

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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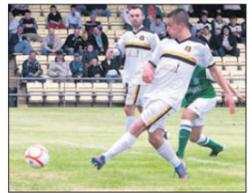


Barra snails for Bastille Day
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Oban could have community wind turbine Page 2

SPORTS NEWS

Ally on target in debut



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow hands over the blue mug to His Holiness Pope Francis. Picture courtesy of www.fotografafelici.com.

Pope Francis accepts gift of Mary's Meals mug

THE FOUNDER of the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals has met with Pope Francis after accepting an invitation to the Vatican - where he presented His Holiness with a blue mug. Pope Francis had heard through charity supporters within the Catholic community about the work and vision of Mary's Meals, which feeds 755,777 children every day in the developing world, and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was invited to attend the general audience in St Peter's Square, Rome, and receive a personal blessing.

One of the charity's iconic images is the blue mug used by children in Malawi to collect their daily meal of vitamin-enriched porridge, *likuni phala*, and Mr MacFarlane-Barrow presented Pope Francis with his very own Mary's Meals mug during the visit.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow said: 'It was a huge privilege and blessing to meet the Holy Father today and represent everyone involved in the mission of Mary's Meals. I presented Pope Francis with the blue Mary's Meals mug and let him know we are now reaching over three quarters of a million children every school day - many of them having escaped the rubbish dumps where they used to scavenge for their next meal or the fields where they worked - and he gave us a blessing, which we were very grateful for.'

'Councillors should all stand down'

Oban politician claims public should vote again

OBAN councillor Fred Hall has called for all elected members at Argyll and Bute Council to stand down - as a leadership wrangle continues to strangle the local authority.

A debate on the political and management structure dominated last Thursday's agenda at the full meeting of the council, with several items dropped from the schedule due to the length of the debate.

During the discussions, member Fred Hall was shouted down for claiming 'maladministration and the dictatorship of orthodoxy' had resulted in the situation befalling Kilmory, comparing the council's plight to 'an episode of Yes Minister'.

Agreeing to withdraw the 'maladministration' remark after councillor Gary Mulvaney described it as 'an insult to members', councillor Hall said: 'I stand by the dictatorship of orthodoxy comment, however, as it is driving this council. If we challenge policy we get told it's not competent to do so. The public have asked for a change in this council. If we can't give them that maybe we should all stand down and give them the opportunity to elect their members again.'

Mr Hall further asked the council to clarify if the cost of holding a by-election for any member that wished to stand down during the independence referendum would be 'negligible' during the meeting, but was not given an answer.

His comments come after months of turmoil in the council, which has seen two leadership changes, a 'secret' coalition formed between the SNP, Lib Dems and Conservative councillors following the collapse of the previous administration and the subsequent suspension of SNP members from the party for forming an alliance with parties it rivals on the independence referendum.

Among the items dropped from last week's agenda because of the length of debate over the leadership challenge were the review of community councils, a motion urging the council to take more proactive steps to dispose of all unused property in its ownership and a report on welfare reform.

The items will not be considered by the council until August.

Do you think Argyll and Bute's councillors should stand down and trigger a re-election following recent leadership struggles? Vote in our online poll at www.obantimes.co.uk, tell us your views by emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Bird feeders may be kiss of death to Oban and Lorn's feathered friends

THE DEATH of a large number of small birds in the Oban and Lorn area is being linked to the hygiene of bird feeders.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is urging all residents who feed wild birds to clean their equipment regularly to stop the spread of disease and infections.

John McAvoy, SSPCA senior inspector for Argyll, said: 'A bacterial infection of particular concern is trichomoniasis which can cause the birds' throats to swell to the point that they cannot swallow food and they starve to death. It is really quite concerning and the greenfinch population has been badly hit by this disease in recent years. To avoid this we encourage people to wash their bird feeders and tables down once a week with a mild disinfectant solution. This will help to ensure the wild birds and their young remain healthy and continue to visit your garden year after year.'

He added: 'We're always keen to encourage bird lovers to feed wild birds all year round as they do come to rely on this supplementary food. However, many people might not realise that they could actually be doing more harm than good by failing to clean their bird feeding equipment regularly. In fact, they could quite literally be killing birds with kindness. Bird feeders and tables can quickly become covered in mould from rotten food and any additional food that is topped up becomes easily infected. There is also a risk of birds catching diseases which can kill them from food that is contaminated with bird droppings. If they feed the rotten or contaminated food to their chicks then they too can become unwell and may die.'

Proposed change of gas sparks confusion

A CHANGE to the gas supply in Oban could lead to residents having to replace cookers, boilers and fires.

Scotland Gas Networks is carrying out a review of the gas supply to the town, which is currently served by tankers bringing in liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Engineers are carrying out surveys in homes in the town involving an inspection of gas appliances, central heating, gas services and insulation. A resident who was visited by one of SGN's engineers told *The Oban Times*: 'He said they were checking all gas appliances within households to check the age, make and model so that when they get a new gas supply they would know whether or not the equipment was compatible with that type of gas. It just seems a bit strange, I thought gas was gas. Who is going to replace these appliances - and at what cost?'

A spokeswoman for SGN said: 'The type of gas supplied to Oban is LNG which is supplied to the town by road tanker. As part of an evaluation of the long term options for the supply of LNG we have conducted this survey to gather information including the number of gas appliances, gas services and property insulation levels as part of the overall review.'

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Whisky cheaper than water

WHISKY is officially cheaper than water - at least if you buy a new brand of water designed to accompany single malts.

Uisge Source, an Aberdeen based company, is bottling water from sources close to distilleries on Islay, in the Highlands and in Speyside.

Water is taken from the Ardilistery Spring on Islay, which Uisge Source says has a higher natural acidity due to filtration through the local peat, meaning it goes well with Islay whiskies.

The Uisge Source website claims: 'Whisky experts recommend the addition of water to fully appreciate the complex aromas and flavours of whisky. The same experts say it's best to use the water that made the whisky or water from the source with the same chemistry. This will ensure that the true and original character of the whisky is retained.' It adds: 'Choosing the right water is imperative.'

The cheapest price *The Oban Times* could find was £3.99 for 10cl with prices reaching £4.54 for a single bottle - an average of £42.73 per litre. This is in contrast to a Laphroaig 10 year old at £37.49 per litre at World of Whiskies.

Ciara proves She's the One for Robbie

AN OBAN teenager had the night of her dreams last week when she shared a stage with Robbie Williams - after he carried her from the audience.

The popstar was playing at Hampden Stadium last week and Ciara Watling caught his attention as she had made a poster to let him know she had a gift, a Scotland t-shirt, for his baby daughter, Teddy.

Ciara said: 'He said it really touched him. He came over and carried me over the barrier. It was crazy, it didn't feel real. It felt like I had fainted. I was so happy. It was the best moment ever. He told me to come back next year, so I'm planning to!'

She added: 'As soon as he found out I was 17 he turned 'Uncle Rob' - he told me to call him that - and was so lovely and funny with it. I just hope Uncle Rob remembers me!'

Left - 'Uncle' Robbie Williams dances with Ciara Watling on stage at Hampden.

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Lorn Lines

MORE than £2,000 was raised for the Anthony Nolan Trust through a pop-up charity shop in Oban Youth Cafe.

Fundraisers from the Oban branch of the charity sold items on behalf of customers in return for a donation to the charity over the course of a week. Several items of value were purchased by visitors and two, in particular, were taken to India.

During the week several items were also donated for future fundraising events. One of these is a framed picture of Bosta Iron Age House, on Great Bernera, Isle of Lewis. The picture, by local artist Gilbert Muir, has been painted in pastels.

Mr Muir has donated several pictures to Anthony Nolan over the years and they have proved very popular in central Scotland.

The Oban branch is also very grateful for the donation of a shed that will allow it to receive and store donations.

Fundraiser Carol Turnbull said: 'We are grateful to everyone at Oban Youth Cafe, who move out to let us move in for a week every year.'

'We are now raising an appeal for unwanted jewellery and handbags for our recycle fundraising events.' Anyone who wishes to donate unwanted fashion accessories can contact Carol on 01631 710521.

THIS year's series of summer open air events featuring Oban Pipe Band and Eilidh MacInnes Highland Dancers will kick off tonight (Thursday) from 8pm.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club has organised the events, which take place in McCaig's Tower, for the enjoyment of both locals and tourists.

Lions president Alex Milligan said: 'We keep it going until around 9pm depending on how quickly the light fades. It is a good little end to the day.'

The next event will take place on August 8.

ACCESS into Obans Police Office is 'absolutely disgraceful' the town's chief inspector has admitted.

Alistair Davidson was speaking at last week's meeting of community council in response to a question from member and wheelchair user Kate Winton.

Ms Winton had asked who she should speak to with regards disabled access into both the town's sheriff court and the police station - both on Albany Street.

Chief Inspector Davidson advised Ms Winton to approach the Scottish Court Service with regards access to the town's court, but agreed it was too difficult to enter Oban's Police Office.

He said: 'As far as the police is concerned it would be myself you would speak to. Our entrance is supposedly disabled friendly and I know for a fact it is not.'

'The problem with the police building is it's an old Victorian building and there's only so much you can do with regards installing a ramp. The front door is absolutely disgraceful though and I certainly will be taking this point forward.'



He may be thousands of miles away but former Oban policeman Jim MacKay, centre, is keeping up to date with news from his former home thanks to The Oban Times - and a few of his old friends. Four Obanites travelled to Cochrane, Canada to visit Jim and his family and took this picture on top of Scotsman's Hill in Calgary with the Oban Times. Pictured with Jim are, from left: Willie Harrison, Riccardo Pacitti, Aaron Files and David MacPherson.

THE annual Ardrachattan Priory Fete will celebrate the 65th anniversary of the gardens being open to the public this month - and will hold an especially large celebration to mark the occasion.

Held on Sunday, July 28, the event is run with the help of local Scouts and Guides, with proceeds going to the groups and other local charities.

Attractions at this year's event include stalls for the children, cake and plant stalls, soup lunches and teas. Taynuilt Swing Band will put on a special performance and visitors can also enjoy exploring the gardens and ruins. For more information about the gardens, see www.ardrachattan.co.uk



A YOUNG Oban musician who suffers from multiple sclerosis (MS) raised more than £500 for charity through a concert he put together last weekend.

Guy Forteith joined forces with Finlay Wells and Elisa Conway, Lush Puppies, Nikki Aitkenhead and Robert Robertson to produce Ambient Acoustics, held at the Corran Halls last Saturday night.

The £561 raised from the event went to Oban's MS Therapy Centre, The MS Society and the Myelin Repair Foundation.

Guy, 20, has suffered from MS for four years. He said: 'It was a great night, we had around 60 people there.'

'The audience was really ambient.'



The Fifth Oban Brownies recently enjoyed a visit out on one of Seafari's boats in Easdale as part of their water awareness badges.

'Hebrides - Islands on the Edge' decision is boost for west tourism

BBC series to air in England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Some of the spectacular footage shot for the series.

THE LANDMARK television series filmed in the Hebrides is to be shown to audiences across the UK in a move deemed 'fantastic' by tourism organisation VisitScotland.

Hebrides - Islands on the Edge was such a hit in Scotland with its stunning scenery and breathtaking wildlife footage that the BBC has taken the decision to also air it in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Narrated by Hollywood movie star Ewan McGregor and produced by Glasgow-based Maramedia, the acclaimed series ran over four episodes with three focusing on wildlife while the final episode looked at the people of the Hebrides.

The work put in to making the show is akin to programmes such as Frozen Planet or Big Cat Diary.

Nigel Pope, executive producer of the series and director of Maramedia, said: 'We are delighted that the BBC will now be screening Hebrides - Islands on the Edge to a UK-wide audience.'

Spectacular footage

'We captured some truly spectacular footage during the making of the programme, showing natural Scotland at its very best. People and wild places need each other in the Hebrides, hopefully this series will shine a spotlight on both.'

VisitScotland has used footage filmed for Hebrides - Islands on the Edge - in its latest television advertising campaign.

Mike Cantlay, chairman, said: 'I am not surprised that the BBC has decided to broadcast Hebrides - Islands on the Edge throughout the UK, offering around 10 times as many people the chance to see this magnificent series.'

'In the Year of Natural Scotland, it is the perfect time to showcase our country's beautiful natural surroundings and wildlife, and I am sure that Hebrides - Islands on the Edge will prove a big hit with UK audiences and encourage more people to come and explore this stunning area for themselves.'

When Hebrides was broadcast on BBC1 Scotland during May, around a quarter of the TV total audience tuned in to watch the programme.

This is not the first time that the Hebrides have featured prominently on UK television. An Island Parish, filmed on Barra, saw the local VisitScotland Information Centre's football rise by 10 per cent, while the number of people catching the ferry to Mull increased by 15.5 per cent at the height of Balamory's popularity.

Originally only available to viewers in Scotland, the hit BBC television series will begin its four-week run on BBC2 from Thursday July 11 at 9pm.

French turn to Barra for escargot on Bastille Day

Oyster farmer seizes opportunity to market molluscs

ESCARGOT is normally the reserve of the French, but the country's British consulate is to be served snails from the Isle of Barra on Bastille Day.

Like all snails in Britain, the slimy critters from the island are edible and local oyster farmer Gerard MacDonald was aware that the island's snails - which are larger than average due to the lack of pesticides used on the island's machair - could be a delicacy.

After contacting Edinburgh-based restaurateur Fred Berk-miller earlier this year, Gerard found himself on the receiving end of an order for 12kg of the molluscs - and he's already been asked for more.

Gerard, of Isle of Barra Oysters, said: 'I noticed there were a lot of snails around here and I kept my eyes open for an opportunity.'

'Someone said there was a restaurant in Edinburgh called L'Escargot Bleu - with a name like that they must serve snails,

so about three months ago I got in touch.

'It went quiet for a while then they got back to me and ordered 12kg, for both that and the L'Escargot Blanc restaurant. They must have liked them because I've sent more since.'

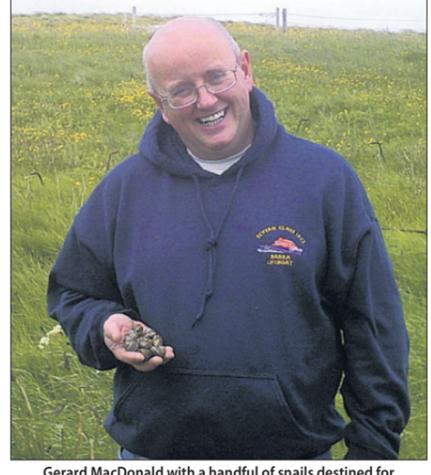
The snails, a species called petit gris, are the same species as those served in France.

Mr Berk-miller has been back in touch and has already shelled out for more snails - for France's landmark celebration.

'The French consulate hosts a celebration for Bastille Day and Mr Berk-miller has asked for more,' Gerard added.

Barra's snails grow until their shells measure around an inch and a half across. Because the island is covered in calcium rich machair, the snails are healthy and are said to boast a superior taste.

It's the first time the restaurant has been able to source its snails from Scotland, having previously imported from Dorset.



Gerard MacDonald with a handful of snails destined for Edinburgh's L'Escargot Bleu and Blanc restaurants.

New language initiative strengthens Celtic bond

SCOTLAND and Ireland are the closest of Celtic cousins - and that bond is set to strengthen under a new language initiative launched on the Isle of Skye last week.

ConnectG, unveiled at the Celtic Neighbours international conference in the Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, aims to link up businesses using Scots Gaelic (Gàidhlig) and Irish Gaelic (Gaeilge).

Three project partners - Sabhal Mòr in Scotland, Culturlann McAdam Ó Fiaich in Northern Ireland and Udaras na Gaeltachta in the Republic of Ireland - have signed up to the partnership.

The deal sets in motion a two-year £1 million project to help enterprises grow through making more use of the two Gaelic languages. Once ConnectG ends, an evaluation will guide a new strategy for public sector agencies to work together on making language support more competitive and effective.

Donnie Munro, chairman of ConnectG steering group, said: 'We have worked on developing this project over a number of years and are delighted to see it finally come to fruition.'

'We believe that it will provide significant opportunities for a wide range of enterprises across the three jurisdictions and will facilitate growth in language use in business.'

A team of four staff will be appointed to deliver the project - two will be based at Sabhal Mòr, one at Udaras na Gaeltachta and one between Culturlann McAdam Ó Fiaich and Carn Toghher Community Association.

ConnectG backers include the INTERREGIVA European Regional Development Fund, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, MG ALBA, the Scottish Government and Sabhal Mòr.

'Big brother' Telecare system to be made available

Tracking system can aid in 'distance' care

TELECARE packages are to become available to everyone, despite the council's head of adult care branding it 'big brotherish'.

Benefits

Argyll and Bute councillors accepted a report at a meeting last Thursday which will mean all cases, whether new or continuing, will be reviewed to see if a person can benefit from telecare.

Telecare is the use of technology in the home to allow those with disabilities or in need of care to be looked after using sensors, rather than having a carer in the home on a constant basis.

Decision

James Robb, head of adult care, told councillors it would still be up to the individual and their representatives if they wish to use telecare or to stick to the traditional carer system.

He said: 'It's important to emphasise that it does not provide physical care.'

'It's a form of distant supervision. It could be accused of being a bit big brotherish.'

'We are now at the stage where we can track somebody around their house and if they go out the house the alarm will go off immediately.'

Councillors stressed the need for the decision to be down to the individual, and for an appeals process to be developed to 'ensure fairness and transparency'.



Celtic cousins: Left to right, Boyd Robertson, Principal SMO; Eimear Ni Mhathuna, An Culturlann, Belfast; Shona MacLennan, Interim Director, ConnectG; Michael O'Farraigh, Udaras na Gaeltachta; Donnie Munro, SMO and Michael Mac Aoidh, Udaras na Gaeltachta.

Folk singing Tory MSP to play Belladrum

HIS IMAGE is of the quintessential Tory politician and estate owner but Argyll-based MSP Jamie McGrigor is proving he can walk on the wild side by taking to the festival stage.

Mr McGrigor will use the Scottish Parliament's recess to pursue his passion for folk music by appearing at the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival in Beaulieu on August 2 and 3, under the stage name Midnight Shepherd.

He said: 'Having attended Bella on many occasions since it began, I am very excited to be performing at it for the first time.'

'It will give numerous people the chance to tell me keep my day job! And I hope they will vote for me to do that!'

The Highlands and Islands MSP, who runs an estate on Lochaweside, will be playing a set



Jamie McGrigor MSP performs as the Midnight Shepherd on the Free Range Folk Stage. The politician has played with musicians such as Hamish Imlach, the Dubliners and Stevie Winwood in the past. He will be performing covers of songs by Joe Cocker, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and The Eagles, together with his own material, some of it comic, some serious about political and non-political situations.

Oban could have own wind turbine?

OBAN Community Council wants to build a wind turbine.

Speaking at last week's meeting of the group, chairwoman Marri Molloy said she was inspired by Tírre's community-owned turbine (Tilley), which generates tens of thousands of pounds for local causes each year.

While Tírre rests in one of the windiest spots in the world, Oban would still benefit from a turbine, said Marri, who believes the community council should investigate building one as soon as possible.

Location

However, members said finding a suitable location would be the major hurdle - with one member jokingly suggesting McCaig's Tower as a possible site.

Ms Molloy said: 'I want the community council to build one. We can get grants for it.'

'These turbines are going up left, right and centre and we shouldn't be left out.'

'If they can do it on an island with 750 people why can't we?'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I find myself agreeing with you.'

'Tilley was against planners' recommendations but it was pushed through and it is a fantastic example of a community turbine. They fund several community initiatives with the funding from Tilley and it is a great way of doing things.'

Member Kenny MacIntyre did not share his chairwoman's view. 'I've done my research into these things and I disagree. In Denmark they're getting rid of them and around 15 per cent of our electricity bill subsidises them.'

Kerrera was suggested as a possible site for a turbine, as it falls within the community council's boundary, but that is owned privately. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said talks to establish a turbine on Kerrera had faltered previously as the landowner requested a 'significant' share of the profits.

Duncan Martin further suggested somewhere in the Lerags area, arguing once again for the boundary of Oban Community Council to be expanded in line with projected housebuilding outlined in the local area plan.

The community council agreed to research the plan further.

Mull man admits careless driving

A YOUNG man from the Isle of Mull has been fined £150 after he collided with a bollard near Glenforsa on December 30 last year while driving carelessly.

Callan Chesney, 20, of Tigh an Uillt, Lochdon, Mull, pled guilty and also had three penalty points placed on his licence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

BBC Alba welcomes £1million additional funding

MG ALBA has welcomed confirmation of an extra £1 million to be made available for BBC ALBA's budget from 2015-16.

The funding increase, announced as part of the UK Government's Spending Round last week, will take the channel's budget to approximately £15million per annum.

Maggie Cunningham, chairwoman of MG ALBA, said: 'The news of extra funding for BBC ALBA comes as a welcome boost for the channel as it approaches its fifth anniversary.'

'The challenge now is to keep developing new and innovative forms of programme-making and ensure that BBC ALBA viewers, who have been so loyal to the channel, have continually interesting content to keep them engaged.'

Ardfren farmer denies animal cruelty charge

A FARMER from Ardfren is awaiting trial accused of animal cruelty by keeping his dog in a cage so small its front legs grew deformed.

Ronald McLean, 35, of 1 Colraig, Ardfren, denies causing his two-year-old Huntaway type dog unnecessary suffering.

It is alleged he failed to provide adequate nutrition or drinking water, allowing the dog to become emaciated and dehydrated.

He is also accused of housing him in a small cage for prolonged periods without adequate exercise, in an unsafe building, without access to bedding.

McLean is due to stand trial on July 8.

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Council workers consider September strike action over pay

COUNCIL staff across the west coast could go on strike in September as members of the Unison union demand pay increases for local authority employees every year.

Real term decrease
Argyll and Bute Council staff were leafleted outside its headquarters at Kilmory on Thursday as Unison members demand action on pay, saying

two years of pay freezes has left members with a real terms 13 per cent pay decrease over the past three years.

They have rejected an offered one per cent pay increase as 'miserly' and say every aspect of the council's operation will come to a halt for a day unless progress on an agreement is reached. Further action could also be on the cards.

Ballots on strike action opened on Wednesday, with voting to close for members on August 13.

Speaking outside the council's headquarters last week, regional organiser for Argyll and Bute, Simon Macfarlane said: 'We're yet to see how the Scottish Government responds. We've effectively had a 13 per cent pay cut in the past three years - a

0.65 per cent pay rise while the price of living has gone up.

'We are proposing one day of strike action across the whole of Scotland in September and there will be a series of rolling actions over the following five weeks. Everything from schools to bin collection will be affected.

'We are hoping to get back to the negotiating table before that though.'

Kieron Green, a Unison steward who works at Oban High School, said: 'Over the past few years, private sector pay has outdone the public sector. We've already had pay freezes and very small pay rises over the past few years and the private sector is now back to pay rises.'

The Retail Prices Index (RPI), a measure of the cost of living,

has increased by 11.3 per cent over the past three years, while local authority staff have endured two years of pay freezes followed by a one per cent pay increase offer this year.

Kintyre councillor, Rory Colville says he supports Unison calling for a wage increase, but hopes any strike action can be avoided.

'I fully support them and I

know everyone has the right to withdraw their labour if they feel they're getting a bad deal, but I certainly hope it doesn't go to strike action,' he said.

'As councillors we have to balance the decisions we make with how we deliver services.

'I've always found Unison a very professional and reputable union but obviously we do live in difficult times.'

Inveraray death crash biker named

A MOTORCYCLIST who was killed in a road crash near Inveraray last Wednesday has been named.

Stewart Cattnach, aged 67, from Dumbarton, died at the scene when he apparently lost control of his bike two miles to the north of Inveraray at around 4pm.

The road was closed for several hours following the incident. No other vehicles were involved in the crash.

Oban teenager returns to jail

AN OBAN teenager has been sent to jail for more than a year by the High Court in Glasgow after breaking the terms of his early release.

Craig Duffy, 19, of no fixed abode, previously admitted repeatedly causing a breach of the peace when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Duffy was remanded in custody while a decision was taken by the High Court on the imposition of the remainder of his previous sentence.

He was also sentenced to 30 days in custody for the new offence but this will be served concurrent to the 369 days imposed by the High Court.

Craignure meeting over broadband

RESIDENTS on Mull who struggle for broadband connection are being invited to a public meeting in Craignure Village Hall this month.

The Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) are progressing a plan for a community broadband service on the island and would like residents to share their views during the meeting on July 25 at 7.30pm.

For more information contact Moray Finch on 01680 812905 or mfinch@mict.co.uk.

Deadline looms for Islay health data

FEEDBACK on Islay's health services, which will make up an assessment of what is available to islanders, will be taken until tomorrow (Friday).

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) is carrying out the assessment and has produced a feedback form as part of this.

The closing date for responses was originally June 28 but this was extended to July 5.

Feedback forms are available from the CHP website at <http://ow.ly/k3ZCT>.



Tobermory lifeboat is dwarfed by the 644ft The World. Picture by AJ MacLeod.

The World arrives at Tobermory

A CRUISE ship owned by the people who live onboard was anchored off Tobermory this week during a tour of the west coast of Scotland.

MS The World, a 644ft ship with 250 crew, operates as a residential community with people living onboard as the ship travels the world.

Launched in March 2002, the

Bahamas-registered vessel has 165 residential units - 106 apartments, 19 studio apartments, and 40 studios - all owned by the ship's residents. It carries between 100 and 300 residents and their guests.

The World is operated by Florida based company Residensea with prices to live onboard starting at US\$600,000 for a 328 sq

ft studio. However, a suite will set you back \$13,500,000.

This is exclusive of the monthly homeowner dues which start at \$20,000 per month to cover fuel, crew, maintenance and a meal allowance. The World has facilities similar to those on board a normal cruise ship but extra features include a grocery store, golf simulator,

tennis court and jogging track. There are six restaurants as well as a cinema and library. Classes including dance, language and cooking are also offered.

The World recently visited Barra and was scheduled to go to St Kilda but came into Tobermory due to weather conditions. It is en route to Belfast.

Bills sour Book of Kells tour of Lorn

Oban Community Council face unexpected costs over historic book

UNEXPECTED costs could bring plans to tour the Book of Kells around Oban to a premature end - prompting warnings to community councillors about favouring one church over another.

Oban Community Council had invited Kells Town Council to Argyll to take part in the St Columba celebrations as part of a plan to bring the Book of Kells to these shores and be showcased in different venues across the town.

"Book of Kells tour schedule was out of the community council's hands."

Marri Molloy, chairman Oban Community Council

Scrapped tour
The book, a replica, was meant to tour St Columba's Cathedral, Oban Parish Church, St John's Church, Oban High School and the town library, as well as Lismore as part of the plan, but the discovery that moving the book would cost hundreds of pounds has sent the community council into reverse and it has now scrapped the tour list.

The book has already visited Dunollie House and St Columba's Cathedral, while a promise to visit the Parish Church will be fulfilled.

of favouring one church over another.

Speaking during last week's meeting of the community council, chairwoman Marri Molloy said: 'So far it has cost us about £580.

'There's no way the community council can continue to pay that.'

Ms Molloy claimed the schedule was 'out of the community council's hands' and said she was 'furious' over the implication the costs would be met by the community council.

'The book was going where the schedule said it was going.

'There was pamphlets and leaflets made up that we were to pay for - that never came here,

we didn't agree to that.'

Moving the book costs £90 per time, as it has to be displayed in a secure, and heavy, glass case, on loan from Kilmartin House Museum.

The schedule also stated the book would visit the Mid Argyll museum, but Ms Molloy said that too had been cancelled.

St John's had planned to display the book as part of an exhibition but members said if the church wanted it, it would now have to pay for it.

Kate Winton suggested keeping the book at the Parish Church until it was due to return as it was the most accessible but fellow member Andy Harper said: 'I don't think it would be wise for the community council to favour one church over another.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who helped the community council arrange the visit of the book, suggested Caledonian MacBrayne's building might be a good, neutral venue to leave the book until it was due to return, but it was pointed out that the insurance for the book was based on it being moved about constantly.

It was also suggested that the community council could return the book early to cut costs, but Kenny MacIntyre said: 'It's going to cost us to take it back.'

European success for pipers

ARGYLL bands proved they were on song at this year's European Pipe Band Championship by producing some of their best ever results.

The ever-improving Inveraray and District Pipe Band finished second in grade one behind Belfast's Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, while the Royal Burgh's juvenile band took fourth place, one position ahead of Kintyre Schools Pipe Band.

Oban Pipe Band recorded arguably its best ever result when it placed fourth in grade two. Pipe sergeant Iain Hurst said: 'We were certainly very happy with that result in only our second year at this grade.

'The competition was a march, strathspey and reel and we seem to do better at that than we do with the medleys. The next step is scoring well in the medley discipline, because we will need to do that in the qualifiers for the world championships.'

Oban High School Pipe Band also performed well by taking sixth place in the juvenile grade.

Isle of Islay Pipe Band was also among the prizes in grade 3A, taking fourth place overall.

Last Saturday was the first time any major championship has been held at Forres. It was a success, with 120 bands competing.

Driver arrested after Oban crash

A MAN has been charged with driving while unfit through drink or drugs after his van collided with two other vehicles.

The 29-year-old man was driving on Combie Street, Oban at 2am on Sunday morning when the collision occurred.

He was arrested at the scene.

Licence fees dropped for events
CHARITABLE or voluntary groups with a formal constitution across Argyll and Bute will not have to pay a fee for public entertainment licences.

Argyll and Bute Council recently approved a proposal to waive the fee for indoor or outdoor events after a one year review of changes to the fee structure for the licences.

Vandals strike at Appin school

OBAN Police are investigating vandalism at Strath of Appin Primary School after paint was thrown over playground equipment and walls.

The white paint had covered fencing, a climbing frame and the rear wall of the premises.

Anyone with any information is encouraged to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

Wheelchairs disappear leaving elderly stranded

TWO WHEELCHAIRS have gone missing from a sheltered housing complex in the centre of Oban - leaving some elderly residents stranded in their rooms.

Disappeared
Tenants at Dunmar Court, just off Soroba Road, had shared use of the wheelchairs for getting out and about to do shopping, laundry or just getting a breath of fresh air.

Kate Winton, one of the residents, said: 'We had two wheel-

chairs in the complex under the stairs, inside the corridor, for use for the tenants going for walks, shopping, laundry, crossing to the Lorn Resource Centre, generally out with their carers etc.

'I have been here for seven years and they were always there under the stairs for everyone's use. This meant so much to the tenants.

'I even supplied a nice thick gel cushion for comfort for sore bones. It's gone.

'Sadly both wheelchairs have gone missing.

'After great in-depth searches we have turned up with nothing.

'The chairs seem to have disappeared into thin air.'

The removal of these chairs means that the tenants, mostly in their 70s, 80s, and some over 90 can't even get downstairs.

Kate added: 'We are absolutely stuck to get people out of their flats to sit in our lovely gardens.'

Police back-up sent to investigate Colonsay crime

A POLICE officer from Oban has been sent to the Isle of Colonsay to investigate the island's first recorded crime in seven years.

And the victim of the alleged vandalism is the partner of special constable Yasmin Milburn, Colonsay's only police officer.

Ms Milburn, who was only appointed a month ago, came on duty last weekend after her partner's Land Rover tyres were slashed.

But Oban Police acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson has sent PC Jeremy Moore to the island to lead the investigation.

The chief inspector said: 'It would be inappropriate for the special constable to be leading the inquiry.'

Groceries lifted
A 21 YEAR old woman was stopped by security staff at Tesco in Oban when she allegedly attempted to make off with £81 worth of groceries after bagging them in Tesco carriers.

Uncertainty at Argyll and Bute Council continues

'Lets be clear; the council is not in chaos - the councillors are in chaos'

THERE is no end in sight to the bickering that has seen Argyll and Bute Council falter over much of the year, with a report over how the council should operate not to be heard until next month.

A bid by the Argyll and Bute for Change Group to immediately remove all lead councillors and introduce an interim group of nine councillors to review the operation of the council was defeated after the group led by Roddy McCuish introduced a rival bill which effectively mimicked the proposal.

John Semple's successful amendment instead saw all lead councillors hold their positions, with a short life working group of 12 councillors - representative of all parties - to be established to consider new political management structures.



Daft on a raft in Loch Etive

TWO DAREDEVILS on a homemade raft took a precarious shortcut across Loch Etive to catch the train at Taynuilt.

The reckless pair were using pieces of wood for oars and were battling against the racing tide without any lifejackets.

Emergency services have slammed the 'foolhardy' actions of the two men.

Billy Forteith, lifeboat operations manager with Oban RNLI said: 'Under any circumstances, no matter how seaworthy the vessel it is imperative that they wear lifejackets.

'The one single thing they should have done if they were going to attempt something like that is to be wearing lifejackets.'

When there just aren't enough hours in the day.

Our Oban branch is now open 9am to 1pm Saturday.

When you've got a hundred and one things to do during the week, you'll be glad to know that a hundred and one branches are now open on Saturday.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
With you all the way

Morvern Lines

READERS may recall my reference a few weeks ago to the mysterious disappearance of Achabeg House which stood four-square against the prevailing winds beside the road leading from Lochaline to Drimmin for almost 150 years.

A first planning application to extend and enlarge this much-loved building, with its large bat colony, was granted on condition that the original house was retained – the only demolition agreed was in respect of part of the rear wall to permit linkage with the new extension.

However, in the twinkling of an eye this fine old house, which had been occupied until very recently, disappeared overnight and surprise, surprise, a retrospective application followed which attracted 14 letters of objection.

Ironically, the day the Highland Council planning committee sat to determine the application, justice secretary Kenny MacAskill announced that local people in Scotland should have the ability to have a say on the character of their community. Jolly good, but unfortunately Mr MacAskill failed to say how this was to be done.

Although it was clearly contrary to the wishes of the local people and their community council, the planners gave their unanimous approval leaving one wondering if Bishop William Ralph Inge (1860-1954) hadn't hit the nail on the head when he said: 'It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism, while the wolf remains of a different opinion.'

THE NEW £3 million Lochaline Community Primary School was much admired by the few locals fortunate enough to be invited to its official opening last week.

Those who were not reminisced about some of the side schools of a bygone era which used to be dotted around the parish.

