

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Success for Inveraray Games

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Dealing with an ageing population

Special feature on page 11

£25m salmon sales to China

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2014 Games fleet boost for Argyll

Commonwealth Games event could generate millions for local economy

A FLOTILLA of 300 yachts will sail from Mull to Oban and onto the Clyde in an event which could generate millions for the Argyll economy in 2014.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT), together with VisitScotland and the Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYAS), Scottish Canals, Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance and Glasgow Life have combined to support the gathering of boats from across Scotland, Ireland and the rest of the world as part of celebrations to mark the start of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next year and Homecoming 2014.

Set to be held mid July, there will be festivals to greet the flotilla in Tobermory, Oban and along the Crinan Canal, as well

It puts our area firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.

chief executive Argyll and Isles Tourism

as a gathering at the Kyles of Bute and Portavadie Marina.

Throughout their journey, the boat owners will be presented with guides to Argyll and the Isles in a bid to encourage the visitors back to the area in future years. It is hoped the Waverly paddle steamer will get the flotilla under way.

Mike Story, chief executive

of AIT, said the gathering is a major opportunity for the whole area.

'The idea came out of a discussion between myself, David Adams McGilp of VisitScotland, James Stuart of RYAS and councillor Louise Glen Lee,' he said.

'It would combine an amazing Homecoming event with the Commonwealth Games to promote tourism to Argyll and the Isles.'

'There's a synergy to the event that I just love and it will be worth millions to the area for two reasons. Not only will we encourage sailors to moor their boats here during the summer - giving us the opportunity to encourage more boats to come north to Argyll and the Isles from the Clyde - but it puts our area firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.'

'It's a strong legacy event that should strengthen the area's reputation for marine tourism.'

Final details are yet to be confirmed and there has been no prior publicity about the event, but already several sailing clubs have expressed an interest in joining. Two television stations - including Japanese state broadcaster NHK - have expressed an interest in covering the event.

Mr Story added: 'What this also does is mark out Argyll and the Isles as Scotland's most desirable area for the development of marine tourism.'

Anyone wishing to get involved can get in touch at muster@ryas.uk.org.



Stephen King was presented his award by Alasdair Chrystal, games convenor, right, and Jim Brown MBE, President of the Scottish Highland Games Association.

Stephen is Inveraray hammer king

HEAVYWEIGHT athlete and champion Stephen King has won the 16lb hammer competition so often that Inveraray Highland Games organisers decided to present the Seaton Challenge Cup to him permanently.

The Inveraray-based competitor was delighted to receive the

award. Stephen said: 'It's a great surprise to get this trophy.'

Record

The champion took the world record for the event with a throw of 153' 2". The record was set in 1998 and is yet to be broken.

Stephen, now the joint vice-convenor of the Inveraray

Games, confirmed that he was in semi-retirement from competing, although he would be at Tainuith Highland Games this Saturday.

Inveraray Highland Games were held in bright sunshine after a wet start to the day. The poor weather did not deter

the crowds with a better than expected number of visitors to the Royal Burgh for the event.

Record numbers of competitors also took part in piping and Highland dancing competitions with more than 400 individuals turning out on the day.

Claims that care depends on postcode

SIX MONTHS after being brought in, there are concerns that private care packages across Argyll and Bute are becoming a postcode lottery.

While some carers say they have had no problem with the care agencies contracted by the local authority to deliver care since the end of January, the standard of service varies significantly across the county.

To date, 16 service concern forms have been submitted and investigated by the council - out of 266 users, carers, council staff and partner agencies - but the council claims 'no formal complaints' about private agencies have been lodged.

'Only two' requests to change care provider have been lodged out of 92 care packages currently being delivered across the county.

However, carers and some rural doctors say they have concerns about the consistency of care being delivered.

Dr George Hannah at Easdale Medical Practice said: 'We had a small group of home helps recruited locally and organised locally by the district nurses.'

'Unfortunately that was taken away from us a year ago because the council contract was awarded to a private company.'

'We now have a deterioration of services because they are provided by people not living in the community. We have lodged several complaints when carers have not turned up on time.'

The carers that worked through the surgery did not continue to work in the role when the private care company took over as they would have had to take a wage cut of up to £70 per week.

Not everyone has had a poor service. Oban carer Jayne Powers said the service she receives from her private care provider was 'great' - with a three month exception when it struggled to hire staff.

Argyll and Bute Council said Home Procurement Officers are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the standard of care delivered which includes meeting with service users.

For an in-depth look at how care is changing see page 11.



Mike Story, chief executive of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, claims the event will be firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.

Scottish Water honour clean-up pledge

CLEAN-up teams have been busy at Oban's Polvinstor Reservoir after *The Oban Times* revealed the condition of the site could leave Scottish Water open to a criminal complaint.

A new drainage culvert at the pond has seen the water level lowered by several feet, while work to 'landscape' the site

transformed the former beauty spot from a home for ducks, swans and fish to resemble a dump, strewn with old tyres, plastic sheeting, rusty metal-work and broken pipes.

Neighbours of the site have been surprised by the level of activity at the pond over the last week, with the operator's

customer relations team also getting in touch to try and arrange a meeting with residents.

However, May Tosh, who lives opposite the site, says she and her neighbours are not resting on their laurels and hope to appoint an independent civil engineer to assess the works already done by Scottish Water.

She said: 'The consensus of the street is we should get someone independent to look at it, so we're going to appoint a civil engineer to check the drainage and see if there's any reason the water level can't be raised.'

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

Sir Alex delights young football fans in Oban

SIR ALEX Ferguson delighted football fans in Oban at the weekend when the former Manchester United manager returned to the town following his dream holiday on the west coast.

Govan's most famous son spent a week cruising the Hebrides with family and friends aboard the Majestic Line's *Glen Tarsan*, having arrived by helicopter at Oban Airport on Sunday, July 8.

He returned to the town on Saturday and paused for photographs with local youngsters before returning to Oban Airport to fly home.

Among those to meet the legendary manager was John MacDonald, who works at Oban Airport. He took along football-mad nephews Daniel MacCuish and Cameron Rowan to meet the former St Mirren and Aberdeen boss.

John said: 'He took time to speak to the boys and was really good. Daniel's dad said he hadn't seen Daniel get up so quickly and get showered that morning!'

'I asked him if he enjoyed his holiday and he said it was cracking; he seemed really nice.'

Right - Legendary football manager Sir Alex Ferguson posed at Oban Airport for photographs with Cameron Rowan, left, and Daniel MacCuish.



Man to appear in Oban court on three drugs charges

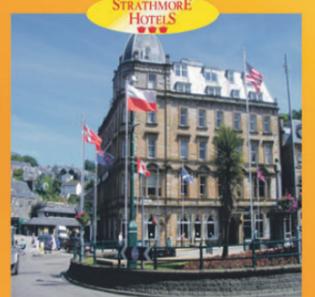
A MAN will appear at Oban Sheriff Court today (Thursday) on three drugs charges, two of which relate to an intent to supply.

Michael Doherty, who has no fixed abode but is from the Port Glasgow area, was arrested in Oban and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on petition last Thursday, when he was remanded in custody.

He was due to appear at court today charged with possession of cocaine, possession of heroin with intent to supply and possession of diazepam with intent to supply.

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Glenfinnan appears in golf advert

THE GLENFINNAN railway viaduct gained worldwide prominence for carrying the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter films.

Now the famous structure has featuring in a £400,000 advertising campaign to promote Scotland across the globe as 'the home of golf'.

First Minister Alex Salmond launched the special VisitScotland promotion at the Scottish Open in Inverness on Friday.

The adverts were shown during the event, which finished on Sunday, on NBC in the US and Sky Sports in the UK.

Mr Salmond said: 'We have the best courses in the world and these fantastic adverts will cement that reputation to tens of millions of golf fans across the globe.'

MG ALBA continues backing for Trad Awards

Gaelic media service MG ALBA has announced it is supporting the Scots Trad Music Awards this December for a sixth year.

The awards, widely regarded as the highlight of the traditional music calendar, will be held in Aberdeen for the first time.

Caol man who threatened to kill police is fined

A CAOL man who drunkenly threatened to kill a police officer has been fined £130.

James MacDonald shouted and swore at two police constables while they were dealing with another incident on Middle Street in Fort William, saying to one of them 'I'll kill you'.

The 45-year-old continued yelling until officers handcuffed him on the ground, Fort William Justice of the Peace heard.

MacDonald, of 4 Glen Nevis Road, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner in the early hours of May 25.

Politicians join exhibition of Islay landscapes

TWO LEADING politicians are contributing to an exhibition showcasing Islay landscapes.

Pictures from Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell and Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, who both enjoy photography in their spare time, will appear at the exhibition as part of the annual Festival of Politics in the Scottish Parliament building.

Mark Unsworth of Islay Studios, who has been photographing the island for 14 years, is also contributing.

The three-day festival starts on August 23.

New homes to be built in Western Isles

Houses to be built in Barra, Benbecula and Isle of Lewis

NEW HOUSING projects are to go ahead on three Outer Hebrides islands this autumn.

Leurbost in Lewis, Balivanich in Benbecula and Craighton in Barra will each have four houses built on them, according to Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) plans.

Construction is expected to start in September this year.

The former Craighton Primary School in Barra, which Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil attended, is to be demolished to make room for the new housing.

'Something has to be done with the site; hopefully this is the best approach,' said Angus MacNeil.

The Benbecula housing will be built on part of the former Balivanich Primary School site.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Environment and Protective Services Committee chairman Councillor Kenneth Murray said there was strong demand for new housing in the chosen locations.

Outer Hebrides-based Calmax has been contracted to build the housing in Leurbost and Balivanich, although no contractor has been confirmed for the Barra project yet.

All building arrangements are subject to Scottish Government approval.

The plans come after the Scottish Government's announcement that the Outer Hebrides would get an extra £626,000 to build social housing earlier this month.

The HHP also proposes to build housing on a site in Crowlsta in Lewis.

'Discussions on this with the community and preferred contractor are at an early stage,' a Comhairle spokesperson said.



Above and below: The Princess Royal meets members of Argyll RDA Driving Group.

Fort William builder faces driving charges

A FORT William builder is set to appear in court charged with a string of driving offences.

Norman Hughes is accused of driving in the town with a trailer almost twice the legally permitted weight limit of 3,500kg, failing to display a registration plate on the trailer and driving a vehicle overweight for the class of licence he holds.

It is also alleged a portion or cord or ply was exposed on one of the tyres on Hughes' van.

The alleged incidents occurred on Achintore Road on March 14.

The 30-year-old also faces a charge of driving without road tax on Belford Road on February 14.

Hughes, of Tigh a Bhet, Fassifern Road, is due to stand trial at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court on October 31, with a preliminary hearing set for September 5.

Skye director steps down from community company

A DIRECTOR of one of the West Highlands' most go-ahead community companies is to step down after five years in post.

Graeme MacKenzie will officially resign from his duties with Sleat-based Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative at the AGM in November. He will continue as a CDI director until then.

Mr MacKenzie, from Cruard, who works for CalMac in the office and pier at Armadale, told *The Oban Times*: 'Five years is quite long enough.'

'I feel as if I have run out of ideas myself and I think it would benefit the group getting fresh people in. These things are quite demanding on your time but it has been excellent and I have enjoyed it.'

Princess Royal visits Riding for the Disabled

RIDING for the Disabled (RDA) members in Benderloch got the chance to show off their horse-riding skills in front of the Princess Royal.

Princess Anne, who is president of Riding for the Disabled and a horse-riding enthusiast, dropped in on the Argyll RDA Driving Group to give rosettes to three regular members, Donald MacDonald, Davina Plank and Lorraine Smart, last week after they demonstrated their carriage driving ability.

Jessica Turnbull also received a rosette after completing her first carriage driving lesson in the arena, which was built last year. Twenty-four members from Lettershuna Pony Club in Appin and its North Argyll equivalent were given carriage driving achievement badges by the princess.

Mull girl Joyce Buick received a stable management certificate from North Highland College.

For accomplishing 200 hours of voluntary work at the RDA, Claire MacPherson of Barcalidne was also given a Saltire Award.

Argyll RDA Driving Group organiser and chairwoman Jane Isaac said: 'The group wouldn't exist, and we couldn't have enjoyed this wonderful day, without the support of our very committed trustees and all our hardworking volunteers.'



Bumper crowd set for Barralive

A BUMPER crowd is expected to travel to Barra later this month as the island's premier music festival moves outdoors.

Barralive has taken the leap to hire an outdoor stage for the flagship event, a move deemed necessary to maintain the festival's growth while delivering a boost to the island's economy.

The move has coincided with an exciting line up for this year's event with Wolfstone, the Vatersay Boys, Skerryvore, Face the West and Calum Iain MacCorquodale set to appear.

Neil Morrison, from Macgachans in Tobermory, Mull, was asked by the Feis Barra committee to manage this year's event.

He said: 'Moving this to an open air event was met with a lot of scepticism, however, we seem to be winning people round and they understand it is the only sustainable way for the festival to continue year after year.'

'We have pushed the production and massively added to the lighting and effects, creating an instant party atmosphere at a professional level.'

'We have added free camping to the festival which will hold people at the event and, again, add to the complete package.'

Barralive will be held at Tangasdale over two days from Friday July 26, with numbers limited.

People call for 180-year-old Kilchoan church to be restored

RESTORATION work is to be carried out on an 180 year-old church near Kilchoan after locals said they wanted it to stay.

Ardnamurchan Parish Church is in urgent need of renovation work, estimated to cost at least £100,000.

Earlier this year local minister Reverend Fiona Ogg circulated a form asking residents' opinions, with the majority saying the church was worth keeping.

And work to restore the building, which is still used for weekly services, is now expected to start later this year.

Options

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Many different options had been discussed on the way to this decision, but restoration and refurbishment was felt to be the way ahead. Restoration will be a long process; ongoing finance and patience will be needed.'

'However, with prayer, goodwill and community support this project should result in a building that will be weatherproof, warm, versatile and ready for a future at the heart of the community.'



Graeme MacKenzie is stepping down.

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JIM HUNTER CBE, CAMPAIGNER AND AUTHOR

An outspoken critic of private landownership and a supporter of community buyouts, Hunter resigned from the Land Reform Review Group for lacking radicalism – a decision that may ultimately lead to the right of tenant farmers to buy. A prolific author on the Highland Clearances, he led the Crofters' Union, was chairman of HIE and a board member of SNH, and is now a director of Centre for History, UHI.



NICK FERGUSON CBE, PHILANTHROPIST

Chairman of BSKyB, he set up the Kilfinan Trust with his own money to provide interest-free loans to Argyll businesses. Supports projects for Argyll's elderly and youth; part-finances Argyll College of Construction & Engineering in Lochgilphead; scholarships for 12 Argyll students a year to attend Edinburgh Uni; founded mentoring group for 125 charity CEOs. On SIFT Clyde's steering group. Chaired the Institute of Philanthropy.

Top 100 movers and shakers in the Scottish countryside

THIS month Scottish Field contains a special feature on the top 100 movers and shakers in the Scottish countryside - the list contains many well known names from the west.

The purpose of this exercise has been to shine a light on those people who exert power and influence in the new rural Scotland. This isn't just down to money, although there are plenty of people on this list who have plenty of that commodity.

Instead, it's more about the people who are forming opinions and shaping behaviour in our rural economy and cultural life; it's about those who lead rather than those who follow. So our list contains a dizzying spectrum of people, from scallop-divers and writers to aristocrats and billionaires.

In compiling this list we consulted widely, drawing on the knowledge of our panel of a dozen wise men and women from every corner of life and commerce, plus researchers Patrick Tillard and Auslan Cramb.

That said, we're pretty sure that there are people who are on this list that some readers may think are not worthy of their place, or people who other readers believe should have been included but weren't. Our readers have never been slow to come forward and express their opinions, so please don't make this an exception.

Finally, there are two important caveats to bear in mind before you read our list. The first is that we discounted people who work in the oil industry. It is one of our major economic engines, but we took the view that those working in it do not fit easily into the category of 'rural'.

We recognise that some readers will view this as arbitrary, but there it is.

Perhaps more importantly, because we are so often not comparing like with like, we took the view that it would be an impossible task to list the 100 in any credible order of importance. It might be tempting to draw conclusions from the placement or size of listing, but whatever inference you draw from those signposts will be wide of the mark.

Richard Bath, Editor



DONALD HOUSTON, LANDOWNER & ENTREPRENEUR

So many lairds in the West are absentees, but Donald Houston is not only hefted to Ardnamurchan Estate, but he is expanding the estate by buying land, setting up a distillery locally for his Adelphi whisky company, renovating Thirteenth Century Mingary Castle, developing the transport infrastructure and improving the crofts. He is notably charitable to local causes and popular locally.



CHRISTINA NOBLE MBE COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR

Initiated and now chairs the SJ Noble Trust, set up in memory of brother Johnny of Loch Fyne Oysters. The Trust helps local start-ups and small business, and has distributed £400k to 77 businesses since 2004, establishing 180 jobs, with a failure rate of just 18%. Also set up Here We Are, a community-run centre assisting local development, which has developed a woodchipping plant and £3.5m hydro scheme.

Scottish Field AUGUST ISSUE OUT NOW

INSIDE Scottish Field's TOP 100 of the most influential movers and shakers of 2013 in Scotland's countryside

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TOP 100

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

Lochgilphead teenager among victims of killer 'Ecstasy Green Rolex' pills

Party in Alexandria ends in fatal tragedy



Demi Campbell lost her life to fake ecstasy tablets

THE FAMILY of a Lochgilphead teenager who became the 15th victim of a batch of deadly pills have paid tribute to their 'beautiful and ambitious' girl.

College

Demi Campbell, 18, had her whole life mapped out in front of her. She had just moved from her home in Lochgilphead to Bonhill in West Dunbartonshire and was about to start college.

But on Tuesday, July 9, she was killed by the 'Ecstasy Green Rolex' pills after taking one at a party in Alexandria.

The pills have been linked to deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mum Anne-Marie, 39, dad Lorne, 40, brother Lorne 21, and sister Chloe, 14, have been left devastated.

Her uncle, Davey McChesney

of Kilmartin, said: 'We love her very much and she will be very sorely missed.'

'Murderers'

'I am so angry about the fact these guys know what the drugs are doing and they are still selling them.'

'They are selling death on the streets. In my eyes they are murderers.'

'I hope people take heed of the 15 deaths and have the sense to just say no.'

'Demi was a very beautiful girl. She was very popular and made a lot of friends in Lochgilphead and Alexandria. She was just a normal teenager enjoying life.'

'We will never forget her.'

Demi, who previously also lived in Oban, was staying with her aunt Tricia McMartin in

Bonhill.

Mrs McMartin said: 'She was going to go to Clydebank College to study social care. She wanted to help people and was due to start volunteer work in children's homes on Monday.'

'She was amazing. She was so bubbly.'

'Demi walked into a room and lit it up.'

'Everybody who met her fell in love with her and she was the first to help if someone needed something.'

A spokesperson for Police Scotland said: 'We would urge the public to heed these health warnings and bear in mind that the police are currently investigating a number of deaths where victims appeared to have ingested what they thought was an ecstasy tablet.'

Oban woman hid drugs in child's toy

A WOMAN who hid class A drugs in a children's novelty egg has been found guilty of dealing drugs at Oban Sheriff Court.

Julie Taylor, 44, of 107f McKelvie Road, Oban, had denied dealing heroin when she appeared on trial last week, saying the 5.5g of the drug found in her home following a police raid was for personal use. She also claimed £460 seized by police was a crisis loan and her benefits.

The court heard the haul, found during the July 26, 2010 raid, was enough for around 36 'tenner bags', which sell at £20 in the Oban area.

Sentence has been deferred until August 8.

Police appeal following Tyndrum motorbike crash

WITNESSES are being sought after a motorcyclist suffered serious injuries in a crash between Crianlarich and Tyndrum at the weekend.

The 61 year old rider was taken to the Southern General hospital in Glasgow by air ambulance after the crash at around 3.10pm on Sunday, July 14.

Police are keen to speak to anyone who would have been in the area around the time of the accident.

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101.

Cyclists to describe 4,000-mile journey

TWO ADVENTURE cyclists will describe their 4,000-mile journey across America to Oban and Mull audiences.

Graham Kitchener and Pauline Symaniak will use footage from a feature-length film, entitled 'Sleepless 'til Seattle', documenting the Scotland-based cyclists' ride from north-east to north-west USA, without any support team, at presentations in the Mull Theatre on July 25 and the Corran Halls on July 26.

'Our niche is that we are not top sports people scaling the dizzy heights of mountain peaks, but just ordinary people telling the story of how anyone can do extraordinary things,' Graham said.

'So far the talk has been a great success, inspiring minds young and old alike.'

'We even have Mark Beaumont and Graeme Obree tweeting for us.'

Report states Oban's roads are 'satisfactory'

But wayward 'One Way' sign one of several defects found by independent review

AN INDEPENDENT report into the condition of the trunk road through Oban has concluded recent resurfacing work in George Street is 'satisfactory' - with several defects.

The Performance Audit Group (PAG) Plus report was requested by transport minister Keith Brown after Oban Community Council and Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre protested at the standard of the road repairs carried by Scotland Transvers in November last year.

While the PAG report carried out by Halcrow found several defects in the town, particularly around Dunollie Road and the Corran Esplanade, it concluded the hot rolled asphalt used to resurface the town centre was 'satisfactory' and performing as expected, with its initial smooth appearance giving way to expose the coarse aggregate.

Several problems were identified though, including errors in applying road markings, a failure to properly regulate water-coursing resulting in water ponding on Corran Esplanade opposite the Regent Hotel, and some areas of ironwork becoming either exposed or damaged.

It also highlights road markings flaking off the road and poor construction joints on the surface.

Mr MacIntyre says the report justified his and the community council's complaints.

'The report is important because it highlights that the roads are bad,' he said. 'I have to speak to Keith Brown again and hope to do that soon.'

While the report didn't specifically criticise the surface used, it did point out it was not the



Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre

kind normally used on the trunk roads network.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'They hadn't used that surface before. The road should have been done to the same standard as Callander - they had the same job done but a different surface.'

'The roads are regulated for drainage and the surface enhances the appearance of the town.'

'The surface laid in Oban does not enhance the town.'

Other problems highlighted in the report a 'One Way' sign post leaning and pointing in the wrong direction and a corroded and leaning mail box in George Street, corroded sign posts in Dunollie Road, cracking around a manhole in Airds Place and Corran Esplanade's footway varying from good to poor condition.

It concludes that the defects 'have been identified and reported' - excluding those arising as part of the recent George Street carriageway resurfacing - and 'will now be rectified' by the operating company, BEAR Scotland.

The report will be discussed at next month's meeting of Oban Community Council.

'Everest' boy stalled by concerns over fund website

THE CLOSURE of a fundraising website over 'mismanagement' concerns has brought fundraising for Liam Keat's Summer of Summits to a standstill.

The Inverawe youngster reached a cumulative height of more than 29,000 feet, the equivalent height of Mount Everest, after climbing a dozen hills in Scotland and the Lake District, including Scafell

Pike, England's highest mountain.

However, the Charity Commission suspended the Charity Giving website last Friday, the day after Liam completed his final peak of Ben Nevis, over claims of mismanagement by website operator, The Dove Trust.

The closure of the website means money raised for the challenge has been frozen at £630, preventing

other potential donors from helping Liam to reach his £1,000 target for Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

Liam's father, Grant Holland, said: 'Liam was a bit upset when he heard the news because he enjoyed seeing the total go up.'

'One of his daily tasks was to check how close he was to his fundraising target.'

'We are just waiting to see what

happens and in the meantime we are asking people to hold onto their money until it is all resolved.'

'I just hope the mountain rescue team can get all the money that has been pledged.'

Grant added that his son felt 'famous' after appearing in a host of newspapers and on BBC Radio Scotland for his efforts.

The Keats are considering set-



Lorn and Islands Hospital locality manager Veronica Kennedy, left, shows the new relatives' room, to shows Oban Hospice members, from left: Margaret MacLean, Catherine MacKechnie, Mary Black and Anne May, seated, 15_129hospice01

Hospice-funded relatives' room opens doors

THE COMPLETION of an upgrade of the relatives' room at Lorn and Islands Hospital has been welcomed by the charity that funded the improvement.

Well used

Members of Oban Hospice Ltd were at the hospital on Tuesday to see the room, which has a bed, television and has been especially extended to include

a shower.

The room is well used by relatives of patients in the high dependency unit or palliative care at the hospital.

The hospital has also used the Oban Hospice funds to upgrade its side rooms in Ward One, making them more comfortable for palliative care patients.

Margaret MacLean, vice-

chairwoman of Oban hospice said: 'It is great to see the finished article and from our point of view we are happy to be able to tell our supporters how their money is being spent.'

'Unfortunately the relatives of the late Frances MacIntyre couldn't be here today but they raised a lot of money towards this refurbishment and we are

indebted to their efforts.'

Ms MacLean thanked 56 pupils at Oban High School who donated a painting for the relatives' room.

Hospital locality manager Veronica Kennedy said: 'The room is especially useful for people from the islands, who are visiting loved ones at the hospital.'

Fresh row brewing over Etive farms

A NEW application to build a fish farm on Loch Etive has been lodged by Dawnfresh - as new allegations emerge about the company's current operations there.

Following community consultation meetings, the company owned by Alastair Salvesson CBE has submitted an application for a farm consisting of 10, 80m circumference pens; replacing their original proposal for a farm consisting of 14, 100m pens.

As it is a new application, all representations lodged as part of the previous application won't be considered by planners.

While the campaign group, Friends of Loch Etive (FOLE), has already indicated it will oppose the proposals, it has further alleged the company has breached planning consents by farming two existing sites in Loch Etive simultaneously, those at Port na Mine and Airds Point.



When it applied in 2008, Dawnfresh said in its own environmental statement the two would not operate in tandem - something the council held it to when approving the application. Failure to adhere to this statement puts it in breach of planning consent and Argyll and Bute Council has advised the company to apply for an amendment.

However, Dawnfresh disputes this and intends to challenge the council.

A spokesman for Friends of Loch Etive said: 'Against this backdrop, to even think about granting Dawnfresh a further farm at Sailean Ruadh - whether it be 10-cages or 14-cages - is not acceptable.'

Dawnfresh Farming Director Gideon Pringle said: 'We are

moving forward with our proposals to ensure we can secure long term local employment and make significant investment in the local area.'

'Our long-term goal is to upgrade our entire Loch Etive operation to the highest farming standards and we will work alongside the community, Argyll and Bute Council and others in order to achieve this.'

Referring to the alleged breach of planning permission, he said: 'If we're found in breach we'll challenge it. It's a technicality and one that's causing problems across the industry.'

He said the management plans outlined in the environmental statement were 'never intended' to be adhered to long term. Put to him that could be seen as disingenuous, he said 'both sides can say the same thing', and it was hoped common ground could be reached with planners.

Negotiators end Dunollie stand-off

NEGOTIATORS and public order officers had to be brought into the Dunollie area of Oban after a man who was being taken to Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead refused police entry to his home.

The man, who was the subject

of a warrant for a compulsory treatment order, barricaded himself within his home and a stand-off with police ensued until specialist police teams arrived from Glasgow.

The man was detained after six hours.

Police seek vandals and young drinkers

VANDALS have taken advantage of maintenance work at Dunbeg Primary School by stealing tools from the boiler room and causing damage.

Workmen have been removing asbestos from the boiler room at the school and overnight between Thursday and Friday last week, the vandals forced entry to the school, slashed a polythene tent used by the workers and stole tools.

Oban Police have also received reports of groups of underage drinkers congregating in the Ganavan area of Oban.

Police have already confiscated alcohol from groups of youths at the start of the cycle path, near to the shinty pitch and on the beach.

Oban Police will be patrolling the area on a regular basis.

Police are urging anyone with any information of these crimes to contact them on 01631 510500.

'Raft' of prizes at fun Oban Bay race

'BEST sinking' is just one of the many raft race prizes being offered as the event returns to Oban's George Street beach for a third consecutive year.

Organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, this year's Great Oban Bay Raft Race will take place on August 17.

Last year's event saw 18 rafts take to the waters, double that of 2011.

Event organiser Brian Simmonds said a variety of prizes will be given for rafts, including

'best constructed', 'most generations of the same family on one raft' and 'best sinking'.

'There is no raft in the race that won't win a cup,' he said.

'This fun community event is open to any club, group, school or individuals who want to team up, get dressed up in fancy dress and raise some cash for charity and have lots of fun taking part.'

Any team interested in participating should contact Brian Simmonds on 07712 667542.

Record number from Argyll and Bute win Duke's awards

A RECORD 10 Argyll and Bute youths have this year won gold Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards.

Six winners recently met Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, at this year's presentation ceremony at Holyrood Palace.

The other four, who were absent, will receive their awards at the Argyll and Bute Youth Awards in September.

Five winners, who are based in Oban, are Finn Currie, Kirsty Pallas, Gordon Harrower, Alastair Hoon and Alasdair Taylor.

Other winners include Lochgilphead's Callum Turner and Ewan Morrison, Ruth Lambert of Dunoon, Rhona MacPhee from Islay and Lauren Carruthers, Helensburgh.

Participants must spend at least 12 months undertaking voluntary work, skills development, improvement in such physical activities as sport or dancing and preparing for and completing an expedition to win the gold award.

Councillor Dick Walsh, chair of Argyll and Bute's DofE award group, said: 'These young people are great examples of how all of us can contribute to society when we really put our minds to it.'

'Dangerous' Dalmally driver overtook off-duty policeman

A DRIVER who overtook an off duty police officer in a line of traffic on the A819 near the Dalmally junction has been charged with careless driving.

The 39 year old allegedly carried out a series of dangerous overtaking manoeuvres and is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Waulking away at Benderloch

A WAULKING song group is to hold a ceilidh in Benderloch. Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchlaidh, 'Inverclyde Waulking Group', specialises in the rhythmic songs used to accompany tweed production. The group performs in the Victory Hall on Saturday.

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Morvern Lines

MORVERN has many cultural and historical links with Appin and its people. Donald Livingstone - the hero of the '45 who saved the Stewart regimental banner at Culloeden - was a native of Appin but came to Morvern to escape capture by Government troops in 1746. He lived at Savary where he had an inn and a mill and is buried at Kiel under a fine table-tomb.



Brigadier Ian Stewart of Achnacone.

The Stewarts of Achnacone are another old military Appin family which has close ties with Morvern where they owned several estates in the 19th century. Two weeks ago an interesting ceremony took place in Strath of Appin when a commemorative board was unveiled in the centre of the village to mark the official opening of a community car park generously gifted by local landowner, the late Brigadier Ian Stewart of Achnacone.

Brigadier Stewart was a most distinguished and highly decorated soldier. He was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in February 1914 and was the first British officer to land in France at the start of WW1. He was awarded the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order and served with distinction in WW2 when he led the 2nd Battalion of his regiment in India and Malaysia.

Retiring from the army in 1947, when his father died, Brigadier Stewart took over the family estate and along with his wife Ursula Fletcher, restored Achnacone into what 'big houses' should surely be, but too rarely are - the living heart of the local community and a source of inspiration and excellence.

Keenly interested in Scotland and their locality, the Stewarts were active in many charities and local organisations. Their life was proof that the Highland estate system can work to the benefit of the community, particularly if the laird is selfless, competent and resident.

A READER from Lochail-side interested in the clearances and emigration from these parts, has sent the following poem. The source and date are unknown but it is believed it may have been reproduced from a Free Church magazine printed in the 1900s. Further information would be appreciated.

The Gaelic Sermon

The Sabbath sun was shining on Manitoba's plains,
The Sabbath winds were sighing across its wide domains.
No song of sounding reaper was heard among the corn
As the kingbird sang its love-song upon the crested thorn,

There, nestling by the river in the shadow of the wood
A house of God was standing in its humble holy rood.
The boughs of the lordly tamarack bent o'er its lowly roof
Where oft no sound re-echoed but the sound of the bison's hoof.

But now, across the silence of the glades that sleep in dew,
Its humble bell is tolling its Sabbath song anew
Like the voice of a lonely clarion it wakes the Sabbath morn
And o'er the rolling prairie its burden-song is borne.

Till from the dusty homesteads the pioneers come forth
And bared their heads to its music as in their land of birth
For they heard in its sweet cadence a voice of long ago
That they heard on the hills of Appin and the clachans of Glencoe.

So they came from the plain and backwood, from the prairie rolling free
All plained in the tartan they had brought across the sea,
For today, in their own loved Gaelic, a parson was to preach
In the tongue their mother taught them, in the tongue their hearts would reach.

They were there from misty Morvern, from Atholl and Braemar,
From Cowal and Ardkinglas, from Badenoch and Farr,
From the corries of the Cuillins and the dim isles of the sea,
From the glens that sleep in sunshine on the shores of Loch Maree.

The preacher from the pulpit looked down on the pioneers,
And, as he ran the Gaelic psalm their eyes grew dim with tears,
For he read of the loving Shepherd who seeks his scattered sheep
And who in the valley of darkness their faltering steps shall keep.

The precursor rose by the pulpit to lead the psalmody -
'Is e Dia fein as buachaill dhomh' he chanted plaintively,
And his voice rose up in grandeur to a tune of the long ago
That they oft had heard in Morvern and the homes of Ardtoe,
They had stood in the van of battle, they had braved the mountainous flood

And never a muscle had quivered when the field ran red with their blood.

But now they wept like women, like children in the night
When they heard the psalm of David in the tongue of their delight
They heard their mothers' singing and swelling the refrain
As they sang the songs of Ossian to the children at their knee
And the songs of the son of Jesse for the nightly lullaby,

The preacher rose in the pulpit but could not see for tears
A prayer he could not utter though he strove to still his fears.
'Just let us weep, mo chairdean', he braced himself to say,
For he could not find an utterance for 'Brethren, let us pray'.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

Glencoe remembers murder secret priest 80 years on

By RICHARD HADDOCK
GLENCOE locals have come together to mark the 80th anniversary of the death of a man reputed to know who perpetrated one of the Highlands' most notorious murders.
Reverend Alexander Stewart MacInnes, who served as village priest for more than 30 years, was said to know the identity of the man - or men - who shot 'The Red Fox' Colin Campbell of Glenure in 1752.

