

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Visa woe halts dream wedding

AN AMERICAN couple who planned a dream wedding in Oban were sent home before they could tie the knot - but they held a party nonetheless.

Ian Somppi and Sophie Campbell were supposed to marry last Friday in the Oban Bay Hotel, so that Sophie's grandmother, Oban woman Jean Campbell, aged 106, could attend.

But on arriving in the UK last Tuesday, the couple, who both work for the US Department of Homeland Security in Washington DC, were 'devastated' to find they didn't have the correct visa and would have to leave two days later - America's Independence Day.

Wedding planner Christine Learmouth enlisted the help of local businesses to bring forward the wedding celebrations.

Last Wednesday, two days early, the couple dressed in their finery to welcome friends and family to a champagne reception, where they cut the top tier of their wedding cake.

Christine said: 'Within 12 hours' notice, Oban Chocolate Company provided a cake, The Flower House put together the bride's bouquet, Chalmers got the groom's outfit together and Sophie's hair trial at The Ark turned out to be the real thing. The Oban Bay Hotel were great at moving everything forward too.'

'Sophie's mother wasn't arriving until the Wednesday night. She got changed at Tyndrum to join the evening reception when she got to Oban.'

Last Friday friends and family, who had travelled thousands of miles for the wedding, were left to party without the bride and groom at a second reception in the hotel.

Ian and Sophie were due to marry yesterday (Wednesday) at their local courthouse but plan to return to Oban next year to renew their vows.

Sophie, aged 24, said: 'We were planning the wedding celebration for over a year so last week was a devastating time.'

'We would not have been able to do anything if it weren't for Christine.'

'I love Oban and I was crushed to only have one full day there.'

'We've had many people tell us we will be able to laugh about this event in the years to come, but we are not quite there yet.'



Pals Connor MacLean, left, and Cailean MacQueen, both aged four, don't mind getting wet in the sun as they cool off in the sea at Ganavan on Monday.

Phew - what a scorcher!

VISITORS to Argyll enjoyed Mediterranean weather conditions as the recent national heatwave took hold of the west Highlands.

The hot weather, which is typical throughout the UK, looked set to continue until the weekend with Strathallan Airfield in Perthshire reaching 28.7°C on Tuesday afternoon.

In Oban, visitors and any locals fortunate to have a few days off basked in the sunshine, making Ganavan Sands one of the area's busiest beaches. Oban town centre was bustling with

activity as the warm weather attracted visitors to the coastal town.

Oban ice-cream business Pokey Hat reported queues out of the door as it struggled to cope with demand.

Business owner Alex MacKenzie said: 'I have not been as busy as this for a long time. I haven't even had any time to check the figures because I am starting work at 4am some days to make enough ice cream to meet the demand.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor, Louise Glen-Lee, deputy

lead councillor for tourism, said: 'I was at Ganavan just after the tennis finished on Sunday and I couldn't believe how many people were there.'

'Two young girls ran out of their car and into the sea and I remember thinking, this could be Ibiza!'

'The whole area looks stunning in this weather and it is great to see people enjoying it.'

As people soak up the sun, health experts are reminding us to avoid sunburn by covering up, wearing sun screen and to drink plenty of water.

Oban pond row leads to petition

Scottish Water may have breached agreed environmental regulations

RUBBISH left behind by Scottish Water at Polvinister Reservoir in Oban could see it subject to a criminal complaint.

Residents near the pond are furious at work done by the water operator, which has reduced the depth of the pond from several feet to no more than a few inches.

The site is also strewn with rubbish, from old tyres and plastic sheeting to half-buried traffic cones and rusting ironwork. Council leader Roddy McCuish described it as 'environmental vandalism' while residents said the site had been 'absolutely destroyed'.

A petition is now being prepared calling for the water level to be raised and make the beauty spot attractive again, but *The*

"We will be tidying up the area and will liaise with local residents."

spokesman for Scottish Water

Oban Times has learned that the operator could yet find itself in bother for failing to remove the rubbish from the site.

In making its planning application to landscape the site and reduce the water level, Scottish Water's consultant, Scottish Water Shared Services, made several recommendations in a European Protected Species

(EPS) report. These included keeping the site clear of rubbish, after observing the site was home to numerous wild birds, including ducks. Failure to do so could find Scottish Water in breach of the Habitats Regulations 1994, as it could be deemed the work damaged a breeding site or resting place of a protected species.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said it would remove the rubbish, but insists it didn't breach any terms in its EPS report.

He said: 'There were environmental studies carried out on site before we started our work. These set controls on our work and all these were adhered to.'

'We will be tidying up the area and we will continue to liaise with local residents about additional landscaping.'

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency says it was only responsible for the water downstream of the reservoir, while Scottish Natural Heritage said: 'It's a matter for Scottish Water, SEPA and Argyll and Bute Council.'

Argyll and Bute Council was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

May Tosh, who lives opposite the reservoir in Polvinister Road and is preparing to start the petition, said: 'They have damaged the site. There are no swans or ducks there now.'

'Scottish Water haven't done anything they have promised.'

'We want the water level raised and the site landscaped. We're not asking much, just what they promised.'

Proposed Isle of Kerrera turbine hits £2 million stumbling block

KERRERA'S 33 residents could be set to build their own wind turbine - but the projected £2million cost of the project could stop it in its tracks.

Tim Vollum, chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, says he is faced with a difficult decision after wind readings and the logistical challenges of actually building a turbine on the island meant a larger than expected turbine and therefore cost.

While the turbine would still be profitable long-term, the trust is yet to make a decision on whether the community will take on the financial burden of a loan to build it. Talks with representatives on Lismore have started to see if they are willing to take part-ownership of the project.

Oban Community Council also recently expressed an interest in building its own turbine

and Mr Vollum hasn't ruled out sharing responsibility with the organisation to spread the responsibility and the financial risk further.

That would, however, also spread the potential financial reward further.

'It's a question I'd have to ask,' he said. 'We have been talking to Lismore about it. The special relationship that exists between the islands is something we're exploring.'

'We haven't yet considered whether the wider community should come on board.'

'Either way it doesn't negate the problem with the amount of money required and the work to get the turbine up.'

A business plan built around readings from the test mast showed that the island's original plan for a 350Kw turbine was not the best choice, with independent assessors advising the

trust to go for a 900Kw turbine, which would measure 67m to the blade tip. The trust says it would not be visible from Oban.

However, one of the biggest costs is the poor infrastructure on the island. Poor roads and slipways would have to be upgraded to cope with the required 120-tonne crane to erect the turbine - a total cost just shy of £250,000.

Plan B would be to build something smaller, a move that would not only reduce financial risk - but lessen the possible community payback for an island 'desperate for investment'.

Meanwhile, Mr Vollum has further ruled out speculation that Dunollie Estates, the owner of the island, had held up proceedings by demanding a high price for its land.

'It's not the case at all,' he said, adding that a mutually beneficial deal had been agreed.

Portsonachan worker is jailed after breaching bail order

A FORMER Portsonachan Hotel worker has been sentenced to seven months in prison after admitting a breach of bail at Dumbarton Sheriff Court.

Alan Radcliffe, aged 28, whose address was given in court as c/o Greenock Prison, pled guilty on Monday to breaching the bail conditions set for him not to contact a woman following a previous court appearance on a separate matter.

He also failed to notify the court of a change of address.

The jail sentence was backdated to March 11 this year, when Radcliffe was taken into custody.



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No turn around on court changes

CLAIMS by Argyll and Bute's MSP Michael Russell that the Scottish Court Service had a 'change of heart' over changes to jury trials were dismissed this week.

Restructuring plans confirmed by the Scottish Court Service (SCS) in April will see jury trials removed from sheriff courts, such as those in Oban, Campbeltown and Dunoon within the next decade. Such hearings will be held in Dumbarton instead.

A statement released by the SNP MSP's office claimed SCS chief executive Eric McQueen had indicated in a letter that there had been a change of approach - but the service says nothing has changed.

Mr Russell had said: 'The letter indicates that the delivery of justice will have to change before such a proposal could be implemented and sets out a clear template by which local people will be able to judge whether such changes are possible. I am grateful for this change of heart which will be welcomed across Argyll and Bute.'

But an SCS spokesman that was always the case - adding that the changes will take place as soon as possible within the 10-year timeframe. The move was also 'subject to any opportunity emerging to realise our longer term vision of purpose-built justice centres.'

Mr Russell was contacted for comment but did not respond at the time of going to press.

Hollywood star joins Tobermory RNLI

HOLLYWOOD actor Damian Lewis, the star of television series *Homeland* and *Band of Brothers*, joined the crew of Tobermory RNLI on Monday.

The now shaven-headed film star, who is on the island to shoot Second World War drama *The Silent Storm*, joined the crew for a training exercise. He was shown around the lifeboat and observed a man overboard and boat handling exercise before having an opportunity to take the helm of Tobermory's Severn Class lifeboat, *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey*.

Speaking after returning to the station, Damian said: 'I just spent the morning going on exercise with the brilliant RNLI volunteer crew at Tobermory. They do brave work in often rough conditions. For free. Please support the RNLI, starting today.'



Damian Lewis at the helm of the Tobermory lifeboat the *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey* on Monday. Picture: RNLI/Sam Jones.

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Woman shouted and swore at boyfriend

A HOLIDAYMAKER shouted and swore at her boyfriend during a drunken argument at a Lochaber campsite.

Nicole MacDonald verbally abused the man before kicking his mobile phone out his hand when he tried to call police.

The 31-year-old admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at Lochy Caravan Site, Camaghel, on June 16.

Admonishing MacDonald, of 26 Craigard Terrace, Inverness, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'I hope spending time in police custody and having to come here today will all drive home that you can't take too much drink and behave like this.'

Argyll and Bute Council offer guidance ahead of main show season

OFFERING animals as prizes, selling counterfeit goods and food safety issues are three agricultural show problems Argyll and Bute Council is trying to prevent.

The council's regulatory services team is offering area show committees guidance on a range of subjects including animal welfare, trading standards and licensing laws.

'Shows like these are great fun and we want everyone to enjoy them as much as they can,' said Sandy Taylor, lead councillor for planning.

Clampdown on slow moving vehicles welcomed

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP has welcomed a vow from a north police chief to clamp down on slow moving vehicles causing hold-ups on major roads.

David Stewart wrote to Chief Superintendent Julian Innes over concerns that tractors or campervans were failing to pull over to allow traffic through.

Mr Stewart said: 'I feel it is a real road safety factor.'

Road collisions are being caused as a direct result of frustration.

'All I am saying is for drivers of all vehicles to be more considerate.'

In his reply, Chief Superintendent Innes said: 'I appreciate your views and to that end have asked the Roads Policing Department to carry out hi-visibility pro-active work in an effort to address this issue, with the aim of raising awareness of the frustrations caused to other drivers by slow moving vehicles failing to pull over.'

Man admits shouting abuse

A CAOL man has admitted shouting abuse at a woman through the window of a taxi.

Mark MacManus, flat 4, Patience Way, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting a derogatory comment which was motivated by prejudice against transgender identity.

Prosecutor Fiscal Laura Ryan said the woman, described in court as a public sector employee, was left 'shocked and upset' after the incident which occurred on North Road on June 27.

MacManus, aged 36, was fined £120 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Crime cash helps build Fort fit trail

A NEW 'fit trail' in Fort William funded by cash seized from criminals got the government seal of approval last week.

The £84,000 development next to Lochaber Leisure Centre got the go-ahead after an extra £4m was grabbed from hoodlums under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

It is one of many facilities being built and maintained across Scotland by offenders sentenced to carry out unpaid work under community payback orders.

And on his visit on Wednesday, Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill praised Lochaber Criminal Justice Services for creating the eye-catching series of wood and rope structures.

He said: 'I hope that the people of Fort William enjoy using the new trail and continue to see the benefits provided through this

payback scheme in the years to come.

'When people commit an offence, it is right that they are punished. For minor offences, it is also right that this includes paying back to their local community through unpaid work for the harm, damage and trouble they have caused.'

The fit trail, which has been designed to test balance, agility and fitness, is suitable for all ages and abilities. And Lochaber Leisure Centre manager Gary Davidson reckons it will prove a big hit with customers.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It will be fantastic for us. Everybody waiting with their children for swimming lessons can access it and a lot of primary schools have expressed an interest as well. Locally, there is nothing really like it.'



Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill and Lochaber Criminal Justice Services unpaid work supervisor Dean Kennedy check out the new fit trail. 20_1286101

Site boss in Scottish top three

A FORT William building firm site manager has been announced as a first round winner in the annual NHBC Pride in the Job Awards.

Peter Wood of R E Campbell (Joinery) Ltd won the commendation for building an individual home to an exceptional standard at Banavie.

Mr Wood, one of only three Scottish nominees in the category, is now shortlisted for the regional title.

Pride in the Job recognises the personal achievement of UK house-building site managers in creating homes of outstanding quality. Malcolm MacLeod, regional director for NHBC, the leading standards setter and warranty provider for new UK homes, said: 'Winning a Pride in the Job commendation is a major achievement for any site manager. Peter is at the top of the game, ensuring that the homes they create are of the highest standard. Peter can be truly proud of this accolade.'

Regional winners will be announced at ceremonies in the autumn, with the victors progressing to the gala final in London in January.

Remote households need 40 per cent more income

SOME Scottish remote mainland and island households need up to 40 per cent more income to achieve the same standard of living as people living in urban areas of England, according to a shock new report.

The research, 'A Minimum Income Standard for Remote Rural Scotland', examines factors such as fuel bills, travel to work costs and the prices of food and other essential goods.

It reveals for pensioners living in remote mainland Scotland towns living costs are just over 10 per cent higher than in rural

towns or urban areas elsewhere in the UK.

But for singles or couples with children the difference is 30-40 per cent higher than in urban England and 10-15 per cent higher than in small English settlements.

However, lower rents and council tax bills compared with south of the Border, subsidised transport and free prescriptions and eye tests are all helping to contain costs.

The report found a single social tenant living in a remote Highlands town pays about £15

less in rent and £6 less in council tax per week than their English equivalent, but spends £10 more on domestic energy and £35 more on petrol.

Tackling any one of the major cost contributors would have a major impact on people's cost of living, it claims.

Commissioned by 10 Scottish public and community service organisations and led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise HIE, the study will inform policy makers on how best to alleviate hardship.

HIE head of planning and

partnerships, Alastair Nicolson said: 'That it costs more to live in remote rural areas will not surprise most people, but the findings have provided us with a quantified and nationally comparable evidence base from which to develop public policy for remote rural Scotland.'

'By pinpointing the most important sources of higher costs, it is possible to develop mitigating interventions that will help raise living standards, particularly for those on lower incomes.'

The research was carried out

with pensioners and working age groups from across the Highlands and Islands and rural southern Scotland, including island communities.

Di Alexander, chairman of the Rural and Islands Housing Associations Forum said: 'Fuel poverty, particularly in the ever-increasing private rented sector, is two to three times higher for most rural households. The housing-related lessons are clear - rural and island communities need more, better quality homes which ordinary households can afford to rent and run.'



The Crestliner Sportsman dinghy was found overturned and full of bullet holes off the Isle of Muck. Photographs by Sam Jones.

Tobermory lifeboat crew find US dinghy with bullet holes

Attempts to be made to trace owner of sunken vessel

A MYSTERIOUS bullet hole riddled American boat has been pulled out the sea off the coast of Muck.

The 14ft dinghy, a Crestliner Sportsman, was found by Tobermory RNLI after receiving a call about the vessel last Wednesday.

The volunteer crew found the dinghy floating upside down with around eight inches of the hull showing above the water.

When the lifeboat crew turned it over they found about three bullet holes.

Sam Jones, from Tobermory RNLI, said: 'It has been in the

water quite a long time and the holes are not fresh. It has got weed on it and a few mussels growing off it.'

'We can't speculate where it came from. It is possible it has drifted across the Atlantic - it wouldn't be the first time something has come all this way.'

US identification

The Crestliner has a metal plate attached to it which is used in the USA as a means of approval by the US Coastguard. It is not a military vessel and has no serial number other identifying marks.

This type of dinghy is

commonly used for recreational fishing in America but there is no engine attached to the recovered vessel. There are suggestions someone may have tried to sink it.

Sam added: 'It is just bizarre. You never know what you are going out to when the pager goes off but it is not often you go out to an American boat with bullet holes in it.'

Stornoway Coastguard has been informed of the situation and the lifeboat recovered the dinghy to Tobermory. The Receiver of Wrecks has also been notified.

A Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) spokeswoman said: 'It appears that the dinghy has a US Coast Guard sticker on it and the level of marine growth suggests that it has been in the water for some time.'

Informed

'The MCA's Receiver of Wreck has been informed and will attempt to trace the owner.'

This call was Tobermory lifeboat's third shout in just over 36 hours and unrelated to the floating orange object, now thought to be a target left behind from a military exercise, also found by the crew off Muck.

Laura wins primary schools speaking competition

KILLER robots and the career of Sir Alex Ferguson were among the subjects at this year's Primary Schools Individual Speaking Competition.

The competition, run by the Rotary Club of Oban, was recently held in Oban's Royal Hotel in front of a judging panel from Oban Speakers Club consisting of Jim Frazer, Eamonn Arthur and Alex Clark.

From the 15 young, enthusiastic speakers who took part, Laura MacLymont was chosen as the winner.

The Rockfield Primary School pupil spoke about the forthcoming Independence

Referendum. Second was Ellen MacKechnie from Rockfield School, whose topic was World Poverty.

Third was Liam MacDonald from St. Columba's School, who spoke of the career and retirement of Alex Ferguson.

All speakers who had taken part in the competition were presented with an illustrated English Dictionary.

In his closing remarks, rotarian Ken Moncrieff congratulated everyone who had taken part, the judging panel and the hotel for providing a room in which to hold the competition.



Laura MacLymont with club vice president Alan Johnston.

Missing student could have taken bus to West Highlands

POLICE investigating the disappearance of a missing Russian student say she could have taken a bus to the Highlands.

Physics student Yulia Solodyankina was last seen on CCTV at Buchanan Street bus station in Glasgow around 4.55pm on June 7.

The 22-year-old went missing more than a month ago shortly before her graduation from Edinburgh University.

Officers say Ms Solodyankina's most likely destinations were either Fort William or Inverness, where police have been trying to trace her.

Inquiries have also been made to other areas she may have travelled to by bus, including Largs, Campbeltown, Ardrishaig and Oban.

Chief Inspector Mark Patterson urged anyone who may have seen or heard from Ms Solodyankina to get in touch.

He said: 'In particular we want to speak to anyone in the areas where Yulia may have travelled to by bus from Glasgow, who thinks that they may have seen her.'

Contact numbers: Police Scotland 101; Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111; the charity Missing People 116 000.



Yulia Solodyankina at Buchanan Street bus station on June 7.

Coroner rules former Argyll auctioneer took own life

A HIGHLAND games heavyweight competitor and livestock auctioneer took his own life after battling depression, a coroner has ruled.

Former Taynuilt man Stephen Aitken was found slumped over his desk in his office at Darlington Farmers' Auction Market, where he worked as an auctioneer. A coroner ruled last Tuesday that the father-of-four and former director of Argyll Auction Company had used a captive bolt gun to kill himself.

Mr Aitken had competed on the Highland games circuit for 25 years. Jim Brown, president of the Scottish Highland Games Association, said the 45-year old was very much missed more than 12 months on from his death.

Road crashes kill one and leave others injured

A MAN, believed to be in his 30s was taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William after being freed from a car involved in a crash on the A82 between Spean Bridge and Invergarry on Sunday.

'Crews used cutting gear to remove the roof of the vehicle and one person was taken to hospital,' a spokeswoman for the fire service confirmed.

Meanwhile, a young man died and another is in hospital following a car crash just outside Carrbridge on Saturday evening. The passenger suffered fatal injuries and the driver was taken to Raigmore Hospital.

Woodland strategy rethink

EFFORTS by the National Trust for Scotland to regenerate a native woodland on its Balmacara Estate in Lochalsh are struggling to take root after a decade.

In a project co-funded with Scottish Natural Heritage, the trust fenced off the Coille Mhòr (Big Wood) to exclude all grazing animals such as deer.

But instead of helping saplings thrive, the move has led to thick undergrowth becoming established on the forest floor. And with no light or space to grow, seeds such as acorns stand little or no chance of germinating.

Now, disappointed with the results, the trust is rethinking its strategy - and has hired woodland conservationist Adele

Beck from Broadford to undertake a baseline survey of tree regeneration in the Coille Mhòr.

Restricting

Balmacara Estate manager Iain Turnbull said: 'The exclusion of livestock from the woodland for over 10 years has resulted in a dense ground flora that is perhaps restricting regeneration of young oak trees.'

'The survey is being carried out to help inform decisions regarding the possible introduction of conservation grazing within the woodlands.'

'It will form the start of a long-term monitoring programme to highlight any trends in the success of different species.'

Trust a step closer to taking over Kyle public toilets and pontoons

PUBLIC toilets and yachting pontoons in Kyle are a step closer to coming under local control after Highland Council rubber stamped a bid from Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust to take over the facilities under its Community Challenge Fund.

The new scheme, launched in January, provides up to £1 million each year to cover the running costs of community projects delivering better local services at no extra cost.

The trust plans to apply for grant aid to support investment in the toilets and

shower facilities, as well as the existing pontoons. In future, income would go to the trust and it will be their responsibility to meet any additional costs.

However, the issue is far from cut and dried according to trust spokesperson Brian Easter.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They are offering £13,500 per annum which is a lot less than it is costing them just now and we are pushing them for something a bit more.'

'There is no point in taking on the toilets if it is going to end up costing us

money and the only people that benefit are Highland Council.'

Mr Easter said longer term plans include increasing pontoon berths from six to 20 and laundry facilities.

He added: 'The idea is to employ somebody to look after the toilets and monitor the pontoons as well.'

'That would be beneficial for 'yachties' because if they know there are facilities in Kyle it will encourage them to stop. I think we are missing out on quite a few of the yachting crews coming up.'

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King Arthur legend could become Argyll tourism boon

LEGENDS of King Arthur and Merlin could yet become recognised as a part of Argyll's identity when a fact-finding meeting is held next month.

Iona link

Researcher and advocate Adam Ardrey has released two books detailing his belief that

the king who pulled the sword from the stone was from Argyll and that the Isle of Iona is, in fact, Avalon - his reputed burial place.

Adam recently attended a meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee and has been invited to speak further to

Argyll and Bute Council's next month, where he will make his pitch for the area to jump on a potential tourism boon.

Timing

He said: 'The timing is perfect for Arthur.'

'There is bound to be a lull in Columba-based tourism fol-

lowing this year of celebration of Columba's arrival in Argyll. The matter of Arthur can take up where Columba left off - they were, after all, contemporaries.

'Better still, as I said to the area committee, if you ask 100 Americans 'who was Columba?' you will be lucky to

find one in 100 who will know. If you ask 100 Americans who King Arthur was, you will be lucky to find one in 100 who does not know.

'Many millions of them will want to visit the places where he was active, especially if they can see things like stone from

which he took a sword [Dunadd Fort] the site of his most famous battle [Baden] and the place that came to be called Camelot, [somewhere near Dunadd] - all while standing on the same spot.'

Mr Ardrey meets the council on August 14.

Tax to double on empty homes

Argyll and Bute - 'one of the most pro-active councils in Scotland' in tackling empty homes

PRESSURE is mounting on landlords to bring more than 1,400 abandoned homes back into use in Argyll and Bute as the local authority launches a two pronged attack on the county's housing crisis.

Councillors have agreed two policies that aim to open up the 1,470 unoccupied dwellings in Argyll and Bute to desperate families; a move hailed by housing charities.

A new empty homes policy has been agreed which will see the council offer property owners grants and loans to upgrade their house if they hand it over to a registered social landlord for letting.

The policy will allow landlords to apply for grants and loans up to £20,000 to bring the home up to letting standards, whilst an empty homes officer has been employed ensure funding goes to the areas in greatest need of housing.

In a separate move Argyll and Bute councillors voted to double the council tax on properties that have been unused for more than 12 months, or are not being actively marketed for sale or

lease. To avoid the hike in tax, which comes into effect from next April, home owners will be required to prove that they occupy the house for at least 25 days of a rolling 12 month period.

The move has been praised by Kristen Hubert, a Shelter Scotland employee and coordinator of the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership.

She said: 'Argyll and Bute is quickly becoming one of the most pro-active councils in Scotland with regards to tackling the issue of long-term private sector empty homes. Last year the council committed more money to grants and loans for empty home owners than any other council in the country.'

'With all the support available from Argyll and Bute Council, owners should have no reason to reach the point where they will be charged extra for leaving their home empty.'

'Empty homes cannot solve housing supply issues alone, but they can be part of a holistic solution to provide local affordable housing and to regenerate communities.'



This vehicle flipped onto its side at around 8pm on Sunday on the A819 near Lochawe. Neither occupant was injured. 16_128lochawecrash1

Police issue warning after spate of minor accidents

POLICE are to deploy extra unmarked cars to patrol local roads after a host of single-vehicle crashes around Argyll and Bute at the weekend.

A motorcyclist suffered a

broken back after a crash near Loch Awe on Sunday - with two more crashes occurring within a two mile radius.

The motorcyclist was taken to hospital just before 7.30pm after

his bike came off the A85 near towards Dalmlally flipped onto its side on the A819 adjacent to Kilchurn Castle. Shortly after, a Renault Clio came off the road on the A85 near the Stronmilchan junction.

Less than an hour later, a car travelling from Inveraray

Another motorcyclist came off his bike near Cairndow, while there was a spate of other accidents around Argyll and Bute without any other vehicle involved.

Oban's chief inspector, Alistair Davidson, warned police would be increasing the attention it is giving motorists as a result. He said: 'It's a combination of people sight-seeing and not paying attention to the roads - and perhaps motorcyclists pushing on a bit too hard for the roads. The summer season is definitely in top gear. We have some of the best biking roads in Britain but people still need to be aware of the speed limits and the nature of the roads. Drivers should also be aware that if they're looking at the view instead of the road they could find themselves charged with careless driving.'



Two new paving machines are being leased by Argyll and Bute Council in a bid to reduce the cost of repairing the county's roads, as well as giving the council more flexibility for working on its roads network. The cost of hiring other companies to operate the paving machines over a four-year period would have amounted to £627,888 but by leasing the vehicles, operated by the council's own roads workmen, this figure will be reduced by £224,000 over the same period. Lead councillor for roads John Semple and Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, met workmen as they rolled out one of the new machines at Glen Lonan.

Capsized Jura kayaker found no one at home

AFTER swimming 200 metres to shore on Jura's north west coast and walking 10 miles for help after his kayak capsized, student James MacGowan would have been wishing the island was more populated.

The London man became a minor celebrity on the island after losing his kayak and possessions while

paddling through the Corryvreckan. But on struggling ashore, barefooted James found Jura's most northerly house, Kennachradh - but no-one was home. A few miles down the road he came across Barnhill, a farmhouse made famous by George Orwell, who wrote his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four while living there.

It too, was unoccupied.

But after a further seven miles the sodden and exhausted kayaker came to Lealt Cottage, where Dick and Maggy Mayes came to his aid. Maggy told *The Oban Times*: 'Because we are the last house in civilisation, we often get people needing rescued, or are lost.'

'We were able to give James some of my husband's clothes but he was worried about the coastguard sending out a rescue team, as the kayak had been spotted in the water.'

After his ordeal James stayed on Jura to climb the Paps before heading home in preparation for studying politics in Holland.

Tesco say 'Click but no Collect' to Isle of Colonsay courier service

RESIDENTS on Colonsay have accused Tesco of trying to get an Oban courier business 'off the scene' by this week banning it from picking up islanders' shopping.

Until this week Derek Wilson Courier Service had taken islanders' Click and Collect shopping orders from the Oban Tesco store to the Isle of Colonsay on the company's weekly Wednesday delivery.

But Tesco has now banned Derek Wilson vehicles from collecting the shopping, because the courier company has no chilled vans.

Islander Seumas MacNeill has identified an anomaly with the new rules. He said: 'Anyone can pick up the Click and Collect order as long as they have the order form. My brother, who lives in Oban, is allowed to pick up the shopping and take it round to Derek Wilson's yard to be put into a van - but Derek Wilson can't collect the shopping from Tesco.'

'The whole thing is difficult to fathom and I can only think that Tesco is trying to box us into a corner and get Derek Wilson off the scene.'

Derek Wilson, who has been delivering to the islands for more than 30 years, did not want to comment on his ban but predicted customers may return to buying from The Co-op, as they had done before the Tesco Click and Collect service began.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said the company wanted to ensure its customers received food of the highest possible quality and, to make sure that happened, was looking at making alternative delivery arrangements.

Oban sheriff allows carer to keep driving licence to look after mother

A CARER who drives his sick mother to and from hospital appointments narrowly avoided losing his driving licence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Former PhD student Stuart Wollacott, aged 50, of 7 Strathcona Street, Glasgow, pled guilty on Monday to a reduced charge of careless driving on the A85 near Taynuilt on November 28 last year.

Ford Focus driver Wollacott was seen on two occasions by police officers in a marked car overtaking while approaching blind bends.

Defence agent Kevin Duffy said his client had considered the manoeuvres safe but had deferred to the professional judgement of the police officers in admitting his guilt.

The court heard Wollacott was a full time carer for his mother, who required an oxygen cylinder for her condition. As taxis are not insured for these tanks, Wollacott, who has a previous conviction for dangerous driving, is responsible for her transport.

Sheriff Douglas Small endorsed Wollacott's driving licence with eight penalty points, bringing his total to 11 and one short of a driving ban, and fined him £450.

Heads up for annual Oban Duck race

MUSIC, fun and inflatable ducks will be the order of the day this Saturday at the annual Oban Duck Race, organised by MacQueen Bros.

Hundreds of plastic ducks will be released into the Black Lynn from Combie Street Bridge by Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, to mark the start of the race.

The Dunollie Preservation Trust is one of this year's race beneficiaries alongside Cancer Research.

Organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'We want to create a bit of a party atmosphere at the race start, so the more people there the better. It is all a bit of a giggle.'

The race will begin at 3pm prompt and there is still a chance to buy a duck for £2 from The Ark Hair Salon, Jackson Bros Butchers, Markie Dans or MacQueen Bros.

Mull microlight flies into flock of geese

A MICROLIGHT pilot had to make a crash landing at Glenforsa Airfield on Mull after colliding with a flock of geese as he came in to land.

Ukrainian Ivan Shovkoplyas' aircraft disturbed the Canadian geese as it came in to land at Glenforsa at around 10pm on Sunday.

The 25 year old was able to land the microlight and avoid injury but there was damage to the aircraft.

Dangerous driver accused of trying to run over Tobermory shop staff

A DRIVER who allegedly tried to run over shop staff after they confronted him over a newspaper transaction has been charged with dangerous driving on Mull.

The 66-year-old man from the Stirling area allegedly refused to queue in a Tobermory shop and instead threw money for his newspaper onto the counter before leaving.

When staff went out to protest that the item had to be scanned, the man is accused of attempting to run them over with his car last Tuesday afternoon.

Community groups guide to eco-cash

FUNDING to make community groups more eco-friendly is up for grabs at an Oban event.

An advice surgery at Oban Phoenix Cinema tomorrow (Friday) intends to encourage groups in Argyll and Bute to apply for Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) grants to make environmentally friendly alterations in such areas as transport and building design.

Groups will have until September to submit draft applications. Oban is one of 12 Scottish locations where advice surgeries have been arranged.

Around £47 million has been given to more than 550 projects in Scotland so far.

Oban drug addict jailed for 80 days

AN OBAN man who has 'a long history of drug use' has been jailed for 80 days after admitting being in possession of heroin.

Duncan McWhirter, of 52C Soroba Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, having previously pled guilty to the possession charge dated May 4 last year and a separate matter from August 12 last year, whereby he permitted the smoking of heroin within his premises. Defence agent Duncan Durbin told Sheriff Douglas Small: 'He has a long history of drug use but has been on the methadone programme since September last year and is now clean and on the road to recovery.'

Sheriff Douglass Small said McWhirter's failure to comply with the requirements of a Drug Treatment Testing Order meant he had no option but to impose a custodial sentence.

New Dunbeg hotel plans to go on show

PLANS for a luxury spa hotel at Tom Liath, Dunbeg, will go on display later this month as the developer prepares to submit an application for outlying planning permission.

Arcade Building Services has advertised a pre-application consultation for the proposed spa hotel with self-catering cottages and leisure facilities. The plans will be on display at Dunbeg Church between 2.30pm-8pm on Thursday, July 25.

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Morvern Lines

FOR TWO days this month, St Columba returns to Morvern to the spot where he built his first church on the Argyll mainland – not the man himself, of course, because he died more than 1,400 years ago, but an exhibition of his life and time.

So if you want to know how he lived and farmed, what he ate and drank, including how he made his porridge, and much more, visit Kiel Church between 11am and 4pm from Tuesday July 16 to Thursday July 18. Free admission, tea and home baking with a monastic twist.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in Morvern, celebrates the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba landing on Iona from where he travelled to Morvern, Lismore and many other places up and down the west coast. The exhibition is the brainchild of local human dynamo Creina Jackson of Lochaline, mother of Riona Whyte, Mull's best known Gaelic singer and grandmother of Alasdair Whyte, national Mod Gold Medalist who, along with his mother, is keeping alive the old bardic traditions of which Mull and Morvern were once justly famous.

Mrs Jackson and her daughter Mairi were guests of Her Majesty the Queen at last week's annual Royal Garden Party in the grounds of the Palace of Holyrood, Edinburgh.



Creina Jackson: brains behind St Columba celebrations in Morvern.

SPECULATION is rife about the future of the site of the old Scout hut in Lochaline.

This semi-derelict building with its asbestos roof was originally put up as accommodation for the employees of the nearby silica sand mine before it became the local Scout hut.

When the mine changed hands a few years ago, the company declared it surplus to requirements and donated it and the site for community use.

After two referendums and several meetings, villagers are no wiser what purpose it is to be put to. There have been various suggestions ranging from badly needed sheltered housing, a café, bunkhouse accommodation for a nearby restaurant and even a swimming pool but its close proximity to the village fuel pumps brings obvious restrictions.

One suggestion, which is becoming popular, is that the site should house a community cooperative general store and another set of fuel pumps in which all local people would benefit as shareholders.

There are many stores of this kind in other remote villages in the Highlands and Islands which are a great success and attract government funding. The affluent Morvern Trust, which is receiving £300,000 from the Glensanda quarry on behalf of the public and Morvern Community Council, should be alive to the wider benefits that this type of development would bring to the area for the foreseeable future.

The former owners of the sand mine are to be congratulated on giving Morvern such a valuable public asset.

THE 12,000-acre Laudale Estate on the shores of Loch Sunart, has apparently been sold.

The new owner is Jonathan Turner from North Yorkshire. The outgoing owner, Keith Falconer, is moving across Loch Sunart to become a whisky distiller at Glenbrodale.

Adelphi, which is building the new distillery there, have just received a £1.8m Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operative government grant. A century ago Laudale was home to a large number of illicit stills.

THANKS to the Highland Council funding an archive in Fort William, many interesting Morvern records have been transferred there from the former Argyll County Council Offices, Lochgilphead, and the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The collections held at the Lochaber Archive Centre in the College at An Aird include: education records from the 1860s, including logbooks and admission registers from more than 60 Lochaber schools; poor relief records, (1845-1930); minutes of the Morvern District Road Trustees, (1864-1890); property valuation rolls, (1874-1990); police archives, (1875-1946); photographs; estate papers; maps and plans, including Ordnance Survey plans scale 25"; 1 mile dating from 1870; genealogical resources on microfilm for the Lochaber area including census returns (1841-1901); Old Parish Registers and the International Genealogical Index; church records including kirk session and presbytery records for parishes in the Lochaber Presbytery, (1724-1991).

In a legally binding agreement made in 1960 between the Trustees of the Church of Scotland and the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland, all church and parish records were to be deposited on loan with the Keeper for safe-keeping.

Unfortunately not all of Morvern's records were sent in and some still remain in private hands.

Church records are a fund of information for all. For example there is an interesting reference to an act of penance in Morvern to be found in the Minute Book of the Synod of Argyll.

In May 1651 for the crime of supporting the Royalist Marquis of Montrose and his general Alastair MacColla, who attacked Kinlochaline and Mingary Castle, 'the enemies of God, religion and covenant,' John Maclean of Kinlochaline was 'appointed to stand in sack-cloth the first Sabbath in Morvern, the second Sabbath in Tiri [Tiree] and to be received there be [sic] the minister thereof.'

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Oban councillor resigns from planning committee

'The planning process in my opinion is stacked against the developer'

FRUSTRATION over policy guiding decisions made by council officers has seen an Oban councillor quit the local authority's planning committee.

Fred Hall said a determination to stick to the 'status quo' and a lack of impetus from the authority to encourage development are at the heart of his decision to step down from the responsibility of scrutinising planning applications.

He claims a rigid insistence of sticking to policy was stifling the council's ability to help business – saying he sees no such problem with Highland Council.

His comments come as Mr Hall prepares to lodge a

motion calling for a board of non-executive directors to be installed at Kilmory to monitor and scrutinise the performance of directors and the chief executive.

Mr Hall said: 'Having been on the planning committee for a year I am sadly of a view that it is arguably more of a deterrent to economic growth than a facilitator.'

'The planning process in my opinion is stacked against the developer. Councillors are limited in their ability due to policy and governance and law issues to overturn some planning decisions.'

'I ask why is it that Highland

Council are capable of pushing through all these developments and we are not?'

'I have resigned as I feel that is the only way I can highlight my view that I consider the planning process in Argyll and Bute to be pro-nimby and to the detriment of economic growth.'

'I will represent my constituents at planning hearings but not from within the system as part of the planning committee as I believe I can achieve more being out of the tent than in it.'

Outlining his proposal for a board of non-executive directors to be established, he said not only would it gauge the performance of directors

and departments, but would be able to make recommendations for change within the authority where appropriate.

The motion, set to be seconded by Oban's Iain MacDonald, is to be considered after the summer recess.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr Hall said: 'Policy is used as a reason not to do things; it is also a good reason for the council to preserve the status quo. However, when that policy is challenged, we're told it's incompetent.'

'My intention to bring the non-executive directors comes in light of recent events. It would help scrutinise the performance of the council more effectively.'



Argyll and Bute councillor Fred Hall has quit the council's planning committee after becoming frustrated.

1,600 seek career assistance in 2012

MORE than 1,600 people in Argyll and Bute sought career assistance from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) last year.

1,683 people met staff from the skill development agency in the area for help finding training or job opportunities during 2012.

Meanwhile, SDS has been expanding use of its interactive website My World of Work.

More than 230,000 people in Scotland have been registered to the website.

Oban man almost double the drink-drive limit

AN OBAN man who drove while almost twice the legal drink drive limit has been banned while he awaits sentence.