These £50, twelve feet square, single-room tin huts did not have a resource room, a dining room, nursery unit or gym hall.

No broadband or lap tops for the scholars who attended them, but what they lacked in facilities they gained in the quality of the old fashioned education they received.

Of course it was an age when schooling was considered a privilege rather than a right and judging by their attainments in later life, four blank walls, a peat fire and a 'piece' in their pocket, did not greatly impair their progress.

LAST THURSDAY night one of the most sumptuous private yachts in Europe motored past Lochaline heading north, flying the White Ensign, her highly polished black hull glistening in the setting sun. Her name was the *Phryne*.

Not since the Royal Yacht Britannia sailed through the Sound of Mull in 1997 on her last cruise round the Western Isles, has a more magnificent vessel been seen in these waters.

The two-masted *Phryne* was designed and built in Italy by Perini Navi in 1999 and refitted in 2009. Her steel hull measures 164ft by 33.7ft by 11ft draft; her displacement weight is 494 tons and she is powered by twin Deutz-MWN diesel engines giving her a maximum speed of 15 knots.

Her main mast is 168.6ft high and can handle 13,870 square feet of sail. This spacious and beautiful yacht has one of the most impressive interiors of any luxury vessel afloat.

She can accommodate eight passengers and carries nine of a crew. Her destination last week was not known.



The 164 foot yacht *Phryne* cruised up the Sound of Mull past Lochaline at the end of last week after spending time moored in the Firth of Lorne off Benderloch. Photograph by Perini Navi.

THERE IS nothing like the sound of the pipes to lift the spirits at a funeral. Before the Disruption of 1843 piping was popular at these gatherings although it was not generally approved of by the clergy, especially after the burial when refreshments were served in the usual liberal manner.

At one funeral the piper indulged too freely and instead of playing a lament struck up 'Calum Crubach' – Lame Calum – a lively and cheerful dance tune.

On another occasion a Morvern laird, said to have been a Maclean of Drimmin, took his piper with him to a funeral at Kilmallie outside Fort William.

Later in the day he upset the assembled company with his jigs to such an extent that one of them stuck a dirk into the bag to silence him.

In the old days oatcakes, cheese and whisky used to be given out to mourners after a Highland funeral. I have only seen this twice.

The first was on the shores of Loch Shiel after a burial on St Finan's Isle in the early 1970s and the second was outside the gate of Kiel graveyard, Morvern a few years later.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Complaint against Argyll and Bute councillors rejected

Planning committee member denies he was asleep during Clachan Seil windfarm meeting

A COMPLAINT against three Argyll and Bute councillors – including an allegation that one fell asleep during a planning hearing – has been dismissed.

Windfarm rejected

The Public Standards Commissioner has recently absolved councillors Sandy Taylor, Donnie MacMillan and Rory Colville of any blame following the complaint relating to a plan-

ning hearing on October 31 last year in Oban's Corran Halls.

The three councillors sit on the planning committee which unanimously rejected an application for a wind farm at Clachan Seil, made by Rory Young of Clachan Community Energy.

The complaint to the Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland accused Mr Taylor,

chairman of the committee, of unfairness toward the applicant by allowing objectors to make 'prejudicial statements' about him.

Councillor Colville was accused of being biased against the application as he expressed his opinion about the noise impact created by turbines and referred to a newspaper article about the beauty of the Scottish

landscape.

But it was the accusations levelled against Mr MacMillan which stood out most.

The report states: 'The complainant alleged that councillor MacMillan either actually fell asleep during the meeting, or gave an impression of fatigue and inattention.'

'Such an eventuality is not addressed by the code [councillor's

code of conduct] and as falling asleep is an inadvertent rather than deliberate act, albeit inappropriate in the course of public business, it cannot realistically be regarded as disrespectful of other parties present.'

All three men were cleared of any wrongdoing and Mr MacMillan denied he had fallen asleep – this was backed up by other people present at the

hearing.

The Lochgilphead-based councillor was further accused of 'doodling' on his papers but Mr MacMillan said he had been 'highlighting or annotating them'.

Mr Young did not appeal the refusal of planning permission for his wind farm, which would have comprised nine turbines, at a height of 77 metres.



The children enjoyed their last day at Smarties and Tweenies with a graduation ceremony to say goodbye. 16_127smarties01

Smarties and Tweenies say goodbye as Oban nursery closes doors

A OBAN nursery and crèche closed for the final time at the end of last week, with a graduation event to say goodbye.

Smarties and Tweenies, which were based in Atlantis, experienced a drop in the number of pre-schoolers registering and was forced to shut as a result.

Manager Leanne MacKay said: 'It is very emotional, I'm very sad to see it going. It has been a fantastic service.'

'We would like to say a huge

thank you to everybody that has supported the nursery over the years, without the help we wouldn't have been able to run.'

Smarties nursery provided pre-school education with Jack, Cara and Przemek going on to primary school this year.

Tweenies crèche provided care for children between two and three years old and parents say they will struggle to find a suitable replacement for the service.

Less thefts in Lorn

THEFTS of fuel in the Oban and Lorn area seem to have come to an end.

Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson told Oban Community Council that reports of thefts from domestic oil tanks had stopped, while there had been 91 crimes reported in the area over the past month.

There had been no reports of serious crime, he added, and while there were no major concerns he said reports of disorder had started to creep up due to the start of the new tourist season.

Some 19 crimes reported over the last month were road safety related, but a series of initiatives were planned over the summer.

Argyll shops get tough on underage tobacco sales

SHOPS in Argyll and Bute are getting tougher on underage customers trying to buy tobacco, a study has shown.

Test purchasers aged at least eighteen months below the legal age limit of 18 were not checked

on their age when buying tobacco in seven per cent of cases in 2012/13, compared to 95 per cent of instances in 2009 and 30 per cent in 2010/11, a Trading Standards study found.

'Test purchasing has proved

it can get good results,' said Sandy Taylor, lead councillor for planning at Argyll and Bute Council.

'We need to protect young people's health and well-being as much as we can,' he added.

Oban Sheriff Court

Lochgilphead women deny shoplifting more than £1,000 worth

TWO LOCHGILPHEAD women are awaiting trial at Oban Sheriff Court accused of stealing more than £1,000 worth of items from Oban's Tesco.

Lisa and Shannon Townsley, both 18, deny stealing goods to the value of £1,086.28 from the store on February 28.

Lisa, of 10 Coronation Terrace, and Shannon, of 1 Duncholgan Caravan Site, both in Lochgilphead, are due to stand trial on August 8 and will appear again on July 23.

Luing man admits £52,000 VAT fraud

A LUING man is awaiting sentence at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting VAT fraud worth £52,375.

Andrew Usher, 33, of 1 Cuan Cove, South Cuan, Luing, admitted fraudulently evading VAT by submitting false returns and obtaining repayments he wasn't entitled to when he appeared in court last week.

Usher will be sentenced on July 23 after reports have been prepared.

Oban men jailed after street fight

TWO OBAN men have been sent to prison for 96 days each after fighting outside one of the town's pubs.

Thomas Barr, 52, of flat 11, Shore Street, and Stephen Kelly, 49, of room five, Solas, Albany Street, pled guilty to engaging in a fight on March 21 on Oban's Corran Esplanade.

Lochawe hotel worker back in Oban court

A HOTEL worker who is currently remanded in prison appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week accused of breaching bail conditions and stealing £500.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of Greenock Prison, denies breaking his bail conditions by contacting a woman he was forbidden from seeing and moving address

without notifying the court.

He further denies stealing cash from his colleagues at Portsonachan Hotel, Lochawe, which was allegedly given to him to buy items for them. Radcliffe will stand trial on July 8 at Dumbarton Sheriff Court.

Oban man jailed on heroin charges

AN OBAN man has been sent to prison for more than a year after being found in possession of heroin twice and obstructing and struggling with police officers.

David MacGilvray, 35, of room four, Solas, Albany Street, Oban, previously admitted the offences at Oban Sheriff Court and was sentenced to a total of 13 months last week.

Oban man denies assaulting police

AN OBAN man is accused of shouting and possessing an axe while intoxicated at his home address in Nelson Road, Oban.

John McKay, 39, denies the offences, including assaulting a police officer and threatening officers with violence.

He was released on conditional bail to another address and is due to stand trial on August 21. He will appear in court next on July 23.

Mull driver denies motoring charges

A MULL motorist accused of getting behind the wheel while more than twice the legal drink drive limit will stand trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Andrew Rushton, 37, of Loch Frisa Cottage, North Loch Frisa, Tobermory, Mull, denies driving with 88mcg of alcohol in his breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

He further denies not having a MOT certificate for his vehicle and is expected to stand trial on August 21. He will appear in court next on July 23.

Oban woman stole iron while on bail

AN OBAN woman who stole an iron from the town's Homebase store while on bail for another offence is awaiting sentence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Donna Duffy, 38, of 2

MacDougall Court, Oban, pled guilty when she appeared in court last week. Sentence was deferred until July 23 for the preparation of reports. Duffy was released on conditional bail.

Connel man changed the locks

A CONNELL man accused of changing the locks on a house he rents out while the tenant was out appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Ewen MacPherson, 44, of Lagavullin, Connel, denies all charges and is due to stand trial on August 7. He will appear in court next on July 23.

Biker admits driving at 111mph

A BIKER who drove at almost twice the legal speed limit between Dalmaily and Tyndrum has been ordered to appear at Oban Sheriff Court for sentencing.

Iain Chisholm, 51, of 1442 Dumbarton Road, Scotstoun, Glasgow, pled guilty by letter to driving at 111mph on the A85 on April 20. Sentence was deferred until July 23 for his personal appearance.

Scrap metal dealer had no licence

CARRYING out business as a metal dealer without a licence has landed one Stirling man in Oban Sheriff Court.

James Furlong, 23, of 4 Newpark Road, Stirling, pled guilty by letter last week but his sentence was deferred for his personal appearance on July 23.

Barcaldine driver denies charge

A MOTORIST accused of dangerous driving near Dunbeg and causing a cyclist to dismount to avoid a collision will stand trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

John Gosling, 70, of Siskin, Barcaldine, denies crossing the solid white line to overtake a coach, causing the cyclist to take evasive action.

Gosling will appear in court next on July 23 and is expected to stand trial on August 6.

Dunbeg man denies assaulting 16-year old girl

A 42-YEAR-old man is awaiting trial at Oban Sheriff Court accused of assaulting a 16-year-old girl in a car.

Stephen McLuckie, of 7 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, denies seizing the girl before punching her on the head. He is expected to stand trial on August 21 and will appear again on July 23.

Easdale fraudster to do unpaid work

AN EASDALE man who committed benefit frauds worth more than £3,000 has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work over the course of a year.

Donald Gillies, 64, of 56a Easdale Island, previously admitted wrongly claiming £3,257.78 in Jobseekers Allowance. He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court Gillies mistakenly failed to declare a small armed forces pension he received as 'he didn't believe he had to do so'.

Traveller let pony roam on road

A RESIDENT on Ledaig Travellers Site is awaiting trial accused of allowing a pony onto a road.

Mary MacDonald, 51, of pitch one, Ledaig Travellers Site, North Ledaig, denies leaving, or allowing a pony to stray onto, the A828 at Ledaig. She will face trial on August 8.

Dunbeg teenager ordered to behave

A DUNBEG teenager who assaulted an 11-year-old boy in a school playground has had his sentence deferred.

Daniel MacCuish, 17, of 41 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, previously pled guilty to the offence and had his sentence deferred for four months when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton said the boys were part of a group that 'hung out' together and engaged in a 'great deal of

banter and horseplay'.

He added: 'It is fair to say Mr MacCuish did not appreciate the distress that was being caused to this young lad at the time.'

Sheriff John Herald ordered MacCuish to be of good behaviour and said: 'You have found out the hard way there is a very thin dividing line between what is horseplay and assault.'

Driver had been disqualified

A MOTORIST who drove in Oban while disqualified and with no insurance before failing to comply with a police breathalyser test appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Derek Hughes, 51, of 44 Bispham Avenue, Leyland, pled guilty to the offences and will be sentenced on July 23.

Police use CS gas on Oban teenager

POLICE officers had to use CS gas to subdue an Oban teenager they described as 'hysterical' during an early morning incident.

Richard Halcrow, 19, of 1 Ben Cruachan View, Pulpit Hill, Oban, was fined £410 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week after previously pleading guilty to the offences, which took place on December 28 last year.

Dalmally man smashed furniture

A DALMALLY man who repeatedly questioned his wife before smashing a garden chair is awaiting sentence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Stuart Saunders, 41, of 4 Breadalbane Mews, Oban, pled guilty to the offence and will be sentenced on July 23. He was released on conditional bail.

Oban man caught red-handed

AN OBAN man caught red handed by police while smoking heroin has been sentenced to 260 days in prison.

William McConnell, 33, of room one, Solas, Albany Street, Oban, pled guilty to possessing the class A drug when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin

Two men resisted police arrest

TWO OBAN men appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week after one tried to rescue the other from arrest by police officers.

Gavin Lafferty, 19, and Malcolm MacColl, 44, pled guilty to the offences and had their sentences deferred for the preparation of reports until July 23.

Lafferty, of 11B Angus Terrace, Oban, admitted attempting to rescue Lafferty by seizing hold of him and trying to pull him away from the police officers who were detaining him.

Prisoner set fire to bed in police cell

SETTING fire to a mattress in Oban Police Office landed one Oban man in the town's sheriff court last week.

Christopher Campbell-Smith, 33, of Glenview Guesthouse, Soroba Road, Oban, admitted the offence and had his sentence deferred for reports until July 23.

The court heard Campbell-Smith had been within a cell at the police station around 2.45am on June 15 when the officer at the charge bar smelled smoke.

Teenager denies Oban assault

A TEENAGER accused of assaulting a man in Oban's George Street will stand trial at the town's sheriff court.

Stuart MacCormack, 17, of 1 Polvinister Gardens, Oban, denies seizing the man by the neck, knocking him to the ground and punching him on the head.

He is expected to stand trial on August 7 and will appear next on July 23.

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Urgent call for Isle of Raasay bridge repairs

A CALL has been made for urgent repairs to be made to a bridge on the Isle of Raasay. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has written to Highland Council highlighting problems with Henderson's Bridge, which has been undermined by vegetation. He said: 'Local residents showed me the problems they have with the roads on the island and the current state of Henderson's Bridge. 'I understand the council do have work planned for this year but have written to ask that this is brought forward as much as possible as a matter of urgency to prevent any further damage being done to the bridge.'

Festival of India visits Oban and Fort William

A STREET festival celebrating Indian culture will visit Oban and Fort William this month. The Festival of India is embarking on a north of Scotland tour taking Indian dance, exotic music, puppet shows and dramas to the streets of the Highlands. Admission to the colourful street festival is free with the aim of promoting the timeless culture, arts, music and spirituality of India. Prana, president of ISKCON Scotland and the organiser of Festival of India, said: 'We are looking forward to bringing this colourful culture and timeless wisdom to the friendly Scottish people this summer. The festival will visit Airds Crossing in Fort William on July 8 before moving to Station Square in Oban the following day. It is organised by Scottish branch of ISKCON - one of the foremost cultural and spiritual ambassadors of India.'

New customer service point opening hours

NEW OPENING hours for customer service points have been announced by Argyll and Bute Council, with an appointment system also created. The revamp aims to reduce waiting times and queues for customers. The new hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm except on Wednesdays, when there is a 10am opening due to staff training. People who want to register a birth, death or marriage can now use a new appointment system which has also been introduced. This guarantees a registrar will be available to deal with their request. Registrar appointments can be made between 9.30am and 11.30am and 2pm to 4pm.

Tuition charges to be dropped

TUITION charges for senior high school music pupils will be scrapped from August. Youngsters in S4, S5 and S6 studying for an SQA qualification currently pay £252 per year but will no longer be charged after the summer holidays.

ScotRail on track to save water

RAINWATER is being used to clean West Highland trains as ScotRail tries to reduce costs and protect the environment. ScotRail believes it is the UK's first rail operator to use 'rainwater harvesting' and will annually save 3.5 million litres of fresh water use. The operator's Corkerhill depot in Glasgow will use roof rainwater to clean carriage undersides.

Man collapses in court on hearing jail sentence

Former hotel manager also placed on sexual offenders' register for ten years

A FRENCH man who was sentenced to 12 months behind bars for possessing child porn collapsed as he was led out of Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. Fabrice Gue, aged 43, of The Stables, Raemoir House Hotel, Banchory, previously pled guilty to allowing 40 indecent photographs of a young girl to be taken. He also admitted possessing a further 126 indecent photos, featuring children

between three and 15 years of age and 14 indecent movies of children - at least two had explicit titles indicating their content. The crimes took place at his accommodation in Banchory as well as at his staff accommodation within the grounds of The Isle of Eriska Hotel, where he previously worked as the general manager, the court heard. Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told

the court the young girl involved had been self conscious about her body image and Gue had encouraged her to take photos of herself naked and look at them to build her confidence. Mr McGinty said: 'After a time he asked her if she had done as he suggested and taken photos of herself. She said she had and the photos were on her computer.' The court heard Gue then accessed

her computer and transferred the images to a memory card belonging to him. But defence agent Gary McAteer said the girl had a troubled background and had taken the images herself, as a gift for her boyfriend, because she was an 'exhibitionist'. He denied Gue had enticed her to do so. He added that Gue had used a file

sharing website to download adult pornography and believed the illegal content had come with it accidentally. Sheriff John Herald placed Gue on the sexual offenders' register for 10 years as well as sending him to prison for a year. He said: 'I'm very strongly of the view that I would be failing in my public duty if I did not impose a custodial sentence on you.'

Gue was crying hysterically and had to be led from the dock by a police officer. He collapsed before being taken out of the court room. A former colleague of Gue's at the Isle of Eriska Hotel, who did not wish to be named, said: 'I am shocked. He always seemed to me to be a guy who was affable, friendly, good at his job, a good communicator. He was popular with guests.'



Youngsters Sarah Lowar, left, and brother and sister Kian and Taylor Campbell try out the new equipment as representatives of Rotary Club of Oban and Soroba Community Association look on.

Rotary Club boosts Soroba Community Association with £10,000 donation

ROTARY Club of Oban has given its largest ever single donation to help Soroba Community Association attract more youngsters to its services. The community group was given £10,000 to pay for new computers, printers and desk furniture, as well as one year's internet subscription. Andy Harper, of Soroba Community Association, said: 'The furniture we had was tarnished and broken and the computers were seven years old. 'You need the latest technology to engage with young people these days. Out-going Rotary Club of Oban president Iain MacKinnon

said: 'This is the biggest single donation we have ever made because the Soroba Community Association was identified as an area we wanted to help. We had set aside money to assist with the possible new community centre but that is not going to happen immediately, so this is a way we can help immediately.'

said: 'I think Scotland could be independent. It's not about us being too poor or too stupid - and people on my side of the argument who make that claim I think are wrong. 'But Scotland would be over-dependent on oil. When the oil

Lib Dem leader's mixed message on independence

SCOTLAND could make its way in the world as an independent country - but would be better off remaining part of the UK.

That was the mixed message from Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie at the fifth Fort William Chamber of Commerce debate on Scottish independence as the clock ticks down to next September's referendum. Addressing an audience of 25 in Ben Nevis Distillery last week, Mr Rennie argued Scotland would have more influence in the world and greater economic strength as part of Britain. And the MSP highlighted the Union's 'social equity' - shared values which found expression in institutions such as the NHS - as another reason for a 'No' vote. But he rejected arguments from some in the unionist camp that Scotland would fail as an independent state. He

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Scottish Lib Dem leader Willie Rennie wants a 'No' vote but says an independent Scotland could succeed. 20.127rennie01

price fluctuates so much and the income fluctuates it is very difficult to manage. 'So I think it's better to be in the UK because we can punch above our weight. The G8, European summits - these are big gatherings where all the big negotiations involve bi-lateral discussions which hop between different capitals because it is the big voices that set the agenda. 'Size counts - and I would rather be part of that size because otherwise we would lose impact and clout.' The MSP accepted it was questionable whether an independent Scotland would have become involved in Iraq or Afghanistan but claimed British troops, unlike the US military, were highly regarded on foreign fields. He said: 'I don't want any of these wars but I would rather be part of one of the biggest defence forces in the world, good or

bad.' Mr Rennie's claim that Ed Milliband, David Cameron and Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson were 'on board' with more powers for the Scottish Parliament, in the event of a 'No' vote, was met with some scepticism. 'When will Better Together get together to agree some transfer of powers?' local businessman Stewart MacLean asked. Mr Rennie acknowledged: 'We can't get a deal if we do not have authority from the heads of the UK parties.' And Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust chairman John Hutchison wondered why, if oil-dependent Norway could be so successful and build up huge financial reserves, why couldn't Scotland? Scotland could not afford to save up a proportion of oil revenues without 'slashing welfare and spending', Mr Rennie replied.

Highland Council pledge on Caol link road

WORK on the long-mooted Caol link road project will start within the next 10 years, Highland Council has pledged. The new route is part of the council's £1 billion 10-year capital programme along with a number of schemes in the West Highlands, including a new Stromeferry bypass on the A890 and work at Broadford airfield. Chief executive Steve Barron said the new programme had the 'potential to transform in-

frastructure' but admitted there was no funding as yet. He said: 'It is not clear just now which of these projects are or are not affordable, but they are all priorities.' Lochaber councillor Bren Gormley said the link road was 'crucial' to the economy of the area. He said: 'I am delighted that after decades of wrangling and frustration Highland Council is now visibly committing to this

project which is so crucial, not just to Greater Fort William, but to the interconnectivity and economy of the whole West Highlands. 'Traffic has had a stranglehold on the West Highlands economy for a long time. I'm sure everyone in the West Highlands will be pleased we're finally moving on this. It's been two or three decades in the making.' The link would run from An Aird roundabout to Caol where

it would join the A830 Road to the Isles. The final upgrade of Lochaber High School was included and the £8 million Portree Gaelic Primary and £3.5 million replacement hostel for Portree High School were both listed as 'must do' programmes within the next five years. Skye councillor Drew Millar welcomed the move, saying the local community would be 'delighted' with the news.



The Lochaber High School party at Fontainebleau in Paris.

Lochaber High School pupils and staff enjoy week-long Paris trip

A GROUP of 97 pupils and staff from Lochaber High School have just returned from a one-week trip to Paris. En route to the French capital from Zeebrugge, the group visited Belgian First World War sites at Tyne Cot cemetery

and the Menin Gate in Ieper (Ypres), which remembers more than 55,000 soldiers who have no known grave. Mark Reynolds played 'The Last Post' on trumpet, Aly Weir played 'The Flowers of the Forest' on the bagpipes and Lia Nicolson

laid a wreath on behalf of the school. In Paris, attractions visited included the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Stade de France, Musée de l'Orangerie, Chateau Fontainebleau and the Montparnasse Tower. There was also an

evening cruise on the Seine and time to visit the shops and cafes of Montmartre, with the last day spent at Disneyland. On the way home there was time for a half-day visit to the picturesque city of Bruges. Head teacher Jim Sutherland

said: 'We've had a hectic but enjoyable week which for many has been a first trip abroad. Our pupils, who have behaved impeccably, have had a great experience and I know will have many happy memories from the trip.'

Appeal for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in Inveraray

VOLUNTEERS to deliver Meals on Wheels in Inveraray are urgently being sought by the Royal Voluntary Service. The organisation provides meals at lunchtimes and companionship for elderly people who use the service. Elaine Grealey, locality manager, said: 'This service is often a lifeline for older, lonely people and our volunteers are sometimes the only people that some of our clients see in a day or even a week. 'We welcome volunteers - men and women - from any backgrounds. All our volunteers are given appropriate training and support from the local service manager and all mileage

expenses are reimbursed as volunteers use their own cars. 'Volunteers ensure that the elderly person receives their meal, they check that all is well and they provide the vital social contact that all of us need at times.' Volunteers The service delivers on Tuesday and Thursdays in Inveraray and needs volunteers who can commit around one and two hours each month, between 11.45am to 12.45pm. Elaine added: 'We would love to hear from anyone who would like to help us in this essential work.' Contact Karen Dalgleish on 07736825342 for more details.

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Rain fails to dampen spirits at sports day

RAIN and midges didn't dampen spirits at the North Lorn Schools Sports Day, which this year was held at Strath of Appin Primary School. Children from Barcaldine, Lismore, Achaleven and Ardchattan schools came

Pupils get ready for the North Lorn School Sports Day.

along to enjoy a day of sports and games held on Appin's recently opened all-weather pitch.

Students from Oban High School put the children through their paces with a range of games and activities during the damp

morning, while the afternoon saw the rain ease off just in time for the serious business of the races.

While the children enjoyed the activities, staff and parents enjoyed a plentiful spread of food and refreshments.

Down Your Way Tobermory

YOUNGSTERS from Tobermory Croileagan braved the weather and the midgies for a sponsored toddle in Aros Park last week.

The toddlers from the Gaelic group raised more than £150 with their walk in the park before enjoying juice and crisps. Organiser Helen MacInnes said: 'It was good, there were lots of midgies and it was wet but the kids just jumped in the puddles so it was fine.'

Left: Callum De'Ath leads the way during the Tobermory Toddle.



THE ROUND Mull Race takes place this weekend with one of the hotly contested legs between Oban and Tobermory. The event runs over three days, from July 5 to 7, and sees competitors travel 24.3 nautical miles from Oban to Tobermory, 28.3 nautical miles to Bunessan before the final leg of 41.4 nautical miles back to Oban.

The race is one of the highlights of the west coast yachting calendar. Every year boats from all over Scotland and further afield take part; more than 40 are taking part this year.

The event is run by Oban Sailing Club and starts with a seafood buffet courtesy of Forthright Food Service in Oban Sailing Club on Thursday evening.

The Friday evening prizegiving will be held in the Mishnish Hotel. After the second leg to Bunessan a buffet and ceilidh dance will be held in the village hall with funds raised going to Ross of Mull Historical Society.

Prizes include the fastest for the circuit overall, a double handed award and special prizes for the winners of each leg including the Mishnish Bucket and the prized Bunessan Hall Trophy.

More information and entry forms are available from obansailingclub.org as well as Billy Forteith at 01631 663404 or billy.forteith@btclick.com.

AN EXHIBITION inspired by stories from incomers to the Isle of Mull is to go on display at An Tobar.

The Tobermory arts venue is hosting Blow-in Bespoke, by Deirdre Nelson, which runs until August 29 with an opening night tonight (Thursday) from 6pm to 8pm.

During her time on Mull, Deirdre has been gathering real life stories from a range of 'blow in' (incomer) island residents. She has unearthed stories of past, present and place of origin from a range of people who have chosen to make the Isle of Mull their home.

Each work has been made specifically in exchange for personal stories given and designed in collaboration with individuals she has encountered during her residency at An Tobar.

The exhibition reflects the personalities and lives of those involved and demonstrates diverse contemporary life on Mull. Each piece will be gifted to the participants on completion of the exhibition.

A THEATRICAL performance based on a coastal walk has been developed at Mull Theatre by Edinburgh-based group Magnetic North. The theatre company has been in residency at Druinfin, near Tobermory, to develop their new show - A Walk at the Edge of the World.

The performance is based on a coastal walk and the story touches on the connections between the sea, the coast and islands and the separation from the mainland, which is why Mull makes the perfect place to work.

A spokeswoman said: 'This performance is different from most theatre because it involves all of the audience talking a walk together with the actor Ian Cameron. However, the main part of the



Ian Cameron checks out the walks around Druinfin.

BUDDING young actors took to the stage at Druinfin, near Tobermory, recently for an eagerly anticipated production of Pan.

The two-night run saw Mull Youth Theatre, led by Andi Stevens, perform to a sell-out audience while exploring the magic and terror of childhood.

Graham Alexander said: 'This is youth theatre at its finest and this production inspired on many fronts.'

'The commitment of all the players was evident and it was refreshing to see how the older members of the cast looked after the younger ones and gave them the space to perform and enjoy the experience.'

'Such events involve many people giving up their time behind the scenes. Set construction, lighting and sounds, costumes and stage management, all of which were a high quality.'

'In an age where youth gets such bad press this production is worth shouting about.'

He added: 'During the interval I was approached by a holiday maker who asked where all the youth theatre children had come from. I said they were all islanders, many from Tobermory, and this person looked at me and said 'wow' - that I think absolutely sums it all up.'

Next week reporter Richard Haddock visits Spean Bridge. Contact Richard on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.

GLENELG

PRIMARY 6/7 pupils from Glenelg Primary School have gained their first John Muir Award.

To achieve the 'explorer' section of the award, accompanied by staff, parents and Rule Anderson, the National Trust for Scotland ranger at Kintail, the children hiked up local peak Glas Bheinn - at 397 metres a considerable climb.

School administrator Fiona Cameron said: 'The children had perfect weather for the climb and were rewarded with stunning views over our beautiful village and the surrounding area of Skye and Lochalsh.'

COLONSAY

IT WAS standing room only at the recent launch of Dileab Cholbhasach - A Colonsay Legacy.

Published by Acair and edited by Morag Law, daughter of the Colonsay writer Barbara Satchel, the book was well received by the large audience who had gathered in Bishopston.

Morag has provided translations of the articles which were originally published in the Gaelic magazine *Gairm* and she has provided a bilingual foreword which sets the essays in a historical and family context.

Barbara Satchel wrote on a wide range of subjects but her essays describing her own life in Colonsay are especially interesting to a modern reader.

Morag attended an event in Colonsay last Tuesday to mark the publication and Georgina Hobhouse from the Colonsay bookshop commented: 'Morag has cleverly and tirelessly worked to combine family photographs and her mother's own writing and now that this wonderful and beautifully written record has been made, in both Gaelic and in English, it is accessible to all.'

KILCHOAN

THE ANNUAL Kilchoan pram race is due to be held on Friday July 26.

Participants will be using unique homemade or modified prams and are expected to show up in fancy dress, with the theme this year being cartoons.

The race from Ormsaigbeg to the Kilchoan Hotel starts at 1pm.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN High School bade farewell to six teachers when the 2012-13 session ended on Friday.

History teacher Yvette Lathe and maths teacher Jan Hamilton retired after 23 years and 10 years at Kinlochleven, respectively. Emma Reynolds (English) has moved on having been with the school for 11 years after her husband Paul, former deputy head at Lochaber High, was appointed head teacher of Ross High School in Tranent, East Lothian.

Geography teacher Sally Massie will take up a post at



Eilidh MacDonald receives her award from Sir Craig Reddie and Katherine Grainger.

National award for Islay's inspiring Eilidh

ISLAY High School pupil Eilidh MacDonald has received a national award from Olympic gold medal hero Katherine Grainger CBE at a ceremony in Glasgow City Chambers.

Eilidh and fellow pupil Eleanor Harper How, who was unable to attend the presentation, were given bronze level awards for their work on the Inspire-Aspire programme by the Olympic rower, International Olympic Committee member Sir Craig Reddie CBE and the Lord Provost of Glasgow Sadie

Docherty. The Inspire-Aspire Awards programme reached 25,000 young people this year by using the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the character qualities of Olympians to inspire young people to set personal goals and to develop future aspirations.

For her work on the programme Eilidh chose to feature Helen Glover, who in 2012, alongside Heather Stanning, became Britain's first gold medal-winning Olympic women's rower in 2012.

Charleston Academy in Inverness after a year at Kinloch. Probationer Amy Morrell (art) is heading off to Canada to work, while Sam McFerren (maths), also a probationer, has found a position in Edinburgh.

FORT AUGUSTUS

A FORT Augustus youngster has won a Highlands and Islands-wide competition to design artwork for the upcoming Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open, held at Castle Stuart near Inverness.

Kilchuimen Academy pupil Jamie Walker will now see his design adorning the course throughout the four-day event, which starts on July 11.

The 13-year-old and his family have been given tickets to the event and his school will receive £1,000 of golf equipment.

He said: 'I'm really thrilled to have won this prize and I'm looking forward to seeing the Scottish Open with my family. 'It's an honour for the school as well, but I think it's my dad who is the most excited of all.'

The competition was open to all children under 16, with Ryder Cup star Paul Lawrie picking the winner.

COLL

MEMBERS of Coll Seniors' Social Club recently enjoyed a trip to Rum and Muck.

Island Shuttle from Mull, in conjunction with Seafari Adventures, sped the group on a RIB from Coll to the Isle of Rum.

Following a walk along the bay and an enjoyable lunch at the friendly Teashop café the group set off for Muck.

With perfect weather and wonderful views of surrounding islands the group enjoyed the short crossing to the lovely Isle of Muck.

Beautiful hand crafts were viewed at the local café and the group enjoyed coffee and cake in the sunshine.

Jean Peddie said: 'All in all it was a wonderful day out and a chance to see the islands usually viewed from Coll as silhouettes in the distance.'

CAMPBELTOWN

TOURS conducted by Campbeltown Heritage Trail Group are back for the fourth year.

The group is run by volunteers and was formed in 2010 as part of the Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

Tours are available over July and August, every Wednesday at 2pm outside Aqualibrium on Kinloch Road.

The tour lasts an hour and is free, with no need to book a place and covers the main aspects of Campbeltown's history, its rich heritage, its people and stories.

The tours are delivered by Alex McKinven and John Bakes and have previously attracted more than 400 people including locals and visitors.

Easdale primary pupils turn pop stars for a day



The pupils record their album with Oban musician Guy Forteith.



Left to right: Douglas Strachan, Ian Grimmer, Derek Noble with rector Duncan Ferguson.

Plockton bids farewell to long-serving trio

PLOCKTON High School has bade farewell to three experienced teachers who have accumulated 84 years' service at the school between them.

Physics teacher Derek Noble, principal teacher of science Douglas Strachan and technology teacher Ian Grimmer take with them into retirement the good wishes of staff, pupils and the wider community.

Speaking at the school's end of session ceremony, rector Duncan Ferguson paid tribute to the teaching trio.

He said: 'Derek Noble is a physicist who came to our school in 1980. He has been prominent in his promotion of rocketry across the curriculum and has been active in the EIS throughout his career both locally and nationally.'

'Douglas Strachan, a biology specialist with an impressive record as a marker for SQA, came here in 1984. He has been principal teacher of science for 19 years, a loyal

head of Caledonia House and a competitive badminton player who has made a huge contribution to the school.'

