

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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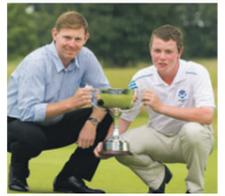
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SPORTS NEWS
Robert's historic win



Flash floods hit Lorn

Worst flooding near Bonawe in 60 years

FLASH flooding, lightning and twisters battered North Lorn on Monday evening, causing rivers to break their banks and blocking roads in what's thought to be the area's worst floods in 60 years.

A sudden cloudburst at around 5pm caused chaos, particularly between Benderloch, Barcaldine and Bonawe, with several sections of the road made impassable by the torrents of water coming off the hills.

Conservative estimates suggest rivers rose by an average of eight to 10 feet in places, with streams turning into white water rapids as the lochs, Dubh Loch Beag, Dubh Loch Mor and Lochan Uaine above Achnaba were overwhelmed by the storm.

Ross McNab watched the swirling storms forming from Loch Etive.

He said: 'I could see all the strange clouds and thought to myself at the time 'looks like there might be tornados in that' and seen what looked like a big one forming over Connel/Benderloch. Thank god it never touched down.'

Meanwhile Keith Carmichael's photograph of the tornado near Kilvaree between Oban and Connel has attracted more than 500 likes so far on The Oban Times Facebook page.

Lightning strike hits community hydro scheme



Keith Carmichael's photograph of the tornado near Kilvaree between Oban and Connel has attracted more than 500 likes so far on The Oban Times Facebook page.

Connel has attracted more than 500 likes so far on our Facebook page.

Among the worst affected by the floods was Craig McGougan, who returned home after work to find his brand new garden at Achnaba destroyed when the

river next to his house burst its banks.

While the full extent of the damage is to be determined, he is a footbridge and a wheelie bin down, with both washed away. Thankfully, the house was not damaged.

The director of Neil McGougan Builders said: 'We built the house higher up in case the tide was high on the shore. I didn't expect this.'

Neighbour Alan Langley said the flood was '18 inches' from completely submerging Craig's sheds, which are six foot high. The rivers next to Ardchattan Parish Church burst their banks, flooding the road, with the bridge at Alt an t-Siomain among those washed over.

Kirsty Petre, who lives at Tigh an t-Siomain, returned home to find her home unscathed, but said: 'The last time there was such an overflow was in 1953, when the road was washed away at Achnaba Church.'

Sections of the Gleann Salach road were transformed into a waterfall, washing debris onto the road and down river. Barcaldine residents also had to contend with a flooded road and inundated gardens. Sections of

the forest at Am Maoilean were overwhelmed too, with Dearg Abhainn at one point spanning more than 40 feet across the forest floor.

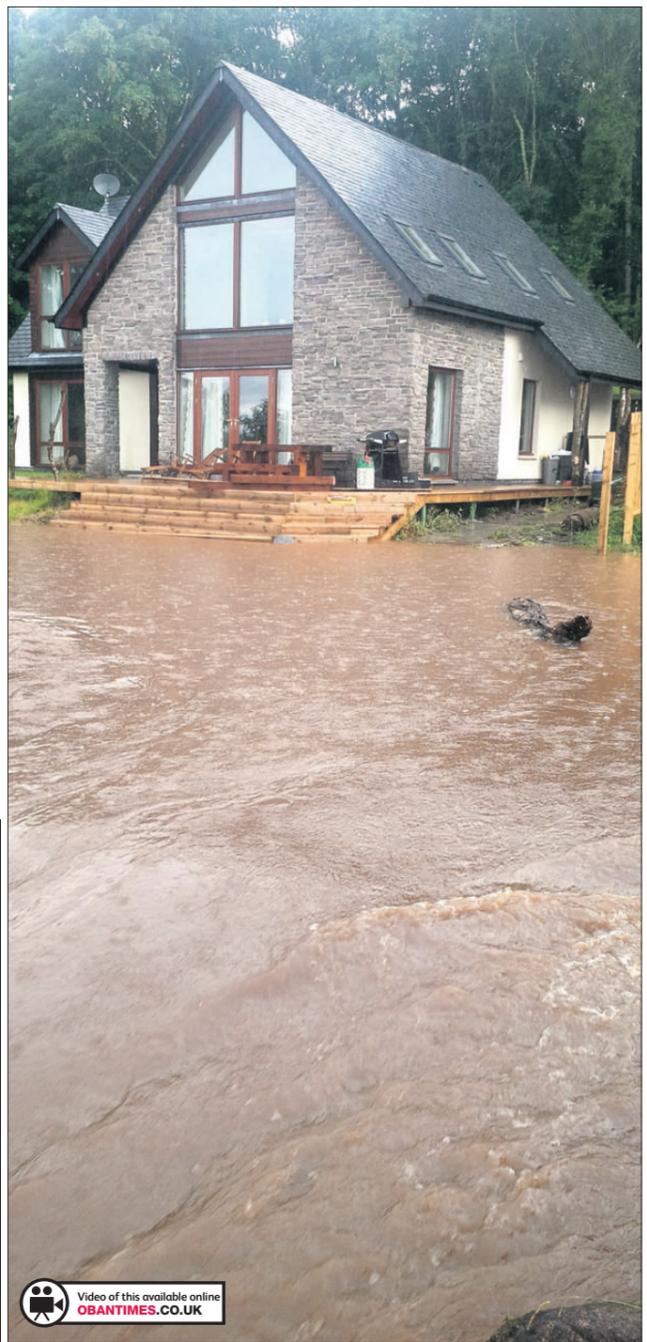
Councillor Iain MacDonald, who lives at Bonawe, was a victim of a lightning strike, which struck a community hydro station next to his house, knocking power out at his home.