Wayne Parker, 45, of 8 Etive Gardens, Nant Drive, Oban, pled guilty to drink driving on Soroba Road on July 2 when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Parker had 65mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, the legal limit is 35mcg.

He committed this offence while on bail and will be sentenced on July 23, when his other case is called.

Private screening in Oban of Palestine film

A FILM documenting an Israeli-Palestinian land battle has been privately screened in Oban.

Broken Cameras, which has not been given general release, was shown by Oban Phoenix Cinema in association with the Oban Concern for Palestine group.

The film, mainly shot by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, records the Israeli demolition of trees and the building of a barrier on farmland in the village of Bil'in on the West Bank and villagers' attempts to stop it.

The critically acclaimed film won the 'World Cinema Directing Award - Documentary' at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

Oban Concern for Palestine sold more than £200 worth of Palestinian goods to aid Palestinian residents at a Charities Day last month with the assistance of the Oban Lions club.

Distillery renovates Islay cottage

A RENOVATED 19th century cottage that was home to a former distillery manager has been re-opened as self-catering accommodation by an Islay distillery.

Seaview Cottage, located within the Ardebeg distillery, previously housed then-distillery manager Hamish Scott between 1964 and 1977.

£1m Loch Awe order completed in Kintyre

A £1M order of Argyll-made components from Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd in Machrihanish, Kintyre for the Carrraig Gheal Wind Farm near Loch Awe has been completed, as construction enters the final phase of the 20-turbine project.

The tower sections for the wind farm were manufactured at the Machrihanish factory, with turbines and other components supplied by Siemens joining the towers at the factory, before being transported north to the Carrraig Gheal site.

The order represents the tenth wind farm project Wind Towers (Scotland) have supplied in the last 12 months, supporting 130 jobs at the factory.

Meanwhile, a consultation has been launched into the operation of a £46,000-a-year community fund connected with the Carrraig Gheal project.

John Morgan, project director at GreenPower, said: 'We are pleased that as the project nears completion significant economic benefits have been retained here in Argyll.'

'The transport of turbines across Argyll required us to provide a major road improvement at Muasdale on the A83 and the construction of the 36km West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route, both of which will provide a lasting positive legacy for Argyll communities and businesses in the decades ahead.'

Carrraig Gheal Wind Farm is situated north of Loch Awe, above Inverinan Forest. Construction began in 2011 and is due to be completed this summer.



Flight Lieutenant Natalie Scott, James Cameron and Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart. 16_127cadet01

Oban teenager gains air cadet honours

THE PRESTIGIOUS role of acting as an assistant to the Lord Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in Argyll, has been handed to an Oban teenager.

James Cameron, a cadet flight sergeant with 2521 (Oban High School) squadron of the air cadets has been named Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.

As part of his new role James assisted the Lord Lieutenant

during the recent Royal visit of Princess Anne to Oban.

James, who has been a cadet for almost six years, was officially given the honour at a special ceremony at the cadet base in Tweeddale Street last week.

He has completed much academic training with the cadets, has taken on the role of cadet instructor and is building towards a career in the Royal Marines.

Natalie Scott, the squadron's commanding officer, said: 'When James started five and a half years ago he was a very quiet young lad, very shy.'

Leadership

'But over the years he has grown in confidence and leadership so much so he has developed into the most senior cadet we have here on the squadron.'

Stewart presented James with a badge and certificate, adding: 'It gives me the greatest pleasure to present this to you.'

'You have more qualifications in your 18 and a half years than most of us have in a lifetime. You lead by example.'

The squadron as a whole was also presented with the Hinshelwood trophy for the best squadron in the Highland wing.

Rachel voted president of University of the Highlands and Islands' Students' Association



Marine science student Rachel Parker.

AN OBAN-based student is taking up the top job in the University of the Highlands and Islands' Students' Association.

Rachel Parker, 21, a marine science student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), has been voted as president of association, the organisation which represents the 7,000 students in the university's partner colleges and centres across the region.

Originally from Dunbar, Rachel moved to Oban to undertake her degree and first became involved in the university's student association when she volunteered as a college representative last year.

She enjoyed helping students, found it benefited her own development and wanted to become more

involved, so she decided to run for the role of president in elections earlier this year.

Rachel took over from the university's previous student association president on July 1. She is taking a year out of her studies to take up the paid position. Rachel said: 'My main focus will be to improve student engagement with association and enhance integration of students across the partnership. This should help to give students a greater sense of belonging, despite the university's dispersed nature.'

'I organised SAMS UHI's first freshers' week last year with no budget so I'm hoping to bring aspects of this and the creative thinking it required to the association.'

Dr Iain Morrison, dean of students at the university, welcomed Rachel's election, adding: 'Rachel has been elected to the top job in the university's Students' Association at an exciting time. We are keen to engage our students as much as possible in the life of the university and Rachel has a key role in helping us to do so.'

'We have significantly increased the resources available to the association and will look to Rachel and her colleagues to help make a student's time with us an exceptional and fulfilling experience.'

Rachel will be supported by Dain Roberts, who was voted as association's deputy president, and Kat Bateson, who takes up the role of vice president. Both Dain and Kat are based in Inverness.

Inveraray CAR goes ahead

DESPITE a funding shortfall of around £1million, plans to regenerate Inveraray are set to go ahead.

Argyll and Bute Council have this month granted £350,000 to the Inveraray Conservation Area Regeneration (CAR) Scheme, which aims to restore eight key buildings in the Royal Burgh.

Historic Scotland have already granted the scheme £1million, while the Argyll Community Housing Association has also pledged its support.

While a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1million failed, the local authority confirmed the project would still proceed.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Our

main objective is to achieve the maximum benefit for Inveraray with the money available. We are working with Historic Scotland on the fine detail relating to the re-scoping and costings.'

'We are also looking at ways of making savings, for example on overheads and running costs, so that as much resource as possible goes to the buildings.'

Speaking in support of the project, John Semple, lead councillor for environment, development and infrastructure, said: 'Inveraray is a first class tourist destination and an important gateway into Argyll. Its premier conservation area is an important asset and there is a strong community support for the project.'

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Sentence in Argyll dog cruelty case deferred for report

A MAN, whose lack of care for a dog caused its front legs to develop in a deformed manner, has admitted the charge at Oban Sheriff Court.

Ronald McLean, aged 35, of 1 Colaig, Ardferr, pled guilty on to causing the two-year-old Huntaway type dog unnecessary suffering at Soroba Farm, Ardlarach Road, Ardferr, on September 9 last year.

McLean admitted failing to provide adequate nutrition and drinking water, causing the dog to become emaciated and dehydrated. McLean, a first offender, had his sentence deferred for background reports until August 20.

Banavie man denies cocaine charges

A BANAVIE man has denied being in possession of cocaine at a Fort William venue.

Allan MacMaster pled not guilty to having the class A drug on April 13. The 21-year-old is also accused of obstructing police during the incident. MacMaster, of Kanass, is due to stand trial on September 28 with a further hearing set for August 24.

Drink driver fined and banned

A FORT William man has admitted drink driving on the A830 at Corpach.

Ian Bruce pled guilty to being almost twice the legal limit when he was breathalysed by police on June 25. A member of the public called police after seeing Bruce's van repeatedly veering into the kerb, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Bruce, of 28 Kennedy Road, was banned from driving for 13 months and fined £450.

Caol drunken rant ends in court fine

A FORT William man picked up a wheeled bin during a drunken rant outside a Caol house.

Iain Stewart started shouting and swearing outside the Torlundy Road property on January 7 after finding out his then-girlfriend was inside.

A passer-by saw Stewart lift the bin and thought he was going to throw it at a window, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. But before Stewart could throw it he fell due to his drunken state, said Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan. Stewart, of 17 Camanachd Crescent, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined the 54-year-old £100.

Bike thieves target Lochaber

TWO HOUSES in the Fort William area were targeted by bicycle thieves overnight last week.

Two mountain bikes were taken from a house in Guisach Terrace, Corpach, last Wednesday or Thursday, and a black mountain bike was stolen from a house in Abrach Road, Inverlochy, the same night.

Meanwhile, attempts were made overnight to break into a shed in Kinlochmoidart between Monday and Tuesday and four wheel trims were stolen from a car parked at Glen Nevis Road, Caol, on Sunday.

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

Build affordable homes on Oban High School's existing site suggests council leader

SEVERAL sites have been identified in Oban as potential locals for a new high school - and the current site could yet be used for affordable housing.

A new school has to be built in the town by 2015 after funding was granted by the Scottish Government.

At its last meeting, Argyll and

Bute Council discussed the first long-list of potential locations in the town for a new school, prior to negotiations on the cost of acquiring the sites.

However, council leader and Oban councillor Roddy McCuish already has his eyes set on what should happen to the existing school when the new building

is operational. He said: 'The site of the current school would be fantastic for affordable housing. It's in a settlement area and we have a real lack of affordable housing.'

'I'd certainly like to see it used for that.'

Confirming that six sites are currently being looked at, Mr

McCuish said: 'We're at the stage of whittling down which sites would be best.'

Shortlist

As soon as we have a shortlist the public will be asked which they prefer - the school itself will be asked and the community council will be asked.'

The process to select the site is



Liam Keat aims to raise £1,000 for Oban Mountain Rescue.

Liam, aged 8, climbs 'Everest' for mountain rescue team

Heat stroke can't stop his Summer of Summits

AN EIGHT-year-old boy is climbing the equivalent of Mount Everest over two weeks in support of mountain rescuers after seeing firsthand the effects of a tragedy on the hills.

Summer of Summits

Liam Keat, from Inverawe, aims to raise £1,000 for Oban Mountain Rescue Team by climbing hills in Scotland and the Lake District, reaching a cumulative height of more than 29,000 feet during his Summer of Summits challenge.

The Taynult Primary School pupil has already climbed the 3,209-foot peak of Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, and

is this week climbing Ben Nevis at 4,409 feet.

'He said he wanted to climb Ben Nevis for Oban Mountain Rescue Team,' said Liam's mother, Emma.

'I thought, 'no way'. I was terrified at the thought of my eight-year-old son doing that.'

'But his father is an avid climber and started helping Liam train for this challenge.'

'Liam is so determined that when he went up Beinn Ghlas and got heat stroke he was very sick and slept for 15 hours. He was up the next day ready for training.'

'After all the work he has put

in, I am confident he can do it. He will be shattered but I am so proud of him.'

The final leg of Liam's challenge, the 3,694-foot summit of Ben Cruachan, was the scene of a death that brought about Liam's idea to raise money.

In September, 75-year-old Alexander Sproule from Edinburgh died after going missing while descending the mountain with his son and grandson, who stayed in the nearby Brander Lodge Hotel, owned by Liam's grandfather, during the search.

Liam had befriended the grandson and was with him when the family was informed

Local community throws Raasay House open to public ahead of grand opening

A COMMUNITY-OWNED grade 'A' listed mansion house on the Isle of Raasay is throwing its doors open to the public ahead of a grand opening later this year.

And the Raasay House 'Big Weekend' from July 12-15 will be a celebration in more ways than one as the property is now fully restored after almost being totally destroyed by fire in 2009.

Raasay House, taken over by the local community in 2007, had been in the final stages of a

£4.5m upgrade before the blaze.

A later attempt at re-opening was thwarted when the contractor in charge of the refurbishment, Rok Construction, fell into administration.

But now the project, funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), The Big Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, is complete.

The imposing mansion, owned by the Raasay community and managed by Raasay House Community Company (RHCC), has Raasay Outdoor Centre as

long-term tenant. Now RHCC chairman David Westgarth is looking forward to helping Raasay Outdoor make the property a key economic driver to help sustain the future of the island and its community.

He said: 'Seven years ago the Raasay community acquired Raasay House and set about securing the funding package to refurbish the building and establishing a tenant that would pay a rent to the community.'

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Mull Lines

A QUARTER of a century of celebrations to mark composer Felix Mendelssohn's trip to Mull has been marked with a series of workshops designed to inspire young musicians.

The Mendelssohn on Mull Festival brought mentors Levon Chillingirian, who is also the artistic director of the event, Gaby Lester, Susie Mészáros, Marcia Crayford, and Stephen Orton to the island between July 1 and 6.

Young professional musicians are invited to take part in the event and divided into three groups for the workshops with the mentors. Afterwards, the aspiring young musicians perform a series of free concerts in venues across Mull, Iona and Oban, in venues such as Glengorm Castle, Duart Castle, Salen Church and Iona Abbey.

As a young man, Felix Mendelssohn made a trip to Mull which some say was 'life changing' for the aspiring composer. It was there he found inspiration there to write one of his most famous pieces, The Hebrides Overture, Fingals Cave.

Among this year's repertoire was Schubert's Quartettsatz in C minor, Brahms Opus 111 and Boccherini's a cello quintet.

Mull hotel deal could be market economy guide

A HALF million pound deal has secured the future of one of Mull's most picturesque hotels - with estate agents claiming the deal shows the economy is turning the corner.

Situated on the shores of Loch Scridain, the six-bedroom Pennyghael Hotel has been on the market since May 2011, but potential buyers were deterred after finding difficulty securing finance.

However, the Bank of Scotland was able to approve a package for the buyers after the original lender withdrew support.

The sale of the hotel, which comes with three self-catering cottages, was conducted by estate agents Bell Ingram, whose valuer and consultant chartered surveyor Gregor King heralded the deal as an indicator that the market and the economy is recovering.

He said: 'This is the first hotel sale Bell Ingram in Oban has overseen for at least two years - 12 months ago this deal would not have been possible.'

'This development shows banks are now willing to offer finance on leisure business premises to borrowers able to demonstrate their ability to perform. There are positive things beginning to happen within the commercial property sector.'

'Generally, we are seeing a significant increase in the level of enquiries and viewings for hotels and guest houses, signalling a major upswing in activity.'

The new owners of the hotel, bought for £495,000, have not yet been named.



A MAD hatters tea party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the company which runs a Tobermory sheltered housing complex has been deemed a 'great success'.

Trust Housing, which operates Glen Isal, organised the party which was eventually held in the town's Scout Hall as a result of the weather.

Residents at Glen Isal chose the new joint Guide and Scout hall to receive the £700 raised at the event.

The Tobermory Guides helped make decorations, provided home baking and helped on the day.

Linda Noble, from Glen Isal, said: 'Everyone had a great day the local minister and girl guide Asha Nelson opened the event.'

'Local choral choir and tenant Jimmy Ginnity provided entertainment by singing and playing music.'

'Tables were all set out with china cups, teapots and cake stands full of lovely home baking. At the end of the party balloons were released in memory of tenants, family and friends no longer with us.'

'A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the day a success.'

A £5,000 grant has been given to Sound of Mull Radio by Scottish Sea Farms to get the station broadcasting by the end of the year.

The non-profit station has to be running by July next year to comply with its community station licence.

Currently, there are no radio stations broadcasting local information and the remoteness and large distances between the villages makes current weather and travel information important to the communities.



Area commander Paul Connelly, left, presenting the Fire Fighters cheque to group commander John Rae.

MONEY raised at the recent open day at Tobermory Community Station has been split between local groups and The Fire Fighters Charity.

Watch commander Willie Hume QFSM welcomed Paul Connelly, area commander, to the station to present cheques to four local organisations.

Salen's Church Youth Group, Glen Isal Fun Day for The Scout Hall, Scottish Women's Rural Institute and Tobermory Junior Golf each received £150 while The Fire Fighters Charity was handed £682.19.

Mr Hume said: 'All personnel at the fire station would again like to thank all hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts and individuals for their fantastic support.'

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JURA

JURA surgery has received a £1,000 upgrade to its emergency pre-hospital care equipment. A Sandpiper Bag, which is easy to carry and contains lifesaving equipment, has been provided free-of-charge by the charity The Sandpiper Trust. More than 850 Sandpiper Bags have been given to doctors all over Scotland.

LISMORE

BOB MCCULLOCH and Charlie Drummond recently gave an interesting and well received illustrated talk entitled 'Old Oban and Round About' at the heritage centre. Beth Campbell served tea and scones during the interval.

LISMORE enjoyed success at the Oban Mod on Friday June 21.

From the primary school, Rachel MacCormack won the Girls' 7-8 years singing and Katie Cook the Girls' 9-10 years.

The whole school took first place in the action song, which the adjudicators loved, singling out Katie Cook for a special mention.

From the high school, there was a first and second singing place for Sophie King and Shona Wright while Ealasaid MacLean from Strath of Appin Primary School won the Eppin Trophy and F Ann MacLean enjoyed success in several singing classes.

Congratulations to everyone and thanks to Mary MacDougall at the primary school for her teaching and organisation.

ON JULY 20, Lismore is showcasing all the island produces with a fun-packed Crofters' and Crafters' Community Day from 11am till 11pm at Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.

Transport will be available from ferries if you phone by 9am to book - £2 per person. At 11am, children under 12 can join the search for Old MacDonald's Farm and win prizes. At noon there will be demonstrations of spinning, carding, felting, basket making, flower arranging, butter making and vegetable carving.

At 1pm Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluaidh will be Waulking the Cloth and from 2pm till 4.30pm stalls will sell Lismore crafts and produce. There is a country dance in the hall at 6pm and a barbecue at the café - bring your own bottle - at 8pm when everything on offer will have been grown on the island or fished from its waters.

A ceilidh will finish off the night with a raffle and lots of prizes. Entry is by donation except for the barbecue which is £8. For further information check the events on www.iseoflismore.com or www.lismoregaelicheritage-centre.org or phone the café on 01631 760020.



This year's prizewinning Dunbeg Primary School pupils.

Prizewinning Dunbeg pupils celebrate

LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council, and former Dunbeg Primary School pupil, Roddy McCuish presented the prizes at the school's closing service and prizegiving in Dunbeg Church. Rev George Cringles conducted the service, at which councillor McCuish received a painting of The Flat Rock, Dunstaffnage beach, as a reminder of his childhood days in Dunbeg. The painting is by Jodie Jeffery, one of the

school's primary seven pupils. Numerous awards and certificates were presented to the primary seven pupils: Jodie Jeffery, Connor MacCuish, Lorne MacFarlane, Lauren MacIntyre, Megan MacIntyre, Jennie MacLean, Neil MacLean, Katie McGowan, Kieron Morrison, Lauren Morrison and Codie Watson. John Muir Award and Marine Life Rescue Ranger Training Certificates were also presented to P6 pupils: Duncan Blainey,

Alister Bryce, Erin Byars, Imogen Carnie, Tierney Dornan, Michael Drummond, Ryan Guild, Fraser Inglis, Adam MacLean, Ross McCaskill, Aaron McKay, Ailie Munro, Lexi Sloan and Anna Wright. Volleyball Certificates: Kieron Morrison, Ryan Guild, Alik Ateynik and Neil McCallum. Lorn Film Festival Oscars: Best Storyline - P 4/5, Best male actor - Michael Drummond.

TIGHNABRUACH

A COMMUNITY forest in Tighnabruach has received a commendation at Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2013.

Kilfinan Community Forest was handed the accolade for 'promoting viable livelihoods'

in the community woodlands category. This award recognises projects that actively involve communities in using woodlands to deliver economic development and thereby enhancing peoples' livelihoods. Nikki Woolf, forest operations administrator, and Eamon King,

development officer, accepted the engraved cherry tree plaque at the annual prizegiving event at the Royal Highland Show on June 21.

David Blair, chairman of the forest board, said: 'This is a great accolade for all that's been achieved since we purchased the forest in 2010. We've seen the project grow and evolve at such a rapid yet steady rate and that's thanks to our staff, volunteers and directors having the drive, ambition and passion to make it happen. Since the project started, promoting viable livelihoods within the Kilfinan community has been a core objective for us. We have many more exciting plans for the future and hope to continue making our mark as one of Scotland's finest woods.'

Peter Wilson, executive director of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, added: 'Congratulations to the Kilfinan Community Forest. Our judges said that Kilfinan is an impressive and well managed community forest, which is effectively integrated into the community. A number of projects are progressing well and are beginning to create and sustain real jobs and spawn economic initiatives.' The award recognised achievements over the past year including four new jobs created, close ties with the local community and a structured volunteering programme which focuses on developing participants' forestry skills.

BARCALDINE

in games including welly-boot throwing, a hoop and cone event, a kangaroo sack race and a tug of war.

The school also said goodbye to Mrs Morrison and Mrs MacEachen, who have more than 75 years' teaching experience and will be sorely missed. The children sang their own rendition of LMFAO's 'Your Sexy and You Know It' to both teachers, before Mrs Morrison and Mrs MacEachen were presented with flower pots and vouchers.



Party time at Barcaldine Primary School's Australia Day.

End of term Australia Day

AUSSIE-style hats, green and yellow colours, several boiderangs and even a didgeridoo were on show as Barcaldine Primary School marked the end of term with an Australia Day.

The pupils have been doing a topic on Australia and thought it would be fitting to start the summer holidays with a barbecue.

Parent council members made lunch with a variety of meats, salads and rolls and ice-cream cones with an Australian flag instead of a flake.

The children then educated the adults with Australian facts they had learned over the last two terms before taking part

ARDCHATTAN

AS YOU enter Ardchattan Priory Garden there is a golden ash tree with a plaque

dated 1998, a present from the Scottish Garden Scheme acknowledging the garden had an annual opening for 50 years. Fifteen years on, the garden fete now celebrates 65 years of opening. Much has changed over time. The original openings were always on a Thursday and it was considered controversial when they were moved to a Sunday at the end of the 1950s.

It was a very sedate affair, admiration for the garden followed by a cup of tea and home-baking was the order of the day.

Now the garden opens daily from April to October, with a charity fete for the Guides and Scouts on the last Sunday in July. This year, games are planned to reflect the 65th anniversary and locals and visitors are being invited along to test their skill or try their luck at the tombola or bottle stall, while listening to the music of Tainuit Swing Band.

In the hall behind the Priory the walls date back to the 13th century. In this historic setting, soup lunches will be served, as well as home-made teas. Next to it lies the old ruined chapel and grave yard, burial ground of 'The Red Fox'. The event is being held this Sunday from noon until 4pm.

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Trust has re-launched a small grants scheme to help budding entrepreneurs take forward their ideas.

Applications for up to £750 to the Tormore Enterprise Fund are being sought from existing businesses or the creative arts sector.

The funding could go towards equipment, starting a business, drawing up a business plan, fact-finding visits, training or learning new skills.

The fund is also seeking bids from community organisations, with grants of up to £1,000 available for constituted groups and £500 for non-constituted groups.

BALMACARA

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland is starting a new drive to control invasive rhododendron ponticum on its Balmacara Estate in Lochalsh.

The latest project will focus on eradicating stands of the pink-flowered pest north of Strathie on the Plockton peninsula.

Treatment will mainly involve injecting plant stems with glyphosate with occasional bushes being felled and the stumps treated.

The aim will be to remove all rhododendron from the trust's ground on the peninsula with

follow-up treatment in the winter as required.

No interruption to public use of the area is envisaged as any chemicals being applied pose no risk to people, livestock or pets.

If anyone has any concerns about the work they can contact Babs MacRitchie - bmacritchie@nts.org.uk - at the Balmacara Estate Office.

The project is co-funded by NTS and Scottish Natural Heritage through its National Countryside Management Grant.

SKYE

SKYE'S Toravaig and Duisdale hotels have been included among 50 of Scotland's best wedding venues.

The Luxury Scottish Wedding aims to draw together the best that Scotland has to offer and increase the wedding market share north of the border.

Created by seasoned hospitality specialist Tom Goodfellow, the new site offers a one-stop shop to happy couples looking to tie the knot in Scotland, in style.

INVERGARRY

PUPILS at Invergarry Primary have teamed up with local police to crack down on drivers speeding through the village.

The youngsters joined police at the side of the A87 outside the school gate to survey the speed of passing traffic using radar.

The officers also taught the children about how to keep themselves safe near the road.

The survey showed most vehicles were keeping to the road's 40mph speed limit, which drops to 20mph during busy times at the school.

The pupils then presented the findings of their work to the local community council, parents and police.

PC Tony Hannah said: 'The traffic survey was a great success and I am sure the pupils got a great deal from the experience.'

MORVERN

A SURREAL history of St Kilda will be launched at Waterstones, Inverness, at 6 pm next Thursday.

'The Guga Stone', written by Shetland author Donald Murray, features - among many weird and wonderful tales - a number of stories about the St Kildans in Morvern following their evacuation from the Atlantic islands in 1930.

Mr Murray told *The Oban Times*: 'I have poems about Ardtornish and the road to Lochaline which I wrote at the Three Lochs Book Festival in Strontian, as well as short stories telling what the exiles got up to while in Morvern.'

He added: 'I came to the conclusion there was so much rubbish written about St Kilda that I would add another layer of made-up stories to the ones that were already created - but there are true stories in the book as well.'

Everyone is welcome to the event at 6pm.

FORT AUGUSTUS

FORT Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company is to take over local streetcleaning and grounds maintenance after a successful bid to Highland Council's community challenge fund.

The company aims to provide a higher level of service at no extra cost by employing two village officers to undertake the work.

For its part, the council will provide access to equipment. Responsibility for the public toilet will remain with the current external contractor.

Down Your Way

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has offered to help broker a solution in the ongoing dispute over the future of Coille Rais Fairy Forest.

A small area of woodland between the Great Glen Way route and Loch Lochy near Gairloch was transformed into a home for teddy bears, toys and ornaments by two local women but is now under threat as landowners Achnacarry Estate wish to develop the area.

Chairman John Fotheringham said he had written to estate consultants Bidwells seeking felling plans and details of alternative sites for the fairy trail.

He said: 'We understand that it is the estate's land to do with what they want and it is a commercial woodland. They've been transparent about their intentions from the start. But at the same time it is a very popular local attraction.'

'We would be willing to mediate any talks if that was required.'

SPEAN Bridge Woollen Mill is preparing for another busy tourist season, with a strong start made already.

Supervisor Linda Stirling told *The Oban Times* the tourist attraction had been busy with visitors from across Scotland and further afield.

She said: 'We've got off to a good start. We've had visitors from pretty much all over, a lot of Americans, Chinese and Indonesians.'

'And usually when the English schools break up things pick up again.'



Left: Spean Bridge's new state-of-the-art play park has proved popular since it opened last month. Spean Bridge Play Park Community Group spent two year fundraising to pay for the £70,000 play area, which features swings, climbing frames and slides. 20_f28park01

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met last week. Among the issues discussed were:

The lack of public toilets in Spean Bridge was raised, with chairman John Fotheringham saying it was hurting tourism in the village.

He said: 'This is a real issue. Tourism is the single most important industry here and we need public toilets. The Woollen Mill has toilets but they are not open to the public, only customers.'

'The Commando Memorial is a very popular and important site and people are urinating there. It is not acceptable. There is a sign near the memorial saying there are toilets in the village. Either we remove the sign or we get some toilets and, of course, getting toilets would be the better option.'

The chairman will write to nearby community councils to canvas opinion on Scottish Canals' proposals to place wooden camping pods along Loch Lochy.

Mr Fotheringham said: 'Gairloch residents are 100 per cent against the plans. And if locals don't want it, we could not support it.'

The community council was approached by an European Union project with a view to setting up a community-run renewable energy scheme on the River Roy.

Water Asset Renewable Energy Solutions (WARES) said it had identified a suitable site on the river and was keen to work with Scottish Water and locals to create a scheme which would benefit the community.

A community company has been formed to handle any potential earnings from a hydropower schemes near Spean Bridge.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation will distribute funds accrued through community benefit from new renewable schemes in the area.

Transport Scotland is to put up signs on the A86 to warn motorists of the new Dalour Play Park. Meanwhile, signs on the A82 at the Commando Memorial and the A830 at Banavie will be amended to include Achnacarry.

An interim election will be held in October for the current five vacancies on the community council, with the co-opted members eligible to stand. The chairman will continue to undertake the secretary role meantime.

The next community council meeting will be held at Achnacarry on September 3.

A three-day flower festival gets underway at Kilmonivaig Church in Spean Bridge this Friday morning. The event will be open from 11am to 7pm on Friday and Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. Refreshments and a selection of home baking will be served in the church hall each day. 20_f28spean02

Next week News Editor Euan Paterson visits Colonsay. Contact Euan on 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk.



Duror Primary School bids farewell to Nana

Duror Primary School said farewell to lunch server Nana MacInnes at a special tea party at the end of term. Nana worked at Duror for 12 and a half years and was extremely popular with everyone associated with the school. Staff, pupils and parents presented Nana with a memory book containing individual messages and pictures from all the children, flowers, a framed photograph of the pupils and an Argos gift voucher. A poem composed by the children about Nana's life at the school was read by P7 pupil Ella Cockerill. Head teacher Marylin MacDonald said: 'We wish Nana well in her retirement.'

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The most influential movers & shakers of 2013 in Scotland's countryside

Fog delays Corran Ferry sailings

MORNING sailings on the Corran Ferry were delayed for around two hours on Tuesday by sea fog over Loch Linnhe. The ferry, which is timetabled to start operating at 6.30am, was back in business by 9am after visibility improved.

Tourist dies in 600 foot fall

A TOURIST fell 600 feet to his death on Skye while trying to catch a piece of camping equipment which had been blown away. Jan Vermeiren, from Wommelgem in Belgium, was camping with three friends near the summit of the Old Man of Storr on the Trotternish peninsula. The accident occurred during low cloud at around 9am on Monday morning. Skye Mountain Rescue Team and a coastguard rescue helicopter were called out and found the 25-year-old's body after a three hour search. Mr Vermeiren was taken to Portree helipad where he was pronounced dead.

Lochaber church to be restored

A LOCHABER church is to be restored to its former glory after a local charitable trust said they would cover the costs for the major work required. The 140 year-old St Mary's and St Finnan's Church in Glenfinnan has suffered problems with damp and leaks for several years, but an undisclosed donation from Angus MacDonald's Moidart Trust has enabled restoration work to get underway on the roof and walls. Parishioners are still hoping to raise a further £100,000 to pay for internal refurbishments.

Biker John reaches Arctic Circle

A LOCHABER fundraiser reached the Arctic Circle on Tuesday as he makes his way to Moscow on the back of a 125cc motorbike. John Bryden set off from his Lochailort home last Thursday heading for Russia via the most northerly point in mainland Europe in Norway. He is aiming to make the 10,000-mile trip to Moscow and back in four weeks to raise £15,000 for his charity Kirsty's Kids.



Games day out for Callie and Riley

Invergarry Primary School pupil Callie Rodgers, aged 10, entered her 12 week-old German short-haired pointer in the dog show at Glengarry Highland Games on Saturday. At just 12 weeks old, Riley was one of the youngest dogs vying for honours. The games, held on the village shinty field, proved to be another big success with a full programme of events throughout the day entertaining the crowd. For full games coverage, see page 4. 20_028garry01

Mum's shock at doorstep drunk

Single mother facing eviction after refusing housing offer

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND Council has come under fire from a Fort William mother-of-two who found a drunk slumped in the stairwell of her prospective home. Corrina McCormack made the shocking discovery when she went to view a flat in Plantation offered to her by the council. And when another man was found passed out at the front door hours later the horrified woman asked the tenancy offer to be withdrawn. The council refused - and now Ms McCormack, together with kids Samara, 6, and Jay, 3, is being threatened with eviction from her temporary accommodation in Caol if she does not accept the let. The single mum claims the three-storey block on Kennedy Road housing the top floor flat is insecure and filthy, is notorious for all-night parties, drink and drug abuse and has regular police visits.



Uncertain future: Corrina McCormack with kids Samara, 6, and three year-old Jay. 20_028corrina01

The council maintains says it is addressing her concerns and that the property is 'suitable' for her needs.

Ms McCormack, who moved back to her native Caol in April 2012 after 10 years in County Mayo, Ireland, must now choose

between accepting the flat or finding new digs and re-applying to the Highland Housing Register. The 29-year-old, a welder by trade, says she is desperate to get back into work and find a permanent home - but not at the Kennedy Road property. She told *The Oban Times*: 'When I arrived there was a drunk man lying at the bottom of the stairwell sleeping and there was broken glass all around. My kids were too afraid to go in so I left them outside with a friend. I went up the stairs myself and there was huge patches of filth all over the walls. The next day my friend rang me and said 'you're not going to believe this but there's a guy lying outside the door of your flat'. She had to phone the police to get him removed before her son came home from school.' She added: 'In the space of two days you have two men either drunk or on drugs lying in the stairwell. What would it be like on any other day?' 'I do not feel it is a safe and secure place for me to live with my two kids on my own with all that going on outside the door.' In April, Ms McCormack turned down an upgraded three-bedroom house because the 'bedroom tax' meant the £102-a-week rent was unaffordable. Highland Council accepted her reasons and on May 31 offered the Kennedy Road tenancy. Ms McCormack appealed the offer but in a letter last week the council insisted the flat was

Continued on page 11.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Ullapool pupils take Euro title

ULLAPOOL High School won the European Business Game for Scotland in the international competition's final in the Faroe Islands on Friday. The 'Squeasy Peasey' team of Shona Warwick, Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Ruth Hamilton and Anna MacLeod impressed the judges with their proposed reusable baby food pouch company. The talented quintet were representing the whole country after winning the national final in April. Their business pitch included multi-lingual baby-food recipe videos on YouTube.

Fort lotto draw ends with £400 jackpot

THE FINAL Fort William FC lotto draw was won by David MacPhee, who picked up £400. The weekly competition is being ended by the club, with focus switching to its 300 Club draw which has £300 prize money up for grabs each month.

Popular on-shore services to be officially opened at Lochaline

LOCHALINE will mark another milestone on its voyage to become a major west coast yachting destination when new shore-based facilities are officially opened next Wednesday. Comprising showers, toilets, laundrette and a small office, the eye-catching wooden building overlooking Loch Aline is already proving popular with visiting 'yachties'. Latest to enjoy the Morvern's port attractions was a 30-strong flotilla from the Royal Yacht Squadron, an exclusive club based at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, which moored at the pontoons last Thursday and Friday. Club commodore Michael Campbell said: 'The unanimous view of all visiting members was that of due reverence to the beautiful scenery, coastline and magical islands and majesty of the mountains. Those who have visited before and those who are visiting for the first time all want to come back.' Morvern Community Development Company secured funding from HIE and LEADER Highland for the project.

Police defend 999 response

POLICE have defended their response after telephone and 999 services went down in Morvern from Saturday to midday on Monday. Advice stated mobile phone communication was not affected and Nevis Radio would issue further bulletins. The area has patchy mobile coverage and receives Oban FM, not Nevis Radio. Police Scotland said they were looking into the matter.

Oban High School senior prizewinners, session 2012 - 2013

54
Oban High School Prize For Administration - Std Grade, Lora Fitton
Oban High School Prize For Art & Design - Std Grade, Daisy Williams
Oban High School Prize For Business Management- Std Grade, Stuart Macleod, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Std Grade, Finlay Sinclair, Oban High School Prize For Biology - Int 1, Jamie Bate, Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Std Grade, Anthony Yau, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Std Grade, Cameron Galbraith, Oban High School Prize For Craft & Design - Std Grade, Antony Capper, Oban High School Prize For Drama - Std Grade, James Kane, Hugh Sheddon Prize For English - Std Grade, Merle Harbron, Iain Forth Memorial Prize For Excellence In English, Jenny Fothergill, Former Pupils' Association Prize For French - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, Reverend John Macleod Prize For Gaelic Learners - Std Grade, Laura Campbell, Oban High School Prize For Geography - Std Grade, Zoe King, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Std Grade, Antony Capper, Oban High School Prize For History - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, Oban High School Prize Home Economics - Std Grade, Zoe King, Oban High School Prize For Hospitality - Int 1, Shannon Campbell, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Std Grade, Robert Strange, Oban High School Prize For Modern Studies - Std Grade, Anthony Yau, Oban High School Prize For Music - Std Grade (Joint), Charlotte Collins/Merle Harbron, Mrs David Scott Prize For Physical Education, Stuart Macleod, Jenny Morrison Prize For Physics - Std Grade, Rebecca Forbes, Oban High School Prize For Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies, Ciaran Black, Oban High School Prize For Spanish - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, XI Prize (Joint), Kyle McNeill & Isla Donald, S5/6 Wiltshire Trophy Prize For Endeavour In Business Management, Becky-Anne Wilson, Oban High School Prize For Administration Int 2, Kayleigh Campbell, Art Cup - Higher Art & Design, Pheobe Smith, Orsay Applied Art Prize, Mairi Beaton, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Adv Higher, Andreas Day, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Higher, Anna Mackinnon-Garvin, Oban High School Prize For Biology - Int 2, Kerry Colthart, Oban High School Prize For Business Management - Higher, Sophie Kerr,



Oban High School Dux Gordon Thompson with Karen Murray, script writer for television programmes Eastenders and River City who was the inspirational speaker at the prizegiving. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Adv Higher, Andrew Strange, Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Higher, Briony Kincaid, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Higher, Daniel Burt, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Int 2, Corey Macdonald, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Int 2, Corey Macdonald, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Ah, James Macleod, Laing Prize For Design & Technology Education, Niall Morrison, Oban High School Prize For Drama - Higher (Joint), Jenny Tamplin/Josh Tinline-Bartholomew, Redfearn Award For Acting, Kyle Mckechnie, D C Buchanan Prize For English - Adv Higher, Josh Tinline-Bartholomew, Hugh Sheddon Prize For English - Higher, Jenny Fothergill, Iain Crichton Smith Prize For English (Joint), Brendan Macalister/Owen Thomas, Oban High School Prize For English - Int 2, Heather Campbell, Oban High School Prize For English - Int 1, Alina Macfarlane, Oban High School Prize For French - Adv Higher, Beth Little, Oban High School Prize

For French - Higher, Gordon Thomson, Flora Macleod Bequest For Gaelic - Higher, Lorna Young, D C Buchanan Prize For Gaelic - Higher, Rachel Macdougall, Oban High School Prize For Gaelic - Higher, Lorna Young, Oban High School Prize For Gaidhlig Fluent - Higher, Anna Mackinnon-Garvin, Craven Memorial Prize For Geography - Higher, Kirsty Macatavish, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Adv Higher, Murray Peden, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Higher, Connie McCreath, Oban High School Prize For History - Adv Higher, James Buchanan, Merae Prize For History - Higher, Gordon Thomson, Oban High School Prize For History - Int 2, Philippa Robson, Oban High School Prize For History - Int 1, Graeme Cameron, Oban High School Prize For Health and Food Technology - Higher, Alice Mcneill, Webster Award For Hospitality - Int 2, Kirsty Sinclair, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Adv Higher, Andrew Strange, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Higher, Briony Kincaid, F J Mackenzie Prize For Excellence In Mathematics, Andrew Strange, Oban High School Prize For Mathematics - Int 1, Ben Watkins, Oban High School Award For Young Enterprise (Joint), Lauren Cameron/Eilidh Willis, The Carraig Gheal Trophy For Senior Geography, Catriona McInnes, Oban High School Prize For Outstanding Peer Support, Kayleigh Campbell, Scottish Association For Marine Science Award For Outstanding Achievement In Science, Andrew Strange, Glencruitten Hostel Prize For Endeavour, John Kennedy, Calum John Laing Trophy, Eileen & John Carmichael, Rotary Award For Speaker Of The Year, Finn Walton, Rotary Award For Endeavour, Sarah Hill, Oban Toastmasters Club Cup For Inter-Clan Debating Tournament, Finn Walton/Sophie McInnes - Fingal Jim Lay Sports Coaching Award, Ryan Cook, Margaret Roebuck Achievement Award, Sarah Hill, Head Girl Award Mairi Beaton, Head Boy Award, Ryan Cook, Clan Leader Awards, Diarmid - Gillian Mckechnie and Alistair Fothergill, Fingal - Eilidh Maclean and Conor Lane, Ossian - Elizabeth Watson and Josh Tinline Bartholomew, Somerset - Rebecca Sims and Patrick Mackinnon, Dux - Gordon Thomson.