'A trumpeter with a good wit and a renowned marathon runner, Douglas has raised money for many worthwhile charities.'

'Ian Grimmer, a humorous Aberdonian and another loyal member of staff, has been at the school for 22 years having previously taught in Edinburgh schools.'

'He is highly regarded as an exceptionally gifted designer and craftsman whose pupils have benefited enormously from his fine teaching of graphic communication in particular.'

'At a celebratory retirement gathering held in the school, colleagues made presentations to all three and a social band musical evening was held in their honour in Plockton Village Hall which was well attended by their families, friends, current and former colleagues.'

Eighteenth century Redcoats return to Glen Moriston



Three Redcoats stand guard over the restored bridge in Glen Moriston.

EIGHTEENTH century Redcoats were back in Glen Moriston recently to mark the restoration of an ancient bridge used by their feared predecessors.

Under the Forestry Commission (FCS) Scotland project, three surviving bridges on an 18th century military road from Lochaber were repaired.

According to FCS archaeologist Matt Ritchie, the road played a key role in Scottish history and was an astonishing feat of engineering.

He said: 'General Wade - and then Major Caulfield - spent decades building a 1,600km

long network of roads, bridges and fords that crossed some of the most rugged terrain in Scotland, to counter the feared Jacobite threat.'

'It helped confirm and extend the power of the Crown but, once it had outlived its military purpose, it began to enhance and encourage communications, trade and development throughout the region.'

The need for conservation work was highlighted after the commission carried out an archaeological survey of the 18th century military network, only a fraction of which survives today.

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Charity biker John sets sights on marathon trip to Moscow

A LOCHAILORT man set off today (Thursday) on his latest long distance fundraising challenge - a 10,000-mile trip to Moscow and back on a 10 horsepower motorbike.

John Bryden is making the gruelling journey to the Russian capital via the Netherlands and Scandinavia on his 125cc machine. He will return through continental Europe and aims to be back in Lochaber in just four weeks time.

The former policeman is aiming to raise around £15,000 for Kirsty's Kids, the charity he chairs which aims to improve the lives of sick children around the world. Before even setting off, Mr Bryden had raised more than £7,500 through his Virgin Money Giving donations page.

Goodwill messages left on the page include: 'Hope it all goes well - brave adventure', 'Good luck John, catch you on route' and 'Good luck, amazing work you are doing'.

Mr Bryden told *The Oban Times* some of the funds raised will go to Russia's first cancer rehab centre for children, which recently opened in Moscow.

He said: 'The odds are stacked

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

against me, but I'll give it my best and hopefully it can inspire some people who are facing troubles of their own.

'Without assistance from the community we couldn't do any of this. It's them that are raising all this money by donating, not me.'

Well-wishers from across the UK waved Mr Bryden off from his Craiglea home, including Royal British Legion members, police motorcycle groups and an 83-year-old former RUC policeman, who rode from south Wales for the ceremony which marked two years since the charity was established.

Mr Bryden and his wife Jan set up Kirsty's Kids in memory of their daughter Kirsty, who died in a tragic car accident in 2010.

He said: 'Some people seem to think this is a memorial trip. But it's not about Kirsty, it's about the work she was doing to help children who are suffering around the world.'

To donate, visit www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Eeyore.



All roads lead to Moscow: John Bryden left Lochaber today on his four-week trip to Russia and back. 20_127john01

Families in food crisis

Shock findings reveal growing number of people need emergency handouts

THEY often mean the difference between starvation and survival for victims of famines or floods in the developing world.

But now emergency food parcels are a fact of life for a small but growing number of Lochaber families unable to feed themselves because of welfare cuts.

The shock findings from Lochaber Citizens Advice Bureau follow the introduction of the so-called 'bedroom tax', which financially penalises benefits claimants deemed to be under-occupying their homes.

Applications for food aid to the bureau have risen markedly since the controversial new regime took effect on April 1.

And with more sweeping welfare changes round the corner it is feared more families could join the queue.

Lochaber CAB director Stephen Marshall said pleas for essentials such as bread and milk were almost unheard of before - but no longer.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is shocking that in 21st century Scotland the poorest are having to rely on food handouts in what is a supposedly civilised country.'

'We are experiencing an increase in people who are having to be referred for food parcels simply because they can't afford to buy food. Such a thing used to be very rare, but people are now finding themselves without

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorrish@obantimes.co.uk



Shocked: Lochaber CAB director Stephen Marshall. 10_126food01

benefit income for long periods because of the administration of the system. And when you take utility bills and the bedroom tax out of the £71 a week jobseekers' allowance, you are not left with very much for essentials - if anything at all.'

He added: 'I don't want to be alarmist or say that the roof is falling in, but we are detecting a trend. It is not huge, but it is noticeable. We just want to make sure we can offer support when required.'

Last week an Oxfam Scotland study found the country's wealthiest households were 273 times better off than the poorest,

with the number of employed people in poverty up 10 per cent since 2008.

Lochaber CAB has seen its case workload increase by 40 per cent in two years as the UK Government seeks to lop billions more from welfare spending.

Highland Council has funded an extra benefits case worker for a year, but new funding streams will be needed to develop the service.

Mr Marshall said clients on benefits and job seekers allowance with a spare bedroom are being hit hardest, with some having to find an extra £20 a week for rent from minimal incomes.

Others are no longer being awarded discretionary housing payments - short term help available through Highland Council to bridge some or all the gap between benefit received and full rent.

And many people claiming personal independence payments (formerly disability living allowance) or incapacity benefits also face cuts under tougher medical tests to assess their entitlement.

'The biggest impacts are going to be in the most deprived areas,' Mr Marshall said. 'With all the new assessments being introduced we expect there to be a lot of work involved.'

He advised people struggling to make ends meet: 'Take advice early and maximise what income you are entitled to.'

A recent report by Sheffield Hallam University for the Scottish Parliament's welfare reform committee found benefit changes would remove £60million per year from the Highlands economy from 2014/15. Pro rata, the figure for Lochaber would be around £5million.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

Heavy events go ahead at Skye games

HAMMERS will be thrown, cabers tossed and stones heaved as usual at the Isle of Skye Highland Games in Portree on August 7, say organisers.

Rumours had been circulating locally that the heavy events could be under threat after a woman was injured by a wayward 28-hammer landing

in the Highland dancing judges' tent last year.

But honorary secretary Allan Stewart said this week the traditional feats of strength would go ahead as planned.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have considered all factors involved and taken all the risks into account that we can. It will

be the same programme as last year.

'It is the 136th year of the Skye Games and we hope to attract a big crowd - it's the island's biggest day of the year.'

Asked if a compensation claim was being pursued, he said: 'It is still with our insurance company.'

Meanwhile, Isle of Skye Pipe Band will be joined by Chicago Stockyard Pipes and Drums and Goulburn Soldiers Pipes and Drums from New South Wales to entertain on the big day.

IoSPB Drum Major Peter MacDonald said: 'It will be a big, big occasion for the Skye Highland Games.'

Gaelic school plan welcomed

COMANN nam Pàrant Port Rìgh has welcomed Highland Council's pledge to build a £8million standalone Gaelic primary in Portree.

The move follows a six-year campaign for the school, which the council and the Scottish Government will fund jointly.

CnaPPR chair Annika Rawlings said numbers in Gaelic pre-school were at 'an all-time high'. She said: 'Indications are that Gaelic medium education has a very bright future in Portree. We would like to thank everyone who has worked towards this stage and we are heartened that the project is now classified as "must do".'

Building work is scheduled to start in 2015-16 with the school operational in 2017.

Office workers' shock at man's abuse toward wife

SHOCKED office workers called 999 after witnessing a Spean Bridge man hurling abuse at his wife in a Fort William car park.

Lea Purvis had just placed a £5 bet at a nearby bookies and launched the foul-mouthed

tirade during a row about his gambling. And when officers stopped 22-year-old Purvis his wife was 'upset and crying' in the passenger seat, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

'I've been assaulted,' she told police.

Purvis, of 1 Morrison Avenue, pled guilty to pulling Mrs Purvis' hair and shouting and swearing at her in Gordon Square on May 10. Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This type of behaviour is unacceptable. The court takes very seriously any incident of

domestic abuse. However I am reluctant to impose a penalty that will adversely affect the family, such as a fine.'

Restaurant worker Purvis, originally from Stockport, was ordered to carry out 30 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Thieves strike four properties

FOUR Lochaber properties were targeted by thieves in the space of 40 hours last week.

A quantity of tools, including two chainsaws, were stolen from an agricultural shed at Mingarry, Acharacle, with a further two chainsaws stolen from a house at Kinlochmoidart, Lochailort.

A large quantity of property was stolen from a workshop at a house in Gairloch, with police saying a vehicle would have been required to remove the stolen property. Items were also stolen after containers at the Underwater Training Centre in Fort William were broken into. The thefts all occurred between 2pm on Wednesday June 26 and 7am on Friday June 28.

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2013 Scottish Thistle Awards REGIONAL WINNER

The National Fish & Chip Awards 2013 WINNER

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - July 4

Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.
 8.45am, Ramblers Scotland Strontian walk, meet Corran ferry slip or Strontian tourist information at 9.30am.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Treshnish Farm walk, Mull.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
 8pm, Oban Pipe Band and Eilidh MacInnes Highland Dancers, McCaig's Tower, Oban.
 9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippish, Oban.

FRIDAY - July 5

Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.
 Round Mull Race.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 10am, Marie Curie home baking sale, Linnthu House, Oban.
 10.30am, Coffee morning, Kilmelford Village Hall.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 7.30pm, Robert Gillies, Tobermory Scout Hall, Mull.
 8pm, 90s tunes and dance anthems, Papparazzi, Oban.
 9.30pm, Kevin Fraser, Markie Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 9.30pm-12.30pm, Kevin Fraser, Markie Dans.

SATURDAY - July 6

Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.
 Round Mull Race.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 1pm, Glengarry Highland Games, shinty field, Invergarry.
 8pm, DJ Guy theme night, Papparazzi, Oban.
 8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
 9.30pm, Moray MacIvnen, Markie Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, Signal Fires, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 9.30pm-12.30pm, Moray MacIvnen, Markie Dans

SUNDAY - July 7

Round Mull Race.
 9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Invergarry walk, meet Spean Bridge Woolen Mill.
 10.30am, Oban Walking for Cancer, Guide Hall for registration, Oban.
 12pm, Friendship lunch, Craignish Village Hall.
 1pm, Family fun day for Tobermory Toddlers, Aros Park, Tobermory, Mull.
 2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
 2.30pm, Producers' market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
 3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Lerags.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

TUESDAY - July 9

All day, Staffa stuff.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
 7pm, Celebrity Cook Off Live, Corran Halls, Oban.
 7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
 8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - July 10

10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
 7.30pm, Cancer coffee evening, Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull.
 9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - July 11

9am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Awe walk, meet Ballachulish tourist centre of Oban's Longsdale Road car park at 9.15am.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
 1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
 2pm, Rock pooling and beach combing, Calgary Bay, Mull.
 7pm, Clay pigeon shooting, Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connel.
 8pm, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 9pm, Pub quiz, Coasters, Oban.
 11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippish, Oban.

FRIDAY - July 12

9.45am, Climate challenge advice, Oban Phoenix Cinema.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 8pm, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
 8pm, 90s tunes and dance anthems, Papparazzi, Oban.
 9.30pm, Disco, Markie Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - July 13

9.15am, Ramblers Scotland Benderloch walk, meet Ballachulish tourist centre of Oban's Longsdale Road car park at 9.30am.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 3pm, Duck race, Black Lynn, Oban.
 8pm, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Sunart Centre, Strontian.
 8pm, DJ Guy theme night, Papparazzi, Oban.
 8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
 9.30pm, Sandra Macbeth, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SUNDAY - July 14

12pm, Fun day, Garmony, Mull.
 12pm, Table top sale, Portsonachan Village Hall, Lochaweside.
 2pm, Producers' market, Craignure Hall, Mull.
 2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
 3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Lerags.
 9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

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

Times life

A royal smile on Princess Anne's visit to Oban

HRH THE Princess Royal was all smiles as she joined more than 270 people in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls at the largest celebration of volunteering to take place in Argyll and Bute.

Princess Anne presented the Decade of Volunteering Awards, marking 10 years of Argyll Voluntary Action last Thursday.

Earlier in the day she had braved the rain on a visit to Dunollie Museum and Dunollie Castle, where she received guided tours with Catherine Gillies and Iain Colquhoun and met with staff, trustees and volunteers.

She was greeted at Dunollie by Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, the Lord Lieutenant's cadet James Cameron and piper DJ MacDougall.

At the Argyllshire Gathering Halls music was provided by pupils from Oban High School, whilst the princess was welcomed by Oban High School Pipe Band, ably led by pipe major Angus MacColl.

Her Royal Highness made awards in 10 categories to volunteers and organisations.

The 10 award winners each received a glass trophy from Her Royal Highness.



The Princess Royal meets Dunollie Museum's learning and events officer Tara Coia, whose daughter Caitlin seems more taken with the camera. 15_127hrh05

Volunteering award winners were: Impact in the Community - Family Mediation Contact Centre Argyll and Bute; Volunteer Challenge - Russell Campbell from Islay; Volunteer Long Service - Frederique (Fred) Hill from

Dunoon; Individual Impact in the Community Award - Grace Scott of Oban Community Charity Shop; Inspiring Young People Organisation Award - Campbeltown Young Firefighters; Supporting Older People

Award - Helensburgh and Lomond Carers Centre SCIO; Inspiring Others Award - Irene Harrower of Oban and Homestart Lorn; Volunteer Ambassador Award - Ross

McFarlane of Helensburgh and Jigsaw Cornerstone; Islands Volunteer Award - Rosie MacPherson of Islay; Individual New Development Award - Jenna Spiers for Calum's Cabin on Bute.



Campbeltown Young Firefighters receive their award for Inspiring Young People. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



The Princess Royal arrives at Dunollie Museum, flanked by Robin MacDougall, left, and Mike Robertson. 15_127hrh01



At Dunollie Castle with head guide Iain Colquhoun and piper DJ MacDougall. 15_127hrh08



The Princess Royal is given a tour of Dunollie Castle by head guide Iain Colquhoun. 15_127hrh07



Her Royal Highness shares a joke about age at the reception with sisters Betty Paxton (left), 100, and Jean Campbell, 106. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Volunteer Wilma Campbell, Campbeltown, meets Princess Anne. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Rosie MacPherson from Islay. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Grace Scott of Oban receives the Individual Impact award. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Oban three-year-old Isla Smith, daughter of Claire and Jamie Smith, presents Princess Anne with a posie of flowers. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Jenna Spiers from Bute receives the New Development Award. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

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Man caught drink driving twice in four days

A FORMER Fort William man caught drink driving in Lochaber twice in four days has been banned from driving for four years and fined £900. William Stewart, now of 20H Watchmeal Crescent, Clydebank, pled guilty to being nearly two-and-a-half times the legal alcohol limit while driving on North Road, Fort William, in the early hours of May 29. And the 37-year-old also admitted being nearly three times the limit on the B863 between North Ballachulish and Kinlochleven on June 2. Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered forfeiture of Stewart's van, which he was driving at the time.

Attack accused remanded

A CAOL man has denied carrying out a racially motivated attack on a man on Fort William High Street. Appearing from custody, Dean Conn, of 82 Kilmallie Road, denied punching and kicking the man on the head and body to his injury in the early hours of Sunday morning. The 23-year-old also pled not guilty to repeatedly swearing and shouting racist abuse at the man. After hearing Conn had several previous convictions, Sheriff Noel McPartlin remanded him in custody calling the charge a "particularly unpleasant allegation". He said: "There is a significant risk of you committing more offences while on bail." Conn is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on July 30.

Trial postponed after witness fails to appear

THE TRIAL of a Fort William man accused of punching a woman on her head and body to her injury has been postponed after a Crown witness failed to appear. Jake Black, of 1B Loch Linne Buildings, denies assaulting the woman at an address on Kennedy Road on May 1. The 23-year-old also denies destroying property at the house and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing at the woman. A new trial date was set for September 12 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Princess Anne to open world skiff championships

HRH Princess Anne is to open the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association world skiff championships at Ullapool on Monday. The princess will review the fleet from a motor boat before meeting local people and rowing club representatives. The event has attracted 260 crews from 31 clubs from as far afield as the USA, Australia and the Netherlands, plus crews from across Scotland and one from England. Over a week's racing, men's, women's and mixed crews will compete in age categories from under-17 to over-60.

Drug danger advice leaflet launched

NHS HIGHLAND has launched a safety initiative explaining the dangers to patients of continuing to take certain medicines while dehydrated by illness. New patient information cards are being distributed to pharmacies, GP practices and hospitals detailing which drugs should be temporarily stopped if patients have sickness or diarrhoea. The medicines include diuretics, blood pressure tablets and type-2 diabetes medication. Kidney consultant Dr Stewart Lambie said: "I think that this campaign could make a huge difference to how many patients we see coming in to hospital with kidney failure."

Kishorn port renewable energy masterplan lodged with council



Kishorn Port could become a major manufacturing centre for the offshore renewable energy sector.

A MASTERPLAN to transform a former oilrig platform fabrication yard in the West Highlands into a major base for the offshore renewable energy sector was lodged with Highland Council this week. And if Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) secures full planning permission, its huge industrial site west of Lochcarron could once again become a major manufacturing hub - this time for wind turbines, wave power machines and tidal devices. The ambitious blueprint includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock

one of Europe's largest. An accommodation camp for workers and a temporary holding area for completed offshore wind turbines in Loch Kishorn are also planned. If the deepwater port is re-established as a full manufacturing centre, the company estimates up to 2,500 jobs could be created. KPL director Alasdair Ferguson said: "After two years of work we are happy to see the Kishorn masterplan reach fruition. We see Kishorn as having significant potential in meeting renewable energy production targets for offshore wind and marine development. We are confident the masterplan and subsequent planning permission is the key to unlock the potential of the Kishorn yard and contribute to the regeneration of the area, creating long term sustainable jobs and supporting significantly the economic growth of the area." Director Simon Russell added: "There has been considerable interest shown by potential concrete gravity foundation manufacturers in the Kishorn Yard and we look forward to helping them develop the facility. A prototype device could be manufactured within the next six months." The masterplan follows in-depth studies by Scottish National Heritage, SEPA and Marine Scotland, with financial backing from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Public consultations locally drew widespread support. Kishorn was developed in the 1970s by Howard Doris Ltd for the fabrication of the 600,000-tonne Ninian Central platform. Although based on the west coast of Scotland, KPL has formulated plans for tow-outs of completed structures through the Pentland Firth to the east coast bringing many prospective UK offshore wind farm developments within reach.

Trio tackle three peaks challenge

THREE West Highland employees will be among a Marine Harvest team aiming to tackle the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in 24 hours from 5pm tonight (Thursday). Apprentice Ross MacDonald, 16, based at Lochailort, 29 year-old Christopher Sim at Fort William and Robert Wyvill, 30, at Loch Duich will hope to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in aid of the RNLI and the Brain Tumour Charity. Iain Johnston, 59, who is based at Fort William, will be one of three drivers shuttling the team from peak to peak in the Waitrose Macrae Charity Challenge. Last month Highland firefighters Chris Findlay from Fort William and Ricky Dibble from the Black Isle climbed the 'three peaks' from south to north - cycling the 96-mile West Highland Way en-route to Ben Nevis to raise thousands of pounds for the Scottish Burned Children's Club and Help for Heroes.

War memorial fundraising

ARISAIG Community Council is to fundraise to improve the village war memorial ahead of next year's commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. The issue will be discussed again at the council's meeting in September.

Bid to bring salmon back from the brink

Painstaking mission to re-stock Strontian river

AN AMBITIOUS bid to save a Lochaber river's wild salmon from extinction is underway. No salmon have been caught on the Strontian for many years, suggesting only a handful are spawning each year and that the population is in irreversible decline. But now Sunart Community Company and Strontian Angling Association, working together with Lochaber Fisheries Trust, have embarked on an long-term strategy designed to bring the species back from the brink. In a painstaking rescue mission, the angling association collected 30 salmon parr from the river to grow in tanks and then at a commercial hatchery. All the six-inch fish, which had never left the Strontian and migrated to sea, were individually tagged and genetically screened for stock purity. Because the population was so small many were found to be closely related, requiring a breeding plan to reduce inbreeding and maximise diversity in future. After two years of dedicated care the full-grown adults were ready to produce the next generation of Strontian salmon. And last month more than 10,000 young fry were released into the river, all from wild Strontian stock. Pupils from the local primary school helped with the release and will be following the project's progress closely. It is hoped in a few years time the fish

will return as adults to spawn, helping to recreate a thriving salmon population. Lochaber Fisheries Trust biologist Dr Diane Baum said: "In an ideal world, salmon would prosper without our intervention, but the population on the Strontian was so precarious that extinction was a real possibility. "The stocking of hatchery-reared salmon into rivers is not new, but the desire to preserve the unique, indigenous Strontian line meant that innovative ways had to be found to source eggs from the extremely small number of salmon in the river. "We have done everything possible to ensure the fry stocked into the river are as fit and healthy as possible and great credit must go to Pete Madden and the Strontian Angling Association for their vision and hard work to reach this point." Mr Madden, secretary of the Strontian Angling Association, said: "I can remember that as a teenager in the 1960s during summer evenings we used to meet on the Strontian Bridge and watch the salmon come up the river mouth on the high tide. "Also when standing on the bridge at the Church Pool, when water levels were low, we could always see a half dozen or so salmon in the pool below. "If someone then had said that the salmon would be virtually gone from the river in another 40 years, we would not have believed them. Just maybe, we will see them splashing in the pools again."



Strontian Primary school pupils Skye Taylor and Alasdair Cameron release salmon fry into the river.

REASONS for the cripplingly low return rate of mature salmon to some rivers are complex. However, scientific studies suggest sea lice could be a major factor. Salmon smolts leaving rivers for the first time are especially vulnerable because their scales have not formed properly. Even a few of the parasites latching on to their skin can prove fatal. Sea lice occur naturally but tend to be present in much higher numbers in waters around fish farms. Operating companies use chemical treatments or 'fallowing' - leaving a site vacant for a period - to reduce infestation. Loch Sunart once housed nine farms but in recent years these have been consolidated at three sites away from the head of the loch. The Strontian flows into the eastern end, meaning smolts face a 20-mile swim along the narrow sea loch before reaching the open ocean to the west. Lochaber Fisheries Trust biologist Dr Diane Baum told *The Oban Times*: "We will continue the stocking programme for four of five years, by which time we will know whether it has worked or not. We should get another year's eggs out of the salmon we have just now. We will then be able to take more parr from the river which have grown from the fry we have already released."



Anne Inglis in her overgrown back garden. 20_126garden01

Row erupts as pensioner's grass turns into 'jungle'

AN ELDERLY Corpach woman's back garden has turned into a 'jungle' after Highland Council contractors refused to mow the lawn. Pensioner Anne Inglis has watched the grass behind her Drumfada Terrace home grow above knee height since spring. The 74-year-old is part of the council's Garden Aid scheme, which helps elderly or disabled tenants who are not able to take care of their own gardens. But Ms Inglis told *The Oban Times* the programme was failing because the Inverness-based contractors, who have recently been awarded the contract for gardens in Lochaber, were not doing what was required. She said: "They came last week and did the front garden then they just left and drove off without going near the back garden. It's like a jungle out there now. If I could, I would do it myself, but I'm not able to. I've asked the council to take me off the list. I'd rather pay someone who was going to do the job well." The gardeners told Ms Inglis they would not cut the back grass due to dog mess. She said: "That's a load of rubbish, I clean it up every day." A Highland council spokesperson said: "There are a various reasons why a garden may not have been cut, including lack of access, dog-fouling, washing hanging out to dry on the day of scheduled cut. This season we have had the added issue of bluebells. They have been growing in abundance due to the weather conditions and it is unlawful to cut bluebells. Often the tenant does not realise this and thinks their garden has been overlooked, when actually there is a perfectly valid reason." Lochaber councillor Brian Murphy said: "I can't understand why they wouldn't have done the back garden, unless there was dog mess which would be a reasonable excuse."

Arisaig drier than average in June
JUNE in Arisaig was drier than average, according to figures compiled by local amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne. Just 71 mms (just under three inches) fell during the month, taking the 2013 total to 566 mm (22 inches), also below average. Daily low temperatures averaged 10 °C and the daily highs 17°C, both just below average. Coldest night was 7 °C and warmest 23 °C, both slightly above average.

Caol man admits illegal River Lochy fishing

A CAOL man has admitted illegally fishing for salmon on the River Lochy - after his brother tried to take the blame. Brian Tolmie, who was banned from fishing on the river, claimed he was nowhere near Castle Pool behind Inverloch Castle on July 5 last year, and said water bailiff Iain Horne had instead seen his younger brother. Tolmie, 23, said Mr Horne had a 'vendetta' against him after he gave evidence against one of Mr Horne's colleagues in a previous trial.

Craig Tolmie, 20, told Fort William Sheriff Court he had been fishing with another person on the day. After refusing to say who he had been with, Sheriff Noel McPartlin warned Mr Tolmie to answer or face a charge of contempt of court. But after an adjournment, Brian Tolmie admitted he had been illegally fishing. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: "You were really angry you were not allowed to fish the River Lochy. You were refused a permit, you went fishing anyway and you

were happy for your little brother to take the rap." Tolmie's car was found near the scene with fishing rods and equipment inside. After the car was seized by police, Tolmie admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by removing a rucksack from the vehicle while it was under police control at ADJ Stevenson's yard at Gairloch. He also pled guilty to shouting, swearing and sounding his horn at the yard on the same day. Sheriff

Noel McPartlin said: "This is perhaps not one of the more serious cases to come before the court, but what is serious is your plea of not guilty and you accusing the witness of having a vendetta against you." He fined Tolmie, of 48 Camesky Road, £700 and ordered forfeiture of his fishing equipment. Sheriff McPartlin also warned Craig Tolmie about his conduct. He said: "You took an oath. Should you be called to give evidence again you must answer every question that is asked of you."

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Fridays 26 July and 2, 9 & 16 August 2013
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Live Ceilidh band and Scottish dancing from 8.30pm.
Adult £11.50, child £6.75, family from £31.00
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Right to buy needed re-investment built in

WITH THE majority of local authorities calling for the scheme behind the right to buy council and social housing to be scrapped it is likely that the Scottish Government will heed the call and announce by the end of this week that tenants with ambitions to own their homes will no longer have this option.

The policy stems back to the Thatcher government of the early 80s and resulted in approximately 455,000 Scottish homes transferring to the private sector to-date. However, the income for the sale of these heavily discounted houses failed to be fully reinvested into the public housing sector by successive governments, the stock of social housing dwindled dramatically. This forced councils to re-evaluate the principle of the project and a scheme built on good intent had its foundations eroded. The question remains - where did the money go?

GLASGOW LETTER

Comann na Mara Concert

THE COMMITTEE of North Uist-based Comann na Mara must have been disappointed at the poor turnout for its Oran Mor concert showcasing winners of the pipe tune composing competition. Each of the winning tunes was played, five of them by guest pipers and one by the original composer, Derek Boyce, a member of the St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band. The concert was compered by Susy Macaulay, Editor of Island News and Advertiser, and was opened with selections by Islay Pipe Band, which finished in fourth place the previous day in Grade 3A of the European Pipe Band Championships.

Interspersing the winning performances in the first half, Marie Therese Gilfedder and friends played selections and there was excellent Gaelic singing from Linda MacLeod. During the concert, special presentations were made to Colin Beattie of Oran Mor and to Norman Johnson for his services to piping in North Uist over many decades and then Stuart MacMillan MSP, official piper to the Scottish Parliament and who presented these special awards, was prevailed upon to play his bagpipes.

In an evening deserving of a far greater audience, the Ross Ainslie Trio played for the second half and treated those present to some rollicking pipe music, much of which recognised the influence of the late Gordon Duncan on their musical careers.

Choral cousins

AT THEIR first concert with Gaelic cousins as part of a Scottish tour - they would later visit Strath Choir in Skye and then Stirling Gaelic Choir - the 40-strong Male Voice Choir from Brittany, Mouezh Paotred Breizh were excellent guests of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir at a concert in Hyndland Parish Church.

This was an evening of musical contrast, although the Bretons gave a rendition of Amazing Grace and then Sine Bhan with a particular highlight being the combined choirs singing Runrig's Cearcall a Chuain, now a favourite of Gaelic choirs and which was, of course, first performed by the Glasgow Islay choir when they were conducted by the arranger of the piece Eoin Millar. Not only did the choirs combine but it was a joint effort from conductors Jean-Marie Airault and Kirsteen Grant, no mean feat.

Musical accompaniment for the Bretons involved keyboard, organ, flute and Breton pipes with the Ileaacs accompanied on one piece by Theresa Irving on clarsach and then when they sang a Puir choir member Mairead MacNeil showed that it was possible to dance to the music. Islay Choir were indebted to Piper Greg Harley who was given special dispensation from his band, Johnstone Pipe Band, to miss a rehearsal for the European Championships.

Greg played at the start of both halves of a most enjoyable evening with Glasgow Islay Choir showing it can look forward to performing at the International Eisteddfod later this month. Vice president John Joe MacNeil and Kirsteen Grant compered for the Islay Choir and the Bretons introduced their own pieces in an evening

LEADER funding provided to Oban Phoenix Cinema was for half the projected costs of revamping its second screen, totally £18,289, not the full amount as reported last week. Nicola MacKinnon also attends the University of Strathclyde and not Stirling. Apologies for the error.

enjoyed by both the audience and the participants with the singing of the Breton National Anthem by the joint choirs a superb finale.

Bagpipe tuition

SUMMER schools will take place at both the National Piping Centre and the College of Piping during the school holidays.

At the former they will take place during weeks commencing July 22 and 29 with prospective pupils asked to register by 8.50am on the first day. Weekly courses at the college have already started and will run until Friday August 16.

E-piping lessons

LESSONS from the National Piping Centre for next week are as follows: Monday July 8, 3pm, Strathspey and Reel, Caberfeidh and the Rejected Suitor - Callum Beaumont. 5pm, Bagpipe Tutor, Chapters 1 to 1, Chris Armstrong. Tuesday July 9, 3pm, Bagpipe Tutor, Chapters 20 to 30, Glenn Brown. Wednesday July 10, 12pm, Piobareachd, Lament for MacSwan of Roaig, Roddy MacLeod. Thursday July 11, 5pm, Piobareachd, Struan Robertson Salute, Chris Armstrong. Friday July 12, 12pm, Practical Musicianship for Pipers 1, Finlay MacDonald.

Stirling and Trossachs

Ceilidh Trail

TAKE the opportunity to hear some of fine young musicians who have learned much of their music within the Feis movement at the following venues.

Evening events are concerts while those during the day are either busking or sessions unless otherwise stated. Tuesday July 9: Loch Katrine Steamboat, 1pm. Callander Youth Project, 7.30pm. Wednesday July 10: Settle Inn, Stirling, 8pm - session. Thursday July 11: Crianlarich Hall, 7.30pm. Friday July 12: St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle, 7.30pm. Saturday July 13: Stirling Castle, 2pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 7.30pm.

Glasgow Skye Association

CALUM Ross was appointed to the position of Honorary President at the recent annual general meeting of Glasgow Skye Association.

Calum has played an important part in many different areas of Gaelic tradition, both within and outwith Glasgow Skye Association, for many years. All other office bearers retained their roles.

Diary dates

Tuesday July 9: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Showcase with best new talent on folk scene. Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm. Stirling and Trossachs Ceilidh Trail - see above.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend the music will be provided by Gunna Sound on Friday, Deoch'n Dorus on Saturday and Trail West on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday.

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

Correction

LEADER funding provided to Oban Phoenix Cinema was for half the projected costs of revamping its second screen, totally £18,289, not the full amount as reported last week.

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Oban Fire Service personnel

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Ian Darling of Dunollie, Oban, and shows members of the Oban fire service from years gone by. 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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More cycle tracks please

Sir, I think the cycle tracks are great and I very much enjoy using them.

The chance to chat to other users and enjoy the breath-taking scenery without the worry of being put in a ditch by car or lorry drivers who think they can squeeze past me if I'd just breath in, is wonderful.

The gentleman who suggests cyclists would be better off with a dedicated cycle lane along side the road, I think, has possibly never used such a lane.

The edges of most roads are broken with drops of up to a foot. The potholes, especially when filled with rain water, are best avoided and the rubbish dropped by other road users can be very hazardous.

I would like to say a very big thank you for the cycle tracks and may we please have more.

Penny Evetts, Connel.

Oban electorate deserve better

Sir, The last recorded time the Oban CHORD board met was on March 27 this year and the minutes from that meeting would suggest that at last some progress had been made to allocate the remaining £4,865 million plus of funds to projects for improving the town centre.

A plan was agreed by the board with one noted voice of dissent and the next stage was set to develop business cases and for our full elected council to agree the proposed plan.

Nothing would appear to have happened since March 27 with regard to Oban CHORD and it would appear from a recent Oban Times report that the recently appointed CHORD project manager is not happy with the lack of support from the council.

I suspect the recently reported shenanigans and 'musical chairs' within the council have contributed to the delay in moving forward with CHORD.

It is becoming more apparent that we once again are being

represented by a dysfunctional council rife with internal squabbling, self interest, incompetence and external political interference.

Once again the people of Oban are left wondering what on earth is going on, not only with CHORD but with other important issues which affect the lives of the electorate.

The people of Oban and Argyll and Bute deserve better from their elected councillors.

David Miller, Oban.

Demise of Polvinister Pond

Sir, Glad to see that you have reported on the demise of Polvinister pond - the name is taken from the Gaelic 'Pond of the Minister'.

In the late 1950s, I spent the first six years of my life beside the pond, played there, caught minnows and sticklebacks in a small net, watched ducks and swans come and go in that quiet little backwater.

I now live and work abroad but on my last visit home three months ago I took a stroll up to the pond and couldn't believe what I saw. I feared the worst and assumed the pond had been drained as a result of a human or environmental tragedy.

Not so, as it appears from your report. The vague and evasive statement by Scottish Water fails to explain this destruction. If there has been a problem, then they should at least restore this special place to the tranquil haven it has been to local wildlife and local people for many decades, if not centuries.