But he took the secret of the Appin Murder to the grave when he died in 1933.
A ceremony held in St Mary's Church heard from Allan MacInnes, professor of early modern history at Strathclyde University, about one of the most infamous chapters in Lochaber's history. He said evidence pointed towards two men shooting Campbell by sniper fire and that James Stewart - who was hung for the killing - was not involved.

Local priest Rev Adrian Fallows told *The Oban Times*: 'I've been interested in this case for a long time, long before I even moved here.
'The two balls went into Campbell's back two inches apart and came out the front eight inches apart. It is impossible for them both to have been fired from the same gun. I've been harbouring this theory for a long time and I was glad to hear a top expert agree with what I've been saying for years.'

A mock 're-trial' of the case using forensic evidence from expert witnesses will be staged at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William on September 3 and 4.
The bilingual ceremony to mark Rev MacInnes' death heard local men George Grant, John MacFarlane and Archie Kennedy give Gaelic readings, while Tainuill Gaelic Choir sang.
The day ended with a rendition of 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended', the hymn sung by St Mary's Choir outside

the window of Rev MacInnes' home on the day he died.
Rev Fallows said: 'People from all over came, as well as a number of locals. Everyone enjoyed it and lots of people said how wonderful it was.'
Rev MacInnes was born and raised in Ballachulish and worked in the slate quarry before becoming priest at St Mary's Church in 1889, a position the renowned Gaelic scholar held until his death.



The teams are, from left, Thomas Braidwood, Craig Campbell for Team V and C, Davey Wren, Damian Martin and Tim Weir for CJ Auto Repairs and Allan Morrison and David Vick, the Argyll Retrobates. Not pictured is Martin Collins, Euan Sandilands and Gary Russell.

European rally challenge for old Oban cars

DRIVING across ten countries in seven days is arduous enough in itself, but three Lorn fundraising teams are set to take on that challenge in cars the knacker's yard rejected.

Driving under the monikers Team V and C, CJ Auto Repairs and the Argyll Retrobates, the three teams will first have to take their aging cars across England and down to Dover - a challenge in itself given the condition of the marques - to take part in the Great European Rally.

They will start the rally proper in Belgium, before the teams will have to get around Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands before returning to UK shores - hopefully in the cars they left with.

With the youngest of the cars set to take part nearly 20 years old, the chances of that

happening look slimmer than a Top Gear challenge going to plan.

Team V and C are raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, Argyll Retrobates for Cancer Research UK and CJ Auto Repairs, aka the Argyll Dumballers, for Glencoe Mountain Rescue.

Attempting to explain why taking the heaps across Europe would be a good idea, Allan Morrison said: 'There's supposed to be 100 cars taking part, but there's no times. It's more to see if we can get there and for the craic.'

'They use a lot of the roads from the Top Gear challenges too, such as St Bernard's Pass, and we'll be visiting the Nürburgring.'

The petrolheads will be driving on Germany's most famous circuit, but slyly deny any attempts to race while on the track.

'There will be challenges too,' Allan added.

Given the age of the cars, it's maybe just as well. The oldest is the Porsche 944, driven by Team V and C, while the '95 BMW 3-series tourer driven by CJ Auto Repairs looks a safe-ish bet to complete the journey. The same cannot be said of the Argyll Retrobates' Audi 100. Decorated with patches of grass - including a fully turf roof - it features 'original' paintwork and 'honestly deliberate' cooling holes in the bonnet for extra panache.

The teams will be camping on the journey and will be using several different units of currency.

Having bought the cars for spare change in their pockets, it's hoped the cars will help raise thousands of pounds for the charities.

To donate to the teams, visit justgiving.com and search for either V-n-C-Motorcare, TheGreatRally2013 or Ilanasandilands.

Fort William Justice of the Peace Court

Driver was using mobile phone

AN INVERLOCHY woman was seen talking on her mobile phone while driving in the village.

Dianne Edgar, of 15 Inverloch Court, pled guilty to the offence, which occurred on Earl of Inverness Road on the morning of March 18.

The 41-year-old was fined £100 and given three penalty points.

Fined and four penalty points

A CAOL woman has been fined £230 and given four penalty points after admitting exceeding the speed limit on the A82 by more than 20mph.

Donette Coutts, aged 30, of 1 Glen Nevis Road, was caught driving at 81mph near Letterfinlay on March 14.

30mph over limit

DRIVING on the A82 on the shore of Loch Lochy at a speed of 92mph has cost a man £300 and six penalty points.

Gary Grant, aged 36, of 35 Telford Street, Inverness, was caught travelling at more than 30mph over the limit at Corriegur on April 13.

Fake plates land man in court

A MALLAIG man displayed a fake registration number written on the back of his van's number plate so he could drive the uninsured vehicle to Fort William and back.

Unemployed Nigel Haywood was stopped by police on North Road on April 12 after their camera picked up that the registration number on the transit van was registered for a Nissan Micra.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan told Fort William Justice of the Peace Court: 'The plates appeared to be homemade and

were written on the back of the real number plates.'

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Haywood had made a 'single journey for a single purpose' - to pick up a new wheel for a motorbike he was renovating.

Haywood, of Ghillies Cottage, School Lane, pled guilty to driving with no insurance and without a valid MOT test certificate and fraudulently displaying the wrong registration plate.

The 60-year-old was fined £600 and given eight penalty points.

Speeding leads to £260 fine

A BANAVIE man was caught going nearly 30mph over the speed limit through Rannoch Moor.

James Hamilton, of Schiehallion, was spotted driving on the A82 at 88mph at Glen Etive on April 20.

The 23-year-old was fined £260 and given five penalty points.

Trial date set

A TORLUNDY man has denied speeding outside Lochaber High School.

Christopher Carver, of Torlundy Farm, pled not guilty to driving at 29mph on the A830 Road To The Isles on January 7. A section of the road is restricted to 20mph during school hours.

Carver, aged 65, is due to stand trial on September 5 at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court.

Caught on speed camera

A MAN has been fined £160 and given three penalty points after admitting speeding on the A82 near Letterfinlay.

Michael Disbury, of 88 Rossie Place, Edinburgh, was caught by a speed camera doing 60mph in a vehicle restricted to 50mph on February 17.

Help for relatives of injured service personnel

THE ROYAL British Legion Scotland in Fort William is joining fellow branches across the country to launch a fundraising campaign to help armed services personnel wounded on the field of battle.

The Travel Aid scheme will help relatives visit their loved ones recovering in specialist

centres south of the Border after Ministry of Defence cash support is withdrawn.

RBLs Fort William vice chairman Kevin Lane told *The Oban Times*: 'When serving services personnel are injured during operations and evacuated to one of the rehabilitation centres in England, while they

are at a certain level of incapacity the system will pay for their relatives in Scotland to come and visit them.'

'But once they have started to recover they are upgraded to a higher level and state support stops. Under our scheme people will be able to keep visiting. Providing certain criteria are

met, we will pay for relatives to travel down.'

Mr Lane added: 'We would like to stress that any money we put in has been raised through donations. If people wish to make further donations they can contact us and do so.' More information at www.rblscotland.com.

Police files

A WINDOW at a property on Alexander Square, Caol, was damaged at around 12am on Thursday July 11.

TOOLS were stolen from a locked workshop near Tornapress House, Kishorn, sometime between 4pm on

Wednesday July 10 and 8am Thursday July 11.

SHEEP treatments were taken from an insecure shed in Waterish, Isle of Skye sometime between late afternoon on Friday July 5 and 4pm on Monday July 8.

AN OUTBOARD motor was stolen from a dingy within Samalamon bay near Glenuig sometime between 6pm on Sunday July 7 and 8.30am on Monday July 8.

ITEMS were stolen from an

insecure construction yard at Torlundy sometime between 4.30pm on Thursday July 4 and 8am on Monday July 8.

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

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Dalmally welcomes first new homes for rent in 30 years

'Eight new family homes next to the local primary school is fantastic'

THE FIRST affordable homes for rent to be built in Dalmally for 30 years have been unveiled. Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell handed over keys to the new tenants at the official opening of eight units in Scott Terrace last Friday, while welcoming recent Scottish Government changes to social housing provision.

The education minister said: 'If you invest in housing, you get lots of other benefits: jobs in the construction industry, more pupils for the primary school and more residents to hold the population in rural areas.'

'It is scandalous that these are the first homes to be built in Dalmally for 30 years.

'For a generation hardly any of these types of home were being built.

'We are getting rid of the Right to Buy because it was harder and harder to get housing.'

The Argyll Community

REPORT by Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Housing Association (ACHA) properties were built by M and K MacLeod.

Welcoming the families and guests to the official opening ACHA chairman Bill MacIntyre hailed recent Scottish Government announcements to phase out the Right to Buy scheme and increase the average housing grant allocation in Argyll and Bute from £43,000 to £59,000. Both announcements, Mr MacIntyre said, would allow ACHA to reduce the number of people waiting for social housing.

The £1,088,197 cost of the new three-bedroom properties was met by a four-way financial partnership involving the Scottish Government, ACHA, Argyll and Bute Council and

Scottish Water. ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'To see eight new family homes next to the local primary school is fantastic.

'It will allow the association to meet pressing housing needs in the village and to contribute towards the long-term future of this community.'

New tenant Tracey Black, who has lived in the Dalmally area for 25 years, had been living in temporary accommodation and was one of the 82 applicants on the housing waiting list in Dalmally before the new homes were built. She said: 'This day has been a long time coming but I am absolutely delighted to be moving in.'

The new street sign portraying a Blackface ram was unveiled by local sheep breeder Willie McNicol, in recognition of the history and presence of the Blackface breed in the Dalmally area.



From left: Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, well-known local shepherd and sheep breeder Willie McNicol, ACHA chairman Bill MacIntyre and ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor beside the unique Scott Terrace sign. 15_129dalmally01



Children from the new Scott Terrace development help Michael Russell MSP declare the units open. 15_129dalmally03

Police add patrols after spate of bike crashes

POLICE in Oban will be increasing road patrols following a spate of crashes involving motorcycles in the past week.

Chief inspector Alistair Davidson, commander for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, made the pledge this week after receiving reports on a high number of road crashes involving motorcyclists.

Of the 18 'reportable' road crashes, ie incidents where people were injured or property damaged between July 8 and July 15, a high proportion saw injuries sustained by motorcyclists.

Chief inspector Davidson said: 'As a result of our road crash

statistics we will be putting out more enforcement measures such as unmarked police cars and bikes as well as additional marked patrol cars from road policing.'

On Monday morning the A816 between Craobh Haven and Ardfern was closed for a short time after a crash involving two motorcyclists and a BMW car.

Both motorcyclists, who were in a group of five riders, were injured in the incident, with one casualty taken to hospital in Lochgilphead by ambulance and another airlifted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. Neither injury was life threatening.

Oban garden group shows support for local charities

OBAN and Lorn Horticultural Society members showed their support for two Oban charities by presenting £200 cheques to both.

The cash was raised at an auction at the society's flower show last year.

Sandra Grieve presented one cheque to Oban Lifeboat coxswain John Hill, while Sharon Black presented the second cheque to Joyce Millar, from the Friends of Oban Hospice.

Picture by Moira Kerr



Plant operator three times drink drive limit

A HEAVY plant operator 'rather stupidly' drove his van in Benderloch while three times the drink drive limit.

Martin Wishart, whose address was given in court as 7 Norbreck, Voe, Shetland, was due to stand trial at Oban Sheriff Court last week, but pleaded guilty before the hearing.

He admitted driving with

106mics of alcohol in his blood, where the legal limit is 35, on April 6 this year.

Defending the 36-year-old, agent Edward Thornton said his client had made the 'most stupid mistake' by 'instead of walking 200 yards, he drove to the shop' while staying at a house in the village.

'He accepts it was an act of

total stupidity,' he added.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is a huge reading. You were clearly a danger to yourself and others.'

Wishart was ordered to pay a fine of £450 and has been disqualified from driving for 20 months. He was also admitted to the Drink Driver Rehabilitation Scheme.

Charity mountain bike event to be held at Glencoe

A MOUNTAIN biking challenge is to be held at Glencoe Mountain Resort to raise money for charity.

Riders must try to circuit a track, which has a rugged mountainous incline, an open peat moor descent and a demanding trail to the car park, for as many laps as possible in seven hours.

The event, to be held on August 3, is to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

'This is a new and exciting event being held in one of the most scenic areas of the country', said Ryan Taylor, fundraising manager.

'If you decide you're up to the challenge then it will give you even more motivation because you'll know that with every obstacle you overcome, you are raising money for people affected by cancer.'

Court man claims mental health is source of problems

A MAN who slashed his own stomach after getting involved in an argument has said mental illness is at the source of his problems.

John McKay, 41, who has no fixed abode, admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner at an address in Mill Park Place, Oban, on July 8, when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

McKay, who is unemployed but previously worked as a fish farm operator, started arguing with a man at the house and later attempted to stab himself in the stomach with a knife. He suffered only superficial wounds as a result.

Bail was opposed by the Procurator Fiscal as McKay was named in another incident which involved an axe.

Defending, Edward Thornton said it had not been the first time McKay had attempted to injure himself. McKay told the court he also had a background of addiction problems.

Sheriff Douglas Small remanded McKay in custody, asking for background and medical reports prior to sentencing on July 26.

Police seek witnesses to Western Isles road accident

A MAN was taken to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway after crashing his black Ford Focus on the A858 in Carloway on Monday afternoon.

His injuries are not believed to be life threatening. Police are appealing for any witnesses to the 1.55pm accident to contact them on 101.



A group of young Fort William air cadets walked the 73-mile Great Glen Way from Inverness to Fort William in less than three days to raise money for Help for Heroes. The 19 cadets, aged between 13 and 21, were welcomed onto the high street with cheers and applause as they finished their testing challenge last Wednesday lunchtime. Flight lieutenant Walter Liddell led the group, and he told The Oban Times: 'There was a couple of blisters and a few cuts, but other than that they've done brilliantly. Some of them had never done anything like this before. It was very hot, but at least that kept the midges away.' 20_129cadet01

Call to retain current Corran ferry discount ticket scheme

FORMER Highland Council leader Michael Foxley has made a plea for a discount ticket scheme on the Corran Ferry to be retained as consultations on changing the fares regime draws to a close.

The council is proposing a controversial overhaul which, if implemented, would replace 30-journey ticket books with a £40 monthly smart card.

Daily commuters' costs would fall

to under £1 per crossing - an annual saving of up to £400. But pensioners and others going to Fort William on weekly trips would pay £3.65 - a 94 per cent increase or around £180 per year. Tourists and other occasional users would continue to pay the full £7.30 fare.

Dr Foxley said: 'This ferry is of vital importance to these communities and for visitors as well as being regularly used by people coming

and going from Mull. The maintenance of this discounted book of 30 tickets is of most benefit to users of the ferry who use the ferry weekly or several times a month.

'The overwhelming majority of users want to maintain the current discount on the book of 30 tickets. This has been endorsed unanimously in the past by the five community councils in the area.' The consultation, being led by

Highland Council transport and infrastructure boss Sam MacNaughton, ends tomorrow.

Local opposition to the fares shake-up has been overwhelming, with fears expressed over traffic displacement on to inadequate roads and the impact on tourism.

Mr MacNaughton's report, with recommendations, will go before the TEC services committee on August 15.

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BALLACHULISH

THE SECOND annual Ballachulish Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday August 10. This year's event in the village hall will feature bric-a-brac, cake stalls, a bouncy castle, a barbecue, a family treasure hunt and a tug-of-war competition. A raffle will also be held on the day, with a tablet computer the top prize up for grabs.

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Council (SCC) has appointed a new chairman after Charles Culbertson stood down. Roddy Murray agreed to take over the position at the recent SCC annual general meeting, and thanked Mr Culbertson for his contribution over the past 18 months.

STORNOWAY

A VIVID photographic exhibition documenting the life of a Harris crofter has open in An Lanntair in Stornoway. Entitled 'Am Buachaille' (The Shepherd), the series of portraits depict Angus Campbell out and about on his croft at Bogha Glas, Ardvoirie, as captured by renowned Dutch photographer Michel Szulc-Krzyzanowski. The photos were taken over two weeks, during which time Mr Szulc-Krzyzanowski and his producer shared Mr Campbell's life, visiting him at home and often going with him into the mountains. An Lanntair director Roddy Murray said: 'This is an intimate, comprehensive, affectionate and revealing portrait. It's a beautiful series that gives a fresh eye on the people, landscape and way of life in these islands. It also reminds us that we can often take what's around us for granted.' The exhibition runs until August 24.

CALLANDER

CALLANDER'S Bridgend Café, run by the youth project, is holding a summer ball on July 20 - with the Halfway Tree providing music for the event. Tickets for the event include a complimentary summer cocktail on arrival and there will be a pizza and Indian buffet, followed by a pudding buffet. Tickets are selling fast so anyone interested in attending should email Stew on stewart@cyp.org.uk.



RNLI medal honour

Dr Colin Wilson, a long-standing member of Oban Lifeboat crew and the station's medical adviser, has been awarded the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) bronze medal for his services to the Oban Lifeboat Station Management Group. He is also the RNLI's Divisional Medical Adviser for Scotland.

RUM

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage has lodged an application with Highland Council to build a log cabin for staff accommodation near the White House on the Isle of Rum.

TIREE

AN ENDURANCE swimmer will attempt to become the first person to circumnavigate Tiree as part of a European-wide challenge for charity.

Anna Wardley's 30-mile swim around Tiree will be the fourth stage of her Five Island Swim Challenge.

'Tiree will be particularly tough due to the powerful tidal streams and the extremely low water temperature, which barely rises above 13 degrees celsius even in the height of summer,' said Anna, who plans to complete the stage next month.

The challenge has seen the 37-year-old swim around 41-mile long Jersey in the Channel Islands, creating a new personal best of just below 12 hours, on June 26.

The first and second stages of the challenge, the 6.2-mile Spanish island of Dragonera and the 13-mile Portsea Island

in Hampshire, were completed last year.

The Hampshire-based swimmer's final stage of the challenge will be to swim 60 miles around the Isle of Wight in September.

Professor Mike Tipton of the University of Plymouth said her challenge is 'certainly one that could not be undertaken without years of preparation and training.'

The challenge is part of Anna's 'Turning the Tide' fundraising campaign, which aims to raise £50,000 for Samaritans, Sail Africa and the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

A TIREE-based construction project team has built a boathouse over seven days for a local maritime trust.

Tog Studio, made up of architectural and engineering graduates from every Scottish university, built the wooden boathouse for Tiree Maritime Trust, which supports local boatbuilding projects.

The boathouse, which has a curved frame and ridge, has been named 'The Noust', after the Viking word for a kind of shelter that would have been used for longboats in winter.

'Externally this references the traditional Tiree black-top roof

whilst internally the structure was imagined as an upturned boat,' Tog Studio said.

Alaister Jeffrey of timber cladding and decking company Russwood installed cladding in the boathouse during the final two days of construction.

'To finish the build in a week was a major achievement and testament to many months' hard work from the entire Tog team,' he said.

Tog Studio, which was founded in 2011, also built a temporary lighthouse on Tiree last year.

ABERFELDY

AN EXCITING fusion of Indian music merged with styles from across the world comes to Aberfeldy next month as part of a series of concerts and free workshops.

Red Note Ensemble will bring the Reels to Ragas 2013 to the Highland Perthshire Town on July 23, with a free workshop starting at 5pm in The Big Shed, Tombreck. The concert that evening starts at 9pm.

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

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



Crerar Oban Bay Hotel and Spa and Crerar Hotels Trust representative Lorenzo Menghini gives the £10,000 cheque to Ryan Taylor of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Hotel chain boosts Oban hospital and pipe band

AN OBAN hospital unit and Oban Pipe Band have benefited from £13,450 of donations from a local hotel chain.

Crerar Hotel Trust handed £10,000 to Macmillan Cancer Support to allow the charity to refurbish its chemotherapy and haematology unit at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

The trust also donated £3,450 to Oban Pipe Band, allowing the band to buy new drums.

Pippa Westwood of Macmillan Cancer Support said refurbishment of the unit, which receives a thousand patients annually, was needed to allow patients to 'access the best care and treatment as well as specialist information about all cancer types and sources of support' and thanked the trust for its generosity.

Trust chairman Paddy Crerar described Macmillan's work as 'humbling' and attributed the donation to customers' generosity, saying: 'It's our customers that are making the difference to everyday lives. Crerar Hotels are just the conduit.'

Oban Pipe Band recently took fourth place in grade two at this year's European Pipe Band Championships in Forres.

Pipe band fundraising co-ordinator Alistair Dewar said the new drums were essential and 'should last the band for many years to come'.

Mr Crerar said of the pipe band donation: 'It was a really easy decision, particularly as my mother would have belted me if we had said no! She is a big fan of the pipe band.'



The Lochaber High School intake for session 2013-14.

Ready for life at Lochaber High School

P7 PUPILS spent a week at Lochaber High School in June as part of their transition to secondary school.

A total of 140 children from 10 associated primaries were 'buddied' by senior pupils and followed a full first year timetable for the week. There were also opportunities to explore the campus, dine in the canteen

and get used to school transport. The aim of the transition week, organised by Mrs Clark, PT Guidance, is to allay fears about the move to secondary before the summer break and to ensure as smooth a start as possible when the pupils return as first years in August.

At an open evening for parents before

the holidays, head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'The P7 pupils have made a good start this week. They are full of enthusiasm for moving on and I'm sure they'll settle in quickly to life at Lochaber High. I'm looking forward to getting to know a new group of pupils and parents in the months and years ahead.'



GLENCOE

Glencoe Primary School has been awarded its third eco schools green flag after passing an assessment with flying colours.

The eco-assessor praised pupils for their excellent work in biodiversity, health and wellbeing, describing their work as 'exemplary' and taking away photographs of displays and eco games designed by the children.

Glencoe's associate primary school, Duror, also gained its third green flag with a glowing report.

Left: Glencoe pupils proudly unfurl their third green flag.

Sun shines on Morvern Games



Robert Cummins from Lisburn, near Belfast, on his way to winning the 100 metres. 20_f29morvern02



Lochaline Primary School pupil Layla Beth Orr wins the girls' 5-6 flat race. 20_f29morvern09



Ross Shaw from Lochaline sprints home to win the boys' 11-12 100 metres. 20_f29morvern07



Morvern lad Bruce Lawson, from Kinlochtaeacus, makes a splash in the long jump pit. 20_f29morvern04



Clare Holohan enjoyed her day at the Lochaline allotments' produce stall. 20_f29morvern08



James Campbell from Craignure launches the shot watched by fellow 'heavies' Frank Cousins of Morar and Peter Whitehead from Fort William. 20_f29morvern03



Andrew Johnston from Appin lets the hammer fly. 20_f29morvern01

KNOCK Park, Lochaline, was bathed in sunshine yet again as the weather gods yet again smiled kindly on Morvern Games for the peninsula's biggest day of the year.

Aside from a full programme of athletics and heavy events the traditional curtain-raiser to Morvern Gala Week featured a new sport on the field, field archery.

Heather Haining, Ian Turner and Aileen McCauley from Strontian-based club Loch Sunart Bowmen, assisted by South Lochaber Bowmen president Dubh Irbhinn of Kinlochleven provided expert tuition to a steady queue of adults and children keen to try out the ancient skill for £1 a go.

Mr Irbhinn said well over 50 people had tried out the sport.

'We had some very good archers who had never shot a bow before in their puff,' he said. 'I thought Loch Sunart Bowmen did a fabulous job with the coaching.'

Over at the heavy events, a healthy entry of seven athletes competed for honours - David Hart from Fort William, Frank Cousins from Morar, Peter Whitehead from Fort William, James Campbell from Craignure on Mull, Paul Dearnie from Carluke, Craig Nicholson from Oban and Andrew Johnston from Appin, with Hart taking the honours.

Musical entertainment came from Mid Argyll Pipe Band while the Morvern Belly Dancers performed a routine with a difference - dancing in tartan-trimmed outfits to music with a Scottish twist.

Morvern Games treasurer Jake Willis was delighted all the committee's efforts had paid off.

He said: 'It was a brilliant day. We had a good turnout and there was a great connection between the heavies and the crowd. The tug-o-war was great fun. Mid Argyll Pipe Band juniors even put in a team.'



South Lochaber Bowmen president Dubh Irbhinn gives instruction at the archery demonstration. 20_f29morvern06

SMALL ISLES

THE SCREEN Machine is heading for the Small Isles today (Thursday) and tomorrow. First port of call for the 35-tonne, 80-seat mobile cinema is Eigg, where the programme will include the children's film 'Epic' and the Superman movie 'Man of Steel'. Also showing will be the film dubbed as 'Scotland's home movie' 'We are Northern Lights', which includes clips of Eigg in the footage. The cinema will visit Rum tomorrow with 'Epic' and 'The Great Gatsby' before returning to Mallaig for a two-day run on Saturday and Sunday featuring 'The Great Gatsby', 'Man of Steel', 'Epic' and, appropriately enough according to some commentators, the Icelandic film 'Village on the Edge of the World'.

KILCHOAN

PREPARATIONS are almost complete for tomorrow's (Friday) West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports day, which will be held at the playfields in Kilchoan. Prizes will be handed out for the best animals on display in the agricultural sections, with baking and horticulture competitions in the tents. The event was blessed with warm sunshine last year and the forecast is set for another dry day.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON saw only two inches of rain during the month of June, during which there were 18 dry days. The warmest day was 21.4°C and the coldest 5.2°C. PLOCKTON Historical Society presented a talk on 'The History and Development of the Carron River Restoration Project' by Bob Kindness on June 27. Forty people enjoyed the evening. Chairman was Robert Kennedy. LOCHAN, the local arts network, along with Moon Fool presented a solo musical cabaret in Plockton Hall on June 17, performed and created by Anna-Helena McLean. SAILING - The Plockton Hotel Stakes were held on June 22 with nine boats - five local and four centreboards. 1 Lauren Glasgow (Fantas GP14); 2 Morag Amos (Eala Bhan, local boat); 3 Ian Taylor (Bata Gorm Wayfarer). Afterwards a social evening was held in

Plockton Hotel when prizes were donated and presented by Dorothy Pearson. The third race for the Moore Bowl (local boats) was held on June 28. 1 Malcolm Mackenzie (Taeping); 2 Colin McAndrew (Sirius); 3 Douglas Hamilton (Ajax). After three races Joy Mackenna leads in the SeaRanger with six points, second is Malcolm with 10 points. TWO COUPLES from Plockton, John and Kally Leiper and Iain and Johanna Maclean, enjoyed attending the Queen's Birthday Party at Holyrood Palace on July 2, although the event was held in pouring rain.

GLENCOE

COMMUNITY council briefing: Glencoe and Glen Etive chairman Alister Sutherland reported he had received an email from Scottish Natural Heritage inviting the community council to another meeting in September on plans to integrate the management of Nevis and Glencoe scenic areas. Alister Sutherland told the meeting in St Mary's Church hall last week: 'I thought after the meeting in Fort William in March it had died a death, but it looks as though it's back to the grind on this one. He added: 'The Loch Leven-side communities see no advantage for them in integrating the management of the hill lands.' The council previously had its stance described by those proposing the single body as in 'the most extreme negative' terms, but will attend the September event nonetheless, Mr Sutherland said.

PLANS to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for Lochaber met with a muted response from community councillors. The BID aims to improve tourism marketing in Lochaber using funds gathered from a small tax on every local business. Highland Council, HIE, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Fort William Chamber of Commerce and the Outdoor Capital of the UK are broadly supportive. But Glencoe and Glen Etive members expressed concern the levy would favour bigger operators in Fort William at the expense of smaller ones in more remote areas. Thomas Janzen said: 'I don't like the idea.'

A 10-YEAR project to create a 9km orbital walking route with

Glencoe Village as the start and finish point is making progress, the meeting heard. Secretary Dave Smith said Glencoe and Glencoe Etive Community Company has upgraded 800m of path from the old Glencoe Hospital drive towards the Clachaig Inn and Forestry Commission Scotland was working on the section beyond that. The path loops south of the village via the Clachaig, An Torr, the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre and the A82. 'It is going to be a fantastic route,' said Mr Smith said.

SKYE

SEALL (Skye Events for All) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are staging a free practical video planning workshop in the college tomorrow (Friday). The event, being run in conjunction with with Ambl-Tion Scotland, aims to provide digital training to the creative, cultural and heritage sectors. The event will provide instruction in the basics of how to plan and produce media content. It will also stress the value to businesses or organisations of immediately connecting with an audience through showing their work online via videos, podcasts and vlogs. For more information and to book visit <http://getambition-video-skye.eventbrite.co.uk>.



Student wins contest with stunning bridge image

A striking image of the Connel Bridge at sunset has won a student a stay at Connel's Oyster Inn. Tara Beardmore, who is studying at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, submitted the photograph for the hotel's photo competition. As well as winning a night's stay at the venue, Tara received a complimentary three-course meal, a bottle of champagne, a free dram and breakfast in the morning. Tara's winning photograph has been framed and is now on display in the hotel.



Ruth Macdonald, Harris Tweed Hebrides, Donald Macleod, Eveyln Elliot, Tina Maciver, Alasdair Macaulay, Iain Angus Maciver and Sandy Maclean show off the tweed-lined drum kit.

Harris Tweed drum kit project leaves group upbeat

A SIX-MONTH project sponsored by Harris Tweed Hebrides (HTH) has drummed up support for the Clo Mor (Big Cloth) and given service users at Ardsleach and Griannan day centres on Lewis the opportunity to learn new skills. Now the tweed-bedecked drum kit is taking pride of place in Ardsleach's Sionnoway shop window during the Hebridean Celtic Festival, which ends on Saturday. Mr MacLean, drummer with the Stuart Taylor Ceilidh Band, Faram and the 4 Macs, said: 'Harris Tweed, the Hebridean Celtic Festival and drums seem a perfect combination. On cue 'When I decided to give my drum kit a makeover, all three elements came together right on cue. I'd like to thank Harris Tweed Hebrides for their sponsorship; the guys had a great time and a real sense of achievement at the end result.'

FORT WILLIAM

FORT William RC Primary School and Gaelic Medium Unit have launched their own Fairtrade committee. And the first act of the newly-formed group was to sneak into the school staff room to swap tea, coffee and biscuits with Fairtrade products. Teacher Anne-Marie Dillon said she set up the committee to promote the use of sustainable products from developing countries. She told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to make them aware of where their food comes from and do it in a fun way.' The seven-strong committee aim to educate their classmates about Fairtrade products and are already planning to hold assemblies, quizzes and games, as well as inviting guest speakers into the school.



The Fairtrade committee 'bandits' cordoned off the staff room before swapping tea, coffee and biscuits for Fairtrade products. 20_126fairtrade01

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Down Your Way: Colonsay

With News Editor Euan Paterson

Trust presses on with heritage centre plan

A NEW heritage centre could be built on Colonsay, following the publication of a positive feasibility study. Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust is now applying for funding towards the new centre after it was offered the option to lease land at Port Mor. The feasibility study, compiled by Rob Robinson Heritage Consulting, Edinburgh, indicated that islanders would be behind such a project and that it would be sustainable and economically beneficial to the rest of the island. Meanwhile, the heritage trust has received support from Kilmartin House Museum and the University of Ulster, which carried out a series of excavations on the island as part of a project to explore the Lord of the Isles links between Northern Ireland, Mid Argyll and the Hebrides. Excavations Heritage trust chairman Dr Dave Binnie, said some of the excavations had revealed flint that showed some sites dated back further than the trust had originally believed.

Ceòl Cholasa festival expected to sell out

ISLAND music festival Ceòl Cholasa is expected to be a sell-out again this year. This is the sixth year of the festival, which attracts an enviable line-up of artists to the Hebridean island to play to a filled Colonsay Village Hall over five days, this year from September 11 - 15. Among this year's line-up are the Tannahill Weavers, Maeve MacKinnon, German band Cara and the interestingly named Tattie Jam. Previous acts at the festival have included Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Manran, Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson and Roddy Woombie.

Father and daughter share key island role

THE ISLAND of Colonsay is a popular topic of discussion among the island's MacNeill family. Donald MacNeill and his daughter Morna Piper share the important local development officer post on Colonsay. The role, funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, is required to increase community participation and oversee events on Colonsay. Morna told *The Oban Times*: 'The old and young combination seems to work well,' says Colonsay native Donald. The father and daughter job share is believed to be the only one in the region.

Next week Down Your View visits Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, with Northern Editor Stephen Norris. You can contact Stephen on 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Garden plan takes root with help from Beechgrove team

AN OVERGROWN field in front of Colonsay Village Hall is being turned into a glorious garden thanks to community endeavour - and a little help from the Beechgrove Garden team. The idea for a garden has been mooted since the hall at Scalasaig was built in 2000 but last summer the project grew roots following a 'Strimathon' involving 15 volunteers who used strimmers - and even a scythe - to clear the field of weeds and shoulder-high scrub. Since then around 70 people from a population of 130 have contributed to the garden in some way. Island development officer Morna Piper said: 'My predecessor Keir Johnston negotiated a lease with landowner Alex Howard for a nominal fee. The Strimathon really got things going and we were really galvanised by the involvement of the Beechgrove Garden. They set us a deadline because they needed to have something to film and having that has really focused everyone. People have been keen to help out in any way they can, for example Archie MacConnell donated his digger for as long as it is needed.' The Beechgrove team was filming on the island last Thursday and Friday and the programme on Colonsay will be aired on July 25 on BBC2. Karen Laing, a garden designer working with the Beechgrove Garden on the Colonsay project, said the Colonsay project was unlike most of her jobs. 'It is inappropriate to transport a lot of things here, so the island has had to pull together to use the resources it has,' she said. 'Plants like the griselinia are rife on the island, so we are putting in plants like that, which can stand up to the wind and salt spray. While this project may not be rich in cash, it is rich in people's time and talents.'