Oban High School wind ensemble entertain the top table, prize winners and parents at the school's prizegiving held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

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The Western

THE WESTERN Isles offer some of Scotland's most remote and beautiful landscapes, with a long and rich history to explore.

But as well as scenery and wildlife, the islands also have a thriving and vibrant culture, with numerous events throughout the summer months.

A clutch of Highland Games will be held in the next few weeks, with the 38th Lewis Highland Games in Stornoway this Saturday, followed by the South Uist Games on Wednesday July 17 and North Uist version at Balone Field in Tigharry on Friday July 19. And a number of agricultural shows on the islands throughout the summer months offer a day of fun for all the family.

Lewis has the largest population centre in the Outer Hebrides, Stornoway, with a wide range of things to do and see, a charming harbour and several restaurants and pubs.

The legendary Callanish Standing Stones, the Shawbost Norse Mill and Kiln, and Dun Carloway Broch all offer insight into how life on Lewis used to look.

Harris is linked by land to Lewis and offers a more striking hilly landscape than the comparatively flatter Lewis.

A number of guided walks and sea cruises are available to get the best view of the landscape and wildlife on the island.

The Harris Mountain Festival will attract hill climbers from far and wide to the island in September.

North Uist, with its distinctive landscape of peat bogs and sandy beaches, is a paradise for wildlife and beach lovers, while South Uist offers visitors beautiful scenery and an island population which holds close to their Gaelic traditions.

Barra has a population of just over 1,000, and offers miles of white sandy beaches backed by shell-sand, machair and the east has numerous rocky inlets.

The Western Isles are well used to visitors and have an abundance of accommodation providers and restaurants to enjoy, so why not start planning your trip now.



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- Thursday 13th - RSPB Eagle Day events
- Fri 14th & Sat 15th - UHI Drawing in the Landscape workshop
- Friday 14th - Film Friday - Village at the End of the World
- Friday 21st - TAIGH CIÙIL - The Winter Blues

JULY

- Wednesday 3rd - Fragility of Flight Artist Talk - Dalziel + Scullion
- Friday 19th - Film Friday - TBC
- Friday 26th - TAIGH CIÙIL@Lochmaddy Hall Anne Martin + guests

AUGUST

- Friday 9th - Film Friday - TBC
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SEPTEMBER

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David said "in the first year of operation the turbine generated 12,800 Kw which gave FITS (feed in tariff, government grant) payments of approx. £3500.

The total energy bill for the house, also for the first year, was £50 per month which included heating, cooking & hot water. This was on an Economy 10 tariff with ¼ of the usage at the low rate. This was also allowing all the house to be heated to 21+ degrees".

So the total energy bill for the house was £ 50 X 12 months = £ 600 and the total income in FITS was £ 3,500, so the house generated in income of £ 2,900 tax free in its first year!

The Lodge is an all wood, 2 storey, Finnish designed log house with a floor

area of approx 200 sq. metres. It has a British energy rating of 85%.

The heating distribution system is underfloor on both levels which is powered by a ground source heat pump with a power output of up to 16 Kw (Individually sized to match the heat loss of David's house). The energy (Kw /units) produced by the turbine feeds into the house consumer unit and the heat pump uses this energy to heat water to heat the house, with any extra energy being exported to the grid through the existing sse connection. If it is calm (RARE on the west coast) the house takes its energy from the grid and this all happens automatically without the users input!



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Council welcomes 'fantastic news' on affordable homes

MORE homes for rent could soon be built in the Highlands after the Scottish Government announced a nationwide cash boost for socially rented housing.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said £44million of new funding would provide an additional £16,000 subsidy per new home.

The money, which will be made available to councils and housing associations across Scotland, represents a major effort by the government to meet its five-year target of delivering at least 30,000 additional affordable homes by 2016 while keeping rent rises to a minimum.

The announcement follows Ms Sturgeon's decision last week to end tenants' Right to Buy to ensure best use of the remaining housing stock. The Highlands' share of the money, £3,487,000, was welcomed by council leader Drew

Hendry as 'fantastic news'. He said: 'We have been highlighting the issue of grant rates with the Scottish Government so we are really pleased that the government has listened and acted on these concerns.

'The increased grant levels mean we will be able to continue and extend our ambitious council house building programme.

'It should also enable our housing association partners to increase in size their development programmes and for some associations to start developing again.

'This will enable additional housing investment in the Highlands and boost the local construction sector.'

He added: 'Current council tenants should be delighted that these grant rates will enable us to build with minimal impact on general rent levels.

'People on the Highland Housing Register should also be

reassured that this will help the council and our partner housing associations to provide greater opportunities to meet their housing needs.'

Western Isles Council, which will receive an additional £626,000, met with housing minister Margaret Burgess only last week to press the case for more affordable housing.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'I welcome the fact that the Scottish Government has recognised the high costs of developing new housing in rural and island areas and has provided some additional funding to offset these costs.'

'We will now work with Hebridean Housing Partnership to bring about more affordable housing units over the next two years.

'This is good news for our economy and good news for those in need of new affordable accommodation.'



Donald MacKenzie will celebrate his 70th birthday by walking the West Highland Way in aid of Cancer Research UK. f20_z8walk01

Donald, 70, steps out on birthday challenge

A RETIRED Customs and Excise officer from Fort William will do his duty for Cancer Research UK by setting off to walk the West Highland Way on his 70th birthday.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Donald MacKenzie will begin the 96-mile hike from Milngavie on July 22 and hopes to cover around 20 miles each day before arriving home in Fort William on July 26.

Keen hillwalker Donald, of Glasdrum Grove, moved to Fort William a year ago and has strong family connections to Glencoe and Inverloch, where his father Lauchlan was a joiner.

His aunt and uncle, Annie and Alec MacKenzie, were also from Inverloch and worked at the British Aluminium plant, where Annie was a nurse and Alec a draughtsman. Always looking for a new challenge, Donald reckons the marathon trek is well within his comfort zone and is all the more worthwhile as it will benefit a good cause.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I just thought if I'm doing this at all it's better doing it for something essential rather than just because I want to.'

'I think the more research there is in cancer, the better the chance of finding a cure and improving survival rates.

'I have not set a specific sum as a target figure, I just want to raise as much as I can for Cancer Research UK.

He added: 'I will be travelling as light as possible and walking solo. The bit alongside Loch Lomond is going to be the roughest but the Devil's Staircase at Glencoe should give me no problems. I should do the 20 miles a day no bother - that's nothing compared to what I'm used to.'

Donald's wife Anne is well used to his long excursions in Scotland's wild places and is right behind his fundraising campaign.

She joked: 'There's no fool like an old fool. But I'll see him off at the start and meet him at the finish!'

Anyone wishing to support Donald with a donation can visit www.justgiving.com/Donald-MacKenzie2.

Fort man facing jail term following vicious attack

A FORT William man could be facing prison after admitting carrying out a vicious attack which left his victim severely injured.

John Lawrie, aged 27, pled guilty to repeatedly punching the man on the head to his severe injury and impairment.

The incident occurred at 22 Glenpane Street, Caol, on June 9 last year.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing Lawrie, of 78 Kennedy Road, until July 31 for reports.

Sheriff McPartlin chose not to place Lawrie on remand until his sentencing but warned: 'Just because bail is being continued, that does not mean there won't be a custodial sentence here.'

Award winning Rotary newsletter

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber has picked up an award for the best rotary newsletter in the west of Scotland.

The prize was handed out at the annual Rotary District handover ceremony in Renfrew on Sunday, with the Lochaber Branch picking up the trophy in the Best Newsletter and Media category.

The club publishes a monthly online newsletter, as well as running a website, a Facebook page, a Twitter account and a YouTube channel.

Woman drink driver crashed car into ditch

A WOMAN crashed her car into a ditch in Glen Coe after a row with her boyfriend.

Kelly Stein stormed out of the Clachaig Inn and tried to drive back to the campsite where the couple's tent was pitched.

But she crashed off the unclassified road between Red Squirrel Campsite and the A82 and a passer-by called police after smelling alcohol on her breath.

Nursery worker Stein, of 17 Queen Street, Bannockburn, was found to be nearly three times the legal alcohol limit.

At Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined her £400 and banned her from driving for 13 months.

Woman drove to help elderly neighbour one-and-a-half times drink drive limit

RESPONDING to an emergency call in the middle of the night after drinking wine with dinner has cost a Caol woman her driving licence.

Cleaner Gail Wilson, aged 49, was called by an elderly customer at 1.20am on June 18 after the pensioner's fire alarm went off. Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Wilson, of 9 Mackay Crescent, got out her bed and drove to

the woman's house. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said: 'The firemen didn't know the key code to the lady's house and they needed Mrs Wilson to let them in.

'Without giving any more thought to the matter, Mrs Wilson jumped in her car and drove around half a mile. It turned out to be a false alarm.'

Police at the scene smelled alcohol on Wilson and breath-

alysed her, finding her to be one-and-a-half times the legal alcohol limit.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This was a most unfortunate set of circumstances. It would not be appropriate to impose a fine here. I'll disqualify you for one year, which is the minimum the law requires.'

Wilson pled guilty to drink driving on Kilmallie Road, Broom Drive and Rowan Drive.

Lochaber hill race duo celebrate Skye success

TWO LOCHABER athletes won the annual Glamaig Hill Race on the Isle of Skye in challenging conditions ahead of a field of nearly 100 competitors on Saturday.

Finlay Wild took first place in the race up the 775m-high Sgurr Mhairi near Sligachan for the second year in a row.

He finished in a time of 45 minutes and 57 seconds, more than nine minutes ahead of the field in heavy rain.

Wild's Lochaber Athletic Club

teammate Sarah Mackenzie was the first woman to finish in 1 hour 7 minutes and 29 seconds.

Top 10

Gary MacDonald and Jon Gay both managed top 10 finishes, while Lyndsay Shaw and Amanda Blackhall took second and third in the women's race to complete a good day for the Lochaber athletes.

Francis Shephard was the first Skye man to finish, taking 15th place overall, while Jenny Grant was the first local female home.



Lochaber Housing Association chairperson Di Alexander and chief executive Blair Allan hand over the £7,000 to representatives of local organisations. f28ha1no

Anniversary cash boost for local organisations

LOCAL organisations have been given a welcome funding boost by Lochaber Housing Association.

At a special ceremony at Fort William Rural Complex last week, 37 groups each received a grant of between £100 and £200 from LHA's 25th Anniversary Community Fund.

Beneficiaries of the fund - launched by LHA to mark 25 years of providing affordable homes for local people - ranged from children's organisations and

sports groups to activity groups for the elderly and disabled. A total of £7,000 was distributed.

LHA chairperson Di Alexander said: 'We are absolutely delighted to connect in this way with the voluntary organisations, charities, trusts, associations, clubs and societies that are the fabric of our Lochaber communities.'

The association, established in 1988, also recently launched the Monsignor Wynne Good Neighbour Award as part of its 'jubilee' celebrations.

Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council boosts clubs

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council has distributed a total of £2,500 to seven local clubs to help with running costs and equipment purchase.

Beneficiaries are Isle of Skye Clay Target Club, Kinlochshiel Shinty Club, Skye Camanachd Junior Shinty Club, Kintail Bowling Club, Skye Camanachd Shinty Club, Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club and Kinlochshiel Junior Shinty Club.



Kate Blanchard.

Kate gets crafty to raise Chile funds

THERE will be a stall with a difference at this Saturday's craft fair in Ballachulish - it will be raising money to send a local teenager to volunteer at an orphanage in Chile.

Kate Blanchard of Duror will be selling her self-made cushions, bags and notebooks to help her reach the £5,400 total she needs for her Project Trust gap year.

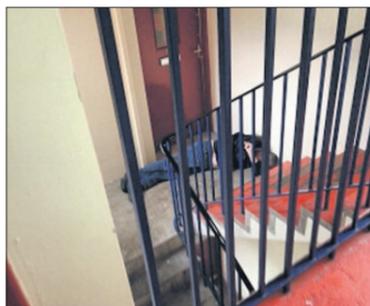
As well as caring for youngsters in South America, the former Lochaber High School student will also be helping out at a nearby primary school.

The 17-year-old has already raised more than £3,200 and told *The Oban Times* she was 'very excited' about her trip. She said: 'I wanted to try it because

my sister went to Mexico to volunteer and she really enjoyed it. My fundraising has gone very well so far - I had a car treasure hunt at Easter which raised over £200 and I'm also going to be doing a sponsored climb of Ben Nevis - by the scary route Carn Mor Dearg - in August.

'I'm leaving on August 23, so I need all the help I can get raising the last £2,000 or so. Any donations would be greatly appreciated as I have a very small time to raise a lot of money.'

The craft fair will be held in Ballachulish Village Hall from 12pm to 4pm. To sponsor Kate visit www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Kate-Blanchard.



Welcome to your new home: a drunk lies outside the door of the flat Highland Council is offering Corrina McCormack.

Single mum's shock at doorstep drunk

Continued from page 7

'suitable to meet the needs of your family' and was taking steps to sort out any problems.

The close would be cleaned and redecorated, while a repair of the security system was in progress to ensure 'only those entitled to enter the building will be able to do so'.

'A small number of reports of noise disturbance' had also been dealt with 'in the appropriate manner', the letter states.

It adds: 'When a reasonable offer of housing has been refused the council will consider it has discharged its homelessness duty.

'We are no longer required to provide temporary accommodation therefore you will receive notice to vacate [the property].'

Ms McCormack said: 'I would quite happily accept a two-bedroom house in Plantation or even a three-bedroom as long as it was the normal £77 per week. It is accommodation they are offering me that is the problem.

'All I want is them to understand that I can't possibly live there and for them to offer me a house at a decent rent I can afford.

'The children are vulnerable - they have been through a lot and have just settled back here. I am not prepared to take them into an unsafe environment like where there's drugs, drink and parties going on. There are not used to things like that.'

She added: 'I don't know how the council can force me to bring the kids up in an unsafe place. I don't know where I will go.'

Highland Council said on Tuesday: 'It is not our policy to comment on individual cases.'

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - July 11

9am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Awe walk, meet Ballachulish tourist centre or Oban's Longdale Road car park at 9.15am.
10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, 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, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
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.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, 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 or Oban's Longdale Road car park at 9.30am.
10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
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.
10pm, Chunks, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - July 14

11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
12pm, Fun day, Garmony, Mull.
12pm, Table top sale, Portsochanan 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.

MONDAY - July 15

11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11am, Creation Station summer holiday workshops, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.

TUESDAY - July 16

10am, Mull and Iona Rangers, practical plants at Tireragan, meet car park at Knockvogan, Mull.
10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
7pm, Oban Pipe Band, Station Square, Oban.
7.30pm, Extreme Stunt Show, Mossfield, Oban.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - July 17

10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
10.30am-6pm, Appin Arts Festival, Port Appin Hall.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - July 18

9.15am, Ramblers Scotland Ardmurchan walk, meet Corran Fry slip for 9.15am sailing or Camas nan Geall car park at 10.30am.
Woolfeis, Mega Woolly Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.
10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
10.30am, Mull Highland Games, Erray Park, Tobermory.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am-6pm Printmakers' open studio, Claremont Villa, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
2pm, Mull and Iona Rangers guided walk garmony to fishnish, meet Fishnish forestry car park, Mull.
8pm, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9pm, Quiz, Coasters, Oban.
11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippish, Oban.

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

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Fri 19th - Craft Workshops : Dalmally Station
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Evening Film & fun : **Mongolian Felt culture** 7.30 pm

Sat 20th - Fibre Fantastic Fun day - Craft suppliers & stalls
10.30 to 4 pm Refreshments all day Victory Hall, Benderloch
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7.30 pm bar open Victory Hall, Benderloch

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Record crowds and sunshine for Kenmore Games 2013

SUNSHINE and record crowds greeted this year's Kenmore Highland Games, which was deemed such an attractive location BBC Scotland broadcast its weather report from it.

One of the most popular games in the calendar, the event enjoyed fierce competition from the start, with the heavy games in particular a draw for the crowd.

Stalls, games and the traditional attractions were on offer at the evening games, which was held in the town's Games Park.

A spokesperson for the event said: 'We had a fabulous games, the weather was great too.'

Kenmore Highland Games 2013 results:

Junior Events:

Girls Under 5: 1 Sarah Whiteford, 2 Lyla Stone, 3 Molly Deacon; Boys Under 5: 1 Dougal McAdam, 2 Jamie Fox-Pitt, 3 Stuart Whiteford; Girls 5-7: 1 Leah Wright, 2 Aria Hannigan, 3 Rebecca Bonnyman; Boy 5-7: 1 Gus Stevenson, 2 Toby Dickson, 3 Robin Deacon; Girls 8-10: 1 Eava Huriel, 2 Ella Denisson-Kendal, 3 Jennifer Bonnyman; Boys 8-10: 1 Arron Taylor, 2 Judah Hannigan, 3 Fraser Taylor; Girls 11 & 12: 1 Neave Robertson, 2 Katy Bonnyman, 3 Aileigh Robertson; Boys 11 & 12: 1 James Huriel, 2 Kerr Taylor, 3 Sandy Bonnyman; Girls 13-16 (100mts): 1 Niamh Robertson, 2 Eilidh Smith, 3 Katie Belton; Boys 13-16 (100mts): 1 Dylan Lindsay, 2 Euan Smith, 3 Euan Taylor; Girls 13-16 (400mts): 1 Niamh Robertson, 2 Eilidh Robertson, 3 Eva Hurrel; Boys 13-16 (400mts): 1 Dylan Lindsay, 2 Euan Smith, 3 Lachlan Menzies; Girls 13-16 (800mts): 1 Eva Hurrel, 2 Neive Robertson, 3 Iona Harper; Boys 13-16 (800mts): 1 Adam Canavan, 2 Lucas Fenton, 3 Dylan Lindsay; Girls Sack Race (under 12): 1 Niamh Robertson, 2 Aria Hannigan, 3 Leah Slain; Boys Sack Race (under 12): 1 Lucas Fenton, 2 Luke Smith, 3 Matthew Russell.

Track Events:

Men 100mts: 1 Billy Martin, 2 Cameron Smith, 3 Jack Beatty; Adult 400mts: 1 Ewan Dyer, 2 David Agnew, 3 Craig Robertson; Adults 800mts: 1 Craig Robertson, 2 Dean Whiteford, 3 Wallace McGowan.

Hill Race:

Junior Hill Race (mixed): 1 James Hurrell, 2 Lachlan Menzies, Hamish Brown; Senior Hill Race (mixed): 1 Brian Bonnyman, 2 Ian Anderson, 3 Adrian Davis; First Lady Home: Lisa Blackley; Over 50s: 1 Brian Brennan, 2 Trevor Shaw.

Piping:

Piping Confined (16 & under): 1 Marshall Allan, 2 Duncan McDonald, 3 Andrew Fenton; Piping 14 & Under: 1 Evelyn Ingham, 2 Angus Montador, 3 Sharon Taylor; Piping Open (21 & under): 1 Duncan McDonald, 2 Marshall Allan, 3 Robert Paterson; Piping 21 & Under Jig: 1 Euan Clarke, 2 Duncan McDonald, 3 Marshall Allan; Piping (12 and under): 1 Evelyn Ingham, 2 Angus Montador.

Heavy Events:

Sheaf (Open): 1 Lucas Venta, 2 Pete Hart and Lorne Colthard; 16lb Hammer (Local): 1 L Colthard, 2 D Colthard Jun, 3 S Anderson; 16lb Hammer (Open): 1 Lorne Colthard, 2 Sinclair Patience, 3 David Colthard Jun; 16lb Shot (Local): 1 L Colthard, 2 D Colthard Jun, 3 S Anderson; 16lb Shot (Open): 1 L Venta, 2 L Colthard, 3 S Patience; 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 Lucas Venta, 2 Sinclair Patience, 3 Lorne Colthard; 56lb Weight for Distance: 1 S Patience, 2 L Venta, 3 L Colthard; 56lb Weight Over Bar: 1 Lucas Venta, 2 Sinclair Patience, 3 Lorne Colthard; Caber (Open): 1 Lucas Venta, 2 Lorne Colthard, 3 Sinclair Patience; Caber Perthshire: 1 Lorne Colthard, 2 Stuart Anderson, 3 Pete Hart, Tirana Stone (Local) : 1 L Colthard,



Archie McLaren, aged 6, weighs in with his own effort during this year's Kenmore Highland Games.



The young dancers get ready for competition at Kenmore Highland Games. Pictures - Kenmore Photography

2 P Hart, 3 D Colthard; Tirinie Stone (Open): 1 L Venta, 2 S Patience, 3 L Colthard; Tug O' War: Tug O' War (Open) : 1 Strathdale, 2 Mount Blair, 3 Aberfeldy JAC.

Highland Dancing:
Primary 6 years: 16 P de B's: Eilidh Gammoms, Crianlarich, Katie Duncan, Methil; Katie Taylor, Aberlour; P de B's / H Cuts: Eilidh Gammoms, Bevin Moyes-Bruce, Kely, Katie Taylor; Highland Fling: Katie Taylor, Bevin Moyes-Bruce, Katie Duncan; Sword Dance: Eilidh Gammoms, Katie Taylor, Katie Duncan; Fling u 12: Selina Gordon, Stonehaven, Sarah Adamson, Carfin, Connor Woodcock, Forfar; S/Triubhas u 12: Sarah Adamson, Connor Woodcock, Christy Graham, Dundee; Hullahachan u 12: Connor Woodcock, Selina Gordon, Kirstin Mitchelson, Monifieth; Jig u 12: Kirstin Mitchelson, Connor Woodcock, Sarah Adamson, Overall winner: Connor Woodcock.

Fling u 14: Isla Mitchelson, Monifieth, Katie Mills, Monifieth, Amy Jane Mcleod, Wishaw; S/Triubhas u 14: Isla Mitchelson, Olivia Blennie, Stirling, Elisha Scobie, Glenrothes; Hullahachan u 14: Isla Mitchelson, Katie Mills, Ellie Fletcher, Arrochar; Jig u 14: Isla Mitchelson, Katie Mills, Elisha Scobie; Overall winner: Isla Mitchelson.

Fling u 17: Sophie Brown, Forfar, Kaitlyn Radford, Leven, Kirsty Mackie, Forfar; S/Triubhas u 17: Heather Cameron, Stirling, Sophie Brown, Kirsty Mackie; Jig u 17: Heather Cameron, Kerrie Edmonston, Glenrothes, Kirsty Mackie; Hornpipe u 17: Heather Cameron, Kerrie Edmonston, Kaitlyn Radford; Overall winner: Heather Cameron.

Fling adults: Rachael Walker, Fettercairn, Rebecca Thow, Aberdeen, Stephanie Duthie, Fraserburgh; S/Triubhas adults: Rebecca Thow, Rachael Walker, Stephanie Duthie; Jig adults: Rachael Walker, Fettercairn, Maureen Dillon-Bray, Rosyth, Stephanie Duthie; Hornpipe adults: Rebecca Thow, Rachael Walker, Jilian Kennedy, Aberfeldy; Overall winner: Rachael Walker Confined to Perthshire: Flora u 13: Catriona Gammoms, Erin Slane, Stanley, Cara MacGregor, Crieff; Lilt u 13: Catriona Gammoms, Erin Slane, Cara MacGregor, B Bonnets u 13: Catriona Gammoms, Cara MacGregor; Overall winner: Catriona Gammoms.

Flora u 16: Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam, Rachel Adam, Invergowie, Yvonne Kennedy, Aberfeldy; Lilt u 16: Lyndsey Douglas, Rachel Adam, Jemma Chisholm, Calvine; B Bonnets u 16: Lyndsey Douglas, Rachel Adam, Yvonne Kennedy; Overall winner: Lyndsey Douglas.

Flora adults: Isla Bendall, Crieff, Katrina Kennedy, Aberfeldy, Heather Sadler, Pitlochry; Lilt adult: Isla Bendall, Jilian Kennedy, Katrina Kennedy; B Bonnets adults: Jilian Kennedy, Isla Bendall, Sarah Cowan, Aberfeldy; Overall winner: Isla Bendall.

Writers at the ready for Skye Book Festival

Controversial authors Gavin Bowd and Struan Stevenson start three-day event

A GLITTERING and varied array of writers will appear at the Skye Book Festival at the end of this month.

The festival, at the Aros Centre in Portree from July 25-27, will feature top novelists such as James Robertson, thriller writers such as Stuart MacBride, non-fiction writers and historians, poets, travel writers and children's authors.

Two controversialists appear on Thursday and Saturday afternoon. Firstly Gavin Bowd, whose book 'Fascist Scotland' about the extreme right in 20th century Scotland caused an uproar this year, will be introduced by Professor Jim Hunter.

Struan Stevenson's anti-green energy polemic, 'So Much Wind' was equally provocative. The author's Saturday afternoon talk, which should be of special interest in Skye, will be chaired by Professor Norman MacDonald. It will be followed by a signing of Barbara Morris's new Skye novel, 'One Missed Step'.

On Friday afternoon Skye poet Meg Bateman will launch her latest collection, 'Transparencies' at Fèis Leabhraichean an Eilein. Meg will be followed by Sgeulachdan Ghaidhlig, a Gaelic storytelling event, and all will be chaired by I G MacDonald.

On Thursday evening Murdo Beaton will host two authors concerned with the Highlands and the Second World War. Firstly Colin Campbell will launch his new book on the 51st Highland Division, 'Engine of Destruction'. Then Bill Innes will give a talk about his works 'St Valery: The Impossible Odds', and 'Fo Sgail a' Swastika'.

Friday evening will see James Robertson, the acclaimed author of 'The Testament of Gideon Mack' and 'And the Land Lay

Still' introduce his new novel 'The Professor of Truth', which deals with the Lockerbie bombing case. James Robertson will be accompanied on stage by Dr Jim Swire, who lost his daughter at Lockerbie and whose Skye family connections are well known.

The award-winning poet and writer Tom Pow will then discuss his elegiac work, 'In Another World: Among Europe's Dying Villages' and introduce his poetry collection 'In the Becoming'. James Robertson, Jim Swire and Tom Pow will be introduced by Roger Hutchinson.

On Saturday evening Mairi Hederwick will reappear, presented by Morag Henriksen, to discuss her latest ventures into Highland and Hebridean illustrated travelogues. Mairi will be preceded by the bestselling thriller writer Stuart MacBride, whose Logan MacRae detective stories have pushed him to the top rank of Scottish noir.

The whole book festival will run alongside the annual Antiquarian Book Fair, and on Friday and Saturday there will also be bookbinding demonstrations from SOLLAS Bookbinding and from Laura West.

In the early afternoon of each day younger readers can meet and be entertained by Janis MacKay ('The Accidental Time Traveller' and the Magnus Fin trilogy), Allan Burnett (the 'And All That...' series on Scottish history), and Mairi Hederwick, whose legendary Katie Morag stories are about to be filmed for television.

Committee chair Donald MacDonald said: 'We've gone a long way to assembling a book festival to be proud of.'

'We hope that the people of Skye and beyond, of all ages, will turn out to the events. They won't be disappointed.'

Indian culture festival comes to the west



A street festival celebrating Indian culture brought colour, dance, music and puppetry to Fort William High Street on Monday. The Festival of India, organised by ISKCON Scotland, was met with glorious sunshine at Airds Crossing as they showed the best of Indian culture, arts and spirituality to the people of Lochaber. Monk Ramunas Businkas told The Oban Times: 'It's gone really well. The dancing especially has been attracting big crowds of people.' The festival concluded its north of Scotland tour in Station Square in Oban on Tuesday. www.f28indian01



Isla Sinclair Highland dancers, from left: Isla MacKay, Iona MacKay, Allie Munro and Eva Joss

Taynuilt ceilidhs in full swing

PIPER Andy Matthews started off this summer's series of ceilidhs at Taynuilt last Thursday with a rousing chorus of tunes.

Further excellent musical entertainment came from 'The Harpies' ladies clarsach group who were joined by Ingrid Henderson and accordionist Anne Barr. Ingrid later played some beautiful solo pieces on her clarsach.

Two more popular musicians during the evening were Rosie Stevenson (fiddle) and Ann Barlow (keyboard).

Isla Sinclair dancers Isla MacKay, Iona MacKay, Eva Joss and Allie Munro gave impressive displays of Highland dancing.

Local soloists Morag MacNeil and Peter Sinclair (accompanied by Rosie Stevenson on keyboard) were both in fine voice while 'Sequence' ladies choir, conducted by Janet Fergusson, gave wonderful displays of choral singing.

Fear an Taighe was Davy Paterson who kept the ceilidh flowing smoothly.



Award winners from Nevis Highland Dancing School's annual presentation are pictured with their trophies and certificates



Megan Dowse of Strachur, won The Niall Campbell Trophy for the pupil who had achieved the most out of the weeks tuition. She was presented with the trophy by Fiona Campbell.

All the young pipers and drummers joined forces for the concert finale at Strachur Memorial Hall.

Strachur hosts piping school success

IT WAS standing room only at Strachur Memorial Hall when Strachur's Piping and Drumming School held a concert as a finale to a week of tutoring. Approximately 70 children from throughout Argyll, including Strachur, Dunoon, Inveraray, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown and Oban took part in the week, with Megan Dowse of Strachur winning The Niall Campbell Trophy as the pupil who had achieved the most out of the weeks tuition. All the young musicians joined on, and off, the stage for the concert's grand finale which was warmly received by the large audience.



Above and below: The arrival of the summer weather was piped in at McCaig's Tower by Oban Pipe Band last week when the group held the first of its summer concerts in the venue. Hosted by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, the Eilidh McInnes School of Dance also performed to a healthy crowd. Picture - Kevin McGlynn



Ballachulish 'Nursery Olympics'

Youngsters from Ballachulish took part in the 'Nursery Olympics' in the village hall recently. Children from Ballachulish English and Gaelic medium nurseries, as well as St Bride's Nursery all enjoyed the day. Ballachulish Primary head teacher Sam Clark said: 'The hall was packed with families and friends. The children were all presented with medals for their endeavours and everyone had a brilliant time.' - f28balla1no



Ardnamurchan pupils visit Amsterdam

Fifty pupils and staff from Ardnamurchan High School boarded their coach recently on their way to Noordwijk on the Dutch coast for a cultural week visiting Amsterdam and the Hague. Pupils remaining at school are taking part in a range of activities and local trips with an environmental and health and well-being focus.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Man of Steel Thurs 11th, 17.00 3D
World War Z Thurs 11th, 20.30 2D
Despicable Me 2 Thurs 11th, 14.30 3D
Avatar 3D Fri 12th, 14:00 3D • Sat 13th, 12:00 3D
 Sun 14th, 13:00 3D
This is the End Fri 12th, 20:30 • Sat 13th, 20:30 • Sun 14th, 19:45
 Mon 15th, 20:30 • Tues 16th, 20:30 • Wed 17th, 17:45
 Thurs 18th, 20:30
Now You See Me Fri 12th July 17:45 • Sat 13th, 17:45 • Sun 14th, 17:00
 Mon 15th, 15:00 • Tues 16th, 17:45
 Wed 17th, 15:00, 20:30 • Thurs 18th, 17:45
Chimpanzee Sat 13th, 15:30
Populaire Mon 15th, 17:45 • Thurs 18th, 14:00

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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.

This is the End (15)
 While attending a party at James Franco's house, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill and a star-studded cast are faced with the apocalypse. The comedy follows six friends trapped in a house after a series of strange and catastrophic events devastate Los Angeles. As the world unravels outside, dwindling supplies and cabin fever threaten to tear apart the friendships inside.

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.

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.

Avatar 3D (12A)
 When his brother is killed in a robbery, paraplegic Marine Jake Sully decides to take his place in a mission on the distant world of Pandora in exchange for the spinal surgery that will fix his legs. As Jake begins to bond with the native tribe he is forced to take a stand - and fight back in an epic battle for the fate of Pandora.

Chimpanzee (U)
 This Disney Documentary tells the story of Oso, a baby chimpanzee who, without warning, is tragically orphaned. Afterwards, he attempts to survive on his own, and to be accepted by the other chimps.

Populaire (12A)
 Set in Spring, 1958, 21-year-old Rose Pamphyle is engaged to the son of the local mechanic, she seems destined for the quiet, drudgery-filled life of a housewife. When she travels to Lisieux in Normandy, where charismatic insurance agency boss Louis Echarid is advertising for a secretary, the ensuing interview however is a disaster. But Rose reveals a special gift - she can type at extraordinary speed.

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Treshnish Isles tour brings chance for 'puffin therapy'

Staffa's unique rock formations a wonder of the natural world

Oban Times reporter Faith Orr leaves her desk for a tour on the wild side of Mull

LYING on top of a bare island with little between you and the ferocity of the Atlantic Ocean isn't most people's idea of fun.

But when you add to that lying only feet away from dozens of puffins as they go about their daily business in their funny inimitable little way you're sure to get a bit more interest.

That's exactly the recipe for success that ferry operators Caledonian MacBrayne have devised for one of its new days out trips.

Heading to Oban ferry terminal one Sunday morning I was preparing for just that trip - to Staffa and the Treshnish Isles courtesy of Turus Mara.

MY Isle of Mull set off on time to Craignure and we indulged in one of the boat's famous breakfasts to set us up for the day. The staff onboard are particularly welcoming and friendly, especially Scott in the Mariners cafe.

Head up to the viewing deck to get in the mood for the day ahead - sights that can be enjoyed on the way to Mull include Duart Castle, wildlife and lighthouses.

Treshnish Isles

We headed on the minibus from Craignure to Ulva where we met Iain Morrison of Turus Mara, skipper of *Hoy Lass*, along with his sea-faring dog Mischa. She has one blue eye, one brown eye and her very own lifejacket.

Hoy Lass took 55 minutes to get us to Lunga and Iain slowed down to give everyone onboard a good look seals, sea eagles and formerly inhabited islands - where if you look closely you can see the ruins of what was once there.

'Puffin therapy'

Lunga is the largest island in the Treshnish Isles and we were given two hours there - the home of a variety of sea birds including razorbills, kittiwakes and guillemots.

But puffins are by far the star attraction on the island, probably because they are so accepting of humans.

This could have something to do with the predatory birds which stay away when people are around, leaving these colourful little creatures to feed their young, dig out their burrows or rekindle romances

with their partners. As you step ashore on to Lunga, there is a short walk uphill before you are greeted with hundreds of puffins bobbing in and out of their burrows. Providing you are respectful and don't disturb them these birds are perfectly happy for you to get a ringside seat to their antics.

While it would be very easy to spend the full two hours on Lunga with the first group of puffins you come across do try and tear yourself away and head along the path a bit. There are other seabird colonies as well as plenty of wildflowers to catch your eye.

The Harp Rock, which is just separated from Lunga by a small strip of water, is home to thousands of razorbills crammed on the sides.

You don't need to be an expert hiker for this track by any means but a good pair of shoes is advisable as it can get quite slippery.

Back on the *Hoy Lass* there is a 25-minute trip to Staffa and we chose to sit out on the top deck for this part - do try and brave the wind and sit outside for at least part of the journey.

We were first greeted with MacKinnon's Cave as we arrived at Staffa before the majesty of Fingal's Cave unveiled itself. Iain played the overture *The Hebrides* - also known as *Fingal's Cave* - by composer Felix Mendelssohn as the boat pulled up.

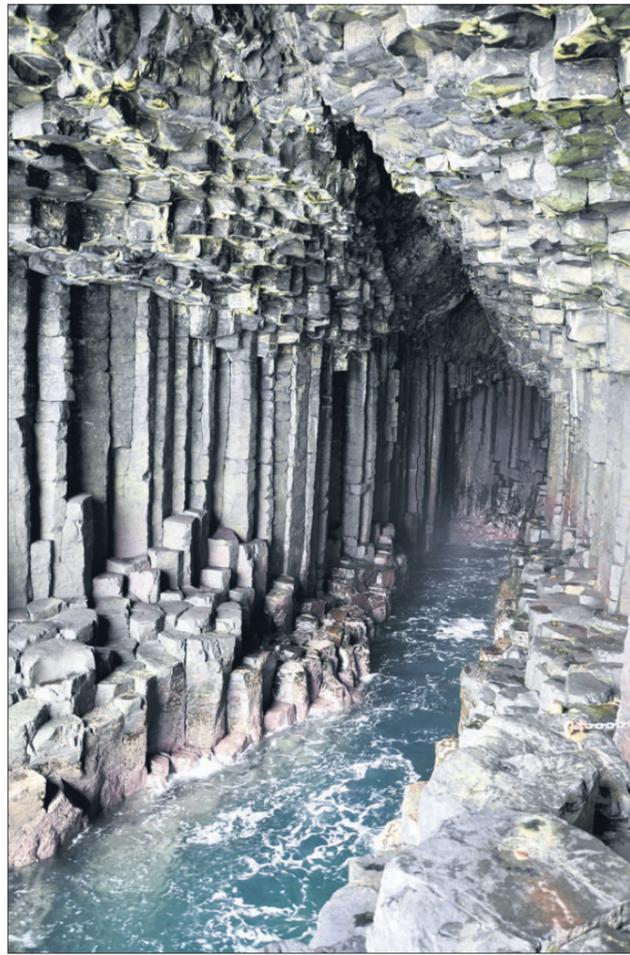
On the island it is only a short and relatively simple walk to the cave itself where inside the sound of the waves crashing against the unique rock formations is one you'll remember. The sea out here is also a shimmering blue which makes the cave look almost tropical.

On Staffa there is also a range of flowers and birds for those who haven't had quite enough 'puffin therapy', as Iain terms your time relaxing with these birds.

But while Lunga had been relatively peaceful, Staffa's popularity as a place to visit meant it was really quite busy with tourists - as one elderly male visitor from America remarked: 'This place is like downtown New York City.'



Iain Morrison of Turus Mara reckons the puffins on Lunga are conducting a study of humans - this one certainly seems to be. 16_12strip01



Inside Fingal's Cave - its rock formations are internationally recognised as a wonder of the natural world. 16_12strip05



Harp Rock is home to thousands of seabirds. 16_12strip03



The rock formations around Staffa were created from lava. 16_12strip04



These birds' behaviour could keep you amused for hours. 16_12strip02

Lorn team conquers Mount Kilimanjaro for charity

A GROUP of Lorn men have conquered one of the highest peaks in the world, raising nearly £4,000 for Mary's Meals in the process.