It is heartening to read some councillors have expressed concern on this matter. Let's hope sense prevails.

Donald Bannatyne, formerly of Oban.

Disbelief over exclusion claim

Sir, On reading your editorial of June 20 and the letter submitted by four Oban and Lorn councillors, I feel I must respond. The claim being made that

they have been frozen out of discussions for all Argyll and Bute councillors to work together for the benefit of all residents could not be farther from the truth.

The first meeting held by a group of concerned councillors on May 16 was attended by the 'four popular councillors' and when Councillor Macintyre asked for comment from all at the meeting, Councillor McCuish asked that we await a decision by the SNP Group which would be on May 20. Councillor Glen Lee said 'there is so much enthusiasm, we must take the positives but take stock of how the council has been run'. Councillor E Robertson said 'it is important we all work together' and Councillor M J Devon said 'we must work as a collective'.

Since then, three other meetings have been held with members of the then administration invited to attend. At all of these meetings it was made clear that the wish of the group is to include all councillors. I cannot comprehend what has caused Councillors Devon, Robertson, Glen Lee and McCuish to claim they were excluded.

Councillor Bruce Marshall, Secretary to Argyll and Bute for Change Group.

SNP handed money back

Sir, In a recent edition you carried a statement from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in which they criticised the bedroom tax and stated that the Discretionary Housing Payment grant given by the Government to the council to pass on to tenants on low incomes is 'not sufficient'.

I agree about the bedroom tax and voted against the Government on this. I have been trying to persuade the Government to give more in Discretionary Housing Payments to Argyll and Bute Council because of the extra costs that living in a remote rural area brings.

However, the rug was pulled from under my feet when the Minister I was trying to persuade told me Argyll and Bute Council

had handed back some of its Discretionary Housing Payment grant last year.

The council's SNP administration handed back more than one seventh of the money the government had given them. This is money intended for the poorest people in our society. The council is always complaining that the Government doesn't give them enough money, yet here they are handing back money.

Great weekend

Sir, Largs Gaelic Choir would like to say thank you to Oban Am Comunn Gaidhealach Committee for the warm welcome they extended to us at Oban Provincial Mod.

We were delighted with our success winning the Comunn Gaidhealach an Oban Quaich for the Puir a Bheil Competition and the Hugh McPherson Quaich for the highest mark in Gaelic in the Choral Competition.

Our enjoyment continued into the evening when we had a fantastic spontaneous ceilidh in the Royal Hotel together with members of Taynuilt Choir with great music from David Mason and Hector McFadyen, not forgetting the amazing pipe playing of Torquil. A great time was had by all including the American and Australian guests in the hotel.

This was the first visit of the choir to the Oban Provincial Mod and it certainly won't be the last. Thank you again for a memorable weekend.

Marna Howie, Largs Gaelic Choir.

Craft fayre thanks

Sir, I wish to thank everyone involved in the craft fayre in Inveraray on June 29, especially the businesses who kindly donated raffle prizes: Loch Fyne Hotel, Loch Fyne Oysters, Fyne Ales, Argyll Hotel, Davids, Co-op, Inveraray Jail, McIntyres, Dewars Boot store and Inveraray Castle. Apologies to anyone I have missed. I was able to send a £130 cheque to the senior citizens of Inveraray. Thank you.

Penny Airlie, Inveraray.

No place for stage fright

IT'S A great barn of a place, is the Caird Hall in Dundee. To some it is a monstrosity when compared to the ancient 'Pillars' that it replaced - they were demolished before the Great War to make way for the jute tycoon Sir James Key Caird's gift to his native city.

But to me the Caird Hall is Dundee. This massive stone edifice dominates the centre of the city of my birth and it was my good fortune to return there a few weeks ago for a concert by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. It had been a few years since I'd last visited and I was immensely proud to see what a wonderful state the old place is in, especially as I was with a number of people who'd never been before.

The RSNPO has always been a regular at the Caird Hall, but my memories of the place (as something of a philistine, although I'm under a strict training regime), are of a rather more low-brow nature. That said, there cannot be many people who can boast of having sung from that very stage. I have. Oh yes, I have.

In 1966 I was part of the local

Alan Cochrane

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR



chorus that backed principals from the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in a Gilbert and Sullivan for All concert that was part of the celebrations to mark the opening of the Tay Road Bridge. And although the modern capacity is said to be 2,300, I am certain that around 3,000 souls cheered me that night.

Three years earlier, for the princely sum of five bob, I saw The Beatles perform there. Mind you, when I said 'saw', I'm exaggerating; so far away from the stage was I, in the very cheapest seats, that I couldn't tell John from Paul or George. And hearing was completely out of the question, given the ear-splitting screams from all the girls there. The Fab Four were lucky - they were only screamed at; the likes of Tommy Steele, Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran (no relation) were mobbed by Caird Hall audiences and, in Steele's case, quite seriously injured.

But if it is music that brings

back memories of this famous venue for most people, for me it's politics. Most of Scotland's current crop of political leaders have spoken from the Caird Hall stage; unfortunately, the very scale of the place seems to have intimidated them. If my memory serves me right, only John Swinney, when he was briefly leader of the SNP, passed muster. Gordon Brown wasn't bad, but one Tony Blair effort was completely out of sync - he delivered an impassioned defence of the National Health Service; alas, it was the English NHS he was talking about, a fact that left his Scottish audience totally bemused.

But easily my most cherished memory of any political meeting anywhere concerns the Caird Hall. Back in 1979 I was a lobby correspondent at Westminster and was sent north to cover that first referendum campaign on Scottish devolution. On the night in question the Caird Hall was

packed to the rafters to hear a star-studded cast argue the case for a watered-down version of Home Rule. On the stage were Dundee councillors Ernie Ross and Willie McKelvey, both soon to become MPs, as well as the ex-Communist-turned-Labour-but-ultimately-SNP man, Jimmy Reid. Top of the bill was Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who by this time was insisting that we call him simply Tony Benn. I was sitting up at the side of the balcony with several other Commons-based political reporters when Mr Ross began his peroration about Mr Benn. 'And now we come to wir star turn', he announced in best Dundoness. 'The Cabinet rebel, the man wha's fighting fur our joabs and abdy's joabs...'

But he was drowned out by a man in the second row who yelled: 'Benn? He's just an erson!' At that, the entire hall was convulsed in laughter and my London colleagues were digging me in the ribs and demanding: 'What did he say? What did he say?' I was laughing so much that I couldn't tell them. Suffice to say that whether you're a pop star or a politician, reputations count for nothing in Dundee and certainly not in the fabulous Caird Hall.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

AN-DIUGH, air a' cheathramh latha den luchar, bidh muinntir nan Stàitean Aonaichte a' comharrachadh *Latha an Neo-eisimealachd* ann an 1776 nuair a dh'antaich na stàitean sgaradh gu tur bho riaghladh Bhreatainn.

Saoilidh mi gum bheil cuspair saorsa, agus còraichean dhaoine, air a bhith a' nochdadh barrachd anns na meadhanan bho chionn ghoirid agus tha mi cinnteach gum bheil an reifreann a tha gu bhith a' gabhail àite san t-Sultain 2014 na phàirt mhòr den adhbhar. Ach ged a tha na còthroman democratach a th' againn da-riribh prìseil, tha eadar-dhealachadh eadar saorsa agus còir ann an caochladh shuidheachaidhean.

Nuair a dh'antaich Pàrlamaid na h-Alba gum biodh cothrom aig daoine bho shìa bliadhna deug a dh'aois air bhòt san reifreann, bha iad a' faicinn gun robh e ceart gum biodh còir aca sin buaidh a thoirt air slighe na dùthcha dam buin iad. Ach aig an aon àm cho-dhùin a' Phàrlamaid gum cothrom bhòtaidh a thoirt dha feadhainn a tha fo bhinn ann am prìosan aig an àm.

Bhuannaich a' bheachd gum bu chòir dhan fheadhainn a bhris laghan na dùthcha chun na h-ìre 's gun robh iad airidh air peanas ann am prìosan an cuid còraichean bhòtaidh democratach a chall mar phàirt den pheanas sin. Ach mar a tha sinn a' faicinn agus a' cluinntinn gu tric, tha còraichean phrìosanach air an dìon ann an iomadh suidheachadh gu ìre nas motha na tha fìor dhan fheadhainn aig am bheil làn-saorsa agus a ghlèidh an lagh! Gun teagamh 's e cothromachadh duilich a th' aig luchd-stiùiridh chùirtean-lagha na dùthcha a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bheil rannsachadh agus eisteachd chothromach aig gach cùis-lagha agus gum bheil am peanas a rèir a' chroin agus co-ionann feadh na dùthcha.

Ann an sùilean mhòran den t-sluagh chan eil na cùirtean idir a' coileanadh an amais co-ionannachd mar bu chòir agus tha ceistean mun eadar-dhealachadh a chithear anns na peanasan a thig air eucòir eadar-dhealaichte. Ma thathas a' gabhail ris gur e cur às do dhuine eile an cron as miosa a th' ann, nach saoilamaid gur ann air lethid sin a bu mhotha thigeadh peanas. Ach gu math tric chithear mèirlich, mar eisimpleir, a' fulang binn a' fada nas cruaidhe na murtairean agus eucòrach uabhasach lethid Iain Brady a' faotainn cothrom tagradh airson saorsa bhon ionad anns am bheil e fo chùram. Am bheil strì a dh'ionnsaigh cothromachd agus ceartas aig amannan a' cruthachadh ana-ceartas?

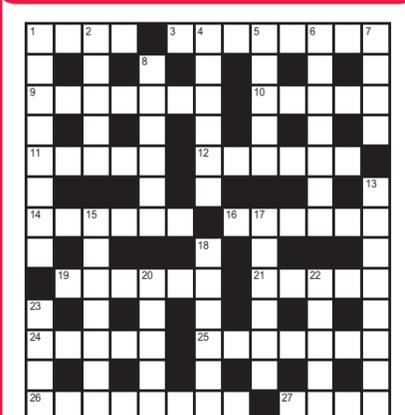
AMERICAN Independence Day, and many Scots will also be thinking about democratic and human rights. Parliament agreed that 16-year-olds can vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum, but prisoners may not vote. While many will support this, there is confusion and concern at an apparent lack of consistency in penalties imposed by courts. If murder is the ultimate crime should it not carry the greatest penalty and should a mass murderer have the right to seek a transfer from secure hospital to jail?

Maybe freedom and justice don't always go together. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

Le taic bho SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across
- Warm outer layer (4)
 - Being in the wrong bed! (8)
 - Petroleum (7)
 - Goodbye (5)
 - Royal leader (5)
 - Being (6)
 - Zero (6)
 - Half (6)
 - Cape Verde coinage (6)
 - Raw food (5)
 - Conflict (5)
 - Hang (7)
 - Done in a mopey way (8)
 - Agitate (4)
- Down
- Face up to (8)
 - Dismay (5)
 - Muffle (6)
 - Minimal (5)
 - Formal letter (7)
 - Belongs to the other person (4)
 - Stiffens fabric (6)
 - Long round object (8)
 - Northern parts of American districts (7)
 - Dwell persistently (6)
 - Tasty bit (6)
 - One who puts you in your place (5)
 - Refine metal (5)
 - Decorated (4)

Last week's solution

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

HEROIC COXSWAIN REMEMBERS PIPER ALPHA DISASTER



James MacNeill has passed on his George Medal to his family but the picture of him receiving the award at Buckingham Palace is a reminder of his bravery. 15_t26james01/02

STEERING his rescue boat over metal debris, into a gas-fuelled inferno, James MacNeill has to watch men perish, as he pulls others from the North Sea.

The date was July 6, 1988 and the Barra native - now 69 years old - has vivid memories of the day the Piper Alpha oil production platform exploded, killing 167 men.

James, who lives in Oban, was coxswain of the fast rescue craft on the Silver Pitt, the vessel tasked with responding to emergency calls on the rigs. He and his three young crew members had trained for emergency situations but nothing could prepare them for the horrors they witnessed that night.

While the 44-year-old hardened Barra seaman went on to have a long career in the Merchant Navy, his three comrades never returned to sea.

Ahead of the 25th anniversary on Saturday of the world's worst offshore oil disaster, James, who was responsible for saving 40 souls, says there is still one regret he holds today - more men should have been saved.

'My crew followed me into hell that night,' James recalled. 'Not a minute had passed from the time we launched to the moment we were under the rig, but it was already an inferno.'

The coxswain managed to get the first 16 men into his HT24 rescue boat via ropes from the spider deck below the platform. After that, he was fishing casualties from the sea.

'For the first hour we were on our own,' he said.

'I started to take survivors back to the Silver Pitt but as more boats arrived it was quicker to move the casualties onto them. We were one of the few boats that could go under the rig because the HT24s had a steel double-skinned hull and were water-jet propelled.'

'There was an incredible heat under there, we didn't stay under for too long at a time. I remember seeing the platform melting, steel running down like lava.'

'Visibility was almost nil but I had to pick my spot between the flames and smoke and keep a lookout for any survivors.'

'I found one man, badly burned, who had only the elastic from his underpants on him and his skin was hanging off. I knew from my time at sea that Russian vessels often carried surgeons and that a Russian boat had joined the rescue effort, so I took him there.'

'Then I watched as one of the men jumped from the helideck - it must have been 200 to 300 metres high - and I just prayed he would come back to the surface. It was such a relief seeing him pop back up to the surface and although there was a lot of debris around, he didn't have a scratch on him!'

'But another rescue craft had three survivors on board when a fireball made for the engine. The boat just disappeared in the flames.'

'I think we were going in for the fourth or fifth time when one of the boys said to me, 'I hope God is looking after us tonight'. I had to keep morale up, so I told him, 'There's two good men looking after you tonight; God and me!'

Despite multiple explosions on the Piper Alpha, the gas

lines connecting it to the nearby Claymore and Tartan platforms remained open; the order to shut off the supply had not yet come from the mainland.

James' prophecy was about to be fulfilled.

On what proved to be his final 'run' under the platform, James's boat passed over an underwater gas line as it blew up.

The resulting explosion cracked the hull of the HT24 and shot James out of his seat at the helm. Regaining his composure, the determined skipper picked up two more survivors and took them to a nearby vessel before his own boat began to sink.

'All I remember is leaving the seat at the controls and coming directly back down onto the seat.'

'As we sank by the stern the boys hung onto the spousons at the bow, which were still intact and keeping the boat afloat. I was a strong swimmer then, so I just lay on my back in the water for an hour until a Dutch boat picked us up.'

On returning to the Silver Pitt, James and his crew immediately

joined a search and rescue effort for the next two days, giving him time to reflect on what had happened.

'We took 40 of the 63 survivors but 167 were killed that day. When the alarm sounded they did what they had been taught: get dressed and go to meet your safety officer.'

'But most of these officers had been killed in the first explosion. If they had got off the rig straight away, I believe two-thirds of them would have survived. In the Merchant Navy we were always taught, on discovering a fire, if you can't fight it, get off.'

After an exhausting two days of heroics, James and the other rescuers docked in Aberdeen where Prince Charles and Princess Diana were there to greet them - but not before a 'jobsworth' from Royal security had been on board with a sniffer dog to check for explosives.

They were immediately taken by police for questioning and then to a hotel, where they 'got over everything with a few drams'. A blank cheque behind the bar,

courtesy of a sympathetic senior police officer, made sure of that.

James was only home in Oban for five days before he accepted another job in the North Sea. Not unusual for an islander who knew little else; his father and grandfather before him had worked at sea, as had most of his relatives. James went on to have a 55 year career in the Merchant Navy.

He had also seen tragedy at sea before; three of the ships he had previously served on had succumbed to fire.

Three years after the Piper Alpha disaster James was awarded the George Medal, the second highest gallantry award for civilians, at Buckingham Palace and attended a more modest civic council reception in Oban's Lancaster Hotel.

A letter of thanks from the badly burned man James put onto the Russian ship was one of many he received in the aftermath of Piper Alpha.

But James is uncomfortable with the term 'hero'. This old-school mariner was raised on the

unwritten laws of helping others at sea and his medal has since been passed on to relatives.

Oban councillor and ex-police-man Fred Hall, who met with James ahead of the anniversary, was shown Grampian Police video footage of the Piper Alpha as part of his police training.

He said: 'I have seen the true conditions that night and James and other coxswains used incredible seamanship and real bravery to go into the bowels of hellfire.'

'This wasn't a rush of blood to the head, they deliberately put themselves in danger to rescue others in a calm and measured way. That's a different kind of bravery.'

Asked for his thoughts ahead of the 25th anniversary of that fateful night, James is quick to reply, as if he has been asked a thousand times. 'It comes back to me from time to time,' he says. 'I have never sought to blame anyone for it but I often think of the lives that were lost.'

'The industry is a safer place to work now after Piper Alpha and I am glad of that.'

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

TWENTY YEARS AGO Thursday July 8 1993



Muck Primary School head teacher Barbara Graves, relief teacher Eilidh MacLeod and pupils Marcus Walters and Mary MacEwen. 127twenty06

More than 100 flock to Isle of Muck open day

MORE than 100 people visited the Isle of Muck on Sunday for the island's annual open day. Visitors from all over Lochaber and Argyll took the ferry from Arisaig to visit the Small Isle and its 30 inhabitants.

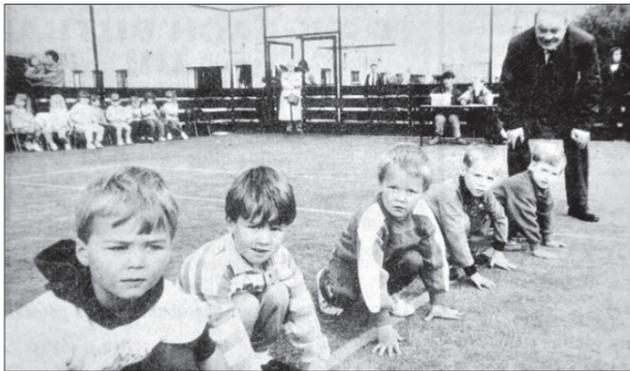
Exhibition in Arisaig

PAST Impressions is an exhibition on the village of Arisaig created by Jill de Fresnes, 25, right, who has been collecting pre-1914 memorabilia of the village for the past couple of years.

Originally from Edinburgh, Jill's interest in the area grew after spending holidays with friends at Curtaig, Morar.



127twenty03



Upper Achintore pupils on their marks

Pupils from Upper Achintore Primary School in Fort William get some last minute advice from Councillor Iain MacDonald as they prepare for their sprint race on the new all-weather pitch. 127twenty07



Youngsters' delight as new play area opens

Youngsters try out some of the equipment at the recently opened Soroba Glen Residents Association play area in Etive Gardens, Oban. 127twenty02



Castlebay students star in TV Gaelic sports quiz

Three pupils from Castlebay High School, Barra, turned television stars when they took part in a Gaelic sports quiz, Abair Spors, on Grampian Television. Pupils Michael MacLeod, Catherine MacLeod and Raymond Buchanan were one of eight school teams who travelled to the Grampian Studios for the recording of the programme. 127twenty05



A roaring start

Married life got off to a roaring start for Norwegian newlyweds Tore Uthelm and Solfrid Surland Hanse, who abandoned traditional wedding cars in favour of a motorbike. The couple decided to marry in the town's Corran Esplanade Church after reading Alistair MacLean's novel *To Catch A Spy*, which is set around Oban. 127twenty01



Trial road safety scheme at St Mary's RC school

St Mary's RC Primary School has become the first school in Lochaber to take part in a pilot road safety scheme. Primary four and five children took part in a special Traffic Trail recently as part of a scheme to highlight the dangers of roads. 127twenty04

HOLROYD GALLERY & PICTURE FRAMER

Art Exhibition - Katy Spong

F.W.Holroyd Art Gallery and Picture Framers
Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish
01855 821277 www.holroydgallery.co.uk

Katy Spong as born in Uganda, and grew up in East Africa. She moved to the UK and, in 1999, gained a BA (Hons) Art with QTS, First Class at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

The Scottish environment and the significance of nature is a constant source of inspiration for my work. In 1999, I moved from Bristol to South Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands where I found the unique environment allowed exploration of these themes as subject matter for my paintings. Since moving to live on the west coast of Scotland my paintings and monprints have been an exploration of a new place, living by the sea and overlooking farmland is a marked contrast to the forests on South Loch Ness. My paintings draw very largely on the cumulative experience of looking and the memory of observed moments. My recent work explores the theme of movement and change in activity, both human and animal, within the setting of Cuil Bay and the surrounding environment.

Since Katy moved to Scotland and has exhibited in many mixed and solo shows throughout the country. Holroyd Gallery is delighted to host the first exhibition on her home territory. Shown alongside Katy's work is a selection of work by other gallery artists.

The Arts

resipole studios
fine art gallery

www.resipolestudios.co.uk

by acharacle argyll ph364hx 01967431506

TIGHNABRUAICH GALLERY
FINE ART

TIGHNABRUAICH PA21 2DR . 01700 811681
www.tig-gallery.com

Rosebank Garden Gallery
Lochlinnhe Tiles

Hand painted tiles, landscape and flower paintings, garden ornaments and decorative paving slabs on display

Portnacroish, Appin, Argyll, PA38 4BL
Tel: 01631730426

We are a small informal Garden Gallery overlooking Loch Laich. Open from April till October. Hand painted tiles, landscape and flower paintings, garden ornaments and decorative paving slabs are all on display. You are welcome to browse or buy.



Our culture is timeless – telling us so much about our progress through the ages as a west coast people. There is no one who could be failed to be moved by what we have on offer, or indeed what they can learn from all there is to see and do.

Culture is the biggest single offering we have for locals and tourists on the West Coast. Nearly every town or village has tried to understand itself a little better by having interpretation panels, publications, museums, opening the doors of its historic buildings. What we have is an amazing and honest experience for everyone.

Music, dance, poems, paintings, story-telling, museums, the list is endless. Each cultural activity helps us understand ourselves and the community around us.

The West Coast could rightfully claim the title Cradle of the Nation or Cradle of Christianity, or indeed the burial places of ancient kings – including Macbeth, or the first universal seat of learning. World class attractions open to all.

Where else in the world could you visit Neolithic and Mesolithic sites in the morning, have the freshest fish for lunch, gaze upon one-and-only artefacts in the afternoon, before dining in a world class restaurant, perhaps sampling a rare whisky and finishing the day by listening and dancing to some of the world's finest musicians. The West Coast has it all, and it's on the doorstep.

While the area is rich in a landscape it is often in its interpretation that people really get to know who were are and how we understand ourselves. That's why there are a number of groups set up to look at what we offer and to try and bring the whole offering together in one place.

It shouldn't be forgotten that what's offered is often from people who give up their own time to make things work. Volunteers with a passion and a pride in understanding our past and future are vitally important in the network of cultural activities that we provide.

Our music, museums, art, historic and archaeological interpretations allow the whole area to come alive to ourselves and to others. They attract other people to come and visit and take part, and will revitalise our communities.

Our recent past shows a real growth in our ambition for understanding ourselves and the wealth of culture that we have. That understanding will serve us well for generations to come.

Museums

Historic Walking Tour

Popular Campbeltown Heritage Trail Group Tours return for a fourth year

Campbeltown Heritage Trail Group's walking tours are back again this July and August. Run by volunteers, the group was formed in 2010 as part of the Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), a Council led regeneration project.

The tours depart every Wednesday at 2pm from outside the Aqualibrium on Kinloch Road, they last one hour, are free, with no need to book and cover Campbeltown's history, rich heritage, its people and stories.

During the past three years over 400 people have participated, including locals and visitors.

For more information call (01586) 559048.

Campbeltown Heritage Trail Group invite you to join us for an hour-long tour to find out more about Campbeltown's historic past.

Tours leave from the Aqualibrium, Kinloch Park, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6EG.

Every Wednesday in July and August at 2pm.

Tours are free. No booking required.

For further information call 01586 559048

THE LORD OF THE ISLES GALLEY TRUST
visiting exhibit for a limited time only at

DUNOLLIE
MUSEUM, CASTLE AND GROUNDS

Come and see Ailach in the historic surroundings of Dunollie.
Normal entry fee applies.

There is also a rare opportunity to be part of the restoration team to get Ailach fettle for a major forthcoming voyage. Simply visit Dunollie and we can give you more information.

The Old Byre Heritage Centre

Something for everybody!

Museum Gift Shop Tearoom Play Area

Closed Monday and Tuesday except Bank Holidays

The Old Byre Heritage Centre, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA75 6QR.
Telephone: +44 (0)1688 400229
Email: theoldbyre@lineone.net

The Old Byre Heritage Centre offers a Comprehensive Exhibition of Mull's heritage from history to caterpillars.

Open 10.30-6.30. Museum Exhibits

- 'Miniature Mull Through the Ages' Historical events ranging from the first settlers to the end of the 19th Century.
- Wed, Fri & Sat**
- Mull & Iona's Geology
- Mull Fungi
- Mull Moths & Caterpillars - Beautifully executed by Roger Johns
- Return of our dioramas depicting "Mull Fables" and re-establishment of our famous Mammoth Mull Midge!
- Wild Flower Display - We are proud to announce that our Wild Flower display has been re-done by Roger Johns of Salen - all photographic displays are now his meticulous work.

WildMull' Wildlife Film - A homage to the incredible wildlife on and off the shores of Mull, by Nick Gordon.

Thurs & Sat

- 'The story of Mull & Iona' Historical Film

The Gift Shop and Tearoom are relaxing places to purchase souvenirs and crafts or enjoy some light refreshment or a delicious light lunch. The comprehensive play area on site is perfect for children. On Monday 26th August there will be a Teddy Bears Picnic at 12.30pm. The Cost is £3.50 per child and teddy. Every Saturday a Car Boot Sale is held in the car park between 1.30 and 3.30.

Monuments Crafts & Bookshop

Kilmartin Museum Café

On the A816, eight miles north of Lochgilphead, Argyll

01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org
museum@kilmartin.org

Open daily March-December
Reduced hours in winter

Please present this advert for a free cup of coffee in our café

AUCHINDRAIN
Let your imagination come to life!

20% DISCOUNT VOUCHER FOR OBAN TIMES READERS

Expiry date 31st August 2013

Auchindrain, on the A83 six miles south of Inveraray, is open to visitors every day from 10am to 5pm. The Auchindrain Tearoom welcomes both visitors to the site and passing travellers, and serves homemade soup, cakes and snacks.

Auchindrain is a complete historic farming village which has been preserved to help us understand and remember what life used to be like. It's a unique and nationally important place, the only survivor of thousands of small farming communities that existed before crofting, the Highland Clearances and modern farming. Its story shows how Scottish people lived and worked before the modern age: hard work and lots of it, but at one with the environment and making the most of scarce resources.

Auchindrain is owned and managed by an independent charity. It's big, and expensive to care for. Please help us keep this unique place alive for the future. Visit www.auchindrain.org.uk to read all about us. If you can, press the donations button and give as much as you can afford.

Kilmartin Museum sits in the heart of Kilmartin Glen, one of Scotland's richest prehistoric landscapes. Start your visit to this exciting place at the Museum where you can discover what to do and see. Follow this with a Glen walk to see the cairns in the Linear Cemetery, a stone circle, standing stones, rock art and more.

Further afield you can climb up to Dunadd Fort, a major political centre from 600AD, or visit Carnassarie Castle, a well preserved 16th century tower house.

The Museum café offers lunch, home baking, teas/coffees and ice cream. Enjoy your refreshments in the green oak conservatory overlooking Glebe Cairn.

The on site shop stocks many interesting books on archaeology and Scottish history as well as a wide selection of gifts and crafts, hand made by local artists.

A full programme of summer activities, including guided glen walks, is on offer. More information available from www.kilmartin.org.

in Culture

Summer Queen Cruises Ullapool
 Monday to Saturday
 Depart: 10.00am - 4hr Summer Isle Cruise (Landing Tona Mhor)
 Adult: £30.00 Child: £15.00*
 Depart: 2.15pm - 2hr Cruise
 Adult: £20.00 Child: £10.00*
 *Child: under 16. Children under 5 free of charge
 Comfortable saloon bar with hot & cold refreshments, sheltered viewing deck and toilet facilities. Live commentary throughout.
 Dolphin - Porpoise - Whales - Sea Eagles - Seals
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 www.summerqueen.co.uk facebook.com/SummerQueenCruises

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.

Food & Drink

Attractions

"THE BARN" at Millcroft
 Licensed Cafe & Gifts
 Fresh & Local Food
 Served All Day
 Delicious Homebaking made daily
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 Takeaways Available
 Beautiful surroundings with Garden Views over to Arran
 Families Welcomed; Kids' Corner and Swings!
 Open 10 am till 5pm, Sundays 11.30am till 5pm
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CRAFTY KITCHEN
 CAFÉ & GIFT SHOP ARDFERN
 The Crafty Kitchen - well established, family run Café and Gift Shop set in beautiful surroundings of Craignish Peninsula, is celebrating its 21st Birthday this summer!
 Come in for a great, freshly ground coffee, home made food and baking created with fantastic local produce. Our Gift Shop offers great selection of beautiful jewellery, books, toys, local arts and other lovely gifts. We are open 7 days a week, 10am till 5:30pm. From June till the end of August we are also open on Friday and Saturday evenings (last order 8:45pm). Feel free to bring your own bottle! Kid's menu, baby changing facilities and car park available! You can follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/pages/The-Crafty-Kitchen
 Telephone: 01852 500303

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TARBERT FESTIVALS 2013
 IT IS WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO JULY WITH AN EVENT BEING HELD IN THE VILLAGE EACH WEEKEND.
 CLEARLY THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY AND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS.
 WE HAVE GREAT EVENTS HELD IN OUR DELIGHTFUL VILLAGE AND EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY.
 6-7 JULY - SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
 13 JULY - RAFT RACE
 19-21 JULY - TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL
 24-27 JULY - TARBERT FAIR
 www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk

STEAM PUFFER CRUISES
 Built to carry stores and provisions to naval vessels VIC32 (Victualling Inshore Craft) was purchased in 1975, and given an extensive renovation which resulted in an almost unique example of a coal fired steamboat.
 She can now carry 12 passengers on 5 day cruises ranging from Glasgow to Inverness via the West coast.
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 TEL: 01546 510232
 WEB: www.savethepuffer.co.uk

Music

Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail 2013
Cèilidh air chuairt
 Ceòl traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fheàrr aig Fèis Latharna
 Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèis Latharna

Ceann-Latha Date	Aite Venue	Tachartas Type of event	Uair Time
Wednesday 24 July	Argyllshire Halls, Oban with Fèis Lochabair	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thursday 25 July	Dalmailly Community Centre with Fèis Fhoirt	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Friday 26 July	An Tobar, Tobermory	Concert	8pm
Saturday 27 July	Iona Village Hall	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thursday 1 August	Lismore Hall	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Friday 2 August	Strachur Memorial Hall	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Saturday 3 August	Creagan Inn, Appin	Cèilidh/Dance	9pm
Sunday 4 August	Tarbert Village Hall	Concert	7.30pm
Monday 5 August	Living Stones, Kilmartin	Concert	7.30pm
Tuesday 6 August	Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern	Concert	7.30pm
Wednesday 7 August	Ardkinglas Estate (Bookings only 01499 600261)	Concert	7pm
Thursday 8 August	Colonsay Village Hall	Family Cèilidh/Dance	7.30pm

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh www.feisean.org/ceilidh for further information

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 22, 23, 24, 25 AUGUST 2013
 TICKETS GO ON SALE NOW
The Fratellis SOLD OUT
Rura & Fiona Hunter
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 Tickets from www.ticketweb.co.uk
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Highland Field Sports Fair
 A Day out for all the family!
 2nd & 3rd August 2013
 10am - 6pm
 at Moy Hall,
 near Inverness
OVER 150 TRADE STANDS
 Refreshment Tent and Licensed Bar
ADMISSION £10.00
 Free Entry for Children Under 16
FREE PARKING
www.moyfieldsportsfair.co.uk

OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
CONCERT
 Saturday 6th July 7.30 p.m.
 St John's Cathedral, Oban
 The final concert of the Mendelssohn On Mull Festival in partnership with the Oban Music Society under the directorship of **Levon Chilingirian**
 Non Members very welcome,
Entrance FREE
 Sponsored by Enterprise Music Scotland.

Mendelssohn On Mull
 Mendelssohn on Mull musicians return to St John's Cathedral for their annual concert on Saturday 6 July at 7.30pm, this year as part of Oban Music Society's season. The concert is the culmination of a week of performances throughout Mull and Iona, where artistic director Levon Chilingirian and his colleagues have worked and played with the young professionals throughout the week.
 The Mendelssohn on Mull Trust aims to provide young professional musicians with opportunities to develop their practical music skill at an advanced level, in an environment which encourages personal and cultural development. Since 2000 the Trust has also developed its presence on Mull with the Mendelssohn on Mull Music Makers, the educational outreach activity of the Mendelssohn on Mull Trust. The Festival enjoys considerable critical acclaim, and has been featured in national press including The Times, The Guardian, The Herald, The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday, BBC Music Magazine and Classical Music Magazine as well as on BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.
 The very talented group of young musicians will be playing works by Mendelssohn Haydn, Schubert, Brahms, Schostakovich and Boccherini during their festival tour on Mull and a selection from their tour will be played at their final concert this Saturday.
 Entrance to the concert is free.