Beechgrove Garden presenters Carolyn Spray and George Anderson at the site of the Colonsay Community Garden. 15_129beechgrove01

Island volunteers step up efforts to see Colonsay completely litter free

SKIPFULS of rubbish and unusual items have been plucked from the coastline as Colonsay attempts to become the first Hebridean island to be completely litter free. A community clean-up effort has been headed up by piermaster Kevin Byrne, on behalf of Colonsay Community Council. More than 300 bags of rubbish have been collected but this represents a small quantity of the total weight of litter that can't be bagged, such as creels, nets, oil drums, refrigerators and lorry wheels. Kevin said: 'I have found a bottle from 1923, huge lorry tyres, television sets and even five-gallon drums of dirty oil. On one peninsula we needed six journeys by tractor and trailer to get it all out. Argyll and Bute Council could not have been more helpful; they sent over a larger bin lorry and their local representative George Leppard and his assistant Danny Hamilton have bent over backwards to help.' Kevin estimates the volunteers will finish combing the coastline by the end of August and will then cover the whole island to make sure it is free of redundant fencing wire. The island's three public roads are already clear of litter, thanks to the unrelenting observations of the island's schoolchildren. The five pupils at Kilchattan Primary School are currently working towards their second Eco Schools Green Flag and make sure Kevin - their school bus driver - is kept on his toes. 'The children already have one green flag at the school, so they are very environmentally aware. When we are driving around in the bus they shout out when they see any litter and I stop and pick it up.' The island's main road is eight miles long and Kevin 'keeps an eye' on the other two spurs, three and two miles long respectively, in his own time. Islanders recently voted in favour of a new fish farm to be sited off the island but with many of the objectors claiming the development would be unattractive, Kevin explained the community was keen to make sure the rest of the island was looking its best. He added: 'Now there is virtually no litter, people are inclined to pick things up, or not drop litter in the first place.' However, despite this deep civic pride, one littering problem remains: dog mess. 'Annoyingly, visitors put their dog mess in a bag and just leave it at the side of the road,' said Kevin. 'We would far rather people let nature take its course, or at least make sure the bag is placed in an appropriate bin. We have livestock all over the island but you don't see the farmers walking after them with plastic bags.'

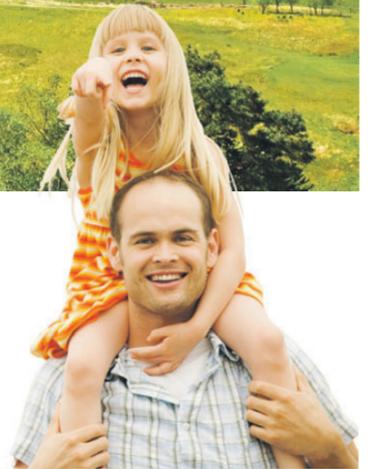


Colonsay clean-up volunteer Donald Ross MacDonald beside some of the rubbish collected from the island's coastline.



HIGHLAND

HIGHLIGHTS



THE WEST Highlands are famed for its sights, sounds and superb spectacles but whatever your Highland Highlight there is sure to be something for you in our feature on one of the most beautiful parts of the world.

From the sparse and green wilderness of the Morvern peninsula to the hills and rugged terrain of Lochaber and the Great Glen, this varied landscape holds some of the finest sights in Europe.

There are many ways to travel through the Highlands, although the lack of motorways mean the 'scenic route' is often the quickest, allowing you to take in the sheer majesty of your surroundings without having to leave the beaten track.

Or if you are travelling by sea, the West Highland harbours are well sought after - the harsh weather on the west coast makes these harbours and marinas a welcome haven for sailors.

For the traveller on a budget, there is an abundance of caravan, cabin and camping options from where to explore the Highlands.

Certain events bring Highland communities together in their droves; agricultural shows are a fun day out for all the family, as well as a showcase for some of the UK's finest livestock.

And a Highland games is no longer just for the immediate population. Thousands of tourists flock to this demonstration of the strongest and fastest from all over the world.

And there few places where there will not be a ceilidh on the go. The West Highlands boasts some of the finest folk musicians and exponents of the bagpipes, fiddle and accordion, so make sure to look up what's available at your nearest venue.

But for those who enjoy a tippie the distilleries across this region are a must visit.

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Ceann-Latha Date	Aite Venue	Tachartas Type of event	Uair Time
Thursday 18 July	Glenfinnan House	Session	9pm - 12.00am
Friday 19 July	Invergarry Hotel	Session	7.30pm - 11pm
Saturday 20 July	Strontian Hotel	Concert	8pm
Sunday 21 July	Roybridge Hotel	Concert	8pm
Wednesday 24 July	Argyllshire Gathering Halls + Argyll Cèilidh Trail	Concert	7.30pm
Thursday 25 July	Glenfinnan House	Session	9pm - 12.00am
Friday 26 July	Invergarry Hotel	Session	7.30pm - 11pm
Saturday 27 July	Loch Shiel House Hotel, Acharacle	Session	9.30pm
Sunday 28 July	Loch Shiel Cruises	Concert	2pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday 30 July	West Highland Hotel, Mallaig	Session	6pm
	Arisaig Games, Arisaig	BBQ	7pm - 9.30pm

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Friday 19th July 2013

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More information online at <http://westardnamurchannews.blogspot.com>

Lochaber Rural Education Trust
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 Monday 5th to Thursday 8th August

For more details and to book for the holiday club contact Linda on 01397 700800 or linda@bosslochaber.co.uk

Celtic legend climbs Ben Nevis to raise cancer funds

CELTIC legend John Hartson and his Spear Bridge wife Sarah scaled the heights on Saturday to help Scottish children battling cancer.

The couple conquered Ben Nevis along with Sarah's 67-year-old dad James, a retired BT engineer now working at Highland Council's recycling centre at Fort William.

The trio were joined by 80 friends and supporters from all over the British Isles, who each pledged to raise £500 for the John Hartson Foundation.

The fundraising climb and a bucket collection in Fort William High Street looks like exceeding the £25,000 target for the Schiehallion Ward at Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow, Sarah told *The Oban Times*.

The 41-year-old, who now lives in Swansea with John and their two kids, Lena, 5, and three-year-old Stephanie, said: 'Any money we have left over will be used to set up a hardship fund for the Maggie's Centre at Gartnavel in Glasgow.'

'It means if somebody is diagnosed with cancer and can't get access to benefits they can apply for a grant from the



Left: Sarah poses for The Oban Times on her way up the Ben. 20_129john03



Above: Picture of life: Big John leads the charity walkers up the Ben on Saturday. 20_129john02

Scotland demands bigger share of fishing cash

THE SCOTTISH Government is seeking talks with Westminster on increasing the country's share of European fishing cash after EU ministers agreed a new European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

The fund, brokered in Brussels

this week, will underpin Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reforms focusing on wasteful catch discards, sustainable fishing effort and investment in fragile coastal communities.

Scotland currently receives 40 per cent of EU cash allocated

to the UK - despite having 61 per cent of sea fisheries and 86 per cent of aquaculture sales by volume.

Environment and climate change minister Paul Wheelhouse said the current funding split was 'unacceptable and should not happen again.'

He added: 'Scotland's hard working fishermen and fish-farmers deserve a better deal than that.'

Fair

'They deserve a deal that is fair and reflects the fact Scotland has the lion's share within

the UK of both of these very valuable sectors.' The European Commission also confirmed trade measures against Faroe Islands and Iceland for over-fishing herring and mackerel, respectively - a move the Scottish fishing fleet has long demanded.

Lochaber out to defend Joe Toal shinty sixes title

LOCHABER Camanachd will aim to defend their Joe Toal Memorial Sixes title at Spean Bridge on Sunday.

Sides from Fort William, Kilmallie, Glegarray, Kingus-

sie, Lovat and Newtonmore are among the 10 teams taking part in the fast-paced tournament, which starts at 12pm. The annual competition, held in memory of former Lochaber player Joe

Toal, who died during a game in 1982 aged just 22, is marking its 30th anniversary this year.

Meanwhile, three Lochaber players have been named in the Scotland under-17 side for a shinty/hurling tour of Ireland later this month. Calum MacDonald, Barry MacDonald and Jack Dignan will be joined by Kilmallie's Frankie Innes and Martin Munro and Fort

William's Arran MacPhee. Kinlochshiel duo Oliver MacRae and Conall Fraser, along with Skye Camanachd's Will Cowie, were also named in the 19-man squad.

Footballers blame serious injuries on state of pitch

Players crocked on Canal Parks

THREE Lochaber footballers are blaming serious leg injuries on the poor condition of a Highland Council pitch in Caol.

Stuart Smillie, Scott Lawrie and Sean Forbes attended accident and emergency at the Belford Hospital in Fort William after getting crocked playing in the Lochaber Welfare Football League at Canal Parks.

Mr Smillie and Mr Lawrie injured their knees, while Mr Forbes hurt his ankle. Mr Lawrie walked out of hospital on crutches after medics diagnosed medial ligament and cartilage damage in his right knee.

Mr Lawrie, 23, who plays for Real Sosobad, told *The Oban Times*: 'I was sprinting after another player and went to tackle him. When I twisted my boot it got caught in the long grass. My leg stayed and I badly twisted my knee.'

He added: 'I had to take three

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

weeks off work on sick pay and I struggled to pay the bills.'

Caol Cosmos player/manager Stuart Smillie said teams paid £30 per game for the pitch but were not getting value for money.

He said: 'I don't think there's any excuse for the state of Canal Parks, it's a total shambles.'

'The grass is halfway up your shins and there's holes everywhere. There's boys going over and getting hurt because the grass hasn't been cut.'

'It's putting boys off playing. If you've got to worry about getting an injury and missing work you're not going to play.'

Mr Smillie requires an operation to reconstruct his badly injured knee, forcing him to take a lengthy lay-off from his job. He said: 'I've had six weeks off work already and I've got to take another six weeks off after the operation.'

Real Sosobad player/manager Mikey MacKinnon said: 'We're paying for these facilities. Sometimes we're showing up and the grass has been cut in the middle but down the wings it's longer than the rough on a golf course.'

He added: 'No-one wants

to see a boy off work for four weeks, it's horrendous.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said they had received no complaints about the pitch.

He said: 'The council has a contract with High Life Highland to cut the grass and line the two pitches at Canal Parks. The pitches are cut and lined in accordance with the booking system.'



Crocked: Real Sosobad's Scott Lawrie was left on crutches after damaging his knee at Canal Parks.

Corran Ferry low tide warning

CORRAN Ferry users have been warned the service will be disrupted next week by extreme low tides in Loch Linnhe.

Heavy goods vehicles will not be able to use the ferry between 1-3pm on Wednesday, 1.45-3.45pm on Thursday and 2.15-4.15pm on Friday.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Every effort will be made to continue the service for cars, but this is at the skipper's discretion and will only be done if it is safe to do so.'

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Angus MacPhail was busy promoting Skipinnish the brand at Inveraray Games this week

Skipinnish back with first album in seven years

TMF launch this weekend

AFTER seven years of developing the Skipinnish brand, Angus MacPhail and Andrew Stevenson are launching their first album for seven years at this weekend's Tìree Music Festival.

The enterprising duo have established the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban and Fort William among their other commitments but have got back to basics with their upcoming launch of Atlantic Roar.

Angus said: 'The band is back with a bang after a number of years because Andrew and I have been too busy with other parts of the Skipinnish brand to give much time to performing.'

'We have a new and exciting line-up, a new album and a wild summer tour of festivals, concerts, dances, weddings, radio broadcasts and TV appearances, so we have a busy schedule ahead.'

'It feels like a new chapter for the band and I'm really happy with the new line up, which has got the band sounding the best it's ever been.'

Atlantic Roar will be officially launched at the Tìree Music Festival this Saturday at with a performance on the Gordon Connell Stage, named after Angus' Tìree-based accordion tutor.

Argyll soldiers suffer PTSD

FOUR former soldiers from Argyll and Bute who served in Iraq and two who served in Afghanistan are receiving help for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), it has been revealed.

New research has shown that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are seeking help for PTSD and other mental illnesses far sooner than those of earlier wars.

The information was revealed following a BBC Panorama special on military mental health on Monday.

In the first evaluation of former troops from those two conflicts being treated by veterans' mental health charity Combat Stress, the time lag between them leaving the armed forces and seeking help averaged two years.

This contrasts sharply with the previous average time lag of 14 years for other conflicts.

Combat Stress is treating more than 5,200 veterans nationally who suffer from psychological injuries as a result of their military careers.

Robert Lappin, Combat Stress Scotland West regional welfare officer, said: 'Veterans need to feel able to tell their GP if they think they need mental health services.'

Report highlights Scottish land ownership issues

THE buyer of an extensive Highland estate, near Bridge of Orchy, could receive taxpayer-funded payouts of £12,000 a week - 200 times more than the £56 given to a jobless youngster.

According to a new report, the 28,000 acre Auch and Invermean Estate, on the market for £11.4 million, would qualify for at least £600,000 a year in subsidies from the taxpayer.

'Concentrated'

Requested by Labour MP Ian Davidson, chairman of the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee, the report claimed that, with only 432 owners controlling 50 per cent of all the privately owned land, Scotland has 'the most concentrated pattern of land ownership in the developed world.'

Isle of Harris businessman David Cameron, the chairman of Community Land Scotland, the body representing the country's community landowners, welcomed the report.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel that the bulk of the document ties together many of the strands of what Community Land Scotland has been saying openly and

publicly for the past two or three years.

'It reflects one of the top priorities identified by our membership at our recent annual conference at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye.'

'This is not a case of activists forcing their own agenda - it was specifically asked for by the Scottish Affairs Committee as should be evaluated in that light.'

Entitled 'Towards a Comprehensive Land Reform Agenda for Scotland', the document was compiled by Jim Hunter, an ex-chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Peter Peacock, a former MSP and Minister; Andy Wightman, a land rights researcher and Michael Foxley, a former leader of Highland Council.

It notes 'the ready access estate ownership gives to the public purse' is a key attraction of land ownership to 'the rich and super-rich.'

The report continues: 'Perhaps it is perfectly proper that someone who can afford to pay £11.4 million for a Scottish estate should be getting from the taxpayer a weekly payment more than 200 times greater than that made available to a jobless youngster.'

Yacht runs aground in Sound of Kerrera

FOUR people escaped uninjured after a yacht ran aground near the south end of the Sound of Kerrera last week.

Oban Lifeboat received a call at 4.10pm last Friday, July 12 to help the 31-ft vessel, *Garuda*, which also had two dogs on board.

At 4.30pm, the lifeboat arrived at the scene and launched its daughter boat to assess the situation. Since there was no danger to the crew, the lifeboat remained with the yacht until the tide was high enough to allow it to float off. The vessel then freed itself from the reef at 6pm.

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Alan Reid MP will hold surgeries on **Thursday 25 July 2013**
Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban
1.30pm - 2.30pm
Aros Hall, Tobermory
5.45pm - 6.45pm
To make an appointment phone Alan Reid's office on 01369 704840

Morvern Community Development Company is offering a fantastic new fully equipped 24 berth visitor pontoon facility in the sheltered Loch Aline within walking distance from the village of Lochaline. All revenues received from Lochaline Harbour are reinvested in facilities and projects in and around Morvern. We look forward to welcoming visitors in Lochaline. No booking necessary.

Tel: 01967 421783 or 07583 800 500 (Marine Manager) VHF Channel 80.
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

AMBITIOUS ideas are, without question, the hardest to pull off, but more often than not, they bring the biggest rewards.

So a proposal to have around 300 yachts muster off the coast of Mull before cruising through Argyll towards the Clyde next summer is not just to be welcomed, it's to be applauded.

While the plan to bring the yachts to the area already has the support of the Royal Yachting Association Scotland and several other agencies, it is only with local input this event will thrive.

There is no doubt, when our communities put their mind to it, we can make the most spectacular things happen. Examples can be found all over the county - and some not too far back in the memory.

Next year's muster is an opportunity to force the world to look in our direction, to see the treasures we offer and to capture a bigger slice of the tourism market on which our economy so depends.

So let's do everything we can to support this plan and help highlight Argyll not just as somewhere nice to visit as a one off, but somewhere people long to return to and drop anchor year after year.

GLASGOW LETTER

Merchant City Festival

THE MERCHANT City Festival will be held from Wednesday, July 24 for five fun filled days of street art, music, dance, theatre, design, heritage, film, visual art, comedy, food and drink and much more.

On both Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 there will be performances from the world's newest and only Gaelic Street Theatre Company. There will be much good humour with the cast encouraging the public to see Gaelic in a new light.

Also on Saturday, July 27 and again the following day from 10am to 4pm there will be films, talks and workshops in the Ramshorn Theatre with a ceilidh on the Sunday at 7pm when the only condition will be a contribution, creative or practical, such as a piece of cake! Tickets cost £2 and are available from the Box Office at the City Halls.

On the Merchant City Dance Stage there will be live music from the Big Fat Electric Ceilidh on the Saturday evening from 6.30pm (free).

As well as the Merchant City Stage, there will be dance stages on Brunswick and Blackfriars Street and as in the past there will be continental food markets from Friday to Sunday on Wilson Street and Candleriggs. A special 'vintage' theme will celebrate seven decades from the 1920s to the 1980s and in keeping with the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow next year, South Brunswick Street Rope Factory will produce an intricate web of colours representing the 71 sovereign states of the Commonwealth.

The full festival programme is available at www.merchant-cityfestival.com/programme

International Eisteddfod 2013

HAVING visited in 2006, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir recently travelled to Llangollen to take part in the International Musical Eisteddfod, a trip which proved extremely enjoyable and which owed much to the excellent weather.

Unlike our own National Mod, there is no competition which strictly meets the criteria our Gaelic choirs are able to offer and the fleas therefore took part in a Folk Song Competition for choirs and competed against choirs from as far afield as Indonesia, Russia and Spain as well as locations closer to home.

Although not placed, the choir was praised by the adjudicators for its performance. The festival, which has as its main aim the promotion of peace in the world through the arts and music, also expects performers to participate outwith the competitions.

Glasgow Islay Choir therefore delighted audiences

on two other occasions when they sang in an outdoor amphitheatre and then at a care home in Wrexham where the residents thoroughly enjoyed its programme and an informal singalong.

This International Eisteddfod is superbly organised to the extent that a CD of the competitions and a photograph taken on stage are both available just 20 minutes after the event but, unlike our own Royal National Mod, it has the advantage of having its own location.

Scottish Pipe Band Championships

ALTHOUGH normally held towards the end of May, the Scottish Pipe Band Championships, with about 150 bands due to perform, will take place at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton, on Saturday July 27 starting at 10am.

Jean Graham MBE

IT WAS with great sadness that I learned that Jean Graham passed away recently.

Throughout her life, Jean was an enthusiast for music in her own local area, West Dunbartonshire, and worldwide. She will be particularly remembered for her contribution to the world of Gaelic music which she embraced with great enthusiasm at National Mods and many local Mods. She will be sadly missed.

Diary dates

Stirling and Trossachs Ceilidh Trail. Thursday July 18: Falkirk Folk Club, 8pm. Friday July 19: Gargunnoch Community Centre, with Gleusda, 7.30pm. Saturday July 20, MacLaren Halls, Killin, 8pm. Sunday July 21, Falkirk Wheel, 1pm and then at Behind the Wall, Falkirk, with Mira, 8pm. Monday July 22, MacLaren Halls, with Traditional Trails, 7.30pm. Thursday July 25, Dalmailly Village Hall, with Feis Argyll, 7.30pm.

Other dates

Tuesday July 23: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm. Rallin. **Wednesday July 24:** Summer Ceilidh, Tolbooth, Stirling, 7.30pm.

Friday July 26: Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm. The Hot Seats. Gaelic Service, St Columba's Church, St Vincent Street, **Saturday July 27:** Scottish Pipe Band Championships - see above.

Pub scene

THIS weekend Black Velvet will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with the Keelies on Saturday.

In the Park Bar it will be Nicky McMichan on Friday and Sunday with Scott Harvey on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk**



Hillman Imp being loaded onto ferry

Elsbeth Norris of Creag Bhan Village, Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows her Hillman Imp being hoisted onto the Claymore ferry, bound for Tiree. Cars were driven onto a huge net, padded at the wheels, and swung precariously until they reached the car deck. Drivers and passengers watched with trepidation from the pier! Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Reassurance over green marble

Sir,
To reassure the many concerned island residents who have approached our Ranger on Iona, we have been told by Two Skies Design that the photograph accompanying the article on their green marble jewellery, 'Designer follows in the footsteps of famous Iona silversmith', July 4 July, was not taken on Iona.

This was, in fact, taken at a mainland quarry where the stone is crushed for lime. As the article relates, it is not permissible to obtain marble from the scheduled areas off Iona without consent.

Two Skies confirm that it obtains its green marble for manufacturing jewellery by diving offshore where such consent is not necessary and it is this process that the BBC's 'Coast' is filming. **Jim Whyteside, The National Trust for Scotland, Hermiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road, Edinburgh.**

Stone collected from various sites

Sir,
Two Skies Design, recently featured in *The Oban Times* for the filming for the BBC Coast programme on Mull and Iona, July 4, 2013, apologises for an error in suggesting that green marble had not been commercially collected and processed on Iona since the time of Alexander Ritchie.

We would also like to make it clear that Two Skies Design collects marble from various sites across the west coast and the picture that was featured was

not on Iona. **Dory McIntosh, Two Skies Design.**

- Aosdana on Iona produces the designs of the Ritchies with the blessing of the family and uses Iona greenstone, with permission.

Planning deficiency

Sir,
Well done to Councillor Hall for highlighting deficiency in the Argyll and Bute planning system policy.

I have been subjected to the pantomime called the 'planning process' and told our own application is being refused on the basis that it would 'weaken local policy'. This is despite it being vetted by legal representation, three different architects, three different local builders and one national builder, an MSP along with all the local trades, whose letters of support were dismissed out of hand without any more comment than 'it's just the trade'.

This was an application which was clearly and factually detailed to be in line with Scottish planning law.

Planning officers have been brain washed to care more about their destructive policy than the needs of the people within their community.

Local review bodies are made up of councillors that have no concept of the documents laid before them detailing the Argyll public's aspirations for the future.

The residents of Argyll and Bute are trying to make plans for future family arrangements, raising young families and also trying to support a threadbare decimated local building trade

whose contribution to the local economy and employment is vital.

Why should planning officers have to make a decision based on the theory that an application may weaken a local policy. Surely something is very wrong and I would ask the local community to support Mr Hall in his quest to put wrong to right.

Our local economy and trade need your support and Mr Hall's timely intervention has highlighted this to perfection. **Craig Mullarkey, Ganavan.**

Bridge opened to traffic in 1914

Sir,
Regards your caption for last week's flashback photograph, this is somewhat misleading. Road traffic was permitted by the then Caledonian Railway to cross the bridge from 1914 onwards.

Road traffic crossed between trains running, controlled by a gatekeeper with tolls charged.

Only when the Ballachulish line closed in January 1966, was the bridge was fully tarmaced with pavement as it remains to this day.

Doug Carmichael, chairman, Friends of The West Highland Lines.

Memories of Connel Bridge

Sir,
I'm sure I won't be the first to point out the errors in the text accompanying your photo of Connel Bridge 'opening up to traffic in 1966'.

In fact it was already open. I grew up in Omich and remember crossing the bridge many times by car during the war and later,

when - as a child - I accompanied my father as he visited friends in the Oban area.

During the 1950s, with a girlfriend (now my wife) in Oban, I would sometimes drive, but more often take the train. Your photo shows the situation I remember well, when one had to drive at 5mph along the narrow road beside the railway.

This prevailed until Dr Beeching axed the lovely Ballachulish to Oban railway of happy memories. What a great tourist draw this could have been today.

But it did allow the road across the bridge to be wider and a lot more convenient to cross. **Christopher Paine, Great Misenden, Bucks.**

Should councillors resign?

SHOULD all of Argyll and Bute's councillors resign in the wake of the leadership wrangle that is stifling progress at Kilmory?

So far, 86 per cent of people to vote on *The Oban Times'* website thinks they should.

Of the 42 votes cast so far, 36 have said our elected members should stand down and trigger a re-election, while just six have said no - keep the councillors in post.

We'll be running the vote until the end of the council's summer recess. To cast your ballot, log on to www.obantimes.co.uk and scroll down the page to find the poll.

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

"S E GLÈ BHEAG a dh'fhairich fìor acras riamh, a' faicinn na feòla a' tuiteam dhìot fhèin is do cho-chreutairean."

Sin mar a thòisich Murchadh (a' Mhachaire) MacCumhais ag innse dhomh mar a bha cùisean dhan fheadhainn a chaidh an gabhail aig St Valery ann an 1940 agus iad a' coiseachd dhan ear chun na Gearmailt is dhan Phòlainn mar phrìosanaich cogaidh. Dh'fhuiling iad sin mòran mun d' fhuair iad an saorsa còig bliadhna air adhart agus ged a bha cuid nach d' fhuair riamh seachad air, bha iad glè mhothachail air an àireamh mhòr nach do thill idir às a' chogadh sin. Dh'jobair an Rìoghachd uimhir airson dìon saorsa agus gun teagamh, bha tèarainteachd agus solarachadh bìdh an t-sluaigh bunaiteach cuideachd.

Nach uabhasach a-nise a bhith a' faicinn na mìltean feadh na dùthcha an eisimeil earthannais gus an teaghlachan a bhith-thadh gach latha. Faisg air seachdadh bliadhna an dèidh dèireadh an Dàrna Cogaidh agus tha coimhearsnachd Bhreatann a rèir coltais air a sgaradh às ùr eadar feadhainn aig am bheil beartas agus feadhainn a tha ann am bochdainn.

Ged nach eil duine nach aontaicheadh gum bheil leasachadh air suidheachadh eaconamaidh na dùthcha deatamach, cha chreid mi gum biodh duine nach gabhadh ris cuideachd gur e masladh do-chreidsinneach a th' ann gum bheil an àireamh a dh'fheumas dìon bho ghort a' dol am meud gach latha. 'S ann a-nise a tha buaidh nan gearraidhean aig an Rìghaltas a' tòiseachadh ri nochdadh agus a dh'aindeoin na tha a' tachairt, chan eil lasachadh ann am poileasaidhean caomhnaidh a tha a' bualadh air an fheadhainn as bochd a' th' ann, am measg chàich. Tha a-nise aire an Rìghaltais air tionndadh chun na sochairan taice a tha daoine le ciorran is cion cosnadh a' faotainn agus a-rìthist, ged a tha gun teagamh cuid a' dèanamh mi-fheum de na goireasan sin, saoilidh mi gum bheil na h-atharraichean a thathas a' cur an gnìomh a' cur ri èiginn mhòran aig nach eil roghainn.

Tha e glè mhath a bhith a' maoidheadh air feadhainn a tha gun obair gum feum iad cosnadh a lorg, ach mur a bheil obair ann cha ghabh sin dèanamh!

Tha fios gun dèanadh e ciall airgead a chur ann an sgeamaichean calpa poblach ach am biodh daoine a' cosnadh, agus a' pàigheadh chisean, seach a bhith an eisimeil shochairan cosgail. Agus tha reusan cuideachd ag ràdh nach e seo am iomchaidh ardachadh tuarastail de 11 per cent a thoirt dha Buill Pàrlamaid!

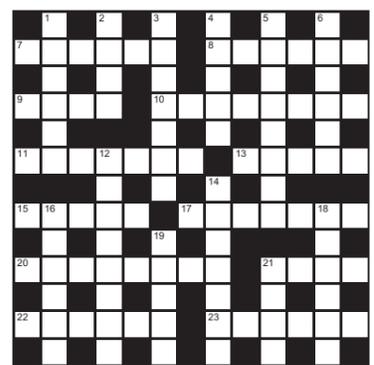
IT IS SURELY a national disgrace that thousands in the UK depend on charity to feed their families, and that the number is growing.

The impact of government cuts are being felt most harshly by the poorest members of society, demonstrating serious flaws in policy.

Public works programmes would enable people to earn wages, and pay taxes, rather than depend on inadequate but costly benefits. This is most definitely the wrong time to advocate an 11 per cent increase in MP's remuneration!

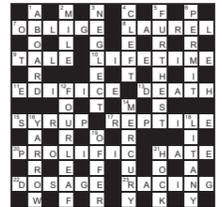
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Stars together (6) | 1 Brutal (6) |
| 8 Feral feline (6) | 2 Hard or soft ending pottery (4) |
| 9 Body of water (4) | 3 Bewilder (7) |
| 10 Feeler (8) | 4 Source (5) |
| 11 Deaden with fear (7) | 5 Self-indulgent (8) |
| 13 Bait (5) | 6 Spoonful (6) |
| 15 Regulator (5) | 12 Starving! (8) |
| 17 When the sand is exposed (3,4) | 14 Posy (7) |
| 18 Easy prayer ending competent (8) | 16 Band worn above the wrist (6) |
| 21 Tablet (4) | 18 Weaken (6) |
| 22 Esteem (6) | 19 Built for worship (5) |
| 23 Keen (6) | 21 Route through (4) |

Last week's solution



Times Diary



How much to park my £170,000 McLaren?

A sports car often draws admiring glances from passers by, but this stunning McLaren drew onlookers for another reason when it was in Oban on Monday - it was parked in a disabled bay. The MP4-12C costs £170,000 on these shores but the owner of the New York registered vehicle seemed unable to find the cash to pay for a parking ticket, even occupying the disabled bay in Stafford Street. The female driver revved the engine before speeding away shortly before 3pm - assumedly to find more appropriate parking for the luxury marquee. 16_129mp4-12c

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page.

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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

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

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

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Dealing with an ageing population

Health professionals and social workers face big challenge

HUGE changes in the way our elderly and most vulnerable people are being looked after are underway as care services in the west Highlands look to address one of the area's biggest problems - an ageing population, writes Euan Paterson.

Reshaping Care for Older People is an initiative led by NHS Highland and local authorities. In Argyll, health professionals and social workers face one of the biggest challenges in the country, as there is expected to be a 74 per cent rise in the number of people aged over 75 in the county, from 2010 - 2030.

One of the most obvious shifts has seen fewer people treated in hospitals and ever-growing community health teams helping more people at home.

Money saved by the reduction of in-patient beds at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital (LIH) has been redistributed to community care teams.

One of these is the Extended Community Care Team, a multi-disciplinary group caring for the patient at home, using skills that would be available on a hospital ward. The team can act as a point of contact for patients.

There is also funding from the Scottish Government's Change Fund until 2015, giving local

authorities 'bridging finance' to work in partnership with NHS and private and voluntary sectors to deliver better care for older people in their homes.

There is also a greater reliance on technology and systems such as Telecare, a remote care system for the elderly that has not been without its problems.

Remote monitoring kits in have been launched on Bute, electronically checking on people with limiting respiratory conditions, such as COPD.

The equipment checks blood pressure and oxygen levels on a daily or weekly basis, with results fed via a secure website to health professionals.

But increasing care costs will not be met by the public sector and technology alone. Strategies are now being drawn up to get communities looking after their own.

Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse at NHS Highland, explained: 'We are looking at how communities and individuals can take responsibility for their health and care.'

'We have invested money with Argyll Voluntary Action and they have recruited a community resilience worker to develop a range of initiatives. It is really important we look at people

looking after each other. In Argyll and Bute we have more cohesive communities than urban areas.'

Anne Austin, Argyll and Bute Council service manager, added: 'For example, we have developed community care teams working to the same model and providing a single point of access. A lot of people didn't know where to go to find the right service.'

Ms Tyrrell also pointed out the importance of early intervention to reduce the number of falls among elderly people, closer working with Alzheimer's Scotland and earlier support for individual carers. She added: 'Support for carers is a really critical part of the programme. We have a huge number of unpaid carers helping to support people at home and if we don't support them, they can end up going into crisis and needing more help. It is imperative we assess what the carers need.'

With this in mind, Joint Commissioning Groups are being set up involving representatives of local communities, carers and health professionals to ensure communities are getting the services they need.

Ms Austin said: 'We need to be constantly engaging with people and going back to make sure

what we are doing is right. We will never get it right all the time but as long as we keep an open dialogue with communities we can make sure we are meeting their concerns.'

Although there is a general shift towards how care is delivered in Argyll and Bute - 79 per cent of those requiring care are now treated in their homes - hospitals remain an integral part of elderly care.

Ms Tyrrell explained: 'There are no plans to reduce services at LIH but we need to make sure it is as efficient as possible.'

'We want to reduce the number of people treated in hospital as an emergency.'

'This is not about closing hospitals, it is about giving people the care they want in their homes.'

'But we also need to make sure that when it is needed, hospital care is available as close to home as possible.'

'We are confident in this programme of work, because it is happening.'

'But no one agency can do this alone and that's the important bit. Health, social work, housing, the voluntary sector, independent (private) sector, the voluntary sector and communities need to work together.'



Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

An insight into life as a carer

FOR most, becoming a carer is not a choice, but a situation that arises from need.

With no prior training and little in the way of financial support, it is an extremely demanding responsibility to take on. Often, those demands can leave the carer feeling isolated, depressed and frustrated. The Oban Times senior reporter, Steven Flanagan, spoke to Oban carer Jayne Powers who, at 43, suddenly found herself in the position where she had to look after her elderly mother after a fall.

'I never saw myself becoming a carer. Then, three years ago - in one moment - my mum required care.'

'Suddenly, I was a carer.'

