, she clearly feels she is being asked to operate with her hands tied behind her back and cannot fulfil her role without the political will to get the regeneration programme into active mode. If the multi-million fund is to be the catalyst that will carry Oban's economy to another level then the initial investments need to be well thought out and be supported by a longer-term strategy that will allow private investment to flourish, not simply an exercise in short-termism, papering over the cracks and hoping the tourist trade won't notice.

If Argyll and Bute Council fail to find the confidence and cohesion to proceed with Oban CHORD, they will be long remembered for what they failed to achieve.

GLASGOW LETTER

Piping competition concert

AS I INDICATED last week the concert to showcase the winning bagpipe tunes organised by Comann na Mara, from Lochmaddy, will take place at 7pm in Oran Mor on Sunday June 30.

The trophies and the winners as well as those who will play the tunes are as follows:

Comann na Mara Quaich, March winner, George Johnston, played by Alan Johnstone, Son.

Island News and Advertiser Quaich, Strathspye, winner, George Johnston, played by Neil Johnstone, Son.

Inksters Quaich, Reel, winner, Angus Lawrie, played by Jimmy Maclean.

Macaulay of Field Illeray Quaich, Slow Air, winner, Sean Detmers, played by Garry Currrthers.

Oran Mor Quaich, Hornpipe, winner, Derek Boyce, played by composer Derek Boyce.

Earl Granville Quaich, Jig, winner, Angus Lawrie, played by Jimmy Maclean.

The concert will reflect the traditional and contemporary sound of the pipes together with fiddle playing and Gaelic song.

The Ross Ainslie Trio will provide their own brand of music. Ross has, since his formative years under the guidance of the late Gordon Duncan, pushed the boundaries of pipe music participating in many well known bands along the way.

Gaelic singer Linda MacLeod and fiddle playing Marie Therese Gilfedder will ensure that there will be even more of a Uist presence to the evening.

Tickets are available from the venue or from www.ticketweb.co.uk.

Choral Celtic Cousins

HYNDLAND Parish Church will be the venue for a concert featuring the Mouzah Paedrot Breizh Choir from Brittany and Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 26.

Crowned in 2008 the Best Choir at a major festival the Bretons will bring an interesting contrast of music to be enjoyed together with our own Gaelic song. Tickets, £8, are available from Hyndland Bookshop, from choir members or at the door.

Glasgow Local Mod

SGOIL Ghàidhlig Glaschu was a busy venue during the weekend of Friday June 14 and Saturday June 15 when youngsters from the area congregated to join in the fun of Mod Ionadail Glaschu.

As you would expect, the greatest numbers of participants came from the Gaelic School in Glasgow with others from Meadowburn Primary School in Bishopbriggs, Cordinor Primary School in Cumbernauld, Craigholme Girl's School in Glasgow and Whinmill Primary School in Greenock and in the choral competitions Meadowburn, Falkirk Gaelic Choir, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Junior Choir and Sgoil Ghàidhlig all took part.

I will provide a list of the prize-winners in next week's

Pub scene

NICKY McMichan will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Sunday evening with Eriskay Lilt there on Saturday while in the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105.

Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk



Taynuilt Rovers football team 1926/27

Gary Campbell submitted this photo of Taynuilt Rovers taken almost 90 years ago at the then Taynuilt football pitch (now part of Achlonan) and is asking Oban Times readers to help identify some of the players/coaches and the cup that they have won. Fourth from the left on the back row is Donald 'Beag' Campbell who went on to play professionally in England, fourth from the right on the back row is Callum MacCallum, who was latterly the station master in Taynuilt, and far right is John C 'Daybles' MacNiven, who owned a butchers shop in Taynuilt at the time. On the front row, second from left is 'Parley' MacFarlane. Apart from John MacNiven, all the others still have family in Taynuilt. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
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MP did respond to constituents

Sir,

Last week you published a letter from two constituents claiming that since last August I had failed to respond to their correspondence.

This is most definitely not the case. Since last August, I sent replies to either Ms Farrington or Ms Jackson or both on the following dates. In 2012 on: August 19; August 27; September 25 (twice); November 4; November 12; November 16; November 19 and December 2. In 2013 on: January 2; March 6; April 29 and June 11.

Last week Ms Jackson emailed me stating that she had not received emails which I had told her that I had sent to her. These emails are recorded in the Parliamentary email system as having been sent.

I forwarded these emails to her from my sent box again and she then asked you, Sir, editor, to withdraw her letter.

Unfortunately, the edition had already been printed and thus her withdrawal request could not be accommodated.

I am currently in communication with the two constituents and I am happy to answer any outstanding queries they may have.

Alan Reid MP.

Coastguard volunteers continuing search

Sir,

Your article 'Lost fisherman's family labels official search diabolical', June 13 prompts me to write and offer a response to the above headline.

I am a former volunteer coastguard and have a good knowledge of search and rescue and the aftermath of an incident.

The article seems to blame everyone involved in the search for Scott for him not being found. I hope my words below offer perhaps a slightly different slant on things.

In the immediate aftermath of the sinking of the *Speedwell* there was a huge effort to locate Scott which continued into the following day.

Involved in the response with many others were volunteer coastguards from Oban and Appin who give their time freely to help those in need, as on the coast and on occasion well inland from the coast. The volunteers are called from work, from home, from family activities and drop everything to help others.

Of course, as with any incident at sea, there comes a time when to chances of survival are very low and finally become non-existent.

The volunteers in the coastguard teams can only imagine the pain that families are going through when a loved one does not come home from the sea.

Since the day Scott was lost the volunteers coastguards have been scouring the remote and rough coastlines around Easdale, Cuan and Luing hoping that they might find Scott and reunite him with his family.

This is not part of any official search but is something that the volunteers want to do; they want to find Scott and take him home.

Coastguard volunteers live and work in our community; they have a strong affinity with the sea; they know how a community comes together in a crisis and they know they want to help find a conclusion to whatever the tragedy is.

It may be that Mr MacAlister and his family are unaware that the coastguard volunteers continue to look for Scott but I hope this knowledge will give them some crumb of comfort that Scott has not been forgotten by our local volunteer coastguards. Murray Humphries, by email.

and Bute Council, Oban Police, *The Oban Times*, Oban FM, Oban taxi drivers, West Coast Motors, our main sponsors Oban Express, all the volunteers that helped us on the day and all the shops and businesses who displayed our posters.

The weather was good and the atmosphere was great - so were you.

See you all at our next big event, the Great Oban Bay Raft Race on Saturday August 10. W Coutts, president, Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

All voices must be heard

Sir,

Your three SNP local councillors have been under pressure from all sides to form a coalition with the large group of Independent councillors in the council.

With 26-and-a-half years of collective experience between the three SNP councillors, Roddy McCuish, Mary-Jean Devon, Louise Glen-Lee and our Independent colleague Elaine Robertson, we think this would be detrimental to the progress the council has made over the last year.

We believe all voices must be heard in politics to allow the best policies to be made. Whether we agree with what our political colleagues say, or not, it is only by true debate that we can move forward to a better brighter future for us all.

We believe that we should be looking towards working with everyone to build the best possible future for every single man, woman and child.

Because we want to find consensus, we have made an offer on a number of occasions to all 36 members of the council via groups and leaders of groups to meet and discuss a strong and viable way forward only to be met with rejected phone calls and ignored emails.

We believe that Argyll and Bute 4 Change has already selected those councillors it wants to work with. It has excluded those people who would, we believe, continue to keep a change agenda in the council and have the skills to deliver it and formed an exclusive group of self-selected councillors and done this without the seal of approval of the council.

We believe a new form of government has to be found. We believe that everyone should be involved in decision making.

We fully endorse a new way of working. We had already introduced cross party working groups, full council decision making and we wanted to go further still.

If the proposed new administration of the council would only work with us all, whatever political shade and none, to make decisions, to find a leader, to look at a new way of working we would be pleased to move forward. But to date they have asked us to sign up to done deals and endorse decisions already made in private.

We want the best for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and beyond - we don't think that the offer on the table from Argyll and Bute 4 Change would give us that. But if you think differently then please let us know.

Elaine Robertson, Mary-Jean Devon, Roddy McCuish and Louise Glen-Lee.

Charities day thanks

Sir,

May we, Oban and Lorn Lions Club, through your columns, express our thanks to all the charities and organisations who took part in yet another very successful Charities Day Street Fair and Parade held on behalf of the community on Saturday June 8.

Through the public generosity, this event raised many hundred of pounds of much-needed funds for many worthwhile causes in the area and at the same time raised the profile of many such organisations, many who depend entirely on volunteers.

Special thanks go out to all the participants who took part in the parade and to Oban Pipe Band and the Adele Askew School of Dance children for their magnificent display in Station Square.

We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Argyll



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

BHA MI ANN AN CUIDEACHD BHIO CHIONN GHORRID IS SINN A' BRUDHINN AIR AN SGRIOS UABHASACH A THUG A' CHIAD CHOGADH AGUS BHIO DAOIDHE AN T-SLUTHAIDH CHUAICHNEACHADH ANN AN DÓIGH IOMCHAIDH IS AN CEUDAMH CEANN-BLIADHNA DE THOISEACH.

LE UMHIR DE DHÍTHR ÓGA AIR AN CALL, GEALLAIDHEAN-PÓSÁIDH NACH GABHDH COILEANADH AGUS TEAGHLAICHEAN NACH TÁINIG GU BITH, THUG AN COGDADH TANACHADH LEANTAINNEACH AIR ÁIREAMH SLUAIGH AGUS AIR NEART CÁNAÍN IS CULTAR NA GÁIDHEALTAIDH IS NAN EILEAN, MAR IOMAID CEARNAIDH CILE.

BHIO MO SHEANAIREAN AN SAS AGUS GU FORTANACH THARR IAID AS BEÓ. MAR A THA BLAIDHNAICHEAN A' DOL SEACAH AGUS GINEALAICHEAN TURA GU EOLAS AIR FEADHAIMH A BHÀ THA'S A CHUNNAIC, THA CUNNART ANN GU TEID CÚISEAN AIR DIOCHEUMHNÍ. B'E SEO AN COGDADH A BHÀ DOL CHUR STAD AIR COGDADH, ACH MAR A THA EACHDRAIDH BHON UAIRSINN DEARBHADH, CHA D'RINN E SIN! ACH BHÀ E CHO UABHASACH RI STRÍ A CHUNNACAS RIAMH AIR THALAMH AGUS RI LINN DROCH STIÚIRIDH IS AINEOLAIS AM MEASG OIFIGEARN AGUS GIRE, THACHAIR CALL BEATHA CHON CHUALL.

CHAUDH 70 MILLEAN NEACH FEADH AN T-SAOGHAIL AN GAIRM CHUN AN T-STRI AGUS CHAUDH 16 MILLEAN DHUIBH SINN AN MARBHADH AGUS 19 MILLEAN AN LEON NEO AN GABHAL MAR PHRÌOSAICH COGDADH. FAISG AIR DÀ BLAIDHNAIDH AN DÉIDH DHA TÓISEACHADH THACHTAR BATALLAIDH AN SOMME FAR AN DEACH 20 MILE SAIGHDEAR BREATHANNACH A CHAILL AIR A CHIAD LATHA DEN T-SABAID SIN! UILE GU LÉIR CHAUDH 880 MILE BREATHANNACH A MHARBHADH ANNNS A' CHOGADH MHÓR, ACH CHAILL A' GHEARMAILT FHÉIN MILLEAN A BHARRACHID AIR BREATHANNACH CHAILL AN RUÍS CÒRR AIR 9 MILLEAN!

DÉ AN SEÒRSI TARTACHASAN A THA GHU BHITH IOMCHAIDH AIRSON LEITHID SIN DE SGRIOS A CHOMHARRACHADH AGUS A CHUIMHNEACHADH? SAN FHOGHAR AN-UIRRIDH, DH'AINMICH DAIBHIDH CAMHSRON GUN D'RACHADH TARTACHASAN AIR ADHART AIR TRI LÁITHÉAN SONRAICH. 4 LÚNASTAIDH 2014, CEUD BLAIDHNAIDH BHO CHAUDH BREATHANNACH A CHAILL LATHA DEN LUCHAR 2016, CEUD BLAIDHNAIDH BHO BLAIDHNAIDH; AGUS 11 DEN T-SAMHAIN 2018, CEUD BLAIDHNAIDH BHO BLAIDHNAIDH BHO THAINGÍ CLOS AIR NA GUMNAICHEAN.

BHU MHATH A B' FHÍACH AN £50 MILLEAN BUIDSEAT NAN ROBH AN SAIGHDAIL DOL A CH'IONNSACHADH AN T-SITH NACH TÁINIGH BHON CHOGADH A BHÀ DOL CHUR CRIOCH AIR COGDADH.

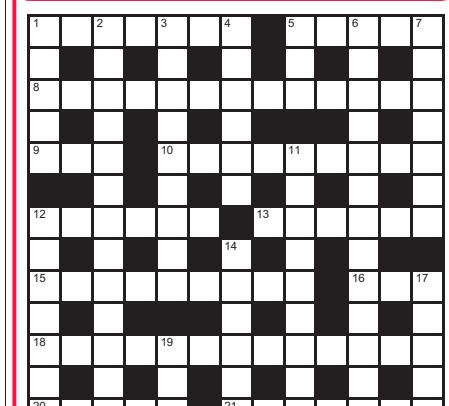
JULY 28 2014 will be the centenary of the outbreak of World War I.

BRITAIN joined the conflict on August 4 and by the time fighting ended on 11 November 11 1918, more than 880,000 Britons had been killed. Germany lost one million more than Britain and Russia had losses in excess of nine million.

HOW DOES ONE COMMEMORATE SUCH BARBARY? HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT 'THE WAR TO END ALL WARS' FAILED TO DELIVER. DAVID CAMERON ANNOUNCED A £50 MILLION BUDGET AND A 'PEOPLE'S COMMEMORATION' OF THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT, THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME AND ARMISTICE DAY. SUCH MONEY WOULD BE WELL SPENT IF IT BROUGHT US A STEP CLOSER TO WORLD PEACE.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across 1 Type of leather (7), 5 Leg bone (5), 8 Arranging in a systematic form (13), 9 Court (3), 10 Greek dramatist (9), 12 Bow (6), 13 Admission (6), 14 Repeated phrase (9), 16 Beast of burden (3), 18 This weapon knows where it's going! (6,7), 20 Wood nymph (5), 21 Core (7).

Oban High School Rocks

THE MOST ambitious school show ever seen in Oban wowed sell-out audiences over all four nights at the Corran Halls.

A cast of more than 40 pupils from Oban High School last week performed the West End hit We Will Rock You, a musical written by Queen and Ben Elton, which celebrates the hits of Queen.

As well as making new costumes, choreographing complex dance moves and re-writing musical scores, the production team extended front of the Corran Halls stage by two metres and a built a new proscenium arch to house extra lighting and sound equipment. The show also displayed projections onto three projector screens and set up a backstage area as a film set to beam live scenes to the projector screens via video link.

Director and drama teacher Sam Martin said: 'Following our sell-out success two years ago with Little Shop of Horrors, we were determined to raise the bar by attempting one of the biggest shows available.'

'This involved a production team of more than 30 staff and volunteers working hard to create a show that closely rivalled its London counterpart. This included a 10-hour set build and some highly technical video projections.'

'It has been

a titanic effort from everyone involved. I am just so proud of everyone.'

'Our young people are the most talented bunch I've ever worked with.'

The show had been in the planning for over a year, with pupils rehearsing twice a week, as well as a few full weekend rehearsals.

In addition, musical director Susan Forrest re-scored the entire

musical and led a live rock band.

The show took place on Wednesday to Saturday of last week, with 300 audience members each night.

Josh Tinline-Bartholomew, who played lead role Galileo performed one of the most difficult solo male roles in musical theatre with poise and professionalism, complemented brilliantly by his two co-leads, Zoe Thomson and Aimee MacDonald as Scaramouche.

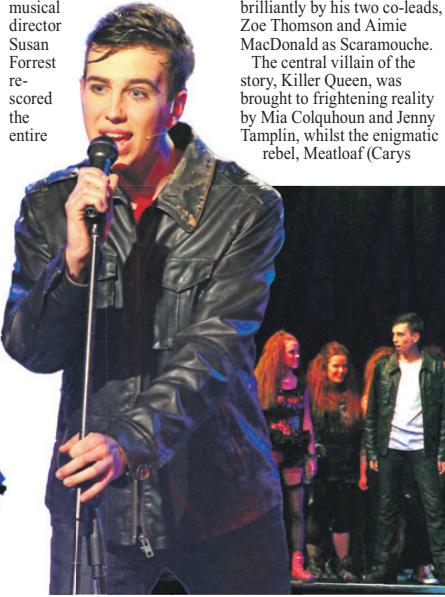
The central villain of the story, Killer Queen, was brought to frightening reality by Mia Colquhoun and Jenny Tamplin, whilst the enigmatic rebel, Meatloaf (Carys

Rimmer and Lauren Angus) brought the house to tears with a heart-wrenching rendition of 'No-One But You'.

The real triumph however was the strength of the whole ensemble, with every character and chorus members shining through on the stage.

One audience member stated: 'I have seen the London show, and these guys were just as good. I couldn't believe that I was watching school pupils!'

The show has been a success story for Oban High School's Performing Arts Department, which delivered its promise to rock the town.



Josh Tinline Bartholomew with 'I want to break free'.



Left: Narrator Jordan Lines.

Far left: Zoe Thomson and Josh Tinline Bartholomew.

Photos by Kevin McGlynn.



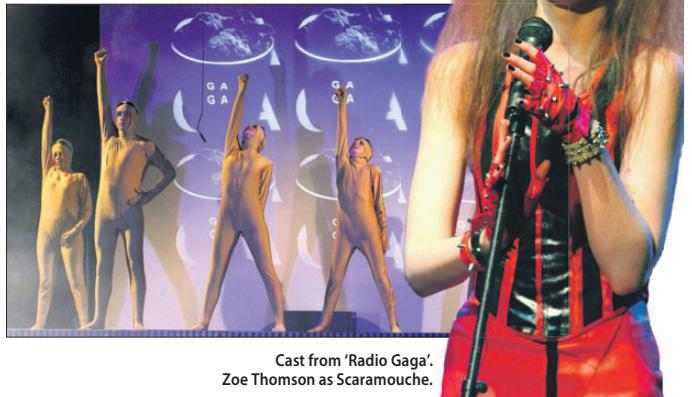
Killer Queen Jenny Tamplin performs 'The game of love'.



Carys Rimmer and Kyle MacKenzie wowed the audience. Jordan Lines finds the hidden instruments.



George Hamilton and Frank McKenna move the bike on stage.



Cast from 'Radio Gaga'. Zoe Thomson as Scaramouche.

Newtonmore win Sutherland Cup Final

GLENMORANGIE Sutherland Cup Final, Kingussie 1-3 Newtonmore.

Winners of the trophy over the past four successive years, Kingussie on Saturday saw the shiny cup wrenched from its grasp by near neighbours and old rivals Newtonmore.

Retired teacher awarded MBE

A RETIRED Kilmartin teacher has been awarded the Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Jean Matheson, 67, of Westwood, Kilmartin, has dedicated the last eight years to Argyll Talking Newspapers.

Iona water work underway

A £2 MILLION project to improve the water supply to Iona got underway at Fionnphort on Mull last week.

The task involves workers welding together 1,280 metres of steel pipe, through which two water mains will run. The existing pipeline to Iona has been the victim of the strong current in the Sound of Iona and has broken many times. This new pipeline, which will not be operational until 1994, will give Iona, Fionnphort and Bunessan new supplies.