HIGHLAND FIELD SPORTS FAIR
 This August sees the 36th Highland Field Sports Fair take place in the grounds of Moy Hall, courtesy of Mrs Celia Mackintosh, widow of the late Mackintosh of Mackintosh on Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd August. There have been Mackintoshes at Moy since 1336 and so the clan heritage is deeply rooted in and around Moy.
 The main ring will include a variety of traditional events such as gun dog demonstrations, foxhounds parade, pipes and drums and on Saturday tug of war. There will also be children's pets parade and of course the ever popular terrier racing with Scott MacKenzie, the former world champion angler demonstrating his casting skills.
 To come right into the 21st century Scotland's Cycle Stunt Team are also performing. Field events will include clay pigeon shooting, small bore rifle shooting, archery, gundog working tests and fly casting competitions.
 There will be a wide choice of trade stands to browse through, ranging from double-barrelled shotguns to delicate oil paintings. Ceramics, crafts, designer knitwear and outdoor clothing happily rub shoulders with the financial stalls and banks.
 And for the much younger visitors, side-shows will include face painting, pony rides and Bubbles the Clown. Also for the young (and not so young) you will be able to try out the fantastic Rock Climbing Wall and the futuristic "Lazertag" lazer guns.
 Between 1977 and 2012 the Sports Fair has donated surplus funds amounting to over £680,000 to charities in the north of Scotland.
 Admission for adults is £10, children under 16 go free and car parking is free.
 For more information www.moyfieldsportsfair.co.uk

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Wooden floor, side inspection
panel, rear gate, adjustable
yoke, good condition, only used
twice since new, now surplus to
requirements. £850 no VAT.
Buyer uplifts Oban area.
Phone 07917 014028 after 6pm

Benderloch to host Woolfeis

A FESTIVAL celebrating wool
is to take place in Benderloch this
month.
The annual Woolfeis, or Feis Co-
thlam, is organised by Local Origins
Rural Network (LORN) and attracts
wool crafters from near and far. The
event is also a good opportunity for
local farmers to sell quality fleeces
for a good price to small producers.
At the recent Woolfest in Cumbria
a decent quality fleece for craft
work will earn around £10 while a
good quality one can command over
£50. There will be a fleece work-
shop and sale at the Victory Hall,
Benderloch on Saturday July 20.

Organiser Jill Bowis said: 'You
can come and learn more about what
makes for a good craft fleece, bring
some fleeces to have them assessed
and hopefully find a customer or
call 01838 200934 to ask about your
fleeces.'

Woolfeis aims to promote local
sheep, help people learn new skills
and appreciate heritage while
having fun. Other events during
the festival include a Mega Woolly
Market, with stalls, demonstrations
and displays, on Thursday July
18. While the following day has
workshops with an evening film of
Mongolian Felt Culture

Saturday sees the Fibre Fantastic
day before rounding things off with
a Gaelic working songs ceilidh
concert by Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirch-
luaidh, the Inverclyde Waulking
Group.

Agreement over Common Agricultural Policy will allow changes in 2015

NEWS that Europe has reached
a headline agreement on reform
of the Common Agricultural
Policy (CAP) will see the focus
now shift to identifying how the
proposals will be introduced at
a Scottish level in 2015.

Concerns addressed
The CAP delivers between
£550 and £650 million to the
Scottish food and farming sectors
annually, underpinning the
production of safe, affordable
food and securing significant
economic and environmental
benefits.

Many of Scotland's initial
concerns have been addressed.

On first take, progress has
been made on NFU Scotland's
red line issues on minimising
redistribution, supporting ac-
tive farmers, coupling support
payments to livestock, bringing
in new entrants and recognising
the environmental importance
of our permanent pasture.

NFU Scotland's president
Nigel Miller said: 'After two
years of talking, we now have
a degree of certainty and, in
many respects, the real work

starts now.

'We need to quickly digest the
whole package, study the final
commission text when it arrives
later this year and identify the
measures that will best deliver
for Scottish farming and our
associated industries between
2015 and 2020.'

The 'Irish tunnel' model
of partially converging pay-
ments in a region to address
redistribution concerns is now
an option and may be of value
to existing scheme recipients in
Scotland.

Mr Miller added: 'Similarly,
the scope for new entrants and
those disadvantaged by our
current system to be fully
integrated into any new scheme
from day one and receive top-
up support will be of advantage
to Scotland.'

'The option to couple some of
our support payments to live-
stock, as we currently do via
our Scottish Beef Calf Scheme,
remains in place and may be an
essential tool to stabilising and
rebuilding our declining stock
numbers.'

'There's further good news
in that Scotland's permanent
grassland area can be monitored
at a national or regional level.
Providing our area doesn't fall
by more than five per cent, we'll
avoid a farm level approach
that could have been extremely
damaging to productive live-
stock units. The definition of
permanent grassland to allow
grazed heather to be eligible is
also something we needed.'

'We want to identify the right
combination of measures per-
mitted under the new CAP that

will ensure a fair distribution
of funding but, crucially, main-
tains our ability and capacity to
produce food.

'We also want to ensure new
entrants are put on an equal foot-
ing to established businesses at
the earliest opportunity and
we want a simple scheme to be
available for our small farmers
and crofters.'

'By being both diligent and
thorough, we will ensure Scot-
tish farming secures the best
deal possible from this latest
CAP package.'



Simon Bedwell from Garve won this years top shearing title at Lochearnhead Picture Kevin McGlynn

Bedwell wins Scottish Blackface Shearing Championships

Estonian lifts junior title

The 20th Scottish Blackface
Shearing Championships at
Lochearnhead last weekend
brought a European twist by
hosting the inaugural Unofficial
European Championships with
shearers from Norway, France,
Germany, Spain and Estonia
travelling for the event.

Junior
A good junior event on
Saturday afternoon saw 30
competitors carefully shearing
their way round the Blackface
hogs. Estonian Adam Kaivo,
Adam Mitchell from Doune,
Jonathan Malloy from Ireland
and lady shearer Brya Harrison
from New Zealand met in the
final. With a clean board and pen
score the Estonian secured the
red ribbon with Adam Mitchell
close behind, followed by Brya
and Jonathan.

Competition
Sunday's main competitions
saw less competitors than pre-
viously due to fewer New Zea-
landers in the country, and two
other main competitions being
held in Ireland on the same day.
World champion Gavin Mutch
returning to the Scottish circuit
this year after a year off for
a shoulder operation, Golden
Shears champion Rowland
Smith, his brother Matt, fellow
NZ team mate Tony Coster, past
winner Hamish Mitchell, four-
times finalist Simon Bedwell
and many others vied for a place
in the final. Rowland Smith top
qualified on his 6 sheep.

The international team relay
saw 15 sheep to be shorn by
teams of three, places in the
team are taken from the top
qualifiers from each country in
the Open Heats. Scotland were
represented by Gavin Mutch,
Calum Shaw and John Little.
Their knowledge of shearing
native breed of sheep proved
them to be victors of this excit-
ing crowd favourite.

Lochearnhead Shears, thought
to be the only competition in the
UK to run the Wool Handling
event alongside the Intermediate
heats and semi-finals - shows
a more realistic approach to what
happens in shearing sheds in
the Northern Hemisphere. Last
year's fourth placed Intermedi-
ate finalist Alister Shaw from
Saline, along with David
Gibson from Gartocharn, Brian
Mundell from Fintry and Lewis
Harkness from Dumfries made
up this year's final. Alister's
time of 7 minutes and 39 secs
and board score of 2.40 gave
him the edge over David Gib-
son, Brian Mundell and Lewis
Harkness respectively. The
Wool Handling finalists - Rosie
Keenan, Stacey Mundell, Dawn
MacKinnon and Kirsty Donald,
wrapped 12 fleeces, Edzell's
Kirsty Donald scored 61 on the
table and 13 on the board to take
first place, closely followed by
Stacey Mundell from Fintry,
then Dawn MacKinnon from
Bathgate and Rosie Keenan
from Strathyre.

Finalists for the senior compe-
tition were Welshman Dafydd
Jones, Perthshire's Stewart
Kennedy and Sandy McKellar
along with Scott Wilson from
Broughton filled the four stands.
Dafydd showing that quality
counts and also following in his
two brother's footsteps to take
the silverware back to Corwen
in Wales, former Junior and
Intermediate Scott Wilson hav-
ing to take the blue ribbon, sev-
eral time senior finalist Stewart
Kennedy from Aberfeldy taking
third place, and also winning a
new handpiece and the Colin
MacGregor up for the best pen
score in any final, with young
Sandy McKellar following close
behind in fourth position.

The highlight of the evening,
the Open Final saw World
Champion Gavin Mutch from
Huntly, Simon Bedwell from
Garve in Rosshire, with broth-
ers Matt and Rowland Smith
from North Island New Zealand
fill the four stand final. Simon
Bedwell set the pace, finishing
his 20 sheep in 12 minutes 59
seconds, with an amazing pen
score of 1.20 and pen score of
7.20 for him to be crowned the
Scottish Blackface Shearing
Champion having reached the
final several times, but never
just quite making top spot.

Gavin Mutch was only 1.30
points behind having to settle
for second place, Matt Smith
having to take the third spot
with sibling Rowland in fourth.



Sandy Mackellar Picture Kevin McGlynn



Angus MacGillivray, who also has strong Mull connections, shows the young bull Allt Ruadh of Crannich in the ring at The Royal Highland Show before lifting the male Highland championship

Highland show winner was bred on Mull

THIS YEAR'S Royal Highland
Show was a considerable success for
one island Highland cattle breeder
when the young bull Highland bull
Allt Ruadh of Crannich went on to
lift three first prize tickets.

Bred by Robin Sedgwick from
the Crannich Fold on the Isle of
Mull, and shown at Scotland's most
prestigious agricultural event by his
current owner Alastair Fitzsimons of
the Tregallon Fold near Lochfoot, in
Dumfries, Allt Ruadh of Crannich
won top awards over three highly
competitive classes; best bull, bull
born on or before December 2011,
and as part of top breed team con-
sisting of one bull, one cow with own

calf at foot and one heifer, all being
the property of one exhibitor.
There was another Isle of Mull con-
nection when Fitzsimons show team,
including the island-bred bull, was
brought out for the show by Angus
MacGillivray, who has strong family
ties to Glenforsa.

There was delight on Mull where
breeders Robin and Samantha
Sedgwick said: 'We are delighted
with the result and congratulations
to Alastair and Meg Fitzsimon, and
Angus MacGillivray, for all their
hard work in bringing him on to be
a winner.'

The Highland best group of three
from one fold comprised of Allt
Ruadh of Crannich, Smeorchach of
An Sidhean and Lady Alexis 1st of
Heatherhills Glenlivet.

Breeding cattle in demand at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling)
Ltd had forward 116 store, breed-
ing and OTM cattle and also
541 store, feeding and breeding
sheep at their June sale at Oban
Livestock Centre.

Breeding cattle sold to a top
of £2,300 per kg for a 200kg
Limousin from Gordon Brechin,
Upper Largie and £850 for 390kg
Simmental from Ardencape.
Heifers averaged 192p and
sold to 219p per kg for 260kg
Limousins from Upper Largie,
Kilmartin and £910 for 455kg
Limousin from J McNicol and
Sons, Turnault.
OTM cattle sold to 206p per
kg and £1370 for a Limousin
cow from D MacDonald, Tyree,
Benderloch.
Hoggs sold to £82 for Mules
from N McLean, Achaleven,
Connell while cast ewes sold £114
for Bluefaced Leicesters from A
McNeill, Tiraghoil, Mull. Ewes
with lambs at foot sold to £90
for Cross ewes with Texel lambs
from D MacDonald, Tyree.

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Jonathan Beaton from Bunsgoil Stafainn won the Nicol Campbell trophy for Junior piping (Primary)

MÓD AN Eilein 2013 (Skye Local Mòd 2013) trophy winners:
 Prececting - Mòd committee trophy - Carristona NicDhòmhnaill; Bunsgoil Stafainn; Nicol Campbell Memorial trophy (Primary) - Jonathan Peutan, Bunsgoil Stafainn; Junior Piping (Open) - Bruce MacDonald, Àrd-sgoil PhortRìgh; Gàidhlig Society of London - Bruce MacDonald (Borve) - Bruce MacDonald; Piobaireachd - Murdo MacDonald (Cordovox) - Bruce MacDonald; Àrd-sgoil PhortRìgh; Most promising Clàrsach player - Kirsty NicDhùghaill, Àrd-sgoil PhortRìgh.
 Choir - Bunsgoil an Àth-leathann; Drama - Clas 6/7 Bunsgoil PhortRìgh; Folk Group, Run-Rig trophy - Bunsgoil PhortRìgh; Ross Gillies Memorial - Erin NicIain, Bunsgoil Stafainn.
 Gàidhlig school with most points - Bunsgoil Stafainn; Non-Gàidhlig school with most points - Bunsgoil MhìchDhàrmaid.
 Verse speaking P1-3 shield - Bunsgoil an Àth-leathann; Verse speaking P4-7 shield - Bunsgoil Stafainn; Action song shield P1-3 - Bunsgoil PhortRìgh; Action song shield P4-7 - Bunsgoil Shléite P3-5 & Bunsgoil Port Rìgh P4/5.
 Fiddle ensemble - Bunsgoil PhortRìgh; Clàrsach ensemble - Aodhan & Ciara Stoddart, Àrd-sgoil PhortRìgh.

Ladies night raises funds for Cameron

LADY Crystal was the star attraction at a ladies night to raise funds for a new wheelchair for an 11-year-old Appin boy.

Cameron Allen, who suffers from a severe form of brittle bone disease, is in need of a better wheelchair to allow him to move himself around and be more independent. His current wheelchair is the best the NHS can supply.

The event, held at Cuan Mor, saw over £1,700 raised which will cover the cost of the new chair with at least £500 also going to the town's MS Centre.

Karlos Nash, one of the organisers, said: 'I just wanted to come up with a fun way to make some money for a wheelchair for this little boy.'

'We came up with the idea of a ladies night and then Lady Crystal came on board and it has just gone on from there.'

'What has been amazing has been the support of the local community - it has just been unbelievable.'

Cameron told The Oban Times he was 'excited' about getting his new wheelchair and wanted to thank everyone for donating money. He added he was looking forward to getting around easier and hoped to participate in wheelchair racing.

Also featuring in Friday's event was DJ Jim Lawn, a performance by the Lush Puppies, an auction, where personal training sessions with John Geogeson were up for grabs, and a raffle which



Lady Crystal, John Geogeson, Karlos Nash and Heather Allen with Cameron. 16_127ladiesnight01

featured prizes from local and national businesses.

Cameron has previously received donations towards the cost of the chair from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary, Appin Medical Fund and Dawn McBay, who organised a car boot sale at Dalranach Tea Room, bringing the total raised to more than £4,000.

Walkers back campaign to end commercial whaling



WALKERS braved the rain to unite against commercial whaling on the streets of Oban last Sunday, joining other events across the UK.

Walk for Whales, organised by Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary on behalf of Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), is an effort to end the practice of whaling in other parts of the world.

Organiser Pete Coombes said: 'Walk for Whales is raising awareness for the WDCS to try and stop whaling.'

Ten year old Lucy Craig Cameron travelled up from East Kilbride with her dad Stephen to take part in the three-mile walk. The youngster said: 'I really like whales and dolphins and I think it is really good that they are trying to stop whaling.'

Glen Nevis Centre celebrates 20th anniversary

GLEN NEVIS Visitor Centre near Fort William celebrated its 20th anniversary last week with an open day featuring the winners of a competition for primary school children to design a T-shirt commemorating the event.

Over 150 entries were received and judging panel picked out Lewis Murphy of Fort William RC Primary School as the overall winner.

Lewis's schoolmate Calum Mews, together with Acharracle Primary pupils Serena Matheson and Mirran Lindsay were runners-up.

Lewis won a T-shirt in his own design while Calum, Serena and Mirran were presented with Glen Nevis souvenir t-shirts.

Charity cheques were also presented to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team from visitor donations and sponsorship money from last month's City to Summit Race, when competitors ran, cycled and swam 140 miles from Edinburgh to the summit of Ben Nevis.

Since its opening in 1993, the Highland Council-run centre has provided advice to the thousands of walkers exploring Glen Nevis and climbing Ben Nevis every year.

A small photo exhibition showing how it has changed since then was on display.

Launching the event, Councillor Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber said: 'Glen Nevis Visitor Centre is a jewel in the crown of interpretation centres in the region.'

'It is a fantastic centre and plays an important role in the Lochaber industry with a foothold the envy of many better known centres.'

'Here is an opportunity to celebrate the heritage of Ben and Glen Nevis and I look forward to the next 20 years.'

Countryside rangers, West Highland rangers, and representatives from Forestry Commission Scotland, Friends of Nevis, John Muir Trust, and Scottish Natural Heritage also attended the celebrations.

Portree hosts drama school
 KILMUIR Gaelic Drama Group will be among performers at this year's Gaelic Drama Summer School in Portree on Saturday. Their play, 'Am Fiosaiche' (The Fortune Teller) is a slap-stick farce where Coinneach feels the second sight coming on. A potential income as a fortune teller beckons but his poverty stricken household have little faith.

Written by Iain Macdonald, 'Am Fiosaiche' reached the SCDA finals in Pitlochry in April. The festival gets underway in Aros at 7.30pm.



Chef John Boyle with some freshly cooked mussels after one of his cooking demonstrations 20_127mallaig01

Mallaig Fish Fèis success to lead to bigger fish to fry

ORGANISERS are hoping the Mallaig Fish Fèis can grow to a weekend-long event after another successful day on Saturday.

The rain stayed off as crowds gathered on the pier for the second fun day in aid of Fèis na Mara, with more than £2,500 raised to fund the October music festival.

Sine Davis, who helped organise the day, told The Oban Times it had been bigger than last year's inaugural event.

She said: 'We're hoping it grows a bit every year, and hopefully it can cover the whole weekend in future.'

'Saturday was an excellent day. I think this year there was more to do, more stalls and more seafood. The weather makes a big difference because everybody wants to come out when it's nice.'

Youngsters from local Irish dance group Bunsgoil Danna's Keltica, led by former Lord of the Dance performer Pamela Burns, delighted the crowds with some traditional dancing.

Marine Harvest cooked up a barbecue, while chef John Boyle from the West Highland hotel put on a number of cooking demonstrations, showing an eager audience how to cook mussels, scallops and other seafood.



Bunsgoil Keltica Danna's display of traditional Irish dancing proved a real crowd pleaser 20_127mallaig02



Crowds gather round to watch one of one of the seafood cooking demonstrations 20_127mallaig03

Gunna launch new album in Oban

THE SECOND album from a renowned west coast ceilidh band was launched in Oban last Friday night.

Gunna Sound took to the stage in The Royal Hotel to give Land of Dreams its first airing in Oban as well as entertaining the crowd with a few classics.

The 17-track Land of Dreams is the eagerly anticipated follow up to the band's first album Rolling on the Sea.

Friday's Gunna Sound line-up consisted of Argyll men Johnny Scouler, Campbell Brown, Finlay Wells, Ross McPherson, Steven MacInnes and Stuart Jackson.

Johnny said: 'We have a strong affinity with Oban, we come up and play here a lot.'

'We have always been well supported by the people and we thought it was only right to do a launch here.'

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Oban Phoenix Cinema	Man of Steel	Sat 6th 13.30 3D, 17.00 2D	Fri 5th 17.00 3D
		Mon 8th 17.00 2D	Sun 7th 15.30 3D
		Wed 10th 14.00 3D, 17.30 2D	Tues 9th 20.30 3D
			Thurs 11th 17.00 3D
	World War Z	Sat 6th 20.30 3D	Fri 5th 20.30 2D
		Mon 8th 20.30 3D	Sun 7th 19.00 2D
		Wed 10th 21.00 3D	Tues 9th 18.00 2D
			Thurs 11th 20.30 2D
	Despicable Me 2	Fri 5th 14.30 2D	Thurs 4th 17.30 3D
		Sun 7th 13.00 2D	Sat 6th 11.00 3D
		Tues 9th 15.30 2D	Mon 8th 14.30 3D
		Thurs 11th 14.30 3D	Wed 10th 11.30 2D

Man of Steel (12A)
 A young boy learns that he has extraordinary powers and is not of this Earth. As a young man, he journeys to discover where he came from and what he was sent here to do. But the hero in him must emerge if he is to save the world from annihilation and become the symbol of hope for all mankind. With Henry Cavill to survive a zombie attack!, director Marc Forster (Quantum of Solace, Monsters Ball & Finding Neverland) said of the film would 'have the grounded, gun-metal realism of Matt Damon's Jason Bourne series far!'

World War Z (15)
 United Nations employee Gerry Lane (Brad Pitt) traverses the world in a race against time to stop the Zombie pandemic that is toppling armies and governments and threatening to decimate humanity itself. Based on the hugely popular novel by Max Brooks (the guy who taught us all how to survive a zombie attack!), director Marc Forster (Quantum of Solace, Monsters Ball & Finding Neverland) said of the film would 'have the grounded, gun-metal realism of Matt Damon's Jason Bourne series far!'

Despicable Me 2 (U)
 In this equally hilarious sequel to 2010's "Despicable Me" Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal. With Steve Carell once again voicing this Anti-Villain single father of three, it promises more laughs, more fun but most importantly more minions! This fun filled sequel really is more "despicable" than the original.

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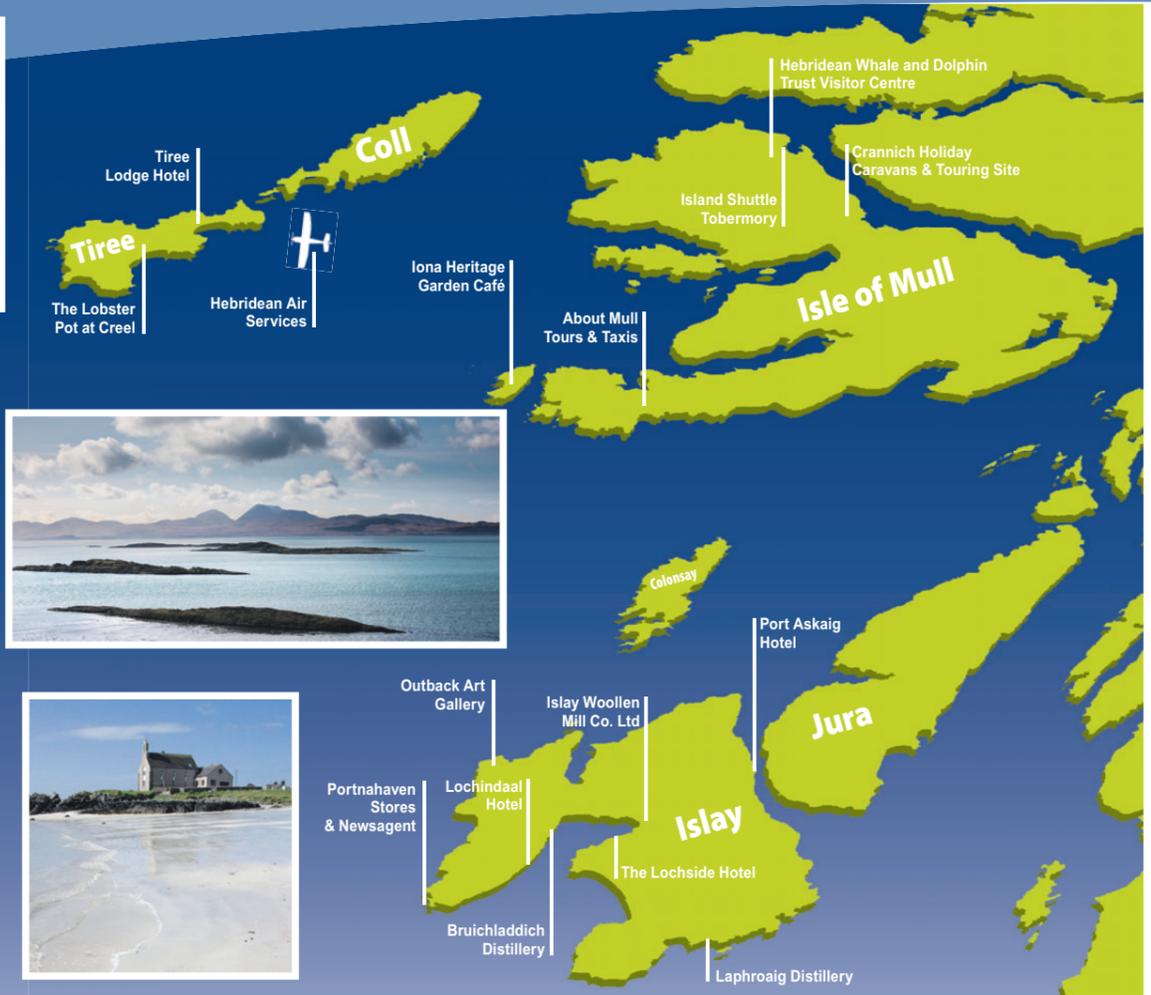
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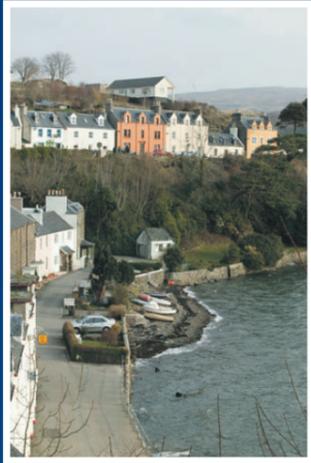
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the Isle of Skye



WITH SOME of the most breathtaking scenery, vibrant culture and abundant wildlife in Scotland, the Isle of Skye has proved a strong draw for visitors for hundreds of years.

Known in Gaelic as Eilean a' Cheo (The Misty Isle), Skye, which has a population of 10,000 and is steeped in history and romance, is unrivalled in its offer to the modern day visitor.

It is easily accessible thanks the famous Skye Bridge over Loch Alsh, which connects the island to the mainland.

However, those seeking to take the old fashioned route 'over the sea to Skye' have the option of a mainland ferry service between Mallaig and Armadale in Sleat, or the tiny turntable ferry between Glenelg and Kyleshera.

Skye's largest population centre and unofficial capital is Portree, which has a scenic harbour and great views of surrounding hills.

An upcoming event not to be missed is the annual Highland Games, traditionally held on the first Wednesday of August.

The Games draw large crowds of locals and visitors alike to the semi-natural rock amphitheatre known locally as 'The Lump'.

The dramatic Cuillin mountain range dominates much of the landscape of the island. Home to 12 Munros, the Cuillins are a popular destination for climbers and walkers from across the world.

The Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig stands proudly over the Sound of Sleat as testament to the bold bid to revive the ancient language, which is still widely spoken on Skye.

In the far north, Uig is home to the ferry to the Outer Isles and a start point for a stunning drive past Duntulm Castle round to the spectacular rock needle, the Old Man of Storr.

And don't forget The Isle of Raasay just to the east of Skye and just a short ferry ride from Sconser, with 10 crossings daily.



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Business

Islay firm storms into growing 'glamping' market

A NEW Islay company that is taking advantage of the growing 'glamping' market has just delivered two of its unique huts to South Uist, its first delivery off the island.

Stormpods, run by Gus Newman, has designed the units, which have a turf roof and are sympathetic to a rural setting.

One unit, the Lagavulin model, has a double bedroom, bathroom and shower, living room and kitchen. It is larger than the second unit, the Laphroaig.

'Glamping', or glamorous camping, is the term given to holiday makers who want the adventure of camping, with the comfort of home.

Mr Newman said: 'They don't rust or rot and are very low maintenance.'

'They are pretty tough too, which is a big selling point for people who want to hire them out on the islands.'

Meanwhile, the company has also provided a customer at The Oa on the island with a 'granny annex' Stormpod which includes two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a 37-inch television.

Chance to share talent at new fringe event

A BREWERY is encouraging up-and-coming performers in Argyll to share their talent with the chance of performing live at an Edinburgh venue.

The inaugural 'Deuchars Beermat Fringe' aims to give both professional and amateur acts the opportunity to be part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Entrants aged 25 or over should submit a short video of their performance via Deuchars IPA's Facebook. The act could be a poem, sketch, routine or anything that includes the line: 'You're Due a Deuchars'.



RBS relationship director Lindsay Smith, who helped Oban fisherman John MacAlister, right, obtain a £335,000 loan.

Bank helps keep Oban fisherman's fleet afloat

AN OBAN fisherman has replaced a damaged vessel in his fleet thanks to a £335,000 loan from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

John MacAlister has a fleet of eight high-spec fishing vessels and a workforce of 60. When his scalloper, the *Golden Promise*, was damaged beyond repair late last year, John needed to replace the boat quickly to maintain catch rate.

The loan allowed John to purchase a Dutch beam trawler, which is currently being converted by MacDuff Shipyard.

The refurbished vessel has been

named the *Geertruida* and is set to be blessed in the coming weeks.

John, who bought his first boat in 1989, the *Star of Annan*, thanks to RBS funding, said: 'We think it's incredibly important to maintain our fleet and ensure the vessels are as comfortable and as safe as possible for the men who work on them.'

Well-maintained

'They work in tough conditions and we need to support them by providing well-maintained boats.'

'The continued funding from RBS made it possible for us to do this and the refurbished vessel is state-of-the-

art and has had an incredibly warm reception from the crew and also the MCA and government authorities.'

'The bank has stood by us since the inception of the business, providing over £4.25million worth of funding to build, buy and refurbish vessels since 1997.'

John also paid tribute to RBS relationship director Lindsay Smith for his role in securing the funding.

'I feel fortunate that Lindsay takes the time to visit us regularly,' John said.

'He understands the business and the conditions within which we work,

meaning that we work towards the same goal.'

Lindsay said: 'I have been fortunate to work with John since I first met him in 1995 in Oban.'

'The new vessel will enable John MacAlister Ltd to continue to be one of the UK's largest providers of quality scallops and prawns and I am pleased to have been in a position to help the business continue in this success.'

'John's dedication to upholding the quality of his fleet and the work conditions of his crew are admirable.'

Clare dishes up new business and an appeal for more help for fledgling firms

OBAN'S latest entrepreneur has said there is not enough help for aspiring businessmen and women to go their own way as she takes her first venture into self employment at 21.

Clare Gillies recently opened Piece on Argyll Square after deciding to put her skills in the kitchen to good use, freshly baking bread, rolls and cakes for the shop every day.

Not only is her mum a good cook, her brother is a sous chef in a Michelin star restaurant - so turning to her skills with a rolling pin seemed natural for the former Oban High School pupil.

However, Clare, who turns 22 today and employs three people, said she was surprised by the lack of support for young entrepreneurs and has urged the government to do more to encourage fledgling businesses.

She said: 'I got help from my family via a business loan. I did look at getting grants but to be honest there's not a lot out there; as much as they say there is.'

'Youth Business Scotland [formerly the Princes' Scottish Youth Business Trust] said they could only provide a grant if my business was 'ultra-local' and the other services more or less just told me what was on their website.'

'I actually got most help from friends, including Jane Isaacson. If I hadn't had her I simply wouldn't have known where to start.'

However, with the shop now open and proving popular, Clare is already thinking of expanding her business.

'I'm now in talks with Highlands and Islands Enterprise [HIE] with a view to expanding the business,' she said. 'I'd like a van to do deliveries and outside catering.'

Right: Young entrepreneur Clare Gillies showcases some of the treats available at Piece in Oban's Argyll Square. 15_127gillies1



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For further information: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Helensburgh G84 8ND. Tel: 01436 658957

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Business reporter:

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01631 568021



Shellfish marketing chief wins award

Dedicated and inspired staff praised

DEDICATED and inspired staff will ensure a bright future for the Scottish shellfish industry.

That's according to Stephen Cameron, managing director of the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG), speaking just after he won the Outstanding Contribution to the Industry Award at the Crown Estate Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards.

Mr Cameron won the award in recognition of his work in ensuring the development of SSMG - a co-operative of mussel and oyster farmers - into one of the UK's leading seafood companies, combined with his important overall contribution in helping promote the Scottish shellfish sector.

'I am thrilled and feel very humbled to have won this award,' he said. 'The

Scottish shellfish sector is a vibrant and dynamic industry and I feel honoured to have played a part in its development.

'I never cease to be amazed by the dedication and enthusiasm of those who work in the industry and this is the driving force that will ensure a successful future.

Excited
'Scotland produces some of the best seafood in the world and this award represents a major vote of confidence in the Scottish shellfish industry. I am excited about both the future prospects for SSMG and the Scottish shellfish sector as a whole.'

With more than 20 years' experience working in the aquaculture and seafood industries, he joined SSMG as managing director five years ago. Since his appointment, turnover and

volume sales of members' mussels have increased significantly with a major highlight being the successful transfer last year of the processing operation into a new state-of-the-art facility in Bellshill, Lanarkshire.

He is a keen advocate and pioneer of sustainable development, with SSMG mussels having attained both Friend of the Sea and Marine Stewardship Council certification. Cameron is also on the management committee of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers and is a member of the Scottish Government's Shellfish Forum.

He is passionate about communicating the superb quality of Scottish seafood to the younger generation and is an active participant in the acclaimed Seafood for Schools project.

£1/2m fish farm pen order boosts Fusion Marine

FUSION Marine, the Barcaldine-based aquaculture equipment supplier, received an order worth nearly half a million pounds for a new fish farm at Loch Striven.

Worth £480,000, the order represents a major boost for the company's 16 employees, with construction work having now started on the 100m circumference Oceanflex pens, which will be supplied with bird net supports and associated equipment.

It is anticipated that the first consignment of 10 pens will be delivered at the end of the summer to the TSSC site at Sgian Dubh in Loch Striven, with the balance due a few weeks later. Fusion Marine has a long-standing relationship with TSSC and its predecessor companies that goes back almost 20 years.

Iain Forbes of Fusion Marine said: 'We are delighted with this latest order from The Scottish Salmon Company, which underlines their support for local businesses. The close working relationship TSSC enjoys with local operations such as Fusion Marine is helping secure the sustainable growth of the West Highlands' economy - and we are very proud to be part of this success story.'

Stewart McLelland, Chief Executive Officer of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'We are delighted that our plans for Loch Striven are moving ahead and we are working closely with Fusion Marine to ensure all schedules are met. The new site provides an important boost to the local economy.'

'As well as working with local companies, such as Fusion, we are recruiting for three new jobs.'

Got a business story? Call 01631 568000 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll firm claims victory in battle to control sea lice in farmed salmon

A MAJOR scientific breakthrough by an Argyll company could revolutionise fish farming after claiming to have won the battle with sea lice.

Ormsary-based Landcatch says farmed salmon have been made more resistant to sea lice after its research team, based at Stirling University Innovation Park, pinpointed a gene that controls how susceptible fish are to infestation.

The genetic markers have already been used to screen broodstock selected in 2012 and this year were introduced to the company's egg production process.

Researchers hope the breakthrough will ensure the next generation of farmed salmon at the company is more resistant to the parasites, which in turn would reduce the level of impact on indigenous species.