'I used to have a care-free life, I had a good job and when I wanted to do something, I did it. That stopped. You have to make sacrifices right across the board.'

'We live together now. You're not able to go out and socialise the way you used to - all the basic things I used to take for granted, I can't do anymore.'

'It's very, very easy to become isolated and become very down - I know depression is an extreme word but your emotional state takes a hit. Physically it's tiring too. You're constantly juggling things you have to do.'

'When I first started this I was naive; I thought I would look after my mum and juggle that with a part time job, just 20 hours a week.'

'Could I manage that? Not a chance. I tried a second part time job too, with even less hours, it still didn't work.'

'Then you've got the frustration of dealing with NHS 24, and the frustration of using that can really get you down - you can lose the will to live sometimes when you're on the phone to them.'

'To be perfectly honest, your life is put on hold. It takes its toll on so many levels. You love the person and you want to do the best for them but sometimes it is so difficult.'

How important is respite care?

'Respite care is a lifeline. Without that to have a week or a few days off I don't know where I'd be.'

'The thing about caring is you can never switch off. You're constantly on alert. Respite care is the one opportunity you get to switch off. It's only when you do that you realise how much of a weight it is on your shoulders.'

'It means tested though and you still have to pay. I don't think that's fair.'

'The North Argyll Carers'



Former North Argyll Carers' Centre manager Ruth Moody, left, and Dr Mac Armstrong, a founding member of Oban Hospice, have both been integral in shaping the provision of care in North Argyll. They are pictured with Lisa Anderson, last year appointed Hospice at Home co-ordinator in a joint venture between the organisations. 15, 129Hospice1

Centre put me in touch with an organisation that got funding to pay for holidays for carers. It was like winning the lottery when I got it. It was a couple of hundred pounds to go away for a couple of days but it was fantastic.'

'One thing I've become very aware of is how important it is to raise the awareness of caring and the carers centre. The more people know and understand about caring the more likely it is that money will be found for it. We live in a world where money seems tight all the time.'

'What they do really well is

listen. Caring sometimes is like listening to a dripping tap. It drips and drips and drips and you try to ignore it. It keeps dripping though and, eventually, you snap.'

'The people in the carers centre are so lovely and caring. That's exactly what you need. Without that, you'd go bonkers.'

Have you discussed what will happen at the end?

'I had this conversation with a friend. We both agreed we'd be incredibly relieved. That sounds awful. It's not completely self-

these things. Why would you want to see someone going through so much pain?'

'My mum has mentioned suicide before. When I think about euthanasia... I'm a Christian, as much as I can be, but sometimes I don't think I'm a very good one. The issues of taking a life doesn't sit comfortably with people with faith.'

'I always think it's interesting that if you have a pet that's unwell you take it to the vet and it gets put down. Nobody thinks twice about that. When it comes to people, it's different. It's not a simple issue. There needs to be a proper debate about it. There is fear too. I know I am like her. I look at her now and think I don't ever want to be in that situation.'

'For all the difficulties and challenges over the past three years I wouldn't change it.'

'Why? For one, it's made me a better person. It's made me more aware.'

'Previously I never gave a toss about people caring for someone as it didn't touch my life. It has given me and my mother an opportunity to get closer.'

'The other thing is I've met the most amazing people through caring.'

'The people at the carers' centre are heroes.'

'The care we've had at the hospital too has been fantastic, the social worker and the occupational therapist have been excellent.'

'I can honestly say nothing negative against any of the services we've received in Oban. I know there are people who've had different experiences, but we've been very fortunate.'

No incentive for carers to work in the industry

Special community council meeting hears of low pay and poor conditions

CARERS have no incentives to work in the industry because of low pay and poor conditions, a special meeting of Oban Community Council has heard.

Those present at the recent meeting in Oban's Corran Halls also said some carers were not turning up to appointments, walking long distances between homes because they have no transport and claimed one carer arrived at a person's home with their own support worker.

The meeting was attended by Argyll and Bute Council social work manager Sean Davidson, councillors and people affected by care packages transferring to private companies.

Mr Davidson explained home care on Mull, Tiree and Colonsay was still delivered by the council, as were services across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay but other parts of the county had been 'externalised' by giving contracts to three private companies: Carr Gorm, Mears Group and Red Cross.

Community councillor Neil MacIntyre said the care companies seemed to have a high turnover of staff, stressing that a move to treat more people at home would not work if too few carers were employed.

He added: 'We have to pay decent wages to retain staff. If people are getting paid sweeties, they'll not deliver.'

Oban Seniors Forum member Sam Liddy added: 'These are the most undesirable jobs for young people. Some of them are walking between visits and those that drive get as little as 12 pence per mile.'

Mr Davidson replied: 'There are only a finite number of people in some of these areas and a lot of our young people are moving away to university and college. We have a particular problem on the islands.'

He added that the council's zero-hour contracts, which mean carers are not guaranteed any work week-to-week, have made it difficult to retain staff.

Councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'I have a real issue with the zero hour contracts. We

have, as an authority, set up a minimum living wage but if we contract the work out, the private companies don't have to pay that.'

One Lynn Court resident, who was at the meeting, said: 'We moved in to the home four years ago and it was a lovely place but then there seemed to be no staff and we can't do as much as we used to.'

'The carers that come in are lovely girls but they don't have the time to talk to us. Just sitting down for a chat with a cup of tea means a lot to older people.'

'Pay carers more money; they deserve it. But please give them more time. Socialising is better than any medicine.'

Another Oban resident added: 'I know the trend is to leave people in their homes but sometimes people don't know when the carer is going to turn up.'

Mr Davidson said: 'If people aren't turning up at the times they should, we need to jump on that, because that is a real concern. People need to let social work know if this is happening, because if we don't know, we can't gather the evidence to challenge it.'

Eadar Glinn Care Home in Oban came in for particular praise but councillor Roddy McCuish said current demand for such places meant the council would have to build a care home a year for 20 years to keep up.

Community council secretary Duncan Martin said Eadar Glinn was giving a 'five-star service' to a relatively small number of people, while around 200 people received care packages at home.

'We need to get the five-star service to the 200 people,' he said. 'That's the task ahead, because we can't afford to build care homes for that many.'

MacIntyre added: 'Everyone is going to have to make compromises and I don't envy the councillors for the decisions they are going to have to make but the whole community has to be involved in this.'



Work to refurbish Invernevis House is expected to finish early next year. 20_f29car01

Council and NHS Highland working together is benefiting the elderly

'Invernevis is loved and respected'

RESIDENTS moved into the first completed section of Invernevis House in Fort William recently, as work on a £2.5 million make-over continues.

Construction work to refurbish the care home is expected to be completed in January 2014, and Lochaber councillor Bren Gormley said it would be an asset for elderly care in the area.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Invernevis is a good resource, it is much loved and much respected. The work is progressing more or less on schedule.'

'I have to give credit to the planners who worked really hard to ensure residents have lived their lives with the minimum amount of disruption.'

'But it still sticks in the throat that we pulled the plans for a new care home on the Blar. It would have been up and running by now and people would have been living there.'

Local feeling for Invernevis was demonstrated in 2010 when more than 1,000 people marched through Fort William to protest against plans to privatise the care home.

Councillor Gormley also said the new system of joint running of elderly care between Highland Council and NHS Highland was directly benefiting locals.

He said: 'With the integration of care between the NHS and the council, there is now a much clearer focus on the whole system. The average length of stay in a care home is going down because we're able to sustain people in their own homes for longer.'

'We're able to keep people fit and active and involved with life for as long as possible.'

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Drumnadrochit wind farm consent refused

THE SCOTTISH Government has refused planning consent for a proposed wind farm near Drumnadrochit.

Energy minister Fergus Ewing ruled Sustainable Energy Limited's Druum Ba development on Blairmore Estate was 'out of scale' visually with the surrounding landscape.

Mr Ewing said he wanted communities to reap the benefit from renewable energy 'but not at any cost'.

Family Farm Fun Friday

THE LOCHABER Rural Education Trust is holding a 'Family Farm Fun Friday' at Lochaber Rural Complex tomorrow (Friday).

Rural activities include pony rides, sheep shearing, sheep dog demonstration and learning about farm animals, while a novelty pet show with classes for the best six legs, the waggiest tail, the animal that looks most like its owner and the most unusual will also feature.

Food tasting, cake icing, butter and felt making and many other stalls, along with a bouncy castle, face painting, tombola and raffles will add to the fun of the day. Admission is free.

Jessie to receive MBE in Kilchoan

A RETIRED nurse awarded an MBE for services to healthcare in Ardnamurchan in the Queen's 2013 New Year Honours List is to receive her medal in her beloved Kilchoan on Saturday.

Jessie Colquhoun requested the ceremony be switched to the village so she can thank the local community and emergency services personnel.

The presentation had been scheduled for Holyrood House in Edinburgh but now the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, will do the honours in Kilchoan Community Centre at 2.30pm.

Jon Haylett of West Ardnamurchan Community Council told The Oban Times: 'Jessie felt rather than have the MBE presented a long way away it should happen in Kilchoan.'

'She asked Donald Cameron if he would be prepared to come out here and has invited all residents of West Ardnamurchan to attend the occasion.'

'She also wants to thank the local doctors, nurses coastguards, police and ambulance service personnel with whom she worked for 36 years.'

Jessie, now one of the local emergency responders team, said: 'The community has been very supportive throughout. We are one big happy family down here.'



Jessie Colquhoun: will receive her MBE in Kilchoan.



'Water bombing' from a helicopter helped bring the blaze near Laggan under control.

Fire chiefs warn of tinderbox conditions

FIRE chiefs have warned of tinderbox conditions in the Highlands after a wild fire destroyed around 500 acres of forest and heathland near Laggan.

Around 25 firefighters from Fort William, Spean Bridge, Grantown, Newtonmore, Carrbridge and Cromarty tackled the blaze between Laggan and Dalwhinnie on Sunday afternoon. But with the flames still burning on Monday morning a helicopter was called to carry out precision 'water bombing' on fire hotspots, which brought it under control.

Fire crews kept watch overnight, with a small number remaining on Tuesday morning to ensure the blaze was out.

Fire Scotland group manager Antony Gardner said conditions meant the public needed to take extra care when enjoying the great outdoors.

He said: 'The current hot and dry weather we are experiencing poses a high risk of fire and I would urge visitors and local communities that when venturing into the countryside to be aware of outdoor fire safety.'

'Members of the public should take care not to use camp fires, barbecues or carelessly discard cigarettes, glass bottles etc. which can result in significant wildfires.'

The decision appears based on provisions in the UK Air Navigation Order, which prohibits any UK-registered aircraft from flying on any flight in the service of a police authority without appropriate certificates.

The charity maintains it has never been in police service and contributes its services voluntarily on request, much in the same way as Neighbourhood Watch.

It is now seeking to reverse the 'erroneous' move, as it fears a single police helicopter cannot provide adequate cover 'over an area in which every possible search asset is vital'.

Recent Sky Watch operations included searching for missing journalist Clive Dennier and lost climber Oliver Smith. Mr Den-

ner's body was later found near Kinlochhourn. Mr Smith's body was recovered from Bla Bheinn in the Cuillins.

Peter Mackintosh, chief pilot of the Highland Unit, told The Oban Times: 'I find the police attitude inexplicable - and so do the other search and rescue organisations in Scotland.'

'We flew a total of eight hours searching for Mr Dennier from Inverness all the way to Cape Wrath during the initial part of the search.'

'The best I can think of is that they have been badly advised by 'expert' advice from people who do not understand that 90 per cent of the search and rescue effort in the Highlands is carried out by volunteers.'

He added: 'The pilots are experienced and the support group are all volunteers and provide a service free of charge.'

'Why, in these times of financial constraint would the police not want to continue to use these valuable assets which are free?'

'We are pledged to assist communities with or without police approval and will continue to do so. We do not fly in support of any police criminal operations, only humanitarian.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant has raised the issue with Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill and Chief Constable Sir Stephen House.

She said: 'I think it unlikely that every time there is a missing person enquiry in the Highlands that Police Scotland will task their own air support helicopter based in the Central belt.'

'Part of the problem would be the time it takes to get here and then it would have to re-fuel. I cannot understand why in these hard economic times when savings have to be made by the police, they made this decision.'

Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins of Police Scotland defended the move.

He said: 'The UK Civil Air Patrol 'Skywatch' is a volunteer programme and not a 24 hours a day, seven days a week national resource. 'Since the start of Police Scotland, the Air Support Unit has become a Scotland-wide resource with specially trained officers using state of the art equipment which is available to assist in a variety of operations, including searching for missing people in remote areas across Scotland in a co-ordinated and operationally managed way. 'Police Scotland has considered all options available to them, and has come to the unavoidable conclusion that it should cease using the volunteer UK Civil Air Patrol.'

Police ditch volunteer air search group

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

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STAR for Harris charity donates £14,409 to children's cancer unit

'So much more needs done'

A CHARITY set up in memory of a little Lochaber boy who died from inoperable brain cancer has donated £14,409 to the largest research centre for children's cancers in the UK.

STAR for Harris founders Allan and Tanya Ross handed over the cheque to the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle on Friday.

The amount is significant for the Corpach couple - it matches the date of their son Harris's birth, April 14 2009.

Tanya said after the cheque presentation: 'We met two incredible people, Dr Dan Williamson and Professor Steve Clifford who answered our hundreds of questions and showed us around their research facilities.'

'The project funded by 'STAR for Harris' starts in October and we have already started to build up money towards our next donation as this is something we feel so passionate

about supporting.' Harris died aged just 16 months in August 2010 following a brave nine-month battle for life against medulloblastoma, a highly aggressive brain tumour.

Allan and Tanya formed STAR following Harris's death to raise awareness of and fund research into children's cancers.

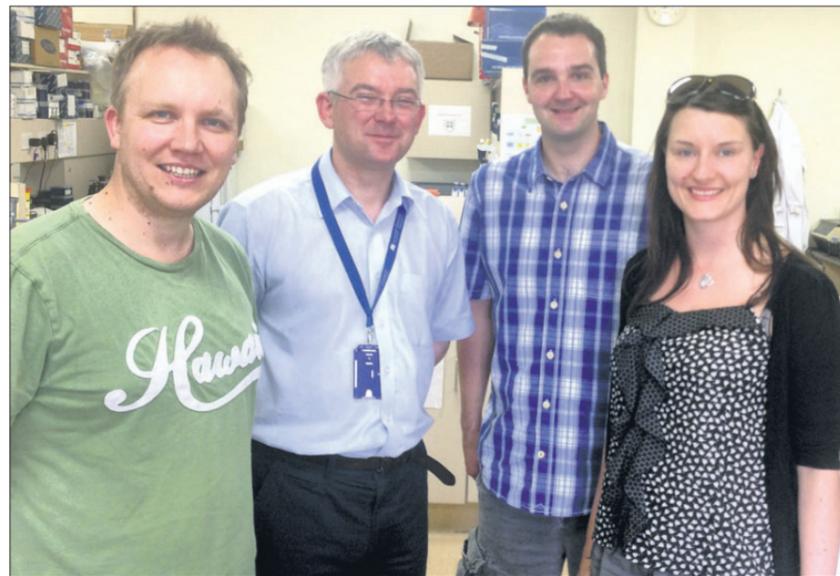
Tanya added: 'So much more needs done in this field and the government doesn't provide money towards the research costs.'

'Further research will aim for new drugs to be trialled and for treatment protocols to be modified and improved to improve survival chances, and also to look into ways of lessening the long-term effects caused by toxicity to childhood cancer survivors.'

'STAR for Harris' is funding music therapy at two hospitals in Scotland and is set to expand that number to four in the near future. The annual 'Harris Ross Texas Scramble' will be held on Sunday, July 28.

'Lots of local business are offering sponsorship and prizes,' Tanya said.

The mixed summer show features a mix of still life and landscape painting by the Lime Tree gallery artist David Wilson, Clare Blois and Angela Lawrence, together with Lime Tree debutants Douglas Davies RSW, Marion Drummond, Lachlan Goudie and Simon Rivett.



Tanya and Allan Ross, right, with Dr Dan Williamson and Professor Steve Clifford after the cheque handover.

Flora's former family home sold

THE FORMER Isle of Skye family home of Flora MacDonald, part of Flodrigarry Country House Hotel, has been sold to a Dutch couple.

New owners Paul and Bette Temming, who run a sailing hotel and restaurant in the Amsterdam area, plan to further develop the business, selling agents Colliers International said.

The property had been marketed with an asking price of £1.9 million.

Bumper Ballachulish jackpot

A BUMPER jackpot of £2,000 will go to a lucky winner in Ballachulish Shinty Club's lotto draw this weekend.

The numbers will be drawn until a winner is found for the rollover prize. Last weekend's numbers were 5, 11 and 14.

Elderly driver hurt in Achintore Road crash

AN ELDERLY driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries following a crash which closed the A82 Achintore Road in Fort William for nearly an hour on Sunday afternoon.

A Ford Focus and a Mitsubishi 4x4 collided head-on around 500 metres south of the west end roundabout at 4.30pm.

Traffic tailed back across the roundabout and along the A82 bypass as fire fighters and police carried out investigations and cleared debris.

Area inspector Donald Campbell told The Oban Times no further details about the incident would be released until interviews had taken place.

Kinlochleven boost as head teacher returns

KINLOCHLEVEN High School has been given a major boost after Highland Council announced that John McGilp will be returning as head teacher for session 2013-14.

Mr McGilp was seconded to Thurso High School as acting head teacher in October last year.

His departure caused some difficulties at Kinlochleven as the hard-pressed senior management team worked hard to minimise the impact of being left without a permanent head.

In December, an angry parent council said an intolerable burden was being placed on acting head teacher Gordon Milne, who had to juggle his new role with teaching as well as sourcing temporary staff cover. Fears were also expressed about the impact staff shortages were having on pupils studying for exams. In response, Highland Council promised extra support for the school management and curricular design.

But according to the parent council, problems with continuity persisted until the summer holidays.

In a letter to parents last week, area education manager (west) Norma Young confirmed that Mr McGilp would again lead the school when the new session begins on August 19.

She said: 'Following Mr McGilp's return, I will review the acting teaching and management posts across the school with a view to moving to advertise for the substantive deputy head post immediately.'

'Mr McGilp will keep parents informed of progress in relation to all vacant and acting posts.'

Welcoming the news, local councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'Let us hope this provides some certainty for the school for a time after what has been a particularly uncertain year, which has been difficult for the staff, children and parents.'

New summer exhibition

A NEW exhibition of works by a carefully curated group of artists will open in the Lime Tree Gallery in Fort William on Saturday.

The mixed summer show features a mix of still life and landscape painting by the Lime Tree gallery artist David Wilson, Clare Blois and Angela Lawrence, together with Lime Tree debutants Douglas Davies RSW, Marion Drummond, Lachlan Goudie and Simon Rivett.

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The two vehicles after the accident on Achintore Road, which led to long queues of traffic.

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - July 18

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 9.15am, Ramblers Scotland Ardnamurchan walk, meet Corran Ferry 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, Erry Park, Tobermory.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, 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.
 6.30pm, Heritage trail, meet Aqualibrium, Campbeltown.
 8pm, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
 9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 9pm, Quiz, Coasters, Oban.
 11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish, Oban.

FRIDAY - July 19

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 Riding for the disabled, Achalarig Riding Stables, Oban.
 Woolfeis, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
 10am, Woolfeis workshops, Dalmlally Station.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
 8pm, 90s tunes and dance anthems, Papparazzi, Oban.
 8.30pm, Family dance, Village Hall, Skipness.
 9.30pm, C-Red, Marke Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - July 20

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 T'ree Music Festival.
 Woolfeis, Fibre Fantastic, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
 Bike ride from Tynribbie to Duror.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Crofter and Crafter Day, Lismore Heritage Centre.
 11am-4pm, Kintyre Crafters Group summer craft fair, Village Hall, Peninver.
 7.30pm, Gaelic working songs ceilidh, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
 8pm, DJ Guy theme night, Papparazzi, Oban.
 8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
 9.30pm, Fraser James, Marke Dan's, Oban.
 10pm, The Jose Cuervo Experience, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - July 21

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 T'ree Music Festival.
 9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Coe walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.
 12pm-4pm, Kintyre Crafters Group summer craft fair, Village Hall, Peninver.
 2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
 2.30pm, Producers' market, Dervaig, Mull.
 2.30pm-4.30pm, Wild Flower Walk, meet Iona Nunery.
 3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Oban.
 10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - July 22

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 Family fun week, North Mull Parishes.
 10am-12pm, Ballroom dancing, Connel Village Hall.
 10.30am-12.30pm, Coffee morning, Oban Congregational Church.
 11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
 2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.

TUESDAY - July 23

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 Family fun week, North Mull Parishes.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
 12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
 1.30pm, Natural history simulated dig, Kilmartin Museum.
 2pm, Beetle drive, Oban Congregational Church.
 4pm, Mull and Iona Rangers guided walk in Aros Park with music, Mull.
 7pm, Oban Pipe Band, Station Square, Oban.
 7.30pm, Ladies' badminton, Taynuilt Village Hall.
 7.45pm, Gaelic choir, Taynuilt Sports Field and Pavilion.
 8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
 8.30pm, The Hot Seats, An Tobar, Mull.

WEDNESDAY - July 24

WEDNESDAY - July 24
 Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 Family fun week, North Mull Parishes.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
 2.30pm, Craft for children, face painting and fun time, Oban Congregational Church.
 7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
 7.30pm, Ceilidh, Tobermory Church Hall, Mull.
 9.30pm, Quiz night, The Gallery of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.
 10pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - July 25

Exhibition of 'brain paintings' by Heide Pfuetzner, Easdale Island Community Hall.
 Family fun week, North Mull Parishes.
 9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Crean walk, meet Ballachulish tourist centre or Oban's Longdale Road car park.
 10am, In the footsteps of Columba art exhibition, Campbeltown Library.
 11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
 11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
 12pm, Mull and Iona Rangers guided walk at St Martin's Caves, Iona.
 12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
 1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure.
 1.30pm, Metal embossing, Kilmartin Museum.
 2.30pm, Strawberry tea (Mull Lions), Tobermory Golf Course, Mull.
 7pm, Clay pigeon shooting, Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connel.
 7.30pm, Bingo, Oban Congregational Church.
 7.30pm, MICT broadband meeting, Craignure Village Hall, Mull.
 8pm, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
 8pm, Sleepless 'til Seattle, Mull Theatre, Drumfin, Tobermory.
 9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
 9pm, Quiz, Coasters, Oban.
 11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish, Oban.

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

Young musician step out on Argyll Ceilidh trail

EIGHT of Argyll's most talented young musicians will play 12 gigs over 16 days as the Argyll Ceilidh Trail begins this month. The Feis Latharna Argyll Ceilidh Trail initiative gives promising musicians the chance to learn from experienced professionals in touring, recording, sound equipment and musicianship.

With five of last year's ceilidh trailers returning to the fold, only three places were up for grabs this year and, following an audition process, multi-instrumentalists James MacPherson and Rebekah MacPherson, both Oban, and Tarbert's Niamh MacAveney were selected.

They join T'ree's Jamie MacDonald and Anna MacDonald; clarsach player Becky Hill, from Connel; piper David Provan, from Ardrishaig; and Strachur's Alex MacKechnie, accordion and fiddle.

The tour kicks off at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls next Wednesday at 7.30pm, before moving on to Dalmlally Community Centre the following evening, where the Argyll trailers join up with Stirlingshire's Feis Fhoirt.

Further gigs and ceilidhs will be held in Tobermory's An Tobar, Iona village Hall, Lismore Hall, Strachur Memorial Hall, Appin's Creagan Inn, Tarbert Village Hall, Kilmartin's Living Stones, Craignish Parish Church, Ardkinglas Estate and Colonsay Village Hall.

For details on dates, venues and times see www.feisean.org/ceilidh

Chasing Owls to play Oban for Vision Action

AN OPTICIAN will focus on a spectacle of a different kind as he hosts a music night in Oban.

Indie-folk group Chasing Owls, fronted by Oban-based Ben Sunderland, will join singer Jethro Kinavuidi at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls event on July 27.

Hosted by Oban Specsavers store director Ken Macdonald, the event aims to raise funds for Vision Action, a charity giving people in developing countries vision-screening training.

'This is a cause which is really close to my heart,' said Mr Macdonald, chairman and founder of the charity.

'We're welcoming people in the town to come along to our music night and help us make a difference where it counts.'

Edinburgh Argyll welcome American to ceilidh date

AN AMERICAN singer will perform at an Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh this Saturday.

Ellen Beard, who sings with Edinburgh Gaelic Choir, will appear alongside Scots singer Alan Cram, Mod silver pendant winner Linn Phipps and others at St John's Church Hall, Edinburgh.

Gaelic bookshop becomes tearoom for the day

A BOOKSHOP has raised more than £500 for charity by turning into a tea room for a day.

The Gaelic Bookshop, located in the Partick area of Glasgow, attracted more than 50 visitors to a 'Blooming Great Tea Party', raising £516 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Screen Machine hops over to isles of Eigg and Rum

THIS WEEK sees Screen Machine visit two new communities for the very first time, as part of its 15th anniversary celebrations.

Today (Thursday) and Friday it will visit Eigg and Rum, each for one day. Screen Machine will then be in Mallaig on 20 and 21 July, Kyleakin on 22 and 23 July and Dornie on 24 July.

Among the films on the repertoire this time round are the extraordinary new Superman film, Man of Steel, and the 'rousing tale of rock'n'roll rebellion' that is Good Vibrations.

Ron Inglis, Chief Executive of Regional Screen Scotland, which runs Screen Machine, said: 'In this special 15th anniversary year we are delighted to be bringing a touch of Hollywood to even more communities. This has been enabled by generous support from Creative Scotland as well as the Small Isles Community Council, Isle of Rum Community Association and Eigg Community Association.' www.screenmachine.co.uk or call 0871 902 5750



Iain MacFarlane and the Hendersons on stage at Friday's ceilidh mor. Picture - Bill Innes

South Uist Gaelic music summer school ends with sell-out ceilidh

Ceòlas attracts keen international audience

CEÒLAS, the six-day Gaelic music summer school on South Uist, ended in fine style with a ceilidh mor in Southend Hall at Daliburgh on Friday night.

Joint hosts Kathleen MacInnes and Sineag MacIntyre in full bardic form, singing the introductions, and people left in great spirits looking forward to

next year. The action-packed week was greatly enjoyed by everyone attending classes tutored by Ceòlas debutants Griogair Lawrie, Paul McCallum, Iain MacPherson, Angus Nicolson and Margaret MacLellan.

Allan Henderson, Gillebride MacMillan, Iain MacFarlane,

Dawn and Margie Beaton completed a three year cycle, while Rona Lightfoot was in attendance for the week taking on extra tasks but not running a full time class.

According to event co-ordinator Mary Scholler, Ceòlas now has a worldwide reach. She said: 'Ceòlas has created a

small international group who offer opportunities to tutors to visit and teach in their respective countries.'

'People came from all over the world - from Australia, Japan, USA, Ukraine, Romania, Switzerland and Germany, again mostly returning for another year at Ceòlas.'

She added: 'A week full of events brought the community out to share in the enjoyment and each event was a sell out.'

'From the ever-popular welcome ceilidh to the piping to the singing concert and local dances, there was something for everyone - Ceòlas Cèilidh Mòr was standing room only.'

Oban's Duck race raises £2,000 for local causes

THERE was no danger of any duck speed records being broken, but the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust Duck Race still helped raise £2,000 for local causes.

Crowds gathered in numbers at Oban's Black Lynn burn along Stevenson Street for the annual event, which saw rubber ducks spilled into the stream as part of the fun family fundraiser.

The money raised from the event was split evenly between two causes, the local branch of Cancer Research UK and the Dunollie Preservation Trust.

Oban High School piper Aron Hossain led a procession through the town centre ahead of the race on Saturday afternoon, with volunteers dressed in costume selling ducks to local youngsters.

Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, was on hand to

release the ducks - but the race didn't exactly get off to the quickest start with the bag of ducks needing a good shake before finally opening.

The recent good weather meant the water level in the Black Lynn was a little low and, despite the encouragement of the large crowd and volunteers in the stream, the spectators had to wait until 45 minutes before the first duck emerged as winner.

First prize went to Sarah MacPhail from Strontian, second went to Kate Shepton of Appin, Kevin McInnes and Paul Nicol from Oban, and third was Rhona MacLeod, Oban.

Event organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'Grateful thanks go to Marke Dans, Jackson Bros Master Butchers and Ark Hair Salon for selling ducks to our ever supportive community.'



And they're off - but it took several shakes of the crane to release the runners for this year's Annual Oban Duck Race. 07_129duck1

Fine blend of youth and experience plays at Taynuilt summer ceilidh

AT LAST week's summer ceilidh in Taynuilt, there was a good mixture of youth and experience amongst the artistes.

Oban High School Pipe Band member Jamie MacGregor started the proceedings with a rousing selection of pipe tunes.

Oban High School provided further excellent musical entertainment from a group containing James MacPherson (accordion), Duncan MacLean (guitar) and Kirsty Camp-

bell (flute). Young Connel musician Emma Hill gave a polished performance on the chanter while her sister Becky Hill played the clarsach to her usual high standard.

Accompanied by Becky, Taynuilt's Helen MacNeil also gave a fine performance on the clarsach - her first in front of an audience.

The Isla Sinclair Dancers appearing at the ceilidh were Mairi MacCorquodale, Ailie Munro

and Chelsea MacAuley who all gave first class Highland dancing performances. Well-known local piper Emma Law kindly accompanied the dancers.

Soloists for the evening were Elizabeth Little, Audrey Paterson and Duncan MacDonald, who provided an enjoyable and varied selection of songs in both Gaelic and English.

Fear an Taighe for the evening was Malcolm Black, who kept the ceilidh flowing smoothly.



Oban High School pupils James MacPherson, Duncan MacLean and Kirsty Campbell.



Low water levels made for slow running 07_129duck2



Cameron Gibson, left, Jasmine Boak and Travis Smith had the less than simple task of ushering the ducks downstream. 07_129duck3

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Sun spells success for Inveraray Games

SUNSHINE and success were celebrated by the end of the day at Inveraray Highland Games.

With a large crowd, an unprecedented number of competitors and plenty of fun for all the family, organisers had every right to celebrate.

Alasdair Chrystal, games convenor, was pleased with the event, held on Tuesday. He said: 'We think the Inveraray Highland Games are amongst the very best on the circuit. This year we had a huge entry. In solo piping we had more than 100 entrants with eight of the top pipers in Scotland taking part in the Piobaireachd. Even today we have had people phoning up wanting to take part.'

'A fair few people have been disappointed.' The numbers taking part in the Highland dancing competitions were also at a record level. The convenor said: 'With 40 people from Canada taking part it has boosted our numbers to more than 200 youngsters competing in the dancing competitions.'

'With the Homecoming next year we thought that entries from abroad might be low this year, but we were proved wrong.'

Two special presentations were made during the day.

The first was to veteran piping judge, Walter Cowan, who has been the pipe major since 1959. He was awarded Honorary Membership of the games.

Accepting the medal, he said: 'I've missed the games three times since 1959. Some might consider me a part-timer.'

The stalwart of the games said that it was a holiday in Dunoon

when he first got involved in the piping world. After a heavy night out he said he was cajoled into signing up for four years in the early 1950s.

Stephen King, of Inveraray, also received an award after winning the Seaton Challenge Bowl for more years than anyone else. Stephen has won the 16lb hammer competition so often that Inveraray Highland Games organisers decided to present the trophy to him permanently.

Stephen took the world record for the event with a throw of 153' 2". A record set in 1998, yet to be broken.

Stephen, now the joint vice convenor of the Inveraray Games, confirmed that he was in semi-retirement from competing, although would be at Tainuill Highland Games this Saturday.

It was an Englishman who won through on the World Caber Tossing Championships. Scott Ryder of Dartford showed steely determination to take the title. In the final round he competed against Bruce Robb who came second, with Neil Elliot of Helensburgh, third.

Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll said: 'We love the games, and Inveraray is spectacular.'

'The quality of the piping, sports, dancing - the World Caber Tossing Championships, the great food and stalls and all with the castle as a background.'

'Our next big event at the castle is the Best of the West festival.'

The Duchess said that she had bumped into the Red Hot Chili Pipers, who are headlining at the September event, and they were 'very excited'.



Inveraray Pipe Band ensured a very tuneful start, and end, to the day.



Piping judge Walter Cowan, who has been the pipe major since 1959, was awarded Honorary Membership of Inveraray Games. Accepting the medal, he said: 'I've missed three games since 1959, you know. Some might consider me a part timer.' Presenting the award were James Beaton, piping steward, left, and games convenor Alasdair Chrystal.



Argyll and Bute Councillor Donnie MacMillan presented the Jose MacMillan Quaiach to Gary Turner of Campbeltown. The award was given to the games in memory of the Lochgilphead councillor's son, for the best athlete in track and field events.



Canadian Casey is first time champion at Inveraray

A TEAM of 40 Canadian Highland dancers took part in the competitions at Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday. The overall overseas winner was a first time visitor to Scotland. Casey Kutzner, aged 13, from Alberta, won the VisitScotland Quaiach for the best aggregate dancer from overseas.

Casey, who is pictured above receiving the quaiach from VisitScotland's regional director David Adams McGilp, said: 'I've had a wonderful time in Scotland and I hope to come back again next year.'

Mr Adams McGilp added: 'It's hard to think of Scotland in

the summertime and not picture the Highland Games. All over the country, competitors and spectators enjoy the events and social whirl that only these occasions can deliver.

'Of course there is a huge international scene too, but there is something very special about the Highland Games right here in Scotland, and Inveraray provides a brilliant spectacle for locals and visitors from all over the world.'

Record numbers of competitors took part in piping and Highland dancing competitions with more than 400 individuals turning out on the day.