Charlie Henry, from Knapoch, joined by Taynuilt's Ian Campbell and Fraser Anderson and former Oban man Billy Kelly were unscathed after climbing the 19,340 feet to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro over seven days.

Charlie said: 'We knew it was going to be tough. We all got through it unscathed but we all suffered from dizziness and headaches at times. When you exerted yourself more than you were used to, you really felt exhausted.'

Summit

The team was woken at 11pm on the final day, in order to reach the summit at dawn.

But a laboured final climb meant the group did not reach the peak until 9.45am.

'We never expected it to be as hard as it was on the final climb,' Charlie said.

A major contribution to the group's total has come from ITV, which is currently filming a drama about convicted murderer Malcolm Webster. Charlie was

detective inspector in Oban during the investigation and has assisted with production.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Kilimanjaro team can do so at justgiving.com/charles-henry or text MMKM49 £10 in the message box and send it to 70070.



From left: Ian Campbell, Billy Kelly, Fraser Anderson and Charlie Henry after conquering Mount Kilimanjaro.

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OT

Beekeepers warned as disease threat remains

BEE KEEPERS throughout Scotland are being warned to keep a close eye on their apiary stock after fears over two notifiable diseases, first spotted in 2009, continue.

Bee inspectors have started their second summer programme of inspections and surveillance across Scotland to gain a better picture of honey bee health.

These programmes follow on from the bee disease outbreaks of European Foulbrood (EFB) and American Foulbrood (AFB) in 2009 and will allow experts to understand more about the diseases and husbandry factors affecting honey bee health in Scotland.

Notifiable diseases

EFB and AFB are notifiable diseases under The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007, which prohibits the removal of hives, bees, combs and appliances from the affected premises except for submitting samples for laboratory tests.

Following laboratory diagnosis by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, tests have recently confirmed EFB in apiaries in Perthshire and West Lothian - both sites have previously been infected in the last four years.

The movement of honey bees and related equipment into or out of the affected sites are prohibited to halt the spread of the disease.

Commercial beekeepers, who have been authorised by the Scottish Government to carry out their own inspections after completing a training event, are also taking part in the checks.

All beekeepers are being urged to be vigilant for signs of the disease, to maintain good husbandry practices and to notify any suspicion of disease to BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Beekeepers are also being urged to register on the national bee database BeeBase to access up-to-date information on the control of EFB and AFB and bee related issues.

Fort William man is musical director at Kings Theatre

A FORMER Fort William man has been appointed musical director for an upcoming production of *The King and I* at Glasgow's famous King's Theatre.

Sean Stirling, 29, will take the creative reigns for Paisley Musical and Operatic Society's show, which is due to hit the stage in March next year.

Mr Stirling, now a music teacher at Lesmahagow High School, started his theatrical career with local group Lochaber Showstoppers while he was a pupil at Lochaber High.

His mother Linda told *The*



Sean Stirling will have a key role in the Glasgow show

Oban Times her son was 'excited' by the opportunity.

She said: 'He's always been interested in music, he first started at Lochaber Showstoppers when he was about 12.'

'He's been involved in quite a few different shows, but this is the biggest one he's had so far.'

Shinty rivals team up on lifesaving charity cycle

THEY may be fierce rivals on the shinty field but Kingussie and Newtonmore are teaming up for a charity cause that can save lives.

Badnoch Lucky2Bhere aims to raise vital funds for defibrillators to be placed in public areas in Kinross, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Laggan and Dalwhinnie.

And to help the campaign, 'More stalwarts Colin Stewart and Norman MacArthur will join Russell Jones, Scott Shiells, John Gibson and Kevin Thain

of Kingussie in cycling from Glasgow to Badnoch tomorrow (Friday). Kingussie co-manager Russell Jones said: 'I am sure we'll all have plenty of banter as we're biking but we are all looking forward to it.'

'A few of us have done a bit of mountain biking before but Kevin Thain only started about six weeks ago when we roped him in.'

'Norman MacArthur hasn't done a lot of training but I'm sure he'll be fine. It's

not a race - we just need to all get to the finish line.'

The punishing slog will take in parts of the West Highland Way, the Great Glen Way and the Corryarrick Pass and will take two days - if the boys make it to the finish. Former Kingussie manager Jimmy Gow will drive the bike team's support van.

All proceeds will go towards buying defibrillators - which can be the difference between life and death

for people suffering heart attacks in isolated rural spots.

The group also aims to teach the public to use them to deliver emergency life support should someone suffer an attack with no ambulances nearby.

Laggan has already raised the £1,600 cash for its defibrillator to be placed at the village hall.

Newtonmore have defibrillators at their home shinty matches and 23 club members recently underwent emergency life support training.

Lucky2Bhere was started by legendary Skye Shinty manager Ross Cowie, whose life was saved six years ago only because an ambulance happened to be passing the clubhouse where he was.

To sponsor the riders visit www.justgiving.com/teams/badenochlucky2bhere.

Hundreds flock to Glengarry Games

GLENGARRY Highland Games served up another fine day of fun, entertainment and exciting competitions on Saturday as hundreds flocked to the village shinty field for the popular annual event.

Contrary to the gloomy forecast, the weather played fair for most of the day with light drizzle only a feature later in the afternoon.

Four heavy athletes took the field to impress spectators in the hammer, shot putt, the 28lb and 56lb weight for distance, the

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

cabar and the weight over the bar.

David Hart from Fort William won the trophy for best local, scoring four second places and two thirds for a 16 point total.

Andrew Johnston from Appin also competed well but it was Stuart Anderson from Killin who lifted the cup for best overall athlete after making a clean sweep of all six disciplines.

Judge Derek Fraser, who hails from Inverlochry, said: 'I was disappointed there were only four of them there - we had six competing last year.'

'But the standard was comparable and Stuart Anderson cleared 14 feet in the 56lb weight over the bar.'

Games secretary Alison Donald expressed relief the rain passed Invergarry by, ensuring a good turnout.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I think the crowd was about what we would normally expect.'

'Having the Highland dancing on the field is always a big draw. Whenever we get rain and we

have to go inside the hall the field tends to empty.'

'It is a big day for us but it benefits a lot of local groups too, such as the primary school and the senior citizens' Christmas party.'

On the track, both trophies remained in Lochaber with Isla MacKay the best overall athlete and Callum Fraser the best local. Callum won the men's hill race in 26m 5s and Isla the women's in 31m. Ben Johnstone won the junior hill race in 30m 59s.

Invergarry's central location saw girls from Skye, Uist, Inverness, Aberdeen and Oban arrive in record numbers for the Highland dancing competitions.

Delighted organiser Marie Stewart, from Fort William, said: 'We have nearly 80 dancers here, which is wonderful.'

Local girl Daisy Clark, who starts at Kilchuimen Academy next month was chosen as the Games Queen and performed her duties admirably.

Over at the dog show, Ann Winning from Glen Coe won the Jean Ellice Memorial Quaiich with 14-year-old collie cross Breac.



Daisy Clark enjoyed her day as Glengarry Games Queen. Photograph by Dennis East.



Margaret Boyd from Spean Bridge returned to her native Glen Garry along with five-year-old Jack Russell Colonel MacKay, who took his place in the dog show ranks. 'I think I'll put him in the most disobedient dog section,' Margaret told *The Oban Times*. 20_128garry04



Rebecca Johnstone, aged 11, from Invergarry, is a picture of concentration as she wins the girls' 8-11 sack race. 20_128garry03



Lauren Docherty, Elsa Johnstone and Tony McBain were among the local volunteers kept busy in the burger tent. 20_128garry08



Mitchell Edgar on his way to winning the 12-15 flat race. 20_128garry05



Lochaber Pipe Band entertained the crowds throughout the day. 20_128garry07



Junior and novice Highland dancing winners show off their trophies after the presentation. 20_128garry06

Heavy results:
Hammer - 1 Stuart Anderson 112' 1"; 2 Craig Nicholson 110' 7"; 3 David Hart 101' 10"; 4 Andrew Johnston 84' 3". Shot putt - 1 S Anderson 41' 5"; 2 D Hart 39' 5"; 3 C Nicholson 36' 8"; 4 A Johnston 36' 2". 56lb weight over the bar - 1 S Anderson 14'; 2 D Hart 12'; 3 C Nicholson 12'; 4 A Johnston 10'. Weight for distance 28lb - 1 S Anderson 66' 4"; 2 D Hart 55' 6"; 3 D Hart 52' 6"; 4 C Nicholson 60'. Weight for distance 56lb - 1 S Anderson 33' 4"; 2 C Nicholson 27' 11"; 3 D Hart 26' 7"; 4 A Johnston 23' 3". Cabar - 1 S Anderson; 2 D Hart; 3 C Nicholson; 4 A Johnston.

Highland Dancing trophy winners:

7 years + Under Beginner - Highland Trophy, Lily Kelman, Inverness. National Trophy, Iona McKay, Dalnally. 8 years + Over Beginner - Highland Trophy, Tia Anderson, Daviot. National Trophy - equal Ellie Burdakin, Strathpeffer and Ceitidh Smith, Portree. 9 years + Under Novice - Highland Trophy, Rianne Nicholson, Inverness. National Trophy - Sophie MacPherson, Oban. 11 years + Over Novice - Highland Trophy - Bryana McCall, Oban. National Trophy, Rebecca McConachie, Inverness.

9 years + Under Intermediate - Highland Trophy, Faith Campbell, Wick. National Trophy - Faith Campbell, Wick. Runner Up Intermediate Trophy, Holly Tait, Portree. 10 years + Over Intermediate - Highland Trophy, Anna Morrison, Inverness. National Trophy - Isla MacKenzie, Fearn. Runner up Int Trophy - Isla MacKenzie, Fearn.

10-11 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Holly Lyall, Kirkhill. National Trophy - Holly Lyall, Kirkhill. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Fiona Armstrong, Falkirk. 12-13 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Libby MacLean, Blairmore. National Trophy - Libby MacLean, Blairmore. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Jenna Wilson, Dingwall. 14-15 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Cara Wilson, Dingwall. National Trophy - Cara Wilson, Dingwall. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Megan Dale, Contin.

Adults Premier - Highland Trophy, Cara MacKenzie, Beaulieu. National Trophy - Cara MacKenzie, Beaulieu. Runner up Highland Trophy - Sarah Malhan, Inverness.

Overall Dance of the Day Trophy - Equal, Holly Lyall, Kirkhill and Libby MacLean, Blairmore. Local Trophy - Jamie-Lee Lavery.



Beth Campbell from Skye, Adele Aske from Oban and Anna Taylor from Skye are in perfect symmetry in the Highland dance competition. 20_128garry10



David Hart from Fort William launches the 28lb weight in the heavy events. 20_128garry02

Eye to eye with John Wallace

3D TV ... Can It Hurt Your Eyes?

3D technology seems ubiquitous. Virtually every cinema offers 3D viewing. Kids' computer games are available in 3D. Every new TV in TV showrooms seems to be 3D enabled. Perhaps you have purchased one recently? With this plethora of 3D viewing the scaremongering stories have been abundant. TV manufacturers originally told viewers they could possibly suffer confusion, nausea, convulsions altered vision, light-headedness and dizziness if they watched 3D TV. They even suggested pregnant women, the elderly, children and epileptics should avoid 3D TV. Thankfully these warnings have now been down-graded to everyone avoiding prolonged viewing, taking regular breaks and stopping viewing if suffering from visual discomfort. This is all very reminiscent of the early days of VDU screen usage.

The reality is 3D viewing will exacerbate any visual difficulty you might have. Many of which are asymptomatic when viewing traditional 2D screens. Normal stereopsis

relies on both changing distances of viewing and muscle movements of our eyes to provide the 3D experience. Because we view 3D screens at a fixed distance the muscles around our eyes work extremely hard to give us this 3D experience. Recent studies found 48% of viewers (of which 76% were aged 18-24 years) indicating 3D viewing was uncomfortable with headaches being the most frequent complaint.

When viewing 3D do you feel eye strain, headaches, nausea or dizzy? Are you more comfortable watching traditional 2D TV? If you answered yes to any of these questions you should seek specialist advice from your optometrist. Often it is simply a matter of having an updated vision correction. Sometimes traditional NHS eye examinations are insufficient to examine your eyes in the depth necessary to investigate the visual difficulties highlighted by 3D viewing and you will need the services of an optometrist specialising in binocular vision and reading problems.

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FARMING



Andy Bevis from Ormsary won four trophies at the South Knapdale Sheepdog Trials on Sunday

Bevis wins class at annual South Knapdale dog trial

ORMSARY shepherd Andy Bevis won the confined section of the Annual South Knapdale Sheepdog Trials on Sunday, scooping four trophies. Andy Bevis collected four trophies including the Carse Cup, Auchan Cup, Ellary Trophy and Carraig Trophy in the confined section of the competition. The open section was won by Ian Brownlie from Forestmill

with his dog Mo, whilst Duncan Robertson from Luss was third. Sandbank's Stuart Davidson came in fifth with George and Angie McDiarmid from Strachur came in eighth. A special prize for a young competitor was handed to Rory Marshall from Dunoon for the work done with his dog Tess. Result: Open competition:

1. Ian Brownlie with Mo, 95 points;
2. Garry Balke with Jim, 92 points;
3. Duncan Robertson with Mott, 91 points;
4. John Templeton with Spot, 90 points;
5. Stuart Davidson with George, 87 points;
6. Faansie Basson with Don, 86 points;
7. Adam Simpson with Loos, 85 points;
8. Angie McDiarmid with Rex, 84 points;
9. Andrew Ronald Jr with Meg, 83 points;
10. John Templeton with Ben, 80 points.

Prime trade beats centre record

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 208 prime cattle at their weekly sale comprising 95 bullocks and heifers, 23 young bulls, seven OTM cattle and 83 east cows and bulls. Cattle sold to a new market top price per head when Carslae Farm, Newton Stewart sold a 740kg Limousin bullock to 277.5p per kg and £2054. Bullocks averaged at 244p per kg. Heifers averaged 248p per kg and sold to 276.5p per kg for a 585kg Limousin from Moorfield and £1644 for a 610kg Limousin from Brockwoodlee. Young bulls sold to £1902 for young Charolais bull from Balegreggan Farm, Campbeltown.

Islay heifers sell to £1,000 at Caledonian Marts Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 138 store cattle and young bulls at Stirling on Monday of this week. Heifers sold to 242p per kg for two 330kg Limousins from Gartmain, Isle of Islay and to £1000 for two 445kg Limousins also from Gartmain. Bullocks sold to 242p per kg for a 285kg Limousin from Westfield, Airth and to £1050 for a 440kg Aberdeen Angus from Ballendall, Kinbuck. Young bulls sold to 208p per kg for a 380kg Limousin from Craighead, Torrance and to £790 from the same home.

Store cattle trade rises 25p per kilo at Stirling sale

UNITED Auctions sold 408 store cattle at Stirling last week when both bullocks and heifers showed a marked increase from the previous sale. The firm also had 388 ewes with lambs at foot. Bullocks averaged 247.60p (+25.20p) and sold to 299.50p per kg for a 434kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Knockrioch and £1640 for a 646kg Limousin cross from Barfillan. Heifers averaged 234.98p (+23.87p) and sold to 268.70p per kg for a 387kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Knockrioch and £1670 for a 596kg Charolais cross from Barfillan. Cast cows averaged 149.74p and sold to 214.10p for a Charolais cross from Midlock and £1670 for a British Blue cross from Dalachy. Forward cattle averaged 205.17p and sold to 224.90p for a Charolais cross from Midlock and £1670 for a Simmental cross from Dalachy. Hoggs with lambs at foot from Harelaw sold to £128, with Shiplaw selling Cross ewes with lambs at foot to £125, Blackface ewes with cross lambs at foot at £94 and Blackface ewes with Blackface lambs at foot to £88.

Dingwall prime stock sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 45 prime cattle and 175 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday. Prime bullocks averaged 253.8p (+13.0p) and sold to 270p per kg and £1,701.00 for a 630kg Limousin cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose. Prime heifers averaged 244.9p (+6.7p) and sold to 262p per kg for a 565kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and £1,657.15 for a 655kg Charolais also from Bridgend Farm. Lambs averaged 230.6p (+8.4p) and sold to 242.7p per kg for 41kg Beltex crosses from Kinmahair Farm, Contin, and £106.00 for 44.5kg Suffolk crosses from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall. Hoggs averaged 106p (-27.3p) and sold to 110.6p per kg and £52.00 for 47kg Blackfaces from Blackford Farm, Croy.



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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times 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
13/00001/PP	Erection of 1.8 metre high garden fence	15 Aray Gardens Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4JX	Oban Area Office Kilmelford
13/00320/PP	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwellinghouse.	Tralaig Lodge Kilmilver Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/01395/PP	Alteration and extensions to existing dwellinghouse	Sunnyrock Glenmore Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PG	Oban Area Office
13/01454/PP	Change of use of four self catering flats previously used as part of the Soroba House Hotel complex to permanent residential use	Soroba House Hotel Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SB	Oban Area Office

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
13/01458/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage, upgrade of existing access and formation of new vehicular access (amended orientation of building and relocation of several windows of planning permission 12/00814/PP)	Land South West of Glenmore Farm Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XA	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times 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
13/01161/PP	Erection of 20 flats and formation of vehicular access	Land West of Bonded Stores Stanalane Moss Road Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
13/01330/PP	Formation of pathway and associated enclosures and defences	Land South of the A846 From Part Ellen School to Laphroaig Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL 2012 TO 31ST MARCH 2013

Notice is hereby given under regulation 5 (1) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) regulations 1985 that:

(a) Copies of the unaudited financial statements of Argyll and Bute Council for the period from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 will be available for public inspection in the offices of the Council at the following locations:
Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; Dalriada House, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Lom House, Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothsay; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours); Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh.

A copy of the financial statements will also be available on the following website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

The financial statements will be open to Public Inspection during business hours from Friday 26th July 2012 until Thursday 15th August 2013 inclusive.

(b) Any person interested may inspect a copy of the financial statements to be audited, all books, deeds contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related thereto, and may take copies of any or all parts of the accounts;

(c) Any person interested may object to the financial statements or to any part of those statements, no later than 15th August 2013 by:

(1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor Suite, The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;

(2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 110 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH and;

(3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the authority and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned, both at Strategic Finance, Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RL.

(d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority, or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
July 2013

Proposed Let of a Croft

Robert Lewis McIntyre Banks is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 1 Tighphuir, Glencoe to Charles Philip Lear of 2 Tighphuir, Glencoe, Argyll PH49 4HN.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7 (2) Arcade Building Services Ltd, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a Planning Permission in Principle application to Argyll & Bute Council for a prospective development comprising a Hotel, Leisure Facilities and Lodges at Tom Liath/Tom Ard, Dunbeg, Oban

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by viewing the documents at Dunbeg Stores & Post Office, 15 Jane Road, Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1QE

A public event will be held on Thursday 25th July 2013 between 2.30pm and 8.00pm at Dunbeg Church, Etive Road, Dunbeg where the development proposals will be on display and an opportunity will be available for interested parties to discuss the proposals with the applicant's agent.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant's agent, Alexander T. Dobbie, Consultant Architect, Glenburn Lodge, 24b Queen Street, Helensburgh G84 9LG or by email at atdobbie@btinternet.com no later than Friday 6th September, 2013

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicants agent at this time are not representations to the planning authority, in the event that the prospective applicant submits a formal application then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll & Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

Notice of application for Listed Building Consent at Keil Chapel and burial ground (197158 753816)

Cara Jones (of Archaeology Scotland) wishes to announce the intent to apply for Listed Building Consent, to carry out small repair works to the burial ground boundary wall, gate and the installation of a post and rope hand rail besides the access steps.

Interested parties are to email c.jones@archaeologyscotland.org.uk or phone on 0845 872 3333 to submit representations on the application

PUBLIC NOTICES

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/02346/FUL	Land 110m SW of Ardgour Road, Caol, Fort William	The formation of a new Gaelic Medium Primary School plus ancillary accommodation and external facilities including playground, community facilities, parking provision on site and new bus and car set-down locations
13/02351/FUL	Caol Primary School, Glenkingie Street, Caol, Fort William	The phased demolition of the existing community centre and school, the formation of a new community centre (1305m ²) and a new Joint Campus Primary School plus ancillary accommodation and external facilities including an all weather MUGA, on site parking provisions and new bus and car set-down locations
13/02381/FUL	Land West and North of Loch Linnhe Lodge, 28 Upper Achintore, Lundavra Road, Fort William	Erection of primary school

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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60 Renault Clio dyn, T/Tom, DCI estate, grey, 21,500 miles	£8,950
60 Renault Clio i-Music 1.2, 5 door, Grey, 12,500 miles	£7,950
60 Renault Twingo EXP 1.2, 3 door, Black, 10,000 miles	£5,450
10 Renault Scenic dyn, T/Tom, DCI, black, 22,000 miles	£10,250
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, DCI, 5dr, Beige, 9,400 miles	£9,550
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, TCE, 1.2, 5 Door, Black, 18,500 miles	£8,500
10 Fiat Qubo Active 1.4, 5dr, silver, 13,500 miles	£6,650
59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5DCi, 3dr, Red, 10,750 miles	£8,450
09 Renault Modus Dyn, 1.5 DCi, Beige, 30,000 miles	£6,500
58 Renault Clio Dyn, T/Ce 100, 5dr, black, 25,000 miles	£5,950
59 Fiat Panda Active, 1.1, 5 dr white, 35,000 miles	£3,950
57 VW Fox 1.2, 3 door, Blue, 71,000 miles	£3,950
55 Renault Grande Scenic DCI, silver, 65,000 miles	£3,950
03 Peugeot Partner Combi D, 13,500 miles	£4,250

COMMERCIALS

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Business

Sound of Kerrera seaweed project could lead to harvest for biofuel

A PIONEERING trial in the Sound of Kerrera to cultivate seaweed in the open ocean using advanced textiles could see the plant harvested for biofuels.

Researchers at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have been working as part of a three-year European project called AT-SEA.

The team lowered material specially designed for large-scale cultivation into the ocean in the Sound Kerrera, as well in locations off Norway and Ireland.

The same type of seaweed was used at each location, all of which are near-shore locations. The sites were chosen to expose the textiles to different conditions and test their durability,

with the same type of seaweed used to see how the species performs.

Bert Groenendaal, of Sioen Industries and co-ordinator of the project, said: 'The AT-SEA project aims to make mass cultivation of seaweeds in Europe's near-shore locations technically and economically feasible by creating textile substrates that can endure the harsh conditions that

they are exposed to as the seaweed grows.'

Following the trials, the 11 project partners - which include businesses, industry and research institutes - will assess which textiles offer the optimal performance across Europe.

On a tight schedule, these results will lead to the manufacture of a second generation of specifically designed

textiles in time for the start of the next growing season this coming autumn. Research into the development of economically and environmentally viable production of biomaterials and biofuels from seaweed has been on-going for years. It has been established that mass harvesting of wild growing seaweed is not economically viable in Europe where labour costs

are high and that harvesting of beach cast seaweed is detrimental to coastal ecosystems and is unlikely to be reliably sustainable on a large scale.

But seaweed biomass remains a good alternative as a source of non-oil based materials such as biofuels, biopolymers, pigments, anti-oxidants and other chemical compounds that can be derived from seaweed.

AT-SEA aims to make mass cultivation in inshore locations feasible by creating growth substrates that can endure the tests of a constantly wet, salty, moving, sometimes raging sea on which to grow the seaweed.

The textiles being tested are a mix of woven, non-woven and 3D layered fabrics based on advanced fibrous and fibre-composite materials.

Barra oyster grower sets sights on huge far east market

'If we can achieve the quantity for a bulk order in the far east we can get a better price' - Gerard MacDonald

A NEW venture on the Barra could see up to three million oysters shipped from the island each year - if a financial backer is found.

Local man Gerard MacDonald, together with brother Martin and fellow islander Donald MacLeod, recently started growing oysters in the islands waters and their firm, Barra Oysters Ltd, is already shipping up to 100,000 pacific oysters to supermarkets via the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG).

Long term, the company hopes to form a solid export business to Asia. To do that effectively output needs to be markedly increased and Gerard said only by mechanising the process are such targets achievable.

Gerard, who worked at the island's community trust Coimhearsnachd Bharraigh agus Bhatarsaidh until April this year, said: 'It's one of those things where you think you'd make more money selling for the premium market at home, but if we can achieve the quantity for a bulk order in the far east we can get a better price.'

'That's because they need so many oysters and that demands continuity of supply. We can supply around

2,000 or 3,000 thousand per month, in Asia they're talking about needing 4,000 to 40,000 per week.

'We're looking to get to three million per year - it's going to be hard and it's going to have to be mechanised. That makes it a capital intensive business to get going.'

The company is determined to produce quality as well as quantity and believes the sheltered areas around Barra's coastline offer the perfect opportunity to do that.

Producing such volume does not present an environmental problem to local waters either, as the species effectively cleans the environment it inhabits.

After investing his savings into the project, Gerard added: 'When I came to Barra about eight years ago I started thinking about it. In 2009 I got the business up and going. Farming oysters is harder than you'd think.'

'But we are trying to grow the business and we are trying to optimise the growth we get in the oysters. We're using sheltered sites and hopefully that will give us as much growth as it will quality.'

Torlundy biomass company lands council 'green' heat deal

LOCHABER renewable heating specialists HWEnergy has landed a near £5m contract to carve almost £1million from Highland Council's annual fuel bills.

The four-year deal, which began last week, covers servicing, maintenance and installation of biomass heat systems across 59 sites.

The Torlundy-based firm will also supply wood chips and pellets from a network of sustainable sources in Scotland.

The council estimates the switch away from fossil fuels will mean savings of £900,000 a year and be 40 per cent cheaper than the cost of heating from oil.

The initiative will see a combined carbon saving of 7,500 tonnes per annum - the equivalent to 30 million car miles off the road per annum.

'Steady growth' HWEnergy managing director Bruno Berardelli said: 'The award of this contract and The Highland Council's commitment to biomass as a heat source will allow us to take on two new apprentices and one full time contracts manager to help service the contract, bringing the HWEnergy in-house team to more than 50 with staff based right across Scotland.'

'We are seeing a steady growth in biomass heating across Scotland and beyond as organisations of all sizes realise the tangible benefits.'

Highland Council is the first local authority in the country to embrace the Scottish Government's biomass energy supply agreement framework.

The initiative, introduced earlier this year, is designed to help achieve



The biomass installation at Broadford Primary School on Skye comes under the new contract.

the government's target of 11 per cent of heat generated through renewable sources by 2020.

'Healthier future' Highland Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'We have a responsibility as a major public body and employer to create a greener healthier future.'

'We have been taking steps to move

away from the more traditional heat sources toward a renewable alternative in recent years and have already brought biomass boilers on to various sites across the Highlands, with further installations planned over next few years.'

'The contract with HWEnergy to fully manage and operate these boilers really consolidates our commitment to providing a renewable source of heat to our sites, including schools, leisure centres and care homes, both now and long into the future.'

Many Highland communities are off the gas network, meaning biomass can offer an attractive alternative to more traditional fossil fuels.

Fisheries secretary Richard Loch-head said: 'I'm pleased that we are able to offer skippers the opportunity to undertake paid science and research work. This will have the double benefit of making up potential income lost by vessels not actually fishing commercially while also giving us a better understanding of the fish stocks and their distribution off the west coast, allowing us to better manage a sustainable fishery for the future.'

Fishermen could net cash through industry research project

FISHERMEN could net a cash boost by taking part in scientific research. Skippers from across Scotland recently attended a two-day training event at the University of Aberdeen to learn how to sample and measure catches, after which they were told they could participate in paid work with Marine Scotland Science.

The training is being led by fisheries biologists from the university who will be giving talks, practical demonstrations and leading team-work exercises. Participants will gain a good understanding of sampling, accurate measuring and recording and be shown how this information is used to provide fish stock estimates.

There will be opportunities to improve fish identification skills and training will also be given in the collection of 'earbones' which help scientists calculate the age of fish.

Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) said: 'The SFF enthusiastically supports this initiative as a willing partner. Every fishing boat skipper is aware of his environment and of changes to it, so the training of fishermen to make scientific observations and record and report them in a way that will contribute to stock assessment is the first step of potentially huge advantage.'

Fisheries secretary Richard Loch-head said: 'I'm pleased that we are able to offer skippers the opportunity to undertake paid science and research work. This will have the double benefit of making up potential income lost by vessels not actually fishing commercially while also giving us a better understanding of the fish stocks and their distribution off the west coast, allowing us to better manage a sustainable fishery for the future.'

RECRUITMENT

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OBAN

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The people we support have varied interests which they pursue both at home and within their local communities. As these posts are over a number of different services we are looking for team members who can support people that have a variety of interests.

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CLOSING DATE: 19th July 2013

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Hours of employment are 17.5 per week organised from 10am to 1.30pm from Monday to Friday, although the times are flexible and can be agreed with the successful candidate. *This post is temporary for up to 1 year to cover maternity leave.

In return we offer excellent benefits including a choice of pension schemes, opportunities for development and 7 weeks annual leave.

Please visit our website www.bield.co.uk for further information and an application pack or telephone 0131 273 4020 (answering service) or 0131 273 4071 (general enquiries).

Closing date for returned applications is Friday 26 July 2013.

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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".

Carers Direct Limited are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.

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Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.

Application forms from 01631 569 550.

Registered with Scottish Care Commission. Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.

Royal Voluntary Service Lorn & Islands Hospital

Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS) in Oban is delighted to announce a new Meet and Greet service at Lorn and Islands Hospital as an additional service alongside our Hospital Cafe and Shop, and as part of the Hospital's restructure. As the Medical Records Department expands, Hospital Medical records staff will soon relocate to a specific new Admissions Desk area, allowing them to fully support patients arriving at the hospital in a confidential and supportive environment.

Royal Voluntary Service has a proud history in providing Welcome Desk/ Meet and Greet Services in hospitals throughout Scotland, often operating alongside our Cafes and Shops. The majority of those we support in this way are older or vulnerable people. Our volunteers will offer information, directions and a warm welcome to visitors and patients arriving at the hospital at a time when many are anxious or unsure.

To support this new initiative we are looking to recruit volunteers. Volunteering is flexible - Volunteers let us know when they are free and available, and we design our rotas around their busy schedules - we know our Volunteers always have lots of other things to do! You will be offered full training and support from our on site team.

If you would like to get involved please contact Cathy on 01631 567464 or Theresa at our hub office on 01475 600442.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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We will listen, pledges Argyll schools boss

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The Scottish Salmon company is the leading independent producer of Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

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In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

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The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 430
Email: angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5pm Friday 26 July 2013

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01631 568021



Jean Gillies has successfully run Music Scotland since 2011. 16_128music01

Oban music retailer wins cultural award

Hands Up for Trad's Business Limelight Award for July goes to Music Scotland

AN OBAN music retailer has been lauded for making an 'outstanding contribution' to promoting Scottish culture.

Music Scotland, run by Jean Gillies, is the recipient of July's Hands Up for Trad's Business Limelight Award.

The online business started in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull in 1999 and since Jean took over in 2001 she has been keen to showcase the Scottish arts.

She said: 'I have always actively promoted our traditions. From an early age I have been involved and influenced by cultural music.'

'Living in Oban, the gateway to the Western Isles, you are surrounded by Scottish culture. We have much to celebrate, nurture and carry forward.'

This isn't the first award Music Scotland has received. In 2005 it was the worthy winner of the Services to Industry Award in the Scots Trad Music Awards.

Now Jean, originally from Campbeltown, has ambitions to move the business forward.

She said: 'This comes at a significant time for the business. Interesting changes ahead allied to our Music Shop in Argyll Square, Oban, so watch this space.'

But Jean will be taking time to enjoy this most recent accolade first: 'It's cream cakes all round,' she added.

Music Scotland are the ninth recipients of Hands Up for Trad's Business Limelight Award. The Limelights are a monthly initiative, launched in October 2012, that recognises the outstanding contributions made by businesses and organisations who contribute, shape and influence the arts and cultural sector in Scotland today.

New wage subsidy scheme launched

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway team is urging small businesses thinking of taking on additional staff to look closely at the newly launched Employer Recruitment Incentive scheme (ERI).

Funded by the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Scotland Fund,

the ERI means that businesses who take on a young unemployed person (aged 16-24) can claim back 50 per cent of the wage costs for that individual for six months.

The scheme is open for applications now and the young person must be employed by October 1 2013, so any

potential employers need to act now to take advantage of the funding.

The ERI scheme is available to private sector employers including small and medium sized businesses (employing up to 250 staff) and third sector, voluntary sector or charitable organisations.

The job created must be additional to the existing workforce and be offered on the basis that the opportunity is sustainable. The young person needs to be gainfully employed for the duration of the programme and a job description should be drawn up which outlines the duties and scope of the role.

The ERI scheme is administered by Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team, which is also offering free 'Into Work Support' for any employer taking on staff via the ERI scheme. The support includes helping the business with advertising, selecting and interviewing candidates, creating job descriptions and contracts of employment.

The business must provide a contract of employment and pay the national minimum wage appropriate to the age of the individual to all employees supported by the ERI. The employer must agree a fixed contracted number of hours of employment for the duration of the 26 weeks. The contracted hours must be fixed between 25 hours and 40 hours per week.

To find out more about the Employer Recruitment Incentive contact Sheena McLean on 01586 551389 or email sheena.mclean@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Island could benefit if offshore renewable projects 'strike price' rises

Scottish islands suffer some of the highest grid charges in Europe

A CONSULTATION will be launched on increasing the subsidy for offshore renewable projects.

Making the announcement, the UK Government said it hoped setting a different 'strike price' for island projects to mainland schemes will make them more cost effective for islands.

Alex Paterson, chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) said: 'The announcement that the UK Government intends to consult on an uplift in the strike price for island projects in order for them to make a cost effective contribution to UK renewable electricity generation targets is groundbreaking, hugely welcome and signals commitment

to developing a clearly defined solution. Electricity market reform has undoubtedly caused investment uncertainty and while there is still some way to go before strike prices are demonstrably better than the existing renewables obligation, this publication should begin to give industry some confidence of a renewables market beyond 2017.'

Solution
'HIE has worked with industry, Scottish Government and local authority partners for the last decade to develop a solution to connecting the islands, which enjoy some of our greatest renewable energy resources yet suffer from some of the highest grid charges in Europe.'

Build your network and your skills at Business Gateway's workshops.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute



Business Gateway services are delivered by Local Authorities, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Government with the support of associated partner organisations.

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CrossReach is one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations, offering care and counselling. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, we provide specialist dementia care that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

Part Time Care Worker
£14,864 - £17,045 pro rata • Qualification bar applies
27 hours over 4 days per week

Relief Care Workers
£6.85 per hour • Various shifts available

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Rota system, including evening and weekends

Providing assistance and support to our service users to enable them to maintain their independence, you will also assist the Key Worker in the care of designated individuals, planning, reviewing and maintaining the service delivery.

For the Part Time Care Worker and Care Assistant roles we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. Applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is an Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010. These posts are subject to PVG Scheme Membership.

For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568. Closing date: 25th July 2013.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk

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Administrator

Fixed Term Contract

Scottish Sea Farms are looking to recruit an enthusiastic administrator to be based at our South Shian office.

The successful candidate will be responsible for various administrative duties including assisting our HR Department, engaging with the local community in promoting the companies profile and supporting our training department to ensure the smooth running and organisation of training courses. You will have an excellent phone manner, competent computer skills, be able to work on your own initiative, have confidence and able remain focused under pressure.

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If this position interests you and you would like more information please contact Jane McCusker on 01786 445521, or email jane.mccusker@scottishseafarms.com for an application form.

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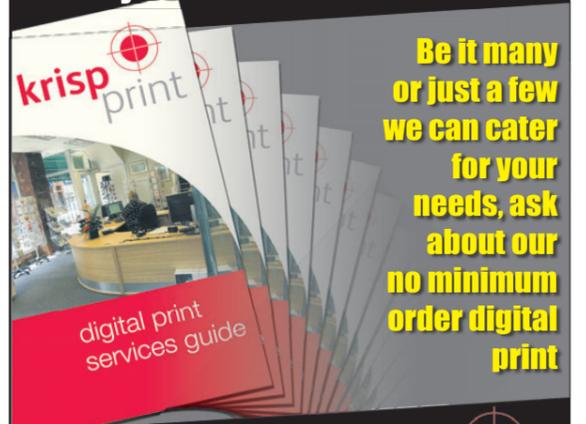
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PERSONALS

Jean Black (formerly of Dunmar Court) would like to thank all friends for cards, gifts and good wishes on her 90th Birthday.

PERSONALS

GOLDEN WEDDING Ian and Moira MacInnes wish to thank their immediate family, relatives and friends for the beautiful flowers, gifts, phonecalls and cards and are totally overwhelmed by the many kind messages received on their Anniversary. Special thanks to our beloved grandchildren for making the weekend such fun.

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BIRTHS



NEWLANDS

Harry Robert arrived quickly for Ralph and Lucy (nee Bourne) on June 26, 2013 in Elgin. A delightful grandson for Liza and for Richard Bourne and a nephew for Uncle Sam.

ENGAGEMENTS

DAVIES - LE PREVOST - Allison and Andy Davies, of Connel, are delighted to announce the engagement of their elder daughter Rachel to Steven, younger son of David and Carolyn Le Prevost, of the Isle of Man.

MACLEAN - NELSON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Monica Ruth, daughter of Angus and Frances MacLean, Kinlochmoidart to Thomas Robert Nelson, younger son of Michael and Sue de la Haye of St Helier, Jersey.

MARRIAGES

HARRISON - SWANN - On June 22, 2013 at Tynninghame Beach, North Berwick, Ewen Harrison, son of Janice and Donald Harrison, Taynuilt to Livvy Swann, Farningham, Kent. A great time was had by all.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully on June 28, 2013, in the Belford Hospital, Cecilia Cameron aged 86 years, beloved mother of Euan and Kirstie. Cecilia's funeral was held yesterday (Wednesday) at Kilchoan Church of Scotland, followed by interment at Kilchoan Cemetery. The family would like to thank those involved in Cecilia's care, which enabled her to remain at home, and also the staff of the Belford Hospital for their dedicated care. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors.

DARROCH - Donald. Peacefully at Islay Hospital on July 3, 2013 with his family by his side. Beloved husband of Bunty, loving father of Angus and Ann, father-in-law to Duncan and Irene. Special and much loved grandpa to Eilidh, Iona, Donald and Julie. Great-grandpa to Abbie and Mathew. Sadly missed by all.