Neil Manchester, managing director of Landcatch, said: 'We have located a major gene - or Quantitative Trait Loci - controlling resistance to sea

lice. This is mapped using variations in DNA sequences, or single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), which act as biological markers and help scientists identify individual salmon that are more robust for breeding and egg production in Europe and Chile.

'This is a significant milestone for Landcatch and the aquaculture industry. This is available now, and the fact that we've achieved this breakthrough a year ahead of schedule is to be welcomed.

Cutting edge
'Many thought it would be another decade to get this far, so we are proud to be at the cutting edge and this far ahead in an important area for the industry.'

Sea lice are one of the long-term challenges facing the aquaculture industry and affect production across the world. Genetics is set to play a key role in tackling the issue, along with advances in husbandry, nutrition and medical treatments.

Landcatch was the first aquaculture company to pinpoint genes controlling the susceptibility of salmon to Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis. As part of a strategy to improve robustness, the firm's scientists also proved that sea lice resistance is inherited and produced more resistant juvenile fish and eggs.

It is hoped the research will apply to farmed fish across the world and not just in Scottish waters, with Landcatch set to carry out tests at its sites in Chile to determine if the gene is effective there.

Dr Alan Tinch, director of genetics at Landcatch, said: 'Whether we see the same effect in Chile or not will be interesting and help significantly in our understanding of the biology of sea lice infestation.'

Genomic selection using SNP chips is already routinely applied in crops, cattle, pigs and chickens but Landcatch is the first company to apply the science to salmon.

RECRUITMENT



Recirculation Unit - Lochailort Hatchery Technicians - 2 posts

Salary - £16,946 - £21,499 plus overtime/allowance payments

Marine Harvest's new recirculation unit at its Lochailort site is now operational and will produce 5 million smolts to meet the increased demand as a result of recent expansion in seawater sites and 6 million parr for stocking freshwater loch on-growing sites.

We are looking to recruit two additional hatchery technicians for the unit. The roles are focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and smolts. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in freshwater operations, however this is not essential as full training and support would be provided.

The chosen applicants will be part of a large team so must be self-motivated and have good communication skills. Beyond the nature of the role, the post holders would be expected to undertake overtime as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Unit and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota which would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation for approximately one week in every 4 weeks.

A driving license is essential.

If you would like to apply for one of these roles, please submit an application in writing with details of work experience, by the closing date of the 19th July to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resources Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT



Delivery Driver/Site Worker

Part-time 3 days a week, includes one Saturday in three. £7.50 per hour

Working with the Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) project, which is a furniture reuse project based at the Moleigh Civic Amenity Centre, Ariogran, Oban.

The job will predominantly involve driving a van, the lifting and shifting of furniture for deliveries and collections and working on site serving customers and selling items for reuse. However, some experience of bike mechanics would be desirable.

The post holder must have a clean driver licence and prefer-able be over 21 years of age, for insurance purposes.

For Job description and application forms contact Jean Kennedy on 01546 604227 or info@grab.org.uk. Closing date for applications is Monday 15th July 2013. Successful applicants will be interviewed on Thursday 25th July.

Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute Trust Limited c/o Argyll & Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll. PA318RT. Company No. 197229 Scottish Charity No. SC 029154

Scottish Canals

Buildings and Maintenance Supervisor

Salary Range: £23k-£30k dependant on experience plus Car Allowance and Benefits

Location: Covering Scotland:

We are looking to recruit a Buildings and Maintenance Supervisor to assist the Estates Manager on all aspects of property maintenance and refurbishment including day to day supervision of property maintenance staff and sub-contractors.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the implementation and supervision of planned maintenance projects, reactive work and minor refurbishments. Working closely with small teams of tradesmen and sub-contractors you will carry out inspections of works ensuring continued high standards are achieved. You will be responsible for all health and safety requirements, ensuring that policy guidelines are adhered to. You will produce and distribute risk assessment and method statements (RAMS). You will be required to produce tenders and quotes for specific works and prepare and arrange Tool Box talks.

Skills and experience required:

- Formal Health and Safety qualification such as IOSH is desirable
- Time served trade and supervisory experience is essential
- Current UK Driving Licence is essential
- You will have strong communication and organisational skills with the ability to prioritise your workload effectively and efficiently and have the ability to collaborate well with other teams

Please send your CV and covering letter to recruitment@scottishcanals.co.uk by 12th July 2013 titled "Buildings and Maintenance Supervisor".

BUSINESS MANAGER: MACHRIHANISH AIRBASE

MACC Developments Ltd require a motivated and capable individual to play a major role in the future development of this 1,025 acre estate with an extensive property portfolio, and a commercial airport. Salary £30,000- £40,000 pa (depending on experience)

Required

Educated to degree standard you will be a competent facilities manager with IT skills and an understanding of financial and leasing systems, with experience in working closely with local and / or national government.

Applications may be made by forwarding your CV with a covering handwritten letter to Michael Taylor, C/O MACC Developments Ltd, Building 79, DE Machrihanish, Campbeltown, PA28 6NU

Michael Taylor can be contacted on 07785 542811, for further information if required.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19th July 2013.



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Closing Date for applications: Monday 15th July 2013

Please send your CV with covering letter to: The Secretary, The Machrihanish Golf Club, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6PT, or email: secretary@machgolf.com

sjb medical is the specialist recruitment partner for the largest independent provider of health assessments in the UK; who provide medical assessments for Central Government.

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sjb medical are also recruiting Doctors across Scotland for permanent, part time or sessional (associate) positions. Find our latest roles online www.sjbmedical.com

ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRENTICESHIPS

Kilmartin Museum is seeking Archaeological Apprentices for course dates 22nd July to 9th August and 14th October to 23rd October.

Applicants must be aged 16 to 20. Payment is £107.20 per week. Please apply by letter stating why you would like to take part. Email sharon@kilmartin.org or submit to Kilmartin Museum. Closing date 12th July. Interviews 17th July. For more information see www.kilmartin.org Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund



Cleaner (Part time) £6.36 - £6.75 per hour 4 hours per week Taynuilt Primary School Ref: CTF00976

Cleaner (Part time) £6.36 - £6.75 per hour 20 hours per week Dunbeg Primary School Ref: CTF00515

Driver/Escort (2 Posts - Temporary, Part time) £7.84 - £8.31 per hour (1 x 15 hours per week + 1 x 20 hours per week) during term time Mull Ref: CTF01039

Gaelic Childcare & Education Worker

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Tiree High School Ref: CME36216

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01546 604334

Dalriada House, Lochgilphead Ref: CTF01048

Closing date: 19 July 2013. To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021



From left, depute head Isobel MacKenzie, head teacher Jim Sutherland and local councillors Brian Murphy, Bren Gormley and Eddie Hunter look on as Bryan Campbell and Bronwyn Strachan get work underway.

Work starts on final phase of Lochaber High revamp

WORK on the £11 million third and final phase of refurbishing Lochaber High School is underway. At an official ceremony last week, S6 pupils Bryan Campbell and Bronwyn Strachan cut the first turf with senior school staff and local councillors in attendance. The upgrade, which brings total investment at the school to £26 million, will provide a new kitchen, dining area, main entrance, administration block, lift and school library. The remaining flat roofed

classroom blocks and the assembly hall will also be refurbished, the school surrounds landscaped and the car park resurfaced. Highland Council has appointed The Robertson Group as contractors and work is scheduled to be completed by April 2015. Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'This stage of the work will really transform the way our school building works and will provide a learning environment that will be truly inspirational.'

Designer follows in footsteps of famous Iona silversmith

A SCOTTISH jewellery company is reviving the traditions of one of Iona's most famous silversmiths. Two Skies Design, started by Adam McIntosh, uses green marble collected on the west coast of Scotland to create unique jewellery.

Adam, who lives in Fife, said: 'The west coast is not just amazing scenery - it is literally a treasure trove of wonderful gem stones that form part of our heritage.'

'Two Skies Design prides itself on sending customers away with a small piece of Scotland in their pockets.'

Adam spends time on the west coast collecting the stones which form part of 800-year-old metamorphosed limestone which has green streaks of serpentine running through it.

The stone has not been commercially collected and worked since the times of Alexander Ritchie - one of Iona's most famous silversmiths who produced designs inspired by the Viking and Celtic carvings on Iona and the surrounding islands.

Two Skies Design is now following in his footsteps but is adding a range of contemporary designs to some of Ritchie's traditional Celtic knot work.

The jewellery is then sold to tourists on Iona, Mull and Oban. It's also sold on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, across Scotland and to outlets around the world.

This month BBC's Coast will start filming in Mull and Iona and will follow the journey of Two Skies Design as it collects the Scottish green marble that is such an iconic feature of this region. Coast will be capturing the process



Adam with the green marble used to make jewellery.

involved in collecting the stone and transforming it into treasured items. The programme is due to be broadcast in July next year.

But the National Trust for Scotland, which owns Iona, is discouraging others from collecting the marble,

in order to preserve the island. A spokesman said: 'Within the 911 hectares of Iona owned and cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, much of the landscape is subject to protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.'

'These include the quarry area down to the island's low water mark. Anyone wishing to take geological samples from scheduled areas on trust land must obtain authorisation.'

Shoreline
'While the BBC's Coast will be

filming offshore away from the scheduled area and do not need to seek permission, we would remind visitors that they should not remove marble or other rocks and minerals from Iona's shoreline lest they damage this historic and magical place.'

Top up cash needed to deliver superfast broadband

SUPERFAST broadband should be available to 99 per cent of the UK by 2018 - but only if the Scottish Government tops up the UK Government's contribution towards the goal.

Chief secretary to the treasury Danny Alexander last week also set targets of

95 per cent by 2017. The Government had previously set a target of 90 per cent coverage by 2015, although Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) had set a target of 75 per cent coverage in each council area by December 2016.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said the

new national targets will only be met if the Scottish Government puts in funding to top up the cash that will come from the UK Government.

'Superfast broadband is so important these days for bringing jobs and prosperity to rural areas,' he said. 'The current HIE scheme may

only reach 75 per cent of premises in Argyll and Bute. The Scottish Government must put in enough money on top of the cash that will come from the UK Government to ensure that superfast broadband coverage in Argyll and Bute reaches the UK Government's new higher national targets.'

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01116/PPP	Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse	Land South West of Ardchivaig Cottage Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
13/01139/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage and installation of septic tank (amendment to planning permission reference 09/0463/DEI incorporating repositioning of garage)	Plot 2 Land South West of Knockalla Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/01212/PP	Change of use and alterations/extension of existing derelict byre to form dwellinghouse	Mo Dhachaidh Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/01265/PP	Formation of access track (retrospective) and erection of greenhouse and summerhouse	Mull and Iona Community Hospital Java Road Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BH	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/01282/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land North of Greenbank Moss Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/01303/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access.	Land West of Oskamull Cottage Ulva Ferry Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA73 6LY	Sub Post Office Aros
13/01308/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Gallanachbeg Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4JL	Oban Area Office
13/01314/PP	Siting of additional static caravan and installation of pontoon	Caravan Park Sunnysbrae South Cuan Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TU	Sub Post Office Cullipoll
13/01346/PP	Erection of 4 self catering units	Land North West of Dun Alann Tobernory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobernory Area Office
13/01365/PP	Demolition of existing extension and erection of replacement extension	2 Seabank Villa Tiranor Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA69 6ES	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
13/01373/PP	Formation of new access and retention of caravan for employee seasonal use (part retrospective)	The Boat Yard Ardbrecknish Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BH	Sub Post Office Dalmally
13/01389/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (Renewal of planning permission 08/01356/DEI).	Invergunan Glen Orchy Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
13/01391/PP	Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse.	Dulaisne Ledraig Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RT	Sub Post Office Ledraig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01331/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank and soakaway.	Croft 19 Moss Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/01338/LIB	Installation of new bathrooms and extractor fans, create stair from first floor to second floor replace existing west elevation door. Minor alteration of external drainage to walls connecting to existing wastepipes. Installation of extract ventilation duct through roof.	Torsay Castle Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.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.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2013

On Monday 1st July 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive, cause, or permit to be driven any vehicle on the length of road as described in the schedule hereto. Exceptions will apply to vehicles associated with the works and emergency services vehicles. Access to affected properties will also be maintained when available. These restrictions are required to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

The restrictions imposed by this order which will be effective when indicated by signs, will come into operation on the dates and times indicated in the schedule hereto or until the works are completed, whichever may be the earlier.

SCHEDULE - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

0800 hours on Monday 8th July 2013 until 1800 hours on Friday 12th July 2013

Name of Road in Oban Extent of Restriction
Gallanach Road From the corner at Manor House to a point just southwest of its junction with Glenmore Road.
Diversion route: Via, Albany Street, Dunuaran Road, Glenshellach Terrace, Glenshellach Road and Gallanach Road.
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

Modern Apprenticeships: Pre-school Nursery

Exciting opportunities for motivated and enthusiastic 16 to 19 year olds to work in Childcare, Learning and Development with children aged 3 to 5 years in a nursery setting in the Oban area. Applicants should ideally have some experience of volunteering or working with Early Years or Primary aged children.

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



Operations & Marketing Assistant

Full time salaried position reporting directly to the Depot General Manager.

As a key member of the operations team, you will be required to support and implement operational and marketing plans for the business.

You should be able to demonstrate skills in numeracy, spreadsheets, powerpoint and have a good understanding of social media. You should be a highly organised individual with Admin experience and possess a full driving licence.

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The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH3 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/02224/FUL	4 Airds Crossing High Street Fort William	Temporary Change of Use to Class 6 (Storage or Distribution) Proposed Foodbank
13/02275/FUL	Site 1, Land 110M SW of Arkaig Cottage, Achintore Road, Fort William	Erection of house and letting apartment (Site 1)
13/02276/FUL	Site 2, Land 90M South of Arkaig Cottage, Achintore Road, Fort William	3 bedroom dwelling (Site 2)
13/02277/FUL	Site 3, Land 66M South of Arkaig Cottage, Achintore Road, Fort William	3 bedroom dwelling (Site 3)

Time period for comments is 14 days.

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
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Glencoe - The Glencoe Inn - from 12.15 - 13.00
Ardgour - The Inn at Ardgour - from 14.00 to 14.45
Lochaline - The Lochaline Hotel - from 16.00 to 16.45

Thursday 18th July
Stronitton - The Sunart Centre from 9.30 - 10.15
Acharacle - Ardshealach Lodge from 10.45 - 11.15
Kilchoan - Community Centre from 13.15 - 14.00
Arisaig - Arisaig Village Hall from 15.45 - 16.30

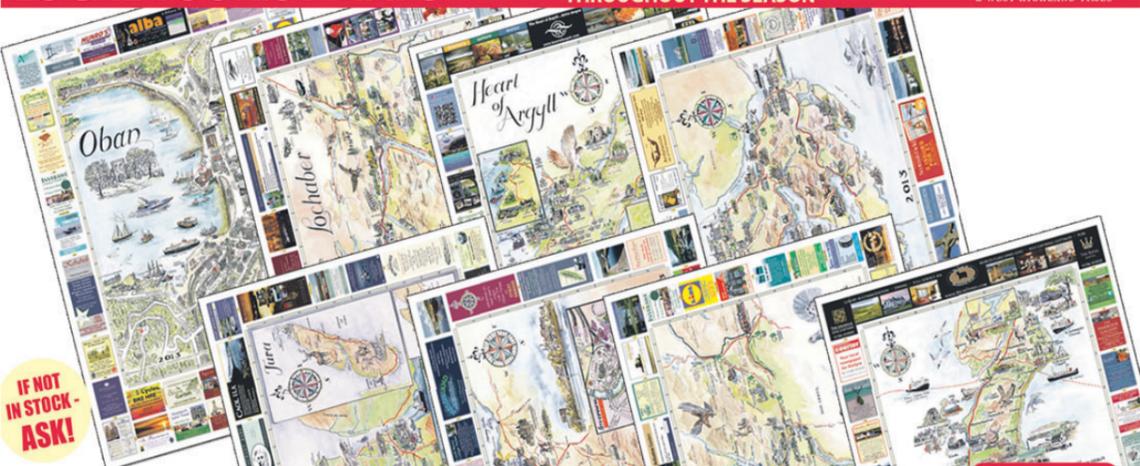
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BIRTHS

POWER - MOORE - Stephanie Power and Andrew Moore are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Hayley Gayle Moore on June 16, 2013.

MARRIAGES

HARRISON - SWAN - On June 22, 2013 at Tyninham Beach, North Berwick, Ewen Harrison, son of Janice and Donald Harrison, Taynait to Livvy Swann, Farningham, Kent. A great time was had by all.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at Almar, Connel on June 30, 2013, in the loving care of her family, Annie Cameron nee (Annette MacLean) beloved wife of the late John Cameron (Ian), devoted mother of Mairi, Margaret & John, much loved mother-in-law of Keith, Alasdair and Wilma, Proud Nana of Scott, Amanda, Keith, Kerry, Diane, John, Laura, Murn, Erin, Ruari and Kate. Gad' chaoidh agus gad' ionndrainn.

MACALLISTER - Suddenly at home on July 1, 2013, in her 78th year, Morag nee MacLugash, beloved wife of the late John MacAllister a much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral will take place from Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday July 8 at 1.30 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

MACKENZIE - Peacefully after a short illness, at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, on July 1, 2013, Aileen Niven Mackenzie, beloved wife of Farlane, much loved mum to Calum, Scott and Alison and granny to Jessica, Alicia, Jamie and Andrew. Funeral will take place from Ardchattan Church on Friday July 12 at 1.00 pm thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. No flowers please.

MACIVER - Peacefully, at his home, Primrose Bank, West Bank Road, Ardrishaig, with his family by his side, on July 1, 2013, Donald Peter MacIver (Dondie), aged 82 years, beloved husband of Shirley and much loved dad of Elsa, Ruth and Donna. Adored Poppa to all the family and a dear brother and brother-in-law. A good friend, dear neighbour and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church on Friday, July 5 at 11.00am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Mid Argyll Hospital and Marie Curie Cancer Care

MACLEISH - Suddenly but peacefully at Forth Valley Hospital, on June 24, in her 87th year, Jenny (last surviving child of Peter and Flora MacKinnon). Dearly loved mother of Treana, mother-in-law of George, devoted granny, great-granny, great-great-granny and a beloved aunt. Sadly missed.

MACPHEE - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital on June 27, 2013, Marion MacPhee aged 75 years. Beloved wife of the late Archie, a dearly loved mother, granny and great-granny. Marion's funeral was held yesterday (Wednesday) at Kilmonivaig Parish Church. Sadly missed by all who knew her. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors.

MACTAVISH - Peacefully at Struan Lodge on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, Wilma (nee Mackay), beloved wife of the late Angus and a dear cousin and friend. Funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 3. When we visit the place you rest, we know you were simply the best, and when we turn and walk away, we know you are with us everyday, the precious years we had together, are memories we will have forever. Love always - Jean and family xxx

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis a beloved husband and dad, who died July 3, 1993. We miss you more than words can say. Loved and remembered everyday. - Elizabeth, Julie and Steven, Dalmally.

TURNER - Fondest memories of my dear son-in-law Dennis, who died July 3, 1993. Always in my thoughts and sadly missed. - Angus Grant, Dalmally.

God bless you both you were the best.

- Inserted by their loving son Lachie, daughter-in-law Sandra and family.

BROWN - Remembering with love my mother Annie Brown, died July 4, 2002, my father Lachlan Brown, died July 2, 1972. Always remembered. - Christina, Alison and Ewan, Dunoon, Exeter and USA.

EDWARDS - In loving memory of my dear husband, George Edwards, who died July 6, 2003, a dear dad and granddad. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary Anne and family, Kinlochleven and Ireland.

KELLY - In loving memory of our dear brother Kenneth who died July 23, 2009 and our dear dad James who died July 8 2011. No verse no words can say how it has been in the past years for me, missing you both is the hard part that will never go away. Gentle Jesus up above, Give Kenneth and Dad all our love. - Joyce, Donald, Colin and all the family, xxx

MACINNES - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006. I looked to you for happiness And found it by your side I turned to you for comfort Your arms were open wide I cared with you, I shared with you The special things in life And found how precious love can be Between a man and wife Memories of you are proudly kept Of someone too special to ever forget. - Inserted by Mairi, Strollamus, Skye.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Annie, died July 6, 1998. Always in our thoughts. - Families Inveraray and Canada.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother Ronald who died July 6, 1984. Always in our thoughts. - Grace and family, Tobermory, Wilma and family, Orkney.

MACLEAN - 05.07.07 Treasured memories of Donald, a loving father and grandfather, sadly missed. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay Loved and remembered every day. - Alastair, Cathanne, Jamie, Stuart and Ruairaidh xx

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandfather, Donald, who passed away July 5 2007. Sadly missed. - John, May, Shaun and Shannon

MACLEOD - Cherished memories of mum Alice, who passed away July 3, 2012 and dad Calum, who passed away July 23, 2009. Always in our thoughts. - From Margaret, Donald and family.

MACPHERSON - Marie. Precious memories of a wonderful mum and granny, who passed away July 4, 2010. Forever in our hearts You are loved and missed so much. - Lynda, Mark, Sean and Morgan xxx.

MCCREEVY - Remembering today my beloved daughter Eileen (Gunn) who died on July 7, 2012. Never more than a thought away Quietly remembered every day So sadly missed. - Mam

MCEWAN - Cherished memories of Eddie, a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and loving "Pop". Taken from us so suddenly on July 6 2001. When we visit the place you rest, we know you were simply the best, and when we turn and walk away, we know you are with us everyday, the precious years we had together, are memories we will have forever. Love always - Jean and family xxx

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis a beloved husband and dad, who died July 3, 1993. We miss you more than words can say. Loved and remembered everyday. - Elizabeth, Julie and Steven, Dalmally.

TURNER - Fondest memories of my dear son-in-law Dennis, who died July 3, 1993. Always in my thoughts and sadly missed. - Angus Grant, Dalmally.

CHURCH NOTICES

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Sunday 7 July 2013 Trinity 6

St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08.00 Combined Mattins and Eucharist10.15

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Kilbrandon Kirk Holy Eucharist15:15 St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich Mattins followed by Holy Eucharist11.00

Holy Cross, Portmacroish, Appin Evensong.....18:00 A cordial welcome to people from any church or none

St Columba, Grueline, Mull Holy Communion.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.15 Holy Eucharist.....Wed 10 July 14.30

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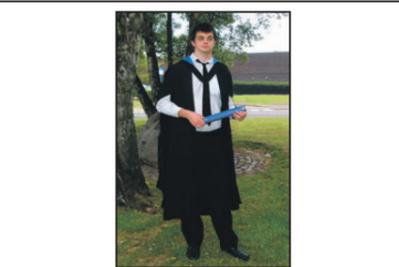
GRADUATIONS



Donnie Macdonald graduated with MA (Hons) in Economics and Business Law from Heriot Watt University Edinburgh. Son of Catrina and Donald Macdonald Roy Bridge, Grandson of Dan and Margaret Macdonald Roy Bridge and the late Mary and Don Macleod Fort William.



Michael Macdonald recently graduated from the University of Stirling with a BA in Journalism. Pictured here with brothers Martin and Murray, and his mother, Julie Caldwell. Michael was educated at Croftinloan Prep School, Rannoch and Sedburgh School.



Adam Sturrock, son of Jane and David Sturrock, (Oban) graduated with a Master of Engineering in Software Engineering at Herriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Adam is working for a software company in Edinburgh. Congratulations also to Ben Sturrock who graduated last year for Sunderland University with a degree in Nautical Science and Marine Operations. He is working for Maersk in Asia as an Officer of the Watch Deck.



Richard Clifford, centre, lays the wreath, while flanked by members of the Royal British Legion Scotland Oban branch. 15_126wreath01

Cockleshell Hero remembered at war memorial

A FORMER Royal Marine has paid tribute to Oban's own Cockleshell Hero by laying a wreath on behalf of the Special Boat Service at the town's war memorial. Dorset man Richard Clifford told the story of Lieutenant Jack MacKinnon's involvement in Operation Frankton after laying the wreath. He was joined at the Esplanade war memorial by Oban branch members of the Royal British Legion Scotland. Piper Lieutenant MacKinnon's father was a piper in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the young Oban officer topped his class in training before being hand-picked for the mission, regarded as one of the most courageous of the Second World War. Operation Frankton was a commando raid on shipping in the German-occupied port of Bordeaux in the Bay of Biscay. The raid was carried out in 1942 by a small unit of Royal Marines in six double-manned canoes but only two men, expedition leader Major Blondie Hasler and Marine Bill Sparks, came back. Lieutenant MacKinnon was captured by the Germans and executed in March 1943, although the whereabouts of his body remain unknown. Laying the wreath, Mr Clifford, who was holidaying in the west Highlands, explained he laid the wreath to ensure Lieutenant MacKinnon was not forgotten. 'These men gave their lives so we could be free and but for people like Lieutenant MacKinnon we would be speaking German and doing the Nazi salute.'



A midsummer sponsored walk has raised more than £1,000 for Oban Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Therapy Centre. The 34 walkers of all ages started in Dunbeg and walked to the therapy centre in Glencruitten, via Ganavan. MS Therapy Centre manager Sandra Owens praised the support of the community in raising the sum of money, adding she had been asked several times to make the walk an annual event. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Thought for the week

It's raining cogs and dats!

There's a rumour that in the interest of equality the government is attempting to remove the word "water" from our language. This follows a strong lobby from the hydrogen and oxygen lobby of society. In their view, there should be no difference between two hydrogen or two oxygen atoms linking together and the atoms combining with one another to form a liquid substance instead of a gas. One of their spokesperson commented: "It's unfair that water should be given all the rights to sustain life while we, who were after all its originators, have to go around paired up as H-H or O-O. Why should we not get all the privileges that water has?" The government has indicated it is very sympathetic to their viewpoint, and has therefore hastily drafted a new piece of legislation proposing that in future all combinations of hydrogen and oxygen atoms should be known simply as "molecules". The minister in charge of bringing forward this amendment said: "In our view, such legislation is long overdue. We want to ensure equality in law for all forms of combination. The fact that water is a combination with such totally unique properties is totally irrelevant to the discussion." In future, requesting a glass of water in a restaurant will be deemed an offence prosecutable by law. In preparation for this change, the Water Board has been told to repaint all their vans to read "Scottish Molecules".

Young cadets recreate Commando run from Spean Bridge to Achnacarry

AROUND 50 young cadets recreated commando training from WWII by running a seven mile route from Spean Bridge railway station to Achnacarry - while carrying a 16lb pack. The fundraising event has been running for the past three years, with sea cadets from Lochaber, Oban and Inverness taking part this year, as well as Lochaber Air Cadets. Kevin MacColl of Lochaber Air Cadets broke the record by completing the course in one hour 12 minutes. The Lochaber Inter-service trophy for the first unit to get four cadets over the finish line was won by the Lochaber Air Cadets. Some juniors who found the task too daunting instead decided to take part in a sponsored walk along the route. Organiser Paul Whyton said: 'It's been fantastic to bring so many cadets together and to have the air cadets join us. They all put in a fantastic effort.'

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Jack Tolan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

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Archery record broken

OBAN archer Bill Murray broke a 17-year-old Scottish record when shooting at a recent competition hosted for the Scottish Archery Association at Banchory.

Bill normally shoots a recurve bow, the type used at Olympic Games, but couldn't resist the chance to challenge other longbow specialists.

Bill, a member of Oban and Lorn Archers, said: 'Longbows had all but disappeared from Archery GB competitions in Scotland but are making a bit of a come-back, so I went along to have some fun.'

Bill was not only surprised to have won the competition but was later informed he had broken a record that has stood

ARCHERY since August 1996 - and added 75 points to it.

He added: 'I didn't expect to win but I shot a good score on the Saturday and thought if I could repeat that on the Sunday I might be in with a chance.'

'Someone told me that if I did that, I would break the record but I didn't really believe that. It wasn't until someone showed me the proof on their iPhone that it sunk in.'

His record was for the Double York, which Bill explained is a difficult round, especially for longbow users.

He said: 'A York consists of shooting six-dozen arrows at a 122cm-size target at 100 yards, followed by four-dozen at 80 yards then two-dozen at 60 yards. The arrows are shot in groups of six before scoring then repeating the process until all the arrows for that distance have been shot.'



Archer Bill Murray with his winners medal. 15_12781001 been shot.

Perfect sailing conditions for Glencoe Boat Club's regatta

SUNSHINE and a good breeze gave perfect sailing conditions for Glencoe Boat Club's recent annual regatta in Loch Leven and the passage race to the event from Oban.

Although it was an inauspicious start for the feeder race with the fleet of 11 boats becalmed on the start line off Oban Sailing Club, the breeze eventually filled in from behind and kites were set which held all the way to Omich Pier.

The 'wait' in the bay gave an advantage to the slower end of the fleet and 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.

John (Bodach) MacKenzie, who brought his Westerly Storm Mhor down from Skye for the event, took line honours and the Peter MacLeod Cup.

Peter Watt, racing his BB10 *Vaila*, finished third in the passage race. Returning to the UK from his work on superyachts in the Mediterranean at the start of the week, Peter had just time enough to prepare and launch the boat to make the start.

Fickle winds

Unusually for Glencoe, which is suspect to fickle winds, the Saturday's regatta day saw a steady breeze. Close racing in Class 1 saw Eric and Irena Chapman's *Sigma 33 Amber Haze* take first by one second from Billy and Steven Forreth's *First 31.7 Shadowfax* with Watt's *Vaila* again third. The afternoon's racing saw *Shadowfax* take the win from *Vaila* with the *Soling Scaramanga* third giving the Forreths the overall for class one.

In the slow handicap class, Ruairidh Mills and Alistair



Connel rider John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Netherlands Grand Prix. Photo: Bonnie Lane.

John robbed of top 10 finish in Netherlands Grand Prix

LUCKLESS John McPhee was robbed of a top 10 finish in the closing stages of the Moto3 race at the Netherlands Grand Prix at Assen after a late clash shuffled him down the order to 21st.

The hapless RTG rider had risen from 24th on the grid to 10th and was challenging for ninth on the penultimate lap when his handlebar was clipped in a tight nine-rider scrap at the chicane.

The racing incident, which almost pitched the Scot over the front of his bike, cost him three seconds dropping him to 17th by the end of the lap. To add insult to injury he was shuffled back a further four places on the final lap.

'I went to outbrake another rider but thought twice about it because otherwise I might have taken both of us off,' McPhee explained.

Oban Saints back in pre-season training

FOOTBALL OBAN Saints' senior team returned to pre-season training on Wednesday with a good turnout of players taking part.

The Oban side start their pre-season build up with the D&K Lafferty Cup Tournament at Mossfield and Glencruitten on Saturday July 13. Teams taking part are Dundee United, Hamil

West Highland Way race record broken

ULTRA DISTANCE THE RECORD for the 95-mile West Highland Way race has been broken by more than half an hour at this year's event.

Paul Giblin, a Scottish ultra distance international from Paisley, won in a time of 15:07:29, beating the previous record set in last year's race by Terry Conway by 32 minutes. Marco Consani



Dalmally

DES McNULTY fought off a determined fightback from Steven Turner to claim his third Dalmally Golf Club Championship at a windswept Dalmally Golf Club on Sunday.

Going into the final round a comfortable nine shots in front, McNulty extended his lead to 12 within three holes.

Turner then mounted a valiant charge culminating with a run of three bringing him to within four shots with four remaining. However, a birdie at the last sealed McNulty's first Championship since 2009.

In the Handicap Championship, Terry MacNair came from behind to defeat Willie Dougal, who couldn't capitalise on his brilliant second round net 54. MacNair's net 67 was good enough for a four stroke victory for the North Connel man.

The Senior Handicap Championship went to Tommy Gibson, who used his low trajectory shots effectively to cut under the wind and shoot a solid net 68 to give him a three-shot victory over John MacKechie and Jim Livingstone. This Sunday sees the club host its popular Open Three Man Team Stableford competition. The last few places can be booked by phoning 07867 318583.

Islay

CLUB Championship played June 29 and 30.

1 S Johnston Gross 74+72 = 146; 2 N MacDonald Gross 74+74 = 148; 3 R McIntyre Gross 76+75 = 151.

Tarbert

A FOURSOME of golfers from Tarbert Golf Club emerged as winners of the Argyll and Bute Team trophy as they competed for the title on home turf.

Tarbert's team three, including Duncan Johnstone, Iain Johnstone, John Martin and Ross Currie, took first place in the stroke play competition played on Tarbert's Glenralloch course on Saturday.

Tarbert secured the win by carding 194, whilst Taynuilt were runners up with 198.

Speaking after the competition, Duncan Johnstone from the winning team, said: 'Thank you to my team for playing so well. The grounds were great, the best of this year.'

'It is good to see so many golfers here today and we look forward to seeing you all next year wherever that might be.'

Tobermory

VICE Captain Ewan MacCrone organised a successful Fun Day on Saturday June 29 to raise funds for the junior section.

A nine-hole competition with 21 golfers including eight juniors started the afternoon. Chipping and putting competitions were held together with a barbecue and a raffle.

More than £300 was raised for much-needed junior funds. Many thanks to everyone who donated and helped out on the day.

On Sunday June 30 the second round of the Centenary was played. Results: 1 John Weir 75-13-62; 2 Fraser MacKinnon 71-07-64; 3 Paul MacKinnon 71-07-64.

Dalmally Ladies

A VERY successful Ladies Open was held on June 15. Despite the forecast for heavy rain, it was dry and bright all day. Visitors came from as far as Spean Bridge, Comrie, Islay, Dumbarton, Cardross and the Isle of Seil as well as from the local clubs and a good time was had by all.

Winners: Silver: 1 Josephine Monaghan (Dumbarton); 2 Wilma Frew (Glencruitten); 3 Lily MacKay (Dalmally).

Bronze: 1 Trish McIvor (Spean Bridge); 2 Karen Haggerty (Dumbarton); 3 Frances Friel (Dumbarton).

Best Inward 9 Silver: Liz MacLean (Dumbarton); Bronze: Ann Hay (Dalmally); Best Local Lady Caroline Manson.

Nearest One Pin: Silver Margaret Hastie (The Machrie, Islay) Bronze: Gina Coleman (Dumbarton). Two's: Ann Coleman (Dalmally).

Youngsters moving on to pastures new

A GROUP of youngsters from Oban football teams Thistle and Jags had a presentation party to mark the end of their time in the local Oban Express Primary Football set up.