The supply will be fed from Loch Assapol, where the water level is to be raised by about two feet.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

June 17 1993

Roads chief hits out over long-running Connell contract

A STRATHCLYDE Regional Council roads chief has hit out at the local authority's own contracting arm, following complaints by fed-up guest house owners in Connell.

Jim Tolmie, area roads engineer for North Argyll, expressed his dissatisfaction with Roads Direct after hearing of guest house proprietors' grievances over long-running major road works on the A85, outside their front doors.

The council's contracting arm is carrying out the contract.

Bert Galloway, owner of the nine-bedroom Macalla Guest House, said the road works had cost him between £800 and £900 in passing trade, during April and May.

Shirley Strachan, owner of the six-bedroom Ronbehal Guest House, said: 'It is beyond a joke now.'

'It has gone on too long.'



Children from Castlebay School, Isle of Barra, were recently presented with their cycling proficiency certificates by PC Alasdair Munro and head teacher of Castlebay School John Campbell. 15_125twentysix

Appeal to help Chernobyl children

AN APPEAL has been launched to help ten children from radiation-hit Chernobyl who are currently visiting Argyll.

The ten 12 to 14-year-olds have been invited to Argyll by the children of Easdale Primary School who have raised £1,000 to help pay for their visit.

The children are staying at Glenruitten Hostel until June 17 after which they will join the Easdale families for the weekend.



Cheese company goes from strength to strength

AN ISLAND business is proving so successful that workers are being brought in from the mainland to cope with demand.

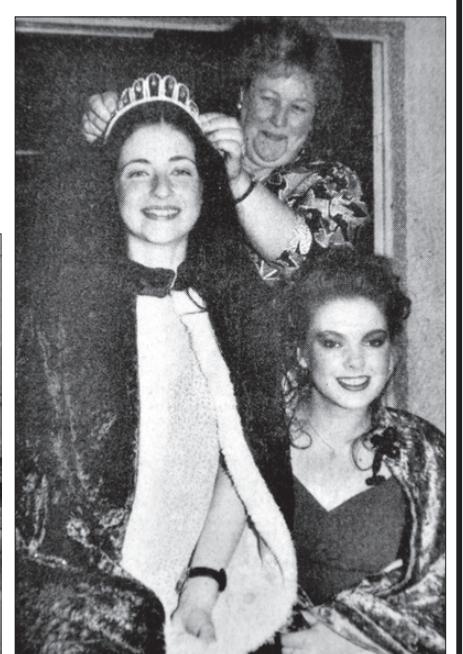
Inverloch Cheese Company on Gigha is going from strength to strength, thanks to a new initiative that makes the product stand out.

Kay Eaton hit on the idea of making cheeses look more attractive by moulding and waxing them to look like pieces of fruit.

Left: Cheese waver Karen Burgess shows off the Gigha 'fruit'. 15_125twentysix



Kenny Fisher, manager of the TSB's Fort William branch, presents Archie MacLellan of the Mallaig Heritage Centre committee, far left, with a £2,000 cheque for the centre's building fund. The centre itself can be seen, partly built, in the background. This donation from the TSB's Foundation for Scotland is the largest single amount given to the heritage centre fund to date. Also pictured are heritage centre trustee Paul Galbraith and centre secretary Edith MacLean. 15_125twentysix



Shona crowned Oban Charities Queen

Elizabeth Carson, wife of the president of Oban and Lorn Lions Club, crowns this year's Oban Charities Queen, Shona MacDonald, of Croft Road, Oban. Also pictured is her attendant Deborah Clark, Millpark, Oban. The girls will be 'on duty' at Oban Charities Day this Saturday. 15_125twentysix

THE BARN
rustic bar & restaurant

- Fyne Ales on tap (CAMRA recommended)
- Pets welcome
- Homecooked, wholesome food
- Wood burning stove
- Playpark and waymarked forest trails
- Open daily • Wi-fi access • Free parking
- Less than 3 miles from Oban town centre to Lerags Glen
- All day two course Sunday Lunch Special - £11.95 (roast of the day plus soup or icecream)
- Scone, Tea or Coffee - £2.45 from 11am-3pm
- Email: thebarn@clogin.co.uk

Live music on Sundays (from 3pm)
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TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885
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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES guide to Summer dining

AS CONCERN grows over the carbon footprint of our food many people are making a conscious decision to buy local produce. Thankfully for people living on the west coast of Scotland there is a wonderful array of high quality food and drink to choose from right on your doorstep. We have everything from hill bred lamb, beef and venison, fine butchers to make sure the meat is cut just the way you want it, to farmhouse cheese, handmade chocolates and the freshest of seafood.

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Argyll is also home to craft ales, Fyne Ales, near Cairndow, combine the best malted barley and hops from around the world with the soft Highland water from the hills surrounding the brewery. You could even combine an interest in local food with a day out, Inverawe Smokehouses, near Taynuilt, is nestled in the tranquillity of nature. There are walks, nature trails, picnic areas and a wildlife sanctuary – and they're all free. After a wander down to Loch Etive, spotting deer along the way, you can enjoy feeding the fish in the stock pond.

A map of the walks and child's eye-spy leaflet are available at the shop or tearoom, which serves traditional Scottish food including Inverawe's own range of smoked fish and home baking. Of course on a sunny day there is nothing more appealing than heading for a bit of alfresco dining either in a beer garden for a spot of good pub food or a fine restaurant where waiters will serve delectable delights to you in the sunshine.

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2013

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08/07/13 Gàidhlig 1 Gaelic 1, Gàidhlig / Gaeilge Gaelic for Irish Speakers Beginners, Gràmair Gàidhlig Gaelic Grammar, Cùrsa Comhràidh Gaelic Conversation, Bocsa Phìora Accordion, Bocsa Putain Button Box, Órain Ghàidhlig Gaelic Song.

15/07/13 Cùrsa Flòdaigearraadh Flodigarry Course

22/07/13 Air Chuaith Exploring Skye

29/07/13 Gàidhlig Ire 1, 3, 5, 7 Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7, Piàna Piano, Clàrsach Clàrsach, Órain ol is feala-dhà Gaelic songs of Drink & Revelry, Cleasaideachd Acting,

05/08/13 Gàidhlig Ire 2, 4, 6, 8 Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8, A' Teagast Dràma Teaching Acting, Gàidhlig/Gaeilge Gaelic for Irish Speakers Advanced, Órain Ghàidhlig Gaelic Song

12/08/13 Gàidhlig Ire 1, 3, 5, 7 Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7, Fidheall Fiddle, Cinnidhean an Eilean Sgitheanach is Loch Alise The Clans of Skye and Lochalsh

19/08/13 Gàidhlig Ire 2, 4, 6, 8 Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8 Dealbhadachd Digiteach Photography (Advanced)

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With the long summer vacation comes that perennial problem, what to do with the kiddies to keep them amused and out of mischief. All too often the summer holidays become something of a nightmare to hard-pressed parents, and an interminable bore to their offspring. This is a great pity because, if used properly, these long weeks away from school can be used to further cement family relationships, teach the children a few informal lessons about life, add to the knowledge they have already gained at school and generally enrich the quality of their experience.

To do all this however, takes planning. It also needs information and knowledge, so parents should begin to research the subject as soon as time allows.

The public library is a good source of inspiration and information. There will usually be announcements of lectures, demonstrations and exhibitions of interest to children of all ages (and their parents). Advertisements in this newspaper and other publications will have events and activities advertised, some of which must surely be of interest. Travel agents are also a good source of information. There are summer schools, adventure holidays and tours especially aimed at children in a wide age range. They come in an equally wide range of price brackets too and there is usually something to suit most pockets.

When you have all that information gathered together, look for the more permanent places of interest. There may be museums and exhibitions in your area, or within easy travelling distance. Some of these will offer special rates for children and many have special activity days where children may contribute and learn in the most enjoyable way, about a wide variety of subjects, academic and otherwise.

Sports usually appeal to most children so look at what is available in this line in your area. It may be possible to enrol your children in tennis or badminton clubs, send them to the local sports complex, bowling centre or swimming pool where they will be supervised and instructed in a wide variety of sporting activities.

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To find out what's on in your area
check out our **LEISURE SECTION**
starting on page 14

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indoors and out. Perhaps there are riding stables in the vicinity. Riding lessons are not cheap but they do appeal to children and can teach them a great deal, providing excellent exercise at the same time.

Clothing and equipment need not be a problem of any sporting activity. Apart from basics, most specialised needs can be hired or bought second-hand.

And for the days when the weather is not suitable for outdoor activities their (or your) computer will give them hours of amusement. Play centres have sprung up all over the country. These wonderful indoor constructions comprise cat walks, climbing frames, ball pools, slides and padded obstacles. Strategically placed nets prevent the children from falling and they are free to leap about, climb, jump, slide and generally create mayhem. These play areas are always well supervised, the age or size of child allowed in them is strictly controlled and there are normally specially segregated areas for very young children.

No child can resist a fun fair but there may not be a travelling one in your area this summer. There are theme parks however, all over the country offering tremendous entertainment value for all the family. Often there is a single charge per person at the entrance, whereafter everything inside is free. These parks usually have snack bars and restaurants where light refreshments or full meals may be obtained, but they also supply picnic areas where families may eat their own food or hold family barbecues. Seaside holiday centres also, often open their door to non-residents to enjoy the amusements they provide.

Scotland is packed full of stately homes, castles, cathedrals and fascinating ruins just waiting to be explored. There are thousands of miles of wonderful walks and nature trails for the really energetic. There are nature reserves and areas of outstanding beauty to see.

Organise your offspring's summer holidays carefully, with their tastes and yours in mind, and those long summer holidays will seem all too short in the end.



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We have a fantastic summer of films planned, with something for all the family. For younger film fans there's Star Trek Into Darkness, Epic, Man of Steel and Despicable Me 2. We also have summer blockbuster World War Z and hit Good Vibrations. And, as this is our 15th anniversary year, there are a few surprises lined up too. For full details on what we are screening, where and when, visit our website: www.screenmachine.co.uk.

4 - 7 July Fort William	22 - 23 July Kyleakin
8 July Strontian	24 July Dornie
9 July Lochaline	26 - 29 July Brodick
10 July Craignure	30 - 31 July Millport
11 - 13 July Tobermory	2 - 4 Aug Port Ellen
15 July Tarbert Loch Fyne	5 Aug Gigha
16 July Tighnabruaich	6 - 8 Aug Lochgilphead
18 July Eigg	9 - 10 Aug Dalmally
19 July Rum	12 Aug Coll
20 - 21 July Mallaig	13 - 14 Aug Tiree

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - June 20

9.15am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Roy walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.
10am, Guided walk, meet Ardlanish Weavers car park, Mull.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish, Oban.

FRIDAY - June 21

Oban Provincial Mod
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
2.30pm, Exclusive distillery tour, Oban Distillery.
8pm, 90's tunes and dance anthems disco, Paparazzi, Oban.
8pm, Me Myself and Mrs Gibbs, An Cridhe, Coll.
9pm, Oban Mic Night, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9.30pm, Ceol an Aire, Markie Dan's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - June 22

Oban Provincial Mod
Solar Dyeing, Kilmartin Museum
10am, Mid summer country fair, Bishopston House, Lochgilphead.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Soup lunch, Oban Pipe Band Hall, Oban.
1.30pm, Dal An Eas and Dalnanenun gardens open, Kilmore.
2.30pm, Ballet West Show Time, Corran Halls, Oban.
6.30pm, Murder mystery evening, Lismore Heritage Centre.
7.30pm, Munro O'Callaghan and Titchener, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
8pm, DJ Guy theme night, Paparazzi, Oban.
9.30pm, Kevin Fraser, Markie Dan's, Oban.
10pm, Chunks, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9.30pm, Bruce and the Beard, O'Donnell's, Oban.

SUNDAY - June 23

9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Kinlochleven walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.
10am, Mid summer country fair, Bishopston House, Lochgilphead.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11.30am, Archaeological day, Campbeltown Museum.
1pm, Lorne Highland Games, Mossfield Park, Oban.
1.30pm, Dal An Eas and Dalnanenun gardens open, Kilmore.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
2.30pm, Producers' market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Lerags.
8.45pm, Kevin Fraser, Royal Hotel, Oban.
9.30pm, Quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - June 24

11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
6.30pm, Oban Community Sensory Garden AGM, Corran Esplanade, Oban.

TUESDAY - June 25

11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
1.30pm, Musical Memories, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - June 26

11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - June 27

9.45am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Hurich walk, meet Corran ferry slipway or Strontian Forestry Commission office at 10.30am.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
7pm, Clay pigeon shooting, Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connel.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish, Oban.

FRIDAY - June 28

11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
2.30pm, Exclusive distillery tour, Oban Distillery.
7pm, Roy Chubby Brown, Corran Halls, Oban.
7.30pm, Music Coll 2013, An Cridhe, Coll.
8pm, Fundraising ladies night, Cuan Mor, Oban.
8pm, 90's tunes and dance anthems disco, Paparazzi, Oban.
8.30pm, Gunga Sound cd launch, Royal Hotel, Oban.
9pm, Oban Mic Night, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - June 29

8.40am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Melfort walk, meet Ballachulish tourist info or Longdale Road car park, Oban at 9.30am.
10am, Fishing competition, Loch Fries, Mull.
11am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
2pm, St Columba's annual bazaar, Corran Halls, Oban.
7.30pm, Ambient Acoustics for Multiple Sclerosis, Corran Halls, Oban.
8pm, DJ Guy theme night, Paparazzi, Oban.
9.30pm, Cairedas, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SUNDAY - June 30

Joint service for Netherlorn parishes, Arduaine Garden.
11am, Walk for whales, Corran Halls, Oban.
2pm, Street party at Glen Isla, Tobermory, Mull.
2pm, Calgary 'work' party, Mull.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Lerags.
9.30pm, Quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

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

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

REGULARLY RESTOCKED
THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Available from most retailers
and tourist outlets

FREE

Times life

Dancing Queens galore at ABBA Night



Everyone on the dance floor, singing along to Abba. 09_t22abba05



The '70s were brought back to life at Oban Lorne Rugby Club. 09_t22abba04



Margaret Martin, Irene Hannah, Fiona Young and Janice Rydings enjoying the craic. 09_t22abba02



One last dance before the end of the night. 09_t22abba07



Singing along to Waterloo. 09_t22abba03



Sequence sing 'Thank you for the Music'. 09_t22abba06



Sisters Kathleen Reilly and Sine MacFarlane with Ann Watt 09_t22abba08

Dancers have a reel good time at NFU ceilidh



Lucy Sumson, John Semple, centre, and John Smart were on hand at the door to sell raffle tickets at the NFU charity ceilidh, also selling copies of Trail West's debut album, One That Got Away. 16_t24nfuceilidh1



Laughs aplenty were had at the Munro family table. Pictured are, front from left, Susan, Calum and Laura Munro, with Ally Dickie and Gayle Munro leaning in. 16_t24nfuceilidh8



Dancers were on their feet most of the night. 16_t24nfuceilidh6



Seamus Anderson with his wife Avril. 16_t24nfuceilidh7



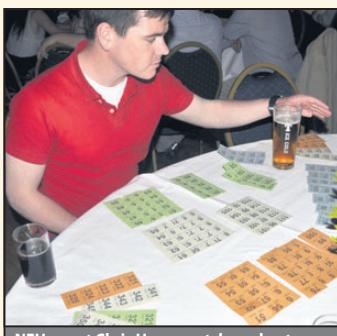
Kirsty Black, Campbeltown, won the raffle's grand prize at the NFU Ceilidh, a rover ticket for two as donated by Caledonian MacBrayne. Kirsty also won a plant, which she said she 'couldn't wait to get home'. 16_t24nfuceilidh3



Paul and Judith Boyd, from Tiree. 16_t24nfuceilidh5



Jacinta Malcolm, left, and Mairi Henderson. 16_t24nfuceilidh4



NFU agent Chris Haran watches a host of raffle tickets during the draw for Mull attendees that had to take the ferry back. Sadly, none of the tickets were winners. 16_t24nfuceilidh2



Dr Sam Harrison helps the Kilchrenan pupils with their film.

School pupils bring history to life on film

EIGHT Lorn primary schools have been out and about in their local areas creating short films, bringing to life the stories and history of the area.

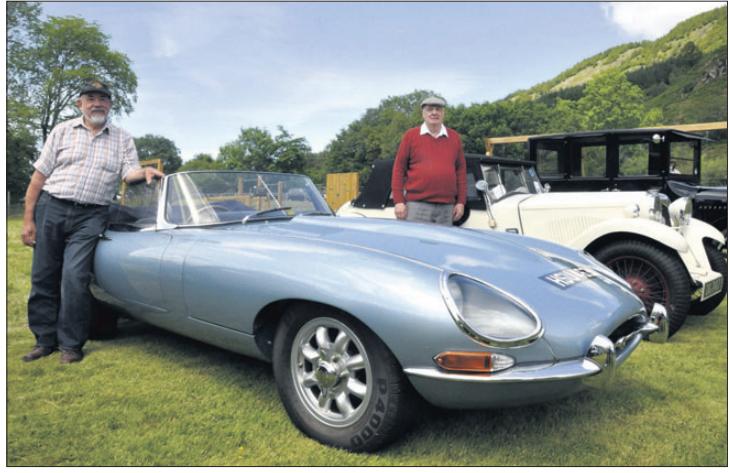
The films have been shown at Oban Phoenix Cinema this week and today (Thursday) will be the final night of shows, before prizes are given out for the best films.

Throughout April and May, Dr Sam Harrison helped pupils from Rockfield, Kilchrenan, Strath of Appin, Dunbeg, Ardchattan, Barcaldine, Lochnall and Park primaries to research, script and film their pieces.

After a day out during April, the children worked hard in class and were out again filming, come rain, shine or, in one case,

hail.

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club host annual show



John Salway with his 1963 3.8i e-type roadster and Iain Campbell with his 1933 Riley 9HP Lynx. 16_125cars01

1951 Riley RMB wins 'most popular entrant' award

THE ANNUAL show for Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club took place at Corachie Clematis on Sunday.

Cars from throughout the years congregated at the garden centre near Taynuilt for the fourth year with activities for children and a barbecue to feed hungry motorists.

Competition

Kevin Devine, club chairman, said: 'We have older and newer cars here - some that will be classics in a few years time.'

'There is a 1924 Model T Ford right up to more modern Ford RS Focus and everything in between.'

'This is just to give the public a chance to see the older cars and we do a collection for a local charity too.'

He added: 'Today is going very well between the weather and the amount of people, we gained two new members today - we're always looking for new members.'

A competition was held for visitors to vote for their favourite car at the show, this was won by Iain Campbell from Taynuilt with his 1951 Riley RMB.

Iain received a prize donated by Franks Autoparts, Oban.

Iain has been a member of the club since it started. He had two vehicles at Sunday's show and said: 'It is good to have an event like this locally so many you have to go so far.'

'It has been my hobby since I was 16 - restoring cars - I have seven cars, some I have had for 40 years.'

Fantasy adventure movie to be filmed in Highlands

Film to be based on 'The Heartstone Odyssey'

OSCAR-WINNING film producer Barrie Osborne has outlined plans for shooting a movie in the Highlands based on a fantasy adventure novel.

The film, based on 'The Heartstone Odyssey', could mean hundreds of jobs and huge tourism spin-offs for the region - if funding can be found.

The novel, written by Avran Kumar, the pen name of Kiltar-ity-based photographer Nick Sidde, tells the story of a precious gemstone entrusted to a counter-culture of mice for safekeeping. The tale spans 250 years and takes place in the Highlands, London and India.

The third film, and finale of the story, would be made in the Highlands and could be released by summer 2017.