DEKKER - Christine (nee MacKinnon) passed away peacefully, aged 63, on July 4, 2013, at Royal Surrey County Hospital, after a long brave battle, borne with dignity, courage and determination. Partner to Campbell and sister to Catherine, Kenina and the late Callum MacKinnon, originally of "Tav an Taggart", Tayinloan, Argyll. An inspiration to all and deeply loved by all who crossed her path. Funeral service to be held at Clachan Church, Argyll, on Thursday, July 18 at 12 noon. "Till the dawn breaks and the shadows flee away."

GRAHAM - Peacefully at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on July 6, 2013, Jean Reid Graham MBE, beloved daughter of the late Andrew and Maisie Graham, conductor of the Dalvait singers, musical federation and national mod adjudicator. Funeral service at Riverside Parish Church, Dumbarton on Monday, July 15, 2013 at 1pm to which all friends are respectfully invited, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium arriving at 2.15. No flowers please. Much loved by all her girls and will be sorely missed.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on July 6, 2013, Morag MacDonald (nee MacLean) wife of the late Charlie, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral will take place at Kilniver Parish Church on Saturday July 13 at 11 am. Thereafter to Kilniver Cemetery.

MACINDEOR - After a long illness on Thursday, July 4, 2013 at St Vincent's Hospice Howwood, Neil, much loved husband of Mary, caring and supportive dad to Karen, Scott, Christopher, Richie and Kasia. Formerly of Gartnash, Ballygrant, Isle of Islay. Funeral service took place at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley on Wednesday, July 10.

ROBERTSON - Unexpectedly but peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Saturday July 6, 2013, in her 94th year, Dr. Caroline, Moleigh House, Oban. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Eric Robertson, loving mother to Carol, David and Kenneth, gran to five grandchildren and great-gran. She will be remembered always, and sadly missed.

SINCLAIR - Suddenly at his home, 38 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, on July 9, 2013, John Sinclair (retired Argyll and Bute Hospital Engineer), aged 71 years, beloved husband of Jan Cameron, much loved father of Ross, Karen and

Nicola and adored grandpa of Natalie, Lisa, Scott, Debbie and Adele. Much respected father-in-law of Louisa, Eric and Stephen. A dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will take place in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Saturday, July 13 at 11.00am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Flowers or donations, if desired, to local charities. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Annie (Annette) a much loved mum, mother-in-law, nana, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend to many. Mairi, Margaret, John and families would like to express heartfelt thanks to relatives and friends for the support and kindness shown to them. Special thanks to Lorn Medical Centre, Dr Steven Brown, community nurses, ambulance crew and staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Katriona Flannigan, and Mears Carers for their support shown to mum. Special thanks to D & A Munn and Rev Margaret Miller for a lovely service, The Falls of Lora, Flower Basket and Alexander Levack for piping. £340.06 was collected for "Community Respiratory Fund".

MACCOLL - Elspeth and Iain wish to express sincere thanks and gratitude for the care and friendship shown to mum, with special thanks to Fiona and Ann. Many thanks to family, neighbours and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of mum. Thanks to the medical team on Ward B Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and attention throughout Mum's time in hospital. Many thanks to D & A Munn for their support and guidance, to Rev D Cameron for a comforting service, to Dougie for his tribute and to all who attended Kilmore Church and Pennyfuir. The sum of £511.17 was raised for Kilmore Church and Guide Dogs.

MACPHEE - The MacPhee family would like to thank their many friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to them all on the recent passing of Marion, mother, granny and great granny. Thanks to Spean Bridge Hotel for excellent catering, MacDonald Bros for the beautiful floral arrangements and Rev Dr Varvell for a lovely service and comforting words. Special thanks to Ewen and Scott of John McLellan for their help and support and amazing attention to detail throughout. Finally the staff of Belford Hospital and especially Dr Brian Tregaskis for the care and attention shown to Marion in recent months. Thank you all. 23 Altour Road, Spean Bridge.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
MACALISTER - A memorial service will be held, to celebrate the life of Scott MacAlister, at Kilbrandon Parish Church on Saturday July 20, at 12pm. There after please join the family at Easdale Hall for soup and sandwiches. Donations to the Fisherman's Mission appreciated. Casual dress please.

MEMORIALS

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Peter, passed away July 12, 2005. Sadly missed. In our thoughts always. - Julie, Anne, Drew, Liam, Andrew, Jackie and family.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mum, May who passed away on July 6, 1998. I think of you in silence I often speak your name But all I have are memories And a picture in a frame My heart still aches with sadness My secret tears still flow For what it meant to lose you Mum no one will ever know. - Your loving daughter Kay, Lochgilphead.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our dear gran May who passed away July 6, 1998. Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget - Your loving grandchildren, Duncan and Caroline.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Sandy who passed away July 9, 2009 and Margaret who passed away August 15, 2010.

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2004. Always loved and never forgotten. - Catriona, Bruce, Jean, Julie and Iain.

CROSSLAND - Richard (Richy), July 8, 2011. Remembering. Holding on so very tightly to the memories of you, my number two son. - Mum Cona, Gary, Will and Orla.

DYKES - In loving memory of our dear mother, granny and great-granny Cathy, who died July 9, 2012. It broke our hearts to lose you You did not go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home. - Michael, Christine and family.

MACBRIDE - Treasured memories of a dear Aunt, Mary, who died July 13, 1995. Always loved and never forgotten. - Rosemary, Ewen and family, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Sandra, who died July 14, 2010. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Tobermory and Glasgow.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our dear parents mother Mary died July 11, 1995, father John died October 4, 1975, our beloved brother Donald John died July 6, 1994, also remembering our dear brothers-in-law Norman died August 30, 1995, Angus died December 24, 2006. When thoughts drift back As they often do We cherish the memories We have of you. - Inserted by the family at West Kilbride and away.

McMASTER - Loving thoughts of mum and dad, Dorothy and Andrew McMaster. Forever in our hearts. - Maureen and Hamish.x

SMITH - Treasured memories of our dear mother Morag, who died on July 14, 2007 and our dear father Jimmy, who died on August 1, 2012. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day. So sadly missed. - Violet and Theresa.

STEWART - Iain, July 12, 2002. Happy thoughts of times together Hold memories that last forever. - Love Durriona, Iain, Lachie, Fiona and families.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Thought for the Week

IT HAS been said that traditionalists or conservatives in faith want absolute certainty, whilst liberals pray for authenticity or that which is real. There may be something in these generalisations for when it comes to interpreting the same passages of Scripture Christians of profound faith may

see and hear different things. It is incorrect to dismiss one side or the other as treating the Bible without respect. Nor should we assume that only our own view branch of a world-wide billion member Christianity has a monopoly on the truth. We need to learn from the insights of others in faith and sometimes those with

whom we profoundly disagree. C S Lewis wrote: 'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it, I see everything else.' Christian faith is not a set of rules, rather the wonderful parables of Jesus, and the life he led, all illuminated by the Holy Spirit - our guide in interpretation - lead us

into a world view which is paradoxically personal and universal. Let us never limit God's activity for He challenges all our preconceptions. Rather let faith shine a light of radical love into all aspects of this complex and wonderful world. Rev Dugald Cameron.

Bid to give remarkable Argyll woman her place in policing history

AFTER becoming one of the most important women in Northern Ireland's policing history, Argyll's Marion Macmillan is to be commemorated by the unit in its 70th year.

And the search is now on to find her final resting place so the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Historical Society can piece together the last days of this remarkable woman's life.

Marion Macmillan transferred from London's Metropolitan Police to the RUC, now the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in 1943 to establish a women's unit, the start of a successful 22 years with the force.

She was the third daughter of Duncan and Marion Macmillan, from Balcaldie, and enjoyed an illustrious police career before moving to the Isle of Seil on her retirement in 1965.

Marion Paterson Macmillan was born on February 13 1909 in Oban but her family later moved to the county of Stirling. Her father was a gamekeeper in an estate and she had four brothers and three sisters.

She attended Fort William Secondary School leaving at 14 years of age. During the following years she worked as a nursemaid, a children's nurse and a nurse companion.

Margaret Cameron, an ex-superintendent with the RUC and member of the historical society, said: 'On July 16 1914 she joined the London Metropolitan Police. During the following nine years she served in Bow Street, West End and in Commercial Road, East End. She was promoted to sergeant on June 17 1940.

'On transfer to the Royal Ulster Constabulary on September 6 1943 she was tasked with establishing a women's section within the RUC. She remained with the RUC for 22 years and rose to the rank of district inspector (superintendent).

'During her service she was awarded the MBE, BEM, the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and an honorary degree from Queen's University, Belfast.'

Marion retired on October 31 1965 and settled in a little cottage called the But and Ben adjoining the Post Office overlooking the Sound of Seil.

But her health began to fail and Marion moved to Bath House, 129 East Princes Street, Helensburgh, to live with her sister Bunty, who worked as a headmistress in a local school.

Marion passed away at Victoria Infirmary, Helensburgh, on December 23 1984. Now in the platinum anniversary year of the women's unit of the RUC, former members are trying to piece together the life of Marion Macmillan in order to preserve the history of the unit.

Charlotte Murtagh, also ex-

RUC and part of the historical society, said: 'Unfortunately we are unaware of any known grave for Miss Macmillan.

'We believe she was cremated and possibly her ashes were scattered. We are hoping someone somewhere may be able to confirm where her final resting place is.'

Marion had a nephew who was a doctor in a Glasgow hospital



The But and Ben on Seil where Marion retired to.



Marion showing her MBE to her three sisters.



Marion in her RUC district inspector's uniform.

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GRADUATION

Angus Munro graduated with BSc (Hons) in Mathematical, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences from Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Congratulations from Mum, Dad and all the family.

WEDDINGS



MACLEOD - MASTERTON

Kirsten MacLeod, Acharacle, and Colin Masterton, Cumbernauld, celebrated their marriage in Glenuig on April 12 with family and friends. Kirsten is the granddaughter of the late Alan MacPherson, Ardtoe.



YOUNG - HOUGHTON

At St Mary's Church, Glencoe, on April 20 2013, Mhairi to Ewan. The reception was held at the Onich Hotel with family and friends. Kenny Ferguson Photography

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times
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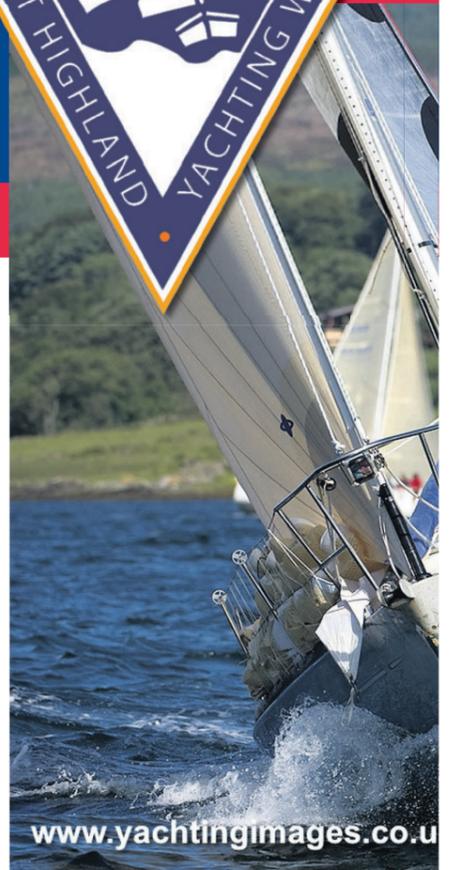


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THE 66th West Highland Yachting Week Regatta will bring boats, crews and guests to Craobh, Oban and Tobermory over the week of 27th July to 2nd August 2013. Feeder races take place from Oban to Craobh for the northern boats to compete in with those coming from the Clyde, Ireland and England racing from Gigha on Saturday July 27. Converging for the start at Craobh Marina, the event offers a diversity of racing and socialising that is unique and currently bucking the trend of decreasing regatta numbers elsewhere. Offering a variety of competitive sailing amidst the west coast's spectacular scenery, the event has developed an iconic status within the sailing community over its 66-year history. Attracting both 'die-hard racers' and those who are more cruising oriented it is a measure of the success of the event format that it continues to see a healthy entry. Passage races link the ports of Craobh, Oban and Tobermory and there is a day's racing off Oban and Tobermory with a mix of traditional Olympic style 'round the buoys' courses as well as short inshore races for the cruising fleet. The mix on offer means there is indeed something for everyone and this extends to the après sail socialising. Whether it's catching up with old friends or meeting new, there is a buzz within the fleet drawn together by the excellent sailing and après sail social programme.

Ten Classes

It is expected that ten classes will be run overall - six spinnaker classes and four for white sail racing under the CYCA handicap system. Principal Race Officer Malcolm MacGregor said: 'Having considered the various handicapping systems available in 2013 the Joint Regatta Committee that organises the event has opted to standardise on the Clyde Yacht Clubs Association CYCA systems which suits West Highland Yachting Week well. The system has given very close results in the past. The make up of the classes will be finalised closer to the event.'

He added that the diversity of racing on offer was attractive to a wide range of competitors. 'Once again we can run the popular Round Lismore Race for 2013 - an island circumnavigation is always enjoyable giving racing on all points of sail.'

With this, the passage and Olympic style racing and the mix of spinnaker and restricted sail class we truly offer something for everyone.'

Tunnock's

Reflecting the major sponsorship from Tunnock's the famous biscuit manufacturers that have been hugely supportive of the event over the last few years, the spinnaker classes are again known as the 'Tunnock's Fleet'

The four restricted or white sail classes where the emphasis is on family involvement are known as the Argyll Fleet acknowledging the support of the event from Argyll and Bute Council.

The Race Programme

The fleet musters at Craobh Marina on Saturday 27th July where manager Jim Berry and his team once again extend a warm welcome. With the all purpose modern facilities block servicing the marina Craobh is offering half price berthing on Saturday night for all WHYW competitors. Jim said: 'We welcome everyone back - old and new faces and look forward to the usual good atmosphere at the marina - everyone here loves having the fleet in to muster and this event looks like being one of the best.'

Meanwhile the hospitality of the Lord of the Isles is on offer with a range of food and entertainment over the weekend both for WHYW competitors and their usual customers. See the social programme for full details.

Oban to Craobh Feeder Race

It's an early start for Northern sailors with the fleet setting off from Oban at 0800hrs, sailing down the Sound of Kerrera and on past Insh and Easdale, through Fladda leaving Luing to port and on to the Ardluing buoy off the southern tip of Luing. The fleet uses this as a turning mark to head into Craobh Marina.

Gigha to Craobh Feeder Race

Those who have mustered at Gigha will start at 0900 on Saturday to head up to Craobh for the finish, a distance of around 31 miles.

Craobh to Oban Passage - Sunday

The main WHYW Regatta Points Series starts on Sunday with all yachts racing on passage from Craobh to

Oban through the Sound of Luing and inside Insh Island. The finish is this year at the north west of the entrance to Oban Bay and boats will leave the island of Kerrera to starboard unless light winds dictate a shortened course.

Firth of Lorn Races - Monday

The WHYW fleet splits into those racing with spinnakers - the Tunnock's Fleet and the restricted sail classes - The Argyll Fleet racing on separate courses.

The Argyll Fleet sail to the south of the CalMac ferry line taking in Bach Island, Insh and marks off Ardencaple and Loch Feochan.

The colourful Tunnock's fleet races round the cans off Ganavan north of the ferry line on Olympic style courses set by Race officer Malcolm MacGregor. Wind permitting there will be two races for the Tunnock's fleet.

Round Lismore - Tuesday

Tuesday has the Round Lismore Race with this popular circumnavigation possible once again due to favourable tides. The fleet starts at the northern entrance to Oban Bay and races anti-clockwise round the island.

Oban to Tobermory - Wednesday

This ever popular race is a particular test for the fleet sailing the Sound of Mull and is sponsored by Tobermory Harbour Association

Sound of Mull Races - Thursday

WHYW boats have a day's racing off Tobermory on Thursday when the Tunnock's Fleet again race two Olympic style courses in an area bounded by Rubha nan Gall and Mingary Bay while the Argyll Fleet race out to Ardmore, Quinish Point and Ardnacross Bay.

Tobermory to Oban - Friday

After two nights in Tobermory, the fleet sails back to Oban down the Sound of Mull with this race specially sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd. The final prize-giving ceilidh is held in the Corran Halls.

The best vantage points for viewing the fleet

Saturday

Craobh Marina- the fleet of yachts musters here for WHYW's grand opening party - enjoy the atmosphere!

Sunday

Watch the fleet leave Craobh Marina from the end of the causeway from around mid-day to the start off Craobh. The yachts turn round a mark at the bottom of Shuna Island and then up the Sound of Luing, Cullipool, Easdale Island and Ellenabeich offer good vantage points and for the finish watch from the Gallanach Road or Kerrera itself.

When in Oban Yachts berth at Oban Marina, off Oban Sailing Club, the Esplanade or at Dunstaffnage Marina. Oban is the WHYW base till Wednesday morning

Monday

Best views from Oban's Esplanade, the War Memorial and Dunollie Point as the fleet head out from 9.30 am. Also at Dunstaffnage Marina and the Castle headland. Watch the Tunnock's Fleet race round the buoys from Ganavan and the Argyll fleet from the west side of Kerrera. The finish for the Argyll fleet is in the Sound of Kerrera so watch from Gallanach road or the eastern side of Kerrera.

Tuesday

Watch from Oban Esplanade, the War Memorial or Dunollie Point from 8-9am to yachts leave Oban to race anti-clockwise Round Lismore. Or Dunstaffnage Marina or the Castle headland and shoreline as boats head to the start from the marina.

Wednesday

See the yachts head out from 8-8.30am from the Esplanade, War Memorial or Dunollie Point to start the race to Tobermory off the north entrance to Oban Bay, or at Dunstaffnage marina. The fleet on passage to Tobermory is a sight to behold in the Sound of Mull when the yachts come together. Passengers aboard the CalMac ferry gain a bird's eye view through the Firth of Lorn and the entrance to the Sound by Lismore Light. The fleet then musters in Tobermory Bay.

Thursday

Boats leave Tobermory from 0930 - Head to Rubha nan Gall Lighthouse or Ardmore Point to see the fleets racing at the North entrance to the Sound of Mull. The Argyll Fleet returns to race down the Sound of Mull to the Green Isle for their last course mark. Catch sight of them racing along the north section of the main road from Tobermory to Craignure,

Friday

Watch from Tobermory Bay at 9.30 as the boats head down the Sound of Mull to Oban. Viewing from the east coast of Mull - the road from Tobermory to Craignure and the Cal Mac ferry back to Oban.

Anyone wishing to check on best locations to see the fleet can phone 07879 646 170 Results of each day's racing are posted on the website www.whyw.co.uk

Great camaraderie and tremendous fun

As well as a great race programme WHYW is renowned for its après sail social programme offering a wide range of activities for all ages to enjoy. For those at Gigha for the feeder race the Gigha Hotel is open for bar suppers and dinners the evening before the race.

When everyone arrives at Craobh Marina hosts Meg and Les MacLeod host the grand opening LOTI party which will finish with a spectacular fireworks display at midnight just before last orders - a spectacular send off to launch WHYW.

Add to this the mixture of ceilidhs, the OSC Barbecue, family swimming, touch rugby and general socialising and it's a fun-packed programme. See the full social programme for what's happening throughout the week.

Look out for the locals on the start line

Richard Shellcock of Benderloch, class winner from last year, competes in a new boat to him for 2013. The Prism 28 Thrust has been raced extensively in the south so it will be an interesting boat to watch in Class 1.

One of the Class 3 favourites will be Steven Forteith in his father's First 31.7 Shadowfax with top sail trimmer Chris Owen aboard. But John (Bodach) MacKenzie from Skye with Stoirm Mhor who has almost become a local boat competing in the GBC regatta and the Round Mull race this year, will also be strong competition if the wind is up. Oban based Anne Campbell with the X34 Ajax also races Class 3.

Brian Robertson with his Sunshine Regatta Red Aye of Lochaber Yacht Club takes on the competition in restricted sail Class 4.

Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 is always up in the placings as is Colin Crawford with his Dehler 34 Nimrod in Class 5. Adrian Laycock's Prime Cut adds more local competition as will Brian Robertson of Mid Argyll racing Celtic Spirit. Donald Smith with his Maxi Tilly Too and Findlay Clark from Kilmelford sailing Red October, the smallest boat in the fleet, Marian Austin from Lochaber Yacht Club, Alison Chadwick from Oban and Alastair Cousin from Campbeltown in Carna all battle it out in Class 8.

Campbeltown Sailing Club's Frank McHardy is expected to compete and former class winner Judy Orr will race her MGC Eureka in the spinnaker Class 7 for the first time.

David Cooper from Glencoe Boat Club sports a new boat this year - his Dehler 34 Suilven. In restricted sail class 9 it's a welcome back to John MacCartan in his Sadler 25 Silver Sage.



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Familiar Faces

The 'fast classes' see familiar names like Iain Laidlaw with his J97 Jaywalker fresh from winning the overall title at this year's Scottish Series. Iain and team race in Class 3 taking on amongst the others Nick Spurr's First 35 Spurreli. John Stamp returns again from Port Edgar with Jacob V his J111 and Frenchman Sebastian Harinkouk with his First 42s7 Duckwall Pooley, both competing in Class 0. Sebastian traditionally races the T'ree Regatta first since he has a holiday home on the island and is quite a sight to behold competing against traditional wooden luggers!

Ruth Christensen will race the Elan 40 Ceol Beag in Class 1 under the flag of the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club alongside John Rose with his Oceanis 40 Insatiable. Gordon Lawson, from Port Edgar, also campaigns his Ronautica 400 Moonstruck in Class 1. Former title holders Roddy and Ruairidh Angus and Misijf return with their Sunfast 37 'More Misijf' in this class and Stephen Pickles will be racing his new boat - the Dufour 40 Ataraxia in this class as well.

Ewan McLellan's X-43 Seanachaidh sails under the flag of the Imperial Poona Yacht Club with Stephen Leckie's Lark and Ian Donald's Hanse 400 Tiorum in white sail Class 2. Another Dubai Offshore Sailing Club boat - Kevin Harris's Temptress of Down also contends Class 2 alongside long time WHYW competitors John Mill and Lorca.

Restricted sail class stalwarts David Harcourt and team on An Doochalie II will take on Alex Mathews Equinox from Helensburgh in white sail Class 4.

In Class 5 the major WHYW event sponsor Boyd Tunnock races his Moody Lemarac and will be taking on the Sigma 33 competition with Alan Harper's Sigma 33 Leaky Roof II and Amber Haze from Oban already lined up.

Class 6 sees Alan Dunnet's evergreen Valhalla of Ashton alongside Ralph Mahood's L'au life. Donald McLaren from Helensburgh, who won the best family yacht last year, is back racing his Sigma 33 Sigmatic again with the family in this restricted sail class. Ronnie Haggerty's Sirius of Lorne is another familiar name as is Stephen Owen's Halcyon, another contender in Class 6.

Rammie and Shindig come from Aberdeen and Stonehaven Sailing Club to race - Mike Fleming's Hunter 707 and David Smith's Moody 419 race against each other in Class 7. Helensburgh sailor Elliot Witherow enters Buzzy Bee in this class as does Darren Taylor's Carter 33 Chimeara and Scottish Series Class winner the Grand Soleil 34 Stargazer from Arran will be helmed by Angus Campbell. Class racer Craig Anderson and his team on his Moody 336 Cool Bandit 2 have been competing at WHYW for 13 years and will be up against fellow Moody 336 competitor Graham Goudie with Cara of Kip in Class 7. Former restricted sail class winner Judy Orr is opting for spinnaker rac-

ing in this class in her MGC 27 Eureka and Jason Rankin with Bedlum is also sailing in 7 giving a varied spread of yachts.

Far travelled yachts

From across the channel, Irish entry Trevor Fisher with his Albin Ballad Kotuku from East Down Yacht Club races in Class 8 alongside Gavin Dickie's Etyhene 24 Hydra. Andy O'Donovan sails his First 211 déjà vu from Port Haliguen in France - another far travelled yacht for West Highland Week! This is building to be a big class and will see close racing with the local contingent including Alastair Pugh's 32 Marisa, Chris Hall's Cherry Pie and one of the oldest boats in the fleet, the original Contessa 26 Windflower from Chanonyr Sailing Club returning with Roxby Robson and crew.

Howard Rose of Mylor Yacht Club, Cornwall is also far travelled with his Carter 33 Quicksilver of Lavrion opting for white sail in Class 9. Cherry Ripe the Rival 38 of Ian Cameron takes on the fleet in Class 9.

White sail class 9 has a mix of familiar and new faces with the Campbelltown contingent Blue Liz and Eureka and Malindi of Lorne expected to be there.

It was also expected that John Corson would be back with his team in the First 35 Salamander XXI. Other white sail names like Robin Ferguson with Hoodlum, Pandrop, Leomaris of Clyde are all prospective entries as well as Scott Chalmers with Sunrise. Anderson and Findlay's Roxstar, newly out of the wrapper last year has already made a big impression winning many of the Clyde's major titles and finishing second in class at this year's Scottish Series. Other WHYW stalwarts - Stevie Andrews, Gavin Clyde and Murray Caldwell are also expected entries.

NB Class entries as above are given at time of going to press. For up to date entry list and information see www.whyw.co.uk and on www.facebook.com/WestHighlandYachtingWeek

Committee Vessels for 2013

The WHYW committee is lucky to work with some excellent committee vessels. Rob Barlow's Elizabeth G, Ronnie Campbell's Laura Dawn, the Smith twin's Power of Scotland via Coastal Connection and Kyra from Tarbert Shellfish. The Geddes' kenspeckle Chico is back for a second year gracing the fleet and Roy Tait's yacht Gaeldom is also helping once again.

Chico is not only a classic motor yacht but carries with her an interesting history including being one of the Little Ships at Dunkirk.

Built in 1932 at the Millers yard, St Monans in Fife to a G L Watson design for Frank Robinson Beavan of Newcastle she was initially named Frebelle III. She was sold in 1933 to land and water speed record

holder Sir Malcolm Campbell, the third of four yachts that he was to own, each in turn named Blue Bird.

The boat was sold again in 1935 to the Countess of Onslow and then requisitioned for war service in December 1939 fitted out with Lewis guns and echo sounding gear. She was commissioned by the Navy as 'Chico' in March 1940, based at Dover on minesweeping duty. At the end of May she was ordered to Dunkirk and Calais to assist in the evacuation, ferrying troops from the beaches to ships offshore and then returning twice to bring exhausted men back to Dover. Chico saw further action with enemy aircraft in the Channel and was finally put back into civilian ownership in 1946 after her distinguished war service.

Chico was subsequently fitted with a deck saloon to improve day accommodation and has since been used as a private and charter yacht. In the 1970's she sailed to Europe and Russia as a research and demonstration vessel for Marconi. Returning to the south coast from the Mediterranean in 1990, she was re-engined and refitted to provide comfortable accommodation for ten.

Chico is now used as a charter yacht from various west coast of Scotland locations and overwinters at Portavadie Marina. She will be used as one of the finishing vessels for WHYW.

Owner Angus Geddes bought Chico in March 2010 when she was on the Thames. He and his partner, Sue, live aboard the boat from April to October, moving around the west coast while working on the boat between charters.

He said: 'We started chartering in a small way with friends and family but this year are actively looking for new business. We're very much looking forward to being involved in West Highland Yachting Week once again and being part of this much loved week of racing on the west coast.'

EVENT SPONSORS

The Joint Regatta Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of all sponsors ensuring the success of the 66th West Highland Yachting Week.

Tunnock's

World renowned biscuit makers Tunnock's have supported the event for the last five years. The spinnaker classes are known as the Tunnock's Fleet and Thomas Tunnock Ltd sponsor the Tobermory to Oban passage race on the final day of the event. Top up biscuit packs for the famous Tunnock's survival box are an essential part of WHYW.

Boyd Tunnock CBE, managing director of the Uddingston based company who is also an enthusiastic competitor said: 'We are delighted once again to be supporting this well loved yachting regatta which has such a loyal following and great camaraderie. We look forward to this year's event.'

Argyll and Bute Council

The support of the local council is acknowledged in naming the restricted sail classes the Argyll Fleet on the days the fleets race separately. This partnership reflects the economic and social importance of WHYW to the wider community of Argyll and Bute.

Tobermory Harbour Association

Offering the best of west coast hospitality with moorings, pontoon berths and free anchorage in Tobermory Bay Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) is both a fitting and welcome partner with WHYW. Taigh Solais at Ledaig has full onshore facilities for visiting yachts. THA, whose ethos is 'facilities for all' encourages all afloat to sort and re-cycle their waste ashore. Brian Swinbanks, chairman of THA said: 'We are very happy to support West Highland Yachting Week that brings enormous benefit to all our community on Mull.'

The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate supports WHYW as part of its wide ranging programme to promote the sustainable development of leisure sailing across Scotland and to help raise the profile of an industry that is crucial to coastal communities Paul Bancks, Coastal Manager (Scotland) said: 'The Crown Estate is delighted to be able to provide support to the 2012 event again. With over 5,000 licensed moorings around Scotland we play

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Sunday 28th July - Tim O'Connor
Monday 29th July - Trail West
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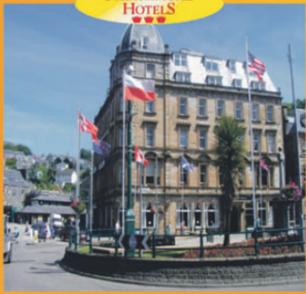
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the lead role in managing the provision of mooring space for the Scottish boating community. We wish all participants the best of luck and good sailing'.

■ Caledonian MacBrayne

Caledonian MacBrayne provides the venue for The Skippers' Reception for West Highland Yachting Week in the Departure Lounge of the CalMac Terminal in Oban. Prizes for both the feeder races and the Sunday Craobh to Oban race which is also sponsored by CalMac will be presented at this reception. CalMac also provide help with ferry transport for official vehicles.

■ West Coast Motors

West Coast Motors is again providing a special transport service between Dunstaffnage and Oban to link up with après sail events when the fleet is in town. West Coast Motors has been bringing people together via their transport system since 1923 much as WHYW has been attracting sailors for 65 years. West Coast Motors also run a fast passenger ferry service - Kintyre Express - providing speedy sea links between Campbeltown, Ballycastle and Troon as well as offering flexible private charter.

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All information from www.whyw.co.uk
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WestHighlandYachtingWeek

Watch for the 'Windows on West Highland Yachting Week'

Shops and businesses in both Oban and Tobermory are once again being encouraged to take part in window dressing for West Highland Yachting Week. The aims is to promote the event in the town and attract customers to each business. The standard of window dressing in the past has been very high and it gives the community the chance to play their part in participating in the event. Jo Woolnough, who is organizing the window dressing in Oban, said: 'We look forward to some imaginative ideas being produced this year and hope as many people will take part.'

Any shop that wishes to enter please contact Alison Chadwick at mail@amcnab.co.uk or phone 07879 646 170 Some 'props' can be provided to help dress business windows.

Photographs at West Highland Yachting Week

Ron Cowan, the well known yachting photographer will be at West Highland Yachting Week for the event. Selections of his photographs from last year are on his website www.yachtingimages.co.uk
If you have a particular query about your boat picture contact him either via the website or Ronald M. Cowan ABIP, Incorporated Photographer, 85 Eastwoodmans Road, Clarkston GLASGOW G76 7HG For further details, please contact ron@yachtingimages.co.uk



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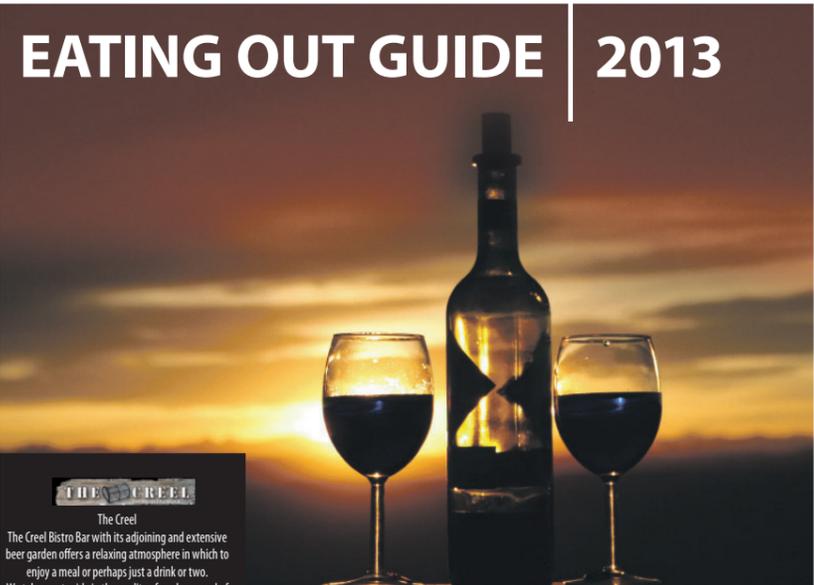
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SOCIAL SCENE | 2013

- Friday 26 July**
• **Isle of Gigha**
Bar suppers and dinners available at Isle of Gigha Hotel from 1800 to 2130hrs with local fish being the focal point of the menu. Booking advisable.
- Saturday 27 July**
• **Craobh Marina and Lord of the Isles Pub & Restaurant - Lord of the Isles Grand Regatta Opening Party**
All day and evening entertainment from 1130 hrs. Join the great "LOTI" party and send off for the regatta! All day food, a special dinner (booking recommended) together with a Seafood Bar, BBQ and Hog Roast. There will be a live band in the marquee. There will be a sit down breakfast on Sunday as well as carry-out rolls.
- Sunday 28 July**
• **Oban Marina, Isle of Kerrera - Food from the Waypoint Grill and open air entertainment**
2030 hrs till late
Enjoy live music while overlooking the marina and Oban Bay. Seafood grill, barbecue and drinks
- Monday 29 July**
• **Oban Sailing Club - Early evening Barbecue Party**
1800 to 2030 hrs
Enjoy a 'light bite' with a barbecued burger and salad at Oban Sailing Club. Team this with a drink from the bar and catch up with fellow racers. Great views of Oban Bay!
• **Skipinnish Ceilidh House - Skipinnish Ceilidh Show**
2030 hrs till late
Live entertainment followed by ceilidh with dancing till late.
- Tuesday 30 July**
• **Atlantis Leisure Centre - free Family Swim Night**
1800 to 2000 hrs
The chance to go swimming with all the family at Atlantis. Relax in this excellent pool after a hard day's racing. There is also a gym available at cost.
• **Oban & Lorne Rugby Club - Inter Yacht Touch Rugby**
1900 (prompt) to 2200 hrs
Bring along your team to compete in this fun rugby tournament. All teams to turn up at 1900 prompt! To enter, complete the registration form included in the Sailing Instructions and return to the Race Office. Forms can also be collected from the Race Office at Craobh.
• **Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunstaffnage**
Food served mid-day till 1430 hrs and from 1800 hrs with a creative menu at the Wide Mouthed Frog pub and restaurant. Fantastic atmosphere at this picturesque marina. Ceilidh entertainment on Tuesday night.

- Wednesday 31 July**
• **Live music/entertainment/food at various venues in Tobermory**
MacGochans - Live music from 2200
Mishnish - Live music with "Shenanigan" and "Raggaeals"
- Thursday 1 August**
• **Mid-week prizegiving - MacGochans**
2000 to 2100 hrs
Mishnish - another chance to enjoy "Shenanigan" and "Raggaeals"
MacGochans - special guest band playing live

Friday 2 August
• **Final Prizegiving and Dance - Corran Halls**
2030 to 0100 hrs
Celebrate the final night of West Highland Yachting Week and dance to live music from world - renowned ceilidh rock band "Craigendarloch".

WEST COAST MOTORS BUS

West Coast Motors are running their special West Highland Yachting Week bus service for competitors between Dunstaffnage Marina and Oban.
Timetables are available from the race office and within the Sailing Instructions.
Bus Fares: Adult Single = £2.00, Adult Return = £3.00, Child Single = £1.50, Child Return = £2.00, Scottish Concession card holders (age 60+) travel free.

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The Hebridean Isles after a trip to Islay, viewed from plots 4 & 5.

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The snug bar at the reception is an extremely popular bar with locals and tourists alike offering a very friendly atmosphere allowing the visitor to meet local people in a great environment.

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The fleet leaves Oban Bay for the start of the race.

Variety of sailing conditions during Round Mull Race

CONTRASTING weather conditions gave a variety of sailing in this year's Ardfern Yacht Centre and Owen Sails sponsored Round Mull Race. Run by Oban Sailing Club, this year's circumnavigation saw 36 boats competing over the weekend making it one of the most popular events on the west coast. In this, the 29th year, the fleet races 100 miles over three

stages - Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Buessan and Buessan to Oban.

A breezy start out of Oban Bay on Friday saw the three-class fleet make Lismore Light in good time only to be stopped by a calm patch off the Grey Isles. Those who crept through to the next section of breeze never looked back whilst some of the fleet remained becalmed for an hour or more.

The stop start conditions continued for the tail end of the fleet but it was a bigger boat race and Mystic Sun, the Oceanis 440 of Williams and Johnson in the restricted sail class reeled in the faster spinnaker boats on handicap to take the Mishnish Bucket for best overall performance of the day.

Fast class winner was James Hardie's Grand Soleil Taz with Bill Bergius's Hinckley 42 Northern Whistler II second and David Walter's Arcona 430, Requiem third. Class 2 (medium handicap) was won by the 'Skye Boys' - John MacKenzie's West-erly Typhoon Storm Mhor from Colin Crawford's Nimrod and Brian Wiseman's Sorrr of Appin in third.

Marian Austin's Northney 34 Scintilla stormed ahead in Class 3 to win by a good margin from Johnny Dryborough's Contessa 32 Thrummy Jig with Alistair's Pugh's Contessa 32 Marisa third.

This year, four Contessa 32s

raced in their own class within the event. If numbers increase this could form a Scottish National Championship for the 32. Unfortunately weather prevented Milly Brown from Shetland coming down although David Kirk from Skye made it through the weather to race his Trapper Jigsaw for the first time double-handed in Class 3.

The second leg to Buessan saw the fleet pull out of Tobermory with a following wind, under kite for the spinnaker classes. The fetch to Caliach Point was a taster of the beat to come with the stiff force 4-5 breeze and lumpy seas making for a hard sail when boats rounded the point. Some boats stood out past Staffa whilst others opted for shorter tacking the Mull shore.

The low besetting the area made for a wet and windy race but the Dufour 40 Wookie II of John Fraser breezed through to lift the Buessan Hall Trophy for the best performance of the day with David Walter's Requiem second and Northern Whistler third. Shadowfax showed the medium class a clean pair of heels with Sorrr of Appin having to be content with a second and Good Craic third. In the slow handicap section Marisa won from Scintilla and Hot Toddy. White sail winner was Mystic Sun from Lady Hysteria.