The chairman and secretary of the Primary Football League Gary MacIvor and John Horne went to the party along with Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae, to present them all with a commemorative shield to mark the occasion.

John Horne thanked the coaches Mark Anderson and Gavin Hill for their contribution and also thanked the children for their dedication over the last seven years. Everyone from the Primary set up wishes them well in the future.

11-a-side

The group will all be going to Oban High School from August and moving up to 11-a-side football, playing for the new Oban Saints under 13's team who will play in the Dumbarton Football



Thistle and Jags players with coaches Mark Anderson and Gavin Hill.

Oban Lorne step up the training

RUGBY A STEP up in competition standard has seen a rise in the intensity of training at Oban Lorne RFC as the legacy of last year's famous season starts to take effect.

The club, which last year won the RBS National Bowl and West Division Three league title, will this year compete in the reformed West Division Two and enter the National Shield.

Newton Stewart, who will be competing in West Division One this season, will be first up for Oban on August 24 away in the first round of the Regional Shield.

League duty starts the following week on August 21 with a trip to Callander to play McLaren while Oban's first home game will be at home to Carrick on September 7.

Coaches Corrie Louw and Andrew Johnston are already preparing the team to hit the ground running with an early start to pre-season seeing the squad training twice per week in the build up to the new season.

At the moment sessions are solely focusing on the fitness and strength of the squad with rugby specific training to come in closer to the start of the season. Training runs every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7-9pm with all new players welcome to come along.

Pre season fixtures for the 1st XV will be finalised over the coming weeks.

The teams taking part in West Division Two along with Oban Lorne are Cambuslang, Garnock, Cumbernauld, Strathendrick, McLaren, Loch Lomond, Strathaven, Waysiders Drumpellier, Clydebank, Stewartry and Carrick.

Oban Lorne will also be re-launching its mini rugby section after the school holidays. The section will be running at a new time with the club eager to get new coaches and volunteers involved.

Taynuilt

TAYNUILT Golf Club Ladies Club Championship second round (scratch) played on June 25: 1 Mairead Sim 88; 2 Fiona McGlynn 91; 3 Carol Church 91.

Club Championship (scratch) after two rounds: 1 Mairead Sim, 172 (84 88); 2 Carol MacLarty, 186 (88 98); 3 Fiona McGlynn, 186 (91 95). Gents Medal played on June 30: 1 Ewen McGlynn, 61 (27); 2 Calum Munro, 62 (10); 3 Stuart Scott, 64 (12).

Glencruitten

THE George Huntly Trophy was played for at the weekend at Glencruitten.

The winner was Daniel MacMillan with a score of 60 (71-11). Donald Campbell was second with a score of 62 (67-5) and Dean Smith was third with 63 (76-13) BIH. In the scratch section Robert MacIntyre was first with 64, second was Alan McKie with 65 (BIH) and Philip Murphy was third with 65. On Saturday the 2nd round of the Club Championship is to be played, along with the second round of the Handicap and Senior Championship. On Tuesday July 9 a Stableford will be held.



Aulay's All Stars defeated Coasters A to win this year's Whisky Fives, organised by the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association. Donald Campbell from the winning team was named player of the tournament, which attracted 12 teams. The association thanked sponsor Wallace Express and organisers Lindsay MacDonald and Claire Kennedy. 15_127whisky01



Ruaridh Mills and Alistair Ireland who won class two at the Glencoe Regatta. Photo: Neil Slinger.

WIN £650

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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Kyles win Celtic Cup after penalty shoot-out drama

Camanachd Cup quarter finals take place this weekend

THE TOP two teams in south shinty could only be separated by sudden-death penalties, as KYLES ATHLETIC lifted this season's AJG Glasgow Celtic Society Cup at Strachurmore.

After a battling performance by both Kyles and INVERARAY throughout 90 minutes and extra time, with the scoreline locked at 0-0, Kyles' man of the match Donald Irvine hit the winning penalty to bring the trophy to Tighnabraich for the 30th time.

The result was in stark contrast to last season's Camanachd Cup final between the two teams - one of the most enthralling in the competition's history - which finished 6-5 to the Kyles men.

A delighted Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'Considering it has been a really frustrating year, this was a great trophy to win.'

'I thought it was a really competitive game, with plenty of skill and determination. Donald Irvine was fantastic and having him finish it off with the winning penalty was magnificent.'

Inveraray player-manager Garry MacPherson, who missed his sudden-death penalty, said his team was hugely disappointed and

he has his work cut out to lift his players ahead of the league visit of Oban Camanachd this weekend.

Commenting on only the second Celtic Cup final to go to penalties, he said: 'Both teams have played each other so often that we know how to play against each other, so there was nothing to separate us.'

'We edged it in normal time but Kyles really increased the pressure in extra time. We deserved at least a penalty shoot-out but it was unfortunate that three of our better ball strikers missed their penalties.'

Iain Cameron, Glasgow Celtic Society secretary, said: 'A large crowd witnessed the most evenly contested Celtic Cup final for many years and only the second in the competition history to be decided on penalties. In a very tense atmosphere, both goalkeepers were forced to make crucial saves towards the close of extra-time and every player gave their all.'

NEWTONMORE manager PJ MacKintosh says the Orion Group Premiership title race still has a long way to go despite his side's 1-0 win over Lovat last weekend.

A goal from Fraser MacKintosh in the 37th minute was enough for 'More to move four points clear with a game in hand.'

But MacKintosh said there was plenty of tough ties ahead.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We've been quite lucky to get a run of home games, but we've got a lot of away games to come.'

'We've got to play Kyles home and away, we've got Glenurquhart away, Kingussie away. So there's still a long way to go.'

'We dominated the first half completely. We only got one goal but that was thanks to some great goalkeeping. Without him it could have been five or six.'

'More will be strong favourites when they host Caberfeidh in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup this Saturday.'

MacKintosh admitted: 'I'm not familiar with their players. They've been in the north leagues for a while and we've been in the premier. But we treat every game the same.'

Mike Russell and Andy MacKintosh are expected to miss out through injury.

GLENURQUHART manager Drew McNeil expects to have a full squad for this weekend's Camanachd Cup quarter final tie with Fort William.

The Drumnadrochit side have become cup specialists recently, winning the Macaulay Cup last year and reaching the MacTavish Cup final last month.

And McNeil will be hoping for another cup run in the Scottish.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We're looking forward to it, it'll be a good challenge.'

'We had a good result after our cup disappointment and training went really well on Saturday, so we're in good shape.'

'Fort William have still got the games in hand, but they are struggling for consistency and they're not getting the guys playing week in week out.'

'The MacTavish was the

building blocks for the rest of the season. Now we need to put in a strong challenge in the Camanachd and hopefully get through to the semi final, as well as pushing on in the league.'

FORT WILLIAM will need to cast aside indifferent league form if they are to find a way past Glenurquhart at Blairbeg and book their place in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-finals.

Fort put up a much-improved showing against Kinlochshiel in the league but still came out on the wrong end of a 3-2 scoreline.

Goals from Gary Innes and Josh McGhee kept the An Aird side in the hunt but in the end a double from John MacRae either side of half time and Keith MacRae's opener proved enough for the Lochalsh men.

The Camanachd is Fort's last chance for silverware in what has been a disappointing season - but at least co-manager Victor Smith knows his side have rediscovered their fighting qualities after pushing 'Shiel all the way last weekend.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The performance was much better last week - we had 14 or 15 boys who wanted to play for each other and that helps greatly.'

'Glenurquhart are a good team and will be very difficult to break down - but we will set out our team to win the tie.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The performance was much better last week - we had 14 or 15 boys who wanted to play for each other and that helps greatly.'

'Glenurquhart are a good team and will be very difficult to break down - but we will set out our team to win the tie.'

KINGUSSIE'S Camanachd Cup quarter final against Kinlochshiel this Saturday is their biggest game of the season so far, according to manager Russell Jones.

Jones has placed his focus on cup competitions rather than the league all season, and it doesn't get any bigger than success in the Scottish.

Jones told *The Oban Times*: 'It's the biggest game of the season for us. We're at home so we've got to look to go out and win it.'

'We know it's going to be a really hard game against Kinlochshiel. They've probably got a better record against us over

the past two years than we do against them.'

'We'll be looking to reproduce the kind of performance we put in against Lovat in the first leg.'

Kings lost 3-2 to Lochaber last weekend, but Jones said he was 'delighted' with the display as his team were missing nine players, including Ronald Ross, Lee Bain and Gary Munro.

MacRae acknowledges the title may be beyond his side now but wants to ensure there is no drop-off in form.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We still want to stay up as high as we can in the league. We have

Lovat coach Allan MacRae will have midfielder Lewis Tawse back from holiday. However, Craig Mainland could be missing from the centreline after picking up a nasty leg knock against Newtonmore which required two stitches.

MacRae acknowledges the title may be beyond his side now but wants to ensure there is no drop-off in form.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We still want to stay up as high as we can in the league. We have

Victory would send the Caol side clear at the top of Marine Harvest North Division 1 as Beaulie are on Camanachd Cup duty - and coach Duncan Kelly will want no slip-ups.

Kilmallie never really got into the hunt in Saturday's cup clash and were 3-0 down inside an hour before they had defender Iain Robertson sent off. Martin Munro's late goal was their sole consolation.

Kelly told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a disaster. We just did not get going at all. Beaulie thoroughly deserved to win the game on Saturday - we just seem to freeze on the big occasions.'

'It's frustrating because I know we can play great shinty and that was strongest team we could have fielded.'

'Now we just have to bounce back at Inverness. We still have a trophy to play for and if we get a result it puts us top of the league. Hopefully the boys will pick themselves up and get back to winning ways.'

GLENGARRY have a spare weekend after losing out to Kinlochshiel in the quarter final of the Strathdearn Cup.

Duncan MacRae opened the scoring for 'Shiel in the 23rd minute and quickly doubled the home side's lead.'

Garry's top marksman Daniel MacLennan was again on the scoresheet seven minutes into the second half to give his side hope.

But 'Shiel were able to pick up their second win over the Invergary side in the space of two weeks with goals from Jordan Fraser and Scott Maclean.

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell says talk of relegation at this stage of the season would be 'foolish' - but he warned his players they must pick up points, starting this Saturday at Inveraray.

The Oban side sit bottom of the Orion Group Premiership and could only look on as relegation rivals Lochaber picked up another two points last weekend.

But Campbell remains defiant that his young side can avoid the drop and targeted this weekend's fixture as a must-win game.

He said: 'When I look at the league table, it is amazing what one win could do for you and I have told the boys it's not over; we can survive.'

'I have definitely not written them off. It would be foolish to do that with so many games still to play.'

'That said, it has come to the stage where there is no room for error and I think two points on Saturday are imperative.'

Camanachd are missing two players on Saturday but Campbell refused to reveal the identity of the absentees.

GLENORCHY coach John Smith says his team must win this weekend's crunch tie against Bute if they have any ambitions of winning the Marine Harvest South Division One title.

The Dalmally men are one



Donald Irvine with the AJG Celtic Society Cup. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Fixtures

Friday 5 July
Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Skye v Beaulie
Daniel MacRae - 7.30pm

Saturday 6 July
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Quarter Finals
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood - 3pm
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Colin MacDonald - 3pm
Kyles Athletic v Beaulie
Ted McDonald - 3pm
Kingussie v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron - 3pm

Orion Group Premiership
Inveraray v Oban Camanachd
David Mitchell
Lovat v Lochaber
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness v Kilmallie
John Angus Gillies
Strathglass v Skye
Neil Ferguson - 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy v Bute
Graham Cameron
Lochside R'vrs v Glasgow MA
Lachie Wood
Oban Celtic v Taynuilt
Ronnie Campbell
Strachur v Aberdeen
John MacGregor

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Rab MacAskill - 12pm
Kingussie v Lovat
Duncan Freshwater - 12pm
Newtonmore v Aberdeen Uii
John Matheson - 12pm
(12.00 Throw Up)

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v Inveraray
Daniel MacRae
Bute v Aberdeen
Euan Pearson
Col Glen v Tayforth
Dunkie Kerr
Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA
Ewan MacDonald - 12pm

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine v Strathspye
Donald MacRae
Lewis v Kilmallie
Archie Ritchie
Inverness v Lochaber
John Sloggie - 12pm
Strathglass v Locharron
Calum Girvan - 12pm

(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Results

Wednesday 26 June
Marine Harvest North Division 3
Kilmallie 4 - 0 Inverness

Saturday 29 June
AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final at Strachur
Inveraray 0 - 0 Kyles Athletic
Kyles Athletic won 3-2 on penalties.

Ballicorn Cup Semi Final
Kilmallie 1 - 4 Beaulie

Strathdearn Cup Quarter Finals
Kinlochshiel 4 - 1 Glengarry
Beaulie 2 - 1 Locharron
Skye 1 - 1 Newtonmore
Newtonmore won 2-1 on penalties
Lovat 1 - 0 Glenurquhart

Orion Group Premiership
Kinlochshiel 3 - 2 Fort William
Lochaber 3 - 2 Kingussie
Newtonmore 1 - 0 Lovat

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh 2 - 2 Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 2
A'deen Uni 1 - 2 Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine 4 - 0 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 5 - 1 Lochbroom
Inverness 1 - 1 Strathspye
Lochaber 5 - 2 Strathglass

Youth Results
Marine Harvest South U14 League
Inveraray 5 - 0 Ballachulish
Oban Cam 8 - 0 Kyles Athletic
Milngavie 13 - 2 Oban Celtic

Womens Camanachd Association
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lovat 12 - 5 Ardnarnurchan
Strathglass 4 - 3 Glengarry



Singing in the rain! The Kyles players pile on top of Donald Irvine after he scores the penalty that won the Celtic Society Cup at Strachur last Saturday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

holiday. All nine are expected to be available this weekend.

KINLOCHSHIEL travel to The Dell looking to book a place in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-final by overcoming Kingussie.

'Shiel would be delighted with a repeat of their last cup encounter with Kings, a 4-3 win on their opponent's turf in the Artemis Macaulay Cup back in May.'

However, the Badenoch side have the edge in the league with two narrow wins over their Lochalsh rivals.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill would have wanted to have a full squad at his disposal but doughty defender Paul MacRae is out through suspension while talismanic forward Gordie MacDonald was having a fitness test last night (Wednesday) to ascertain whether he had recovered from a niggling knee ligament problem. Any doubt and he is unlikely to start.'

Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'Paul is one of our more senior players and losing him is a big blow to us, while I would imagine Kingussie will be at full strength.'

'Our recent games have been close and I would think it will be much the same this time round.'

'It is quite a honour getting to the semi-final in the Camanachd and the players will do everything the can to get there.'

'Shiel warmed up for the cup showdown with a vital 3-2 league win against Fort William.'

LOVAT may have all but waved goodbye to their chances of winning the Orion Group Premiership after Saturday's narrow 1-0 defeat to leaders Newtonmore - but will be in no mood to do Lochaber any favours at Balgait Park this weekend.

Form suggests the Kiltarity men will have the edge - but the Spean Bridge men have won their last two games to breathe new life into their bid to escape the drop and will prove dangerous opponents.

KILMALLIE will look to atone for their disappointing 4-1 loss at the hands of Beaulie in the Ballicorn Cup semi-final by posting a league win at Inverness.

Every game is vital for **SKYE CAMANACHD** in Marine Harvest North Division 1 after the islanders grabbed a point at Caberfeidh last weekend.

The hard-fought 2-2 draw still leaves Cabers with hopes of catching third-placed Skye and grabbing the last promotion spot to National League Division 1 next season.

With every point now precious, the Portree side travel to second bottom Strathglass knowing nothing less than a win will suffice.

Skye will be boosted by the

forward. We now have to keep these boys together for next year because continuity is key.

Good set-up
'The club has a good set-up from under-14 through under-17 to the first team.'

With Oban Camanachd not fielding an under-17s team in the competition, a handful of their players lined up for GMA and one of those, Connor Howe, scored GMA's solitary goal in the final.

Oban Celtic win MacQuiston Cup

OBAN Celtic lifted the MacQuiston Cup for the first time in 17 years on Sunday after a 4-1 victory over Glasgow Mid Argyll at Winterton Park, Inveraray.

The south of Scotland under-17s trophy was in the Celtic trophy cabinet for three consecutive years between 1994 - 1996 but had proved elusive since the mid-90s when Stephen Sloss, John Nudds and Michael Cooper were the respective winning captains.



The winning Oban Celtic under-17 team. 06_270ban06

Rory Bruce added his name to that list of Oban Celtic under-17 winning captains following the hard-fought victory, which came courtesy of goals from Conor Sartain (2) Andrew MacDonald and David Martin.

Long time coming
Club president David Hamilton said: 'This trophy has been a long time coming.'

'I was glad to see the third and fourth goals go in because the play was going back and

forward. We now have to keep these boys together for next year because continuity is key.'



Double goal scorer John MacRae holds off a strong challenge from Stevie Stewart in Kinlochshiel's 3-2 win over Fort William at Kirkton. Photograph by Lorraine MacDiarmid.

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Super Ally nets in dream debut for Dumbarton

'I have always wanted to play football...to score a goal on my debut was just awesome'

'ABSOLUTELY magic' was how a young Oban footballer described his senior debut, in which he scored the equalising goal for Dumbarton against Scottish Premier League side Hibernian.

Ally McKerracher only signed senior forms for the first division side last month but was named in the starting line-up last Saturday and quickly settled into his new environment, scoring for The Sons in a 1-1 draw.

Ecstatic

The ecstatic 17-year-old said: 'It was an absolutely magic day. I found out I was starting a

couple of hours before kick off and that alone would have made my weekend.

'But to score a goal on my debut was just awesome.

'Physically, it was a massive step up for me; this was the real thing.

'I was trying to win headers in midfield against professional players who were 6'6".

'The older boys in the team really helped me through the game and they were delighted for me when I scored.'

Ally, who was promoted from the club's Pro Youth under-17 team at the end of last season,

will train in Dumbarton twice a week, with the possibility of Saturday matches.

On top of his busy football schedule, Ally is also working full time as a labourer in Oban with Jim Smith and Co.

'It's a pretty hectic and tiring schedule,' admitted the former Oban Saints youth player.

'But I wouldn't change it for anything.'

Friends and family were among the crowd at Dumbarton's Bet Butler Stadium to watch Ally play the full 90 minutes against Hibs, who were using the match as a warm-up for their Europa



Oban youngster Ally McKerracher marked his debut for Dumbarton's first team with the equalising goal against SPL side Hibs in a pre-season friendly match played at the Bet Butler Stadium last Saturday. The game ended 1-1. Our picture shows Ally taking on Hibs defender Jordan Forster. Photographs by Donald Fullerton Photography.

FOOTBALL

League qualifier later this month.

Ally added: 'It was brilliant to have some familiar faces in the crowd and I looked for them when I scored. I have always wanted to play football so this has definitely been a step in the right direction.

'Making my debut and scoring on Saturday has given me more belief but I always thought I could make the grade. I got my chance at the weekend and I took it.'



Ally slots the ball past Hibs keeper Ben Williams to make the score 1-1.

All systems go for Round Mull Race

SAILING

ARDFERN Yacht Centre and Owen Sails will sponsor this year's Round Mull Race which starts this weekend.

Run by Oban Sailing Club this year's circumnavigation starts on Friday July 5 racing over the weekend until Sunday July 7 in three stages - Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Bunnassan and Bunnassan to Oban. For more, see this week's community news page.

Seil Golf Club

GOLF

THE JR Trophy played for in June was won for the first time by a lady, Donna Campbell, ahead of Bill Clark.

Nearest the pin at the fourth was John Blackstock and at the eighth, Bill Clark. Longest drive on the third was Colin Campbell and, off the red tees, Mary Phillips. The mid-month Mixed Greensomes was won by Geo Adam and Ian Galloway. The Highland Arts-sponsored Texas Scramble on June 23 was won by Isabelle Smith, Ian Galloway and Ian Wyllie. Nearest the pin at the fourth was David Nairn and at the eighth, Geo Adam.

Local riders do well

HORSE RIDING

THREE members of Oban and District Riding Club placed well at the British Eventing one day event at Hopeton, Edinburgh, last weekend.

Lindsay MacDonald, on Pyzen Du Cap, placed third in the BE90 category, while Janice Burnip on Ali Dante and Louise Smellie on Bernie II finished second and 14th respectively in the BE80(T) class.



This year's Oban Saints Youth Football Club prizewinners. t27saintsawards01

Oban Saints' youths hold prizegiving

OBAN Saints' under-14s were applauded for their league and cup double this season, as the club's junior teams met for their annual prizegiving at Oban High School.

The club has four teams in the Dunbartonshire Football Development Leagues but the season past was one to remember for the under-14s, in particular, who went on to compete in the Scottish Youth Champions League. Striker Jay Cooper notched up 65 goals for the season.

Oban Saints Youth Football Club also runs two development teams below the competitive age groups and has forged a joint partnership with Oban High School and adopted the SFA Positive Coaching Initiative.

The Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund has been a supporter of Oban Saints YFC since its formation and Ryan's mother, Amanda, was invited to present the prizes, including a new Ryan MacPhail

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Memorial Trophy to the most improved player in each age group. This year, the new awards went to: David Cameron (under-13), Patrick McIntyre and Mateusz Polewaczky (under-14), Steven Povey (under-15), Douglas MacLeod (under-16).

Trophy winners: Under 13s: Top Scorer - Martin Rennie; Players' Player of Year - Craig Easton; Player of Year - Cameron MacMillan.

Under 14s: Top Scorer - Jay Cooper; Players' Player of Year - Evan MacLellan; Player of Year - Evan MacLellan.

Under 15s: Top Scorer - Stuart MacLean; Players' Player of Year - Daniel MacMillan; Player of Year - Jamie MacPherson.

Under 16s: Top Scorer - Stewart Twort; Players' Player of Year - Alan Buchanan; Player of Year - Stuart MacLeod.

Dee appointed to top Scottish Rugby Council position

RUGBY

AN OBAN woman is set to shape the future of Scottish rugby after being appointed women's representative to the Scottish Rugby Council.

Dee Bradbury is currently president of Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club and has been on the management group of Scottish Women's Rugby.

The Scottish Rugby Council is elected by the rugby clubs to monitor and oversee the operation of the Scottish Rugby Board. There are approximately 16 council members, but only one female position.

Dee, a serving police officer, was elected to the post unopposed at the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) annual meeting last month.

Her first task will be to form a review of the women's and girls' games for the SRU.

Dee said: 'The outgoing women's representative, Kath Vass, had come to the end of her

tenure and I was invited to stand for her post.

'The role will include communicating all information about the women and girls game to council and making decisions on the governance, delivery and performance of Scottish rugby in its entirety.

'This will involve regular meetings at Murrayfield and there is also an expectation that council members will represent the union at various international fixtures.

'I am very much looking forward to the challenges this position will bring and do not see that it will impact greatly on my role as president of Oban Lorne RFC. Both positions will be demanding, but I am a very driven and determined individual and hope that I bring some positive qualities to each role.



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Millennium Triples at Oban green

BOWLING

THE WEATHER relented for long enough on Sunday to allow the Millennium Trophy Triples to go ahead at Oban Bowling Club.

After the section stages two unbeaten teams went through to the final. They were skip Angus MacGillivray and brothers David and John McLaren, who

continued their winning ways to defeat skip Anne Campbell, Moira Spreadbury and Glenda MacLeod.

A week earlier, Oban Bowling Club's men travelled to Ardrishaig for the West Argyll Championships, competing with teams from Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Tarbert and Oban.



The winning Millennium Trophy Triples team of Angus MacGillivray and brothers David and John McLaren. t27bowls1no

Weather Tides

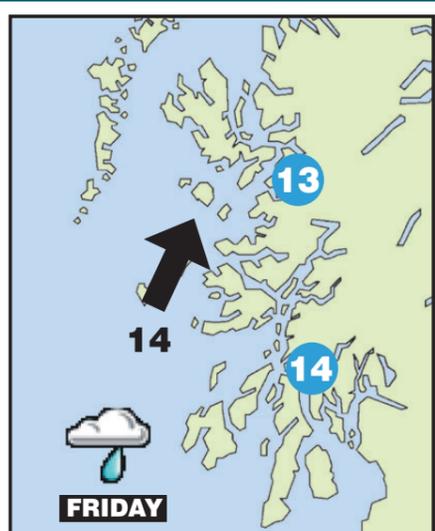
Thursday Heavy rain at times
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

Friday Lih rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 4, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.05 3.0 09.05 1.6 15.13 3.1 21.56 1.6	
Fri	03.51 3.2 09.55 1.4 15.57 3.3 22.45 1.5	
Sat	04.31 3.3 10.38 1.3 16.38 3.5 23.24 1.4	
Sun	05.09 3.5 11.17 1.2 17.17 3.6 23.59 1.3	
Mon	05.47 3.6 11.55 1.0 17.55 3.8 *** **	
Tues	00.33 1.3 06.24 3.7 12.32 1.0 18.30 3.8	
Wed	01.08 1.2 06.59 3.7 13.07 1.0 19.04 3.8	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-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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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



Work starts on Lochaber High
Page 20

Kishorn port masterplan
Page 3

SPORTS NEWS

Lochaber's win piles pressure on Fort William



Charity biker John sets sights on marathon trip to Moscow

A LOCHAILORT man set off today (Thursday) on his latest long distance fundraising challenge - a 10,000-mile trip to Moscow and back on a 10 horsepower motorbike.

John Bryden is making the gruelling journey to the Russian capital via the Netherlands and Scandinavia on his 125cc machine. He will return through continental Europe and aims to be back in Lochaber in just four weeks time.

The former policeman is aiming to raise around £15,000 for Kirsty's Kids, the charity he chairs which aims to improve the lives of sick children around the world. Before even setting off, Mr Bryden had raised more than £7,500 through his Virgin Money Giving donations page.

Goodwill messages left on the page include: 'Hope it all goes well - brave adventure', 'Good luck John, catch you on route' and 'Good luck, amazing work you are doing'.

Mr Bryden told *The Oban Times* some of the funds raised will go to Russia's first cancer rehab centre for children, which recently opened in Moscow.

He said: 'The odds are stacked



All roads lead to Moscow: John Bryden left Lochaber today on his four-week trip to Russia and back.

Families in food crisis

Shock findings reveal growing number of people need emergency handouts

THEY often mean the difference between starvation and survival for victims of famines or floods in the developing world.

But now emergency food parcels are a fact of life for a small but growing number of Lochaber families unable to feed themselves because of welfare cuts.

The shock findings from Lochaber Citizens Advice Bureau follow the introduction of the so-called 'bedroom tax', which financially penalises benefits claimants deemed to be under-occupying their homes.

Applications for food aid to the bureau have risen markedly since the controversial new regime took effect on April 1.

And with more sweeping welfare changes round the corner it is feared more families could join the queue.

Lochaber CAB director Stephen Marshall said pleas for essentials such as bread and milk were almost unheard of before - but no longer.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is shocking that in 21st century Scotland the poorest are having to rely on food handouts in what is a supposedly civilised country.'

'We are experiencing an increase in people who are having to be referred for food parcels simply because they can't afford to buy food. Such a thing used to be very rare, but people are now finding themselves without

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



Shocked: Lochaber CAB director Stephen Marshall.

with the number of employed people in poverty up 10 per cent since 2008.

Lochaber CAB has seen its case workload increase by 40 per cent in two years as the UK Government seeks to lop billions more from welfare spending.

Highland Council has funded an extra benefits case worker for a year, but new funding streams will be needed to develop the service.

Mr Marshall said clients on benefits and job seekers allowance with a spare bedroom are being hit hardest, with some having to find an extra £20 a week for rent from minimal incomes.

Others are no longer being awarded discretionary housing payments - short term help available through Highland Council to bridge some or all the gap between benefit received and full rent.

And many people claiming personal independence payments (formerly disability living allowance) or incapacity benefits also face cuts under tougher medical tests to assess their entitlement.

'The biggest impacts are going to be in the most deprived areas,' Mr Marshall said. 'With all the new assessments being introduced we expect there to be a lot of work involved.'

He advised people struggling to make ends meet: 'Take advice early and maximise what income you are entitled to.'

A recent report by Sheffield Hallam University for the Scottish Parliament's welfare reform committee found benefit changes would remove £60million per year from the Highlands economy from 2014/15. Pro rata, the figure for Lochaber would be around £5million.

Heavy events go ahead at Skye games

HAMMERS will be thrown, cabers tossed and stones heaved as usual at the Isle of Skye Highland Games in Portree on August 7, say organisers.

Rumours had been circulating locally that the heavy events could be under threat after a woman was injured by a wayward 28-hammer landing in the Highland dancing judges' tent last year.

But honorary secretary Allan Stewart said this week the traditional feats of strength would go ahead as planned.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have considered all factors involved and taken all the risks into account that we can. It will be the same programme as last year.'

'It is the 136th year of the Skye Games and we hope to attract a big crowd - it's the island's biggest day of the year.'

Asked if a compensation claim was being pursued, he said: 'It is still with our insurance company.'

Meanwhile, Isle of Skye Pipe Band will be joined by Chicago Stockyard Pipes and Drums and Goulburn Soldiers Pipes and Drums from New South Wales to entertain on the big day.

IoSPB Drum Major Peter MacDonald said: 'It will be a big, big occasion for the Skye Highland Games.'

Gaelic school plan welcomed

COMANN nam Pàrant Port Rìgh has welcomed Highland Council's pledge to build a £8million standalone Gaelic primary in Portree.

The move follows a six-year campaign for the school, which the council and the Scottish Government will fund jointly.

CnaPPR chair Annika Rawlings said numbers in Gaelic pre-school were at 'an all-time high'. She said: 'Indications are that Gaelic medium education has a very bright future in Portree. We would like to thank everyone who has worked towards this stage and we are heartened that the project is now classified as 'must do'.'

Building work is scheduled to start in 2015-16 with the school operational in 2017.

Office workers' shock at man's abuse toward wife

SHOCKED office workers called 999 after witnessing a Spean Bridge man hurling abuse at his wife in a Fort William car park.

Lea Purvis had just placed a £5 bet at a nearby bookies and launched the foul-mouthed tirade during a row about his gambling. And when officers stopped 22-year-old Purvis his wife was 'upset and crying' in the passenger seat, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

'I've been assaulted,' she told police.

Purvis, of 1 Morrison Avenue, pled guilty to pulling Mrs Purvis' hair and shouting and swearing at her in Gordon Square on May 10. Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This type of behaviour is unacceptable. The court takes very seriously any incident of domestic abuse. However I am reluctant to impose a penalty that will adversely affect the family, such as a fine.'

Restaurant worker Purvis, originally from Stockport, was ordered to carry out 30 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Thieves strike four properties

FOUR Lochaber properties were targeted by thieves in the space of 40 hours last week.

A quantity of tools, including two chainsaws, were stolen from an agricultural shed at Mingarry, Acharacle, with a further two chainsaws stolen from a house at Kinlochmoidart, Lochailort.

A large quantity of property was stolen from a workshop at a house in Gairloch, with police saying a vehicle would have been required to remove the stolen property. Items were also stolen after containers at the Underwater Training Centre in Fort William were broken into. The thefts all occurred between 2pm on Wednesday June 26 and 7am on Friday June 28.



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SATF Golden Charter

Grimsay weaving a new tale

A NEW spinning mill on Grimsay has opened its doors to the public, heralding a new beginning for the industry in the southern Outer Isles after half a century in abeyance.

More than 100 Griomsaich (Grimsay folk), crofters and friends of mill operators Uist Wool attended a special community preview on Friday to celebrate the building's completion.

On display was the heritage spinning machinery which will turn locally produced wool into high-grade yarns. Some of the plant - originally from Hunters of Brora and Crombie's of Aberdeen - dates back to the 1860s.

To restore local skills lost to the southern isles for decades, Uist Wool is running Calanas - meaning 'woolwork' in English - to train local people in every part of the process from washing, grading and preparing the wool to spinning and weaving.

It is hoped four jobs will be created on the tiny Hebridean island between Benbecula and North Uist once the machines start running.

Project co-ordinator Dana MacPhee told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to use local fleeces as much as possible in what we are doing. There is no wool produce on the islands and we want to add value here rather than just ship wool out for carpet manufacture elsewhere.'

'And with Harris Tweed really coming back into world profile there is definitely an opportunity for us.'

She added: 'Industry has returned to these islands: Anrud a nitheargu math, chithear a bhui. (What is well done will be shown by results).'

After final commissioning and adjustments to machinery during July and August, the Uist Wool mill aims to be up and running by autumn and producing unique yarns just in time for Christmas.

Future plans include a second building, further education, outreach and training programmes, diversifying employment and developing more island products.

Cnoc-Ard weaver Lachie Macdonald cuts the wool cord to open the new Uist Wool mill on Grimsay on Friday. Photograph by Margaret JF MacIsaac.

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Man caught drink driving twice in four days

A FORMER Fort William man caught drink driving in Lochaber twice in four days has been banned from driving for four years and fined £900.

William Stewart, now of 20H Watchmeal Crescent, Clydebank, pled guilty to being nearly two-and-a-half times the legal alcohol limit while driving on North Road, Fort William, in the early hours of May 29.

And the 37-year-old also admitted being nearly three times the limit on the B863 between North Ballachulish and Kinlochleven on June 2.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered forfeiture of Stewart's van, which he was driving at the time.

Attack accused remanded

A CAOL man has denied carrying out a racially motivated attack on a man on Fort William High Street.

Appearing from custody, Dean Conn, of 82 Kilmallie Road, denied punching and kicking the man on the head and body to his injury in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The 23-year-old also pled not guilty to repeatedly swearing and shouting racist abuse at the man.

After hearing Conn had several previous convictions, Sheriff Noel McPartlin remanded him in custody calling the charge a "particularly unpleasant allegation".

He said: "There is a significant risk of you committing more offences while on bail."

Conn is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on July 30.

Trial postponed after witness fails to appear

THE TRIAL of a Fort William man accused of punching a woman on her head and body to her injury has been postponed after a Crown witness failed to appear.

Jake Black, of 1B Loch Linne Buildings, denies assaulting the woman at an address on Kennedy Road on May 1.

The 23-year-old also denies destroying property at the house and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing at the woman.

A new trial date was set for September 12 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Princess Anne to open world skiff championships

HRH Princess Anne is to open the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association world skiff championships at Ullapool on Monday.