Mr Osborne - co-producer of The Lord of the Rings trilogy and executive producer of The Matrix - presented his proposals for his Heartstone film franchise at a recent civic reception in the Inverness Town House, hosted by Highland Council and the Highland Indian Association.

Mr Osborne believes the film could benefit the Highlands much in the same way The Lord of the Rings raised New Zealand's world image.

Highland Council has given Heartstone its full backing, advising on filming locations.



New Zealand artist holds exhibition on Isle of Kerrera

AN EXHIBITION of paintings by New Zealand artist Colin Gibbs went on display at Kerrera Tea Garden last week.

Colin has been the artist-in-residence at the tea garden for the past several weeks while his wife Catherine Lang shared her skills in the kitchen and garden.

Kerrera Tea Garden and Bunkhouse owners, Martin Shields and Aideen Gallagher, organised the opening event which was attended by islanders and mainlanders. Also on display were the island's artefacts from the Hope McDougall Collection.

Colin said the opportunity to paint on Kerrera had presented him with a huge challenge. The landscape and light are so different from those in his New Zealand home - two of the reasons why he wanted to come to the west of Scotland to paint.

He said: 'During the first week or so of being on Kerrera I was absorbed in trying to make sense of the landscape, not just its shapes, forms and colours, but also trying to connect with its spirit.'

'I was quietly surprised at the paintings that emerged. I guess these might be described as impressionistic in nature, which for me was something I hadn't really explored before.'

'I was also surprised that these works unintentionally seemed to have some of the elements that characterise the paintings of the Scottish Colourists and the Glasgow Boys; work I had seen elsewhere in Scotland prior to coming to Kerrera.'

Colin added the hospitality, friendship and fun that he and his wife had experienced on the island would remain in their hearts for ever.



Budapest Cafe Orchestra brought a taste of Europe to Benderloch's Victory Hall.

Budapest Cafe Orchestra entertain at Benderloch

AN AUDIENCE of more than 100 were packed into Benderloch's Victory Hall and treated to a big night with the Budapest Cafe Orchestra.

The return of the popular band brought music lovers from as far away as Ardrishaig. Promoter Arts and Culture to Ardchattan (ACA) was delighted with the turnout and the performance.

The Cafe Orchestra, with their mid-European culture abounding, showed influences from Rachmaninoff to Brahms and from Moscow to the Black Sea.

With superb violin and leader-

ship augmented by the accordion, balalaika and guitar and the big bass keeping the beat, the boys kept up the illusion of genuine cafe quartet.

With comedy turn and stories with each tune they entertained and amazed - but the musical talent abounds and is evident in the superlative playing. Each is a talented professional and a master of his instrument.

The crowd demanded an encore and delightfully - the band obliged.

This Saturday the Victory Hall hosts Australians Munro, O'Callaghan and Titchener who, like the BCO, are mid-tour in Scotland.



An art exhibition celebrating Saint Columba is currently on display in St John's Cathedral in Oban. In the Footsteps of Columba is a travelling exhibition by a group of artists from Argyll. It is in Oban until June 29 before moving to Campbeltown Library then the Three Villages Hall in Arrochar. The exhibition traces St Columba's journey from Ireland to Iona.

16_125columba01

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Lorn Outdoor Learning Thurs 20th, 18:00

Film Festival Thurs 20th, 14:00

Local Hero Sat 22nd, 12:30 3D, 15:00 3D • Sun 23rd, 13:00 3D

After Earth Thurs 20th, 20:00

The Ice Man Fri 21st, 20:30 • Sat 22nd, 20:00

Sun 23rd, 19:00 • Mon 24th, 20:30

Epic 3D Fri 21st, 18:00 • Sat 22nd, 17:30

Sun 23rd, 16:00 • Mon 24th, 18:00

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Tues 25th, 18:00 • Wed 26th, 18:00

Thurs 27th, 18:00

Tues 25th, 20:30 • Wed 26th, 20:30

Thurs 27th, 20:30

by her former college classmate, the free-wheeling John Pressman (Paul Rudd). Pressman has surmised that Jeremiah (Nat Wolff), his gifted yet very unconventional student, might well be the son that Portia secretly gave up for adoption many years ago. Soon, Portia finds herself bending the rules for Jeremiah, putting at risk the life she thought she always wanted - but in the process finding her way to a surprising and exhilarating life and romance she never dreamed of having.

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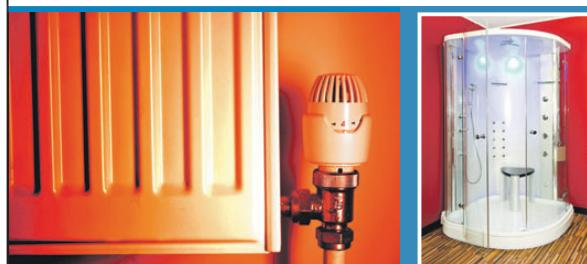
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Summer is a wonderful time for the home owner. The weather and light are conducive to repairs and redecoration, the opportunity is there to extend and improve and, with the past winter in mind, appropriate changes may be made to ensure the next cold snap will pass unnoticed indoors. Mind you, there are problems. You have to do everything properly because that clear summer light shows up every little imperfection, highlights every faded spot and emphasises those murkier areas you hoped no-one would ever notice. Still, your home represents a considerable investment so it pays to keep it in tip-top shape if only to maintain the value of your investment.

Start off with the fabric of the building, is it intact? Could it do with some long over-due repairs? If so, don't delay, either get down to the work yourself or, get in a good local builder to tackle the work.



Survey the outside of the property, look at the roof, the walls, the guttering and down pipes, drains, window and door frames, windows and doors. Survey the fabric inside too. Look at the ceilings, walls, wood-work, is it all in good repair? Look under widows for signs of damp. Look at ceilings upstairs for signs of a leaking roof. Remember where the draughts came from last winter, make a note and plan to have them banished.

Now think about the services of the property. When was the house last re-wired? Are there enough power points and are they in the right places? What about lighting, is there enough? Should you be considering outside security lights, they are cheap enough these days. Was the central heating performing well last winter? If not it may be time to renew the boiler, put in more radiators, change the fuel or the entire system. Have you had the boiler overhauled yet, it should be done every year?

Perhaps there are more radical changes you could do with. If you need more space, perhaps an extension would be an idea. Have you a loft that could be converted, a garage you could build over, or space in the garden? Think of what you could do with that extra accommodation. On the other hand, a conservatory might be a better idea. Again it could open up all sorts of possibilities as well as bringing your home and garden into much closer proximity. If an extension is on the cards, have a word with your local planning department, they'll put you on the right road to organizing it. They may even be able to give you a list of approved architects, surveyors and builders.

Less expensive but almost as useful might be an extra bathroom, shower room or cloakroom. They are all amenities that will add to the value of your home as will double glazing, cavity wall insulation, specially insulated exterior doors or a burglar alarm.

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Of course your home may not be able to provide the space for such radical innovations, so you could just concentrate on your bathroom. With a brand new suite, separate shower cubicle, bidet and vanity unit your comfortable bathroom could become a luxury one and thus one of the supreme pleasures in your life.

When all or any of that is in hand you'll need to give some thought to decor. There's nothing like bright sunshine to show up the flaws in that wallpaper, those chips in the paint. There never has been a better selection of decorating materials in the shops, and it's at prices most can afford. Hire shops will provide the tools and equipment and you can supply the energy. It really takes comparatively little time to give your home a completely different look and with modern materials, most of the difficulties have been ironed out so you don't need the greatest of skills.



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When all that has been attended to, give a thought to your kitchen. Is it fit for the second decade of the 21st century? Does it have all that is necessary to make your life easy? Does it accommodate all the family's requirements? Are you proud to show it off to your friends and family? Take a tour around the big DIY stores or the specialist kitchen suppliers. If you don't see the kitchen you could kill for, it would be most surprising. The latest kitchens are breathtakingly beautiful,



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BUNESSAN SHOW, Friday, August 2 2013
KINTYRE SHOW, Friday, August 2 2013
LORN SHOW, Saturday, August 3 2013
ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY SHOW,
Thursday, August 8 2013

SALEN SHOW, Thursday, August 8 2013
MID ARGYLL SHOW, Saturday, August 10 2013
SUNART SHOW, Saturday, August 10 2013
APPIN SHOW, Saturday, August 17 2013
LOCHABER SHOW, Saturday, August 24 2013
DALMALLY SHOW, Saturday, September 7 2013

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.

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 19 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 Riders of the Storm 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 2. 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.

On the same day is the Kintyre Agricultural Show, which features a fine field of livestock as well as Clydesdale horses and ponies, old tractors and dogs. Those who head to Kintyre show, held in Anderston Park in Campbeltown, are the earliest risers on the circuit - gates open at just 8am.

The following day, Saturday, August 3, one of the bigger shows on the circuit, Lorn Show, will be held in a beautiful 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 8 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.

On Friday, August 9, the show circuit moves inland to the town of Fort William for the Lochaber Show. Held on the outskirts of Fort William, this show 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 marques to be browsed at leisure.

Sunart and District Show, also held on August 10, promises a fun day out for all the family with a Highland dancing, vintage engines and a pipe band sharing the field with a fine livestock competition and variety of local crafts. The showfield opens at 9.30am.

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 17 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 handicrafts, a day at Appin could be just the ticket.

Slightly further north, Lochaber Show, held on the outskirts of Fort William on Saturday, August 24, 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 1,500 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 7 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.

Another of the island shows is also held on August 8 as the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show opens its gates at Brigend, Islay with judging starting at a very civilised 11am. This show also plays host to a Clan Shows bike display, wood carver and caricature artist alongside more traditional activities.

Mid Argyll Show, on Saturday, August 10 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 marques to be browsed at leisure.

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Fuel consumption for the Honda car range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 - 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 - 3.3), Combined 32.5 - 78.5 (8.7 - 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Terms and Conditions: New retail Honda cars ordered and registered from 1 June to 30 June 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Servicing: Four years' complimentary servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of four services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. Roadside Assistance: Covers the vehicle and authorised drivers for four years emergency breakdown, subject to the vehicle being maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. Deposit Contribution: Covers the vehicle and authorised drivers for four years emergency breakdown, subject to the vehicle being maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. Deposit Contribution: £500 Honda deposit contribution on Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC models; £800 Honda deposit contribution on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC models; £1,500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic 1.8 i-VTEC and 2.2 i-DTEC models (excluding 1.8 i-VTEC Ti models and all Civic models purchased with 0% HP finance).

Business

Tiree shop on market

A TIREE shop may close if a new buyer can't be found in the coming months.

Ian and Fiona MacLeod have been in their current premises in Crossapol since 1975, when the couple moved back to the island after getting married. Originally managing the shop for Archibald Brown, the couple finally bought the shop in 1992 and have enjoyed running it every day since.

However, with Ian turning 65 in November and Fiona turning 60 next year, the couple have decided to call it a day on October 24 regardless of whether they find a buyer on time. They hope though that one will be found to ensure the shop - which has always remained profitable - remains open.

Ian is hoping someone will find the business on one of Scotland's most attractive islands an appealing prospect. He said: 'We said two years ago that we were going to retire. If we don't do that before we know it we'll be 70 and still running the shop. The change to the winter ferry timetable seemed like a natural cut off point.'

'There's been plenty of interest but actually getting an offer has proved difficult.'

'It's going to be hard for us to leave. People have been so supportive.'

'Someone local to take over would be ideal because they'd know the people and what they need in stock at any given time. It'd be a great business for anyone though.'

While there is no home on sale with the business, it does come with an adjacent building plot.

Home-made treats prove winner for garden centre

'We want every cake to be award winning and we will always work hard to achieve that.'

Poppies Garden Centre owner Marion McPherson

HUNGRY customers have been flocking to an Oban area garden centre after its meringues were declared the best in Scotland.

Sweet-toothed visitors have been munching their way through the home-made treats at Poppies Garden Centre's cafe, near Dunbeg, since they were awarded a bronze certificate in the Scottish Baker of the Year Awards.

Owners Marion and Gary McPherson, who have had to bake more each day to keep up with demand, say they are particularly proud of the award as they are the only winners in the awards who aren't bakers.

It's been a good year so far for Poppies, which has recently been included in the Good Food Guide and received a five-star excellence award from TripAdvisor.

North students celebrate administration course success

National Certificate Administration students from full time courses in Portree and Auchtury gathered recently to receive congratulations and certificates from their course tutors. One student has already gained a job as a result of the qualification while several are going to study HNCs at colleges within UHI.



Marion MacPherson gets ready to tuck into one of Poppies' award winning meringues with staff Joyce MacFarlane, left, and Cara Johnstone, right. [t25poppies1](#)

RECRUITMENT

Maintenance Manager (Electrical Bias)

Salary: £27,904 - £29,465 per annum

As Maintenance Manager, you will have primary responsibility for ensuring that all planned and unforeseen breakdown maintenance on site is completed to programme and recorded. You will lead a pool of technical staff and ensure that all works carried out are to the required standards, policies and procedures and expectations. In addition, you will serve as electrical safety advisor. This will be a hands-on role and you will be expected to complete some electrical planned preventative maintenance and breakdown works.

The successful applicant will be a JIB approved Electrician with City and Guilds 2382 and 2391, Level 3 and will have experience of working in a multi-traded environment.

We are looking for someone who can provide quality service, with a 'can do' attitude who is able to develop and promote positive working relationships as well as maintain safe working practices.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Maintenance Electrician Manager, (Job Ref. D09/13.DM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Monday 24th June 2013

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



Administration Assistant

Lochgilphead 35 hours per week

Salary £16,459 - £18,216

Fixed term to 31st March 2015

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 5th July 2013

Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead.



FULL TIME PLANT AND MACHINERY MECHANIC REQUIRED FOR BUSY EXPANDING COMPANY, BASED OBAN.

DRIVING LICENCE ESSENTIAL.

Apply in writing Mellex Group Ltd.

Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6XX

email: darran@westcoastplanthire.co.uk



Our workshop in Fort William has an urgent requirement for an additional time served mechanic / technician. Franchise experience would be an advantage but is not essential. If you are committed to delivering the highest levels of customer service we would like to hear from you. Competitive rates with bonus available. Full and ongoing training for the Volkswagen brand will be provided.

If you would like to join our team and share in the success of Europe's leading vehicle manufacturer then send or email your CV to:

Joe Farrell, Volkswagen Operations Director

Hawco Group, 48 Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UF

joe.farrell@hawcogroup.co.uk

Pre-school Nursery Practitioners

An exciting opportunity for qualified nursery practitioners to join the award winning Stramash team, based at the Stramash Outdoor Nursery in Oban, working outside with 3 to 5 year olds. Be part of a growing and developing community social enterprise that uses the outdoors to make a real difference in people's lives. Applicants must have a minimum of SVQ Level 3 Child Care or a teaching qualification.

For an application pack, email recruitment@stramash.org.uk.

For more information about Stramash visit www.stramash.org.uk or call 01631 566080.

Stramash is a registered Scottish Charity SC040538



Fork Lift Operator / Workshop Assistant

Barcaldine, Argyll

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

In order to be able to deliver a more efficient support service to our farms, we are looking to recruit a highly motivated fork lift operator/workshop assistant to join our Engineering team. Candidates must be highly motivated and able to work in an organised and methodical manner. A valid qualification to operate all terrain telescopic and mast fork trucks is essential.

Salary and conditions will be attractive, reflecting the skill and experience of the successful applicant. To obtain an application pack, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com.

Closing date: Friday 5th July 2013.



BUTCHER - FULL TIME

A salaried full-time (permanent) position for a 'Time served' butcher with skills and experience required to operate within a busy butchery facility.

BUTCHER ASSISTANT - SEASONAL

A seasonal position working in a busy butchery facility.

Both applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:- Keenness to learn, Quality conscious, Presentable, Hardworking and work as part of a team, Reliable, Numerate, Customer aware, Catering/Food experience preferred. Current Basic Health & Hygiene Certificate preferred.

-Immediate Start Available-

For further details and an application form please contact

Willie Reid - Butcher Manager on 01631 569100
Forteith Foodservice, Glengallain Road, Oban,
Argyll. PA34 4HG. email: enquiry@forteith.co.uk
www.forteith.co.uk



01631 566 122
bellingram.co.uk

Unique opportunity for a dynamic couple to help family manage an Argyll Coastal Estate with successful holiday cottage business and well known gardens open to the public.

Key skills to include all aspects of buildings and estate infrastructure maintenance, machinery, boats and gardening. Strong communication and teamwork abilities are essential.

Housekeeping and cooking opportunities also available. Residential role. Remuneration package to reflect high standards required.

Application forms available from
Caroline Isaac on 01631 567795 or
caroline.isaac@bellingram.co.uk

July Edition
coming soon

Available throughout
the west Highlands or online at
www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk



Farm Technician

Ardnish

Salary £16,946 - £21,499 plus overtime

An interesting and varied role exists for a Farm Technician within the Environment & Technical Services Department working at our Lochalair Trials Unit at Ardnish. Duties will include undertaking internal and commercial feeding trials, fish husbandry and site maintenance and the successful applicant will be expected to work flexibly across the Unit's remit.

The post is permanent and will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days. Applications are invited from individuals with excellent organisational and numerical skills and who have the ability to work on their own initiative. In addition candidates must possess excellent computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided.

A driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please put your application in writing to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resources Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Closing date for applications is Friday 5th July 2013.

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021



Bank backs major Bridge of Orchy hotel development

Popular hotel on West Highland Way triples in size without losing character

AN ARGYLL hotel has tripled in size following the completion of a redevelopment backed by Bank of Scotland.

Bridge of Orchy Hotel received a £1 million funding support package from the bank to help add 23 bedrooms to meet visitor demand at its location on the West Highland Way.

The four-star hotel previously offered 10 bedrooms and an adjacent bunkhouse, which provided additional budget accommodation.

The Bank of Scotland provided £1 million in term loan and overdraft facilities to help fund the project, which totalled £1.5 million.

Andrew McKnight, the hotel's managing director, said: 'As a company we have always had a soft spot for the Bridge of Orchy Hotel. It's a very relaxed hotel, offering really good food and friendly service.'

'We wanted to make sure the hotel not only maintained its standard of accommodation but actually brought facilities up a notch without changing the feel.'

'It has been a substantial investment and a big job, but we're really pleased with the finished result.'

'The additional rooms mean we're now able to welcome and accommodate discerning international travellers, which will make a substantial difference to the business.'

Of the new bedrooms, 21 have been built in a courtyard extension to high-



Andrew McKnight, left, and Nadia Reis of Bridge of Orchy Hotel, with Ian Craig, Bank of Scotland relationship manager.

spec in the form of highly engineered units clad in Scottish larch and steel.

These units occupy the space of the former old bunkhouse. In addition, two large suites have been created through the conversion of an adjacent building.

The Bridge of Orchy Hotel has

been owned by Donald MacDonald and Sandy Orr since around 1990.

The hotel employs 12 permanent members of staff, with seasonal cover as required in the summer.

Ian Craig, relationship manager at the Bank of Scotland, said: 'The

reputation with strong customer advocacy demonstrated through great Tripadvisor reviews and by frequent return visits.

'With a greater capacity of high standard accommodation, we're sure this much-loved hotel will continue to thrive.'

Isle of Barra community shop gathers pace

BUTH Bharraigh, Barra's new community venture, is gathering a good head of steam as visitors and residents come through the doors of this new social enterprise.

Buth Bharraigh, Castlebay, is a sales point for local producers providing customers easy access to high quality local produce including food, crafts and photography. The community shop also sells produce from nearby that is not produced on Barra, for example Hebridean Sea Salt, Isle of Mull Cheese and Skye Chocolate. Products requested by residents that are not sold in any other outlets in Barra are also stocked in the shop.