The wet and windy sail did not discourage attendance at the buffet ceilidh in Buessan Hall

in aid of the Ross of Mull Historical Society where dancing, good food and good craic was enjoyed. In complete contrast to the preceding legs, Sunday dawned sunny and windless which gave Race Officer Phil Preston and his team a difficult task. Initially postponing the start to motor to the entrance of the Sound of Iona, Phil Preston then took the fleet through the Torran Rocks to Ardanalish. However the breeze was just not to fill in so the third leg was abandoned with boats forced to motor back. Billy Forthright who heads up the Round Mull Race committee said: 'It was disappointing not to have had a third race but we can't conjure up the wind. I think everyone accepts that and we look forward to next year's event.'

He thanked Forthright Food Service for the buffet which launches the event and the main sponsors Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre. Other sponsors include T Barbour Fuels, Forthright Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions, Dimension Polyant for T-shirts and North West Marine for providing the main committee vessel. A special thanks was given to Phil Preston, Tony Ratcliffe and team for running the event. The main trophies are awarded at the OSC prizingiving in November.

Results: Oban to Tobermory Class 1: 1 Taz; 2 Northern Whistler; 3 Requiem.

SAILING

Class 2: 1 Storm Mhor; 2 Nimrod; 3 Sorrr of Appin. In the restricted sail class Mystic Sun won from James Woolnough's Blueberry of Lorne and Andrew Mead's Seal was third.

Tobermory to Buessan: Class 1 Wookie II; 2 Requiem; 3 Northern Whistler

Class 2: 1 Shadowfax; 2 Sorrr of Appin; 3 Good Craic. Class 3: 1 Marisa; 2 Scintilla; 3 Hot Toddy. Restricted Sail: 1 Mystic Sun; 2 Lady Hysteria.

Overall Trophies: Requiem won the fastest two legs on corrected time to lift the Mull Plaque and won Class 1 overall for the Antique Schwepes Trophy. Shadowfax lifted Class 2 overall and Scintilla Class 3. The Bilgewater Shield for the fastest double-handed circumnavigation was won by James Woolnough and his daughter on Blueberry of Lorne and Mystic Sun lifted the overall prize for the restricted sail class.

The best overall performance of all the classes, the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy, was awarded to Northern Whistler whilst the Torran Rock for the monohull with the best corrected time overall regardless of class was won by the Forthright's Shadowfax.

Alistair Pugh's Marisa won the best Contessa 32 performance.



Golf News

WINDY conditions made the scoring difficult at Glencruitten on Saturday, making the competition standard scratch 66. In the Championship Philip Murphy leads with a score of 64, 65 = 129, Alan McKie is second with a score of 64, 66 = 130, David Graham (65, 66) and Gavin Owens (64, 67) are on 131.

Kenny MacCallum won the Senior Championship with net scores of 65, 66 = 131. In the Handicap Championship Gavin Owen leads with a score of 61, 64 = 125, Philip Murphy is second with 62, 64 = 126, David Graham (63, 64) and Michael Kelly (58, 69) are on 127. In the mixed foursomes on Sunday Declan Curran and Angela McLaughlin won the Hospital Quaiich with a score of 66.

On Saturday there is a Monthly Medal with the round of the George Smith Trophy, and on Sunday the Glencruitten Mixed Open.

Tobermory

MENS Section- July Medal 1st Keith McNaughton 68-06-62.2 Shaun Fisher 84-20-64, 3 Ross Kirsop 78-14-64.

Junior Section, July Medal, 1st Lewis Brown 67-13-54, 2 Lewis Wilshire 67-09-58, 3 William MacCrone 71-04-67.

First round of The Summer Challenge, 1 William MacCrone 61-05-56; 2 Lewis Brown 74-14-60; 3 Lewis Wilshire 69-09-60.

William MacCrone beat the junior course record by three strokes with this magnificent gross 61.

Ladies Section - July 9 hole Stableford, 1 Kate Gold 14 points; 2 Olive Brown 11 points; 3 Jenny Smith 11 points.

Taynuilt

LADIES' Muckairn Trophy second round, played on July 2: 1 Fiona McGlynn, 70 (18); 2 Carol Church, 71 (20); 3 Anne MacCalman, 71 (20).

Muckairn Trophy 2013: 1 Anne MacCalman, 140 (69 71); 2 Fiona McGlynn, 149 (79 70); 3 Carol Church, 150 (79 71).

Trevor Allen Mixed Scramble 2013, played on July 7: 1 Robbie MacLarty / Donna Campbell / Mary Phillips 61-10 = 51; 2 Fraser Inglis / Alan Wilson / Mairead Sim 60-06 = 54; 3

Tony Cave / Stephen Clark / Jill Stewart 61-07 = 54.

Gents Longest Drive 1st/10th: Gordon Tyre (Blairmore & Strone GC).

Ladies Longest Drive 7th/16th: Carol Church (Dalmally GC).

Gents Nearest the Pin 3rd/12th: Robbie MacLarty (Taynuilt GC).

Ladies Nearest the Pin 6th/15th: Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt GC).

Islay

JULY Medal played July 7: 1 D Johnston 77 Less 9 Net 68; 2 R Johnston 76 Less 8 Net 68; 3 N Carmichael 80 Less 12 Net 68. Cts 71.

Tiree

THE 5th Tiree Open was played on the 7th July in perfect conditions. Twenty six competitors took part in the competition and the first game teed off at 10am in ideal golfing conditions. The sun was shining and, unusually for Tiree, practically no wind.

Results: Gents Open Champion: 1 G Steel, Douglas Park 67 scratch; 2 R Gray, Cardross 71 scratch

Handicap: 1 N Connor, Vaul 66 net (better inward half); 2 A Cains, Vale of Leven 66 net (Longest Drive: G McGregor; Nearest the Pin: D Kerr Ladies Open Champion: J Gray, Vaul, scratch; K Thomson, Vaul, handicap.

Traigh

TRAIGH Golf Club held its monthly medal competition last weekend, with John Henderson taking the win.

Henderson shot a net round of 66 to take first place from Stewart Cameron, who was two shots behind on 68.

Cameron was tied with Jordan Coull, but his better inward half gave Cameron the runners up position.

Tarbert

VICTORY was sweet for golfer Rona Young after she triumphed in the recent Tarbert Ladies Championship.

At the end of the first round, Rae Bleasby had scored 87 and led by two shots over Rona on 89.

Sunday's events began with summer showers and testing conditions but there was still plenty of good golf on show.

In the end, Rona's consistency shone through as she finished with a total of 179, narrowly ahead of Sheena Ferguson on 180.

In the handicap competition, Seona Martin was victorious scoring 134, with Janeann Reppke runner-up on 141.

Ben wins at Killin



Action from the Killin round of the Scottish Downhill Association series. Photo: Ron Alner, The Studio, Killin.

AN OBAN rider has won an annual motorbike racing series' third round in Killin.

Elite level Ben Cathro, currently first in the series standings table, gained the maximum 50 points as he won in a time of 1:27.7 on the Scottish Downhill Association race.

In a blog post, Cathro said he was 'pumped' as this downhill race victory had been his first in two years.

Emma Atkinson achieved 2:10.7, the fastest time in the women's category.

More young athletes being encouraged to join the Argyll Highland Games circuit

THE Highland Games season is under way in Argyll with the new Lorne Games in Oban and Luss already held in late June and early July.

Next on the programme is Inveraray on Tuesday July 16 followed by Mull two days later on July 18. Taynuilt is on Saturday July 20 and also Southend in Kintyre on the Saturday evening. Finally Oban Games take place on Thursday August 22.

Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local, Argyll-based, young athletes to take part. This applies to the 'Highland Games' in Argyll, which are affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA).

Sponsored

Junior events will be held at Inveraray, Mull and Oban and are jointly sponsored by Mull Athletic Club, Mid Argyll Athletic Club and Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership.

There will be separate events for boys and girls between the age of 11 and 15 years (under 16 on 16/7/2013). The events are 90metres, 600metres, high jump, long jump and shot putt with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

There will be an overall junior championship with points awarded over the series of three Games and trophies presented to the top boy and girl at Oban Games on August 22. Prize money will be an added incentive at each of the three Highland Games.

As well as the junior events at the three SHGA Games there is a full programme of senior events (16 years and over) in two categories with local events confined to athletes born or resident in Argyll and open events. To compete in the open events athletes will have to register with the Scottish Highland

Games Association for the day or for the season.

Junior athletes at both Inveraray and Mull Games next week should enter on the field between 10am and 10.30am with the first event likely to start at 10.30am.

Further information on the junior events can be obtained by contacting Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

Top jumpers to compete at Mull Games?

Erray Park, the venue for Mull Highland Games on Thursday July 18, is arguably the best surface for jumping out of all the highland games in the Scottish Highland Games Association fixture list and this year the organisers hope to attract some of Scotland's top jumpers including athletes who have already qualified for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The prize money in the three jumping events has been substantially increased for 2013 and

2014 to attract the top athletes and there is also an additional cash incentive for the winner of the open high jump providing they break the long standing record of 6ft 3.5 inches set by the great Jay Scott back in 1955, many years before today's athletes were born.

Allan Smith, from Edinburgh, has indicated he is keen to compete at Mull this year. Allan is presently Scotland's top high jumper and during last winter twice broke the Scottish Native record which now stands at 2.23metres and which exceeds the qualifying standard for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Allan is competing for the UK in the European Under 23 Championships in Finland this weekend but hopes to travel to Mull on his return.

Two of Scotland's top long/triple jumpers also plan to be at Mull next Thursday. David Watson holds the ground record

HIGHLAND GAMES

at Mull with 49ft 4in set in 2011 and this record is under threat from David and also Anthony Daffurn from Coatbridge who is in fine form having already broken a long standing record in the long jump at one of the Grampian highland games. The long jump record of 22ft 11in set in 1968 may also be in danger if conditions are favourable on the day.

In addition to the high quality jumping events there will be intense competition in the traditional heavy events and in the various running events, not to mention the high quality piping and highland dancing competitions.

Both the Isle of Mull and Oban High School pipe bands will be entertaining the crowd at Mull Games. Sounds like a great day out.



Taynuilt Golf Club's Trevor Allen Mixed Scramble winners.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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COMPETITION

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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.

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Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
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Oban Camanachd pick up vital points at Inveraray

GLENURQUHART could be missing up to six first team regulars when they host league leaders Newtonmore at Blairbeg park on Saturday.

Lewis MacLennan, David Smart, Andrew Corrigan, Ruairidh Cameron, Andrew MacDonald and Paul MacIntosh all sat out last weekend's disappointing 2-0 Camanachd Cup defeat to Fort William, and only Corrigan has a chance of playing this Saturday.

Co-manager Fraser MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'Newtonmore will be desperate not to drop any points between now and the end of the season. But we're always confident going into these games.'

A few teams will be looking over their shoulders. Lochaber particularly have shown a fair bit of form and we play them in a few weeks. We've got to get back to winning ways and pull ourselves up the league.'

Glenurquhart dominated large spells of the game against Fort but could not find their way past a stubborn defence. MacKenzie said: 'We had quite a few boys out which didn't help us. We had to pull Fraser Heath back into defence which took away some of our goal threat up front.'

'It was a massive disappointment for the players.'

NEWTONMORE manager PJ MacIntosh knows the fate of his side's title defence lies in their own hands after Lovat dropped another point last weekend.

'More are three points clear at the top of the Orion Group Premiership and have played two games less than Lovat.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The league is ours to lose now. We've got three points and two games on the rest, so we just need to keep doing what we've been doing.'

More face Glenurquhart this Saturday and with Lovat not playing MacIntosh knows his side could stretch their lead even further with a win.

He said: 'Glenurquhart away is always a hard game, especially at home. They are physically very strong.'

Newtonmore secured their place in the Camanachd Cup semi-finals last weekend, but their game against north division one side Caberfeidh was not the walkover some might have anticipated.

MacIntosh said: 'They are a good side, they're very fit and strong. You're wanting to just get the win and get through, the scoreline doesn't matter. We're just happy to be in the next round.'

After a goalless first half, Glen MacIntosh and Danny MacRae found the back of the net in the second half to give their side a 2-0 win.

KINLOCHSHIEL welcome a resurgent Lochaber to Kirkton knowing a win could lift them to third in the Orion Group Premiership if Inveraray fail to beat Fort William at An Aird.

Defeat, however, would have 'Shiel looking over their shoulder at the developing relegation dogfight below them and bring Lochaber to within two points of the Lochalsh men.'

Such a scenario would have been unthinkable three weeks ago when Lochaber looked dead and buried. But wins over Kyles and Kingussie, followed by Saturday's 3-3 draw at Lovat, has invigorated the Spean Bridge men.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'It is a cup final for both teams. Lochaber have been getting good results and have taken five points from their last three games.'

'We are still four points clear of them with a game in hand but if they win it would cut the gap to two. It is still in our hands and Fort William and Lochaber still have to play each other twice so that's in our favour.'

'Shiel will be boosted by the return from suspension of Paul MacRae to defence and Davis Glass to the centre line, but knee injuries are likely to keep forwards Gordy MacDonald and Fraser MacVicar sidelined.'

Gill said: 'We are giving them as much time as we can - we don't want them coming back for one game and then missing the rest of the season.'

LOCHABER will be looking to continue the run of form that has lifted them out of the drop zone when they travel to Balmacara to take on Kinlochshiel this Saturday.

Caretaker boss Robert Johnstone has transformed the Spean Bridge side since taking charge three games ago and Lochaber will go into the game thinking a victory is a real possibility.

He said: 'It's very important to get points on the board now. There's no easy games in this league, we've just got to make sure we do the hard work.'

'Shiel are a very hard team to beat, especially at home. It's quite a narrow pitch up there but it's the same for both teams.'

In-form Martin Johnstone is a doubt for the game after fracturing his cheek during a 3-3 draw with Lovat last weekend.

The draw meant Lochaber have picked up five points out of a possible six, giving themselves a real chance of avoiding relegation.

Zands Ferguson and Donald MacRae both scored before Scott Paterson rescued a point with a last minute strike.

Johnstone said: 'I'm not really pleased with the draw, we gave them a silly goal. We should have won the game really, but it was a good, entertaining game and a point is better than nothing.'

FORT WILLIAM will look to carry over their impressive Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup form into vital Orion Group Premiership clash with Inveraray at An Aird.

The Fort sit an unaccustomed bottom of the league after Oban Camanachd's shock win over Inveraray, although they have games in hand over teams above them.

But that, according to co-manager Victor Smith, counts for nothing compared with points in the bag.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It doesn't matter how many games in hand you have - you have to win them. Every league game is important now, especially after Lochaber got another good result on Saturday.'

'Our position was really bad last week and it's even worse this week, but we enjoy playing against Inveraray and it will be a right good challenge.'

'We have to see how Inveraray react after getting beat last week but our squad will be much the same as against Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart. That's the first time that has happened this season and will help us on the day.'

INVERARAY looked to have been coasting to another Orion Group Premiership victory last Saturday against bottom-of-the-table Oban Camanachd when Euan McMurdo opened the scoring on four minutes.

But a determined Camanachd battled back to gain both points in a 2-1 win.

The Royal Burgh travel this Saturday to Fort William, who picked up a morale-boosting win over Glenurquhart in the Camanachd Cup semi-finals last weekend.

KINGUSSIE moved into the semi-finals of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup with a 5-2 victory over Kinlochshiel at The Dell on Saturday.

Kings were close to full strength after missing a host of players for the recent defeat against Lochaber, with Lee Bain and Ronald Ross passed fit to start up front.

And Ross made his presence known after just three minutes when he opened the scoring.

Youngster Savio Genini doubled the home side's lead six minutes later and Ross was on the scoresheet again with 23 minutes on the clock as Kings threatened to run riot.

Oliver MacRae gave 'Shiel hope when he scored just after the break, but Thomas Borthwick quickly restored his side's three goal advantage.

MacRae scored again in the 53rd minute, but Kings always looked more likely to score. Ross completed his hat trick in the 89th minute to confirm the win.

Kings have this weekend free to savour the win and prepare to build on their good league and cup form.

LOVAT have no game this weekend - giving the Kiltarity men plenty of time to reflect on their 3-3 home draw with Lochaber which has almost certainly extinguished any lingering hopes of overhauling Newtonmore at the top of the Orion Group Premiership.

A see-saw game saw Lochaber

score early through Owen Ferguson but Zands Ferguson drew Lochaber level just on half-time.

Donald MacRae then edged the visitors ahead before two goals inside five minutes from Lorne MacKay and Ryan Ferguson swung the game Lovat's way only for Scott Paterson to grab a last-gasp equaliser.

Lovat coach Allan Macrae told *The Oban Times*: 'Losing a goal right at the end was the disappointing thing, to be honest. 'But fair play to Lochaber - it was not and fro the whole game.'

'It was good for us in a way because at least we are scoring goals again - although a couple of the ones we let in I was not too enamoured about.'

He added: 'Newtonmore have been the favourites and now they are out on their own.'

OBAN CAMANACHD gave themselves a lifeline in the Orion Group Premiership with an impressive away win in Inveraray last Saturday.

An early Euan McMurdo goal looked to have set up the Royal Burgh for an easy win but a terrific Malcolm Clark equaliser on the half hour, followed by a second half strike from Ian 'Gussie' Campbell secured the win.

The two points move Oban Camanachd off the foot of the league table and above Fort William, although Fort have four games in hand, and to within three points of Lochaber.

Manager Gussie Campbell said: 'The difference on Saturday was desire. We wanted to win more than they did.'

'I wondered whether Inveraray, who are now pretty safe in the league, would have one eye on the Macaulay Cup semi-final but we played really well.'

'The two points give us hope but it's only two points. We have a long way to go before we are safe from relegation.'

The win was all the more impressive as Camanachd were without four senior players in Garry Lord, Daniel Cameron, Robert Alexander and Craig MacMillan.

A reshuffle in the Camanachd line-up saw Daniel MacKinnon and Ian 'Gussie' Campbell excel at half-back and centre, respectively.

Holders **KYLES ATHLETIC** booked their place in the semi-final of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup with a convincing win over Beaulieu.

Goal machine Roddy MacDonald netted four times against the Highland side, with Duncan Kerr (2) and Roberto Zavaroni adding the extras in a 7-2 victory.

Kyles trainer James Perlich, who missed the match through illness, said the club was de-



Neil Robertson and John MacPherson take the low road to battle for the ball during the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup quarter final tie between Glenurquhart and Fort William.

SHINTY

lighted to be in the semi-final stages.

He said: 'We were 3-0 up after 25 minutes, so the boys seemed to follow the game plan of getting early goals.'

'We knew Beaulieu were dangerous on the attack, so we had to get ahead early. They are a very good outfit with a lot of promise and we look forward to seeing them back in Tighnabruach soon.'

'I know we will have to raise our game another level in the semi-final.'

Kyles have no game this Saturday.

KILMALLIE hammered Inverness 13-0 last weekend - but that rugby score will count for little if the Caol team slip up against Skye at Portree on Saturday.

Duncan Kelly's men lead Marine Harvest North Division 1 by two points from championship rivals Beaulieu, who hold a game in hand - and the title chase could go down to the wire.

Kilmallie's cause will not be helped by having five key men missing - Iain Robertson and Liam MacDonald are suspended, Mark and Martin Graham are at T in the Park and Michael Rodger is at a wedding.

Manager Kelly told *The Oban Times*: 'It is always tough at Portree. It was a draw at half time in our last two matches, although we went on to win well thanks to our second half performance.'

'We still have a good enough squad and we will bring two or three in from the second team. It was good to get the goals last week - but Saturday will be a different game.'

SKYE CAMANACHD take on Marine Harvest league leaders Kilmallie at Paicr Nan Laoch looking to post a much improved performance than in their last two meetings in Portree with the Caol side - a 5-1 defeat in the Balliemore Cup followed by a 5-0 thumping in the league.

Fitness was an issue for the Skymen in the later stages of both games - a problem manager Willie MacRae is determined to correct.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It will be a tough game but we'll give it a go to get the two points against them.'

'We will have a stronger squad than we had last Friday [the 5-1 away win at Strathglass] and could have Chris Rose and Gillesbuig MacDonald back.'

'But we'll still be missing Danny Morrison, Ali Macleod and Darryl Macintosh, while Jordie Murchison is struggling with an ankle injury and I would



Oban Camanachd's Ian 'Gussie' Campbell loses his stick in this challenge with Inveraray's Garry MacPherson during the Orion Premiership match at the Winterton. The Oban side came out on top by the odd goal in three. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

only rate his chances at 50-50. It will really secure the boys' confidence if we can secure that third place. And they seem confident enough - it's all about getting it right on the day and lasting the whole 90 minutes.'

'They have let themselves down before in the last quarter - but that is something we have been working on.'

GLENGARRY face a tough task when they visit Marine Harvest north division two contenders Newtonmore this Saturday.

The Inverary side are on a poor run of league form having lost four of their last five games, in what has been an up and down season so far.

Manager Ewan Cameron told *The Oban Times* he was hoping for a good showing from his Jekyll and Hyde team against 'More.'

He said: 'We're expecting a tough game, but it all depends what team shows up for us on the day. That's the way we've been this season.'

'We haven't been playing well consistently but we've managed to pull a few good results out.'

'Garry sit in seventh place in the league, but are just three points ahead of bottom side

Aberdeen University and are in danger of being sucked into a relegation battle.'

Cameron said: 'We're getting into serious territory so we need to get some wins and hopefully that starts this weekend.'

OBAN CELTIC president David Hamilton admits his side will do well to take anything from the game against Glenorchy, despite the Dalmlally team's indifferent form of late.

Celtic host Glenorchy at Ganavan this Saturday having beaten their east Lothian rivals Taynuilt last weekend. Glenorchy, on the other hand, suffered a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Bute, which has all but ended their Marine Harvest South Division one title challenge.

Hamilton said: 'We will do well to take anything from this game; despite their defeat last weekend Glenorchy are still a good shinty team with some good players and they should be among the teams that get promoted to the new National Division One.'

Former Oban Celtic player Alan Duffy opened the scoring for Taynuilt last weekend but a hat trick from Alan Miller sealed a 3-2 win for Celtic.

GLENORCHY must secure both points against Oban Celtic at Ganavan this weekend after possibly blowing their league title chances against Bute last Saturday.

A solitary James Dunn goal for Bute was the difference between the two sides at the Mart Park and the Dalmlally men are now two points behind league leaders Glasgow Mid Argyll, having played two games more.

Although Glenorchy will be favourites to win this Saturday, the future of the league title is now out of their hands.

TAYNUILT coach Willie Gillies says his side will be a tough nut to crack when a much improved Aberdeen come to Taynuilt Sportsfield this weekend.

The Fifers won the reverse fixture 5-2 but Gillies is confident of getting two points this Saturday.

'We must get a result on Sat-

urday to start clawing our way back up the league,' said Gillies.

'Aberdour have done tremendously well at home this season but I'm not sure how well they will travel and teams know they are in for a tough game when they come here.'

Gillies will be checking on the recovery of winger Marc Beaton, who sustained an eye injury in last weekend's 3-2 defeat to Oban Celtic and was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley for treatment.

New signing Allan Duffy opened the scoring for Taynuilt last weekend before an Alan Miller hat trick put Celtic 3-1 up. A late consolation goal from Stuart Scott exemplified Taynuilt's fighting spirit.

Taynuilt will be boosted by the return of Ryan Gillies, John Gillies, Ewan Neilson and Stephen Parr for this weekend but James MacLaren could be out for the rest of the season with knee ligament damage.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS' title ambitions were dealt a major blow on Saturday after they went down 3-1 at home to the free-scoring Glasgow Mid Argyll.

A David Lafferty goal on half time looked to have given the home side a chance at 2-1 down but a second half body blow from GMA's Euan Forsyth secured the win for the Glasgow boys.

Lochside have no game this Saturday.

BUTE'S winning streak continued last Saturday with an important 1-0 win in Dalmlally.

A 17th-minute James Dunn goal secured both points, lifting the islanders above Lochside Rovers into second place in Marine Harvest South Division One and, crucially, just one point behind league leaders GMA.

With the top two teams having played fewer games than any other team, this season's championship now looks to be a two-horse race.

Bute are on the road once more this Saturday when they take on league strugglers Strachur. With GMA not playing this weekend, Bute have the chance to gain top spot in the league.



Fixtures

Saturday 13th July
Strathdearn Cup Semi Final
Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel
Ronnie Campbell

Orion Group Premiership
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron
Kinlochshiel v Lochaber
Evan MacRae
Fort William v Inveraray
David Mitchell - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh v Strathglass
Neil Ferguson - 3pm
Skye v Kilmallie
John Matheson - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Kingussie
John MacGregor - 12pm
Skye v Glenurquhart
Archie Ritchie - 12pm
Newtonmore v Glengarry
John Matheson

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Caberfeidh v Strathspey
Willie MacRae - 12 pm
Lewis v Inverness
Daniel MacRae
Lochcarron v Lochaber
John Angus Gillies
Strathglass v Boleskine
John Slaggie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy
Ted McDonald
Strachur v Bute
Lachie Wood
Taynuilt v Aberdour
Dunkie Kerr

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen v Glasgow MA
Neil MacDonald
Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
Duncan Freshwater
Tayforth v Ballachulish
Euan Pearson

Throw-ups 2-30pm unless stated

Results

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Quarter Finals
Newtonmore 2 - 0 Caberfeidh
Glenurquhart 0 - 2 Fort William
Kyles Athletic 7 - 2 Beaulieu
Kingussie 5 - 2 Kinlochshiel

Orion Group Premiership
Inveraray 1 - 2 Oban Camanachd
Lovat 3 - 3 Lochaber

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass 1 - 5 Skye
Inverness 0 - 13 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Skye 1 - 0 Beaulieu
Glenurquhart 4 - 1 Fort William
Kingussie 2 - 2 Lovat
Newtonmore 5 - 2 A'deen Uni

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Inverness 0 - 7 Lochaber
Strathglass 0 - 6 Lochcarron
Boleskine 4 - 1 Strathspey
Lewis 3 - 4 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Strachur 1 - 2 Aberdour
Oban Celtic 3 - 2 Taynuilt
Glenorchy 0 - 1 Bute
Lochside 1 - 3 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA
Postponed Glasgow Mid Argyll
unable to field a team, points to Kyles Athletic
Bute 2 - 0 Aberdour



League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	10	9	1	0	36	8	19
Lovat	12	5	5	1	25	10	16
Kingussie	11	6	0	5	22	19	12
Inveraray	10	5	2	3	16	14	12
Kinlochshiel	11	5	2	4	22	28	12
Glenurquhart	10	4	2	4	19	26	10
Kyles Athletic	9	4	0	5	17	14	8
Lochaber	12	2	4	6	14	26	8
Oban Camanachd	12	2	1	9	15	31	5
Fort William	8	1	2	5	8	22	4

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	11	10	0	1	59	8	20
Beaulieu	10	9	0	1	35	11	18
Skye	12	6	2	4	28	21	14
Caberfeidh	9	3	1	5	21	22	7
Strathglass	9	1	1	7	12	33	3
Inverness	13	1	0	12	9	69	2

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	8	6	2	0	38	3	14
Bute	8	6	1	1	28	12	13
Lochside Rovers	11	6	1	4	23	22	13
Aberdour	12	6	1	5	32	33	13
Glenorchy	10	5	2	3	21	14	12
Oban Celtic	9	4	1	4	19	18	9
Taynuilt	9	2	1	6	13	29	5
Kilmory	12	1	3	8	17	35	5
Strachur	9	1	2	6	11	36	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	12	7	4	1	29	21	18
Newtonmore	10	8	1	1	39	14	17
Glenurquhart							

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Andy causes play to be suspended at West Highland Tennis Week finals

'Thankfully Murray fitted in with our schedule and won it in three sets'

PLAY was suspended on finals day of the West Highland Tennis Championships in Oban on Sunday as players, coaches and officials gathered in front of a television at Atlantis Leisure to see Andy Murray win the Wimbledon title.

The week-long tournament, played at the Oban leisure centre, always runs alongside the grand slam event but tournament referee Mary McLean stopped play after the doubles finals to take in Murray's historic win.

'We managed to play the singles and doubles before we suspended play and everyone went in to watch the Wimbledon men's final,' she said. 'The atmosphere in the clubhouse was electric. Our men's finalist, Alan MacDonald, is a friend and former playing partner of Andy's

and he had his head in his hands for the final game.

'Our American competitors from the John Newcombe Ranch in Texas were facing us at match point with their cameras to get a picture of our reaction.

Finish
'Thankfully Murray fitted in with our schedule and won the match in three sets, so we were able to finish the tournament afterwards!'

Tennis fever was evident in Oban as more spectators than in previous years gathered around the courts from Sunday to Sunday last week.

Mary also described the depth in quality of competition as among the best she has seen in the tournament's 42-year history.

The high standard was partly

down to the Stirling University Elite Tennis squad entering the tournament for the first time.

Graeme Dyce from Stirling University won the gents' championship, beating last year's winner Alan MacDonald in a very close final.

The ladies' final was won by Jennifer Green, a previous winner in 2011, who proved too strong for last year's champion Lisa Munro.

The Gents doubles competition was one of the highest quality, with last year's winners, Alan MacDonald and Craig Severin, losing out to Stirling University's Graeme Dyce and Allan McClure.

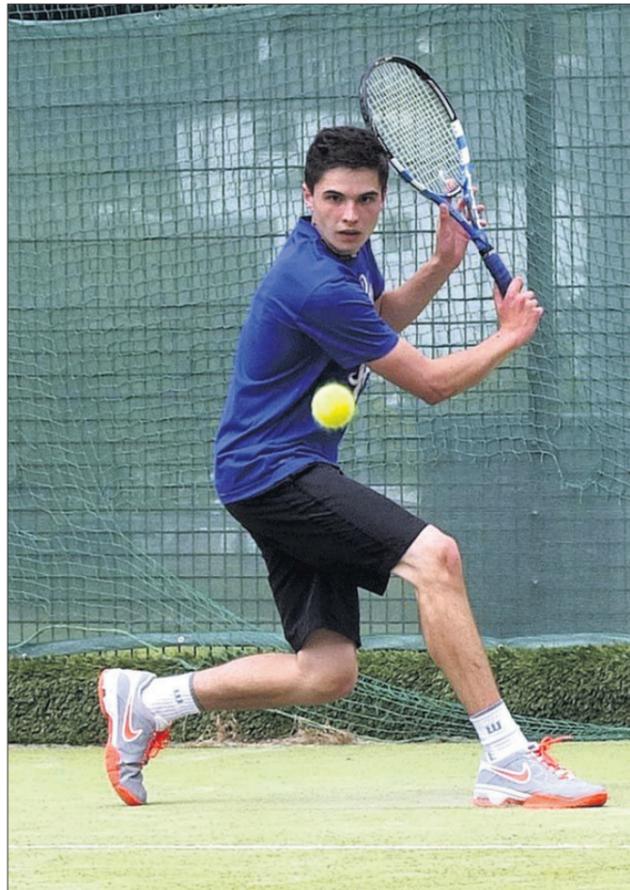
The mixed doubles winners were Alan MacDonald and partner Vicky Oxland, who hails from Oban.

TENNIS

Oban welcomed back 16 young Americans and their coach Chris Jacques from the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch. Since 2003 they have entered a squad of players and this year two of their ladies, Alexis Lucas and Gabrielle Dick, became the first Americans to win a main championship event in Oban. They overcame last year's winners to take the ladies' doubles title.

Local

Earlier in the week local players competed in a range of events, most notably the inaugural Argyll Derby Day, which began the week and saw players from Oban, Campbeltown and Mull playing for the top prizes. Oban's Kenny Drummond



Oban's Gregor Brydon keeps his eye on the ball during a championship match. Photo: Robert McCulloch

Professional teams head for D&K Cup Tournament in Oban this weekend

FOOTBALL

THE ANNUAL tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club takes place this Saturday at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park kicking off at 11am.

The tournament formerly known as the Keyline Cup is now sponsored by D&K Lafferty Contractors and will be known as the D&K Cup Tournament.

Teams taking part this year are Dundee United, Hamilton Accies, Albion Rovers, Fort William and hosts Oban Saints.

Tournament officials: Donald Brooks, Jim Pearson, John Mackie and Stuart McElearie, all from Glasgow along with Argyll's David Dunlop, Tim Woodcock, Jimmy Litster, Peter McCallum and Archie Mitchell.

Game schedule and kick-off times are as follows.

11am - Dundee United v Hamilton Accies and Fort William v Albion Rovers.

12pm - Oban Saints v Albion Rovers and Hamilton Accies v Fort William.

1pm - Oban Saints v Fort William and Dundee United v Albion Rovers.

2pm - Fort William v Dundee United and Oban Saints v Hamilton Accies.

3pm - Hamilton Accies v Albion Rovers and Dundee United v Oban Saints.

Two-bowl triples through to finals

BOWLING

OBAN Bowling Club's team in the two-bowl triples competition have won through to the Scottish National Finals.

Maureen Goldie, lead, Lyn Laverty, second and skip Helen MacLean won the District Final against a team from the Argyll Club in Campbeltown on the Ardrishaig Green to qualify for the national finals, which are held at Northfield in Ayr later this month.

Helen has also qualified for the finals in the senior singles competition.

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Oban's 'Cinderella' journalist greets Murray after victory

AN OBAN man was among the first to congratulate Andy Murray after his historic win at Wimbledon on Sunday.

Sports journalist Stuart Fraser, who now lives in London, was covering the championships for Wimbledon.com and sat in the centre court press box for Murray's victory over Novak Djokovic - the first time a British player has won the men's singles for 77 years.

But the fairytale was not over for tennis fan Stuart as he was given a surprise invitation to the Wimbledon Champions Ball, where he rubbed shoulders with some of the biggest names in tennis. Stuart said: 'The atmos-

phere inside centre court was unbelievable and when Murray won it the noise was incredible. I was at the Olympics when he won the gold medal and even that wasn't as loud as the cheer on Sunday.'

After watching the presentation Stuart went to wait for Murray on the players' lawn where he chatted with the likes of Judy Murray and Sir Chris Hoy. When the new champion appeared, the 27 year old was among the first to shake his hand.

After the press conference Stuart returned to write his article when the invitation to the ball in London's Park Lane dropped on his desk. 'I was just in my shorts

and t-shirt when I was invited to the champions ball but they told me to go to the men's locker room for a shower and to get fitted for a suit!'

It was surreal enough seeing Andy Murray win Wimbledon but there I was, half naked, getting measured for a suit in the men's locker room of Wimbledon as my favourite player, Fabrice Santoro, walks past. It was the most bizarre moment.'

Stuart was driven to the ball - sharing a car with the girls' doubles winners - and stepped out to be greeted by the paparazzi. 'You should have seen the disappointment on their faces when they saw it was me,' he laughed.

Oban Saints prepare for the new season

OBAN Saints have organised a number of attractive pre-season friendly matches in preparation for the start of the new SAFL season on Saturday 17 August.

On Saturday 20 July they take on Westerlands. This will be a tough game for the Oban side as Westerlands reached the last eight of the Scottish Amateur Cup and finished second in the Caledonian League.

Saturday 27 July sees the Oban lads take on Milton who also play in the Caledonian League. The Bannockburn side have several players in their ranks who have played at senior and junior level.

Old rivals Greenock HSFP will be the visitors to Oban on Saturday 3 August. The tail o' the bank side have just been promoted to the Central League

Premier Division and another tough game is anticipated.

The final pre-season game on Saturday 10 August will be against Argyll rivals Lochgilphead Red Star who will play in the SAFL Premier Division Two this season and again his will be a difficult match. All four games will be played in Oban.

FOOTBALL



The junior competitors who took part in the Lorn Volleyball Club tournament in Atlantis Leisure. 15_127volleyball02

Taynuilt win at volleyball tournament

CHILDREN from Lorn Volleyball Club and Ballachulish Primary School contested the end-of-season junior tournament hosted by the Lorn club in Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Funded by Argyll and Bute Council, Lorn Volleyball Club and Atlantis Leisure, the tournament attracted children from primary five to second year.

The winners and runners-up were all from Taynuilt; champions Finn Charlton and Ewan Shearer, both primary seven, playing as 'Smash-

VOLLEYBALL

ing Serpents' beat Neil McCracken and Alistair Lilly, playing as 'Lorn Leopards', in the final.

The home club thanked Ballachulish coach Maria MacDonald for bringing players from Lochaber.

Lorn Volleyball Junior Club meets in Atlantis Leisure on Thursday nights 5 - 6 pm before the adult session at 6 - 7.30 pm.

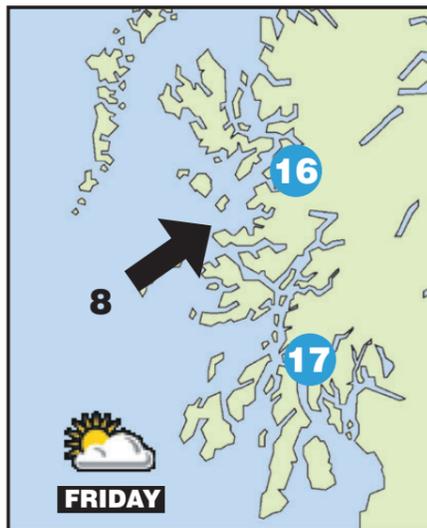
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 11, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.42 1.2 07.32 3.7 13.39 1.0 19.36 3.8	
Fri	02.15 1.3 08.01 3.6 14.09 1.1 20.06 3.7	
Sat	02.42 1.4 08.31 3.5 14.42 1.2 20.38 3.6	
Sun	03.09 1.5 09.06 3.3 15.20 1.3 21.15 3.5	
Mon	03.48 1.6 09.49 3.2 16.07 1.4 22.01 3.4	
Tues	04.44 1.6 10.43 3.1 17.05 1.5 23.00 3.2	
Wed	06.00 1.7 11.57 3.0 18.16 1.5 *** **	

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.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8155

Thursday 11 July, 2013

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80 pence



Hundreds flock to Glengarry Games

Page 4



Down your way - Spean Bridge

Page 6

SPORTS NEWS

Fort march into cup semis



Fog delays Corran Ferry sailings

MORNING sailings on the Corran Ferry were delayed for around two hours on Tuesday by sea fog over Loch Linnhe. The ferry, which is timetabled to start operating at 6.30am, was back in business by 9am after visibility improved.

Tourist dies in 600 foot fall

A TOURIST fell 600 feet to his death on Skye while trying to catch a piece of camping equipment which had been blown away. Jan Vermeiren, from Wommelgem in Belgium, was camping with three friends near the summit of the Old Man of Storr on the Trotternish peninsula. The accident occurred during low cloud at around 9am on Monday morning. Skye Mountain Rescue Team and a coastguard rescue helicopter were called out and found the 25-year-old's body after a three hour search. Mr Vermeiren was taken to Portree hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Lochaber church to be restored

A LOCHABER church is to be restored to its former glory after a local charitable trust said they would cover the costs for the major work required. The 140 year-old St Mary's and St Finnan's Church in Glenfinnan has suffered problems with damp and leaks for several years, but an undisclosed donation from Angus MacDonald's Moidart Trust has enabled restoration work to get underway on the roof and walls. Parishioners are still hoping to raise a further £100,000 to pay for internal refurbishments.