Neil Elliot from Helensburgh takes part in the 27lb stone. He went on to take part in the World Caber Tossing Competition and placed a very respectable third.



Above: Jamie McGrigor MSP is pictured enjoying Inveraray games with Argyll Estates factor Andrew Montgomery.



Left: Kilmore competitor David Clunie, aged 24, won the Duke of Argyll Cup, for the best aggregate score in track and field events. The consistently good competitor was presented the award by Her Grace Iona, Duchess of Argyll.



Islay competitors from the Ella Edgar Dance School were successful in the Highland Dancing competitions starting the day in pouring rain and ending it in bright sunshine.



Right: Feis Latharna tutor Donald MacPhee, from Alexandria, scored highly in the Piobaireachd, March, and Strathspey and Reel competitions.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Populaire Thurs 18th 14:00
Now You See Me Thurs 18th 17:45
This is the End Thurs 18th 20:30
Monsters University Fri 19th 17:00 2D, 20:00 3D
 Sat 20th 13:00 3D, 16:00 3D, 19:00 2D
 Sun 21st 13:00 2D, 16:00 3D, 19:00 2D
 Mon 22nd 17:00 2D, 20:00 3D
 Tues 23rd 17:00 3D, 20:00 2D
 Wed 24th 14:00 2D, 17:00 3D, 20:00 2D
 Thurs 25th 17:00 2D, 20:00 3D

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Populaire (12A) While attending a party at James Franco's house, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill and a list of a star-studded cast, including Rihanna, are faced with the quiet, drudgery-filled life of a housewife. But that's not the life Rose longs for. When she travels to Lisieux in Normandy, where charismatic insurance boss Louis Echard is advertising for a secretary, the ensuing interview however is a disaster. But Rose reveals a special gift - she can type at extraordinary speed. Unwittingly, the young woman awakens the dormant sports fan in Louis. If she wants the job she'll have to compete in a speed typing competition. Whatever sacrifices Rose must make to reach the top, Louis Horsemann, guided by Michael Coine they become big time stage illusionists who climax their sold out Las Vegas show with a bank apparently robbed. However, this mystery proves difficult to solve even with the insights of the professional illusion expert, Thaddeus Bradley (Morgan Freeman). What follows is a bizarre investigation where nothing is what it seems with illusions, dark secrets and hidden agendas glare as all involved are reminded of a great truth in this puzzle: the closer you look, the less you see.

This is the End (15) Mike Wozowski and James P. Sullivan are an inseparable pair, but that moment these two mismatched monsters met they couldn't stand each other. "Monsters University" Sulley overcame their differences and became the best of friends. In this fun loving sequel/prequel to "Monsters Inc." Mike and Sulley prove that first impressions are not always correct and that friendship can overcome even the deepest of rivalries.

Now You See Me (12A) Four magicians each answer a mysterious summons to an obscure address where secrets lie inside. A year later, they are the Four Horsemen, guided by Michael Coine they become big time stage illusionists who climax their sold out Las Vegas show with a bank apparently robbed. However, this mystery proves difficult to solve even with the insights of the professional illusion expert, Thaddeus Bradley (Morgan Freeman). What follows is a bizarre investigation where nothing is what it seems with illusions, dark secrets and hidden agendas glare as all involved are reminded of a great truth in this puzzle: the closer you look, the less you see.

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

Tainuill Hotel Old Coaching Inn

Tainuill Games Weekend
 Friday 19th - Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st
 Breakfast 8am-10am open to public
 Food being served all day 12pm-10pm
Guess how many sweets in the jar
 Chance to win bottle of Oban malt or Prosecco
 £1 a go. All proceedings go to Dans Big Run (Running for Yorkhill children's Foundation). Under 18's win Wonka Bar (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)
 Winner will be drawn Sunday night
Saturday 20th July
Live Music With Colin Ramage 9pm til late
 www.tainuill-hotel.co.uk
 Follow us on twitter @hoteltainuill
 Find us on facebook at Tainuill Hotel New
 To make a room or restaurant booking call 01866 822437

Sleepless 'til Seattle
 2 Scots... 2 bicycles... 4,000 miles across America
 Tickets: £9/£6 conc. T: 01631 567 333

Corran Halls, Oban
 Friday 26 July, 7.30pm
 An illustrated adventure talk telling the story of an epic pedal. With film clips and photos of the people, landscapes, crashes, wild weather and bears!
 www.sleeplesstilseattle.com

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre and Café
 Invite you to our
Crofters' and Crafters' Community Day
 On Saturday 20th July from 11am till 11pm
 Celebrating the Lismore Peoples' Productivity & Creativity.
 Stalls, Demonstrations, Children's Activities, Horse & Carriage rides and much more.
 Evening activities - Country dance and BBQ.
 More information on lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org or isleoflismorecafe.com
 Reg. Charity SC0023503

An Comunn Gàidhealach
 CRUACHAN BRANCH
SUMMER CEILIDH
 Thursday 18th July 8pm
 Tainuill Village Hall
 Admission £4, Members & Children (5-16 yrs) £2

Argyll and Lochaber Ceilidh Trails
 Family Ceilidh and Dance
 Argyllshire Gathering Hall
 Wed 24th July 7.30pm
 £7 / £5 conc / £20 family (of 4) ticket
 Tickets at door or Sileas 07881656245

Argyll and Stirling Ceilidh Trails
 Family Ceilidh and Dance
 Dalmlally Community Hall
 Thu 25th July 7.30pm
 £7 / £5 conc / £20 family (of 4) ticket
 Tickets at door or Sileas 07881656245

CRAFT/TABLE TOP SALE
 Saturday 27th July 10am - 1pm in Oban Congregational Church Hall, Tweeddale Street. £5 per table
 To book a table please phone 01631 570261
 Tea and Coffee available.

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group
 Proudly presents
Stepping Into The Spotlight
 Featuring songs from; Broadway to the Big Screen
 Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th July 7.30pm Corran Halls
 Tickets from £5.50

EXHIBITION OF BRAINPAINTINGS BY HEIDE PFUETZNER
BRAIN ON FIRE
 Easdale Island Community Hall
 13.7.2013 - 25.7.2013
 Eilean Eisdale - Charity number: SC02710

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

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

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

Lorn Agricultural Show
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TRALEE, BENDERLOCH.

- Sheep and Cattle Classes
- New Poultry Classes • Dog Show
- Quad Pods - supplied by Tralee Segway Centre
- Bonnie Baby Competition
- Handicrafts and much more.

Livestock entries will be accepted up until Saturday 20th July 2013.
 Entries to Fiona Dickie, Secretary,
 Tel: 01631 770228 or email: musdale@btinternet.com

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Local Produce Recipe

Oysters Rockefeller

serves 2

Ingredients

- 6 fresh caledonian oysters in their shell
- 55g/2oz butter
- ½ small onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 55g/2oz spinach, chopped
- 55g/2oz fine breadcrumbs
- 55g/2oz grated isle of mull cheese



Preparation method

Preheat the grill to its highest setting.
 Open the oyster shells with a shucker. Discard the top and loosen each oyster from the base of its shell. Set aside and keep cool.
 Melt the butter in a small frying pan. Fry the onion and the parsley for 2-3 minutes, until softened.
 Add the spinach and cook until wilted.
 Add the breadcrumbs and cook for 1-2 minutes.
 Place a teaspoon of spinach and breadcrumb mixture onto each half oyster shell to cover the oyster and place a small lump of butter on top of each. Sprinkle on some grated cheese.
 Place the oysters onto a baking tray and transfer to the grill to cook until golden-brown.

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JOLOMO

The Light of God's Island Part Two

Gigha Gallery

Open Daily until 3rd Aug
 smashingglass.com

Jolomo has a soft spot for Islands, and has returned to one of his favourites, Gigha. The beautiful white sandy bays and wildflower hedgerows are a real inspiration - vibrant colours and stunning views transposed to the walls of Gigha Gallery are wowing the visitors and drawing art lovers from near and far. The exhibition consists of 24 original paintings of Gigha, all recent work which has not been exhibited elsewhere. Gallery owner Henri Macaulay was pleased to host this second exhibition, after the success of the first one in 2011. "This year is special for John as he has his first major retrospective in Clydebank, looking back over 40 years of painting. Having brand new paintings, all of Gigha, is such a joy, I love coming to work in the morning and opening the Gallery to visitors. Many are seeing his originals for the first time, and quite a few already have red dots on them".

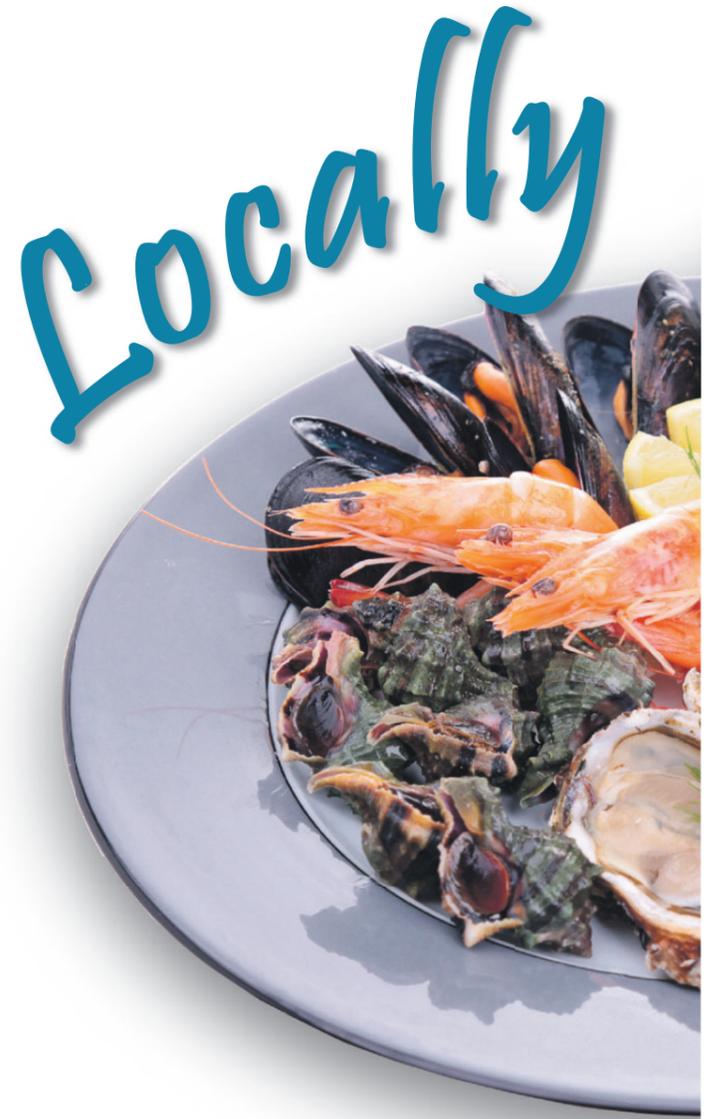
Henri opened the Gallery in 2006 and has hosted over 30 exhibitions since then. She produces her own range of jewellery in the Gallery using sea glass found on the shores - working through the winter to stock the craft shop for the summer visitors. Henri was "voted in" by the islanders who listened to her ideas for developing the local crafts and bringing quality exhibitions to the purpose built Gallery. Jolomo -The Light of God's Island Part Two will be open every day until the 3rd of August. The exhibition is also available to see on the website smashingglass.com and jolomo.com if you can't make it to Gigha, although that is highly recommended!



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Evening Film & fun : **Mongolian Felt culture** 7.30 pm
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Ceilidh concert: Gaelic Working and heritage songs 7.30 pm bar open Victory Hall, Benderloch
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Stonefield Farm, Tarbert, Argyll

Here at Stonefield we take our local produce very seriously and what we can source from the abundant larder of our shores and hills we do our best to make the most of. Our location, just outside the fishing village of Tarbert, between West Loch and East Loch Tarbert gives us the ideal situation to be a central point for local producers and craftsmen to use us as a 'shop window' for their produce.
Stonefield Farm produces farmed venison and with Kilberry and Coulaghailtro Farms producing lamb and beef, the Farm Shop can boast a great selection of meats available, and of course supplemented by other local producers such as Rionnagan Pork, Kilberry Road and Argyll Hill Lamb. Jams, Chutneys and other preserves are all made on site using the garden and hedgerow products from Stonefield, Elderflower cordial has been a great success this year. Home baking and cooking is again vital to the ethos at Stonefield, our coffee shop serves one of the best cakes and lunches to be found, again all made from local and Stonefield produce.



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Pottery and gifts in the Stonefield Farm Shop.

Business

Changes open door for fishing industry funding

CHANGES to European funding for fishing and fish farming will underpin the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, in particular dealing with the challenges of discards, maximum sustainable yield and providing investment in fragile coastal communities.

The Scottish Government will now seek to negotiate an increase in Scotland's share of the total UK-level pot from the current 40 per cent to a figure that reflects the fact that the greater share of both industries in the UK - 61 per cent of sea fisheries and 86 per cent of aquaculture sales by volume - are based in Scotland.

Scotland's Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse said it was an important first step towards securing a fair level of funding for Scotland's fishing and aquaculture sectors through the new European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

Shelter welcomes shared equity scheme funding increase

A HOUSING charity has welcomed the Scottish Government's decision to increase Open Market Shared Equity Scheme funding from £28 million to £90 million over two years.

Shelter Scotland director Graeme Brown said: 'We look forward to hearing how many new homes and how many extra households will benefit from these investments.'

MacLeod Construction lands £1.3m contract for Atlantic Islands Centre

Isle of Luing building project to start immediately

A NEW community hub on Luing is to be built by Lochgilhead-based firm, MacLeod Construction Ltd. The Isle of Luing Community Trust has appointed the company to build the Atlantic Islands Centre at Cullipool, with work set to start immediately.

Community regeneration
Part of a £1.3million project to promote community regeneration on the island, the building will provide a community hub and learning centre, as well as an exciting new visitor destination to showcase the rich cultural and natural heritage of Luing and the other Argyll islands.

The building should be complete

by Easter next year. Speaking about the start of work on site, community trust chairman John Robertson said: 'This is a very exciting time for Luing. It has been a challenging process to raise the necessary funds for the Atlantic Islands Centre and obtain all the required approvals, but seeing the contractors move on to site makes it real for everyone.'

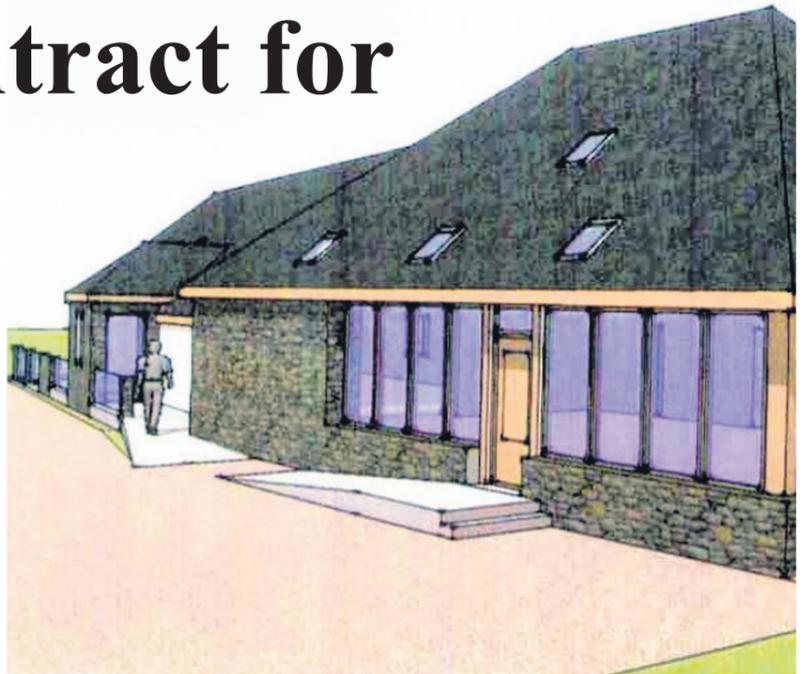
'We are looking forward to the many benefits that the building will bring to the community as a whole.'

Designed by award-winning Argyll architect Shauna Cameron, the Atlantic Islands Centre reflects the character of former buildings

associated with the famous slate quarries on the island. The facilities will include a museum, gallery, a café restaurant, workspaces, an arts and heritage exhibition and events space, and a visitor reception with information point.

It will also support lots of heritage and educational activities as well as creating jobs and business opportunities for island residents.

The project is being jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



Isle of Mull young mother of three is nominated for national business award

'The company was launched as a way to spend more time with my children'

A YOUNG mum who hails from the Isle of Mull has been nominated for two Mumpreneur Awards after combining business with parenting.

Inspirational
Lucy Haughey, who now lives in Glasgow and has three boys, aged nine, seven and two, runs the Plan B Partnership, a unique financial advice and financial inclusion social enterprise.

She has been nominated for a best supporting business category as a result, as well as the inspirational

business mum award in the Mumpreneur Awards.

Lucy, who said she's delighted at the nominations, said: 'The company was launched in 2010 as a way to spend more time with my children, plus survive the economic crisis which had, only weeks before, led to my redundancy from 10 years working in the charity sector.'

Lucy's enterprise has been trading for three years and has provided advice, support and services to staff and clients of organisations such as

Remploy Glasgow, The Well Multi-Cultural Advice Centre, Argyll and Bute Voluntary Action, Fife Housing Association and Maggie's Cancer Centre, to name a few.

As if not challenging enough, she started setting up the business when she was expecting her youngest son, Rufus.

'I think this helped me find deep set motivation, as the start-up process was far harder than I initially expected,' she said.

The Mumpreneur Awards 2013

are the UK's first national business awards dedicated solely to mums in business.

Now in its fifth year, the competition has been a platform for many mum entrepreneurs to enhance their business and continue to grow even through an uncertain economic climate.

Lucy now has to wait until August, when she will find out whether she has made the finals, which will be taking place on September 28, at The Holiday Inn, Birmingham.



Lucy Haughey, who has been nominated for two 'Mumpreneur Awards' after setting up her business, The Plan B Partnership.



Scottish golf pro Kylie Walker toasts The Highland Laddie.

RECRUITMENT



Assistant Management Accountant

Marine Harvest (Scotland) is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

We have an opportunity for an Assistant Management Accountant, and would be supportive if they wish to study for ACCA, CIMA or similar qualification. The role will be based in Fort William and the successful candidate will assist with all aspects of the management accounts preparation.

The main tasks will involve supporting the Management Accountants with the preparation of monthly reporting packages, including the analysis of financial information and agreeing focused actions to enhance financial controls. Typically this would include budget preparation, variance analysis, capex review and forecasting.

Excellent communication skills and a high level of IT literacy are essential, along with a flexible approach to work.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with a leading organisation and include a generous bonus and relocation package.

If you would like to be considered for this post, please apply in writing to, Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 26th July.



Croft House Grant and Loan Collection Officer

Tiree
£15,792 - £18,132

We are currently seeking applications for Croft House Grant and Loan Collection Officers in the Rural Payments and Inspections Division office based in Tiree.

For further details and to apply online, visit our website at <http://www.work-for-scotland.org> Applications must be submitted online via our website by the Friday 28 July 2013 at Midnight.

If you experience any difficulties accessing the Work for Scotland website, please contact the Resourcing Team on 0131 244 4682 or email centralesourcingunit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce, which reflects the people of Scotland.

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

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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Please email your CVs to sales.oban@cef.co.uk Unit 7, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HQ
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Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr Lismore Gaelic Heritage

is looking for an enthusiastic and highly motivated person/couple to take over the tenancy of its modern and excellently equipped café.

Tenancy to start 1st January 2014

Closing date for applications will be 14th August 2013. Interviews will be held during the first week of September 2013.

For further information please see our web site at

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Or

Tel: 01631 760030 (Café 01631 760020)

or Email lismoremuseum@btconnect.com



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Team Development Coordinator Oban

Temporary 6 Months- 16hrs p/w £7,625 p/a.

Ref: G4185

Full clean driving licence essential with access to a vehicle.

We are looking for a team development coordinator to develop our services in the Island communities within Argyll and Bute. You will have strong communications skills and be able to liaise with the commissioning authority, social services and health authorities. The position will be reviewed within six months with clear target setting in regards to progressing the project. An SVQ III in health and social care is desirable.

Closing date 31 July 2013 All post are subject to a PVG and enhanced disclosure

Please Email Emma_Kendal@reallifeoptions.org For an application pack Or telephone 0141-7783949

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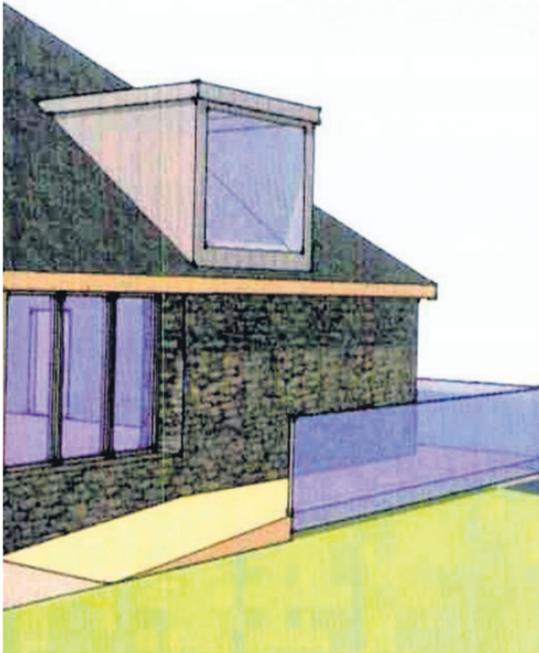
Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021

Islanders move forward towards Mull land deal

Tiroran Forest could come into community ownership



ROSS of Mull and Iona Development Group (ROMID) has applied to purchase land at Glen Seilisdeir Forest, Tiroran, Isle of Mull.

The Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme gives communities the opportunity to bid to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that it provides increased public benefits.

Assets
ROMID has applied to the scheme as it aims to secure regeneration in its area and strengthen its assets for the good of the community by buying the 758 hectare forest.

In its application, the group said: 'We provide support for a community development worker and secure the voluntary services of those with an appropriate project development and business background to drive forward the projects we believe will

regenerate our community.

'Among those assets are our forests and we wish to support their development for the good of the community.

'Our assets are magnificent but are under-utilised and are not developed to create added value which will sustain more jobs.

'We aim to use our natural assets better to support the existing economy and develop new ways of working.

'By bringing the Tiroran Forest into community ownership we will create a new amenity for the community to enjoy a key natural asset and for our children to broaden their horizons.'

Included in the plan is a felling, harvesting and planting regime to build a financially viable enterprise, while long term the group hopes to look towards spin-off enterprises in

tourism or renewable energy. The training of young people would be 'key' to any plans.

A ballot of south Mull residents showed 90 per cent were in favour of the scheme.

A 28-day open consultation period is required by the scheme and public comments on any aspect of the proposal have been invited.

Details of the application can be viewed on line at forestry.gov.uk/nfs and all comments on the proposals detailed in the application must be submitted by August 8, 2013.

Responses and comments should be addressed to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands', Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB.

Alternatively, email malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Famous travel guide heralds Mull as 'amazing'

MULL has been described as one of Europe's most 'amazing experiences' by the world's most famous travel guide.

Lonely Planet has listed 'going wild on Mull' in its Europe - 40 Amazing Experiences e-book, which has been made available for free as part of the organisation's 40th anniversary.

Wildlife
The invitation to 'Go wild on Mull' features alongside activities such as seeing the Colosseum in Rome, hiking the Mani peninsula in Greece or chilling out in a beach bar in Barcelona.

It describes Mull as offering 'varied landscapes and habitats, from high mountain and wild moorland to wave-lashed sea cliffs, sandy beaches and seaweed-fringed skerries'.

It adds: 'If that wasn't enough to make you book the next boat over there, the waters around the island also offer the chance to spot some of Scotland's rarest and most dramatic wildlife, including eagles, otters, dolphins and even whales.'

David Adams-McGill, regional

director at VisitScotland, said: 'The team at Lonely Planet are renowned for offering valuable insights into some of the world's most extraordinary places and I am delighted to see Mull featured on their new list.'

'An encounter with the stunning wildlife on Mull - as highlighted in this new guide - is an experience that is definitely not to be missed, particularly in the Year of Natural Scotland, and featuring in this guide will help to boost the region's profile among international travellers.'

Mike Story, chief executive of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said: 'For the entire Island of Mull to be rated in Lonely Planet's European top 40 is a superb accolade, although not entirely surprising for those of us who know and love the place.'

'Lonely Planet is an internationally respected organisation and is read worldwide, so this listing will provide Mull and Iona with some fantastic and well deserved publicity.'

The Lonely Planet guide can be downloaded from lonelyplanet.com/campaigns/europe-experiences.

Tiree fitness camp offers dates in Balearic Islands

FROM the wind and waves of the Hebrides to the heat and calm in Mallorca, Tiree Fitness is already proving island fitness camps are among the best ways to get in shape.

Will Wright, owner of Tiree Fitness, has been helping islanders get fit for seven years, having established his business in 2006 after moving to the Land Beneath the Waves a decade ago.

Last year he started offering dedicated fitness camps and demand has been such that he's expanded his remit to include trips to Mallorca during the shoulder months to help people get fit in the Spanish island's warmer climes - a move which recently proved popular.

The camps are earning Tiree a reputation as a fitness haven, with people of all ages, abilities and fitness coming to the island to benefit from Will's tuition.

The experienced tri-athlete said: 'Having now delivered the first

fitness training camps we're hugely encouraged that there's potential here. It pulls together 10 years of living and training on Tiree, the experience gained from setting up my own fitness training business and the experience from racing at pro level at ironman triathlon.'

'Tiree as a location is unique in itself, we can offer something that is very different to a typical training camp and it is that difference that makes it so special.'

'In addition to this we've got some great instructors, we provide fantastic accommodation, all meals, support, massage, bikes, training equipment, we even provide evening entertainment.'

'It's a package that works, everyone that came on the previous camp went away fired up and enthused in their new found fitness. We've already got bookings for Mallorca this October and Tiree in March 2014 - it's an exciting time!'



Left - Will, extreme right, with his first fitness camp expedition to Mallorca from the Isle of Tiree.

Highland Laddie sails onto Loch Lomondside golf course

Buried time capsule includes golfing memorabilia

GOLFERS at The Carrick golf course may be calling 'ship ahoy' instead of 'fore' as a former riverboat makes its way from the waterways to the Argyll fairway.

New venture
The *Highland Laddie* has been dug into the Loch Lomond-side golf course at Cameron House, designed to be the perfect pit stop between the ninth and tenth holes.

Opened by Scottish golf pro Kylie Walker, the new venture will serve refreshments including a selection of Killie pies and it's hoped it will be a welcome addition for hungry

golfers keen to boost their energy levels ahead of the second half of their round.

In celebration of the new half-way house, a time capsule has been buried under the boat including golfing memorabilia from The Carrick.

Ross Whitfield, director of golf at the course, said: 'It's been a great pleasure to have Kylie Walker launching the *Highland Laddie*.'

'The nautical half way house will provide an ideal haven for golfers looking for a mid-course refreshment and bite to eat to sustain them on their way through the rest of the round.'

The Scottish Salmon Company

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. Due to our expanding programme we are currently recruiting for Marine Operative's for several sea-site's located within our South Production Region in Argyll:

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MARINE OPERATIVE (1 Post) – Ref: Gigha MO1/07/13

MARINE OPERATIVE (1 Post) – Ref: Arran MO1/07/13

MARINE OPERATIVE (1 Post) – Ref: Meall Mhor MO1/07/13

MARINE OPERATIVE (2 Posts) – Ref: Toward MO2/07/13
(Salary grading range – depending on experience – (£16,284 - £19,961))

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

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.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Angela Gibson HR Officer,
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

Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES ASSISTANT (INCOME)

EVH GRADE 6 (SP 17-20) [£25,042 – £27,376]

West Highland Housing Association is a charitable housing association based in Oban. It currently has a stock of 750 units across the Oban, Lorn and Inner Hebridean Isles area. The organisation has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality affordable and innovative housing in the area.

A vacancy has arisen for a Housing and Customer Services Assistant (Income) to work as part of our Housing and Customer Service Team based in our office in Oban.

We require a candidate with a proven background of relevant skills, experience and IT competence. A key part of the job is to work flexibly as part of a small office team.

The Housing and Customer Services Assistant will provide high quality housing management services to our existing tenants and to applicants on the HomeArgyll waiting list. The Association requires a candidate with experience in housing management and in particular income collection and arrears management. The candidate requires to have a detailed working knowledge of the Housing Benefit System and the Welfare Reform measures currently being implemented.

Access to a car and possession of a full current driving licence are essential as is the ability to stay away overnight occasionally.

An enhanced disclosure check will be carried out for the successful candidate.

The post will be based at the Association's office in Crannog Lane and Office hours are 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 4pm Friday.

Application packs can be e-mailed by contacting mail@westhighlandha.co.uk

Applications should be returned by Friday 2nd August 2013. Interviews will likely be held week commencing 12th August 2013.

Should you wish further information regarding the post please contact Graeme Bruce, Operations Manager.

West Highland Housing Association is a Registered Social Landlord and a Scottish Charity [SC017357]
West Highland Housing Association aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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BritishRedCross

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This role will support the Team Leader to ensure the delivery of high quality of service to service users and in the absence of the Team Leader will maintain the running and continuity of the service. Duties will include providing direct care and support to service users and mentoring and supporting staff members during their probationary period and on-going development of their practice.

In order to be successful in your application you must be able to demonstrate experience of working with people who have personal care and support needs using a person centred approach. You will hold an SVQ Level 3 in care. Furthermore you will have experience preparing written records and reports as well as support planning and key working along with the ability to demonstrate an understanding of National Care Standards and SSSC Codes of conduct. An excellent communicator who can delegate and manage workload to agreed timescales will succeed in this role.

Candidates must hold a full UK Driving Licence and have access to a vehicle. Mileage for business use will be paid at the organisational rate.

For further information and to apply online, please click visit our website www.redcross.org.uk/About-Us/Jobs or email optionsadmin@redcross.org.uk for an electronic application pack, quoting reference Oban/SP. Please note CV's are not accepted.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Monday 29 July 2013**

As the post holder will be carrying out regulated work with children and protected adults they will be required to become a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme as established by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.

We are committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of background, culture and experience.
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West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

Former Loch Fyne doctor's surgery goes on the market

SIGNIFICANT interest is anticipated in a grand former doctor's surgery on the shores of Loch Fyne after the two and a half storey villa went on the market.

Cumlodden House, which opened its doors as a GP surgery in 1936, offers panoramic views across the loch and the surrounding countryside.

Closed as a surgery in 1983, the building on the south west fringe of Furnace has been used as a residence since.

Selling Agents Bell Ingram is seeking offers over £415,000 for the property.

Steven Hornby at Bell Ingram's Oban office, said: 'Cumlodden House is definitely a unique property with an interesting history, having been used as a surgery for nearly 50 years.'

'Aside from this it is a home which boasts really strong selling points, from its elegant spacious interior to its well placed location and absolutely stunning countryside surroundings, perfect for those who crave being in the outdoors.'

As well as housing six bedrooms, a dining room, lounge, sunroom and a kitchen-diner, the property also boasts a gym, workshop and the external garden area includes an excellent sun trap and barbecue area.



Cumlodden House on Loch Fyne has gone on the market.



Scottish farmed salmon has proved appealing to the Chinese market with sales of £9million in the first year alone.

Marine Harvest celebrates as company achieves £25million salmon sales to China

MARINE Harvest Scotland is celebrating after reaching sales of £25million to China after just two years in the marketplace.

The news comes as the company takes part in the prestigious Coronation Festival in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, organised by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association to mark the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.

Direct sales to China opened up for the first time at the start of 2011 after an agreement was signed between

the Scottish and Chinese Governments.

Scottish farmed salmon has proved appealing to the Chinese market with sales of £9million in the first year alone.

But as Georgina Wright, head of sales for Marine Harvest Scotland explained, doing their homework in advance was a vital part of their success.

'Traditionally Chinese consumers have not placed a great deal of value on the origin of their fish and a Made in Scotland label was simply not

going to be enough,' she said. 'We had to find another way of attracting them to our product as we knew once they had experienced it they would return and appreciate the consistent high quality of the product.'

The solution was to develop a brand appropriate for the Chinese market. Market research showed consumers associated the words good, beauty and dignity with salmon. These have been combined into a recognisable Chinese character which is pronounced in the same way as 'delicious' and holds connotations of

freshness, health and beauty.

The new branding is used consistently across all marketing and communications and has proved enormously successfully according to Georgina.

She said: 'We are delighted with the response to our brand and the inroads we have made into this new market. To have reached the £25million milestone in such a short period is an outstanding achievement for our sales team and with a population of 1.35billion we still have opportunity for growth.'

Marine Harvest Scotland currently export 40 per cent of its total annual tonnage and this figure is likely to rise with the increasing Chinese market.

The company aims to increase production to 60,000 tonnes and has recently opened a number of new farms in the Minch with more in the planning process. A new salmon smolt hatchery at Lochailort near Fort William will grow 11 million smolt, fry and parr to supply four freshwater loch and 36 seawater loch salmon farms.

New Mull ice cream business strikes it hot

Entrepreneur keen to develop brand

TOBERMORY has gone ice-cream crazy after Isle of Mull Ice Cream timed the first day of business with a summer heatwave.

Entrepreneur Kyle Morris converted the former public toilets into a parlour serving the delicious treat, making the ice cream using local dairy produce from Sgriob-ruadh Farm, the producers of Isle of Mull Cheese, to produce a luxury product with provenance.

Kyle's dedication to opening the business and crafting his own flavours has already won the business its followers.

Kyle said: 'I've worked very hard to get the business to where it is now at.'

'I hope locals and tourists will support a new endeavour that will, hopefully, strengthen the successful Isle of Mull brand that has been established over the years.'