'From very small beginnings last year we have developed into a vibrant community shop stocked by over 50 local producers,' said Sarah MacLean, project manager for Buth Bharraigh. 'We are extremely pleased with what we have been able to achieve in a short space of time and we are very grateful for all the support we have received from all over the world.'

'However, this is just the beginning and we have a long way to go to reach our full potential.'

In the last six weeks the fledgling venture has brought in more than £6,000. Every £1 brought into the shop equates to £2.59 to the local economy so a shop like this is extremely important to the islands of Barra and Vatersay.

It provides local producers an outlet and opportunities to develop their crofts or hobbies. Eighty per cent of the sales price of the locally produced items goes back to the producers.

To keep the overheads down, the shop is completely staffed by volunteers and there are other volunteering opportunities including communications, finance and maintenance. Sarah added: 'As Buth Bharraigh progresses many people have been following the journey on our Facebook page. This has even brought in sales from as far away as Australia. Our next aim is to be granted a long-term lease on a building from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. This will allow us to continue trading and develop the business to continue to provide an excellent service for local producers and customers.'

Such is the success of the business, from this week it is open seven days a week instead of four.

Opportunity on exceptional Lochaber coastal estate

Mixed Highland Estate seeks couple to undertake housekeeping, gardening, running holiday cottages and other estate work in an area of exceptional beauty. Experience and qualifications in areas such as administration, IT, building and machinery maintenance, chainsaw use, spraying and shooting/fishing an advantage. Hours flexible depending on skills and preferences – around 1½ full-time-equivalent jobs.

Secluded modern three-bedroom house with sea views.

Email housekeeper.advert@gmail.com with CV and contact number

LEITHS

Due to continued expansion Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position at Highland Lime, Fort William:

HGV DRIVER

For further information and to download an application form please visit www.leiths-group.co.uk

To apply, please forward your application form to Nichola Greig, HR Department, Leiths (Scotland) Ltd, Riggfa, Cove, Aberdeen, AB12 3LR or by email to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk or alternatively you can contact (01224) 293210

The closing date for all applications is Friday 28 June 2013

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are an Equal Opportunities Employer

Camaghael Health Centre, Fort William or Mallaig Health Centre

NHS
Highland

South & MID Highland (Inner Moray Firth) Operating Unit

Qualified Dental Nurse - Band 4

£18,652 - £21,798, pro rata Ref: ES4/13/16a

Part Time, 15-19 Hours per week (to be confirmed at Interview)

Fixed term until October 2014, Secondment Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our team in Lochaber.

You will have relevant clinical experience as a Dental Nurse with NEBDN qualification or SVO Level 3 in Dental Nursing along with full registration with the GDC. Excellent communication, organisational and IT skills are essential. Full, current driving licence and use of car for work purposes is desirable. Informal enquiries to Jodi Ferguson, Clinic Head Dental Nurse, Tel: 01397 709865.

Application forms available from Recruitment and Employment Services Section, Human Resource Services, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, IV2 3UJ, Telephone: 01463 705159 or Email: nhshighland.recruitment@nhs.net

Please quote reference: ES4/13/16a

Closing date for receipt of completed application: 12 noon on 5 July 2013.

www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

The Iona Shop
Seasonal Staff Vacancies
Due to an extremely busy season we have 2 seasonal staff full time vacancies. Ideally suited for individuals at College or University, you would be available as close to the end of September. In the first instance, please forward all relevant details to Alan Cathro at job@iona.co.uk, or drop details off at the address below.
2 Queens Park Place, OBAN, Argyll, PA34 5RS
Tel. 01631 562071 ~ Email: job@iona.co.uk

The Iona Shop
Magento Web Developer
We are having a sophisticated website being developed with a Magento backend onto a dedicated Linux Server. We require an individual with some experience in Magento to help set up and liaise with the developers. Although initially a short 1 Month contract, more work may follow. In the first instance, please forward all relevant details to Alan Cathro at magento@iona.co.uk. More details available at www.iona.co.uk/magento.htm
2 Queens Park Place, OBAN, Argyll, PA34 5RS
Tel. 01631 562071 ~ Email: magento@iona.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL PAPER
51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

BCA insulation

Due to the expansion of our operations across Argyll and Bute, BCA Insulation require:

JOINERS ROUGHCASTERS ELECTRICIANS GDA'S/SURVEYORS

Candidates should preferably be able to drive and be willing to work away from home if required.

Good customer care skills are essential and additional constructional skills an advantage.

Applicants should send their CV to John Haugh at j.haugh@bcagroup.org or call 0800 169 6785.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT



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go to www.obantimes.co.uk/digital and download a digital edition of your newspaper now

Business

New access road allows timber harvesting on Skye

HARVESTING operations are resuming in the community-owned Tormore Forest in Sleat this week following the completion of a 750-metre access road.

The new track will allow heavy plant to extract the timber but will also widen recreational use of the 1,000-acre woodland south of Ardvasar.

Sleat Community Trust general manager Angus Robertson told *The Oban Times*: 'We have quite a bit of windblow in there which we can use for wood fuel because it is a lot drier.'

'We are also building a new storage shed at the moment and hope to have it up for the start of the winter season so we can supply more logs, split logs and chips as wood fuel for domestic use.'

'We are working under tarpaulin just now, which is not ideal, but the weather has been kind to us.'

Mr Robertson added: 'The new road will give access for many years to come for people who want to walk their dogs or go biking.'

Enterprise award for Barra community school

BARRA'S Castlebay Community School has won the enterprise and employability across learning (secondary) award at the Scottish Education Awards.

The school won the awards thanks to the pre-nursing scholarship it offers.

The scholarship, part of the Comhairle's Vocational Education Strategy, is a unique, multi-partner education initiative which provides students with an interest in nursing the opportunity to gain skills required for the profession.

The scholarship not only supports the career aspirations of individual young people in the area, but also addresses the shortage of healthcare workers in remote and rural areas, creating a future generation of nurses in the Western Isles.

Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Angus Campbell said: 'It is excellent to see that Castlebay School has won a major national educational award for its work on nursing scholarships.'

'Everyone involved is due congratulations and Barra can take real pride in the achievement.'



Sean and Karen O'Byrne who won an impressive awards treble with their guest house, Ardtorna, in the past three weeks. 16_124ardtorna

Treble marks most successful year yet for guest house

A BARCALDINE guest house has claimed what is thought to be an unprecedented awards treble over six weeks in its most successful year yet. Since opening the doors at Ardtorna three years ago, Karen and Sean O'Byrne have enjoyed remarkable success, winning several awards for its green credentials and luxury accommodation.

However, neither of them dreamed they would claim the series of awards Scotland's only five-star gold guest house racked up this year, having clinched three major awards in six weeks - AA's Guest Accommodation

for the year for 2013-14, the Scottish Hotel Awards' Guest House of the Year award for Scotland and the VisitScotland Thistle Award for best guest house/bed and breakfast for the central south west region.

Karen and Sean also claimed the AA Breakfast Award and the Scottish Hotel Awards innovation and eco awards - and they could yet be named Scotland's finest guest house in the Thistle Awards when VisitScotland holds its national finals in November.

The husband and wife team described the awards as a 'pleasant surprise'.

Karen said: 'We are delighted and very proud to be chosen for all three awards. It is really nice to be recognised for all our hard work.'

'We feel very lucky to do a job we both love and to be rewarded this way.'

A major part in the guest house's success, said Sean, was its location above Loch Creran and the high standard of guest houses in the wider area.

'As soon as guests check in they are struck by the modern design of the building and the stunning views,' said Sean.

Karen added that the general standard of accommodation and attractions in the area contributed.

'It's fabulous that Oban and the surrounding area has an abundance of high quality accommodation and restaurants.'

Presenting their latest award last week, VisitScotland's judges described Ardtorna as a 'truly exciting business'.

They added: 'The depth of product offered is quite astonishing and surpasses visitor expectations. It is a good example of a business that has set itself apart from the crowd.'

MARINE Harvest (Scotland) came out on top at this year's Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards, winning three accolades - including best aquaculture company.

The west coast fish farming company, which has sites across Argyll and the Western Isles, also scooped the community initiative award for its contribution to developing broadband for communities including the Knoydart peninsula and the small isles and the business development award for its expansion into the Chinese market.

'This is proving to be a terrific year for the whole team at Marine Harvest Scotland,' said managing director Alan Sutherland.

'Last week we welcomed the first minister to open our new smolt hatchery at Lochalairt - a facility described as the most advanced in the world. This week we are celebrating winning not just one, but a trio of prizes in these prestigious awards. It doesn't get any better than this.'

Meanwhile Alastair Barge collected the award for aquaculture seafood product of the year, while the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC)'s Alasdair MacDonald was named farm manager of the year.

Alasdair, 35, lives in Loch Carron and has worked for 11 years in the company's freshwater department.

The award recognises Alasdair's work at the company's Russel Burn and Tulloch hatcheries in Wester Ross.

Alasdair looks after more than 50 per cent of the company's in house smolt production equating to 3.2million smolt per production cycle. Last year, the hatcheries experienced the most severe drought since 1989 and yet Alasdair's sites reported exceptional fish health.

SSC chief executive Stewart McLellan said: 'I am delighted Alasdair's achievements have been recognised with this award. He has been key in maintaining consistent production and quality smolt and is well respected by all his colleagues.'

'Our teams across our farming and production sites are the core of our business and integral to our success and I am pleased the industry has recognised our skills in such a way.'

PUBLIC NOTICES



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at www.aryll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

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.aryll-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.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00911/PP	Erection of conservatory	Tomlee Kilchenan, Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/01050/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Land East Of Tigh Na, Ghlinne Kliniver, Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/01121/PP	Formation of level plateau	Land South Of Kileskiperl, Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/01123/PP	Increase in size of boilerhouse and woodstore and minor repositioning of boiler house and woodstore - amendment to planning permission 12/02702/PP (Erection of 20 bed bunkhouse and associated works)	Land North West Of Craignure Inn Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/01157/PP	Erection of single storey extension.	Dunbeg House Cooils, Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TS	Tiree Area Office
13/01233/PP	Erection of 2 storage sheds (repositioning of building 1 of planning permission 12/01411/PP - retrospective)	Yard 6D Quarry Road, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4DP	Oban Area Office
13/01254/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 10/00620/PPP - Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Killean Achnacroish Isle Of Lismore Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.aryll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01120/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary building	Land West Of Bunn-Na-Schairbh Bunnahabhain, Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Askaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01165/PP	Removal of condition no. 3 - (style and type of window) relative to 10/00637/PP (Erection of rear extension and single garage)	122 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute PA42 7BQ	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through the Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

www.hightland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.hightland.gov.uk>.

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/01926/FUL	Mountain Way 13A Carnoch, Glencoe Ballachulish	Alterations and extension to existing dwelling to include new sun room
13/01930/FUL	Shengan Cottage Banavie, Fort William	Garage extension to side of cottage and shower room at rear
13/01999/FUL	95 High Street Fort William	Insert window to lochside elevation and identify open air customer seating area in High Street
13/02064/FUL	Dubh Lige Hydro Glenfinnan	Installation of hydro-electric scheme
13/02073/PIP	North of Doirlinn House Kilchoan, Acharcle	Erection of house
13/02092/PIP	Land 207m West of Autmore, Banavie Fort William	Erection of house
13/02125/FUL	Lochaber Forest District Office, Forestry Commission Scotland Torlundy, Fort William	Extension of existing Forestry Commission Office to accommodate Scottish Natural Heritage
13/02167/FUL	Telephone Exchange 60m North of Burial Ground, Spean Bridge	Additional 8m section to be added to existing BT mast
13/02204/PIP	Grounds of Caman View West Tirnirish Spean Bridge	Formation of house site (renewal of 10/01508/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days.

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

Outfall Construction:

Crossapol Point, Isle of Tiree

Notice is hereby given that Kelpie (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of an outfall pipe at:

Cost	£2,500
Location	Latitude Co-ordinates
Crossapol Point, Isle of Tiree	56° 28.8558'N 06° 52.9169'W
	56° 28.8205'N 06° 52.8538'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at [insert address of the building where the plans are deposited].

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

FKB/C1656
Kelpie (Scotland) Ltd

Plans showing the position of the works may be

inspected at Oban library, 77 Albany Street, Oban.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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BIRTHS

KUNZ - Rowen Annemarie Kunz was born to Henry and Christine on June 15, 2013. All well.

ENGAGEMENTS

HANNAH - **STUART-MACLEAN** - Julia and George Hannah of Isle of Seil are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest son Neil to Carolyn daughter of Geoff and Monica Stuart-MacLean of Queensland.

MACDONALD - MACCOLL - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Malcolm, youngest son of Archie and Janet MacDonald, CnocasGillim, Tobermory, and Leanne, daughter of Angus and Pamela MacColl, Sealladna Mara, Glengorm, on Leanne's birthday, June 11, 2013.

MARRIAGES

FERGUSON - GRAY - On June 1, 2013 at St. Conan's Kirk by Rev. Liz Gibson, Lorne MacLeod, youngest son of Ann and the late Donnie Ferguson, Kilmore to Jennifer Anne, younger daughter of John and Linda Gray, Lanark.

DEATHS

LOPEZ - Peacefully at his home, after a long battle against illness, on June 12, 2013, in his 73rd year, Elio (snr), a much loved dad, grandad, brother, uncle and friend.

MCALLISTER - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on Thursday, 13 June, 2013 Isabel (née Carmichael), beloved wife of the late Neil McAllister, dear sister to May and late Donald, much loved Mum to Jane, Carina and Moira and proud grandma of Bonnie, Kieron, Callum and Ewan. Interred at Kilnaughton Cemetery on Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACKINNON - The family of Henrietta MacKinnon, 7 Appin Road, Kinlochleven, wish to express sincere thanks for the care and friendship shown to our mother. Special thanks to all medical staff in the village. Thank you to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £240 collected will be donated to Macmillan Nurses, Belford Hospital.

TOAL - Susan passed away peacefully at Belford Hospital on June 12, 2013, a much loved sister, sister-in-law, auntie, great-aunt and friend to many. Kathleen, Michael and all the families would like to express their gratitude to all relatives and friends for their kindness, mass and sympathy cards, phone calls and floral tributes. Special thanks to Belford Hospital staff and the attentive care and support from family throughout Susan's time in hospital. Also the frequent visits from Msgr MacKinnon, Msgr Wynne and Deacon Stan. Grateful appreciation to Bishop Joe and the local clergy for a very moving Requiem Mass. Thanks to those who travelled from Arisaig and Ireland, it was much appreciated. Thanks to Ewen MacLennan funeral director, Stronrossit Hotel for their catering and to Sean for piping. R.I.P.

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.

CAMPBELL - Cherished memories of our dear mother, nana, and mother-in-law Marion L. Campbell who passed away June 19, 2007.

Memories hold you close to us despite the passing year.

- From all the family in Bunessan, Oban and away.

CHISHOLM - In loving 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.

- Dad.

JACKSON - Morag, 1923-1973.

Stolen from us. Never forgotten.

Ever loved xx.

MACGREGOR - Treasured memories of our dear mother and grandmother Jean, who passed away June 23, 2001. Also remembering our dear father and grandfather Alastair, who passed away April 13, 1994.

We hold you close within our hearts.

And there you shall remain.

To walk with us throughout our lives.

Until we meet again.

Loved and sadly missed always.

- Inserted by all the family.

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Alexander, died June 14, 1998.

Sadly missed by all the family.

- Mum, Gordon, Michael, Lynda, Louis and Mhairi. R.I.P.

MACLEAN - In fond and loving memory of my special mum, who passed away on June 24, 1994.

Deep in my heart your memory is kept.

To love and to cherish and never forget.

- Chrissie x

MACPHEE - In loving memory of my dear mother, Marion Lawrie, who died June 21, 1992.

This day is remembered and quietly kept.

No words are needed. We shall never forget.

- Dugald, Janis and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Sue, died June 24, 2003.

Remembered every day.

- Sadly missed by brother Alastair.

ROBERTSON - Treasured memories of Mary, much loved wife, mother and granny, taken from us on June 18, 2010.

Remembered every day with love.

- Billy, Scott, Lorne and families.

ROBERTSON - Special memories of Mary, a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie who left us 3 years ago and is sorely missed.

- Janet, Johnny and family.

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 - Everlasting memories of Ray, a dear husband, father and grandfather, who died June 19, 1998.

There is a book of photographs

It's pages filled with joy Showing a family together You, me, our girls and boy To me you left those memories

To have and to hold To help me bear the hard times

In the days as I grow old You left them to be treasured Safe in my heart to stay You knew it was the one thing No one could steal away.

- Sheena.

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Holy Eucharist11.00

St Columba, Grulinie, Mull

Holy Communion.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona

Holy Eucharist08.00

Evensong20.15

Holy EucharistWed 26 June 14.30

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GRADUATIONS

YVONNE YOUNG

Graduated from the Open University with a Diploma in Mental Health Nursing.

Yvonne is the daughter of Margaret and the late Norman Young of Lochgilphead and granddaughter of Donald and the late Eva McMillan, Inveraray and the late Jake and Dolly Fletcher, Lochgilphead.

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Lisa Bain, James Fraser, Emma Martin, Chris Gage, Heidi Holland, Kayleigh Cummings, Aleks Sobieraj and Andrew Dickson cleaned up Oban's shores. 16 t25ingeus01

Staff clear beaches

STAFF from Ingeus Employment in Oban cleared 19 bags of rubbish off the town's beaches last Friday starting from Oban Bay all the way to Ganavan.

Andrew Dickson, manager, said: 'Ingeus gives

employees three days a year as community giving days and we thought we could tidy up the beach a bit for all the tourists.'

Equipment used by the eight members of staff came from the Grab Trust.

Appin Parish Church Guild celebrates 85th anniversary



Cutting the cake marking Appin Guild's 85th year, from left: Chrissie MacNeill, the oldest member, president Margaret Ross and Jessie Mackenzie, the longest serving member. 15 t25appin01

A CHURCH guild that began 85 years ago when members borrowed £5 from the kirk session has marked its anniversary with a party.

Appin Parish Church Guild met in Port Appin Village Hall last Friday for a meal and concert.

An 85th birthday cake, made by Ellen MacCorquodale and decorated by Alison MacCorquodale, was cut by president Margaret Ross and Chrissie MacNeill and Jessie Mackenzie, the oldest and longest serving members respectively.

Ms Ross said: 'The founding members, Mrs Ronnie MacColl, Mrs Lorn Cameron and Miss Sarah Black, borrowed £5 from the kirk session to set up the guild and met in the vestry of the church.'

'They used to boil a kettle on an open fire to make their tea and worked hard so that we could reap the benefits.'

Entertainment at the party was provided by members of Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society and singers Janet Ferguson, Amelia Mactaggart and Molly Gregory Beard.

The Appin Parish Church Guild has a rising membership number - currently standing at 24 - and as well as hosting a number of speakers throughout the year, organises a Christmas party for young mothers in the village.



First Holy Communion for Arisaig youngsters

Matthew MacKay, Erin Gillies, Christopher Lee and Andrew Barker made their first Holy Communion at St Mary's RC Church, Arisaig, recently. The children are pictured with Father Andrew Barrett and servers.

HIGH above Loch Creran on the north side lies an ancient burial ground.

For centuries, the people of Glen Creran and Appin have borne their dead up the coffin road to this sacred place which is said to have been first hallowed by a visiting Celtic missionary, Curralan or Cyril. The crosses and grave stones face steadfastly east to the sunrise and to

Commonwealth celebrations come to the Secondary School Games in Oban



There was some tough tackling in the boys' rugby matches.

'You have seen our best sportsmen and women on the television, but today you are the athletes, the champions. This is your day.'