Biker John reaches Arctic Circle

A LOCHABER fundraiser reached the Arctic Circle on Tuesday as he makes his way to Moscow on the back of a 125cc motorbike. John Bryden set off from his Lochalsh home last Thursday heading for Russia via the most northerly point in mainland Europe in Norway. He is aiming to make the 10,000-mile trip to Moscow and back in four weeks to raise £15,000 for his charity Kirsty's Kids.



Games day out for Callie and Riley

Invergarry Primary School pupil Callie Rodgers, aged 10, entered her 12 week-old German short-haired pointer Riley in the dog show at Glengarry Highland Games on Saturday. At just 12 weeks old, Riley was one of the youngest dogs vying for honours. The games, held on the village shinty field, proved to be another big success with a full programme of events throughout the day entertaining the crowd. For full games coverage, see page 4. 20_128garry01

Mum's shock at doorstep drunk

Single mother facing eviction after refusing housing offer

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND Council has come under fire from a Fort William mother-of-two who found a drunk slumped in the stairwell of her prospective home. Corrina McCormack made the shocking discovery when she went to view a flat in Plantation offered to her by the council. And when another man was found passed out at the front door hours later the horrified woman asked the tenancy offer to be withdrawn. The council refused - and now Ms McCormack, together with kids Samara, 6, and Jay, 3, is being threatened with eviction from her temporary accommodation in Caol if she does not accept the let. The single mum claims the three-storey block on Kennedy Road housing the top floor flat is insecure and filthy, is notorious for all-night parties, drink and drug abuse and has regular police visits.



Uncertain future: Corrina McCormack with kids Samara, 6, and three year-old Jay. 20_128corrina01

The council maintains says it is addressing her concerns and that the property is 'suitable' for her needs.

Ms McCormack, who moved back to her native Caol in April 2012 after 10 years in County Mayo, Ireland, must now choose

between accepting the flat or finding new digs and re-applying to the Highland Housing Register. The 29-year-old, a welder by trade, says she is desperate to get back into work and find a permanent home - but not at the Kennedy Road property. She told *The Oban Times*: 'When I arrived there was a drunk man lying at the bottom of the stairwell sleeping and there was broken glass all around. My kids were too afraid to go in so I left them outside with a friend. I went up the stairs myself and there was huge patches of filth all over the walls. The next day my friend rang me and said 'you're not going to believe this but there's a guy lying outside the door of your flat'. She had to phone the police to get him removed before her son came home from school.' She added: 'In the space of two days you have two men either drunk or on drugs lying in the stairwell. What would it be like on any other day?' 'I do not feel it is a safe and secure place for me to live with my two kids on my own with all that going on outside the door.' In April, Ms McCormack turned down an upgraded three-bedroom house because the 'bedroom tax' meant the £102-a-week rent was unaffordable. Highland Council accepted her reasons and on May 31 offered the Kennedy Road tenancy. Ms McCormack appealed the offer but in a letter last week the council insisted the flat was



Ullapool pupils take Euro title

ULLAPOOL High School won the European Business Game for Scotland in the international competition's final in the Faroe Islands on Friday. The 'Squeasy Peasey' team of Shona Warwick, Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Ruth Hamilton and Anna MacLeod impressed the judges with their proposed reusable baby food pouch company. The talented quintet were representing the whole country after winning the national final in April. Their business pitch included multi-lingual baby-food recipe videos on YouTube.

Fort lotto draw ends with £400 jackpot

THE FINAL Fort William FC lotto draw was won by David MacPhee, who picked up £400. The weekly competition is being ended by the club, with focus switching to its 300 Club draw which has £300 prize money up for grabs each month.

Popular on-shore services to be officially opened at Lochaline

LOCHALINE will mark another milestone on its voyage to become a major west coast yachting destination when new shore-based facilities are officially opened next Wednesday. Comprising showers, toilets, laundrette and a small office, the eye-catching wooden building overlooking Loch Aline is already proving popular with visiting 'yachties'. Latest to enjoy the Morvern's port attractions was a 30-strong flotilla from the Royal Yacht Squadron, an exclusive club based at Cowes on

the Isle of Wight, which moored at the pontoons last Thursday and Friday. Club commodore Michael Campbell said: 'The unanimous view of all visiting members was that of due reverence to the beautiful scenery, coastline and magical islands and majesty of the mountains. Those who have visited before and those who are visiting for the first time all want to come back.' Morvern Community Development Company secured funding from HIE and LEADER Highland for the project.

Police defend 999 response

POLICE have defended their response after telephone and 999 services went down in Morvern from Saturday to midday on Monday. Advice stated mobile phone communication was not affected and Nevis Radio would issue further bulletins. Locals pointed out the area has only patchy mobile coverage and receives Oban FM, not Nevis Radio. Police Scotland said they were looking into the matter.

Plans lodged for three new Lochaber primary schools

PLANS for the £36.5million project which will see three new schools built in Fort William and Caol have been lodged. And tender documents will be issued to contractors by the end of the month for the new facilities - a joint campus on the site of the existing Caol Primary, a Gaelic primary at Ardour Road in the village and a new school at Lundavra Road, Fort William.

Construction work on the new schools is set to start in March next year. Adult and children's services committee chair Councillor Alasdair Christie said: 'Together with our £26 million commitment at Lochaber High School, Fort William and surrounding communities can look forward to a very bright educational future.' The four-classroom Gaelic primary and the Lundavra Road school, which will replace Fort

William and Upper Achintore primaries, are both set to open in August 2015. The joint campus will see a replacement Caol Primary, a six-classroom primary merging Lochside RC and Fort William RC schools and a new Caol Community Centre all created. The new community centre is due to be handed over late next year, with the schools opening in February 2016.

John heads back up Ben Nevis to top up charity total

EX-CELTIC footballer John Hartson is marking the anniversary of his life-threatening battle with cancer by scaling Ben Nevis for the third time to raise charity cash. Around 70 friends, family and supporters will join the former Hoops hero for another ascent on Saturday. Each has pledged to raise £500 for his charity, the John Hartson Foundation, to support its work in raising awareness of testicular cancer

and providing support to people with cancer and their families. Volunteers will be collecting for the charity during the day in Fort William High Street and at other locations in the town. During his recovery, John spent time recuperating at the home of his wife Sarah's parents Katherine and James McManus in Claggan, Fort William. He said: 'I want people to know that everything I went through, and put my loved ones through, could have been avoided had I known more about

the disease and, above all, the importance of catching it early.' Former teacher Sarah, 41, said: 'This weekend is always very emotional for us but at the same time we're all doing something really positive which is a major personal achievement for everyone taking part. We'd like to thank all our supporters who are coming along for the weekend to help make it such a special event.'

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Council welcomes 'fantastic news' on affordable homes

MORE homes for rent could soon be built in the Highlands after the Scottish Government announced a nationwide cash boost for socially rented housing.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said £44million of new funding would provide an additional £16,000 subsidy per new home.

The money, which will be made available to councils and housing associations across Scotland, represents a major effort by the government to meet its five-year target of delivering at least 30,000 additional affordable homes by 2016 while keeping rent rises to a minimum.

The announcement follows Ms Sturgeon's decision last week to end tenants' Right to Buy to ensure best use of the remaining housing stock. The Highlands' share of the money, £3,487,000, was welcomed by council leader Drew

Hendry as 'fantastic news'. He said: 'We have been highlighting the issue of grant rates with the Scottish Government so we are really pleased that the government has listened and acted on these concerns.

'The increased grant levels mean we will be able to continue and extend our ambitious council house building programme.

'It should also enable our housing association partners to increase in size their development programmes and for some associations to start developing again.

'This will enable additional housing investment in the Highlands and boost the local construction sector.'

He added: 'Current council tenants should be delighted that these grant rates will enable us to build with minimal impact on general rent levels.

'People on the Highland Housing Register should also be

reassured that this will help the council and our partner housing associations to provide greater opportunities to meet their housing needs.'

Western Isles Council, which will receive an additional £626,000, met with housing minister Margaret Burgess only last week to press the case for more affordable housing.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'I welcome the fact that the Scottish Government has recognised the high costs of developing new housing in rural and island areas and has provided some additional funding to offset these costs.'

'We will now work with Hebridean Housing Partnership to bring about more affordable housing units over the next two years.

'This is good news for our economy and good news for those in need of new affordable accommodation.'



Donald MacKenzie will celebrate his 70th birthday by walking the West Highland Way in aid of Cancer Research UK. 02_28walk01

Donald, 70, steps out on birthday challenge

A RETIRED Customs and Excise officer from Fort William will do his duty for Cancer Research UK by setting off to walk the West Highland Way on his 70th birthday.

Donald MacKenzie will begin the 96-mile hike from Milngavie on July 22 and hopes to cover around 20 miles each day before arriving home in Fort William on July 26.

Keen hillwalker Donald, of Glasdrum Grove, moved to Fort William a year ago and has strong family connections to Glencoe and Inverloch, where his father Lauchlan was a joiner.

His aunt and uncle, Annie and Alec MacKenzie, were also from Inverloch and worked at the British Aluminium plant, where Annie was a nurse and Alec a draughtsman. Always looking for a new challenge, Donald reckons the marathon trek is well within his comfort zone and is all the more worthwhile as it will benefit a good cause.

He told The Oban Times: 'I just thought if I'm doing this at all it's better doing it for something essential rather than just because I want to.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'I think the more research there is in cancer, the better the chance of finding a cure and improving survival rates.

'I have not set a specific sum as a target figure, I just want to raise as much as I can for Cancer Research UK.

He added: 'I will be travelling as light as possible and walking solo. The bit alongside Loch Lomond is going to be the roughest but the Devil's Staircase at Glencoe should give me no problems. I should do the 20 miles a day no bother - that's nothing compared to what I'm used to.'

Donald's wife Anne is well used to his long excursions in Scotland's wild places and is right behind his fundraising campaign.

She joked: 'There's no fool like an old fool. But I'll see him off at the start and meet him at the finish!'

Anyone wishing to support Donald with a donation can visit www.justgiving.com/Donald-MacKenzie2.

Fort man facing jail term following vicious attack

A FORT William man could be facing prison after admitting carrying out a vicious attack which left his victim severely injured.

John Lawrie, aged 27, pled guilty to repeatedly punching the man on the head to his severe injury and impairment.

The incident occurred at 22 Glenpane Street, Caol, on June 9 last year.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing Lawrie, of 78 Kennedy Road, until July 31 for reports.

Sheriff McPartlin chose not to place Lawrie on remand until his sentencing but warned: 'Just because bail is being continued, that does not mean there won't be a custodial sentence here.'

Award winning Rotary newsletter

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber has picked up an award for the best rotary newsletter in the west of Scotland.

The prize was handed out at the annual Rotary District handover ceremony in Renfrew on Sunday, with the Lochaber Branch picking up the trophy in the Best Newsletter and Media category.

The club publishes a monthly online newsletter, as well as running a website, a Facebook page, a Twitter account and a YouTube channel.

Woman drink driver crashed car into ditch

A WOMAN crashed her car into a ditch in Glen Coe after a row with her boyfriend.

Kelly Stein stormed out of the Clachaig Inn and tried to drive back to the campsite where the couple's tent was pitched.

But she crashed off the unclassified road between Red Squirrel Campsite and the A82 and a passer-by called police after smelling alcohol on her breath.

Nursery worker Stein, of 17 Queen Street, Bannockburn, was found to be nearly three times the legal alcohol limit.

At Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined her £400 and banned her from driving for 13 months.

Woman drove to help elderly neighbour one-and-a-half times drink drive limit

RESPONDING to an emergency call in the middle of the night after drinking wine with dinner has cost a Caol woman her driving licence.

Cleaner Gail Wilson, aged 49, was called by an elderly customer at 1.20am on June 18 after the pensioner's fire alarm went off. Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Wilson, of 9 Mackay Crescent, got out her bed and drove to

the woman's house. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said: 'The firemen didn't know the key code to the lady's house and they needed Mrs Wilson to let them in.

'Without giving any more thought to the matter, Mrs Wilson jumped in her car and drove around half a mile. It turned out to be a false alarm.'

Police at the scene smelled alcohol on Wilson and breath-

alysed her, finding her to be one-and-a-half times the legal alcohol limit.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This was a most unfortunate set of circumstances. It would not be appropriate to impose a fine here. I'll disqualify you for one year, which is the minimum the law requires.'

Wilson pled guilty to drink driving on Kilmallie Road, Broom Drive and Rowan Drive.

Lochaber hill race duo celebrate Skye success

TWO LOCHABER athletes won the annual Glamaig Hill Race on the Isle of Skye in challenging conditions ahead of a field of nearly 100 competitors on Saturday.

Finlay Wild took first place in the race up the 775m-high Sgurr Mhairi near Sligachan for the second year in a row.

He finished in a time of 45 minutes and 57 seconds, more than nine minutes ahead of the field in heavy rain.

Wild's Lochaber Athletic Club

teammate Sarah Mackenzie was the first woman to finish in 1 hour 7 minutes and 29 seconds.

Top 10

Gary MacDonald and Jon Gay both managed top 10 finishes, while Lyndsay Shaw and Amanda Blackhall took second and third in the women's race to complete a good day for the Lochaber athletes.

Francis Shephard was the first Skye man to finish, taking 15th place overall, while Jenny Grant was the first local female home.



Lochaber Housing Association chairperson Di Alexander and chief executive Blair Allan hand over the £7,000 to representatives of local organisations. f28ha1no

Anniversary cash boost for local organisations

LOCAL organisations have been given a welcome funding boost by Lochaber Housing Association.

At a special ceremony at Fort William Rural Complex last week, 37 groups each received a grant of between £100 and £200 from LHA's 25th Anniversary Community Fund.

Beneficiaries of the fund - launched by LHA to mark 25 years of providing affordable homes for local people - ranged from children's organisations and

sports groups to activity groups for the elderly and disabled. A total of £7,000 was distributed.

LHA chairperson Di Alexander said: 'We are absolutely delighted to connect in this way with the voluntary organisations, charities, trusts, associations, clubs and societies that are the fabric of our Lochaber communities.'

The association, established in 1988, also recently launched the Monsignor Wynne Good Neighbour Award as part of its 'jubilee' celebrations.

Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council boosts clubs

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council has distributed a total of £2,500 to seven local clubs to help with running costs and equipment purchase.

Beneficiaries are Isle of Skye Clay Target Club, Kinlochshiel Shinty Club, Skye Camanachd Junior Shinty Club, Kintail Bowling Club, Skye Camanachd Shinty Club, Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club and Kinlochshiel Junior Shinty Club.



Kate Blanchard.

Kate gets crafty to raise Chile funds

THERE will be a stall with a difference at this Saturday's craft fair in Ballachulish - it will be raising money to send a local teenager to volunteer at an orphanage in Chile.

Kate Blanchard of Duror will be selling her self-made cushions, bags and notebooks to help her reach the £5,400 total she needs for her Project Trust gap year.

As well as caring for youngsters in South America, the former Lochaber High School student will also be helping out at a nearby primary school.

The 17-year-old has already raised more than £3,200 and told The Oban Times she was 'very excited' about her trip. She said: 'I wanted to try it because

my sister went to Mexico to volunteer and she really enjoyed it. My fundraising has gone very well so far - I had a car treasure hunt at Easter which raised over £200 and I'm also going to be doing a sponsored climb of Ben Nevis - by the scary route Carn Mor Dearg - in August.

'I'm leaving on August 23, so I need all the help I can get raising the last £2,000 or so. Any donations would be greatly appreciated as I have a very small time to raise a lot of money.'

The craft fair will be held in Ballachulish Village Hall from 12pm to 4pm. To sponsor Kate visit www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Kate-Blanchard.

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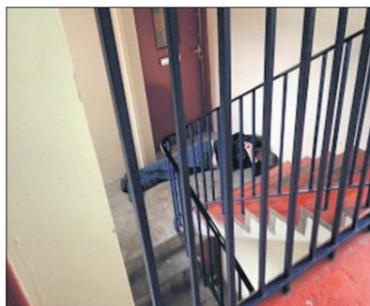
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Welcome to your new home: a drunk lies outside the door of the flat Highland Council is offering Corrina McCormack.

Single mum's shock at doorstep drunk

Continued from page one

'suitable to meet the needs of your family' and was taking steps to sort out any problems.

The close would be cleaned and redecorated, while a repair of the security system was in progress to ensure 'only those entitled to enter the building will be able to do so'.

'A small number of reports of noise disturbance' had also been dealt with 'in the appropriate manner', the letter states.

It adds: 'When a reasonable offer of housing has been refused the council will consider it has discharged its homelessness duty.

'We are no longer required to provide temporary accommodation therefore you will receive notice to vacate [the property].'

Ms McCormack said: 'I would quite happily accept a two-bedroom house in Plantation or even a three-bedroom as long as it was the normal £77 per week. It is accommodation they are offering me that is the problem.

'All I want is them to understand that I can't possibly live there and for them to offer me a house at a decent rent I can afford.

'The children are vulnerable - they have been through a lot and have just settled back here. I am not prepared to take them into an unsafe environment like where there's drugs, drink and parties going on. There are not used to things like that.'

She added: 'I don't know how the council can force me to bring the kids up in an unsafe place. I don't know where I will go.'

Highland Council said on Tuesday: 'It is not our policy to comment on individual cases.'

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FW

Morvern Lines

FOR TWO days this month, St Columba returns to Morvern to the spot where he built his first church on the Argyll mainland - not the man himself, of course, because he died more than 1,400 years ago, but an exhibition of his life and time.

So if you want to know how he lived and farmed, what he ate and drank, including how he made his porridge, and much more, visit Kiel Church between 11am and 4pm from Tuesday July 16 to Thursday July 18. Free admission, tea and home baking with a monastic twist.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in Morvern, celebrates the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba landing on Iona from where he travelled to Morvern, Lismore and many other places up and down the west coast. The exhibition is the brainchild of local human dynamo Creina Jackson of Lochaline, mother of Riona Whyte, Mull's best known Gaelic singer and grandmother of Alasdair Whyte, national Mod Gold Medalist who, along with his mother, is keeping alive the old bardic traditions of which Mull and Morvern were once justly famous.

Mrs Jackson and her daughter Mairi were guests of Her Majesty the Queen at last week's annual Royal Garden Party in the grounds of the Palace of Holyrood, Edinburgh.



Creina Jackson: brains behind St Columba celebrations in Morvern.

SPECULATION is rife about the future of the site of the old Scout hut in Lochaline.

This semi-derelict building with its asbestos roof was originally put up as accommodation for the employees of the nearby silica sand mine before it became the local Scout hut.

When the mine changed hands a few years ago, the company declared it surplus to requirements and donated it and the site for community use.

After two referendums and several meetings, villagers are no wiser what purpose it is to be put to. There have been various suggestions ranging from badly needed sheltered housing, a cafe, bunkhouse accommodation for a nearby restaurant and even a swimming pool but its close proximity to the village fuel pumps brings obvious restrictions.

One suggestion, which is becoming popular, is that the site should house a community cooperative general store and another set of fuel pumps in which all local people would benefit as shareholders.

There are many stores of this kind in other remote villages in the Highlands and Islands which are a great success and attract government funding. The affluent Morvern Trust, which is receiving £300,000 from the Glensanda quarry on behalf of the public and Morvern Community Council, should be alive to the wider benefits that this type of development would bring to the area for the foreseeable future.

The former owners of the sand mine are to be congratulated on giving Morvern such a valuable public asset.

THE 12,000-acre Laudale Estate on the shores of Loch Sunart, has apparently been sold.

The new owner is Jonathan Turner from North Yorkshire. The outgoing owner, Keith Falconer, is moving across Loch Sunart to become a whisky distiller at Glenborrodale.

Adelphi, which is building the new distillery there, have just received a £1.8m Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operative government grant. A century ago Laudale was home to a large number of illicit stills.

THANKS to the Highland Council funding an archive in Fort William, many interesting Morvern records have been transferred there from the former Argyll County Council Offices, Lochgilphead, and the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The collections held at the Lochaber Archive Centre in the College at An Aird include: education records from the 1860s, including logbooks and admission registers from more than 60 Lochaber schools; poor relief records, (1845-1930); minutes of the Morvern District Road Trustees, (1864-1890); property valuation rolls, (1874-1990); police archives, (1875-1946); photographs; estate papers; maps and plans, including Ordnance Survey plans scale 25": 1 mile dating from 1870; genealogical resources on microfilm for the Lochaber area including census returns (1841-1901); Old Parish Registers and the International Genealogical Index; church records including kirk session and presbytery records for parishes in the Lochaber Presbytery, (1724-1991).

In a legally binding agreement made in 1960 between the Trustees of the Church of Scotland and the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland, all church and parish records were to be deposited on loan with the Keeper for safe-keeping. Unfortunately not all of Morvern's records were sent in and some still remain in private hands.

Church records are a fund of information for all. For example there is an interesting reference to an act of penance in Morvern to be found in the Minute Book of the Synod of Argyll.

In May 1651 for the crime of supporting the Royalist Marquis of Montrose and his general Alastair MacColla, who attacked Kinlochaline and Mingary Castle, 'the enemies of God, religion and covenant,' John Maclean of Kinlochaline was 'appointed to stand in sack-cloth the first Sabbath in Morvern, the second Sabbath in Tiri [Tiree] and to be received there be [sic] the minister thereof.'

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Shinty rivals team up on lifesaving charity cycle

THEY may be fierce rivals on the shinty field but Kingussie and Newtonmore are teaming up for a charity cause that can save lives.

Badnoch Lucky2Bhere aims to raise vital funds for defibrillators to be placed in public areas in Kinraig, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Laggan and Dalwhinnie.

And to help the campaign, 'More stalwarts Colin Stewart and Norman MacArthur will join Russell Jones, Scott Shiells, John Gibson and Kevin Thain

of Kingussie in cycling from Glasgow to Badnoch tomorrow (Friday).

Kingussie co-manager Russell Jones said: 'I am sure we'll all have plenty of banter as we're biking but we are all looking forward to it.'

'A few of us have done a bit of mountain biking before but Kevin Thain only started about six weeks ago when we roped him in.'

'Norman MacArthur hasn't done a lot of training but I'm sure he'll be fine. It's

not a race - we just need to all get to the finish line.'

The punishing slog will take in parts of the West Highland Way, the Great Glen Way and the Corryarrick Pass and will take two days - if the boys make it to the finish. Former Kingussie manager Jimmy Gow will drive the bike team's support van.

All proceeds will go towards buying defibrillators - which can be the difference between life and death

for people suffering heart attacks in isolated rural spots.

The group also aims to teach the public to use them to deliver emergency life support should someone suffer an attack with no ambulances nearby. Laggan has already raised the £1,600 cash for its defibrillator to be placed at the village hall.

It is hoped another two of the communities will be up and running shortly. Both Kingussie and

Newtonmore have defibrillators at their home shinty matches and 23 club members recently underwent emergency life support training. Lucky2Bhere was started by legendary Skye Shinty manager Ross Cowie, whose life was saved six years ago only because an ambulance happened to be passing the clubhouse where he was.

To sponsor the riders visit www.justgiving.com/teams/badenochlucky2bhere.

Hundreds flock to Glengarry Games

GLENGARRY Highland Games served up another fine day of fun, entertainment and exciting competitions on Saturday as hundreds flocked to the village shinty field for the popular annual event.

Contrary to the gloomy forecast, the weather played fair for most of the day with light drizzle only a feature later in the afternoon.

Four heavy athletes took the field to impress spectators in the hammer, shot putt, the 28lb and 56lb weight for distance, the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snnorris@obantimes.co.uk

cabrer and the weight over the bar.

David Hart from Fort William won the trophy for best local, scoring four second places and two thirds for a 16 point total.

Andrew Johnston from Appin also competed well but it was Stuart Anderson from Killin who lifted the cup for best overall athlete after making a clean sweep of all six disciplines.

Judge Derek Fraser, who hails from Inverlochry, said: 'I was disappointed there were only four of them there - we had six competing last year.'

'But the standard was comparable and Stuart Anderson cleared 14 feet in the 56lb weight over the bar.'

Games secretary Alison Donald expressed relief the rain passed Invergarry by, ensuring a good turnout.

She told The Oban Times: 'I think the crowd was about what we would normally expect.'

'Having the Highland dancing on the field is always a big draw. Whenever we get rain and we

have to go inside the hall the field tends to empty.

'It is a big day for us but it benefits a lot of local groups too, such as the primary school and the senior citizens' Christmas party.'

On the track, both trophies remained in Lochaber with Isla MacKay the best overall athlete and Callum Fraser the best local. Callum won the men's hill race in 26m 5s and Isla the women's in 31m. Ben Johnstone won the junior hill race in 30m 59s.

Invergarry's central location saw girls from Skye, Uist, Inverness, Aberdeen and Oban arrive in record numbers for the Highland dancing competitions.

Delighted organiser Marie Stewart, from Fort William, said: 'We have nearly 80 dancers here, which is wonderful.'

Local girl Daisy Clark, who starts at Kilchuimen Academy next month was chosen as the Games Queen and performed her duties admirably.

Over at the dog show, Ann Winning from Glen Coe won the Jean Ellice Memorial Quaiuch with 14-year-old collie cross Breac.



Daisy Clark enjoyed her day as Glengarry Games Queen. Photograph by Dennis East.



Margaret Boyd from Spean Bridge returned to her native Glen Garry along with five-year-old Jack Russell Colone MacKay, who took his place in the dog show ranks. 'I think I'll put him in the most disobedient dog section,' Margaret told The Oban Times. 20_f28garry04



Rebecca Johnstone, aged 11, from Invergarry, is a picture of concentration as she wins the girls' 8-11 sack race. 20_f28garry03



Lauren Docherty, Elsa Johnstone and Tony McBain were among the local volunteers kept busy in the burger tent. 20_f28garry08



Mitchell Edgar on his way to winning the 12-15 flat race. 20_f28garry05



Lochaber Pipe Band entertained the crowds throughout the day. 20_f28garry07



Junior and novice Highland dancing winners show off their trophies after the presentation. 20_f28garry06

Heavy results: Hammer - 1 Stuart Anderson 112' 1"; 2 Craig Nicholson 110' 7"; 3 David Hart 101' 10"; 4 Andrew Johnston 84' 3". Shot putt - 1 S Anderson 41' 5"; 2 D Hart 39' 5"; 3 C Nicholson 36' 8"; 4 A Johnston 36' 2". 56lb weight over the bar - 1 S Anderson 14'; 2 D Hart 12'; 3 C Nicholson 12'; 4 A Johnston 10'. Weight for distance 28lb - 1 S Anderson 66' 4"; 2 D Hart 55' 6"; 3 D Hart 52' 6"; 4 C Nicholson 60'. Weight for distance 56lb - 1 S Anderson 33' 4"; 2 C Nicholson 27' 11"; 3 D Hart 26' 7"; 4 A Johnston 23' 3". Cabar - 1 S Anderson; 2 D Hart; 3 C Nicholson; 4 A Johnston.

Highland Dancing trophy winners:

7 years + Under Beginner - Highland Trophy, Lily Kelman, Inverness. National Trophy, Iona McKay, Dalnally. 8 years + Over Beginner - Highland Trophy, Tia Anderson, Daviot. National Trophy - equal Ellie Burdakin, Strathpeffer and Ceitidh Smith, Portree. 9 years + Under Novice - Highland Trophy, Rianne Nicholson, Inverness. National Trophy - Sophie MacPherson, Oban. 11 years + Over Novice - Highland Trophy - Bryana McColl, Oban. National Trophy, Rebecca McConachie, Inverness.

9 years + Under Intermediate - Highland Trophy, Faith Campbell, Wick. National Trophy - Faith Campbell, Wick. Runner Up Intermediate Trophy, Holly Tait, Portree. 10 years + Over Intermediate - Highland Trophy, Anna Morrison, Inverness. National Trophy - Isla MacKenzie, Fearn. Runner up Int Trophy - Isla MacKenzie, Fearn. 10-11 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Holly Lyall, Kirkhill. National Trophy - Holly Lyall, Kirkhill. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Fiona Armstrong, Falkirk. 12-13 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Libby MacLean, Blairmore. National Trophy - Libby MacLean, Blairmore. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Jenna Wilson, Dingwall. 14-15 years Premier - Highland Trophy, Cara Wilson, Dingwall. National Trophy - Cara Wilson, Dingwall. Runner Up Highland Trophy - Megan Dale, Contin.

Adults Premier - Highland Trophy, Cara MacKenzie, Beaulieu. National Trophy - Cara MacKenzie, Beaulieu. Runner up Highland Trophy - Sarah Malhan, Inverness. Overall Dance of the Day Trophy - Equal, Holly Lyall, Kirkhill and Libby MacLean, Blairmore. Local Trophy - Jamie-Lee Lavery.



Beth Campbell from Skye, Adèle Askew from Oban and Anna Taylor from Skye are in perfect symmetry in the Highland dance competition. 20_f28garry10



David Hart from Fort William launches the 28lb weight in the heavy events. 20_f28garry02

Advertisement for B&H Autospares featuring a car with a bike rack, a list of services (brake discs, oil, fuel filters, spark plugs), and a promotion for a free West Highland calendar. Includes contact information for Fort William and Oban branches.

Visa woe halts dream wedding

AN AMERICAN couple who planned a dream wedding in Oban were sent home before they could tie the knot - but they held a party nonetheless.

Ian Somppi and Sophie Campbell were supposed to marry last Friday in the Oban Bay Hotel, so that Sophie's grandmother, Oban woman Jean Campbell, aged 106, could attend.

But on arriving in the UK last Tuesday, the couple, who both work for the US Department of Homeland Security in Washington DC, were 'devastated' to find they didn't have the correct visa and would have to leave two days later - America's Independence Day.

Wedding planner Christine Learmouth enlisted the help of local businesses to bring forward the wedding celebrations.

Last Wednesday, two days early, the couple dressed in their finery to welcome friends and family to a champagne reception, where they cut the top tier of their wedding cake.

Christine said: 'Within 12 hours' notice, Oban Chocolate Company provided a cake, The Flower House put together the bride's bouquet, Chalmers got the groom's outfit together and Sophie's hair trial at The Ark turned out to be the real thing. The Oban Bay Hotel were great at moving everything forward too.'

'Sophie's mother wasn't arriving until the Wednesday night. She got changed at Tyndrum to join the evening reception when she got to Oban.'

Last Friday friends and family, who had travelled thousands of miles for the wedding, were left to party without the bride and groom at a second reception in the hotel.

Ian and Sophie were due to marry yesterday (Wednesday) at their local courthouse but plan to return to Oban next year to renew their vows.

Sophie, aged 24, said: 'We were planning the wedding celebration for over a year so last week was a devastating time.'

'We would not have been able to do anything if it weren't for Christine.'

'I love Oban and I was crushed to only have one full day there.'

'We've had many people tell us we will be able to laugh about this event in the years to come, but we are not quite there yet.'



Pals Connor MacLean, left, and Cailean MacQueen, both aged four, don't mind getting wet in the sun as they cool off in the sea at Ganavan on Monday.

Phew - what a scorcher!

VISITORS to Argyll enjoyed Mediterranean weather conditions as the recent national heatwave took hold of the west Highlands.

The hot weather, which is typical throughout the UK, looked set to continue until the weekend with Strathallan Airfield in Perthshire reaching 28.7°C on Tuesday afternoon.

In Oban, visitors and any locals fortunate to have a few days off basked in the sunshine, making Ganavan Sands one of the area's busiest beaches. Oban town centre was bustling with

activity as the warm weather attracted visitors to the coastal town.

Oban ice-cream business Pokey Hat reported queues out of the door as it struggled to cope with demand.

Business owner Alex MacKenzie said: 'I have not been as busy as this for a long time. I haven't even had any time to check the figures because I am starting work at 4am some days to make enough ice cream to meet the demand.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor, Louise Glen-Lee, deputy

lead councillor for tourism, said: 'I was at Ganavan just after the tennis finished on Sunday and I couldn't believe how many people were there.'

'Two young girls ran out of their car and into the sea and I remember thinking, this could be Ibiza!'

'The whole area looks stunning in this weather and it is great to see people enjoying it.'

As people soak up the sun, health experts are reminding us to avoid sunburn by covering up, wearing sun screen and to drink plenty of water.

Oban pond row leads to petition

Scottish Water may have breached agreed environmental regulations

RUBBISH left behind by Scottish Water at Polvinister Reservoir in Oban could see it subject to a criminal complaint.

Residents near the pond are furious at work done by the water operator, which has reduced the depth of the pond from several feet to no more than a few inches.

The site is also strewn with rubbish, from old tyres and plastic sheeting to half-buried traffic cones and rusting ironwork. Council leader Roddy McCuish described it as 'environmental vandalism' while residents said the site had been 'absolutely destroyed'.

A petition is now being prepared calling for the water level to be raised and make the beauty spot attractive again, but The

"We will be tidying up the area and will liaise with local residents."

spokesman for Scottish Water

Oban Times has learned that the operator could yet find itself in bother for failing to remove the rubbish from the site.

In making its planning application to landscape the site and reduce the water level, Scottish Water's consultant, Scottish Water Shared Services, made several recommendations in a European Protected Species

(EPS) report. These included keeping the site clear of rubbish, after observing the site was home to numerous wild birds, including ducks. Failure to do so could find Scottish Water in breach of the Habitats Regulations 1994, as it could be deemed the work damaged a breeding site or resting place of a protected species.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said it would remove the rubbish, but insists it didn't breach any terms in its EPS report.

He said: 'There were environmental studies carried out on site before we started our work. These set controls on our work and all these were adhered to.'

'We will be tidying up the area and we will continue to liaise with local residents about additional landscaping.'

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency says it was only responsible for the water downstream of the reservoir, while Scottish Natural Heritage said: 'It's a matter for Scottish Water, SEPA and Argyll and Bute Council.'

Argyll and Bute Council was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

May Tosh, who lives opposite the reservoir in Polvinister Road and is preparing to start the petition, said: 'They have damaged the site. There are no swans or ducks there now.'

'Scottish Water haven't done anything they have promised.'

'We want the water level raised and the site landscaped. We're not asking much, just what they promised.'

Proposed Isle of Kerrera turbine hits £2 million stumbling block

KERRERA'S 33 residents could be set to build their own wind turbine - but the projected £2million cost of the project could stop it in its tracks.

Tim Vollum, chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, says he is faced with a difficult decision after wind readings and the logistical challenges of actually building a turbine on the island meant a larger than expected turbine and therefore cost.

While the turbine would still be profitable long-term, the trust is yet to make a decision on whether the community will take on the financial burden of a loan to build it. Talks with representatives on Lismore have started to see if they are willing to take part-ownership of the project.

Oban Community Council also recently expressed an interest in building its own turbine

and Mr Vollum hasn't ruled out sharing responsibility with the organisation to spread the responsibility and the financial risk further.

That would, however, also spread the potential financial reward further.

'It's a question I'd have to ask,' he said. 'We have been talking to Lismore about it. The special relationship that exists between the islands is something we're exploring.'

'We haven't yet considered whether the wider community should come on board.'

'Either way it doesn't negate the problem with the amount of money required and the work to get the turbine up.'

A business plan built around readings from the test mast showed that the island's original plan for a 350Kw turbine was not the best choice, with independent assessors advising the

trust to go for a 900Kw turbine, which would measure 67m to the blade tip. The trust says it would not be visible from Oban.

However, one of the biggest costs is the poor infrastructure on the island. Poor roads and slipways would have to be upgraded to cope with the required 120-tonne crane to erect the turbine - a total cost just shy of £250,000.

Plan B would be to build something smaller, a move that would not only reduce financial risk - but lessen the possible community payback for an island 'desperate for investment'.

Meanwhile, Mr Vollum has further ruled out speculation that Dunollie Estates, the owner of the island, had held up proceedings by demanding a high price for its land.

'It's not the case at all,' he said, adding that a mutually beneficial deal had been agreed.

Portsonachan worker is jailed after breaching bail order

A FORMER Portsonachan Hotel worker has been sentenced to seven months in prison after admitting a breach of bail at Dumbarton Sheriff Court.

Alan Radcliffe, aged 28, whose address was given in court as c/o Greenock Prison, pled guilty on Monday to breaching the bail conditions set for him not to contact a woman following a previous court appearance on a separate matter.

He also failed to notify the court of a change of address.

The jail sentence was backdated to March 11 this year, when Radcliffe was taken into custody.