Kyle says flavourings and other ingredients will be sourced, where possible, from local producers. Sorbets and low-fat frozen yoghurts will also be available to purchase on the premises.

The building has lain empty for a number of years and fell into disrepair before Kyle took over. Now, the roof has been replaced with slates and the refurbished interior has taken on the look of a modern, spacious manufacturing centre and ice cream parlour.

Inside has been completely demolished and a large, beautiful picture window overlooking the bay has been installed.

It is now fully equipped with state of the art Italian ice cream manufacturing equipment.

Kyle added: 'There's a strong entrepreneurial spirit on the island and hopefully this new endeavour will only encourage others to pursue their ambitions.'

She hopes to develop her brand of ice cream in the future by offering trade to hotels, restaurants and other retail outlets across the island and beyond.

RECRUITMENT

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Key responsibilities include:

- Excellent customer service, stock replenishment and merchandising and cleaning duties

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(Oban)

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Key responsibilities include:

- Accurate and efficient till operation
- Stock management and merchandising • Cleaning duties

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*12 week training period.

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ESTATE MAINTENANCE WORKER

An opportunity has arisen for a self motivated and enthusiastic individual to join a four person team on a sporting estate.

Housing is available with the position.

Applications with a covering letter, full CV and references to Mr David Gillies Estate Manager Dunlossit Estate Office Ballygrant Isle of Islay PA45 7QL

Or by email to davidgillies@dunlossitestate.co.uk

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Oban 35 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 2nd August 2013

Interviews for these posts will be held during August 2013

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

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: Tel 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk



Electrical Supervisor

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Argyll & Bute wide 37.5 hrs per week

Approved Electrician

Salary £23,812 - £28,145 per annum

Bute & Cowal area 37.5 hours per week

These posts will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 2nd August 2013

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

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: Tel 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

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This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.

We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Ann or Fiona on 01631 567491 or manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 check



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The Riders of the Storm will bring their spectacular horse show to Tیره Agricultural Show on Friday.

Stunt riders to be star attraction at Tیره Show

Young farmers lead judging

A STUNT horse-riding team will bring a daring and thrilling showcase of equestrian skill at this year's Tیره Agricultural Show.

Riders of the Storm, which has eight members and seven horses, are renowned for their spectacular and fearless routines - doing gymnastics on horseback.

The Perthshire-based group, which has previously appeared in the BBC Scotland series Landward, will perform twice at tomorrow's show (Friday) on the island and meet attendees afterwards to talk about their courageous efforts.

Judges this year include members of the Young Farmers Club, while cattle judge, Jean MacKay, Barrhead, was named the Scottish YFC Member of the Year in 2011 and is a keen competitor with show cattle.

Meanwhile NSA Scotland's Young Shepherd of the Year 2012 and runner-up in the national finals, Kenneth O'Conner will judge the pure-bred sheep. Originally from Skye, Kenneth is a member of Biggar YFC. Scott Rorison, a key prime lamb competitor from Ayr YFC, and he will judge in the cross-bred sheep ring.

Argyll judge, Sheila MacCallum, Kilmartin, will place the increasing number of horses and ponies on the island, with Kirsty McWilliam, Ballinluig, judging the Clydesdales.

Poultry is set to appear the show for the first time in many years and a strong number of entries have been submitted to herald their return.

Other attractions include Tیره Young Farmers Club's Milk Challenge, the popular pet show, crafts, funfair, tractors and vintage machinery and Home Industries marquee.

Willie Bradley and his band will provide music for the legendary Tیره Show Dance in An Talla to end the day.

Breeding cattle sell to £2,500 at UA Stirling

UNITED Auctions held a special July sale of 318 breeding cattle at Stirling last Wednesday.

Saler cross cows with Charolais cross bull calves at foot from Little Lour sold to £2500, £2000, and £1950, while the same home sold Saler cross cows with Charolais cross heifer calves at foot to £1950, £1900 and £1800.

Preston Hall sold Simmental cross Luing cows with Stabiliser cross bull calves at foot to £1900 and £1800, while Wedderlie sold Aberdeen Angus cows with Aberdeen Angus heifer calves at foot to £1850 and £1800.

Limousin cross heifers with Limousin cross bull calves at foot from Corscaplie sold to £1950.

Simmental cross in-calf heifers from Coshieville sold to £1700 with Wedderlie selling Aberdeen Angus crosses to £1320 and £1250.

Simmental cross in-calf cows from Forteviot sold to £1850, £1750 and £1600, with Short-horn crosses from the same home fetching £1600, £1450, and £1350.

Bulls sold to £4150 for a Charolais from Little Lour with Prestonhall selling a Stabiliser to £2650, Dargill selling a Simmental to £2150 and Prestonhall selling an Aberdeen Angus to £2000.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
MARINE FARM AT ISLE OF MUCK, SOUND OF EIGG
Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installation of a finfish farm at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Isle of Muck, Sound of Eigg	56° 50.795' N	06° 12.717' W
	56° 50.471' N	06° 12.461' W
	56° 50.399' N	06° 12.764' W
	56° 50.733' N	06° 13.015' W

(WGS84)
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Post Office, Mallaig, Inverness-shire, PH41 4PU (9.00-17.30 Monday to Saturday, 9.00-13.00 Sunday). These documents will be available to view from the 19th July until the 18th August.
Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: FKB/M95
Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Farms Office, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochyside, Fort William

Proposed Assignment of a Croft
Ian Kennedy, Senior, is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Catchean, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull to Robert Alan of Catchean, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.
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.

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft
Mrs Mary Mackay is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Catchean, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull to Robert Alan of Catchean, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.
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.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
MARINE FARM AT ISLE OF MUCK, SOUND OF EIGG
Notice is hereby given that Mr D Sturrock has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installation of a private mooring at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Sailean Ruadh, Loch Etive	56° 27.146' N	05° 16.224' W

(WGS84)
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Connel Post Office, Main Street, Connel PA37 1PA
Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 04888 Mr D Sturrock

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To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected 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 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.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01345/PP	Erection of workshop	Red Lodge Barcalindie Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Leidaig
13/01379/MFF	Formation of fin fish (Rainbow Trout) farm comprising 10 No. 80m circumference cages plus installation of feed barge	Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) Loch Etive Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/01398/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage	Land South East of Old Schoolhouse Cladich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalnally
13/01418/PP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses and installation of septic tank	Land North East of Gallanachbeg Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4JL	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
13/00711/JLB	Formation of new door in warehouse 5 and internal alterations to form viewing area.	Oban Distillery 45 Stafford Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NH	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishraig PA30 8JX, 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 (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01393/PP	Erection of conservatory	The Old Bakery The Square Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JP	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay
13/01468/PP	Erection of 1 Bonded warehouse and 1 Blending warehouse.	Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18
Planning Application Reference Number: 13/01379/MFF
Proposed development at Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) Loch Etive Argyll and Bute
Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Dawnfresh Farming Limited relating to the planning application in respect of formation of fin fish (Rainbow Trout) farm comprising 10 No. 80m circumference cages plus installation of feed barge, notified to Argyll and Bute Council.
A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY; and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the 'Online planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.
Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from GVA Grimley, 206 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SG at a cost of £5.00 (CD) or £250.00 (paper including pdf).
Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R. Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY
Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (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
13/02462/FUL	Land 55m South East of Yallingup, Duror, Appin	Proposed dwelling house (previous permission 09/00072/FULLO)
13/02481/FUL	90m East of Eastermost Shielfoot, Acharacle	Erection of house
13/02502/FUL	Land to West of Kilchoan House Hotel, Pier Road Kilchoan	Erection of 2 semi-detached houses

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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DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2012 TO 31 MARCH 2013 PRE-AUDIT INSPECTION
Notice is hereby given, under Regulation 5(1) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations, that:
• Copies of the unaudited accounts of DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD for the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, will be available for public inspection in the offices of the TREASURER, DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD, GARSHAKE ROAD, DUMBARTON and CLYDEBANK MUNICIPAL BANK, COUNCIL OFFICES, ROSEBERY PLACE, CLYDEBANK between the hours of 9.15 a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday from 29 July 2013 to 19 August 2013, both days inclusive;
• Any person interested may inspect a copy of the abstract of the accounts 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;
• Any interested person may object to the Accounts or part of those accounts, no later than 19 August 2013 by:
- Sending their objections in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the auditor, Elaine Boyd FCCA, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor, South Suite, The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT; and
- Sending their objections in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to The Controller of Audit, Audit Scotland, 110 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH; and
- Sending a copy of that objection and statement to me, the undersigned, and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned.
• 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 authority 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.
Stephen West CPFA, Treasurer, Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Valuation Joint Board, Garshake Road, DUMBARTON, G82 3PU

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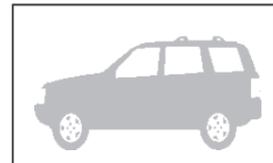
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DON'T BUY IT! HIRE IT!

Hiring is an aspect of life that has blossomed over the last thirty years to the point where it has become very big business indeed. Both in the domestic and commercial spheres, it has reached the point where it is no longer a 'last resort' or 'emergency' decision. Hiring these days is the automatic move taken whenever a special job needs doing, special equipment is required or temporary transport needed. In the complex world we live in it does in fact, make economic good sense.

All facets of human activity are catered for by hiring firms. Hiring can be done by the hour, the day, the week, month, year or indeed for much longer periods. Generally speaking it can be divided into domestic and commercial areas, though by its very nature it does allow either side to 'cross the line', which is an even greater advantage in many cases.

For the private, domestic client, High Street hiring shops can provide all the DIY requisites necessary to keep even the busiest amateur painter, decorator, carpenter, plumber, electrician or car mechanic, toolled up. There too can be found all the mechanised aids that render gardening less of a backbreaking job.

In all these activities, the hiring of equipment and tools can mean a job becomes an economically viable activity. It means the average, hard-pressed householder can afford to improve his home or garden without having to buy expensive tools and equipment which may only ever be used once or twice. Jobs can be safely executed simply because hired tools and equipment are in first class order, well maintained and safe.

Not that DIY is the only area where hiring is useful. Car hire can become necessary if the family car is off the road or a journey is contemplated that it patently cannot cope with. Car hire is also useful at holiday times, as are tent and caravan hire, trailer hire, and perhaps the hire of a boat.

If the holiday includes some special sport or pastime, the hiring of appropriate equipment and clothing can also be a boon. Who after all can afford the price of a pair of skis that will only be used once a year, if that? Then there are the other special outfits people require from time to time, morning suits and exclusively designed gowns for weddings, dinner suits and evening dresses for those special occasions, fancy dress for a fun party or amateur theatricals.

Of course the commercial hirer can find this way of acquiring highly specialised plant and equipment an extremely economical activity. Again for those on-off jobs, the odd unusual process, or video equipment for that annual conference, hiring can be the only sensible answer.

Hired equipment after all need only be accommodated whilst in use, so there are no complex storage problems to cope with. Hiring allows a firm to have the very latest equipment for the job at very minimal rates. It means valuable capital is not tied up in a rapidly depreciating asset.

Companies can hire equipment that will allow them to take on contracts without having to spend money on buying expensive apparatus. This allows the costing of any job to be an exact science because from the outset, the cost of doing the job will be known. This will allow that firm to build such savings into its quotation that it can be even more competitive than its rivals. Hiring also allows firms like civil engineers to take on jobs that require heavy, bulky pieces of plant and machinery, without having the problem of storage.

Then there is the matter of maintenance. All mechanical equipment deteriorates eventually. Regular servicing, periodic repairs and eventual replacement, must all come into the calculation if a company is considering its future. Special staff will have to be employed, a service contract taken

out or an outside contractor appointed to cover these activities. And even in the best of regulated companies, there will always come the time when some vital piece of equipment is unexpectedly out of order, not functioning. Hiring solves all such problems.

For the commercial sector, car hire on a short-term basis is invaluable to keep staff mobile when their regular transport is off the road. The modern office may need to hire replacement equipment from time to time. It may also need to hire catering equipment, heating equipment and furniture for temporary office use. If a conference is planned, special furniture and equipment could well be supplied by a hire firm. At exhibitions the stands, carpeting and other special effects are usually hired.

All of this just goes to show how deeply into our society the habit of hiring has gone. So important is it now, were it to stop tomorrow, a lot of homes would begin to deteriorate, many weddings would appear less smart, and a great many commercial concerns would simply cease to function. In fact, some would undoubtedly go out of business?



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BIRTHS

GRAHAM-PATERSON - Chris and Rachel are happy to announce the safe arrival of their first born Joshua James born June 17, 2013 at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Third grandchild for Dougie and Allison Graham and first grandchild for James and Catherine MacMillan, also very proud great-grandparents.

DEATHS

BEGLEY - Peacefully at home No.3 Ellenabeich, Easdale on July 15, 2013. Helen Mabel beloved wife of the late Douglas Begley and loving mother of Lynn and Ross and dear granny to Ailsa. Funeral will take place from Kilbrandon Parish Church on Monday July 22 at 1:00 pm thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery. FAMILY FLOWERS ONLY. Retiring Collection/Donations will be taken for OBAN HOSPICE.

CAMPBELL - Donald Campbell of 8 Casimir Place, Daliburgh, South Uist passed away peacefully on July 13, aged 73 years. A much loved husband, father and Papa.

FLEMING - At Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on July 15, 2013, in her 83rd year, Catherine (Rena), beloved wife of the late Jimmy Fleming, much loved mother to Alex, Jim, Richard (Ricky) and Robert, sister to Jane and Agnes, a dear mother-in-law, granny and great-granny. Rest in Peace.

SMITH - Peacefully at home in Dunollie on July 15, 2013 Agnes in her 79th Year, beloved wife of the late Billy and loving mother to Debbie, and the late William, much loved gran to David, Iain and Connor and mother-in-law to John. Funeral will take place in The Church of Scotland, Esplanade, Oban on Friday July 19, 2013 at 1:00pm thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiring collection/donations will be taken for Macmillan Cancer Care and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACKIVER - Shirley and family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their help and support during Donnie's illness. In particular, our thanks to hospital staff, district nurses and all care staff who made it possible for Donnie to remain at home during his final months. Our thanks to family, friends and neighbours, Rev David Carnuthers and to Roddy and Fiona for their empathetic arrangements. Finally, our thanks to all who have shown support by sending cards, flowers and attending the service at Ardishaig. The sum of £655 was raised for the Mid Argyll Hospital and Marie Curie.

SINCLAIR - Jan and family would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, baking and phone calls received following the recent sad passing of John. Grateful thanks to Dr R Helliwell and ambulance crew for their care and attention. Special thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for a most comforting and uplifting service; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their guidance and efficient services and to the Stag Hotel for excellent purvey. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects, especially those who travelled a distance. The generous amount of £1,025 has been raised so far and will be split between the Renal Unit, Western Infirmary; local ambulance service and the Mid Argyll Hospital.

MACKENZIE - Farlane, Calum, Scott and Alison would like to thank all those who attended and sympathised following mum's sudden death. Thanks also to Hamish Hoye and Sons, Lorn and Islands Hospital, and Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

MEMORIAL SERVICE DUNCAN - Amemorial service will be held to celebrate the life of Janet Duncan, Tironan, Kilmore, at Kilbrandon Parish Church, Isle of Seil on Friday, July 26 at 11:30am, thereafter please join the family at the Tigh an Truiseh for soup and sandwiches. Any donations to Cancer Research UK would be appreciated.

MEMORIALS LARKIN - Fond memories of Jean, a devoted wife, mother and nan, who died July 20, 1998. Forever in our thoughts. - Frank, Sheila, Flora and Karen. MACKORMICK - In loving memory of my dear husband James MacCormick, Killandrist, Lismore who died July 20, 2012. A dear dad and seannair. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary and family

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MACDOUGALL - In memory of Agnes (née MacFadyen) passed away July 10, 1983. Always in our thoughts.

MACPHERSON - Allan. Precious memories of a wonderful dad and gaga, who passed away July 20, 2012. Forever in our hearts. We were our world. Loved always. - Lynda, Mark, Sean and Morgan xxx.

McMILLAN - Treasured memories of my husband Neil who died on July 18, 1996. They say it's a beautiful journey From the old world to the new One day I'll take that journey Just to be with you. - Your loving wife Zena Port Ellen, Islay.

MORREN - In loving memory of a dear sister-in-law, Aunt Morag Morren who died July 19, 2005. Always remembered. - Ellen and family and Ron.

PROSSER - In loving memory of George our dear dad, grandad and great-grandad who died on July 13, 2002. Always in our thoughts And in our hearts Missed so very much Remembered with all our love - Betty and all the family

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father, Archie, who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and I always will - Ever loving son Archie.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION Sunday 21 July 2013 Trinity 8 St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion..... 08.00 Sung Eucharist..... 10.15 Children's Corner Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323 St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich Holy Eucharist..... 11.00 St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion..... 11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08.00 Evensong..... 20.15 Holy Eucharist..... Wed 24 July 14.30

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Five members of Lochaber High School's teaching staff at retired at the end of term - (left to right) Mrs Margaret Cassidy, support for learning; Mr Alan Thomson, art and design; Mrs Marie Cameron, support for learning; Mr Robin Watt, art and design and Mrs Alison Blair, biology.



The Air Training Corps (ATC) 1730 (Lochaber) Squadron recently held its awards night in Fort William. Pictured above, from left are award-winning Connor Lavery (Best Male Cadet), Flt Sgt. Kevin McColl (Best NCO), Alister Craig, (Best New Recruit), Aidan Barrie, (Best Overall Cadet), Franchesca Smith, (Best Turned Out Cadet), Lewis Wells, (Sports Award) and Best Female Cadet Morvern Harper.

Choristers across Scotland remember 'inspirational' conductor

THE FUNERAL of a popular Royal National Mod adjudicator and music teacher took place on Monday. Jean Graham MBE, who is from Alexandria, died peacefully at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on July 6 and a funeral service was held at Riverside Parish Church, Dumbarton. David Paterson, former president of Tainuith Gaelic Choir, who first knew Ms Graham as a music teacher when he was growing up in Alexandria, described her as 'an inspirational figure'.

He said: 'She was always willing to give advice to choristers and conductors. She thoroughly enjoyed the Mods and was a great friend to Tainuith Gaelic Choir and every-one involved with the Mod.' Well-known Ms Graham was conductor of the well-known ladies choir, the Dalvair Singers, who performed their final concert in March this year under the baton of Ms Graham. An accomplished soprano and one of the United Kingdom's foremost choir leaders and adjudicators, Ms Graham was raised in Balloch on Loch Lomondside. The only child of Andrew and Maisie Graham, was educated in Jamestown Primary School, Vale of Leven Academy and Jordanhill College of Education. By her early 30s she had been appointed LTCL (Licentiate of Trinity College, London), LRAM (Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music) and FTCL (Fellow of Trinity College, London) and was making her mark and teaching music in Dunbar-

Thought for the Week

Volunteers needed!

The Community Cafe in Bunnassan, on the Ross of Mull, is a 'pop-up' event each month. Offering nourishing homemade soup, toasties and diet-defying cakes, it brings the village hall alive. The pensioners come and the mothers and toddlers; it's a place where families get together, tourists drop in, building workers get a square meal and lonely folk find company. Local crafts are on sale, while profits from the food help keep our community transport running. And every time it happens, community is created round the tables and in the kitchen.

The secret is gifted cooks and a team of cheerful and hard-working volunteers. Just now, after a couple of years, a new team is being formed, with different ways of working being explored. This can take patience - but goodwill and grace are part of volunteering. Groups (including churches) are at their best when everyone (not just the ordained) volunteers time and talents - valuing what others can offer.

This month, many congregations will hear two Gospel stories. First, Jesus' parable about the Samaritan who stopped to help a victim of crime - a good neighbour, a classic volunteer.

Next Sunday, a story about Jesus and two sisters: one bustling in the kitchen, one sitting and listening with care. Martha, generous with her time, was impatient with Mary.

They (like us) found different ways of welcoming Jesus. As volunteers, we learn the value of action and reflection, of both giving and receiving.

Jan Sutch Pickard, a lay preacher in Mull, is member of the Iona Community

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Jean Graham MBE

GRADUATIONS

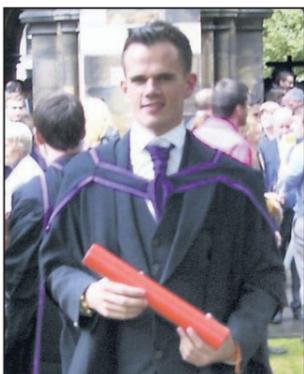


Fraser Boyd graduated with a BEd (Hons) in Physical Education from Edinburgh University. Fraser is the younger son of John and Mary Boyd, Edinburgh and grandson of the late Maggie and Baldy Livingstone, Port Ellen and Katie and the late Donald Boyd, Oban.

WEDDING



Congratulations to Donna MacDougall, Isle of Seil and Stuart Cluckie, Perth who were married in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on 25th May. The reception was held in Seil Island Community Hall. Photograph by Karen Macnab Photography



Adam Smith recently graduated with MA (Hons) in French and Gaelic from Glasgow University. Son of Monica and Stuart Smith, Isle of Tiree, grandson of the late Donald and Mary Davies, Tiree and the late John and Mary Smith, Glasgow.



Anna Ryan Kennedy received a Bachelor of Arts with Honours 2.1 in Contemporary Screen Acting at the UWS. Anna is the daughter of Colleen Kennedy, Tigh Darach, Lochelside and granddaughter of Hugh and Margaret Ryan, 2 Crown Cottages, Banavie and partner of Robert Huggett, Glasgow.

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Teenager is Supreme Champion

AN APPIN teenager was crowned Argyll Riding Club's Supreme Champion after riding to glory at Lochgilphead.

North Argyll Pony Club member Kathryn Henderson, aged 13, and her stunning black mare Burnbank Millennium, scooped Ridden Champion before going on to take the show's top spot.

Fiona Montgomery and her bay mare, Nanny's Gift (stable name Sydney), were crowned Argyll Riding Club's Confined Champion and Open Show Reserve Champion at the club's annual show.

To reach the top spot, Fiona, from Inveraray, won the Working Hunter Champion title, as well as Reserve Champion in the Ridden section.

Fellow riding club member Arlene Ross, riding her coloured gelding Milo, also picked up an armful of silverware.

The duo won Reserve Champion Coloured before going

HORSE RIDING

on to win Argyll Riding Club Confined Reserve Champion.

The annual show was held on Saturday June 29 at Riding School, Long Walk, Lochgilphead, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs John Brailsford and this year's event drew in a large volume of entries, well up on last year's figures.

Riders travelled from across Kintyre, Oban and Mid Argyll to take part and saw competitors take part in showing, working hunter, mountain and moorland, coloured, utility and showjumping classes.

Speaking after the event, Argyll Riding Club chairwoman Jenny Sutherland said: 'I'd like to thank each and every person who worked hard to make the day as enjoyable as it was, particularly our hosts, John and Mairead Brailsford.'



Supreme Open Show Champion, Oban's Kathryn Henderson, riding her black mare Burnbank Millennium.



Susie Wolff is out to prove she can make the grade as a Formula One driver.

Susie out to prove herself at Silverstone

RACING driver Susie Wolff says she is aiming to prove to the Williams team that she can cut it in Formula One at this week's Young Driver Test at Silverstone.

The Williams F1 Team confirmed on Monday that it would be running the Oban woman and rising star Daniel Juncadella at the Young Driver Test at Silverstone, which began yesterday (Wednesday) and finishes tomorrow (Friday).

Susie, who has been part of the Williams F1 Team since becoming development driver in April last year, will have one day driving the Williams Renault FW35.

Susie said: 'It's a fantastic opportunity for

me, so now it is up to me to prepare myself the best that I can for the day.'

'It's going to be a big challenge but the most important thing is to do a good, solid and consistent job and to give good feedback to the team to be able to prove I am at the level to compete on a day such as this.'

'Most of my work is based in the simulator, which is why this day is so important for me. It will give me a better understanding of what the car is like on track and how that correlates to the simulator, which will also help further develop the work I can do there.'

Mike Coughlan, Williams' technical

MOTOR RACING

director, said: 'It is great that we are able to give Susie the opportunity to have a full day behind the wheel of the FW35 following all the hard work and dedication she has put in both supporting us at the track in the simulator.'

The Young Driver Test is an attempt to allow teams to try out drivers, like Susie, who have not yet raced in F1, however this stipulation was waived following tyre problems at the British Grand Prix to allow Pirelli to try out its new tyre design.

Ladies' Day at Oban Bowling Club

THE LADIES' Day at Oban Bowling Club, sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms, took place on Oban Green on Saturday, attracting 21 triples.

Entries came from Milngavie, Linlithgow, Helensburgh, Old Kilpatrick, Garelochhead, Tarbert, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead and Oban.

The main competition final featured Oban against Ardrishaig, with the trio of Fiona MacLachlan, Alma McGuinness and Margaret MacKinnon having to settle for runners up against Oban's Anne MacDougall, Anne Stewart and Flo Smith.



The winning triple, from left: Anne Stewart, Anne MacDougall and Flo Smith.

Frustrating race for John in German Grand Prix

BIKE racer John McPhee was left with little to celebrate on his 19th birthday at the Moto3 German Grand Prix in Sachsenring after a second lap error cost him any chance of making it into the points.

The disconsolate Racing Steps-backed RTG rider, who started from 19th on the grid, finished 23rd at the end of a frustrating race embroiled in an eight-rider rear-end scrap.

The aim of making it into the top 15 was dashed when the Connell teenager out-braked himself in an effort to make up

MOTOR CYCLING

places lost at the start. The slip up left him over three seconds in arrears of the rest of the field from where he fought back to join in the relentless tail-end scrap.

'To say I'm disappointed is the understatement of the year,' said John. 'I was trying to make up lost ground and ended up out-braking myself and losing out in a big way.'

The next round of the championship takes place at Indianapolis on August 18.

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Dalmally Golf Club holds Ladies Open

VISITING players came from as far as Spean Bridge, Cardross, Islay and Dumbarton for this year's Dalmally Golf Club Ladies Open.

Despite the forecast for heavy rain, it was dry and bright all day for the competition on June 15. In the silver section Dumbarton's Josephine Monahan took first place, followed by Glencruitten's Wilma Frew and Dalmally club member Lily MacKay in third.

The bronze title went to Spean's Trish McIvor, ahead of two Dumbarton competitors.

Prizes were as follows: Best Inward 9 Silver - Liz MacLean, Dumbarton; Bronze - Ann Hay, Dalmally; Best Local Lady

- Caroline Manson; Nearest One Pin Silver - Margaret Hastie, Machrie, Islay; Bronze - Gina Coleman, Dumbarton; Twos - Ann Coleman, Dalmally.

As well as having a successful open at their own course, the Dalmally Ladies have had a successful season so far when visiting other clubs.

Jane Mapine, Sheila Tollan, Jane Sutherland, Edith Brown, plus Jack Tollan, won the Am Am at Dunaverty, beating 45 other teams.

May Etive Brown, partnered with Richard Bergans, won the handicap at Taynuilt Mixed Open. Janet Buchanan, partnered by Alan MacKie, came third.

Also in May, Ann Coleman

won the West of Scotland VEVS Bronze Scratch Competition at Renfrew and June Etive Brown was in the winning team at the Roxburgh Golf Club.

Ann Coleman and Ann Hay were fourth at Buchanan Castle Foursomes. June Ann McLaren won the Bronze section at the Taynuilt Ladies Open.

At the Dumbarton Golf Club 125th anniversary Invitation Texas Scramble, Colleen Brown was a member of the winning team, Ann Hay was in the runners-up team and June Sutherland was a member of the 125 aggregate team.

Finally, Anne Munro won the Seniors Competition at Taynuilt Golf Club.



Prizewinners from this season's Dalmally Ladies Open.

Ladies to play Kintyre courses

PLAYERS from the Dunbartonshire and Argyll Ladies County Golf Association are travelling to play at Dunaverty and Machrihanish on July 22 and 23 respectively.

At Dunaverty the team is playing an informal Four Ball Better Ball format and on Tuesday the Jubilee Cups will be contested.

Close to 100 ladies are expected to make trip, which is an excellent entry for competitions. At present the association has 206 lady golfing members, as well as associate and honorary members.

It holds around 12 competitions a year, plus Winter Foursomes. Competitions are played over courses within the boundaries of Dunbartonshire and Argyll - with most of these being played around the Glasgow area.

Play starts at 11am at Dunaverty on July 22 and at 8.30am at Machrihanish on July 23.

Kyokushin grading test

KYOKUSHIN Karate Scotland held a grading test on June 23 at Mid Argyll Sports Centre.

The event was attended by the Oban and Lochgilphead Kyokushin karate clubs. Pictured, from left, are some of the Oban Kyokushin Karate Club members who passed the test, showing off their new belts and certificates.

Back row Drew MacKinnon and Sharon Dickson and front row Darryl McLaughlin, Gregor Dickson and Charlie McLaughlin. Anyone interested in training at the Oban club should contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or email info@kkskscotland.com.

Lorn Clay Target club holds open day

LORN Clay Target Club is hosting an open day at its site in North Connell for anyone who wants to give it a shot.

The club is looking for new members but is also keen to let people try the sport for the first time.



Brother and sister team Eddie Downs and Agnes Boyle proved too strong for Lachie Morrison and David Weir in Lochaber Bowling Club's nominated pairs competition. Thanks to the sponsors and Helen Ross for her work in helping with the organisation. Eddie and Agnes, right, are pictured being presented with the trophy by Jim Hamilton.

Shooting

The open day will take place this Saturday at 11am. For more details and directions visit the club website at lornclaytarget.com or email Steve Wilson at info@lornclaytarget.com

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN £750

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Young, Achabreac, Lochgilphead

G Birse, Castle Road, Dunbeg

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

Macaulay Cup semi final ties take place this weekend

Ballachulish hosts Balliemore final between Bute and Beaully

KYLES ATHLETIC face **INVERARAY** for the fourth time this season when they match up at Mossfield in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals. Kyles have not had as strong a league campaign as their Argyll rivals but have already knocked their opponents out of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup and crucially beat them in the AJG Parcels Celtic Cup Final. Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'We have played Inveraray so often that I can only say it will be more of the same!'

'But we are playing for a place in the final, so we will need to up our game another level and control the centreline. The whole team will need to play well.'

While their cup form is good, Kyles have slumped to eighth in the Orion Group Premiership but Perlich was not perturbed. 'We are not thinking about the league,' he said. 'We have games in hand and a lot of home games to come too.'

INVERARAY player-manager Garry MacPherson has dismissed the suggestion his side's recent dip in form was down to tiredness, adding that enforced squad rotation was the most likely problem. MacPherson believes that will be addressed on Saturday in the Macaulay Cup semi-final at Mossfield when he will have a full squad to choose from, albeit Chris Crawford has likely been ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing an operation on his finger after the Celtic Cup final.

Inveraray beat Kyles earlier in the season at home but two subsequent defeats - notably in the Celtic Cup final and the Camanachd Cup - have only made the men from the Royal Burgh more determined to win this next encounter. MacPherson said: 'The defeats we have suffered have only made the boys more determined. All the games we have played have been very tight and we expect the same on Saturday.'

After a flying start to the 2013 campaign, Inveraray have dropped out of the Orion Group Premiership title chase and the Macaulay Cup is their only chance of silverware. However, 'Aray are well prepared for this weekend after being put through their paces by Fort William in a 2-2 league draw at An Aird. A Lewis MacNicol brace cancelled out Gary Innes strikes in what MacPherson described as 'a good point'.

NEWTONMORE will go head-to-head with their closest league rivals Lovat in the semi final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup at Bught Park this Saturday. The cup is the only major prize to have eluded 'More during their recent dominance of the sport, with their last win coming in 1986. But manager PJ MacKintosh said history will not be weighing on his players' shoulders. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There's no extra pressure at all. We treat every game the same; the boys just want to go out and win every game we play. It's obviously behind the Scottish Cup in the pecking order, but in terms of team development they are all equally important. Lovat are our closest opposition this year, they proved that already. They are hard to beat, they are very fit and very quick.'

MacKintosh will not be able to call on experienced pair Norman Campbell and Cameron Binnie, who are both injured. 'More took another big step towards retaining the Orion Group Premiership with a hard fought 4-2 win away to Glenurquhart last weekend. After going a goal down, a Fraser MacIntosh brace and goals from Chris Sellar and Danny MacRae sealed the win which moved them five points clear of Lovat with a game in hand.

LOCHABER'S new found form sends them into this Saturday's crunch relegation clash with Fort William in good spirits. The Spear Bridge side's revelatory form under interim manager Robert Johnstone - picking up seven points from a possible eight - has catapulted them out the relegation zone and five points clear of Fort William, although the An Aird men have four games in hand. Saturday's game is sure to play a huge role in deciding which team will play in the Orion Premiership next season, but Johnstone said he was treating it the same as any other. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We'll take it as every other game. We know we're good enough to get the win. It's all about the effort they've been putting in. If they'd done that at the start of the season

it would be a totally different situation now.' Lochaber produced a storming performance to comeback from two goals down away to Kinlochshiel last weekend to win 4-2, despite Zands Ferguson missing a penalty. Ferguson made up for the miss with two goals, while Kevin Ferguson and Ben Delaney were also on the scoresheet. Johnstone said: 'It was a hard fought win. We turned it round after losing two early goals and the second half was all Lochaber really.'

KINGUSSIE welcome Glenurquhart to The Dell this Saturday knowing a win could move them into third place in the Orion Group Premiership. Kings manager Russell Jones told *The Oban Times* he was expecting a tough game against Glen, who are still not clear of the relegation zone. He said: 'It's never easy against Glenurquhart. They are a good team, a strong physical side. But we've been enjoying a bit of good form when we have everyone available and hopefully that'll continue. We'll be trying to keep the momentum going.'