He said: 'I alerted the council to the flooding straight away and they are to inspect the culverts immediately. There's a few lessons to be learned.'

'The council will be cautious after bridges were washed away on Mull last year because of flash flooding.'

Argyll and Bute Council said technicians were checking the roads on Tuesday.

Right - Aimee Whittaker's photograph shows how the flood quickly submerged Craig McGougan's garden at Achnaba. Logs and other forest debris was washed down the river by the floods. For more pictures and a video, see www.obantimes.co.uk.



Van driver charged with dangerous driving in Taynuilt

A WHITE van man has been accused of dangerous driving in Taynuilt after allegedly tailgating other vehicles and carrying out dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.

The 32-year-old Ford Transit driver, from the Glasgow area, was driving through the village at around 6pm last Friday.

The man is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.



The Royal Navy helicopter at Castle Stalker.

Rescue helicopter winches patient off roof of Appin castle

A MAN who took ill while visiting Appin's Castle Stalker was airlifted by a Royal Navy helicopter in a dramatic rescue on Tuesday - at what was also Oban Lifeboat's 1,000th call out.

The man was winched into the aircraft from the roof of the famous tourist attraction before being rushed to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

Fiona Holland, a spokeswoman for the Navy's search and rescue helicopter HMS Gannet, confirmed the 'unusual' call-out was not the result of an accident and instead was caused by a medical condition the middle-aged man had.

She said: 'A doctor had gone to the island and had made the man comfortable before the winching

took place.'

She declined to comment on what the medical emergency was and the man's condition was not known at the time of going to press.

HMS Gannet was airborne at 2.25pm, arriving at Castle Stalker just before 3pm. The crew spent almost an hour there before winching the casualty on board.

Oban lifeboat crew also attended and secured the casualty onto a stretcher before carrying out the delicate operation of moving the man from the upper level of the castle to the roof to be winched onto the helicopter.

The rescue was the 1,000th call out for the Mora Edith MacDonald lifeboat, which was first brought into service on July 27, 1997.

Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

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Celebrate Oban cinema's first year with free tickets

OBAN'S community cinema is celebrating its first birthday by giving away 30 free tickets to a hit new movie.

Oban Phoenix Cinema turns one this weekend and thanks to builders merchants Jewson's 30 people will get to see Despicable Me Two for free on Sunday.

The 12pm screening follows an open morning in which members of the public are being invited into the cinema to see how the venue is progressing.

Carol Devine, the cinema's duty manager, said: 'This free of charge event will allow visitors to see what has been achieved and

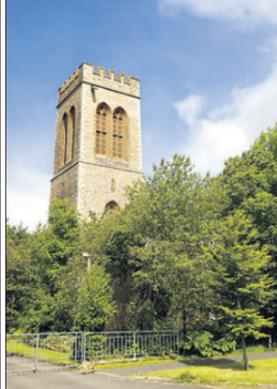
remind people in Oban that this is still a community cinema - without their help it wouldn't exist.'

Oban Phoenix will have its doors open on Sunday from 9am until 11.30am for people to enjoy a tour of the cinema, get a goody bag, see a short film and try out 3D glasses.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about the cinema's progress.

A free ticket for Despicable Me Two is available with a full price ticket. These are on a first come, first served basis from today (Thursday) and are limited to one per group.

Inveraray ringer follows father's footsteps



Inveraray Bell Tower

THE SON of the first man to conduct a peal on the bells at Inveraray Bell Tower will travel to the Royal Burgh this month to commemorate the great event.

Chris Kippin, the son of Charles H Kippin, who conducted the 1938 bell ringing performance at All Saints Bell Tower, will next Saturday lead a peal to celebrate the 75th anniversary of his father's achievement.

The Englishman will lead a group of bell ringers from across the UK in the peal attempt which will follow the Bristol Surprise Royal method. Chris has said that he is 'looking forward' to following in his father's footsteps and embarking on the peal with some of the most experienced ringers in the country.

During his father's time there had been competition between bands for the honour of ringing the first peal on the Inveraray bells. Installed in the early 1920s, the bells are the second heaviest ring of 10 bells in the world.

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Police name victim of North Ballachulish motorbike crash

POLICE have named the motorcyclist who died in an accident on the A82 at North Ballachulish last week.