NEWSDESK
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Oban High School senior prizewinners, session 2012 - 2013

54
Oban High School Prize For Administration - Std Grade, Lora Fitton
Oban High School Prize For Art & Design - Std Grade, Daisy Williams
Oban High School Prize For Business Management - Std Grade, Stuart Macleod, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Std Grade, Finlay Sinclair, Oban High School Prize For Biology - Int 1, Jamie Bate, Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Std Grade, Anthony Yau, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Std Grade, Cameron Galbraith, Oban High School Prize For Craft & Design - Std Grade, Antony Capper, Oban High School Prize For Drama - Std Grade, James Kane, Hugh Shedden Prize For English - Std Grade, Merle Harbron, Iain Forth Memorial Prize For Excellence In English, Jenny Fothergill, Former Pupils' Association Prize For French - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, Reverend John Macleod Prize For Gaelic Learners - Std Grade, Laura Campbell, Oban High School Prize For Geography - Std Grade, Zoe King, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Std Grade, Antony Capper, Oban High School Prize For History - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, Oban High School Prize Home Economics - Std Grade, Zoe King, Oban High School Prize For Hospitality - Int 1, Shannon Campbell, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Std Grade, Robert Strange, Oban High School Prize For Modern Studies - Std Grade, Anthony Yau, Oban High School Prize For Music - Std Grade (Joint), Charlotte Collins/Merle Harbron, Mrs David Scott Prize For Physical Education, Stuart Macleod, Jenny Morrison Prize For Physics - Std Grade, Rebecca Forbes, Oban High School Prize For Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies, Ciaran Black, Oban High School Prize For Spanish - Std Grade, Holly Strachan, XI Prize (Joint), Kyle McNeill & Isla Donald, S5/6 Wiltshire Trophy Prize For Endeavour In Business Management, Becky-Anne Wilson, Oban High School Prize For Administration Int 2, Kayleigh Campbell, Art Cup - Higher Art & Design, Pheobe Smith, Orsay Applied Art Prize, Mairi Beaton, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Adv Higher, Andreas Day, Jenny Morrison Prize For Biology - Higher, Anna Mackinnon-Garvin, Oban High School Prize For Biology - Int 2, Kerry Colthart, Oban High School Prize For Business Management - Higher, Sophie Kerr,



Oban High School Dux Gordon Thompson with Karen Murray, script writer for television programmes Eastenders and River City who was the inspirational speaker at the prizegiving. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Adv Higher, Andrew Strange, Jenny Morrison Prize For Chemistry - Higher, Briony Kincaid, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Higher, Daniel Burt, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Int 2, Corey Macdonald, Oban High School Prize For Computing Studies - Int 2, Heather Campbell, Oban High School Prize For English - Ah, James Macleod, Laing Prize For Design & Technology Education, Niall Morrison, Oban High School Prize For Drama - Higher (Joint), Jenny Tamplin/Josh Tinline-Bartholomew, Redfearn Award For Acting, Kyle Mckechnie, D C Buchanan Prize For English - Adv Higher, Josh Tinline-Bartholomew, Hugh Shedden Prize For English - Higher, Jenny Fothergill, Iain Crichton Smith Prize For English (Joint), Brendan Macalister/Owen Thomas, Oban High School Prize For English - Int 2, Heather Campbell, Oban High School Prize For English - Int 1, Alina Macfarlane, Oban High School Prize For French - Adv Higher, Beth Little, Oban High School Prize

For French - Higher, Gordon Thomson, Flora Macleod Bequest For Gaelic - Higher, Lorna Young, D C Buchanan Prize For Gaelic - Higher, Rachel Macdougall, Oban High School Prize For Gaelic - Higher, Lorna Young, Oban High School Prize For Gaidhlig Fluent - Higher, Anna Mackinnon-Garvin, Craven Memorial Prize For Geography - Higher, Kirsty MacTavish, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Adv Higher, Murray Peden, Oban High School Prize For Graphic Communication - Higher, Connie McCreath, Oban High School Prize For History - Adv Higher, James Buchanan, Merae Prize For History - Higher, Gordon Thomson, Oban High School Prize For History - Int 2, Philippa Robson, Oban High School Prize For History - Int 1, Graeme Cameron, Oban High School Prize For Health and Food Technology - Higher, Alice McNeill, Webster Award For Hospitality - Int 2, Kirsty Sinclair, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Adv Higher, Andrew Strange, Former Pupils' Association Prize For Mathematics - Higher, Briony Kincaid, F J Mackenzie Prize For Excellence In Mathematics, Andrew Strange, Oban High School Prize For Mathematics - Int 1, Ben Watkins, Oban High School Prize For Mathematics - Int 2 (Joint), Alistair Brady/Emma Storr, Annie M McInnes Prize For Modern Languages, Erin McIntyre, Donald Gillies Memorial Prize For Modern Studies - Higher, Keir Letford/Lauren McCulloch, Oban High School Prize For Modern Studies - Int 2, Liam McNeil, Oban High School Prize For Music - Adv Higher, Zoe Thomson, Oban High School Prize For Music - Higher, Kirsty Campbell, Oban High School Prize For Musical Theatre, Zoe Thomson, Melbourne Lloyne Prize For Music Composition, Mairi Beaton, Haydock Prize For Most Improved Senior Instrumental Player, Mary Heather Maccoll, The Cunningham Irvine Memorial Cup For Photography, Emma MacLachlan, Oban High School Prize For Practical Craft Skills - Int 1, Adam Macintyre, Oban High School Prize For Practical Craft Skills - Int 2, Kieran Carnie, Moncrieff Cup For Physical Education - Higher, Alison Macvicar, Oban High School Prize For Physics - Adv Higher, Andrew Strange, Jenny Morrison Prize For Physics - Higher, Clare Davies, Oban High School Prize For Physics - Int 2, Ryan Cook, Oban High School Prize For Product Design - Higher, Suzie Smith, Oban High School Prize For Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies, Morgan MacLennan, Oban High School Prize For Spanish - Higher, Erin McIntyre, H2o Award Christie Mckechnie, In Recognition Of His Service To His Peers And All In The Oban High School Community Throughout The 2012/2013 Academic Year, Millie Media Award For Young Enterprise (Joint), Lauren Cameron/Eilidh Willis, The Carraig Gheal Trophy For Senior Geography, Catriona McInnes, Oban High School Prize For Outstanding Peer Support, Kayleigh Campbell, Scottish Association For Marine Science Award For Outstanding Achievement In Science, Andrew Strange, Glencruitten Hostel Prize For Endeavour, John Kennedy, Calum John Laing Trophy, Eileen & John Carmichael, Rotary Award For Speaker Of The Year, Finn Walton, Rotary Award For Endeavour, Sarah Hill, Oban Toastmasters Club Cup For Inter-Clan Debating Tournament, Finn Walton/Sophie McInnes - Fingal Jim Lay Sports Coaching Award, Ryan Cook, Margaret Roebuck Achievement Award, Sarah Hill, Head Girl Award Mairi Beaton, Head Boy Award, Ryan Cook, Clan Leader Awards, Diarmid - Gillian Mckechnie and Alistair Fothergill, Fingal - Eilidh Maclean and Conor Lane, Ossian - Elizabeth Watson and Josh Tinline Bartholomew, Somerset - Rebecca Sims and Patrick Mackinnon, Dux - Gordon Thomson.



Oban High School wind ensemble entertain the top table, prize winners and parents at the school's prizegiving held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

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King Arthur legend could become Argyll tourism boon

LEGENDS of King Arthur and Merlin could yet become recognised as a part of Argyll's identity when a fact-finding meeting is held next month.

Iona link

Researcher and advocate Adam Ardrey has released two books detailing his belief that

the king who pulled the sword from the stone was from Argyll and that the Isle of Iona is, in fact, Avalon - his reputed burial place.

Adam recently attended a meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee and has been invited to speak further to

Argyll and Bute Council's next month, where he will make his pitch for the area to jump on a potential tourism boon.

Timing

He said: 'The timing is perfect for Arthur. There is bound to be a lull in Columba-based tourism fol-

lowing this year of celebration of Columba's arrival in Argyll. The matter of Arthur can take up where Columba left off - they were, after all, contemporaries. 'Better still, as I said to the area committee, if you ask 100 Americans 'who was Columba?' you will be lucky to

find one in 100 who will know. If you ask 100 Americans who King Arthur was, you will be lucky to find one in 100 who does not know. 'Many millions of them will want to visit the places where he was active, especially if they can see things like stone from

which he took a sword [Dunadd Fort] the site of his most famous battle [Baden] and the place that came to be called Camelot, [somewhere near Dunadd] - all while standing on the same spot.' Mr Ardrey meets the council on August 14.

Tax to double on empty homes

Argyll and Bute - 'one of the most pro-active councils in Scotland' in tackling empty homes

PRESSURE is mounting on landlords to bring more than 1,400 abandoned homes back into use in Argyll and Bute as the local authority launches a two pronged attack on the county's housing crisis.

Councillors have agreed two policies that aim to open up the 1,470 unoccupied dwellings in Argyll and Bute to desperate families; a move hailed by housing charities.

A new empty homes policy has been agreed which will see the council offer property owners grants and loans to upgrade their house if they hand it over to a registered social landlord for letting.

The policy will allow landlords to apply for grants and loans up to £20,000 to bring the home up to letting standards, whilst an empty homes officer has been employed ensure funding goes to the areas in greatest need of housing.

In a separate move Argyll and Bute councillors voted to double the council tax on properties that have been unused for more than 12 months, or are not being actively marketed for sale or

lease. To avoid the hike in tax, which comes into effect from next April, home owners will be required to prove that they occupy the house for at least 25 days of a rolling 12 month period.

The move has been praised by Kristen Hubert, a Shelter Scotland employee and coordinator of the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership.

She said: 'Argyll and Bute is quickly becoming one of the most pro-active councils in Scotland with regards to tackling the issue of long-term private sector empty homes. Last year the council committed more money to grants and loans for empty home owners than any other council in the country.'

'With all the support available from Argyll and Bute Council, owners should have no reason to reach the point where they will be charged extra for leaving their home empty.'

'Empty homes cannot solve housing supply issues alone, but they can be part of a holistic solution to provide local affordable housing and to regenerate communities.'



This vehicle flipped onto its side at around 8pm on Sunday on the A819 near Lochawe. Neither occupant was injured. 16_128lochawecrash1

Police issue warning after spate of minor accidents

POLICE are to deploy extra unmarked cars to patrol local roads after a host of single-vehicle crashes around Argyll and Bute at the weekend.

A motorcyclist suffered a broken back after a crash near Loch Awe on Sunday - with two more crashes occurring within a two mile radius. The motorcyclist was taken to hospital just before 7.30pm after

his bike came off the A85 near the Stronmilchan junction. While painful the injury didn't have any serious repercussions. Less than an hour later, a car travelling from Inveraray

towards Dalmlally flipped onto its side on the A819 adjacent to Kilchurn Castle. Shortly after, a Renault Clio came off the road on the A85 near the Stronmilchan junction.



Two new paving machines are being leased by Argyll and Bute Council in a bid to reduce the cost of repairing the county's roads, as well as giving the council more flexibility for working on its roads network. The cost of hiring other companies to operate the paving machines over a four-year period would have amounted to £627,888 but by leasing the vehicles, operated by the council's own roads workmen, this figure will be reduced by £224,000 over the same period. Lead councillor for roads John Semple and Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, met workmen as they rolled out one of the new machines at Glen Lonan.

Another motorcyclist came off his bike near Cairndow, while there was a spate of other accidents around Argyll and Bute without any other vehicle involved.

Oban's chief inspector, Alistair Davidson, warned police would be increasing the attention it is giving motorists as a result. He said: 'It's a combination of people sight-seeing and not paying attention to the roads - and perhaps motorists pushing on a bit too hard for the roads. The summer season is definitely in top gear. We have some of the best biking roads in Britain but people still need to be aware of the speed limits and the nature of the roads. Drivers should also be aware that if they're looking at the view instead of the road they could find themselves charged with careless driving.'

Heads up for annual Oban Duck race

MUSIC, fun and inflatable ducks will be the order of the day this Saturday at the annual Oban Duck Race, organised by MacQueen Bros.

Hundreds of plastic ducks will be released into the Black Lynn from Combie Street Bridge by Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, to mark the start of the race.

The Dunollie Preservation Trust is one of this year's race beneficiaries alongside Cancer Research.

Organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'We want to create a bit of a party atmosphere at the race start, so the more people there the better. It is all a bit of a giggle.'

The race will begin at 3pm prompt and there is still a chance to buy a duck for £2 from The Ark Hair Salon, Jackson Bros Butchers, Markie Dans or MacQueen Bros.

Mull microlight flies into flock of geese

A MICROLIGHT pilot had to make a crash landing at Glenforsa Airfield on Mull after colliding with a flock of geese as he came in to land.

Ukrainian Ivan Shovkoplyas' aircraft disturbed the Canadian geese as it came in to land at Glenforsa at around 10pm on Sunday.

The 25 year old was able to land the microlight and avoid injury but there was damage to the aircraft.

Dangerous driver accused of trying to run over Tobermory shop staff

A DRIVER who allegedly tried to run over shop staff after they confronted him over a newspaper transaction has been charged with dangerous driving on Mull.

The 66-year-old man from the Stirling area allegedly refused to queue in a Tobermory shop and instead threw money for his newspaper onto the counter before leaving.

When staff went out to protest that the item had to be scanned, the man is accused of attempting to run them over with his car last Tuesday afternoon.

Community groups guide to eco-cash

FUNDING to make community groups more eco-friendly is up for grabs at an Oban event.

An advice surgery at Oban Phoenix Cinema tomorrow (Friday) intends to encourage groups in Argyll and Bute to apply for Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) grants to make environmentally friendly alterations in such areas as transport and building design.

Groups will have until September to submit draft applications. Oban is one of 12 Scottish locations where advice surgeries have been arranged.

Around £47 million has been given to more than 550 projects in Scotland so far.

Oban drug addict jailed for 80 days

AN OBAN man who has 'a long history of drug use' has been jailed for 80 days after admitting being in possession of heroin.

Duncan McWhirter, of 52C Soroba Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, having previously pled guilty to the possession charge dated May 4 last year and a separate matter from August 12 last year, whereby he permitted the smoking of heroin within his premises. Defence agent Duncan Durbin told Sheriff Douglas Small: 'He has a long history of drug use but has been on the methadone programme since September last year and is now clean and on the road to recovery.'

Sheriff Douglass Small said McWhirter's failure to comply with the requirements of a Drug Treatment Testing Order meant he had no option but to impose a custodial sentence.

New Dunbeg hotel plans to go on show

PLANS for a luxury spa hotel at Tom Liath, Dunbeg, will go on display later this month as the developer prepares to submit an application for outlying planning permission.

Arcade Building Services has advertised a pre-application consultation for the proposed spa hotel with self-catering cottages and leisure facilities. The plans will be on display at Dunbeg Church between 2.30pm-8pm on Thursday, July 25.

Capsized Jura kayaker found no one at home

AFTER swimming 200 metres to shore on Jura's north west coast and walking 10 miles for help after his kayak capsized, student James MacGowan would have been wishing the island was more populated.

The London man became a minor celebrity on the island after losing his kayak and possessions while

paddling through the Corryvreckan. But on struggling ashore, barefooted James found Jura's most northerly house, Kennachradh - but no-one was home. A few miles down the road he came across Barnhill, a farmhouse made famous by George Orwell, who wrote his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four while living there.

It too, was unoccupied.

But after a further seven miles the sodden and exhausted kayaker came to Lealt Cottage, where Dick and Maggy Mayes came to his aid. Maggy told *The Oban Times*: 'Because we are the last house in civilisation, we often get people needing rescued, or are lost.'

'We were able to give James some of my husband's clothes but he was worried about the coastguard sending out a rescue team, as the kayak had been spotted in the water.'

After his ordeal James stayed on Jura to climb the Paps before heading home in preparation for studying politics in Holland.

Tesco say 'Click but no Collect' to Isle of Colonsay courier service

RESIDENTS on Colonsay have accused Tesco of trying to get an Oban courier business 'off the scene' by this week banning it from picking up islanders' shopping.

Until this week Derek Wilson Courier Service had taken islanders' Click and Collect shopping orders from the Oban Tesco store to the Isle of Colonsay on the company's weekly Wednesday delivery.

But Tesco has now banned Derek Wilson vehicles from collecting the shopping, because the courier company has no chilled vans.

Islander Seumas MacNeill has identified an anomaly with the new rules. He said: 'Anyone can pick up the Click and Collect order as long as they have the order form. My brother, who lives in Oban, is allowed to pick up the shopping and take it round to Derek Wilson's yard to be put into a van - but Derek Wilson can't collect the shopping from Tesco.'

'The whole thing is difficult to fathom and I can only think that Tesco is trying to box us into a corner and get Derek Wilson off the scene.'

Derek Wilson, who has been delivering to the islands for more than 30 years, did not want to comment on his ban but predicted customers may return to buying from The Co-op, as they had done before the Tesco Click and Collect service began.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said the company wanted to ensure its customers received food of the highest possible quality and, to make sure that happened, was looking at making alternative delivery arrangements.

Oban sheriff allows carer to keep driving licence to look after mother

A CARER who drives his sick mother to and from hospital appointments narrowly avoided losing his driving licence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Former PhD student Stuart Wollacott, aged 50, of 7 Strathcona Street, Glasgow, pled guilty on Monday to a reduced charge of careless driving on the A85 near Taynuilt on November 28 last year.

Ford Focus driver Wollacott was seen on two occasions by police officers in a marked car overtaking while approaching blind bends.

Defence agent Kevin Duffy said his client had considered the manoeuvres safe but had deferred to the professional judgement of the police officers in admitting his guilt.

The court heard Wollacott was a full time carer for his mother, who required an oxygen cylinder for her condition. As taxis are not insured for these tanks, Wollacott, who has a previous conviction for dangerous driving, is responsible for her transport.

Sheriff Douglas Small endorsed Wollacott's driving licence with eight penalty points, bringing his total to 11 and one short of a driving ban, and fined him £450.

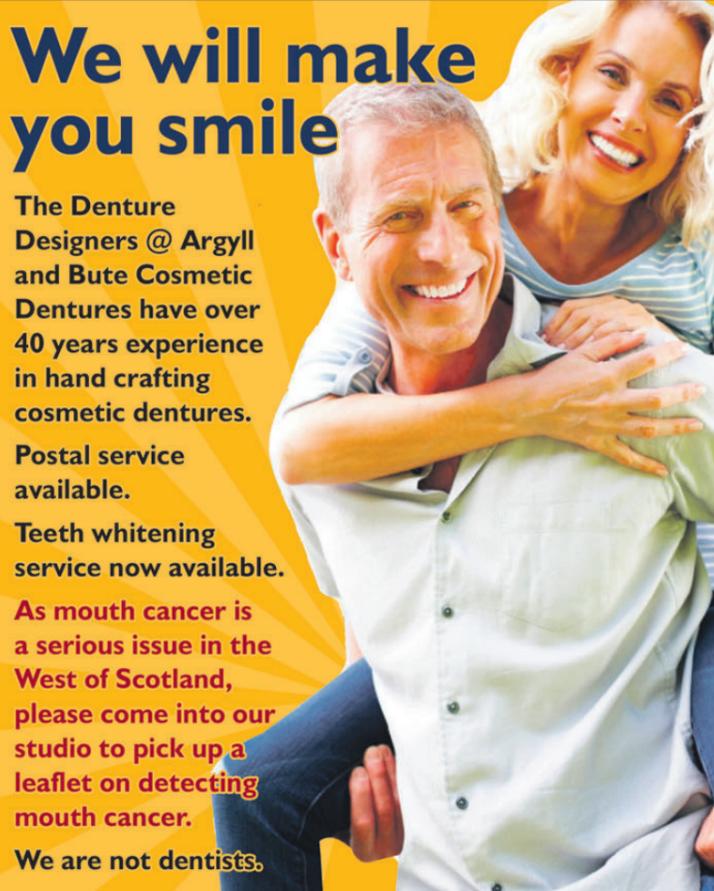


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Beekeepers warned as disease threat remains

BEE KEEPERS throughout Scotland are being warned to keep a close eye on their apiculture after fears over two notifiable diseases, first spotted in 2009, continue.

Bee inspectors have started their second summer programme of inspections and surveillance across Scotland to gain a better picture of honey bee health.

These programmes follow on from the bee disease outbreaks of European Foulbrood (EFB) and American Foulbrood (AFB) in 2009 and will allow experts to understand more about the diseases and husbandry factors affecting honey bee health in Scotland.

Notifiable diseases
EFB and AFB are notifiable diseases under The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007, which prohibits the removal of hives, bees, combs and appliances from the affected premises except for submitting samples for laboratory tests.

Following laboratory diagnosis by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, tests have recently confirmed EFB in apiaries in Perthshire and West Lothian – both sites have previously been infected in the last four years.

The movement of honey bees and related equipment into or out of the affected sites are prohibited to halt the spread of the disease.

Commercial beekeepers, who have been authorised by the Scottish Government to carry out their own inspections after completing a training event, are also taking part in the checks.

All beekeepers are being urged to be vigilant for signs of the disease, to maintain good husbandry practices and to notify any suspicion of disease to BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Beekeepers are also being urged to register on the national bee database BeeBase to access up-to-date information on the control of EFB and AFB and bee related issues.

Oban councillor resigns from planning committee

'The planning process in my opinion is stacked against the developer'

FRUSTRATION over policy guiding decisions made by council officers has seen an Oban councillor quit the local authority's planning committee.

Fred Hall said a determination to stick to the 'status quo' and a lack of impetus from the authority to encourage development are at the heart of his decision to step down from the responsibility of scrutinising planning applications.

He claims a rigid insistence of sticking to policy was stifling the council's ability to help business – saying he sees no such problem with Highland Council.

His comments come as Mr Hall prepares to lodge a

motion calling for a board of non-executive directors to be installed at Kilmory to monitor and scrutinise the performance of directors and the chief executive.

Mr Hall said: 'Having been on the planning committee for a year I am sadly of a view that it is arguably more of a deterrent to economic growth than a facilitator.'

'The planning process in my opinion is stacked against the developer. Councillors are limited in their ability due to policy and governance and law issues to overturn some planning decisions.'

'I ask why it is that Highland

Council are capable of pushing through all these developments and we are not?'

'I have resigned as I feel that is the only way I can highlight my view that I consider the planning process in Argyll and Bute to be pro-nimby and to the detriment of economic growth.'

'I will represent my constituents at planning hearings but not from within the system as part of the planning committee as I believe I can achieve more being out of the tent than in it.'

Outlining his proposal for a board of non-executive directors to be established, he said not only would it gauge the performance of directors

and departments, but would be able to make recommendations for change within the authority where appropriate.

The motion, set to be seconded by Oban's Iain MacDonald, is to be considered after the summer recess.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr Hall said: 'Policy is used as a reason not to do things; it is also a good reason for the council to preserve the status quo. However, when that policy is challenged, we're told it's incompetent.'

'My intention to bring the non-executive directors comes in light of recent events. It would help scrutinise the performance of the council more effectively.'



Argyll and Bute councillor Fred Hall has quit the council's planning committee after becoming frustrated.

1,600 seek career assistance in 2012

MORE than 1,600 people in Argyll and Bute sought career assistance from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) last year. 1,683 people met staff from the skill development agency in the area for help finding training or job opportunities during 2012.

Meanwhile, SDS has been expanding use of its interactive website My World of Work. More than 230,000 people in Scotland have been registered to the website.

Oban man almost double the drink-drive limit

AN OBAN man who drove while almost twice the legal drink drive limit has been banned while he awaits sentencing.

Wayne Parker, 45, of 8 Etive Gardens, Nant Drive, Oban, pled guilty to drink driving on Soroba Road on July 2 when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Parker had 65mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, the legal limit is 35mcg.

He committed this offence while on bail and will be sentenced on July 23, when his other case is called.

Private screening in Oban of Palestine film

A FILM documenting an Israeli-Palestinian land battle has been privately screened in Oban.

Broken Cameras, which has not been given general release, was shown by Oban Phoenix Cinema in association with the Oban Concern for Palestine group.

The film, mainly shot by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, records the Israeli demolition of trees and the building of a barrier on farmland in the village of Bil'in on the West Bank and villagers' attempts to stop it.

The critically acclaimed film won the 'World Cinema Directing Award - Documentary' at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

Oban Concern for Palestine sold more than £200 worth of Palestinian goods to aid Palestinian residents at a Charities Day last month with the assistance of the Oban Lions club.

Distillery renovates Islay cottage

A RENOVATED 19th century cottage that was home to a former distillery manager has been re-opened as self-catering accommodation by an Islay distillery.

Seaview Cottage, located within the Ardebeg distillery, previously housed then-distillery manager Hamish Scott between 1964 and 1977.

Fort William man is musical director at Kings Theatre

A FORMER Fort William man has been appointed musical director for an upcoming production of *The King and I* at Glasgow's famous King's Theatre.

Sean Stirling, 29, will take the creative reigns for Paisley Musical and Operatic Society's show, which is due to hit the stage in March next year.

Mr Stirling, now a music teacher at Lesmahagow High School, started his theatrical career with local group Lochaber Showstoppers while he was a pupil at Lochaber High.

His mother Linda told *The*



Sean Stirling will have a key role in the Glasgow show

Oban Times her son was 'excited' by the opportunity.

She said: 'He's always been interested in music, he first started at Lochaber Showstoppers when he was about 12.'

'He's been involved in quite a few different shows, but this is the biggest one he's had so far.'

£1m Loch Awe order completed in Kintyre

A £1M order of Argyll-made components from Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd in Machrihanish, Kintyre for the Carrraig Gheal Wind Farm near Loch Awe has been completed, as construction enters the final phase of the 20-turbine project.

The tower sections for the wind farm were manufactured at the Machrihanish factory, with turbines and other components supplied by Siemens joining the towers at the factory, before being transported north to the Carrraig Gheal site.

The order represents the tenth wind farm project Wind Towers (Scotland) have supplied in the last 12 months, supporting 130 jobs at the factory.

Community fund
Meanwhile, a consultation has been launched into the operation of a £46,000-a-year community fund connected with the Carrraig Gheal project.

John Morgan, project director at GreenPower, said: 'We are pleased that as the project nears completion significant economic benefits have been retained here in Argyll.'

'The transport of turbines across Argyll required us to provide a major road improvement at Muasdale on the A83 and the construction of the 36km West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route, both of which will provide a lasting positive legacy for Argyll communities and businesses in the decades ahead.'

Carrraig Gheal Wind Farm is situated north of Loch Awe, above Inverin Forest. Construction began in 2011 and is due to be completed this summer.



Flight Lieutenant Natalie Scott, James Cameron and Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart. 16_127cadet01

Oban teenager gains air cadet honours

THE PRESTIGIOUS role of acting as an assistant to the Lord Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in Argyll, has been handed to an Oban teenager.

James Cameron, a cadet flight sergeant with 2521 (Oban High School) squadron of the air cadets has been named Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.

As part of his new role James assisted the Lord Lieutenant

during the recent Royal visit of Princess Anne to Oban.

James, who has been a cadet for almost six years, was officially given the honour at a special ceremony at the cadet base in Tweeddale Street last week.

He has completed much academic training with the cadets, has taken on the role of cadet instructor and is building towards a career in the Royal Marines.

Natalie Scott, the squadron's commanding officer, said: 'When James started five and a half years ago he was a very quiet young lad, very shy.'

Leadership
'But over the years he has grown in confidence and leadership so much so he has developed into the most senior cadet we have here on the squadron.'

Stewart presented James with a badge and certificate, adding: 'It gives me the greatest pleasure to present this to you.'

'You have more qualifications in your 18 and a half years than most of us have in a lifetime. You lead by example.'

The squadron as a whole was also presented with the Hinshelwood trophy for the best squadron in the Highland wing.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

3D TV ... Can It Hurt Your Eyes?

3D technology seems ubiquitous. Virtually every cinema offers 3D viewing. Kids' computer games are available in 3D. Every new TV in TV showrooms seems to be 3D enabled. Perhaps you have purchased one recently? With this plethora of 3D viewing the scaremongering stories have been abundant.

TV manufacturers originally told viewers they could possibly suffer confusion, nausea, convulsions altered vision, light-headedness and dizziness if they watched 3D TV. They even suggested pregnant women, the elderly, children and epileptics should avoid 3D TV. Thankfully these warnings have now been down-graded to everyone avoiding prolonged viewing, taking regular breaks and stopping viewing if suffering from visual discomfort. This is all very reminiscent of the early days of VDU screen usage.

The reality is 3D viewing will exacerbate any visual difficulty you might have. Many of which are asymptomatic when viewing traditional 2D screens. Normal stereopsis

relies on both changing distances of viewing and muscle movements of our eyes to provide the 3D experience. Because we view 3D screens at a fixed distance the muscles around our eyes work extremely hard to give us this 3D experience. Recent studies found 48% of viewers (of which 76% were aged 18-24 years) indicating 3D viewing was uncomfortable with headaches being the most frequent complaint.

When viewing 3D do you feel eye strain, headaches, nauseous or dizzy? Are you more comfortable watching traditional 2D TV? If you answered yes to any of these questions you should seek specialist advice from your optometrist. Often it is simply a matter of having an updated vision correction. Sometimes traditional NHS eye examinations are insufficient to examine your eyes in the depth necessary to investigate the visual difficulties highlighted by 3D viewing and you will need the services of an optometrist specialising in binocular vision and reading problems.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Marine science student Rachel Parker.

Rachel voted president of University of the Highlands and Islands' Students' Association

AN OBAN-based student is taking up the top job in the University of the Highlands and Islands' Students' Association.

Rachel Parker, 21, a marine science student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), has been voted as president of association, the organisation which represents the 7,000 students in the university's partner colleges and centres across the region.

Originally from Dunbar, Rachel moved to Oban to undertake her degree and first became involved in the university's student association when she volunteered as a college representative last year.

She enjoyed helping students, found it benefited her own development and wanted to become more

involved, so she decided to run for the role of president in elections earlier this year.

Rachel took over from the university's previous student association president on July 1. She is taking a year out of her studies to take up the paid position. Rachel said: 'My main focus will be to improve student engagement with association and enhance integration of students across the partnership. This should help to give students a greater sense of belonging, despite the university's dispersed nature.'

'I organised SAMS UHI's first freshers' week last year with no budget so I'm hoping to bring aspects of this and the creative thinking it required to the association.'

Dr Iain Morrison, dean of students at the university, welcomed Rachel's election, adding: 'Rachel has been elected to the top job in the university's Students' Association at an exciting time. We are keen to engage our students as much as possible in the life of the university and Rachel has a key role in helping us to do so.'

'We have significantly increased the resources available to the association and will look to Rachel and her colleagues to help make a student's time with us an exceptional and fulfilling experience.'

Rachel will be supported by Dain Roberts, who was voted as association's deputy president, and Kat Bateson, who takes up the role of vice president. Both Dain and Kat are based in Inverness.

Inveraray CAR goes ahead

DESPITE a funding shortfall of around £1million, plans to regenerate Inveraray are set to go ahead.

Argyll and Bute Council have this month granted £350,000 to the Inveraray Conservation Area Regeneration (CAR) Scheme, which aims to restore eight key buildings in the Royal Burgh.

Historic Scotland have already granted the scheme £1million, while the Argyll Community Housing Association has also pledged its support.

While a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1million failed, the local authority confirmed the project would still proceed.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Our

main objective is to achieve the maximum benefit for Inveraray with the money available. We are working with Historic Scotland on the fine detail relating to the re-scoping and costings.'

'We are also looking at ways of making savings, for example on overheads and running costs, so that as much resource as possible goes to the buildings.'

Speaking in support of the project, John Semple, lead councillor for environment, development and infrastructure, said: 'Inveraray is a first class tourist destination and an important gateway into Argyll. Its premier conservation area is an important asset and there is a strong community support for the project.'

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Fort march into Camanachd Cup semi finals

'The boys showed a tremendous will to win and worked hard for it. We could have gone on and scored again'

RELEGATION threatened Fort William defied their lowly league standing to march into the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-finals with a fighting 2-0 victory over Glenurquhart at Blairbeg Park.

The fiery pitch combined with a strong crosswind made for a scrappy first half which the hosts dominated but failed to puncture a resolute Fort defence.

And whenever the Glen did fashion a chance they found Paul MacKay to be a formidable barrier.

The Fort goalkeeper was hardly overworked and when called upon made sure nothing got past his caman.

Ewan Brady was the first Glen forward to be denied, McKay swatting away his smart shot in the ninth minute with some aplomb.

The home side forced a series of corners for no reward before Arran MacPhee went close at the other end after good work by Gordy MacKinnon.

Report by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

McKay was in action again on 25 minutes to block Neale Reid's 30-yarder but the Fort had the shackles on their opponents' forward line and reached half-time level at 0-0.

The Glen continued to dominate after the interval but the visitors were growing in confidence with Gary Innes in particular a mercurial menace up front.

Fort finally served notice of their intent on 55 minutes when Innes crashed a shot off the upright via Macintosh's caman.

Belief

Up at the other end Eddie Tembo's arcing 35-yard strike almost found the top right corner of McKay's net - but the Fort were playing with increasing belief and opened the scoring with 10 minutes left.

Daniel Stewart fizzed in a shot which Macintosh stopped and Innes latched on to the rebound

in a flash to whack the ball home for 1-0.

Glen were stunned - and it got worse two minutes later when Ryan Campbell fairly hammered a low drive past Macintosh to make 2-0 after great work down the right by Daniel Stewart.

There was no way back for Drew McNeil's men - and Fort William co-manager Adi Robertson was a proud man when ref Colin 'Coke' MacDonald blew for full time.

He told The Oban Times pitchside: 'That was a great performance. Glenurquhart had most of the game for the first hour then we came more and more into things.'

'Our defence was superb - I thought Jamie Cruikshank, Cameron Grant and Neil Robertson were fantastic. We really played as a team - and we were six players short. The boys showed a tremendous will to win

and worked hard for it. We could have gone on to score again and saw out the game comfortably in the end.

He added: 'Don't forget we are a very young team - Arran MacPhee, Calum Shepherd and Alex MacMillan are all under 17.'

Few complaints

Glenurquhart boss McNeil had few complaints and accepted his team's failure to make their early superiority count cost them dear.

He said: 'The second goal killed us. We had most of the possession but we were not constructive enough up front or sharp enough in front of goal.'

'The defence was fine, the midfield was fine but the forward line just did not perform today. It's frustrating. We kind of beat ourselves but fair play to Fort William - they took their chances and we didn't.'

SHINTY



Fort's Jack Fraser keeps a close eye on Liam Girvan. 20_28shinty07

John wins Alpha Trophy

GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club's Alpha Trophy was won by John Finlayson after he shot a net round of 60 last weekend.

Willie Cowie was four shots back in second, while Graham Cope was third with a round of 67.

The Sconser Trophy provided a closer fight for the win, with Gilles Nicholson taking a one shot victory.

Dave MacVicar and Mike Williams both shot net 67s, with MacVicar's better inward half giving him second place.

A stableford competition held during the week was won by Stewart Johnston with 44 points, ahead of Graham Cope and Martin Bird.

Results: Alpha Trophy - 1, John Finlayson 71-11=60; 2, Willie Cowie 76-12=64; 3, Graham Cope 79-12=67.

Sconser Trophy - 1, Gilles Nicholson 82-16=66; 2, Dave MacVicar 83-16=67 (BIH); 3, Mike Williams 85-18=67.

Stableford competition - 1, Stewart Johnston 44pts; 2, Graham Cope 42pts (BIH); 3, Martin Bird 42pts.

Skating club given £1,000 grant

ROLLER SKATING

LOCHABER Artistic Roller Skating Club have been awarded a grant of £1,000 by Lochaber Sports Association for sports development.

The club was one of a number which came forward after LSA appealed for locals to apply for thousands of pounds of unclaimed grant money.

LSA grants and awards committee secretary Christine Falconer told The Oban Times seven new applications were made in the first month, with a further three clubs bidding for grants since then.

Lochaber Camanachd, Fort William Shinty Club, Lochaber Judo Club and Lochaber Bowling Club were given £895, £500, £500, and £60 respectively for sports development, while Mallaig and District Canoe Club were awarded £440 for coaching.

Balla reach final

WELFARE FOOTBALL

BALLACHULISH booked their place in the Uisdean MacDonald Cup final after beating Caol Cosmos 4-2 on penalties.

The south Lochaber side will meet either Lochaber or Mallaig in the welfare football final, with their semi to be played later this month. Lochaber defeated Lundavra 5-1 in a re-arranged fixture to move into the semi final.

Lochaber and Lundavra also faced off in the William Wilson Welfare League later in the week, with the sides sharing the points in a 2-2 draw.

Claggan moved off the bottom of the table with their first win of the season, defeating Ballachulish 4-1.

£1,800 jackpot

LOTTERY

A BUMPER jackpot of £1,800 is up for grabs in this weekend's Ballachulish Shinty Club lotto draw. Last week's numbers were 7, 10 and 14.



Liz Kennedy and Gordon Hamilton came through some stiff competition to win the Mairi MacDonal pairs competition at Lochaber Bowling Club. Runners up Alan MacDonald and Duncan Gillies ran the pair close in the final, which came down to the final bowl.

Owen and Iona lift the stableford silverware at Fort William Golf Club

THE FEGGANS and Gillespie Joinery Stableford Open was played at Fort William Golf Club on Sunday, with Owen Sweeney taking the win by three points.

Dougie Duncan was the runner up on 42 points, with David MacGillivray third on 38.

The ladies competition proved much closer, with Iona Cameron just one point ahead of Hazel Cameron and Kim Topping to take first place.

Cal Brown recorded the longest drive at the 11th hole, while Paul Campbell, Neil Henderson and Brian O'Neill won the nearest the pin competitions at the sixth, 12th and 16th holes.

On Saturday the July medal was held with David MacPhereson and Willie Duncan both shooting rounds of net 73. MacPhereson won with a better inward half.

In section two Paul Brian won by three shots from John Byrne.

The ladies Cameron Stableford competition on Saturday was won by Kim Topping, who finished nine points clear of Hazel Cameron.

The senior medal on Friday was won by Willie McCann

with a net round of 64.

Results: Stableford Open - Men: 1, Owen Sweeney 45 points; 2, Dougie Duncan 42 points; 3, David MacGillivray 38 points. Ladies: 1, Iona Cameron 35 points; 2, Hazel Cameron 34 points (BIH); 3, Kim Topping 34 points.

July medal - Section 1: 1, David MacPhereson 80-7=73 (BIH); 2, Willie Duncan 84-11=73; 3, Andrew Brown 83-9=74. Section 2: 1, Paul Brian 93-16=77; 2, John Byrne 99-19=80; 3, David Martin 105-20=85.

GOLF

Cameron 28 points; 3, Iona Cameron 26 points
Senior July medal - 1, Willie McCann 77-13=64; 2, Jimmy Ross 81-16=65; 3, Toby Richardson 78-10=68.



Stableford Open winners Owen Sweeney (front left) and Iona Cameron being presented with their trophies.

Fort William head for Oban tournament

FORT WILLIAM have been invited to take part in the annual tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club which takes place this Saturday at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park kicking off at 11am.

The tournament formerly known as the Keyline Cup is now sponsored by D&K Lafferty Contractors.

a round robin basis with all the teams playing each other in short, sharp 40 minute games.

The nine tournament officials are Donnie Brooks, Jim Pearson, John Mackie and Stuart McLeaie, all from Glasgow, Oban's David Dunlop and Tim Woodcock, Jimmy Lister from Lochgilphead along with Peter McCallum and Archie Mitchell from Campbeltown.

Game schedule and kick-off times are as follows:
11am - Dundee United v

FOOTBALL

Hamilton Accies; Fort William v Albion Rovers.
12pm - Oban Saints v Albion Rovers; Hamilton Accies v Fort William.

1pm - Oban Saints v Fort William; Dundee United v Albion Rovers.

2pm - Fort William v Dundee United; Oban Saints v Hamilton Accies.

3pm - Hamilton Accies v Albion Rovers; Dundee United v Oban Saints.

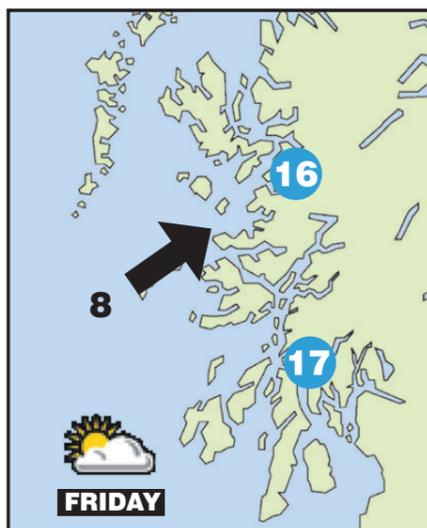
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 11, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.42 1.2 07.32 3.7 13.39 1.0 19.36 3.8	
Fri	02.15 1.3 08.01 3.6 14.09 1.1 20.06 3.7	
Sat	02.42 1.4 08.31 3.5 14.42 1.2 20.38 3.6	
Sun	03.09 1.5 09.06 3.3 15.20 1.3 21.15 3.5	
Mon	03.48 1.6 09.49 3.2 16.07 1.4 22.01 3.4	
Tues	04.44 1.6 10.43 3.1 17.05 1.5 23.00 3.2	
Wed	06.00 1.7 11.57 3.0 18.16 1.5 *** **	

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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