The princess will review the fleet from a motor boat before meeting local people and rowing club representatives.

The event has attracted 260 crews from 31 clubs from as far afield as the USA, Australia and the Netherlands, plus crews from across Scotland and one from England.

Over a week's racing, men's, women's and mixed crews will compete in age categories from under-17 to over-60.

Drug danger advice leaflet launched

NHS HIGHLAND has launched a safety initiative explaining the dangers to patients of continuing to take certain medicines while dehydrated by illness.

New patient information cards are being distributed to pharmacies, GP practices and hospitals detailing which drugs should be temporarily stopped if patients have sickness or diarrhoea.

The medicines include diuretics, blood pressure tablets and type-2 diabetes medication.

Kidney consultant Dr Stewart Lambie said: "I think that this campaign could make a huge difference to how many patients we see coming in to hospital with kidney failure."

Kishorn port renewable energy masterplan lodged with council



Kishorn Port could become a major manufacturing centre for the offshore renewable energy sector.

A MASTERPLAN to transform a former oilrig platform fabrication yard in the West Highlands into a major base for the offshore renewable energy sector was lodged with Highland Council this week.

And if Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) secures full planning permission, its huge industrial site west of Lochcarron could once again become a major manufacturing hub - this time for wind turbines, wave power machines and tidal devices. The ambitious blueprint includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock

- one of Europe's largest. An accommodation camp for workers and a temporary holding area for completed offshore wind turbines in Loch Kishorn are also planned.

If the deepwater port is re-established as a full manufacturing centre, the company estimates up to 2,500 jobs could be created.

KPL director Alasdair Ferguson said: "After two years of work we are happy to see the Kishorn masterplan reach fruition."

"We see Kishorn as having significant potential in meeting renewable energy production targets for offshore wind and marine development. We are

confident the masterplan and subsequent planning permission is the key to unlock the potential of the Kishorn yard and contribute to the regeneration of the area, creating long term sustainable jobs and supporting significantly the economic growth of the area."

Director Simon Russell added: "There has been considerable interest shown by potential concrete gravity foundation manufacturers in the Kishorn Yard and we look forward to helping them develop the facility. A prototype device could be manufactured within the next six months."

The masterplan follows

in-depth studies by Scottish National Heritage, SEPA and Marine Scotland, with financial backing from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Public consultations locally drew widespread support.

Kishorn was developed in the 1970s by Howard Doris Ltd for the fabrication of the 600,000-tonne Ninian Central platform.

Although based on the west coast of Scotland, KPL has formulated plans for tow-outs of completed structures through the Pentland Firth to the east coast bringing many prospective UK offshore wind farm developments within reach.

Trio tackle three peaks challenge

THREE West Highland employees will be among a Marine Harvest team aiming to tackle the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in 24 hours from 5pm tonight (Thursday).

Apprentice Ross MacDonald, 16, based at Lochailort, 29 year-old Christopher Sim at Fort William and Robert Wyvill, 30, at Loch Duich will hope to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in aid of the RNLI and the Brain Tumour Charity.

Iain Johnston, 59, who is based at Fort William, will be one of three drivers shuttling the team from peak to peak in the Waitrose Macrae Charity Challenge.

Last month Highland firefighters Chris Findlay from Fort William and Ricky Dibble from the Black Isle climbed the 'three peaks' from south to north - cycling the 96-mile West Highland Way en-route to Ben Nevis to raise thousands of pounds for the Scottish Burned Children's Club and Help for Heroes.

War memorial fundraising

ARISAIG Community Council is to fundraise to improve the village war memorial ahead of next year's commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.

The issue will be discussed again at the council's meeting in September.

Bid to bring salmon back from the brink

Painstaking mission to re-stock Strontian river

AN AMBITIOUS bid to save a Lochaber river's wild salmon from extinction is underway.

No salmon have been caught on the Strontian for many years, suggesting only a handful are spawning each year and that the population is in irreversible decline.

But now Sunart Community Company and Strontian Angling Association, working together with Lochaber Fisheries Trust, have embarked on an long-term strategy designed to bring the species back from the brink.

In a painstaking rescue mission, the angling association collected 30 salmon parr from the river to grow in tanks and then at a commercial hatchery.

All the six-inch fish, which had never left the Strontian and migrated to sea, were individually tagged and genetically screened for stock purity.

Because the population was so small many were found to be closely related, requiring a breeding plan to reduce inbreeding and maximise diversity in future.

After two years of dedicated care the full-grown adults were ready to produce the next generation of Strontian salmon.

And last month more than 10,000 young fry were released into the river, all from wild Strontian stock.

Pupils from the local primary school helped with the release and will be following the project's progress closely.

It is hoped in a few years time the fish

will return as adults to spawn, helping to recreate a thriving salmon population.

Lochaber Fisheries Trust biologist Dr Diane Baum said: "In an ideal world, salmon would prosper without our intervention, but the population on the Strontian was so precarious that extinction was a real possibility."

"The stocking of hatchery-reared salmon into rivers is not new, but the desire to preserve the unique, indigenous Strontian line meant that innovative ways had to be found to source eggs from the extremely small number of salmon in the river."

"We have done everything possible to ensure the fry stocked into the river are as fit and healthy as possible and great credit must go to Pete Madden and the Strontian Angling Association for their vision and hard work to reach this point."

Mr Madden, secretary of the Strontian Angling Association, said: "I can remember that as a teenager in the 1960s during summer evenings we used to meet on the Strontian Bridge and watch the salmon come up the river mouth on the high tide."

"Also when standing on the bridge at the Church Pool, when water levels were low, we could always see a half dozen or so salmon in the pool below."

"If someone then had said that the salmon would be virtually gone from the river in another 40 years, we would not have believed them. Just maybe, we will see them splashing in the pools again."



Strontian Primary school pupils Skye Taylor and Alasdair Cameron release salmon fry into the river.

REASONS for the crippling low return rate of mature salmon to some rivers are complex.

However, scientific studies suggest sea lice could be a major factor.

Salmon smolts leaving rivers for the first time are especially vulnerable because their scales have not formed properly. Even a few of the parasites latching on to their skin can prove fatal.

Sea lice occur naturally but tend to be present in much higher numbers in waters around fish farms. Operating companies use chemical treatments or "fallowing" - leaving a site vacant for a period - to reduce infestation.

Loch Sunart once housed nine farms but in recent years these have been consolidated at three sites away from the head of the loch. The Strontian flows into the eastern end, meaning smolts face a 20-mile swim along the narrow sea loch before reaching the open ocean to the west.

Lochaber Fisheries Trust biologist Dr Diane Baum told *The Oban Times*: "We will continue the stocking programme for four of five years, by which time we will know whether it has worked or not. We should get another year's eggs out of the salmon we have just now. We will then be able to take more parr from the river which have grown from the fry we have already released."



Anne Inglis in her overgrown back garden. 20_126garden01

Arisaig drier than average in June

JUNE in Arisaig was drier than average, according to figures compiled by local amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne.

Just 71 mms (just under three inches) fell during the month, taking the 2013 total to 566 mm (22 inches), also below average. Daily low temperatures averaged 10 °C and the daily highs 17°C, both just below average. Coldest night was 7 °C and warmest 23 °C, both slightly above average.

Row erupts as pensioner's grass turns into 'jungle'

AN ELDERLY Corpach woman's back garden has turned into a 'jungle' after Highland Council contractors refused to mow the lawn.

Pensioner Anne Inglis has watched the grass behind her Drumfada Terrace home grow above knee height since spring.

The 74-year-old is part of the council's Garden Aid scheme, which helps elderly or disabled tenants who are not able to take care of their own gardens.

But Ms Inglis told *The Oban Times* the programme was failing because the Inverness-based contractors, who have recently been awarded the contract for gardens in Lochaber, were not doing what was required.

She said: "They came last week and did the front garden then they just left and drove off without going near the back garden. It's like a jungle out there now. If I could, I would do it myself, but I'm not able to. I've asked the council to take me off the list. I'd rather pay someone who was going to do the job well."

The gardeners told Ms Inglis they would not cut the back grass due to dog mess.

She said: "That's a load of rubbish, I clean it up every day."

A Highland council spokesperson said: "There are a various reasons why a garden may not have been cut, including lack of access, dog-fouling, washing hanging out to dry on the day of scheduled cut. This season we have had the added issue of bluebells. They have been growing in abundance due to the weather conditions and it is unlawful to cut bluebells. Often the tenant does not realise this and thinks their garden has been overlooked, when actually there is a perfectly valid reason."

Lochaber councillor Brian Murphy said: "I can't understand why they wouldn't have done the back garden, unless there was dog mess which would be a reasonable excuse."

Caol man admits illegal River Lochy fishing

A CAOL man has admitted illegally fishing for salmon on the River Lochy - after his brother tried to take the blame.

Brian Tolmie, who was banned from fishing on the river, claimed he was nowhere near Castle Pool behind Inverlochly Castle on July 5 last year, and said water bailiff Iain Horne had instead seen his younger brother.

Tolmie, 23, said Mr Horne had a 'vendetta' against him after he gave evidence against one of Mr Horne's colleagues in a previous trial.

Craig Tolmie, 20, told Fort William Sheriff Court he had been fishing with another person on the day.

After refusing to say who he had been with, Sheriff Noel McPartlin warned Mr Tolmie to answer or face a charge of contempt of court.

But after an adjournment, Brian Tolmie admitted he had been illegally fishing.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: "You were really angry you were not allowed to fish the River Lochy. You were refused a permit, you went fishing anyway and you

were happy for your little brother to take the rap."

Tolmie's car was found near the scene with fishing rods and equipment inside.

After the car was seized by police, Tolmie admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by removing a rucksack from the vehicle while it was under police control at ADJ Stevenson's yard at Gairloch.

He also pled guilty to shouting, swearing and sounding his horn at the yard on the same day. Sheriff

Noel McPartlin said: "This is perhaps not one of the more serious cases to come before the court, but what is serious is your plea of not guilty and you accusing the witness of having a vendetta against you."

He fined Tolmie, of 48 Camesky Road, £700 and ordered forfeiture of his fishing equipment.

Sheriff McPartlin also warned Craig Tolmie about his conduct. He said: "You took an oath. Should you be called to give evidence again you must answer every question that is asked of you."

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Tribute paid to land reform leading light

COMMUNITY Land Scotland (CLS) has paid tribute to Allan MacRae, one of the leading lights of the Scottish land reform movement, following news of his death last week.

As founding chairman of the Assynt Crofters Trust, Mr MacRae played a key role in the successful campaign by local crofters to take over the North Assynt Estate in 1992.

That breakthrough presaged more community buyouts in remote places such as Eigg, Knoydart and Gigha, and, eventually, the Land Reform Act of 2003.

In a statement, CLS described Mr MacRae as 'one of the inspiring figures of the modern land reform story'.

It added: 'His rousing and passionate speeches were legendary, displaying a passion for the land and a resolute need to take the land into local control.'

'What happened in Assynt has provided the inspiration for many other communities to follow and was in the best and bold traditions of land reformers down the ages, breaking new ground and providing for a better future.'

'For that legacy we should all be grateful and we pay tribute to the difference he made to his community and to inspiring more land reform.'

The body of Mr MacRae, 73, was found on moorland near Lochinver last Tuesday. He was still chairman of the Assynt Crofters' Trust at the time of his death.

Fort fun run raises £11,000 for Cancer Research

A FORT William fun run has raised more than £11,000 for Cancer Research UK.

This year's Lochaber Together fun day attracted big crowds to the BA Club at the end of April, with more than 300 people taking part in the Run Together 5K fun run.

A further £7,350 was raised from Cancer Research UK charity shop sales from 245 bags of recycled goods collected by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

Lochaber Together's Adam Ramsey said: 'I would like to thank everyone in the Lochaber community for all their support.'

'The charity relies entirely on voluntary donations to fund its research and we are very grateful for the ongoing support we receive in Lochaber.'

Lochaber Together has now raised more than £50,000 since it began fundraising for Cancer Research UK in 2010.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call the newsdesk on 01397 703003



Primary pupils' tapestries depict life in Lochaber

UPPER Achintore and Fort William primary schools have worked together during the school year to produce five tapestries depicting life in Lochaber.

The pupils visited local businesses to help them with their work, which was inspired by

the Royal Society of Edinburgh's programme of activities and talks in Lochaber.

Upper Achintore head teacher Nick Thomson, who will be associate head of both schools after the summer, said: 'They researched living, growing up, working and

playing in Lochaber and produced a tapestry for each.'

The tapestries will be on display in the West Highland Museum over the summer and will hang in the new joint school building which is due to open in 2015. [f27tapestry01](#)

Local area committee makes welcome return

LOCHABER is to have its own area committee again after a gap of seven years, Highland Council has decided.

The seven-member body will be established along with new area committees for Skye, Ross and Cromarty, and Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey.

The council agreed the move on a 46-20 vote at its meeting in Inverness last week following successful pilots in Inverness and Caithness and Sutherland.

The committees, to run for a trial 12-month period, will scrutinise and deliver actions and improvements locally while taking on the responsibility for local service delivery. They will also decide how delegated budgets are spent and will work with partners to promote tourism and boost the local economy, with a focus on providing efficient and effective services. The decision represents a major victory for campaigners seeking

to make decision making more local and accountable. Council leader Drew Hendry hailed the change as 'a big step in returning local democracy to Highland communities'. He said: 'Wherever they live people should expect us to deliver efficient high quality service and I really see this as a great opportunity to tailor how we do business by taking into account local circumstances.'

Caol and Mallaig Independent

councillor Allan Henderson welcomed the decision. He said: 'I am absolutely delighted. We have tried to achieve this for the past six years and have pushed and prodded at every turn.'

His SNP ward colleague Bill Clark, who brokered the move during last minute negotiations ahead of last Thursday's meeting, hoped the new arrangements would become permanent.

He said: 'If everyone is keen on the Lochaber area committee, as

they should be, then I believe it will continue after the year is up. I want to see its powers increased as time goes on.'

The new committees will meet four times a year on dates yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, the council decided to retain its north and south planning application committees rather than move to a single all-Highland committee. The decision will be reviewed in June next year.



Volunteer Mo MacQuarrie leads the Latin dance session at 'Zumba Gold', a keep-fit workout accessible to older people or people with less mobility.

Good attendance at information day for older people

AROUND 80 older people from across Skye and Lochalsh attended a information day in Kyleakin Hall last week to learn more about the range of activities and health and social care services available locally.

The event, organised by Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations as part of the Reshaping Care for Older People project, also provided a chance to learn a new skill, catch up with friends and enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch.

Volunteers and staff from 25 service providers offered advice and information on health and social care options and how to access help and support.

Organisations represented included Alzheimer Scotland, Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh, Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association,

CAB and Age Scotland. NHS Highland staff advised on occupational therapy aids and telecare and Step it Up Highland found genuine enthusiasm for their walking initiatives.

Many attendees enjoyed Zumba Gold seated exercises, basic computing, laughter sessions and flower arranging - as well as taking time to recall old memories with a display of photographs from the archive centre.

Following excellent accordion playing by Gary Innes, 20 people gathered to reminisce about days gone by. The thoughts and memories captured will go towards the creation of new music to be played in Skye and Lochalsh later this year.

The organisers thank everyone who took part or contributed to the success of the event.

Women and Disability

WOMEN in Lochaber living with disability are to get a chance to air the difficulties they face at a discussion day next month.

The 'Women and Disability' event will provide organisers Lochaber Disability Access Panel with invaluable information on issues associated with staying in a remote and rural region of Scotland.

Panel vice chairwoman Maurin MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'We are trying to reach as many people as possible as we can, especially those who are not a member of an organisation or group. They may have problems with transport, getting to appointments, accessing

facilities or using European Sign Language (ESL). Simply getting from A to B can sometimes be problematic in a rural area such as Lochaber.'

She added: 'We really want carers to come as well because they are the ones who often plan routes and daily routines. 'Numbers will be restricted so if people can get in touch as soon as possible we would be grateful.'

Anyone interested in attending the 11am-3pm event in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on August 16 should phone 01687 462157, 01397 706044 or email lochaber.access@valochaber.org.

Kinlochleven pupils have project in the basket



Kinlochleven Primary School Isla McGuire and Kall Diack help plant up the hanging baskets.

KINLOCHLEVEN is blooming lovely again after children from the local primary school and nursery along with volunteers potted up hanging baskets and planters.

The project, led by Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT), saw dozens of baskets put up for display, adding a splash of summer colour to the Loch Leven-side village.

KCT development officer Moira Hartley said 88 baskets now adorn local streets thanks to the community initiative, now in its fifth year. She told *The Oban Times*: 'The children always look forward to seeing their displays bloom and are very proud of their achievements.'

'It has become second nature to them. They know what they are doing and very much enjoy selecting the plants.'

KCT is continuing with its

hanging baskets sponsorship scheme where local residents, businesses and groups are invited to sponsor a basket for £25.

Ms Hartley said: 'We took the decision to look at either scaling down the project or worst case scenario not being able to proceed due to cutting costs and no secured funding.'

'However we took the decision to proceed and we are delighted with the results. A donation of £1,500 has been received from The Wee Charity Shop in Kinlochleven which will cover the main costs along with local sponsorship which is currently £375.'

'The financial support has been vital and allowed the project to proceed at little cost to the trust.'

Ms Hartley thanked all local businesses, pupils, volunteers and sponsors for their support.

Morvern Lines

READERS may recall my reference a few weeks ago to the mysterious disappearance of Achabeg House which stood four-square against the prevailing winds beside the road leading from Lochaline to Drimmin for almost 150 years.

A first planning application to extend and enlarge this much-loved building, with its large bat colony, was granted on condition that the original house was retained - the only demolition agreed was in respect of part of the rear wall to link with the new extension.

However, in the twinkling of an eye this fine old house, which had been occupied until very recently, disappeared overnight and, surprise, surprise, a retrospective application followed which attracted an unprecedented 14 letters of objection.

Ironically the day the Highland Council planning committee sat to determine the application, justice secretary Kenny MacAskill announced that local people in Scotland should have the ability to have a say on the character of their community. 'Jolly good' - but, unfortunately, Mr MacAskill failed to say how this was to be done.

Although it was clearly contrary to the wishes of the local people and their community council, the planners gave their unanimous approval leaving one wondering if Bishop William Ralph Inge (1860-1954) hadn't hit the nail on the head when he said: 'It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism, while the wolf remains of a different opinion.'

THE NEW £3 million Lochaline Community Primary School was much admired by the few locals fortunate enough to be invited to its official opening last week.

Those who were not reminisced about some of the side schools of a bygone era which used to be dotted around the parish.

These £50, twelve feet square, single-room tin huts did not have a resource room, a dining room, nursery unit or gym hall. No broadband or lap tops for the scholars who attended them, but what they lacked in facilities they gained in the quality of the old fashioned education they received.

Of course it was an age when schooling was considered a privilege rather than a right and judging by their attainments in later life, four blank walls, a peat fire and a 'piece' in their pocket, did not greatly impair their progress.

LAST Thursday night one of the most sumptuous private yachts in Europe motored past Lochaline heading north, flying the White Ensign, her highly polished black hull glistening in the setting sun. Her name was the *Phryne*.

Not since the Royal Yacht Britannia sailed through the Sound of Mull in 1997 on her last cruise round the Western Isles, has a more magnificent vessel been seen in these waters.

The two-masted *Phryne* was designed and built in Italy by Perini Navi in 1999 and refitted in 2009. Her steel hull measures 164ft by 33.7ft by 11ft draft; her displacement weight is 494 tons and she is powered by twin Deutz-MWN diesel engines giving her a maximum speed of 15 knots.

Her main mast is 168.6ft high and can handle 13,870 square feet of sail. This spacious and beautiful yacht has one of the most impressive interiors of any luxury vessel afloat.

She can accommodate eight passengers and carries nine of a crew. Her destination last week was not known.



The 164 foot yacht Phryne cruised up the Sound of Mull past Lochaline at the end of last week after spending time moored in the Firth of Lorne off Benderloch. Photograph by Perini Navi.

THERE IS nothing like the sound of the pipes to lift the spirits at a funeral. Before the Disruption of 1843 piping was popular at these gatherings although it was not generally approved of by the clergy, especially after the burial when refreshments were served in the usual liberal manner.

At one funeral the piper indulged too freely and instead of playing a lament struck up 'Calum Crubach' - Lame Calum - a lively and cheerful dance tune.

On another occasion a Morvern laird, said to have been a Maclean of Drimmin, took his piper with him to a funeral at Kilmallie outside Fort William.

Later in the day he upset the assembled company with his jigs to such an extent that one of them stuck a dirk into the bag to silence him.

In the old days outcakes, cheese and whisky would be given out to mourners after a Highland funeral. I have only seen this twice.

The first was on the shores of Loch Shiel after a burial on St Finan's Isle in the early 1970s and the second was outside the gate of Kiel graveyard, Morvern a few years later.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

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Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow hands over the blue mug to His Holiness Pope Francis. Picture courtesy of www.fotografafelici.com.

Pope Francis accepts gift of Mary's Meals mug

THE FOUNDER of the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals has met with Pope Francis after accepting an invitation to the Vatican - where he presented His Holiness with a blue mug.

Pope Francis had heard through charity supporters within the Catholic community

about the work and vision of Mary's Meals, which feeds 755,777 children every day in the developing world, and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was invited to attend the general audience in St Peter's Square, Rome, and receive a personal blessing.

One of the charity's iconic images is the blue mug used by children in Malawi to collect their daily meal of vitamin-enriched porridge, likuni phala, and Mr MacFarlane-Barrow presented Pope Francis with his very own Mary's Meals mug during the visit.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow said: 'It was a huge privilege and blessing to meet the Holy Father today and represent everyone involved in the mission of Mary's Meals.'

'I presented Pope Francis with the blue Mary's Meals mug and let him know we are now

reaching over three quarters of a million children every school day—many of them having escaped the rubbish dumps where they used to scavenge for their next meal or the fields where they worked—and he gave us a blessing, which we were very grateful for.'

'Councillors should all stand down'

Oban politician claims public should vote again

OBAN councillor Fred Hall has called for all elected members at Argyll and Bute Council to stand down - as a leadership wrangle continues to strangle the local authority.

A debate on the political and management structure dominated last Thursday's agenda at the full meeting of the council, with several items dropped from the schedule due to the length of the debate.

During the discussions, member Fred Hall was shouted down for claiming 'maladministration and the dictatorship of orthodoxy' had resulted in the situation befalling Kilmory, comparing the council's plight to 'an episode of Yes Minister'.

Agreeing to withdraw the 'maladministration' remark after councillor Gary Mulvaney described it as 'an insult to members', councillor Hall said: 'I stand by the dictatorship of orthodoxy comment, however, as it is driving this council.'

'If we challenge policy we get told it's not competent to do

"Council's plight is like an episode of 'Yes Minister'."

Oban councillor Fred Hall

so. The public have asked for a change in this council. If we can't give them that maybe we should all stand down and give them the opportunity to elect their members again.'

Mr Hall further asked the council to clarify if the cost of holding a by-election for any member that wished to stand down during the independence referendum would be 'negligible' during the meeting, but was not given an answer.

His comments come after months of turmoil in the council, which has seen two leadership changes, a 'secret' coalition formed between the SNP, Lib Dems and Conservative council-

lors following the collapse of the previous administration and the subsequent suspension of SNP members from the party for forming an alliance with parties it rivals on the independence referendum.

Among the items dropped from last week's agenda because of the length of debate over the leadership challenge were the review of community councils, a motion urging the council to take more proactive steps to dispose of all unused property in its ownership and a report on welfare reform.

The items will not be considered by the council until August.

Do you think Argyll and Bute's councillors should stand down and trigger a re-election following recent leadership struggles? Vote in our online poll at www.obantimes.co.uk, tell us your views by emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Bird feeders may be kiss of death to Oban and Lorn's feathered friends

THE DEATH of a large number of small birds in the Oban and Lorn area is being linked to the hygiene of bird feeders.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is urging all residents who feed wild birds to clean their equipment regularly to stop the spread of disease and infections.

John McAvo, SSPCA senior inspector for Argyll, said: 'A bacterial infection of particular concern is trichomoniasis which can cause the birds' throats to swell to the point that they cannot swallow food and they starve to death.'

'It is really quite concerning and the greenfinch population has been badly hit by this

disease in recent years. To avoid this we encourage people to wash their bird feeders and tables down once a week with a mild disinfectant solution. This will help to ensure the wild birds and their young remain healthy and continue to visit your garden year after year.'

He added: 'We're always keen to encourage bird lovers to

feed wild birds all year round as they do come to rely on this supplementary food. However, many people might not realise that they could actually be doing more harm than good by failing to clean their bird feeding equipment regularly.'

'In fact, they could quite literally be killing birds with kindness. Bird feeders and tables

can quickly become covered in mould from rotten food and any additional food that is topped up becomes easily infected. There is also a risk of birds catching diseases which can kill them from food that is contaminated with bird droppings. If they feed the rotten or contaminated food to their chicks then they too can become unwell and may die.'

Proposed change of gas sparks confusion

A CHANGE to the gas supply in Oban could lead to residents having to replace cookers, boilers and fires.

Scotland Gas Networks is carrying out a review of the gas supply to the town, which is currently served by tankers bringing in liquified natural gas (LNG).

Engineers are carrying out surveys in homes in the town involving an inspection of gas appliances, central heating, gas

service and insulation.

A resident who was visited by one of SGN's engineers told *The Oban Times*: 'He said they were checking all gas appliances within households to check the age, make and model so that when they get a new gas supply they would know whether or not the equipment was compatible with that type of gas.'

'It just seems a bit strange, I thought gas was gas. Who is going to replace these appliances

- and at what cost?'

A spokeswoman for SGN said: 'The type of gas supplied to Oban is LNG which is supplied to the town by road tanker.'

'As part of an evaluation of the long term options for the supply of LNG we have conducted this survey to gather information including the number of gas appliances, gas services and property insulation levels as part of the overall review.'

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Lochaber's win piles pressure on Fort William



Hughie Innes shields the ball from Kings' defender Jake MacPherson. 20_f27shinty02

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER are building up a head of steam in their relegation battle after picking up their second win in a row.

The Spean Bridge side deservedly beat an understrength Kingussie 3-2 at home on Saturday, moving themselves three points clear of the danger zone.

The result piled pressure on local rivals Fort William and will have made sides like Kyles Athletic and Glenurquhart look over their shoulders.

The game started in spectacular fashion, with Ben Delaney opening the scoring after just three minutes.

Missing

Kingussie, whose run of good form had seen them climb to third in the league, were missing nine players for the match. But they fought back and were level within three minutes through Thomas Borthwick.

In front of a strong home support, Lochaber retook the lead, with Delaney again on the



Donald MacRae and Hughie Innes team up to make sure Lochaber keep possession. 20_f27shinty03

score sheet, only to see Borthwick level the game two minutes later.

With a breeze behind them Lochaber dominated the second half, with keeper Calum MacDonald given little to do bar one stunning save.

Possession and chances were plentiful, but the home side were snatching at chances and struggling to find the third goal.

Interim manager Robert Johnstone's decision to bring on Hugh Innes with 25 minutes left changed the game.

Innes buzzed about the park, and cracked home a fizzing winner from a tight angle high into the net with 15 minutes to play.

Johnstone told The Oban Times the change in results was down to improved effort and

application from the players.

He said: 'We haven't really changed much, it's just down to a bit more hard work and concentration from the players. Every player performed really well.'

'The second half was all Lochaber. We took off Barry MacDonald and Ben Delaney

- who had played brilliantly - just to freshen things up a bit and inject some pace up front, and it paid off with Hugh Innes coming on.

Right attitude

'We're just taking every game as it comes. There's a few things we still have to work but the players have got the right at-

SHINTY

titude and there's a good belief about the place now.'

Kings boss Russell Jones said he was 'delighted' with how his team played considering the players missing.

He said: 'We couldn't have asked anymore from the guys.'

Ballachulish reach cup final

WELFARE FOOTBALL

BALLACHULISH booked their place in the semi final of the Uisdean MacDonald Cup with a 4-2 win over Claggan at the BA Club last week.

The south Lochaber side sit second bottom of the William Wilson Lochaber Welfare League.

The week's other cup game, Lochaber vs Lundavra was abandoned and was due to be replayed this week.

In the league, leaders Mallaig were awarded a 4-0 win after Lundavra failed to get enough players, and a similar situation saw Caol awarded the points against Claggan.

Isle of Skye GC

GOLF

THE SECOND round of Isle of Skye Golf Club's championship saw Sandy Ross take the win by 11 strokes.

Ross recorded a total score of 137, with Andy Shaw second on 148. John Murray was third on 152.

In the second round, Ross top scored with 68, while Shaw was second on 70 with Jamie Beaton third on 72.

Alasdair 'Starky' Campbell had the top handicap score of 129. Murdo Beaton was four shots back in second, with Mike Williams third on 136.

Meanwhile, the third round of the Strath Cup saw Jamie Beaton stretch his lead to nine points.

Beaton has 116 points, ahead of Craig Irvine-Smith and John Marshall, who are tied on 107.

Graham Cope recorded the best score in the third round of 42 points, Alex Munro was second with 41 and Greig Millar was third on 39.

Ten mile time trial

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest race, a 10 mile time trial at Loch Eil, was won by Stuart Moran in a time of 21 minutes and 35 seconds.

With a field of 13 taking part, Steve Martin took second place with a time of 24 minutes and 33 seconds. Ewan Thorburn was 17 second further back in third.

The first female rider home was Marie Meldrum in a time of 27 minutes and 42 seconds.

Steve Bradley was on course to record an impressive time picking up a puncture which forced him to push the bike for the final half mile.

Spean Bridge GC

GOLF

SPEAN Bridge Golf Club hosts its annual open competition this Saturday.

The contest normally attracts around 50 golfers from across Lochaber, with places still available for this weekend.

£400 jackpot

LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £400 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 2, 4 and 17.

Grant applications flood in to LSA

LOCHABER Sports Association (LSA) has received a flood of grants applications after an appeal for local clubs to come forward.

As reported in The Oban Times last month, LSA had more than £6,000 to disperse to its clubs and members which was not being claimed.

But LSA chair Jane Blanchard said clubs and individuals have since come forward to apply for funds of up to £1,000 each.

Second fund

Lochaber sports clubs and members can apply for grants to cover equipment, training or travel costs, while a second fund for athletes under 25 is able to

give out up to £100.

Ms Blanchard added: 'On the youth support fund side we've since had four applications in, which means that our funds are almost depleted.'

Volunteers

'We're having a bag pack in Morrisons on Saturday July 13, and we need as many volunteers

GRANTS

as possible so that we can support our local youngsters across all the sports.'

Allocated

The money is allocated to LSA by Highland Council, while the youth fund is made entirely of money raised by the association.



Portree Primary School are the 2013 MacKay Cup champions after they defeated Kyles 5-0 in the final at An Aird, Fort William. Above, the team celebrate after winning the cup.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club held a singles stableford competition on Saturday, with Paul Campbell taking a one point victory.

Campbell scored 37 points, while Joe Sweeney finished with 36. Cal Brown was third on 35.

Earlier in the week, a ladies stableford was played with Iona Cameron finishing in top spot on 36 points. Helen Brian was two points back in second with Hazel Cameron third on 33.

Another rollover

LOTTERY

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club's weekly lottery jackpot stands at a bumper £1,600 after another rollover. Last week's numbers were 2, 18 and 19.

Plockton retain shinty/hurley trophy

PLOCKTON High School, representing Scotland, and the Belfast Cuchulainns, representing Ireland, lined up to play the annual shinty/hurley challenge on June 21.

The annual shared rules encounter, established to foster strong links between the two countries, was the latest in an ongoing series of matches promoting the work of the Cross Community Games.

A large crowd gathered at Plockton High School to witness the Scottish representatives retain the trophy with a final score of 14-4.

The evenly contested match, endorsed by both the Camanachd Association and The Gaelic Athletic Association, was tied 4-4 at half time, with Calum Campbell for Scotland and Michael McNicol sharing the goals.

In the second half the stronger Scottish team scored four goals without reply through Finlay Burstow, Ross MacRae, Peter MacDonald and Johnnie MacAskill.

The Duncan Ferguson Cup was shared by Colin MacRae and Michael McNicol for man of the match. The trophy and medals were presented at the historic backdrop of Eilean Donan Castle.

Plockton head teacher Duncan Ferguson praised the Irish staff involved representing the four Belfast schools, St Patricks College, Corpus Christi, Boys Model, and Ashfield school - Declan McLarnan, Dan McGivern, Onya Brennan and Lisa Armstrong.

He said: 'Their pupils behaved impeccably whilst representing their schools on this trip. We

SHINTY/HURLEY

look forward to returning to Belfast next June.'

Plockton High held a ceilidh to welcome their Irish friends the evening before the match.



The shinty/hurley game was hotly contested.

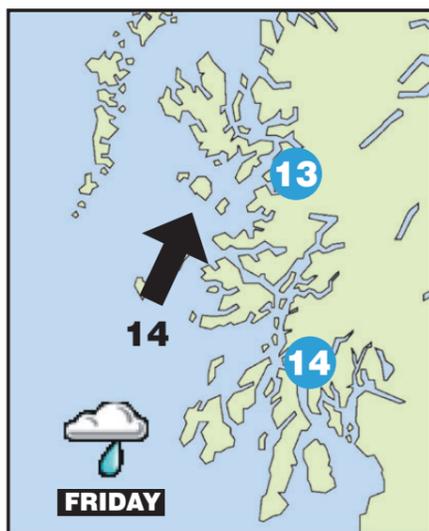
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain at times
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

Friday Lih rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°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, July 4, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	09.05	1.6	15.13	3.1	21.56	1.6
Thur	03.05	3.0	09.05	1.4	15.57	3.3	22.45
Fri	03.51	3.2	09.55	1.3	16.38	3.5	23.24
Sat	04.31	3.3	10.38	1.2	17.17	3.6	23.59
Sun	05.09	3.5	11.17	1.0	17.55	3.8	***
Mon	05.47	3.6	11.55	0.7	18.32	4.0	18.30
Tues	00.33	1.3	06.24	3.7	12.32	1.0	18.30
Wed	01.08	1.2	06.59	3.7	13.07	1.0	19.04

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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