Kings' Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi final against Kyles Athletic is on the horizon, and Jones said it was important to get competition for places. He said: 'Everyone is playing for a place. We probably know what our best team is - I think everyone knows what our best team is - but we need to keep all the players playing well.'

FORT WILLIAM meet local rivals Lochaber in the Orion Group Premiership at An Aird for a vital encounter which could have a huge bearing on the relegation battle. Derby matches between the two can be powderkeg affairs - and Saturday's match promises to be no different. Both are desperate for points to boost their survival hopes and while Fort have games in hand it is points that count - and in that department Lochaber have the edge. The Spear Bridge men,



Taynuilt Shinty Club has laid a solid foundation for the next three seasons by securing a sponsorship deal with aggregate supplier Barrachander Quarry Ltd. The deal is worth £2,000 over three years and will be used to fund training and equipment.

unbeaten under new manager Robert Johnstone, have garnered seven points from a possible eight from their last four games - a statistic not lost on Fort co-manager Victor Smith. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The game is massive for us. We have to score goals because the teams around us are all scoring regularly. I'm sure Lochaber will be looking for a win the way they are going. We won't have Gary Innes and that will change the dynamics so we will have to work even harder on Saturday.'

He added: 'A loss is not the end of the world but a win would be gratefully received. It will be a very difficult match because Lochaber are playing well.'

Barrie Dallas will miss the Glenurquhart game after injuring his hand, but is expected to return next weekend. **GLENURQUHART** will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's loss to Newtonmore with a win away to Kingussie this Saturday. Glen co-manager Drew McNeil told *The Oban Times* the game promised to be a difficult tie for his side. He said: 'Kingussie this season have had a really strong defence and a pretty good midfield. Once you add guys like Lee Bain and Ronald Ross up front you've got a really strong team. I think they'll go close in the Scottish, I wouldn't be surprised

to see them beat Kyles.' The Drummadrochit side took an early lead against 'More last weekend through Fraser Heath but ended up losing 4-2. Neale Reid was also on the scoresheet. McNeil said: 'We take a lot of heart and a lot of pride from the way we played against a very good Newtonmore side. As long as we keep playing like that against the lesser opposition we'll be fine. It was the story of our season really - we played well but we didn't score enough and we conceded some silly goals.'

SHINTY

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell has told his players not to worry about other team's results after falling back to the foot of the Orion Group Premiership. A resurgent Lochaber, who have seven points from the last four games have opened up a five-point gap on the Oban side, who are now favourites for relegation. But manager Campbell remains defiant and insists his team will focus only on the games they can influence - their own. 'We have to look after our own games and get a few wins,' said Campbell. 'We now have our full squad back, after suspensions, injuries and holidays, so now is the time to start picking up points.'

Camanachd, who had no game last weekend, welcome Kinlochshiel to Mossfield, following the conclusion of

decisiveness from his front men this Saturday. 'I thought we were the better team on Saturday but the forward line can't be as fancy as they were,' said Smith. 'They are not doing the basics of touch and pass, or touch and shoot. We need to get back to basics and make the keeper work for every shot - not every shot has to burst the net.'

Despite Strachur's lowly league position, Smith is not taking the Cowal men lightly, particularly following their draw with Bute last weekend. Ewan Murray, one of the team's most consistent performers this season, will be missing for this weekend's trip south.

TAYNUILT'S new signings have helped to turn around the team's stuttering form. New boys Willie Irvine and Alan Duffy (2) got on the scoresheet, alongside David Campbell, in a 4-1 home win over Aberdeen last weekend and recent signing David Graham has also impressed. Manager Willie Gillies, who played at centre last Saturday because of a lack of players, said he was pleased with his team's form of late. 'We had a strong enough team on Saturday but we were missing Stephen Parr, Fraser MacMillan and our goalkeeper Gary Cameron - our injured defender James MacLaren played in goals. I was also able to give some of the young boys, like Ryan and John Gillies, a good run out. But I think our new signings have really made a difference and have given us a bit of extra fight. We are definitely going in the right direction.'

Taynuilt have no game this weekend because of the Taynuilt Highland Games but are running a fundraising stall at the event. 'Our defence coped well with them and I thought Gary McKerracher and Lee Askew both put in a really big shift.'

LOCHSIDE ROVERS had a chance to rest last weekend ahead of Saturday's derby against Oban Celtic. Lochside remain in contention for the Marine Harvest South Division One championship but will need the two points to stay in touch with Bute and GMA. **GLENORCHY** coach John Smith has challenged his team to up their goals tally at bottom-of-the-table Strachur this Saturday. The Dalmally side's championship aspirations were effectively ended last Saturday when they were typically goal-shy in a 2-1 defeat at Oban Celtic, in which Duncan Smith scored their only goal. John Smith has called for more

points that could send us down alongside Glenurquhart, Lochaber and Kyles and right back into the mix. 'Oban are a good team and have been a bit unlucky not to pick up more points. On Saturday against Lochaber we were trying to put it forward to the lads it's almost like a cup final - and this one's just the same. We need the two points to be secure for the premiership next year.'

'Shiel will be boosted by the return of Colin MacDiarmid to midfield and Jordan Fraser to the forward line. Against Lochaber, Fraser had a depleted squad with the second team on Strathdearn Cup duty and loaded up the forward line with Finlay, Keith and Oliver 'Ach' MacRae. The tactic worked initially, 'Shiel racing to an early 2-0 lead through Finlay and Duncan 'Ach' - but that was as good as it got as Lochaber knocked in four without reply to keep the Spear Bridge version of 'The Great Escape' on track.

OBAN CELTIC will be without a number of first team players this weekend for their derby match against Lochside Rovers. The club is also concerned about the fitness of midfielder Lee Askew, who sustained a foot injury in last week's 2-1 win over Glenorchy. Scott Burnett and the in-form Alan Miller got the goals for Celtic. Club president David Hamilton said: 'We are quite a few players short for Saturday but if we play like we did against Glenorchy we can get a result. They beat us 4-2 in the reverse fixture but our boys didn't turn up that day. The win last week was a bonus but, in what was a very tight game, we took our chances and they didn't make many. Our defence coped well with them and I thought Gary McKerracher and Lee Askew both put in a really big shift.'

They may have had few games to enjoy in recent weeks but **BALLACHULISH** fans will be clutching their club lottery tickets tightly this Sunday when the £2,000 draw is made. As the maximum jackpot available, it will be drawn until someone wins. **KILMALLIE** manager Duncan Kelly was a happy man after his team cleared another hurdle in the Marine Harvest North



Action from the Marine Harvest South Division One match between Oban Celtic and Glenorchy played at Ganavan. The Oban side won a close game 2-1. ©29shinty1

Division 1 title race by beating Skye 3-0 at Portree. Such was the Caol side's dominance that goalkeeper Kevin Toye scarcely had to make a save the whole game - a testament to their fitness and application. Kelly told *The Oban Times*: 'That was the best win of the season considering we were six players short. We played Jamie Morrison at wing back and Andrew MacAllister came on for the last 20 minutes. We also had Frank Innes and Craig MacIsaac in the squad and although they didn't get to play I'm grateful to those two young boys for coming up.'

He added: 'I was really chuffed and happy with the way everyone to a man played. We even missed a penalty - John Stewart struck it sweet but the keeper got a touch to it.'

Kilmallie have no game on Saturday, giving them extra time to prepare for the big clash with title rivals Beaully on July 27.

SKYE CAMANACHD found Kilmallie too hot to handle once again at Pairc nan Laoch - but at least this time coach Willie MacRae had a few reasons to be cheerful. The islanders through necessity fielded a very young side and had 16-year-olds Willie Cowie and Alastair Macleod alongside 18-year-olds Chris MacLennan and Jordan Murchison in the forward line, while 16-year-old Donald John Gilpin took his place in defence. MacRae was sanguine after the 0-3 defeat and paid tribute to the effort of his players. He said: 'I was quite happy with the young guys that came in. Physically they could not quite match up to the Kilmallie guys but they did not look out of place. It is good to see them getting games and they are certainly ones for the future.'

He added: 'Kilmallie played well and took their chances.'

GLENGARRY'S battle against relegation from Marine Harvest north division two took another blow when they went down 4-1 to Newtonmore last weekend. Ewen Cameron's men were already 2-0 down against the league leaders when Andrew Gilchrist pulled a goal back in the 70th minute. But two more goals for the home side condemned 'Garry to their eighth league defeat of the season. 'Garry have a free Saturday this weekend, and will be focussing on pulling away from the bottom of the league between now and then end of the season. The Invergarry side are currently a point better off than ninth-placed Kingussie and three ahead of bottom side Aberdeen University.

WOMENS CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION Sunday 21 July **Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Semi Finals** Glasgow MA v Skye Badenoch & Strathspey v Lochaber (Both at Stirling University)

RESULTS Friday 12 July **Marine Harvest North Division 1** Caberfeidh 4 - 0 Strathglass Saturday 13 July **Strathdearn Cup Semi Final** Beaully 0 - 2 Kinlochshiel **Orion Group Premiership** Fort William 2 - 2 Inveraray Glenurquhart 2 - 4 Newtonmore Kinlochshiel 2 - 4 Lochaber

Marine Harvest South Division 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Glasgow MA	8	6	2	0	38	3	14			
Bute	9	6	2	1	31	15	14			
Lochside Rovers	11	6	1	4	23	22	13			
Aberdour	13	6	1	5	33	37	13			
Glenorchy	11	5	2	4	22	16	12			
Oban Celtic	10	5	1	4	21	19	11			
Taynuilt	10	3	1	6	17	30	7			
Kilmory	12	1	3	8	17	35	5			
Strachur	10	1	3	6	14	39	5			

Marine Harvest North Division 2										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Newtonmore	11	9	1	1	43	15	19			
Lovat	12	7	4	1	29	21	18			
Skye	13	8	2	3	29	24	16			
Glenurquhart	14	6	3	5	25	21	15			
Beaully	12	5	3	4	22	20	13			
Fort William	11	5	1	5	22	27	11			
Glengarry	12	4	0	8	20	25	8			
Kinlochshiel	13	2	4	7	21	37	8			
Kingussie	14	1	5	8	27	37	7			
Aberdeen Uni	12	2	3	7	17	28	5			

Marine Harvest North Division 3										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Lochaber	15	13	0	2	79	25	26			
Boleskine	15	12	0	3	56	24	24			
Kilmallie	14	9	2	3	41	29	20			
Lochcarron	13	9	1	3	57	22	19			
Caberfeidh	15	5	1	9	28	44	11			
Lochbroom	13	5	0	8	31	45	10			
Strathglass	15	4	2	9	28	57	8			
Strathspey	12	3	1	8	19	47	7			
Inverness	15	3	1	11	22	51	7			
Lewis	13	2	2	9	26	43	5			



Fixtures

Saturday 20 July **Balliemore Cup Final** Bute v Beaully Daniel MacRae (The Jubilee, Ballachulish)

Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi Finals Inveraray v Kyles Athletic David Mitchell - 2pm (Mossfield Stadium, Oban) Newtonmore v Lovat Innes Wood - 3pm (Bught Park, Inverness)

Strathdearn Cup Semi Final Newtonmore v Lovat Neil Ferguson - 12pm (Bught Park, Inverness)

Orion Group Premiership Fort William v Lochaber Colin MacDonald - 3pm Kingussie v Glenurquhart Evan MacRae - 3pm Oban Caman v Kinlochshiel Graham Cameron - 4.30pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Caberfeidh v Inverness John Angus Gillies - 12pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Glasgow MA v Kilmory John MacGregor Oban Celtic v Lochside Rovers David Stafford Strachur v Glenorchy Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Fort William v Aberdeen Uni Archie Ritchie - 12pm Kingussie v Glenurquhart Euan Pearson - 12pm Skye v Kinlochshiel Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Inveraray v Glasgow MA Alex MacVicar Col Glen v Kyles Athletic Ewan MacDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Caberfeidh v Lochaber John Matheson - 3pm Kilmallie v Boleskine John Sloggie Lochbroom v Lochcarron Calum Girvan Strathspey v Strathglass Duncan Freshwater (Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Womens Camanachd Association Sunday 21 July **Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Semi Finals** Glasgow MA v Skye Badenoch & Strathspey v Lochaber (Both at Stirling University)

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Hamilton Accies lift the D&K Cup



Good weather, good football at annual tournament

THE ANNUAL football tournament organised by Oban Saints Football Club and sponsored by D&K Lafferty Contractors took place last Saturday at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park.

Teams taking part this year were Dundee United, Hamilton Accies, Albion Rovers, Fort William and hosts Oban Saints.

Dundee United took their Under 20 squad to Oban while Hamilton Accies and Albion Rovers both had their first team players on show.

The competition is played on a round robin basis with all the teams playing each other in short, sharp 40 minute games.

Conditions for the opening fixtures were cloudy and cool but by the time the second round of games took place it was warm and sunny, much to the delight of the big crowd of spectators who turned up from all over the country to support their teams.

Opening games

The opening games saw Dundee United take on Hamilton Accies at Mossfield and Fort William play Albion Rovers at Glencruitten. Accies came out on top against the Arabs 1-0 thanks to a goal from Lee Kilday with Albion Rovers defeating Fort William 2-0 with goals from

Ryan Tiffney and Ross Dunlop.

Next on the agenda saw Oban Saints play their first game of the tournament when they took on Albion Rovers and the local lads turned in a good performance to earn themselves a well deserved 0-0 draw while at Glencruitten, Hamilton Accies defeated Fort William 3-0 thanks to goals from Andy Ryan, Eamon Brophy and Greg Docherty.

Local derby

The local derby between Oban Saints and Fort William was the next game on Mossfield with the Oban side winning 3-0 with goals from Willie Gemmell, Brian MacKay and Donnie Campbell. Dundee United and Albion Rovers were playing at the same time on Glencruitten with this game ending in a 1-1 draw. On target for United was Jordan Allan with Kevin Nicholl getting the Rovers' goal.

The highest score of the day came at Mossfield when the young Dundee United side hammered Fort William 7-0 with Jordan Moore netting six goals and Jordan Allan getting the other. One of the best games of the day saw Oban Saints take on Hamilton Accies at Glencruitten with Louis Longridge scoring the only goal of the game to give

Football

Accies a narrow win over the local amateur side.

The last games of an entertaining day's football saw Hamilton Accies, who had already won the tournament, take on Lanarkshire rivals Albion Rovers with Accies coming out on top 2-0 with strikes from Grant Gillespie and former Celtic front man James Keatings. At Glencruitten, Dundee United finished off a good day for the Tayside team when they defeated Oban Saints 2-0 with goals from Jordan Moore and Jordan Allan.

Successful

At the end of another successful tournament a delighted Hamilton Accies captain Jon Routledge was presented with the D&K Cup.

Hamilton secretary Scott Struthers said: 'It's always a great day and we thoroughly enjoy coming to the tournament as well enjoying the Oban hospitality. We're delighted to have finally won the competition - it's taken us 11 years to do it.'

Dundee United youth team director Stevie Campbell said: 'It's a great tournament, ideal for getting the boys match fit for the start of the season. We love coming to Oban and will certainly be back next year.'

Oban Saints secretary David Buchanan thanked everybody who helped make the day such a great success with a special mention going to the sponsors David and Kathleen Lafferty.



Hamilton Accies skipper Jon Routledge holds aloft the D&K Cup. Photo: Scott Struthers



Allan MacKay congratulates Donnie Campbell after he scores against Fort William. t29dncup4



An understrength Fort William squad had a difficult time at the tournament, losing this game 7-0 against Dundee United. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban teams take on Westerlands

FOOTBALL

OBAN'S two amateur football teams are in action on Saturday when they play Westerlands in pre-season warm-up games.

Oban Athletic take on Westies second team, who play in the Greater Glasgow League Division 3, with a 12pm kick off.

This will be followed by Oban Saints who take on the Glasgow side's first team at 2pm.

This will be a tough game for Saints as Westerlands reached the last eight of the Scottish Amateur Cup and finished second in the Caledonian League Premier Division.

Both games will be played at Glen 1 (rugby pitch).

The following Saturday, July 27, Milton Amateurs travel from Banockburn to take on Oban Saints.

Mixed team event at Atlantis

SQUASH

OBAN Squash Club recently held its annual mixed team event in Atlantis Leisure, with 20 players taking part.

With 12 games for each player, competition was tough but the team that won through in the end was Grant Addison, Alan MacGregor, Ian Stewart, Kerry Delany and Anna Bateman.

Thanks went to Oban Filling Station and the Kersley family for food and drinks provided on the day.

Oban Squash Club has won the overall two-team championship after beating Fort William 15-10.

Colin MacNiven, Oban team captain, said the current team was very strong and the most consistent the club has had in years.

International rugby player to visit Oban

RUGBY

AN INTERNATIONAL Scotland rugby union player is to join two Argyll teams for the day.

The player will travel to Glencruitten to meet and advise players from Oban Lorne and Argyll and Bute rugby clubs on August 10.

But the day will also be used to get volunteers involved in sprucing up the Oban Lorne clubhouse and pitch, which is used by both teams.

Only nine of the 149 clubs taking part in RBS Rugbyforce will receive visits from Scotland team players.

Each participating club will receive promotional materials and £250 to fund items including DIY materials and barbecue supplies.

RBS Rugbyforce has attracted 149 clubs in Scotland this year, nearly 100 more than in 2011.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamilton Accies	4	4	0	0	7	0	12
Dundee United	4	2	1	1	10	2	7
Albion Rovers	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Oban Saints	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
Fort William	4	0	0	4	0	15	0



The Oban Saints squad during the tournament. t28dncup2



Action from the Hamilton Accies v Albion Rovers match. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Weather

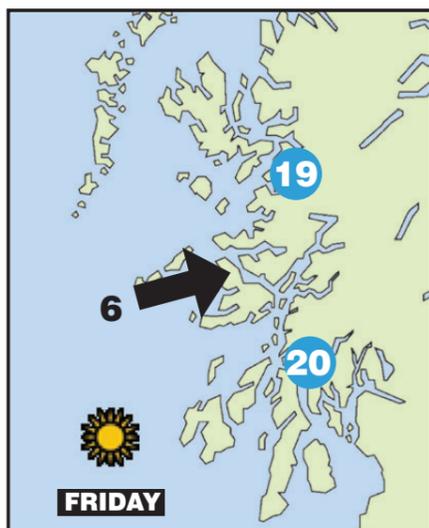
Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 14°C to 18°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.

Weekend Sunny
Outlook Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 15°C to 23°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 18, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

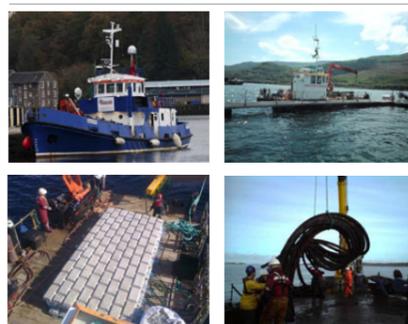
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.23	3.1 07.20 1.6 13.44	3.1 19.32 1.5
Fri 02.07	3.2 08.34 1.4 15.05	3.3 20.48 1.3
Sat 03.24	3.4 09.39 1.2 16.02	3.6 21.58 1.0
Sun 04.22	3.6 10.35 0.9 16.50	3.9 22.57 0.8
Mon 05.10	3.8 11.24 0.6 17.34	4.1 23.50 0.6
Tues 05.53	3.9 12.11 0.4 18.17	4.2 *** **
Wed 00.38	0.5 06.35 3.9 12.56	0.3 18.58 4.3

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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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 8156

Thursday 18 July, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



Sun shines on Morvern Games

Page 6

Dealing with an ageing population

Special feature on page 11

£25m salmon sales to China

Page 20



Celtic legend climbs Ben Nevis to raise cancer funds

CELTIC legend John Hartson and his Spear Bridge wife Sarah scaled the heights on Saturday to help Scottish children battling cancer.

The couple conquered Ben Nevis along with Sarah's 67-year-old dad James, a retired BT engineer now working at Highland Council's recycling centre at Fort William.

The trio were joined by 80 friends and supporters from all over the British Isles, who each pledged to raise £500 for the John Hartson Foundation.

The fundraising climb and a bucket collection in Fort William High Street looks like exceeding the £25,000 target for the Schiehallion Ward at Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow, Sarah told *The Oban Times*.

The 41-year-old, who now lives in Swansea with John and their two kids, Lena, 5, and three-year-old Stephanie, said: 'Any money we have left over will be used to set up a hardship fund for the Maggie's Centre at Gartnavel in Glasgow.'

'It means if somebody is diagnosed with cancer and can't get access to benefits they can apply for a grant from the



Left: Sarah poses for *The Oban Times* on her way up the Ben. 20_129john03



Above: Picture of life: Big John leads the charity walkers up the Ben on Saturday. 20_129john02

Left: Sarah poses for *The Oban Times* on her way up the Ben. 20_129john03

Footballers blame serious injuries on state of pitch

Players crocked on Canal Parks

THREE Lochaber footballers are blaming serious leg injuries on the poor condition of a Highland Council pitch in Caol.

Stuart Smillie, Scott Lawrie and Sean Forbes attended accident and emergency at the Belford Hospital in Fort William after getting crocked playing in the Lochaber Welfare Football League at Canal Parks.

Mr Smillie and Mr Lawrie injured their knees, while Mr Forbes hurt his ankle. Mr Lawrie walked out of hospital on crutches after medics diagnosed medial ligament and cartilage damage in his right knee.

Mr Lawrie, 23, who plays for Real Sosobad, told *The Oban Times*: 'I was sprinting after another player and went to tackle him. When I twisted my boot it got caught in the long grass. My leg stayed and I badly twisted my knee.'

He added: 'I had to take three

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

weeks off work on sick pay and I struggled to pay the bills.'

Caol Cosmos player/manager Stuart Smillie said teams paid £30 per game for the pitch but were not getting value for money.

He said: 'I don't think there's any excuse for the state of Canal Parks, it's a total shambles.'

'The grass is halfway up your shins and there's holes everywhere. There's boys going over and getting hurt because the grass hasn't been cut.'

'It's putting boys off playing. If you've got to worry about getting an injury and missing work you're not going to play.'

Mr Smillie requires an operation to reconstruct his badly injured knee, forcing him to take a lengthy lay-off from his job. He said: 'I've had six weeks off work already and I've got to take another six weeks off after the operation.'

Real Sosobad player/manager Mikey MacKinnon said: 'We're paying for these facilities. Sometimes we're showing up and the grass has been cut in the middle but down the wings it's longer than the rough on a golf course.'

He added: 'No-one wants

to see a boy off work for four weeks, it's horrendous.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said they had received no complaints about the pitch.

He said: 'The council has a contract with High Life Highland to cut the grass and line the two pitches at Canal Parks. The pitches are cut and lined in accordance with the booking system.'



Crocked: Real Sosobad's Scott Lawrie was left on crutches after damaging his knee at Canal Parks.

Scotland demands bigger share of fishing cash

THE SCOTTISH Government is seeking talks with Westminster on increasing the country's share of European fishing cash after EU ministers agreed a new European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

The fund, brokered in Brussels

this week, will underpin Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reforms focusing on wasteful catch discards, sustainable fishing effort and investment in fragile coastal communities.

Scotland currently receives 40 per cent of EU cash allocated

to the UK - despite having 61 per cent of sea fisheries and 86 per cent of aquaculture sales by volume.

Environment and climate change minister Paul Wheelhouse said the current funding split was 'unacceptable

and should not happen again'. He added: 'Scotland's hard working fishermen and fish-farmers deserve a better deal than that.'

Fair

'They deserve a deal that is fair and reflects the fact Scotland has the lion's share within

the UK of both of these very valuable sectors.' The European Commission also confirmed trade measures against Faroe Islands and Iceland for over-fishing herring and mackerel, respectively - a move the Scottish fishing fleet has long demanded.

Corran Ferry low tide warning

CORRAN Ferry users have been warned the service will be disrupted next week by extreme low tides in Loch Linnhe.

Heavy goods vehicles will not be able to use the ferry between 1-3pm on Wednesday, 1.45-3.45pm on Thursday and 2.15-4.15pm on Friday.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Every effort will be made to continue the service for cars, but this is at the skipper's discretion and will only be done if it is safe to do so.'

Lochaber out to defend Joe Toal shinty sixes title

LOCHABER Camanachd will aim to defend their Joe Toal Memorial Sixes title at Spean Bridge on Sunday.

Sides from Fort William, Kilmallie, Glengarry, Kingus-

sie, Lovat and Newtonmore are among the 10 teams taking part in the fast-paced tournament, which starts at 12pm. The annual competition, held in memory of former Lochaber player Joe

Toal, who died during a game in 1982 aged just 22, is marking its 30th anniversary this year.

Meanwhile, three Lochaber players have been named in the Scotland under-17 side for a

shinty/hurling tour of Ireland later this month. Calum MacDonald, Barry MacDonald and Jack Dignan will be joined by Kilmallie's Frankie Innes and Martin Munro and Fort

William's Arran MacPhee. Kinlochshiel duo Oliver MacRae and Conall Fraser, along with Skye Camanachd's Will Cowie, were also named in the 19-man squad.

Ballachulish croft housing plan rejected

A NORTH Ballachulish couple have lost their bid to turn most of their owner-occupied croft over to housing.

Donnie and Liz MacGillivray sought Crofting Commission approval to de-croft three acres of agricultural land at Oldtown for 10 house plots at a hearing in Ballachulish Village Hall on May 13.

But after considering all the evidence, panel members Colin Kennedy, Murdo MacLennan and I G MacDonald ruled the move as 'not competent' and returned the application.

The issue turned on a technical point. In a judgement made public last week, the commissioners struck down the bid because 'the occupied extent of the croft and the owned extent do not coincide'.

They said: 'At the hearing the critical issue arose as to whether the whole of the croft owned and/or tenanted is occupied by the applicants.'

'In the absence of any evidence that the applicants own the full extent of the land occupied by them

as part of their croft or any adequate explanation by the applicants, the Commission have assumed that part of the croft remains tenanted.'

'The Commission are of the view that the application is to be returned to the applicants as incompetent on the basis that it is not clear from the plans provided whether part of the occupied croft extent (as shown by the Crofting Commission plan approved by the applicants) still remains in tenancy and how much of the croft is owned.'

'Any new application will have to be accompanied by evidence that the whole croft was owned by the applicants and that the area applied for was within the boundaries of their purchased croft land.'

The Scottish Crofting Federation welcomed the ruling as 'indicative of a strong new line against speculative development on croft land'. SCF researcher Iain MacKinnon said: 'The SCF warmly welcomes the Crofting Commission's decision at Oldtown and the broader policy shift

we believe it represents. What is of even greater significance now is that this unwelcome proposal at Oldtown has shown that there is a desire to revitalise crofting in North Ballachulish. With such enthusiasm in the locality the different bodies with responsibility for crofting regulation and development now have the chance to turn a threat for crofting into an opportunity for crofting.'

The Crofting Commission confirmed to *The Oban Times* that should the MacGillivrays submit a new bid, the 2010 Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 would apply.

Unlike preceding legislation, the Act gives the commission powers to reject a de-crofting application - even if the land proposed for development has prior planning approval.

The MacGillivrays had previously secured planning consent on appeal after a Scottish Government reporter overturned Highland Council's decision to refuse the development.

Mr MacGillivray said: 'I do not want to make any comment at all.'

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Village at the End of the World (12A)
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Drumnadrochit wind farm consent refused

THE SCOTTISH Government has refused planning consent for a proposed wind farm near Drumnadrochit.

Energy minister Fergus Ewing ruled Sustainable Energy Limited's Druum Ba development on Blairmore Estate was 'out of scale' visually with the surrounding landscape.

Mr Ewing said he wanted communities to reap the benefit from renewable energy 'but not at any cost'.

Family Farm Fun Friday

THE LOCHABER Rural Education Trust is holding a 'Family Farm Fun Friday' at Lochaber Rural Complex tomorrow (Friday).

Rural activities include pony rides, sheep shearing, sheep dog demonstration and learning about farm animals, while a novelty pet show with classes for the best six legs, the waggiest tail, the animal that looks most like its owner and the most unusual will also feature.

Food tasting, cake icing, butter and felt making and many other stalls, along with a bouncy castle, face painting, tombola and raffles will add to the fun of the day. Admission is free.

Jessie to receive MBE in Kilchoan

A RETIRED nurse awarded an MBE for services to healthcare in Ardnamurchan in the Queen's 2013 New Year Honours List is to receive her medal in her beloved Kilchoan on Saturday.

Jessie Colquhoun requested the ceremony be switched to the village so she can thank the local community and emergency services personnel.

The presentation had been scheduled for Holyrood House in Edinburgh but now the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, will do the honours in Kilchoan Community Centre at 2.30pm.

Jon Haylett of West Ardnamurchan Community Council told The Oban Times: 'Jessie felt rather than have the MBE presented a long way away it should happen in Kilchoan.'

'She asked Donald Cameron if he would be prepared to come out here and has invited all residents of West Ardnamurchan to attend the occasion.'

'She also wants to thank the local doctors, nurses coastguards, police and ambulance service personnel with whom she worked for 36 years.'

Jessie, now one of the local emergency responders team, said: 'The community has been very supportive throughout. We are one big happy family down here.'

STAR for Harris founders Allan and Tanya Ross handed over the cheque to the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle on Friday.

The amount is significant for the Corpach couple - it matches the date of their son Harris's birth, April 14 2009.

Tanya said after the cheque



Jessie Colquhoun: will receive her MBE in Kilchoan.



'Water bombing' from a helicopter helped bring the blaze near Laggan under control.

Fire chiefs warn of tinderbox conditions

FIRE chiefs have warned of tinderbox conditions in the Highlands after a wild fire destroyed around 500 acres of forest and heathland near Laggan.

Around 25 firefighters from Fort William, Spean Bridge, Grantown, Newtonmore, Carrbridge and Cromarty tackled the blaze between Laggan and Dalwhinne on Sunday afternoon. But with the flames still burning on Monday morning a helicopter was called to carry out precision 'water bombing' on fire hotspots, which brought it under control.

Fire crews kept watch overnight, with a small number remaining on Tuesday morning to ensure the blaze was out.

Fire Scotland group manager Antony Gardner said conditions meant the public needed to take extra care when enjoying the great outdoors.

He said: 'The current hot and dry weather we are experiencing poses a high risk of fire and I would urge visitors and local communities that when venturing into the countryside to be aware of outdoor fire safety.'

'Members of the public should take care not to use camp fires, barbecues or carelessly discard cigarettes, glass bottles etc. which can result in significant wildfires.'

Police ditch volunteer air search group

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

POLICE Scotland has been criticised for ditching a volunteer airborne service to assist with missing person searches.

Community support group Sky Watch - Highland Civil Air Patrol will no longer be called in to comb remote territory from the air.

The group has provided air support free to the former Northern Constabulary for years when no other similar option was available.

Instead, police will now rely upon their own specialised air support unit based at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow.

The decision appears based on provisions in the UK Air Navigation Order, which prohibits any UK-registered aircraft from flying on any flight in the service of a police authority without appropriate certificates.

The charity maintains it has never been in police service and contributes its services voluntarily on request, much in the same way as Neighbourhood Watch.

It is now seeking to reverse the 'erroneous' move, as it fears a single police helicopter cannot provide adequate cover 'over an area in which every possible search asset is vital'.

Recent Sky Watch operations included searching for missing journalist Clive Denner and lost climber Oliver Smith. Mr Den-

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

ner's body was later found near Kinlochhour. Mr Smith's body was recovered from Bla Bheinn in the Cuillins.

Peter Mackintosh, chief pilot of the Highland Unit, told The Oban Times: 'I find the police attitude inexplicable - and so do the other search and rescue organisations in Scotland.'

'We flew a total of eight hours searching for Mr Denner from Inverness all the way to Cape Wrath during the initial part of the search.'

'The best I can think of is that they have been badly advised by 'expert' advice from people who do not understand that 90 per cent of the search and rescue effort in the Highlands is carried out by volunteers.'

He added: 'The pilots are experienced and the support group are all volunteers and provide a service free of charge.'

'Why, in these times of financial constraint would the police not want to continue to use these valuable assets which are free?'

'We are pledged to assist communities with or without police approval and will continue to do so. We do not fly in support of any police criminal operations, only humanitarian.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant has raised the issue

with Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill and Chief Constable Sir Stephen House.

She said: 'I think it unlikely that every time there is a missing person enquiry in the Highlands that Police Scotland will task their own air support helicopter based in the Central belt.'

'Part of the problem would be the time it takes to get here and then it would have to re-fuel. I cannot understand why in these hard economic times when savings have to be made by the police, they made this decision.'

Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins of Police Scotland defended the move.

He said: 'The UK Civil Air Patrol 'Skywatch' is a volunteer programme and not a 24 hours a day, seven days a week national resource.'

'Since the start of Police Scotland, the Air Support Unit has become a Scotland-wide resource with specially trained officers using state of the art equipment which is available to assist in a variety of operations, including searching for missing people in remote areas across Scotland in a co-ordinated and operationally managed way.'

'Police Scotland has considered all options available to them, and has come to the unavoidable conclusion that it should cease using the volunteer UK Civil Air Patrol.'

STAR for Harris charity donates £14,409 to children's cancer unit

'So much more needs done'

A CHARITY set up in memory of a little Lochaber boy who died from inoperable brain cancer has donated £14,409 to the largest research centre for children's cancers in the UK.

STAR for Harris founders Allan and Tanya Ross handed over the cheque to the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle on Friday.

The amount is significant for the Corpach couple - it matches the date of their son Harris's birth, April 14 2009.

Tanya said after the cheque

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

presentation: 'We met two incredible people, Dr Dan Williamson and Professor Steve Clifford who answered our hundreds of questions and showed us around their research facilities.'

'The project funded by 'STAR for Harris' starts in October and we have already started to build up money towards our next donation as this is something we feel so passionate



Tanya and Allan Ross, right, with Dr Dan Williamson and Professor Steve Clifford after the cheque handover.