COMMONWEALTH celebrations came to Argyll and Bute a year early when more than 600 secondary pupils descended on Oban to compete for their school.

The Argyll and Bute Secondary Games were declared open at a ceremony at Mossfield Stadium last Thursday, where all 10 schools held up the national flags of countries allocated to them, from Scotland to South Africa.

From there, the pupils were bussed to various locations around Oban, including Atlantis Leisure, Glencruitten Golf Club, Park Primary School and Oban High School.

Oban High School led the way with five wins, one ahead of Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh.

Lochgilphead High School won the boys' football and girls' athletics, while Tarbert won the softball event, Campbeltown Grammar won the girls' swim-

ming and Dunoon Grammar won the boys' equivalent.

Tiree-based professional triathlete Will Wright declared the games open, encouraging all the participants to give their best. Speaking at the opening ceremony, he said: 'In the UK, sport has never been so good, thanks to the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Sir Chris Hoy, Sir Bradley Wiggins and Jessica Ennis.'

Your day

'You have seen our best sportsmen and women on the television, but today you are the athletes, the champions. This is your day.'

'Your job today is to give your best, work with your team and be encouraging and friendly to other teams.'

'If you do that, you'll all go away today as champions.'

Councillor Fred Hall, a former county swimming champion at youth level in Cumbria, repre-

SCHOOL GAMES

sented Argyll and Bute Council at the opening ceremony.

He said: 'Sport is great for building friendships and promoting health and it is inspirational to see the enthusiasm in all of these children.'

Event winners: Girls' football

- Oban High School; Boys' football - Lochgilphead High School; Hockey - Hermitage Academy; Softball - Tarbert Academy; Basketball - Hermitage Academy; Girls' rugby - Hermitage Academy; Boys' rugby - Oban High School; Dance - Hermitage Academy; Golf - Oban High School; Girls' athletics - Lochgilphead High School; Boys' athletics - Oban High School; Boys' shinty - Oban High School; Girls' swimming - Campbeltown Grammar School; Boys' swimming - Dunoon Grammar School; Badminton - Campbeltown Grammar.



Oban High School, as Scotland, was the most successful on the day, winning five events. A good omen for next year's Commonwealth Games?



Hermitage Academy won four events. t25sports01



Zumba instructor Larni Wright, Oban, leads the pupils in a warm up after the opening ceremony. t25sports03



Triathlete Will Wright, who is based on Tiree, gave a motivational speech at the opening ceremony. t25sports05



Action from the boys' football.

Trophy winners show off their silverware



Christine Kane and Bill Clarke won the D Mathieson Shield at the Railway Bowling Club's nominated pairs competition in Inverlochy. Gogs Hamilton and Liz Kennedy were runners up in the round robin event. f25bowls1no



West Coast Massive, winners of the Atlantis Leisure Over-35s League Cup. A hat-trick from Robert Carson, middle row back, saw the Massive defeat The Trialists 3-2.



Oban High School rugby player Heather Fothergill.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL COMPETITION

WIN £550

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

EASY TO ENTER

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavallin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

COMPETITION RULES

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition if that person:

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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Irish youngsters visit Sleat Primary School



P6/7g from Bun-sgoil Shleite and P7 from Gaelscoil Neachtain ready for their shinty/hurling match.



A primary school shinty competition in Portree recently saw youngsters from across the island take part. To make the competition a little different, the teams from the six schools were mixed up, with coaches helping out. After a tough competition, 'Blue Skye' defeated 'Green Skye' in a play-off to lift the Bank of Scotland trophy.

Success for Oban bowlers in Mid Argyll

THE LADIES West Argyll Finals were held on Ardrishaig Green on Saturday when Oban Bowling Club won three of the four prizes on offer.

Involved

The tournament, which involved teams from Oban, Ardrishaig, Tarbert and Lochgilphead, saw Oban's Helen MacLean win the singles tournament.

The pairs were won by Oban team Lyn

Laverty and Maureen Goldie and the triples were won by the Oban's Donna Forbes, Margaret MacAlpine and Anne MacDougall.

Narrowly lost

Another Oban team, the senior fours of Janice Fraser, Margaret MacLean, Sandra Grievs and Anne Stewart, narrowly lost out in the final to Ardrishaig, who are the current Scottish Senior Fours Champions.

All winners now go through to the Argyll

and Bute Finals, which are being held in Rothesay next month.

On Sunday, five triples from the Oban club travelled to Lochgilphead to play the return tie in the West Argyll League.

This game also doubles as the play-off for the Hay Trophy and Oban won all five triples, with shots in hand.

BOWLS



The winning Oban team in this year's Hay Trophy.

BUN-SGOIL Shleite (Sleat Primary School) recently enjoyed a visit from a group of Northern Irish youngsters and helped their visitors learn about Gaelic culture on Skye.

Some 14 P7s from Gaelscoil Neachtain, Dungiven, County Derry spent two days on the island singing songs, sharing language through drama and enjoying a game of shinty/hurling.

As well as teaching the Irish youngsters about Gaelic, the Shleite children learned about Gaeige and its culture.

Head teacher Gwen Culbertson said: 'Bun-sgoil Shleite are hoping to reciprocate the visit to them possibly next year as well as engage in a drama production between the two schools.'

'A fun two days was had and new Gaelic/Gaeige was learned by all.'



Glencruitten

THERE was a good turnout on Saturday for the 1st round of the Championship, Handicap and Senior trophies, with over 80 players taking part.

Five players returned 64 in the Championship - Michael Kelly, David Devine, Gavin Owens, Phillip Murphy and Graham MacColl.

In the Handicap section Michael Kelly 64 - 6 = 58 and Hugh Vernard 86 - 27 = 59 lead the way and in the Senior section Hugh Vernard 86 - 27 = 59 and Willie McAdam 68 - 5 = 63 are in the lead.

On Friday and Saturday Glencruitten hosts a Pro-Am with 40 golf professionals taking part in the event, along with teams of three.

The Pro-Am is the biggest in Scotland and has attracted a very strong field and it is expected competition will be keen for the first prize of £5,000 for the winning professional. The course is in superb condition and this should help make the event more successful.

Last week in the Centenary Open, Gavin Owens lifted the trophy with a score of 62 - 4 = 58 (best inward half). David Fraser was runner-up with the same score 64 - 6 = 58.

Fort William

DUNCAN Rodger is Fort William Golf Club champion for the second year running after a staging a comeback against Steve Jamieson in the final two rounds.

Jamieson was five shots clear of his rival after the first two rounds, but suffered a poor third round on Saturday to post 80, while Rodger carded an 80 to pile on the pressure.

In Sunday's final round, Rodger shot a round 73 while Jamieson could only score 77 to miss out by two shots.

Eric Wallace scored 78 and 80 to finish in third spot, some 26 shots behind Rodger.

Meanwhile, the SLGA Brooch competition was also held at the club on Sunday, with Rosemary MacIntyre winning by one shot from Iona Cameron. Gail Anderson took third place.

An LGU medal and eclectic competition earlier in the week was won by Helen Brian with a net score of 70.

The Fort William Open sponsored by The Moorings Hotel will be held this Sunday, with tee times from 7.30am to 3pm.

Results: FWGC Championship - 1, Duncan Rodger 73+76+80+73=302; 2, Steve Jamieson 70+74+83+7=304; 3, Eric Wallace 78+92+78+80=328.

SLGA Brooch - 1, Rosemary MacIntyre 81-11=70; 2, Iona Cameron 86-15=71; 3, Gail Anderson 92-18=74.

LGU medal and eclectic competition - 1, Helen Brian 87-17=70; 2, Ann Lovatt 96-24=72; 3, Kim Topping 91-15=76.

Isle of Skye

RETURNS for Isle of Skye golf Club: Wednesday June 12, Skye Championship, round two, cat.one (0-12) scratch scores:

1 Murdo Gordon 72; 2 Alex Munro 73; 3 Alasdair Grant 78; 4 Jamie Beaton 80, cat.two (13-28); 1 Stewart Johnston 80, Skye Championship final totals, cat.one: 1 Alex Munro 75/73 148; 2 Murdo Gordon 77/72 149; 3 Jamie Beaton 69/80 149. Cat. Two: 1 Stewart Johnston 72/80 152.

Sat/Sun June 15/16 Stableford Competition: 1 Mike Williams 42pts (bih); 2 Sandy Ross 42pts (bih); 3 Alex Munro 42pts; 4 Lloyd Browett 41pts.

Islay

RESULTS of the Loganair Trophy played on Sunday June 16 at Islay Golf Club: 1 Robert Quail 78 less 12 net 66; 2 Scott Currie 78 less 10 net 68; 3 Keith MacDonald 76 less 7 net 69. Ciss 71.

Oban Angling Club prove too good for 'The Irish Poachers'

'POACHERS' from County Wicklow in Ireland have been spotted around lochs in Oban and Lorn - but these Irish fishermen were welcomed by their local counterparts.

Oban and Lorn Angling Club played host last week to the Rathdrum Angling Association from near Bray, County Wicklow in Ireland, better known as 'The Irish Poachers'.

Held on June 2 the annual outing was well attended, with anglers returning for the weigh-in and refreshments at The Barn, Lergas.

On the day, which was helped or hindered by brilliant sunshine, Oban anglers used local knowl-

ANGLING

edge to good effect and had by far the more productive outing.

Eddie Murphy was the most successful angler and won the event with a wild brown trout of 6lb 10oz, as well as a fish of 3lb and seven other smaller fish for a total of 13lb 1oz.

Next in the running were Rudi Hagan, Eddie Docker and John Duffy, with three fish, two fish and one fish, for 2lb 3oz, 1lb 12oz and 8oz respectively.

Later in the week the Irish visitors assisted Oban anglers in a work party with boats at Loch Nell.



The Oban and Irish anglers.

Taynuilt

LADIES Altnacree Trophy second round played on June 11: 1 Carol MacLarty, 67 (19); 2 Sandra Elliott, 68 (27); 3 Fiona McGlynn, 69 (18).

Altnacree Trophy 2013: 1 Carol MacLarty, 139 (67 72); 2 Moira MacVicar, 139 (66 73); 3 Fiona McGlynn, 142 (69 73).

Gents Club Championship (scratch) played on June 16: Ian MacMillan and Mark Grant.

Club Championship (scratch) after two rounds: David Howie, 136 (67 69); Mark Henricksen, 143 (67 76); Fraser Inglis, 149 (73 76).

Medal Qualifiers played on June 16: Ian MacMillan and Mark Grant.

BOXING

RISING star Igor Sliwinski has been named Lochaber Phoenix ABC's boxer of the year.

The club held its end of season prizegiving at the weekend where Sliwinski, who recently won silver at the UK amateur championships, was given his prize.

Cameron Whyte was named young boxer of the year, while Ryan Watson was most improved.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'The boys have worked really hard this season and we thought rather than concentrate on one or two getting prizes they all deserved something.'

'All the boys have some of the qualities needed to be successful in boxing and we wanted to highlight this.'

A special recognition award was given to Chris Bradley, who is moving to Peterhead after boxing for Lochaber Phoenix for the last five years.

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BOXING



MacTavish Cup final goes to a penalty shoot-out

Lovat end 60-year cup drought

LOVAT are the toast of Kiltartney after bringing home the Co-operative MacTavish Cup following their epic penalty shoot-out victory over Glenurquhart.

The silverware was Lovat's first since the club's vintage 1953 season when they won every trophy available - and coach Allan MacRae was delighted his team prevailed in a thrilling encounter.

'We made hard work of it but we got there in the end,' he told The Oban Times. 'To win a trophy after 60 years is a huge deal for us, both for the club and the community. It has been many years since anybody but Kingussie, Newtonmore or Fort William won it, so that makes it all the sweeter.'

Lovat keeper Stuart MacDon-

KINGUSSIE will be looking for revenge when Oban Camanachd visit The Dell this Saturday.

After a promising start to the season Kings lost 3-1 in Oban back in March, but the Badenoch side will have Lee Bain and Ronald Ross available for this weekend's tie.

Manager Russell Jones said: 'At the start of the season we lost down there so we know we can't take anything for granted. But things are going well for us just now.'

'We won't be fighting at the top of the league, but we're just looking to accumulate as many points as possible, and we're still in the Camanachd Cup which is very important for us.'

Kings defeated Kinlochshiel 2-1 last weekend, with Thomas Borthwick and Rory MacGregor on the scoresheet.

Jones said: 'It was a good win for us. Roy got his first goal of the season, he's been playing really well up front but just not getting the goals.'

'There was a lot of plus points and a lot of good performances.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell hopes his side will take their cup performance into league action this weekend, if not the result.

The home side were left gutted on Saturday as Kyles Athletic sealed a place in the Macaulay Cup semi-finals, despite Camanachd equalising three times through Lewis Cameron, Gavin Stobart and Andrew 'Papa' MacCush.

Campbell said: 'It's a hard one to take, walking away with nothing after such a good performance. The fight was there and there was a lot of heart.'

Campbell also said: 'There were a lot of top performances. Craig MacMillan was outstanding at full-back, and other substitute players like Daniel MacKinnon and Gavin Stobart have given me a lot to think about.'

Talking about this week's Orion Group Premiership match away to Kingussie, Campbell added: 'We have eight games left to play for, and I hope this is a turning point. My team showed they can score goals against a top side.'

LOVAT will seek to carry forward momentum from Saturday's epic victory over Glenurquhart in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final when they meet high-flying Inveraray in the Orion Group Premiership at Balgate Park.

And a win is a must for the Kiltartney men if they are to retain any realistic chance of catching league leaders Newtonmore.

Manager Allan MacRae readily admits his team are still on a high after the cup win, but is demanding full concentration for another vital match as Lovat's successful season continues.

'Inveraray are third and just

ald was the hero of the hour as he stopped three Glenurquhart spot-hits to earn his side a 3-1 win in the shoot-out after the teams fought out a 1-1 draw after extra time.

Glenurquhart grabbed the advantage on 19 minutes when Fraser Heath cracked home from 20 yards, but Glen failed to convert their first half superiority into further goals.

Regrouped

Lovat regrouped after the break and sub Graeme MacMillan delivered a smartly executed equaliser on the hour mark.

The Kiltartney side began to click and should have sealed matters, but found Glenurquhart captain Stuart MacKintosh in brilliant form between the posts.

MacMillan, Greg Matheson

one place behind us so it will be a hard game,' MacRae told the Oban Times. 'They are a good team and we had a close game with them down there when we drew 2-2 earlier this season.'

Forward Lorne MacKay is still sidelined by suspension but Jamie Matheson is making his way back to fitness after damaging his knee in the first game of the season against Lochaber.

However, MacRae is unsure if Matheson, who was on the bench for the MacTavish final, will feature as Lovat second team play Ballachulish in the Sutherland Cup semi-final at Fort William on Saturday.

INVERARAY travel to Lovat this weekend, encouraged by an emphatic 6-1 win against Oban Celtic.

The second-versus-third clash in the Orion Group Premiership will no doubt be a stern test and manager Garry MacPherson wants the same level of confidence and intensity for this game. He said: 'I want us to keep the performance levels the same for this weekend, and for the boys to treat this like a cup final, as that's what we will have the weekend after.'

With a few younger players involved and some second-team players earning a start, MacPherson was pleased with the intensity shown by his side. 'This match was a good chance for our younger players to show what they can do. We scored our goals at regular intervals and kept most of the play in Oban Celtic's half. It was a real workout for us.'

Inveraray welcome back midfielder Stuart Robertson this weekend.

GLENURQUHART will have to put last weekend's MacTavish Cup final loss behind them when they welcome Kinlochshiel this Saturday.

After an even final and extra time period, shattered players from both Glen and Lovat stood forward for a penalty shootout.

Both keepers had performed heroics throughout the game, but it was Lovat's Stuart MacDonald who was the hero, saving three shots to give his side the win.

Glen co-manager Fraser MacKenzie said: 'It's a tough way to lose a final, but the boys can all hold their heads high.'

I think it would have been a good game for the neutral, it was quite end to end. We played well in the first half but Lovat probably shaded the second half and extra time.'

MacKenzie said focus would now switch back to the league in an effort to pull clear of any relegation battle.

He said: 'Saturday is over and done with. If we beat Shiel we could go above them and that's got to be our goal.'

SHINTY

and Kevin Bartlett converted their spot-hits for Lovat, while only 17 year-old Ewan Brady could net for Glen.

Man-of-the-match Glenurquhart defender Lewis MacLennan was generous in his praise for Lovat's effort. He said: 'Fair play to them, we had our chances in the first 45 minutes and then they were stronger with the wind in the second half.'

Glen co-manager Fraser MacKenzie added: 'You have to congratulate Lovat. They've got a good young side and it's good to see the trophy going outside of Badenoch and Lochaber for a change.'

KINLOCHSHIEL have another vital game on Saturday as they seek to make their Orion Group Premiership survival absolutely certain.

Losing Co-operative MacTavish Cup finalists Glenurquhart will prove no pushovers at Blairbeg as they themselves are desperate for points to ease relegation worries.

'Shiel will be without Fraser MacCivier, who is back working offshore and a persistent knee problem is likely to sideline Gordie MacDonald.

However, Duncan 'Ach' MacRae is almost certain to start after coming on for the final 15 minutes against Kingussie and

The Tighnabruach men have suffered from inconsistency so far this season, because of injuries to key players, but will look to string some results together in the Orion Group Premiership, starting this weekend at Lochaber.

Perlich said: 'We are looking to get a settled team and league games are a good opportunity to get players working well together. I can already see the

a large home crowd.'

Cameron said: 'It shows how tight this league is. The midfield and defences are all very good, the difference comes down to taking your chances.'

KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich has fired a warning to future opponents by insisting his team is getting back to its best.

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Perlich said: 'We are looking to get a settled team and league games are a good opportunity to get players working well together. I can already see the

a great result, it just keeps us going along. They weren't really putting us under much pressure, and I thought it was only a matter of time until we scored.'

There's 10 very good teams

in the Premiership, but there's only a few who have goal threats coming from more than one or two players. We're fortunate that we have three or four guys who

can score.'

FORT WILLIAM take on mighty Newtonmore in the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-final at The Eilan inspired by their under-17 team's resolve to come from 3-1 down to defeat Newtonmore 4-3 in the junior Co-operative MacTavish Cup final last weekend.

The Fort have only played one

game in five weeks, a 4-1 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll in the

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The Fort have only played one

Battered and bruised but Liam achieves a top 20 finish

A BATTERED, bruised and exhausted Liam Shellcock achieved his goal of a top-20 finish in his main race at Knockhill, despite competing in four events over a grueling weekend.

Liam was competing in the Superstock 600 Championship, one of the most important races of the season, as well as in three 'club' races – despite injuring

MOTORCYCLING

The 20-year old from Tralee told the Oban Times last week that finishing in the top-20 was his aim, given the high standard of racing and the challenging circuit; this was realised with a 19th place finish from a line-up of 36 racers.

Liam's father, David Shellcock,

said he was 'really proud' of his son's achievements, adding the races had been very useful exercises.

He said: 'It was a great experience amongst a competitive field. Liam respected the circuit and had prepared intensely.'

Talking about Knockhill's particular demands, David said: 'During practice you find your limit, then you take what you learn, such as how fast you approach corners, into the race situation.'

Liam showed he is capable of holding his own and will improve by competing against the top racers.'

This weekend Liam has two races at Oulton Park, Cheshire, and hopes to race at Brands Hatch in mid-July.

David added: 'It costs £2,000 just for an entry place at Brands Hatch. It's a very demanding schedule.'



Liam Shellcock, no.30, in action at Knockhill. Photo: Stephen Lawson



One of the riders struggles to stay on his bike negotiating the tricky Falls of Dochart course in Killin. Photo: The Studio, Killin.

Gus proves to be a big shot

LORN Clay Target Club's summer competition series continued on Saturday with 25 shooters attending the 50-bird Down-The-Line shoot.

At the club's grounds on the Moss Road, North Connel the forecasted downpours gave the first five shooters a drenching, before drying out and providing the rest of the competitors near perfect conditions for the rest of the day.

Just three points separated the top four places in a tightly fought competition for High

Gun, where a single missed clay took you out of contention for a cash prize in an instant.

First place for the day was Gus MacDonald on 144/150 points and equal second place on 142/150 were Steve Wilson and Stewart Davis.

Fourth place went to Hector McFadyen on 141/150 and equal fifth were Peter Davidson, Jim MacIntyre and Dennis Davitt on 137/150 (Dennis scoring a perfect 25 kills/75 points in round two).

Peter Davidson won the pool

trap with the only 8/8 score of the day.

The club is hosting an open day on Saturday, July 20 from 11am where anyone is welcome along to give clay pigeon shooting a try.

All equipment and tuition will be provided. More details about the open day, and full results from the competition are available on the club website lornclaytarget.com

TARGET SHOOTING

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A THRILLING two days of competition in Killin saw Josh Woods narrowly pip Steve Larkin to win the Bob MacGregor Memorial Trial.

A large number of riders from all over the UK entered this year's competition, which is now regarded as one of the UK's best trial bike events, with several of the categories extremely closely fought.

Woods only triumphed over rival Larkin by recording three fewer

marks over the course of the Falls of Dochart course. Local rider, Andrew Anderson, took third place.

Best novice, meanwhile, was Robert James and Bronlyn Palmer was the best female competitor.

Woods only triumphed over rival Larkin by recording three fewer



Prizewinners from this year's SEPF tour title in Oban.

Weather

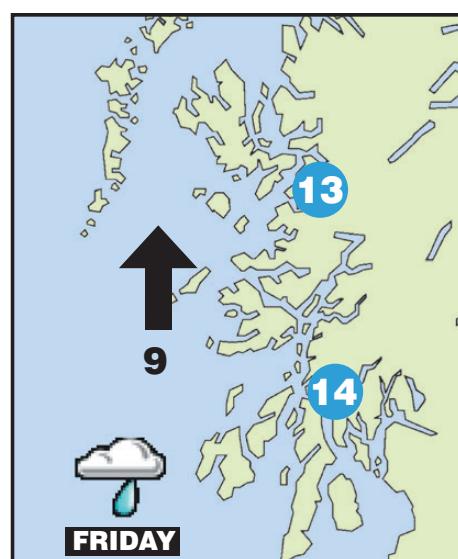
Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

Friday Light rain
Winds light, southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Outlook Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, June 20, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.29	3.4 09.00 1.3 15.17 3.4 21.04 1.2
Fri	03.32	3.5 09.54 1.1 16.07 3.6 22.06 0.9
Sat	04.25	3.7 10.45 0.8 16.54 3.9 23.04 0.7
Sun	05.13	3.8 11.33 0.6 17.40 4.0 23.57 0.5
Mon	06.00	3.9 12.20 0.4 18.25 4.1 *** *.*
Tues	06.47	0.4 06.45 3.9 13.07 0.4 19.10 4.1
Wed	01.37	0.5 07.29 3.8 13.53 0.4 19.55 4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

Oban Saints run the West Highland Way in memory of James Maitland

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints players, along with friends and family, ran the West Highland Way last Saturday to raise funds for Vasculitis UK in memory of James Maitland, father of Saints' midfield player Ross. Twenty-two runners took part in the sponsored run.

The club also held a race night the same evening in Glencruitten Golf Club, the proceeds of which were divided equally between the club and Vasculitis UK. £1,680 was raised at the race night.

The Maitland family and the club wish to thank everybody who took part in the sponsored West Highland Way run and helped make the race night a big success.

Some sponsorship money for the run has still to come in, so the final amount being donated to Vasculitis UK is not yet known.

Quality friendlies for Oban Saints

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints will play a number of pre-season friendly matches as well as their annual tournament which takes place at Mossfield and Glencruitten on Saturday 13 July.

On Saturday 20 July they take on Westerlands and on Saturday 27 July they play Milton. These will be tough games as both the teams play in the Caledonian League Premier Division. On Saturday 3 August they will face old rivals Greenock HSF. The tail o' the bank side have just been promoted to the Central League Premier Division. All three games will take place in Oban.

Hearts have pulled out of the Saints Tournament due to the club going into administration.

The Oban side are actively seeking a replacement and have been in talks with a number of senior teams to try and get them to come to the tournament.

Park Primary in Tulloch Cup final

PRIMARY SHINTY

OBAN'S Park Primary School proudly represented the south of Scotland in the Tulloch Cup on Saturday. They travelled to Inverness to face Kingussie in the final.

The young team battled hard and showed great spirit but lost out to a very accomplished side.

Youth tournament on Saturday

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Youth Football Club will be hosting its annual Under 14 tournament sponsored by Oban Electrical Services and Ross Electrical Services at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday, kicking off at 10.30am.

Teams taking part are: Queens Park, St Mirren, Hamilton Accies, Clyde, Dumbarton, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Oban Saints.

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).

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Cameron wins piping title

Page 4

Record numbers at Ardnamurchan Mod

Page 4

SPORTS NEWS

Lovat end 60-year cup drought



Community council group considers future

THE ASSOCIATION of Lochaber Community Councils (ALCC) may be forced into restructuring due to a lack of interest.

Numbers attending the group's meetings have been dwindling, with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council the latest to say they cannot attend future sessions.

A letter has been sent out to community council members to canvas opinion on if the ALCC is worth keeping, and in what form.

ALCC's Tricia Jordan told The Oban Times the large distances some members had to travel to attend monthly meetings was having a negative effect. She said: 'The only way we can get everyone together is on a Saturday morning, which isn't ideal for everyone. We are considering rearranging the structure. We want to know if people want it to continue.'

Chart topper Fergie's delight

'CEILIDH King' Fergie MacDonald had a whirlwind week of media interviews since his quirky song 'The Shiny Referee' shot to the top of the iTunes UK world music chart.

And box player Fergie, 75, still can't believe the catchy number reached No 1 - almost 47 years to the day since his song Loch Maree topped the Scottish hit parade in 1966. He said yesterday: 'I am a very modest guy really and this took me totally by surprise. It was Gary Innes who phoned me up in the middle of the night to tell me.'

'He said Fergie, you'll never guess - you're at number one in the world iTunes chart! I said don't be daft, but from then on it's been non-stop interviews. I was even on Radio Brisbane on Tuesday.'

The song was at number five yesterday.



Fergie MacDonald.



Twins hit the high notes at Mod Aird nam Murchan

Acharacle twins Josephine, left, and Serena Matheson were two of the stars of the show at this year's Mod Aird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan Mod), which was held in Strontian on Friday. The nine-year-olds took home a number of trophies and medals between them, with Serena winning the beginners clarsach and the trophy for highest clarsach mark, while Josephine picked up four trophies in solo singing and came first in the under 13s fiddle. The event drew in record numbers of young Gaelic singers and musicians. For a full report and photo special see page 4. 20_f25mod01

Mallaig pool celebrations culminate with gala day

WEEK-LONG celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool culminate with a gala day on the pier on Saturday at 11am.

Attractions include Disney characters, barbecue and

children's stalls - while pool manager Brian Gordon-Wilkin

is keen to be in for a 'gunging' if £300 is raised.

The events programme kicked off with a pyjama swim on

Tuesday - 20 years to the day

since the pool first opened its doors on June 18, 1993.

Since then, according to

assistant manager Sarah Boyce,

the pool has become 'a central

part' of village life.

She told The Oban Times: 'P1

are now categorised differently under the Sexual Offences Act. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson welcomed the findings but warned the rise in sexual offences reported 'showed the need for continued vigilance'.

He said: 'The rate of crimes

in the force area was 68 per cent

- 17 percentage points higher than the Scottish average.

However, there was a 33 per cent increase sexual offences recorded, up from 355 in 471.

Scottish Government officials

say this figure should be treated

with caution because sex crimes

kids get lessons right through the school system and get access to different classes and activities.

'For social, mental and physical well-being point of view the pool is ideal.'

'And it's a great pulling point

for visitors, who are impressed by the number of services available and the standard of the building.'

Tomorrow the pool presents

'Slide Mayhem' - featuring an inflatable whale chute.

Across the country as a whole,

recorded crime fell for the sixth

year in a row to its lowest level

for 39 years.

FORT William Primary School

will share a head teacher with

nearby Upper Achintore Primary

from August, ending fears it was

set for closure this summer.

Current Upper Achintore

head Nick Thomson will be the

associate head between the two

schools until they are merged

in a new building on Lundavra

Road in 2015.

Fort William head teacher Sue

Commander announced last No

vember she planned to retire this

summer after 14 years in charge,

prompting rumours the 25-pupil

school would be closed earlier

than originally planned.

Highland Council senior

education officer Norma Young

denied that option had been

considered at a heated meeting

with parents before Christmas,

and said the 2015 amalgamation

'remained on track'.

Brad O'Neill, who has children

at the school, said parents were

relieved uncertainty over the

25-pupil school's immediate

future had been allayed.

He said: 'We're just pleased

it's staying open. Obviously the

new head won't be able to teach

as well as be in charge of both

schools so I think they will have

to bring in another teacher.'

Meanwhile, Ms Commander is

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

RICHARD HADDOCK

rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

planning to move to Dundee to be closer to her family once the current term ends.

She told The Oban Times she had 'really enjoyed' her time in Fort William.

'I've got mixed feelings about retirement really,' she said. 'In many ways I'm looking forward to it, but I'll be very sad to leave the school and the town.'

I loved working here most of the time, it's been a really great school for me.'

She added: 'I'm going to spend some time indulging my hobbies and looking after the wee one while my daughter is at work. After 42 years of teaching I think I'll enjoy a bit of time to myself.'

The school is holding a special

celebration to mark Ms

Commander's retirement on

Monday, with pupils, staff and

parents all invited to take part.



25>

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Schools to share head teacher

Move ends fears Fort William Primary would close ahead of merger with Upper Achintore

Figures reveal big reduction in number of crimes

CRIME in the north of Scotland saw another big fall in the year to March 31, latest figures show.

Northern Constabulary reported an overall decrease of recorded crime to 11,355 compared with 13,556 in the previous 12 months.

Overall clear up rate for crimes

in the force area was 68 per cent

- 17 percentage points higher than the Scottish average.

However, there was a 33 per cent increase sexual offences recorded, up from 355 in 471.

Scottish Government officials

say this figure should be treated

with caution because sex crimes

are now categorised differently

under the Sexual Offences Act.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

MSP Dave Thompson welcomed

the findings but warned the

rise in sexual offences reported

'showed the need for continued

vigilance'.

He said: 'The rate of crimes

in the former Northern

Constabulary area, at 390 per

10,000 population, was the

second lowest in Scotland and

I congratulate all the staff who

have delivered these reductions.'

'I understand that crimes have

continued to fall during the

first months of operation under

the new Highlands and Islands

Division of Police Scotland, and

I look forward to welcoming

more progress as the new single

police force settles in.'

Across the country as a whole,

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**Provisional
licence holder
drove alone with
no insurance**

A PROVISIONAL licence holder has admitted driving by himself to a Corpach shop to buy food for his animals.

Neil Stoddart, of Craigard, Banavie, also pled guilty to not having insurance to drive the car on December 20.

The 53-year-old plumber was stopped by police on the A830 Road to the Isles.

Defence lawyer Niall MacBeath said Stoddart had held the provisional licence since he was 17 and had 'taken a chance' by going out driving alone.

Stoddart was fined £455 and given six penalty points at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court.

Thomas Donoghue, 60, of East Glen Mhor, North Road, Fort William, was accused of allowing Stoddart to drive the vehicle but had not his guilty pleas accepted.

**Drugs found on
Claggan man**

A CLAGGAN man was caught with £30 of cannabis after drunkenly asking police to search his pockets to find his house keys.

Steven Stewart was 'the author of his own downfall', according to fiscal Stewart Maciver, after calling police at 2am on April 20 to say he was locked out his house.

When officers arrived, the 37-year-old labourer allowed them to look in his pockets for his keys but they instead found 7.2 grams of the class B drug.

After hearing Stewart, of 4 The Corries, had previous convictions for drug possession, Justice of the Peace John Hutchison fined him £240.

Police files

TOOLS were stolen from two unlocked vans on the Isle of Skye overnight between Wednesday June 12 and Thursday June 13.

One vehicle was parked near 10 Stenshill, Staffin, while the other was parked near 8 Linicor, Portree.

POLICE investigating thefts from Ben Nevis Industrial Estate wish to speak with anyone who saw a Blue VW Golf being driven by a man around the estate or saw it parked in Ardnevis Road, Fort William, between 9pm on Wednesday June 12 and 12.30am Thursday June 13.

A RED Audi parked in Morrisons car park, Fort William, was scratched between 10am and 12pm on Wednesday June 12.

TOOLS were stolen from a shed near Drynoch Junction, Isle of Skye, overnight between Wednesday June 12 and Thursday June 13.

ITEMS were stolen from a property on Kennedy Road, Fort William, between 3.30pm and 10.30pm on Tuesday June 11.

A BIKE was stolen from an unlocked outbuilding at Kinloch House, Lochcarron, between Thursday June 6 and Sunday June 16.

A QUANTITY of live prawns were stolen from Scotwest Seafood at Kyle of Lochalsh, between 10.45pm on Saturday June 8 and 9am on Sunday June 9.

FORTY creels were stolen from the main pier of Broadford Pier, Isle of Skye between May 17 and May 19.

Anyone with any knowledge of the above incidents is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Sheriff drops assault case

THE TRIAL of a Ballachulish man accused of assaulting a woman in the village has been dropped after prosecutors forgot to cite an essential witness.

Prosecutor Fiscal Karen Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court a police officer had not shown up to give evidence against Kevin Cairns, of 4 Lorn Cottages, as they had not been told when the trial was being held.

Ms Smith asked for the case to be postponed to another day, saying: 'We would



Talent show winners, from left, Cody McCorley, Siobhan Chambers, Aidan Murphy, Rhianna Drummond, Gracie Henderson, Fraser Disher and Stewart Petrie. 20_f2sloch01

Event proves Lochyside's got top talent

THE X-FACTOR was put in the shade by Lochyside RC Primary School pupils last Thursday as the children entertained their families, classmates and teachers in 'Lochyside's Got Talent'.

The competition had too many highlights to mention but one star of the show was not even performing as compere Michael White

of P5 has his audience in stitches with his impromptu jokes and repartee.

The judges - teacher Andy Stoddart, former Lochyside Jamie Joe Wilson and playground assistant Geraldine MacKay - had a tough task in deciding the category winners but head teacher Violet Smith praised all the children who took to the stage.

'You were all absolutely outstanding,' she said. 'I am proud of every single one of you.'

Biggest laugh of the morning came from budding comedian Aidan Murphy of P4.

Aidan: 'What do you call a nun walking in her sleep?' Audience: 'We don't know!'

Aidan: 'A roamin' Catholic!'



Archaeologist Ross Cameron during excavations of Mingary Castle's old stairway. Photograph by Jon Haylett.

Mingary Castle reveals secrets

WORK to underpin an 800 year-old castle in Ardnamurchan is ahead of a restoration project is nearly complete.

A team from rope access experts Vertical Technology has been working at Mingary Castle, near Kilchoan, to reduce any chance of the building collapsing into the sea.

Meanwhile, archaeologists recording the site have found several pieces from the site dating back to the 17th century - including china, glass, bones, the tooth of a dog and bits of iron.

The team also found a block of stone which may have formed part of the main entrance.

Local man Jon Haylett said one of the more surprising finds has been a small cannonball which was lodged between stones in the floor of the main building.

He said: 'Quite how it got there, and how it was missed by the men who did the controlled demolition of the building in the mid-18th century, is a mystery, but it's a thrilling find.'

The work is being done ahead of a full restoration, which aims to restore the castle to its medieval glory by the end of 2014. The project is being carried out by local charity Mingary Castle Preservation and Restoration Trust, which was set up by castle owner Donald Houston, of Ardnamurchan Estates.

Mingary dates back to the 1200s and there is some evidence suggesting Vikings fortified the site even earlier.

The stronghold was once part of a chain of castles in the Lordship of the Isles and was the seat of the Clan MacLain.

Since it was last inhabited in the mid-19th century, it has been deteriorating and was in danger of collapse unless the restoration work was carried out.

The event runs from 11am to 3pm.

Fund hosts fundraising day

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Christmas Lights Fund committee is holding a fun day on Saturday to boost its £5,000 campaign for a new artificial tree and festive lights for the village.

Attractions at the Ice Factor include a barbecue, stalls, beat the goalie, archery and abseiling. Co-organiser Pat McElhinney said: 'We have raised over £1,600 so far and hope a good attendance will raise even more. Some other local charities are benefiting from the day but it would be good if we tried to get families from further afield to attend.'

The event runs from 11am to 3pm.

Glen Righ slope work to re-start

FORESTRY Commission Scotland is preparing to re-start slope stabilisation work at Glen Righ above the A82 next week.

One lane south of the Loch Linnhe picnic site between Fort William and the Corran Ferry will be closed between June 24 to June 28 to allow protective fencing to be installed. Traffic lights will be in operation between 7am and 7pm.

Project manager Alex Macleod said:

'There are some boulders and rocks in this area and catch fencing will help protect road users when the work is taking place.'

'Once the fencing has been put up, we will be able to get on with work on the hillside throughout the summer with no further need for traffic management until mid September at the earliest.'

'We'd like to apologise for any inconvenience this work might cause but we hope this will be kept to a minimum.'

Demolition of cottage sparks planning fury

HIGHLAND Council's planning procedures are being branded 'a joke' after a historic Morvern cottage was demolished without permission.

Local residents had backed businessman Jason Steen's original improvement plan for Achabeg House, on the road between Lochaline and Drimnin.

But that support turned to fury after contractors completely levelled the 19th century dwelling and began building a new house.

It had been one of two cottages built in the early 1860s by John Sinclair, founder of the Tobermory Distillery and owner of Lochaline Estate.

Mr Steen, who earlier this year secured approval to alter and extend Achabeg, has now applied for retrospective permission to completely reconstruct the property and build a new rear extension.

Work is well underway and council planners have recommended the revised bid be approved. South planning applications committee councillors will decide the issue on June 25.

Morvern Community Council, one of 11 formal objectors, assumed when contractors removed the roof a substantial restoration was underway - but were stunned to find the cottage one a few days later.

In a letter to Highland Council, chairman John Hodgson said:

'The site was more akin to a quarry than a cottage garden and many people started to ask how on earth could something like this be allowed to happen.'

'Now, well and truly cocking a snook at treating the planning authorities as a complete joke, the contractors continue to build walls at an alarming rate in total assumption that you will do nothing about it.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obahtimes.co.uk

'If you allow this to continue how on earth do you expect our local community to have any respect and trust in your judgements in the future?' He added: 'How is it that the agents for this development had an amended application all ready to present within a matter of days of the demolition?'

'Although the cottage was not a listed building, it had been there since the 1860s and was an excellent example of our vernacular architecture and a visible part of the heritage and identity of Morvern. It is now just another example of a valuable asset to the area wiped out of existence.'

Ardrornish Estate director Hugh Raven was one of two formal supporters of the development.

'The old house was beautiful but very weather beaten, without damp coursing and with dry and wet rot.'

'We hope you will agree when you see the finished project that Achabeg has been faithfully preserved with a new lease of life for this and future generations.'