Flora's former family home sold

THE FORMER Isle of Skye family home of Flora MacDonald, part of Fلودrigarry Country House Hotel, has been sold to a Dutch couple.

New owners Paul and Bette Temming, who run a sailing hotel and restaurant in the Amsterdam area, plan to further develop the business, selling agents Colliers International said.

The property had been marketed with an asking price of £1.9 million.

Bumper Ballachulish jackpot

A BUMPER jackpot of £2,000 will go to a lucky winner in Ballachulish Shinty Club's lotto draw this weekend.

The numbers will be drawn until a winner is found for the rollover prize. Last weekend's numbers were 5, 11 and 14.

about supporting.' Harris died aged just 16 months in August 2010 following a brave nine-month battle for life against medulloblastoma, a highly aggressive brain tumour.

Allan and Tanya formed STAR following Harris's death to raise awareness of and fund research into children's cancers.

Tanya added: 'So much more needs done in this field and the government doesn't provide money towards the research costs.'

'Further research will aim for new drugs to be trialled and for treatment protocols to be modified and improved to improve survival chances, and also to look into ways of lessening the long-term effects caused by toxicity to childhood cancer survivors.'

'STAR for Harris' is funding music therapy at two hospitals in Scotland and is set to expand that number to four in the near future. The annual 'Harris Ross Texas Scramble' will be held on Sunday, July 28.

'Lots of local business are offering sponsorship and prizes,' Tanya said.

New summer exhibition

A NEW exhibition of works by a carefully curated group of artists will open in the Lime Tree Gallery in Fort William on Saturday.

The mixed summer show features a mix of still life and landscape painting by the Lime Tree studio artist David Wilson, Clare Blois and Angela Lawrence, together with Lime Tree debutants Douglas Davies RSW, Marion Drummond, Lachlan Goudie and Simon Rivett.

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The two vehicles after the accident on Achintore Road, which led to long queues of traffic.

Elderly driver hurt in Achintore Road crash

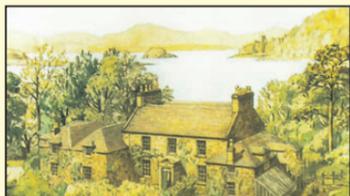
AN ELDERLY driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries following a crash which closed the A82 Achintore Road in Fort William for nearly an hour on Sunday afternoon.

A Ford Focus and a Mitsubishi 4x4 collided head-on around 500 metres south of the west end roundabout at 4.30pm.

Traffic tailed back across the roundabout and along the A82 bypass as fire fighters and police carried out investigations and cleared debris.

Area inspector Donald Campbell told The Oban Times no further details about the incident would be released until interviews had taken place.

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Kinlochleven boost as head teacher returns

KINLOCHLEVEN High School has been given a major boost after Highland Council announced that John McGilp will be returning as head teacher for session 2013-14.

Mr McGilp was seconded to Thurso High School as acting head teacher in October last year.

His departure caused some difficulties at Kinlochleven as the hard-pressed senior management team worked hard to minimise the impact of being left without a permanent head.

In December, an angry parent council said an intolerable burden was being placed on acting head teacher Gordon Milne, who had to juggle his new role with teaching as well as sourcing temporary staff cover. Fears were also expressed about the impact staff shortages were having on pupils studying for exams. In response, Highland Council promised extra support for the school management and curricular design.

But according to the parent council, problems with continuity persisted until the summer holidays.

In a letter to parents last week, area education manager (west) Norma Young confirmed that Mr McGilp would again lead the school when the new session begins on August 19.

She said: 'Following Mr McGilp's return, I will review the acting teaching and management posts across the school with a view to moving to advertise for the substantive deputy head post immediately.'

'Mr McGilp will keep parents informed of progress in relation to all vacant and acting posts.'

Welcoming the news, local councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'Let us hope this provides some certainty for the school for a time after what has been a particularly uncertain year, which has been difficult for the staff, children and parents.'



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2014 Games fleet boost for Argyll

Commonwealth Games event could generate millions for local economy

A FLOTILLA of 300 yachts will sail from Mull to Oban and onto the Clyde in an event which could generate millions for the Argyll economy in 2014.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT), together with VisitScotland and the Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYAS), Scottish Canals, Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance and Glasgow Life have combined to support the gathering of boats from across Scotland, Ireland and the rest of the world as part of celebrations to mark the start of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next year and Homecoming 2014.

Set to be held mid July, there will be festivals to greet the flotilla in Tobermory, Oban and along the Crinan Canal, as well

It puts our area firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.

chief executive Argyll and Isles Tourism

as a gathering at the Kyles of Bute and Portavadie Marina.

Throughout their journey, the boat owners will be presented with guides to Argyll and the Isles in a bid to encourage the visitors back to the area in future years. It is hoped the Waverly paddle steamer will get the flotilla under way.

Mike Story, chief executive

of AIT, said the gathering is a major opportunity for the whole area.

'The idea came out of a discussion between myself, David Adams McGilp of VisitScotland, James Stuart of RYAS and councillor Louise Glen Lee,' he said.

'It would combine an amazing Homecoming event with the Commonwealth Games to promote tourism to Argyll and the Isles.'

'There's a synergy to the event that I just love and it will be worth millions to the area for two reasons. Not only will we encourage sailors to moor their boats here during the summer - giving us the opportunity to encourage more boats to come north to Argyll and the Isles from the Clyde - but it puts our area firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.'

'It's a strong legacy event that should strengthen the area's reputation for marine tourism.'

Final details are yet to be confirmed and there has been no prior publicity about the event, but already several sailing clubs have expressed an interest in joining. Two television stations - including Japanese state broadcaster NHK - have expressed an interest in covering the event.

Mr Story added: 'What this also does is mark out Argyll and the Isles as Scotland's most desirable area for the development of marine tourism.'

Anyone wishing to get involved can get in touch at muster@ryas.uk.org.



Stephen King was presented his award by Alasdair Chrystal, games convenor, right, and Jim Brown MBE, President of the Scottish Highland Games Association.

Stephen is Inveraray hammer king

HEAVYWEIGHT athlete and champion Stephen King has won the 16lb hammer competition so often that Inveraray Highland Games organisers decided to present the Seaton Challenge Cup to him permanently.

The Inveraray-based competitor was delighted to receive the

award. Stephen said: 'It's a great surprise to get this trophy.'

Record

The champion took the world record for the event with a throw of 153' 2". The record was set in 1998 and is yet to be broken.

Stephen, now the joint vice-convenor of the Inveraray

Games, confirmed that he was in semi-retirement from competing, although he would be at Tainuith Highland Games this Saturday.

Inveraray Highland Games were held in bright sunshine after a wet start to the day. The poor weather did not deter

the crowds with a better than expected number of visitors to the Royal Burgh for the event.

Record numbers of competitors also took part in piping and Highland dancing competitions with more than 400 individuals turning out on the day.

Claims that care depends on postcode

SIX MONTHS after being brought in, there are concerns that private care packages across Argyll and Bute are becoming a postcode lottery.

While some carers say they have had no problem with the care agencies contracted by the local authority to deliver care since the end of January, the standard of service varies significantly across the county.

To date, 16 service concern forms have been submitted and investigated by the council - out of 266 users, carers, council staff and partner agencies - but the council claims 'no formal complaints' about private agencies have been lodged.

'Only two' requests to change care provider have been lodged out of 92 care packages currently being delivered across the county.

However, carers and some rural doctors say they have concerns about the consistency of care being delivered.

Dr George Hannah at Easdale Medical Practice said: 'We had a small group of home helps recruited locally and organised locally by the district nurses.'

'Unfortunately that was taken away from us a year ago because the council contract was awarded to a private company.'

'We now have a deterioration of services because they are provided by people not living in the community. We have lodged several complaints when carers have not turned up on time.'

The carers that worked through the surgery did not continue to work in the role when the private care company took over as they would have had to take a wage cut of up to £70 per week.

Not everyone has had a poor service. Oban carer Jayne Powers said the service she receives from her private care provider was 'great' - with a three month exception when it struggled to hire staff.

Argyll and Bute Council said Home Procurement Officers are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the standard of care delivered which includes meeting with service users.

For an in-depth look at how care is changing see page 11.



Mike Story, chief executive of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, claims the event will be firmly in the spotlight of the world's media.

16 122mikestory1



Angus MacPhail was busy promoting Skipinnish the brand at Inveraray Games this week

Skipinnish back with first album in seven years

TMF launch this weekend

AFTER seven years of developing the Skipinnish brand, Angus MacPhail and Andrew Stevenson are launching their first album for seven years at this weekend's TFM Music Festival.

The enterprising duo have established the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban and Fort William among their other commitments but have got back to basics with their upcoming launch of Atlantic Roar.

Angus said: 'The band is back with a bang after a number of years because Andrew and I have been too busy with other parts of the Skipinnish brand to give much time to performing.'

'We have a new and exciting line-up, a new album and a wild summer tour of festivals, concerts, dances, weddings, radio broadcasts and TV appearances, so we have a busy schedule ahead.'

'It feels like a new chapter for the band and I'm really happy with the new line up, which has got the band sounding the best it's ever been.'

Atlantic Roar will be officially launched at the TFM Music Festival this Saturday at with a performance on the Gordon Connell Stage, named after Angus' TFM-based accordion tutor.

Argyll soldiers suffer PTSD

FOUR former soldiers from Argyll and Bute who served in Iraq and two who served in Afghanistan are receiving help for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), it has been revealed.

New research has shown that Iraq and Afghanistan veteran are seeking help for PTSD and other mental illnesses far sooner than those of earlier wars.

The information was revealed following a BBC Panorama special on military mental health on Monday.

In the first evaluation of former troops from those two conflicts being treated by veterans' mental health charity Combat Stress, the time lag between them leaving the armed forces and seeking help averaged two years.

This contrasts sharply with the previous average time lag of 14 years for other conflicts.

Combat Stress is treating more than 5,200 veterans nationally who suffer from psychological injuries as a result of their military careers.

Robert Lappin, Combat Stress Scotland West regional welfare officer, said: 'Veterans need to feel able to tell their GP if they think they need mental health services.'

Report highlights Scottish land ownership issues

THE buyer of an extensive Highland estate, near Bridge of Orchy, could receive taxpayer-funded payouts of £12,000 a week - 200 times more than the £56 given to a jobless youngster.

According to a new report, the 28,000 acre Auch and Invermean Estate, on the market for £11.4 million, would qualify for at least £600,000 a year in subsidies from the taxpayer.

'Concentrated' Requested by Labour MP Ian Davidson, chairman of the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee, the report claimed that, with only 432 owners controlling 50 per cent of all the privately owned land, Scotland has 'the most concentrated pattern of land ownership in the developed world'.

Isle of Harris businessman David Cameron, the chairman of Community Land Scotland, the body representing the country's community landowners, welcomed the report.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel that the bulk of the document ties together many of the strands of what Community Land Scotland has been saying openly and

publicly for the past two or three years. It reflects one of the top priorities identified by our membership at our recent annual conference at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye.'

'This is not a case of activists forcing their own agenda - it was specifically asked for by the Scottish Affairs Committee as should be evaluated in that light.'

Entitled 'Towards a Comprehensive Land Reform Agenda for Scotland', the document was compiled by Jim Hunter, an ex-chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Peter Peacock, a former MSP and Minister; Andy Wightman, a land rights researcher and Michael Foxley, a former leader of Highland Council.

It notes 'the ready access estate ownership gives to the public purse' is a key attraction of land ownership to 'the rich and super-rich.'

The report continues: 'Perhaps it is perfectly proper that someone who can afford to pay £11.4 million for a Scottish estate should be getting from the taxpayer a weekly payment more than 200 times greater than that made available to a jobless youngster.'

Yacht runs aground in Sound of Kerrera

FOUR people escaped uninjured after a yacht ran aground near the south end of the Sound of Kerrera last week.

Oban Lifeboat received a call at 4.10pm last Friday, July 12 to help the 31-ft vessel, *Garuda*, which also had two dogs on board.

At 4.30pm, the lifeboat arrived at the scene and launched its daughter boat to assess the situation. Since there was no danger to the crew, the lifeboat remained with the yacht until the tide was high enough to allow it to float off. The vessel then freed itself from the reef at 6pm.

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Alan Reid MP will hold surgeries on **Thursday 25 July 2013**
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Lochgilphead teenager among victims of killer 'Ecstasy Green Rolex' pills



Demi Campbell lost her life to fake ecstasy tablets

Party in Alexandria ends in fatal tragedy

THE FAMILY of a Lochgilphead teenager who became the 15th victim of a batch of deadly pills have paid tribute to their 'beautiful and ambitious' girl.

College

Demi Campbell, 18, had her whole life mapped out in front of her. She had just moved from her home in Lochgilphead to Bonhill in West Dunbartonshire and was about to start college.

But on Tuesday, July 9, she was killed by the 'Ecstasy Green Rolex' pills after taking one at a party in Alexandria.

The pills have been linked to deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mum Anne-Marie, 39, dad Lorne, 40, brother Lorne 21, and sister Chloe, 14, have been left devastated.

Her uncle, Davey McChesney

of Kilmartin, said: 'We love her very much and she will be very sorely missed.'

'Murderers'

'I am so angry about the fact these guys know what the drugs are doing and they are still selling them.'

'They are selling death on the streets. In my eyes they are murderers.'

'I hope people take heed of the 15 deaths and have the sense to just say no.'

'Demi was a very beautiful girl. She was very popular and made a lot of friends in Lochgilphead and Alexandria. She was just a normal teenager enjoying life.'

'We will never forget her.'

Demi, who previously also lived in Oban, was staying with her aunt Tricia McMartin in

Bonhill.

Mrs McMartin said: 'She was going to go to Clydebank College to study social care. She wanted to help people and was due to start volunteer work in children's homes on Monday.'

'She was amazing. She was so bubbly.'

'Demi walked into a room and lit it up.'

'Everybody who met her fell in love with her and she was the first to help if someone needed something.'

A spokesperson for Police Scotland said: 'We would urge the public to heed these health warnings and bear in mind that the police are currently investigating a number of deaths where victims appeared to have ingested what they thought was an ecstasy tablet.'

Oban woman hid drugs in child's toy

A WOMAN who hid class A drugs in a children's novelty egg has been found guilty of dealing drugs at Oban Sheriff Court.

Julie Taylor, 44, of 107f McKelvie Road, Oban, had denied dealing heroin when she appeared on trial last week, saying the 5.5g of the drug found in her home following a police raid was for personal use. She also claimed £460 seized by police was a crisis loan and her benefits.

The court heard the haul, found during the July 26, 2010 raid, was enough for around 36 'tenner bags', which sell at £20 in the Oban area.

Sentence has been deferred until August 8.

Police appeal following Tyndrum motorbike crash

WITNESSES are being sought after a motorcyclist suffered serious injuries in a crash between Crianlarich and Tyndrum at the weekend.

The 61 year old rider was taken to the Southern General hospital in Glasgow by air ambulance after the crash at around 3.10pm on Sunday, July 14.

Police are keen to speak to anyone who would have been in the area around the time of the accident.

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101.

Cyclists to describe 4,000-mile journey

TWO ADVENTURE cyclists will describe their 4,000-mile journey across America to Oban and Mull audiences.

Graham Kitchener and Pauline Symaniak will use footage from a feature-length film, entitled 'Sleepless 'til Seattle', documenting the Scotland-based cyclists' ride from north-east to north-west USA, without any support team, at presentations in the Mull Theatre on July 25 and the Corran Halls on July 26.

'Our niche is that we are not top sports people scaling the dizzy heights of mountain peaks, but just ordinary people telling the story of how anyone can do extraordinary things,' Graham said.

'So far the talk has been a great success, inspiring minds young and old alike.'

'We even have Mark Beaumont and Graeme Obree tweeting for us.'

Report states Oban's roads are 'satisfactory'

But wayward 'One Way' sign one of several defects found by independent review

AN INDEPENDENT report into the condition of the trunk road through Oban has concluded recent resurfacing work in George Street is 'satisfactory' - with several defects.

The Performance Audit Group (PAG) Plus report was requested by transport minister Keith Brown after Oban Community Council and Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre protested at the standard of the road repairs carried by Scotland Transvers in November last year.

While the PAG report carried out by Halcrow found several defects in the town, particularly around Dunollie Road and the Corran Esplanade, it concluded the hot rolled asphalt used to resurface the town centre was 'satisfactory' and performing as expected, with its initial smooth appearance giving way to expose the coarse aggregate.

Several problems were identified though, including errors in applying road markings, a failure to properly regulate water-coursing resulting in water ponding on Corran Esplanade opposite the Regent Hotel, and some areas of ironwork becoming either exposed or damaged.

It also highlights road markings flaking off the road and poor construction joints on the surface.

Mr MacIntyre says the report justified his and the community council's complaints.

'The report is important because it highlights that the roads are bad,' he said. 'I have to speak to Keith Brown again and hope to do that soon.'

While the report didn't specifically criticise the surface used, it did point out it was not the



Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre

kind normally used on the trunk roads network.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'They hadn't used that surface before. The road should have been done to the same standard as Calander - they had the same job done but a different surface.'

'The roads are regulated for drainage and the surface enhances the appearance of the town.'

'The surface laid in Oban does not enhance the town.'

Other problems highlighted in the report a 'One Way' sign post leaning and pointing in the wrong direction and a corroded and leaning mail box in George Street, corroded sign posts in Dunollie Road, cracking around a manhole in Airds Place and Corran Esplanade's footway varying from good to poor condition.

It concludes that the defects 'have been identified and reported' - excluding those arising as part of the recent George Street carriageway resurfacing - and 'will now be rectified' by the operating company, BEAR Scotland.

The report will be discussed at next month's meeting of Oban Community Council.



Lorn and Islands Hospital locality manager Veronica Kennedy, left, shows the new relatives' room, to Oban Hospice members, from left: Margaret MacLean, Catherine MacKechnie, Mary Black and Anne May, seated, 15_129hospice01

Hospice-funded relatives' room opens doors

THE COMPLETION of an upgrade of the relatives' room at Lorn and Islands Hospital has been welcomed by the charity that funded the improvement.

Well used

Members of Oban Hospice Ltd were at the hospital on Tuesday to see the room, which has a bed, television and has been especially extended to include a shower.

The room is well used by relatives of patients in the high dependency unit or palliative care at the hospital.

The hospital has also used the Oban Hospice funds to upgrade its side rooms in Ward One, making them more comfortable for palliative care patients.

Margaret MacLean, vice-chairwoman of Oban hospice said: 'It is great to see the finished article and from our point of view we are happy to be able to tell our supporters how their money is being spent.'

'Unfortunately the relatives of the late Frances MacIntyre couldn't be here today but they raised a lot of money towards this refurbishment and we are indebted to their efforts.'

Ms MacLean thanked 56 pupils at Oban High School who donated a painting for the relatives' room.

Hospital locality manager Veronica Kennedy said: 'The room is especially useful for people from the islands, who are visiting loved ones at the hospital.'

Fresh row brewing over Etive farms

A NEW application to build a fish farm on Loch Etive has been lodged by Dawnfresh - as new allegations emerge about the company's current operations there.

Following community consultation meetings, the company owned by Alastair Salvesson CBE has submitted an application for a farm consisting of 10, 80m circumference pens; replacing their original proposal for a farm consisting of 14, 100m pens.

As it is a new application, all representations lodged as part of the previous application won't be considered by planners.

While the campaign group, Friends of Loch Etive (FOLE), has already indicated it will oppose the proposals, it has further alleged the company has breached planning consents by farming two existing sites in Loch Etive simultaneously, those at Port na Mine and Airds Point.



When it applied in 2008, Dawnfresh said in its own environmental statement the two would not operate in tandem - something the council held it to when approving the application. Failure to adhere to this statement puts it in breach of planning consent and Argyll and Bute Council has advised the company to apply for an amendment.

However, Dawnfresh disputes this and intends to challenge the council.

A spokesman for Friends of Loch Etive said: 'Against this backdrop, to even think about granting Dawnfresh a further farm at Sailean Ruadh - whether it be 10-cages or 14-cages - is not acceptable.'

Dawnfresh Farming Director Gideon Pringle said: 'We are moving forward with our proposals to ensure we can secure long term local employment and make significant investment in the local area.'

'Our long-term goal is to upgrade our entire Loch Etive operation to the highest farming standards and we will work alongside the community, Argyll and Bute Council and others in order to achieve this.'

Referring to the alleged breach of planning permission, he said: 'If we're found in breach we'll challenge it. It's a technicality and one that's causing problems across the industry.'

He said the management plans outlined in the environmental statement were 'never intended' to be adhered to long term. Put to him that could be seen as disingenuous, he said 'both sides can say the same thing', and it was hoped common ground could be reached with planners.

'Everest' boy stalled by concerns over fund website

THE CLOSURE of a fundraising website over 'mismanagement' concerns has brought fundraising for Liam Keat's Summer of Summits to a standstill.

The Inverawe youngster reached a cumulative height of more than 29,000 feet, the equivalent height of Mount Everest, after climbing a dozen hills in Scotland and the Lake District, including Scafell

Pike, England's highest mountain.

However, the Charity Commission suspended the Charity Giving website last Friday, the day after Liam completed his final peak of Ben Nevis, over claims of mismanagement by website operator, The Dove Trust.

The closure of the website means money raised for the challenge has been frozen at £630, preventing

other potential donors from helping Liam to reach his £1,000 target for Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

Liam's father, Grant Holland, said: 'Liam was a bit upset when he heard the news because he enjoyed seeing the total go up.'

'One of his daily tasks was to check how close he was to his fundraising target.'

'We are just waiting to see what happens and in the meantime we are asking people to hold onto their money until it is all resolved.'

'I just hope the mountain rescue team can get all the money that has been pledged.'

Grant added that his son felt 'famous' after appearing in a host of newspapers and on BBC Radio Scotland for his efforts.

The Keats are considering set-

Negotiators end Dunollie stand-off

NEGOTIATORS and public order officers had to be brought into the Dunollie area of Oban after a man who was being taken to Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead refused police entry to his home.

The man, who was the subject

of a warrant for a compulsory treatment order, barricaded himself within his home and a stand-off with police ensued until specialist police teams arrived from Glasgow.

The man was detained after six hours.

Police seek vandals and young drinkers

VANDALS have taken advantage of maintenance work at Dunbeg Primary School by stealing tools from the boiler room and causing damage.

Workmen have been removing asbestos from the boiler room at the school and overnight between Thursday and Friday last week, the vandals forced entry to the school, slashed a polythene tent used by the workers and stole tools.

Oban Police have also received reports of groups of underage drinkers congregating in the Ganavan area of Oban.

Police have already confiscated alcohol from groups of youths at the start of the cycle path, near to the shinty pitch and on the beach.

Oban Police will be patrolling the area on a regular basis.

Police are urging anyone with any information of these crimes to contact them on 01631 510500.

Record number from Argyll and Bute win Duke's awards

A RECORD 10 Argyll and Bute youths have this year won gold Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards.

Six winners recently met Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, at this year's presentation ceremony at Holyrood Palace.

The other four, who were absent, will receive their awards at the Argyll and Bute Youth Awards in September.

Five winners, who are based in Oban, are Finn Currie, Kirsty Pallas, Gordon Harrower, Alastair Hoon and Alasdair Taylor.

Other winners include Lochgilphead's Callum Turner and Ewan Morrison, Ruth Lambert of Dunoon, Rhona MacPhee from Islay and Lauren Carruthers, Helensburgh.

Participants must spend at least 12 months undertaking voluntary work, skills development, improvement in such physical activities as sport or dancing and preparing for and completing an expedition to win the gold award.

Councillor Dick Walsh, chair of Argyll and Bute's DofE award group, said: 'These young people are great examples of how all of us can contribute to society when we really put our minds to it.'

'Raft' of prizes at fun Oban Bay race

'BEST sinking' is just one of the many raft race prizes being offered as the event returns to Oban's George Street beach for a third consecutive year.

Organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, this year's Great Oban Bay Raft Race will take place on August 17.

Last year's event saw 18 rafts take to the waters, double that of 2011.

Event organiser Brian Simmonds said a variety of prizes will be given for rafts, including

'Dangerous' Dalmally driver overtook off-duty policeman

A DRIVER who overtook an off duty police officer in a line of traffic on the A819 near the Dalmally junction has been charged with careless driving.

The 39 year old allegedly carried out a series of dangerous overtaking manoeuvres and is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Waulking away at Benderloch

A WAULKING song group is to hold a ceilidh in Benderloch. Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchlaidh, 'Inverclyde Waulking Group', specialises in the rhythmic songs used to accompany tweed production. The group performs in the Victory Hall on Saturday.

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Point dropped as Fort draw with Inveraray

'At 3-1 the game would have been won but a lack of concentration at the end cost us' - Victor Smith

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
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FORT WILLIAM lifted themselves off the bottom of the Orion Group Premiership after battling to a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Inveraray at An Aird.

Fort had both points within their grasp but a second goal from Lewis MacNicol late in the game dashed hopes of a vital victory as they seek to escape the spectre of relegation.

In a cagey first half, Fort were first to declare their intent when Gordy MacKinnon went close to opening the scoring on 20 minutes, cracking a shot off the bar.

Fine play from MacKinnon then teed up Ryan Campbell but his effort flew high over as Fort sought to find a rhythm.

Inveraray carried their own threat up front and Paul McKay had to be at his best on 28 minutes to knock away a McNicol drive after a scramble in the Fort 'D'.

Three minutes later home fans were celebrating, not for the first time this season, a goal of true quality from Gary Innes.

Niall MacPhee surged through on a powerful run from midfield and when the ball broke to Innes he fairly hammered home a beautiful shoulder-height volley from 12 yards to give Graeme MacPherson no chance.

SHINTY

McKay was in action again to deny Garry MacPherson on 40 minutes as Inveraray pressed and moments later they found a deserved equaliser through MacNicol's smart finish from a tight angle.

With the breeze behind them in the second half Fort took a hold of the game and got their reward on 65 minutes, when dangerman Innes cleverly ran along the edge of the 'D' to find a shooting angle and smacked a low drive past MacPherson into the far corner.

McKay pulled off another trademark stop with his cannon



Daniel Stewart keeps control under a strong challenge from Nicholas Crawford. 20_123shinty01

to deny Ally MacDonald before Ryan Campbell almost made it 3-1 for the Fort in brilliant fashion, his 25-yard overhead hook cannoning off the bar with MacPherson beaten.

But Inveraray are not if not resilient and earned themselves a point when MacNicol's speculative effort from long range eluded McKay with 10

minutes left. To Fort William co-manager Victor Smith the draw was a disappointment.

He told The Oban Times: 'Three weeks ago that would have been a point gained, but after our performances in the past two or three weeks that must go down as a point dropped.'

'We did not play particularly

well but the effort was there. The boys were devastated afterwards.'

'At 3-1 the game would have been won but a lack of concentration at the end cost us.'

Inveraray player manager Garry MacPherson singled out 17-year-old Fraser MacNicol and 19-year-old Ally MacDonald, who were drafted into the attack

from the second team, where they play in defence.

He told The Oban Times: 'I thought they were excellent. Considering we were quite short in the forward line, to go away from home a get a point against a strong team like Fort was a great result. I am well happy with the performance and the effort we showed.'

Ross wins the Trotternish Trot

ATHLETICS

THE INAUGURAL Isle of Skye Rotary Club 'Trott' along the scenic Trotternish Ridge proved a big hit on June 29 - despite deteriorating weather later in event.

A total of nine runners and 15 walkers took on the main 36k route from Flodigarry to Portree - and it was Nigg man Ross Bannerman who finished well clear of the field to claim first prize and a bottle of Talisker whisky.

Skymen Donnie Nicolson and Robert Holding were joint third runners while in the 36k walkers' team event Nicholas Wibelmann from Aberdeen, Ewan Gill from Ellon and Archie Robertson of Falkirk were first home. In the 21km walk challenge, the Broadford team of Mark Macdonald, Scott Mackinnon and Bruce Neil claimed first place from an entry of 13.

Marshalls were placed in pairs at checkpoints and escaperoutes/waterstations at 15 locations along the route along with support from Skye Mountain Rescue Team.

And the high level of support was to prove key later in the day as the wind and drizzle came in to make for a very challenging afternoon. Despite the conditions, everyone was kept safe.

Meanwhile, the intermediate route saw 12 walkers set off from Shulista to head out to Rubha Hunish, along the coast to St Moluags and then up to Conista where they ascended onto the Quirang. Conditions became challenging on top of the Quirang but everyone was safe.

Loch Leven trial

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest time trial round Loch Leven was won by Stephen Burns in a time of 48 minutes and 21 seconds.

A field of 14 competitors tackled the 18-mile route in dry sunny conditions, with Ewan Thorburn taking second place, finishing two minutes and 8 seconds behind Burns. Andrew Barrington was third in 51 minutes and 27 seconds.

The first woman home was Sile Morris, who set a personal best time of 59 minutes and 47 seconds.

Well done Ryan!

SAILING

Ballachulish lad Ryan MacIntyre made best use of the wind at the recent Lochaber Yacht Club regatta to win the dinghies races in his Laser Radial.

Hamish Loudon, Piotr Godziszewski, and Harry Jeffrey won the solings competition in Solaris.



Treble up for Lochaber Athletic Club runners

ATHLETICS

TWO LOCAL runners recorded remarkable hat-tricks in Lochaber Athletic Club's 'triple hurple' weekend.

Filay Wild and Dianne Baum each won the three gruelling hill races in the space of just over 48 hours.

Wild was the fastest man in Saturday's Graham Brooks Memorial Meall an T-suidhe hill race and the Half Ben Race on Sunday, before winning the Cow Hill race on Monday evening.

And Baum was the fastest women in all three events.

Wild took a comfortable win in the Cow Hill Race in 17 minutes and 28 seconds. Colin Donnelly was 92s back in second, with David Rodgers in third.

Baum finished in 22m 53s, ahead of her teammate Lyndsey Shaw.

A field of 83 competitors took part in the Half Ben Race, with Wild finishing nearly five minutes faster than second-placed James Waldie in a time of 52m 28s.



Race winner Finlay Wild leads the field from the start line for the Meall an T-suidhe hill race at Claggan Park.

Jon Gay was the second best local runner, taking fifth overall in 59m 45s. LAC's Donald Paterson and John Binnie both recorded top 10 finishes.

Baum finished in 1h 7m and 26s to take 15th overall, while Sarah Mackenzie was the second fastest woman in 1h 9m and 23s and Amanda Blackhall third in 1h 11m.

On Saturday Wild won the Meall an T-suidhe race by more than three minutes in warm, dry conditions, with Donnelly again runner up.

Wild completed the 450-metre climb in 28m 10s seconds - more than six minutes faster than last year's winning time.

Donnelly finished in 31m 25s, while Stephen Burns was third in 32m 19s. Last year's winner Gary MacDonald was a further 43 seconds back in fourth.

Baum finishing in 37m 53s, giving her 14th place overall. Mackenzie was again second in 39m 18s, with Emma Baker taking third place.



The young prize winners with their trophies.

Rugby club prizegiving

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club handed out prizes to their top young players at a ceremony last weekend.

In the P6/7 category, Cameron Davis was named player of the year, Fergus Berardelli most improved and Alan and Jack Hamilton shared the trophy for best attendance.

Freddie Fulford was given the player of the year prize for P4/5, Archie Clark most improved and Nathan Johnston best attendance. Josh Farr was given the prize for most improved in P3.

Club president Alistair MacKinnon, captain Mike McLeish and vice captain Jack Baxter handed out the awards.

Lochaber committee member Pauline Donaldson said: 'Congratulations to everyone who received an award and we look forward to seeing you all again after the summer holidays.'

Meanwhile, the senior team will play their first preseason game against the Isle of Mull on Saturday August 3.

Fort struggle in Oban tournament

FOOTBALL

AN UNDERSTRENGTH Fort William squad travelled to Oban last Saturday to take part in the annual D&K Cup Tournament hosted by Oban Saints FC.

The competition is played on a round robin basis with all the teams playing each other in short, sharp 40 minute games.

Teams taking part along with Fort William and Oban Saints

were were Dundee United under 20s, Hamilton Accies first team, and Albion Rovers first team.

Accies won the tournament with Dundee United in second place. Fort William lost 2-0 to Albion Rovers, 3-0 to Accies, 3-0 to Oban Saints and 7-0 to Dundee United.

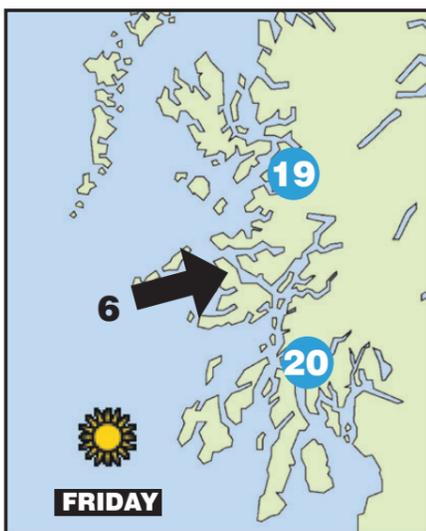
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 14°C to 18°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.

Weekend Sunny
Outlook Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 15°C to 23°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 18, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.23 3.1 07.20 1.6 13.44 3.1 19.32 1.5	
Fri	02.07 3.2 08.34 1.4 15.05 3.3 20.48 1.3	
Sat	03.24 3.4 09.39 1.2 16.02 3.6 21.58 1.0	
Sun	04.22 3.6 10.35 0.9 16.50 3.9 22.57 0.8	
Mon	05.10 3.8 11.24 0.6 17.34 4.1 23.50 0.6	
Tues	05.53 3.9 12.11 0.4 18.17 4.2 *** **	
Wed	00.38 0.5 06.35 3.9 12.56 0.3 18.58 4.3	

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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