PLANNING team leader Susan MacMillan said an unlisted building could be demolished without full planning permission through a process called prior notification - although that process has not been followed in the Achabeg case.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I understand how the community feels but you can only deal with the planning issues. We have to look at the proposal that is in front of us. We have had to assess whether to proceed with any enforcement action and what the nature of that action would be.'

'In certain instances unlawful work can be regularised by a retrospective application. Any works currently being done are at [Mr Steen's] own risk until such time as planning permission is in place. That's why Highland councillors will be determining the issue on June 25.'

The council has not placed a stop order on the work pending the committee's decision.

Man admits pub assault

A CLAGGAN man has been placed on the Crofters Bar on March 15. The 42-year-old's lawyer Hamish Melrose told Fort William Justice of the Peace Court their had been 'ill will' between Kerr and the victim for a period before the incident.



Barra lifeboat coxswain Donald Macleod: MBE honour.

Margaret Ann Campbell was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the postal service and the island community, while Christine MacRae from Lewis was made an MBE for her voluntary service in the Western Isles.

four managed to stem the leak before rescuers arrived.

Elsewhere, Kyle lifeboat was called out on Sunday to bring an ill man ashore from his boat off Plockton to a waiting ambulance.

Lifeboats launched

BARRA lifeboat and Stornoway coastguard search and rescue helicopter launched early on Monday to aid a fishing boat taking in water south of Canna.

The Silver Lining raised the alarm at 5.26am but the crew of

Drunk woman shouted abuse

A FORT William woman has admitted drunkenly shouting abuse at a police officer inside a pub in the town.

Alexandra McIsaac, of 33 Wallace Place, pled guilty to verbally abusing the female officer by shouting and swearing at her in the Maryburgh Inn on January 19.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court, the 38-year-old also admitted struggling with police officers as they tried to arrest her in the same incident.

McIsaac was ordered to carry out 75 hours of unpaid work in the community.



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FW

Record number of young musicians take part Mod Aird nam Murchan



Acharacle's Alexander Pervan, aged five and a half, won the 5-6 solo singing. 20_f25mod03



Rachel Ford, aged 10, of Acharacle Primary School won the poetry recitation for 9-10 year-olds. 20_f25mod12



Solo singing success for Janie Patterson, aged 11, of Acharacle Primary School, Mitchell MacPherson, front, aged 10, from Strontian Primary School and John Clark, 12, of Ardnamurchan High School. 20_f25mod02



MOD AIRD NAM MURCHAN (Ardnamurchan Mod) drew its largest ever turnout with more than 150 talented young Gaelic musicians taking part on Friday.

Youngsters from across the west Highlands converged on Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan High School) and Arainn Shuaireart (The Sunart Centre) in Strontian to take part, with pupils from the five Ardnamurchan primary schools, Mallaig, Tobermory

and Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan itself all competing.

Competitions included Gaelic choir and solo singing, action song, Gaelic poetry recital, conversational Gaelic as well as music competitions such as fiddle and clarinet playing.

Fèisean group Sgioba G provided entertainment for the youngsters between their performances. Mod Secretary Val Barker told *The Oban Times*: 'We had a great day for Ardnamurchan Mod with our

highest entry ever, 155 entrants, most taking part in two or more competitions. We are always amazed at the amount of time and energy put into the Mod by both the children and their tutors and the results show how worthwhile this is. There were several comments about how polite and well behaved the children were on the day.'

The prizewinners performed at a concert for parents and friends in Arainn Shuaireart in the evening after the competition.

Acharacle Primary School's Hector MacLean, aged 11, took first place in the under 13s accordion. 20_f25mod11



Ardnamurchan High School students Kate Bradley, left, and Joanne Ford competed in the fiddle competition. 20_f25mod04



Strontian Primary School's Eilidh MacArthur, left, and Chloe Niven took first place in the 11-12 duets. 20_f25mod07



Mallaig Primary School's Megan Morrison won her medal after getting top spot in the solo singing ages 7-8. 20_f25mod05

Trophy winners

Instrumental: Iain MacPherson Trophy for primary fiddle - Josephine Matheson, Acharacle; Donald Boyd Cuach for highest mark in fiddle local U13 - Alex MacMahon, Ballachulish; Sunart Oakwoods Initiative Trophy for fiddle 13-18yrs - Megan MacPherson, Strontian; Gillespie MacMillan Trophy for accordion - Hector MacLean, Acharacle; Mod Ardnamurchan Cup for highest mark in clarsach, local - Serenna Matheson, Acharacle; Ardnamurchan Mod Mini Cup for guitar - Christopher McCowan, Ardgour.

Solo singing: Daily Record Cup for highest mark in Gaelic, local primary - Josephine Matheson, Acharacle; Kate Stewart Memorial Cup for highest mark in music local primary - Josephine Matheson, Acharacle; Peter MacQueen Ardgour Memorial Cup for highest mark in music in any competition - Josephine Matheson,

Acharacle; John S Thomson, Glenborrodale Cup for highest Gaelic mark open, under 18 - Josephine Matheson, Acharacle; Christina Maclarens Memorial Trophy - Janet Campbell, Tobermory; MacLean of Ardgour Memorial Challenge Trophy - Donna Dugdale and Janet Campbell, Tobermory; Scottish Natural Heritage Trophy for highest total in Gaelic and music solo 13-18yrs - Hannah Hunter, Ardnamurchan High School.

Choral Singing: Campbell Memorial Shield for choir with highest total mark in Gaelic and Music (Primary) - Strontian Primary School; Joan Smith Memorial Cup for choir with highest total mark in Gaelic and Music (Primary and Secondary) - Acharacle Primary School; Convenor's Cup for highest total mark in Gaelic and Music in Puirr-a-Beul (Primary and Secondary) - Acharacle Primary School;

Conductor's Baton for unison or harmony (two songs) - Burach.

Oral Competitions: Swordle Cup for the highest Gaelic mark (local learner) - Rachel Bolton and Hamish Kennedy, Lochaline; Graham Croll Trophy for highest Gaelic mark in any oral competition - Rachel Ford, Acharacle; Lochaber Development Cuach for conversation: Open 5-8 yrs - Corran Davis, Mallaig; Lochaber; Development Cuach for conversation: Open 9-12 yrs - Sean MacLellan, Acharacle; Lochaber Development Cuach for Drama: Open (under 13 yrs) - Bunscoil Mhalraig; Caithness Glass Trophy for Drama: Open (under 18 yrs) - Bunscoil Mhalraig.

Special Competitions: Mod Ardnamurchan Shield for action song under 10yrs - Acharacle Primary School; Longrigg Cup for Music Making - Strontian Primary School.

Mod: Ardnamurchan Mod Mini Cup for guitar - Christopher McCowan, Ardgour.

Quaich pioaireachd: Malt Whisky, is staged annually to commemorate the work of Donald MacDonald, a revered piping pioneer from Skye whose 1822 book of pioaireachd became the point of reference for future compilations. Photograph by Derek Maxwell Photography.

Cameron wins prestigious piping title



Edinburgh piper Cameron Drummond won the 27th Donald MacDonald Quaich pioaireachd competition at Clan Donald Skye's Armadale Castle last weekend. The prestigious event, sponsored by Glenfiddich Malt Whisky, is staged annually to commemorate the work of Donald MacDonald, a revered piping pioneer from Skye whose 1822 book of pioaireachd became the point of reference for future compilations. Photograph by Derek Maxwell Photography.

Keeping you in the picture

Information Event - Mull Water Improvements

Scottish Water would like to invite you to an information event regarding Mull Water Improvements.

Date: Tuesday 25 June 2013

Time: 4pm until 8pm

Venue: Craignure Village Hall, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute, PA65 6BE

You are welcome to come along and meet the project team including representatives from Scottish Water and our contractors. We will be available to answer any questions that you may have about our investment and see plans of the work.

If you have any questions, or if you are not able to make it along but would like more information then please call our Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855 quoting "Mull Water Improvements".

Improving services in your area



Youngsters from Ardgour Primary School took part in a number of events, including solo singing, duets and folk group. 20_f25mod06

Morvern Lines

EVERY month many of our Armed Forces are returning home from Iraq, Afghanistan and other trouble spots in the world for some well earned rest and recuperation.

Where better for them and their families to recover and enjoy a few peaceful days to forget the horrors of conflict and separation than in the West Highlands and Islands? Do you have a holiday cottage, mansion house, castle, flat or a caravan, and would consider offering a week or a few days free accommodation to service personnel as a contribution towards their great effort?

If so please contact either SSAFA, The Soldiers Charity; Help for Heroes or The Afghan Heroes - to name only a few of the national armed forces charities whose addresses can be found on the internet.

□ □ □

CONTINUING on the subject of war and conflict, of all the many castles, duns and forts scattered through the Morvern Peninsula, there is none more mysterious and has so little recorded about it, than Drimmin Castle whose scant remnants lie on top of a rocky headland guarding the northern entrance to the Sound of Mull.

Thought to have been erected at the end of the 16th century by the Macleans of Coll, it was demolished in 1838 by the estate owner, Sir Charles Gordon, to make for St Columba's Roman Catholic Chapel.

Until recently the only known visual record of this important castle was to be found in plan-form on an estate-map of 1836. Now, however, sketches made in 1831 by the famous English Romantic artist, Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) who was travelling out to see Staffa and Fingal's Cave, have come to light showing several castles along the Sound - one of which is almost certainly Drimmin.

Following Sir Charles Gordon's death in 1845, his widow, Helen Fletcher of Dunans, Argyllshire, began carrying out what today would be described as 'ethnic cleansing' by evicting several hundred indigenous people from Drimmin Estate.

In 1851 many of the 115 inhabitants of the 22 house settlement above Ardnal Point, were moved to Oronsay - an island at the mouth of Loch Sunart consisting of little more than heather, bog and rock.

In time the people improved the land by carrying soil in creels on their backs from the adjacent mainland and built better houses. Their rents were raised accordingly until a neighbouring farmer offered more and they were evicted a second time as there was no security of tenure in these days.

For this and other atrocities, Lady Gordon became one of the most hated of Morvern's resident landowners.

John MacDougall (1801-82) a local bard, composed a long Gaelic song rhyming a plague of rats to death in which he urged them to spend a night with Lady Gordon, 'S'bitidh oidach aig ban'tighnean Gordon.' before crossing to Mull.

It was not just the poor crofters and cottars who disliked Lady Gordon. A tramp, originally from Tiree and suffering from a form of St Vitus' Dance, was in the habit of calling at the back door of Drimmin House for food whenever he was passing but was turned away.

Coming down the drive he met Lady Gordon with a friend and heard her say when they passed, 'pay no attention this man is drunk', to which he retorted, 'Well if I am it would not be on your Ladyship's charity that I would get fu'.'



Drimmin House: home of the Gordon family.

□ □ □

ALTHOUGH it was written many years after the events in Drimmin, this simple and affecting elegy by classical scholar, nationalist, conscientious objector and kilt-wearer, Douglas Young (1913-1973) well captures these bygone times.

For the Old Highlands

*That old lonely lovely way of living
in Highland places, - twenty years a-growing,
twenty years flowerling, twenty years declining, -
father to son, mother to daughter giving
ripe tradition; peaceful bountiful flowing;
one harmony all tones of life combining, -
old wise ways, passed like the dust blowing*

*That harmony of folk and land is shattered, -
the yearly rhythm of things, the social graces,
peat fire and music, candle light and kindness.
Now that they are gone it seems they never mattered,
much, to the world, those proud and violent races,
clansmen, and chiefs whose passioned greed and blindness
made desolate these lovely lonely places.*

Contact Iain Thornber at iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

Learn more about the importance of bees

By Stephen Norris
LOCHABER Beekeepers Association (LBA) is urging the public to learn more about importance of bees in the agricultural world - and their plight.

The plea follows a successful day at the recent Road to the Isles Agricultural Show at Arisaig, where members Su Coyne and Marion Affleck ran a display extolling the virtues of the tiny honey makers.

Buoyed by the positive public response, LBA wants to recruit more members to help maintain Lochaber's coveted beekeeping status in Scotland.

Su, from Arisaig, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are fortunate because of our geographical isolation - it has been possible so far to keep Lochaber's bee population free from the Varroa mite which has caused

such problems elsewhere. The LBA would ask that no-one imports bees into this area, risking introducing disease. They will help any member to restock from local colonies instead.

Joining the LBA only costs £10 a year and membership could help to maintain biosecurity, keeping our bees safe for the future.'

Honeybee numbers are falling to a dangerously low level worldwide and scientists are trying to find the cause of the problem.

Bees pollinate about 60 per cent of food crops and without them fruit will not set and seeds and grains will not develop.

In some parts of the world honeybees are farmed on an industrial scale, mainly because of their pollinating work.

The hives are trucked from farm

to farm to work in almond orchards, vineyards and fruit orchards.

Now their health is under threat from being constantly moved every few weeks, agricultural pesticides and diseases.

However, Lochaber remains a safe haven for both wild bees and honeybees despite the often hostile climate.

Su said: 'Here there is very little use of pesticides and colonies are probably only moved twice a year to make use of the moorland heather flowers.'

The local Scottish black bee is very tough and can withstand extremes of weather. But erratic seasons can cause problems if they are not able to fly out to forage or if seasonal flowerings are delayed.'

Visit www.lochaberbeekeepers.org.

Oban CHORD all talk, no action

Project manager claims:
'There has been many years of discussion but yet no delivery'

A WOMAN who has taken charge of multi-billion pound projects around the world has criticised Argyll and Bute Council for the lack of regeneration in Oban.

Linda Houston, Oban CHORD regeneration project manager, took up the role with the council on May 20 but is still waiting on access to Oban's £6.9m share of the CHORD fund - set up to regenerate Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

She told last week's meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee she was 'interested in delivery, not discussion about delivery'.

She said: 'I see my role as to do the best I can for Oban.'

'There is money earmarked and I haven't got access to a penny of it as there hasn't been approval. There have been many years of discussion but yet no delivery.'

Linda has years of experience working on development projects, including being involved with The Shard in London, and plans to use this knowledge to benefit Oban.

She added: 'The allocation of £6.9 million is a catalyst for something great - it is not all that is on the table. Oban does need regeneration. It is quite evident talking to businesses and the community there is a great desire for it.'

'There is private money out there if you can provide the vision and the confidence. This is very much the catalyst for other things on.'

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
FAITH ORR
for@obantimes.co.uk

things, I started with a small pot of money in Southbank in London and it ended in a multi-billion project. The public sector can't do what the private sector does but they can enable the private sector.'

Linda's stance was welcomed by councillors, with council leader Roddy McCuish thanking her for her 'frank and honest opinions'.

Acknowledging Linda was waiting for a 'political green light', he said: 'It is all about delivery - it is absolutely vital the momentum keeps going.'

'We need a confidence builder in Oban.'

Councillor Iain MacDonald said: 'Oban CHORD has been going on a while but with nothing happening - everything you have said is music to my ears.'

But Linda stressed her need for the go-ahead from councillors, adding: 'I have no approval to even tender for a consultant - the CHORD board needs to meet and make a decision - it is a political decision.'

Councillor McCuish agreed with Linda, adding: 'This is the start of something even bigger for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.'

The ball is firmly in our court now and it is up to us to get the political motivation to move things on.'



Oban High School show 'We Will Rock You' - one audience member said: 'I have seen the London show, and these guys were just as good. I couldn't believe that I was watching school pupils.'

Picture: Kevin McGlynn See more on Page 11

Popular councillors claim they are frozen out as leadership battle looms

THE FOUR best-supported councillors in Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI), including the current council leader, claim they are being frozen out by the group expected to take power of the local authority next Thursday.

Strongly denied

SNP councillors Roddy McCuish, the current leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Louise Glen Lee, Mary Jean Devon and independent councillor Elaine Robertson have told *The Oban Times* that deals are being made in private at Kilmory, without their consultation - a claim that is strongly denied by opponents.

Options

SNP councillors Roddy McCuish, the current leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Louise Glen Lee, Mary Jean Devon and independent councillor Elaine Robertson have told *The Oban Times* that deals are being made in private at Kilmory, without their consultation - a claim that is strongly denied by opponents.

Leadership struggle

In a letter, the councillors, who polled the four highest OLI votes in the previous council elections, state: 'We believe that Argyll and Bute for Change has already selected those councillors it wants to work with.'

'It has excluded those people who would, we believe, continue to have a change agenda in the council and formed an exclusive group of self-selected councillors without the seal of approval of the council, flying in the face of open and transparent government - something they say they are striving for.'

'We have even been asked to leave meetings where the mat-

ter was discussed and other colleagues have been excluded.'

Leadership struggle

In the letter, the rogue SNP councillors also criticised the SNP's national executive committee for not allowing councillor McCuish to form an administration with the Liberal Democrat and Conservative members of the council.

The councillors' claims have been rubbished by fellow OLI councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who heads up Argyll and Bute for Change, the group expected to take control of the council at its full meeting next Thursday.

Councillor MacIntyre, who was defeated by councillor Mc-

Cuish in last month's leadership vote, said all SNP members have had the opportunity to attend five meetings in the past month to discuss changes in how the council is run, adding that some had chosen not to.

He added: 'There are absolutely no done deals.'

'We have had a group of six councillors working on a new council structure and we have asked the SNP to be involved in that.'

'We have three SNP members within our group but we want to take the SNP - warts an' all.'

'We are not going to be selective; we want them as a collective.'

Island mother didn't know her options

AN ISLAND mum who spent more than a fortnight away from her family in an Oban bed and breakfast prior to giving birth has called on NHS Highland to clarify options for expectant island mothers after finding out she could have stayed at home.

Options

Stacey Inglis' ordeal came to light after she left Lorn and Islands District General Hospital at half past midnight - just two and a half hours after giving birth on June 5.

Ms Inglis, from Tobermory, said she had been told she would only be able to stay in

the Oban hospital for six hours after having her daughter, meaning leaving at 4am at the latest. She decided to leave sooner and returned to the guesthouse she had been staying in.

Ms Inglis, 29, said she had been told by a midwife during a home visit while pregnant that home births were no longer an option and she would have to leave the island two weeks before her due date.

She said: 'I would definitely have taken the option of a home birth if I had known it was available.'

'The NHS needs to be making this a lot clearer.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said mums-to-be on the Isle of Mull had three options: a healthy mum with no anticipated complications can stay at home on the island; low risk deliveries can take place in Oban; while those with complicating factors are advised to travel to Glasgow.

For those who choose to stay at home the spokesman said two midwives would travel to the island a fortnight before the baby is due and would stay until the birth.

ACHA tenants hit by 'bedroom tax'

OVER 10 per cent of tenants of a housing association in Argyll will be affected by benefit reforms dubbed the 'bedroom tax'.

The change, which sees housing benefit recipients who have an extra room penalised, was introduced by the Westminster Government two months ago.

Now Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has revealed that 583 of its 5,000 tenants are affected by the change.

'We have three SNP members within our group but we want to take the SNP - warts an' all.'

'We are not going to be selective; we want them as a collective.'

ACHA's research shows that of the 583 tenants affected many will be left with as little as £20 per week to buy food and cover expenses after paying energy bills. This particularly applies to single unemployed people or low earners.

But families are also badly affected with those whose incomes are low enough to get some help with their rent seeing a cut of an average of £50 per month to their household finances. The cut to housing benefit for those with a spare room can only be avoided by moving to a smaller property - something ACHA says is near impossible in remote areas.

The association is concerned that there simply isn't enough one-bedroomed properties in Argyll for people to downsize to and people may feel they have to leave communities that they were born and brought up in to be able to afford housing.

Mr MacGregor added: 'The association supports the call by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and others to repeal the bedroom tax.'

NEWSDESK
01397 703003



MEMBERS of the Musical Memories group, formerly Singing for the Brain, gathered at the Glencruitten Church Centre in Oban last week to celebrate the organisation's third birthday. Music has been shown to help dementia and Parkinsons patients and the therapy has proved popular over the years. Members of the Mull group and the Lynne of Lorn care home gathered to celebrate the birthday and share a celebratory cake. Founder Elizabeth Little, centre, is joined by councillor Elaine Robertson and member Bernard Childs in cutting the cake. 16.125musmem



Kererra walkers raise more than £1,000

ALMOST £1,000 was raised by walkers on the island of Kerrera at the weekend for Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of 57 people turned out for the three-hour route around the island on Saturday with special guests, including Elspeth Atkinson, director of Macmillan Cancer Support for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, piped over on the ferry by James MacPherson, from Oban High School Pipe Band. Jim Heward, race volunteer, said: 'The day started grey and cold and then the sun came out. The cold greyness may have put a few people off; however we had a turnout of 57 people who all enjoyed the walk.' The total of £954 raised is expected to increase as there is sponsorship money yet to be collected.

Skye 'otter' brew to raise awareness of sanctuary work

AN OTTER rescue charity on Skye is raising a glass to a new ale brewed specially on the island to promote its work.

The International Otter Survival Fund at Broadford appealed for business support - and Uig-based Isle of Skye Brewery obliged by producing the Skye Otter Ale. Head brewer Pam MacRury told *The Oban Times*: 'The IOSF came to us after approaching a number of businesses to see if anybody could come up with ideas to raise awareness and funds for their work. We jumped at the chance - and from every sale we make money will be donated to the IOSF.'

The ruby-coloured beverage was launched to rave reviews at the Aberdeen Beer Festival last month.

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A total of £1,100 was raised for school funds over coffee 'n' craic on Saturday at Barcaline Primary School. Head teacher Jeannette Morrison said: 'It is a get together for the community and a fundraiser for the children. It went really well, we had a fantastic raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. All the local community support us.'

Soroba Young Family Group
Soroba Young Family Group have nursery places available for children born between 1st March 2010 and 28th February 2011.
We also have a few places available in the Project which supports children from birth to 3 years and their families. Both sections have an amazing programme organised for the start of the new session in August 2013.
If you are interested in joining the nursery please contact Mrs Janice Kay on 01631 565263 or email sorobayoungfamilygroup@gmail.com for further information.

Short list of sites for new Oban High School moves closer

PLANS for the site of the proposed new Oban High School are moving from a long list to a short list - as the school's head teacher highlights that the current building does not have enough classrooms to accommodate specific subjects.

Malcolm MacFadyen, head of

facility services for Argyll and Bute Council, told a recent meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee that the council was at the stage of moving from a list of sites suggested by a range of stakeholders towards a short list which will then be subject to much more 'detailed

scrutiny'. He said: 'This work is going on in the background, everything is progressing in accordance with the timetable and the plan is that a report will be brought to the next local meeting by the executive director of community services to highlight the

move from the long list to the short list of sites.'

But Peter Bain, head teacher at Oban High School, said the existing school was running out of classrooms and 60 high specification laptops had recently been purchased by the school as there is a lack of

computer suites. He said: 'We took a janitors cupboard and changed this to an office space to make an office upstairs into an ICT suite. We don't have enough technical facilities.'

Mr Bain added that the school was currently delivering an

engineering class in a former drama studio. He said: 'pupils are still doing these qualifications just not in the best environment.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'I think it is imperative a sensible capital investment is made given that we are going into a new school.'

'This is a tremendous opportunity for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.'

'How often do you get the chance to start with a blank piece of paper and get to say what you want.'

Family aim to raise sunken vessel in bid to find body

THE FAMILY of a fisherman lost at sea have taken matters into their own hands in a desperate attempt to find his body.

Scott MacAlister, 40, was last heard from on April 25 when he issued a mayday call to say the boat he was on, the *Speedwell*, was 'going over'.

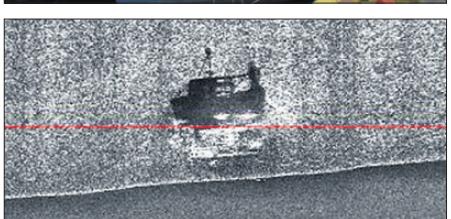
Now his family are attempting to move the boat into shallower water so that divers have access to attach flotation aids in the hope of getting it to the surface.

Peter MacAlister, Scott's father, said the family would be undertaking the operation with the help of the local community and reiterated his thanks to all of the volunteers who had helped so far.

He said: 'We really appreciate all the volunteers' work - I'm sure there are some we don't even know about but we want to thank them all for their efforts.'

'We certainly don't want volunteers annoyed that their effort wasn't appreciated - it most definitely is - it is the official side of things we have a problem with.'

He added: 'It is our intent now to try and lift the boat. Police and the Marine Accident Investigation Board have no objection



Sonar imagery helped identify the location of the sunken vessel *Speedwell*

and the Maritime Coastguard Agency said go ahead.'

Despite being unwilling to

take on the task themselves it is understood all three authorities want to be there when the boat

is lifted.

The family hope to move the boat into shallower water - around 20 metres deep - to start with, where a diver can carry out a search.

Once the *Speedwell* is in shallower water a diver will attach bags to the vessel which will be filled with air, bringing the boat to the surface where it can be pumped out of water. It is hoped the initial move will be completed this week.

The family are also reiterating their call for a better local system to be put in place for when an incident happens at sea.

This comes after authorities spent a lot of time searching in the wrong area for the *Speedwell* while locals with marine knowledge struggled to get their voices heard.

The MacAlisters are keen to hear from anyone interested in assisting them in creating a legacy in Scott's name and pushing authorities to ensure no other family has to endure their ordeal.

'We're very lucky we have a family boat and a lot of good friends in the fishing industry - but what would happen if we didn't,' questioned Peter.

Argyll's gardens open for charity fundraisers

ARGYLL gardens are opening their gates to the public this summer to raise money for charities.

The Scotland's Gardens scheme will continue until the end of October.

One weekend only

A number of gardens are taking part all summer, but some are open for one weekend only.

Dal An Eas and Dalnaneun, near Kilmore, Oban, are open this Saturday and Sunday from 1.30pm until 6pm.

Every year each garden chooses a charity to support, with 40 per cent of the proceeds going to their chosen cause and the other 60 per cent going towards Scotland's Gardens' own charities. This year the two Kilmore gardens have opted for the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals.

Other gardens involved in July include Crarae Garden, near Inveraray, Maolachy's Garden, Lochavich, Melfort House Kitchen Garden, Kilmelford, Barochreal Garden, Kiliniver and Ardchattan Priory.



Michael Heads, Ardbeg Distillery manager, greets Sir Mervyn King.

Bank governor checks Islay's 'gold'

THE DEPARTING Governor of the Bank of England has made a private visit to Ardbeg Distillery on the Isle of Islay.

Sir Mervyn King visited the distillery on June 8 as part of his final regional visit around the UK to see first-hand how businesses are faring.

The 65 year old said he had a long-held an affection for Islay malt whiskies but had never had an opportunity to visit the island.

The Glenmorangie Company, led by its chairman Paul Neep, hosted the governor and his party as well as Gavin Hewitt, youngest son of the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals.

Guests from the island's distilleries included John Campbell, representing Laphroaig Distillery, together with David Turner, Bowmore Distillery and Anthony Wills of Kilchoman Distillery.

Guests from the Scotch Whisky Association.

The chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association.

At the meeting to determine

a future application, so we are asking you to support this planning application and grant permission.'

He told councillors that the trustees had already questioned their support for the project after forking out more cash for tree and otter surveys.

The call for a new application

came after planning officers for Argyll and Bute Council

branded the designs for five private four-bedroom houses and six affordable units 'overly suburban', 'bland' and 'unimaginative'.

Councillor Robin Currie joined a number of councillors in expressing his distaste at the threat of pulling the application all together, adding: 'If they don't take this opportunity it is them and them alone that are going to be stopping affordable housing in this area.'

The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland were due to confirm whether they would submit another application as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Conference on Tiree's 'secrets' attracts international audience

A THREE-DAY conference on the Isle of Tiree saw delegates come from Australia, Switzerland and Canada, plus Glasgow, Scalpay and the island itself.

Tiree's community hall, An Talla, was packed for last week's conference - *The Secret Island: towards a history of Tiree*.

An audience of 110 heard 18 talks about the island, ranging from the history of the land struggle

in the 1880s by Professor Donald Meek to a new detailed graveyard survey by Catriona Smyth.

The Island Books Trust (IBT) set up the conference in partnership with the island's historical centre, An Iodhlann, with funding from the Tiree Trust's Windfall Fund.

IBT said that the event had been one of the best-attended it had ever organised.

Dr John Holliday, chairman

of An Iodhlann's, added: 'The island's history is emerging, blinking, into the sunlight, and there is a real buzz on Tiree after the meeting. History sometimes seems like a minority sport, but this was our Olympic moment.'

Standout moments were a scholarly analysis of the 1856 Balephul

Fishing Disaster, *Fuadach Bhail*

a' Phuil, by the conference's

youngest speaker, 19 year old Ian

Smith from West Hynish, and the

performance by Ethel MacCallum of a new love song written by professor Meek, *Fergie Mo Riún-sa* - to his tractor.

There was a real passion during

the debate about Tiree Gaelic, led by Ailean Boyd and Iona Brown.

Many speakers felt that Tiree

Gaelic should be taught in the

island's Gaelic unit.

Dinners for the conference were

prepared by An Talla's hall com-

mittee, led by Josie Brown. The

final night's conference ceilidh

showed why Tiree is 'Scotland's

best wee music island', with Eilidh MacFadyen, Ian and Bernie

Smith and Anna MacDonald

bringing out the best from a host

of performers and dancers.

A book of conference talks has

been commissioned by the trust

and will be published next year.



Kinlochleven woman Cheryl Lawrie, centre, celebrates her competition win with Jasper May, managing director of Shipton and Co., the Gem Box's parent company, and shop manager Mairi McAuley.

Kinlochleven woman wins Oban Gem Box competition

A COUPLE who bought an engagement ring from Oban's Gem Box 44 years ago returned to the shop last week to spend a gift voucher worth £250, after winning a competition through *The Oban Times*.

Cheryl and Willie Lawrie, from Kinlochleven, were in the shop last Thursday to receive their prize from Jasper May, managing director of Shipton and Co., the Gem Box's parent company, and shop manager Mairi McAuley.

Oban Times reader Cheryl won the competition by answering two questions: When was Shipton and Co. founded and

what is the birthstone for April? Cheryl was picked from nearly 100 entries by correctly answering the year the company was founded as 1870 and the birthstone for April.

Cheryl said last Thursday: 'We bought our engagement ring in this shop and I have had some lovely jewellery from here before, so I will be having a good browse today.'

'I'm not sure what to buy but no doubt the money will be spent before I leave.'

Mrs May, a fifth-generation owner of the family company, toasted Cheryl's win with champagne.

World War Two battle painting to visit Oban Library

A PAINTING which commemorates one of the concluding battles in the fight for North Africa in World War Two is to visit Oban Library.

The artwork, which marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle for Longstop Hill, Tunisia, is currently on show in Dunoon Library before coming to Oban on July 6.

The committee of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum commissioned military artist Stuart Brown to create the painting in honour of the soldiers of the 8th Battalion who were recruited from Argyll and fought in the battle. Last week *The Oban Times* reported the painting would be on show at Oban War and Peace Museum. It will in fact be on display in Oban Library until July 25 before visiting Inveraray Castle then on to its permanent home at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum in Stirling.

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Ken Buchanan guests at Claymores' boxing show in Kinlochleven

'There is a new generation of Ken Buchanan fans now'



Squaring up: Kerr Mackin and Euan Simmonds wait for an opportunity to pounce during a hard fought exhibition bout
20_f25boxing04

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

SOUTH Lochaber boxing fans were treated to a night of action at Claymores ABC's 'Scotland vs England' show in Kinlochleven on Saturday night.

Scottish boxing legend Ken Buchanan MBE was the guest of honour, and spent much of his night signing autographs and posing for photos with fans old and young.

The bout of the night saw Claymores' current Scottish Novice Champion Callum Clement, of Tyndrum, taking on Pierce Booth of Durham club North Road Gym.

The home crowd were off their feet early on as 15-year-old Clement started fast.

Both boxers quickly got into their stride, trading shot for shot. Unfortunately, Clement's lack of competitive bouts over recent weeks meant that Booth was sharper on the night, although this didn't start to tell until the third round.

The English boxer was given a narrow points win by the judges.

BOXING

Clement's clubmate Ally Banks, of Onich, faced Dylan Palmer, also of North Road Gym.

Banks, aged 14, started fast and kept up a strong pace, forcing the Englishman on to the back foot. Banks stuck to throwing his trademark bombs while Palmer used counterpunching jabs to rack up the points and take the win.

A number of local fighters also took part in exhibition fights, including 13-year-old Duror girl Jo Shepton who made promising debut against Elgin Meg Gordon.

Ballachulish pair Kerr Mackin and Cameron Sutherland both also enjoyed a chance to show their skills in the ring.

Head Coach Martin Glenesk thanked everyone who had helped put the show together.

He said: 'There is a new generation of Ken Buchanan fans now.'

'He also told me that he liked the place and the event so much that he would like to come back, so we will definitely look into that for our next show.'



Onich youngster Ally Banks put in a typically all-action display during his bout with Dylan Palmer
20_f25boxing05

Lochaber remain in relegation zone after defeat by Newtonmore

A BUMPER crowd came out for Lochaber's Friday night game against Newtonmore, but were not able to cheer the home side to victory.

A warm night in Spean Bridge also saw the midges out in force as league leaders 'More put in a classy display to leave with a 4-0 victory.

Danny MacRae put his team front after just four minutes, but the home side held out for the rest of the first half without ever really troubling the Newtonmore goal.

MacRae doubled the lead just three minutes into

Glencoe Boat Club hold annual regatta on Loch Leven

SUNSHINE and a good breeze gave perfect sailing condition for Glencoe Boat Club's recent annual regatta on Loch Leven and the passage race to the event from Oban.

The fleet of eleven boats set off from Oban Sailing Club, with the breeze eventually filling in from behind as they made their way to Onich Pier.

Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy and Findlay Clark's Red October took first and second on handicap after some close sparring on the way up.

Skye man John (Bodach) MacKenzie took line honours and the Peter MacLeod Cup.

The regatta day saw a steady breeze which held for both morning and afternoon races set by RO Peter Duggan. Close racing in Class I saw Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 Amber Haze take first by one second from Billy and Steven Forteith's First 31.7 Shadowfax.

The afternoon saw Shadowfax

SAILING

take the win from Vaila with the Soling Scaramanga third giving the Forteiths the overall for Class 1.

In the slow handicap class Ruairidh Mills and Alistair Ireland eclipsed the fleet in their 420 dinghy.

The Hot Toddy team finished second in both races with Bob and Jean Aitken's Hawk 20 Didima third in the morning and Hilary Watson's classic Elrhuna third in the afternoon.

The two firsts gave the boys the silverware in Class 2 and also the Ray Darker Trophy for the best local boat.

Hot Toddy was awarded the Ballachulish Slate Trophy for the best overall performance with a first and two seconds.

GBC commodore Christine McFarlane Slack said: 'It's been a brilliant 41st regatta and we've certainly laid on the good weather.'

Disappointing turn-out at Glenfinnan

GLENFINNAN Gun Club's shoot on Saturday saw a disappointing turn-out of only nine guns.

Winners: First competition, Angus 'The Gate' Quaich - Gordon Mathewson (Kilmacolm); Second competition, Ross MacLean (Conaglen).

SHOOTING

MacKellaig Shield - Alan Currie (Fassfern); Third competition, MacCracken Cup - David MacKenzie (Conaglen); High Gun for the day and the J MacLeod Cup - Ross MacLean (Conaglen).



Winners of Class 2: Ruaridh Mills of Glencoe Boat Club and Alistair Ireland from Dunoon. Photo by Neil Slinger

Weather

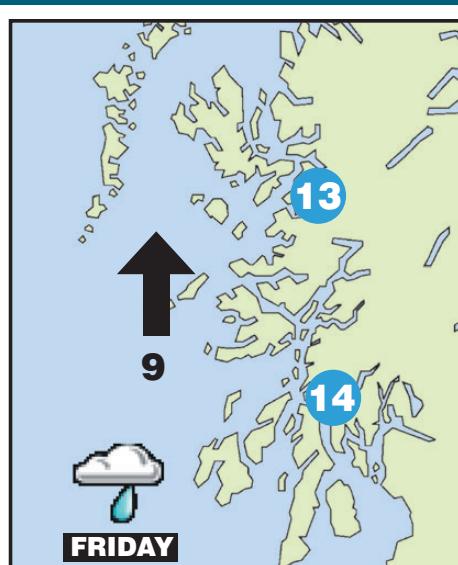
Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

Friday Light rain
Winds light, southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Outlook Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 16°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 20, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.29	3.4 09.00 1.3 15.17 3.4 21.04 1.2
Fri	03.32	3.5 09.54 1.1 16.07 3.6 22.06 0.9
Sat	04.25	3.7 10.45 0.8 16.54 3.9 23.04 0.7
Sun	05.13	3.8 11.33 0.6 17.40 4.0 23.57 0.5
Mon	06.00	3.9 12.20 0.4 18.25 4.1 ** * * * *
Tues	06.47	0.4 06.45 3.9 13.07 0.4 19.10 4.1
Wed	01.37	0.5 07.29 3.8 13.53 0.4 19.55 4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

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Silver medals for Lochaber youngsters

JUDO

LOCHABER Judo Club is celebrating after returning from the Ross-shire under-16 open championships with a haul of four silver medals.

Competition was fierce at the Invergordon event on Saturday but 11 year-olds Liam MacPherson and Damon Urquhart, together with eight year-olds Kyle Nolan and Mia MacPherson showed determination and technique to win through to the final in their respective weight categories.

The club, under the tutelage of veteran expert practitioner Tom Cameron from Onich, has gone through something of a transition in recent years but now has a wealth of young talent coming through.

Mr Cameron told The Oban Times: 'Many of our good players have gone on to work, college or university and these ones are the next crop coming through.'

Stephen wins time latest trial

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest time trial from Banavie to the Commando Memorial and back was won comfortably by Stephen Burns.

Burns knocked nearly three minutes off his previous best with a time of 45 minutes and 16 seconds. John Shirey was second in 48 minutes and 26 seconds, while David Munro was two minutes and two seconds back in third.

Marie Meldrum was the first women home in 56 minutes 35 seconds, with Sile Morris second and Frances Dent third.

Ben Nevis hill race winner Finlay Wild was fourth overall in his first road time trial.

Lochaber and Cosmos are top

WELFARE FOOTBALL

LOCHABER and Caol Cosmos moved joint top of the Lochaber Welfare League after both sides picked up wins last week.

Lochaber joined leaders Mallaig on 10 points with a 4-1 win over Claggan Park at the BA Club.

Reigning champions Caol narrowly defeated fifth placed Lundavra 1-0 on Friday to make it a three way tie at the top, but have played a game more than their two rivals.

Bottom side Ballachulish picked up their second point with a 1-1 draw at home to Lundavra, while Mallaig's game against Lochaber on Friday was postponed at Mallaig's request.

Win for Kilchoan

FOOTBALL

KILCHOAN FC's second away trip of the summer saw them defeat Giffnock 5-3 in sweltering heat.

Calum John MacPhail and Iain Macdonald both scored doubles, while Mark Dornan was also on the scoresheet in the victory.

Kilchoan are due to host their first home game of 2013 against Iona this Saturday.