Michael McConnachie Clark, aged 57, who was from Kinlochleven, suffered fatal injuries when his bike collided with another vehicle on Tuesday afternoon.

Police are searching for the driver of a white Transit-type van towing a trailer to whom they wish to speak.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or with useful information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

A report is being submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Three day celebration of Luig ferryboats

AN EXHIBITION celebrating the history of the ferry to Luig, from an open boat rowed by four people to a vehicle link has taken place on the island.

Luig History Group hosted a three day event in Cullipool Hall, Isle of Luig, from Friday 26 until Sunday, July 28.

This year's exhibition celebrated 60 years of Cuan Ferry having a vehicle ferry, as well as telling the story since it was an open boat.

Also in the exhibition was puffers and their links with the island, through slate and deliveries. The new information panels in Gaelic tell the story of the Luig forts and Holy Isle.

Children could do rubbings and created their very own ferry while tea, coffee and home baking was served to the visitors.

The committee would like to thank all those who supported the exhibition over the weekend. The total number of visitors was 201 and a record breaking £555.25 was raised in donations.

The Luig History Group are looking forward to displaying its collection in the new Atlantic Islands Centre.

Have your say on school closures

PEOPLE across the west Highlands have been encouraged to make their views known on proposed new legislation on school closures.

Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, has made the appeal following the Scottish Government's recently published consultation paper setting out proposals to amend the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Mr McGrigor said: 'Rural primary schools are a key part of the fabric of our rural and island communities and I am very clear that the presumption should be against closure except in the most exceptional of circumstances.'

The consultation runs until September 2 and details of how to take part can be found at scotland.gov.uk/Publications.

Community in Cowal may reverse backing for Loch Etive fish farm

A COMMUNITY council based near Dunoon is to consider withdrawing a letter of support for a proposed fish farm on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt.

Sandbank Community Council's vice convener, Jennifer Woodward, submitted a letter to Argyll and Bute Council in

support of the original proposal by Dawnfresh for a new trout farm on the loch on January 30.

She said she sent the letter because the community council had agreed to it and because they had been asked to support the application for the fish farm - which would be 61 miles

away from the community council's patch. However, both the secretary and the convener of the community council said they had no knowledge of the letter being sent on behalf of the group, expressing surprise that Ms Woodward had made the submission.

Iain MacNaughton, convener, became aware of the issue when Argyll and Bute Council asked if he wished to carry over the community council's response for the new application. He agreed, but now admits he was surprised the group had made the decision while he was on

holiday. He said: 'When I saw it I thought it was bizarre. I'm not sure what it's got to do with us.' Secretary of the community council, Rhona Altin, added: 'I don't know why it was brought up. I don't think it's our place to comment on something so far away from us.'

'Nobody said to put in a letter. I don't think there was anything mentioned to that extent. I think the whole thing has got out of hand.'

Ms Woodward denied she had any vested interest, saying she supported the application because she believed it was good

for the economy as a whole. 'We were asked to support it, I didn't see anything wrong with that. It was discussed, one person objected. I don't have any personal interest in Loch Etive, but jobs are important for Scotland and everyone has an interest in that.'



Beauty therapist Adele Duncan, left, explains how much pain Iain McNelly can expect from his sponsored wax as his daughter, Ceri, offers some support. 15_131wax01

Oban father ready for hair-raising challenge

DOTING fathers will do anything for their little girls but one Oban parent is taking on a hair-raising challenge to help his daughter complete a trip of a lifetime to Central America.

Seventeen-year-old Ceri McNelly is travelling to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in October to volunteer with the Raleigh International Expedition on community projects in the region, before taking on a 19-day trek covering 155 miles.

Although the teenager is funding her own flights (£900), immunisations (£200) and the purchase of expedition gear, she must also raise £3,200 in sponsorship and has organised a number of fundraising events, including a rather painful experience for her father, Iain.

Iain, a project manager, has an appointment at beauty salon Saint Saviour in Oban next Wednesday to have hair waxed off his arms, chest, back, under

arms and legs - even his eyebrows could go. The extent of hair removal, Iain said, would depend on how much money he can raise.

Iain, husband of St John's Cathedral Provost Revd Nicki McNelly, said: 'Ceri is doing 155 miles - the equivalent distance of her trek - on gym bikes, treadmills, cross trainers and rowing machines with a group of friends to raise money. 'I was supposed to be joining

them but, because of injury, I had to come up with something just as gruelling.'

Ceri, who works at MacQueen Brothers in Oban aims to be in Central America for 10 weeks. During that time she will be helping provide basic facilities, such as clean water, schools and homes. Anyone who wishes to sponsor Ceri or Iain can drop off a donation at The Rectory in Ardconnel Terrace, or contact them on 01631 562 323.

Jury trials to move to 'sheriff centres' in restructure

PLANS to stop holding jury trials in Argyll and Bute will go ahead as planned, Eric McQueen the chief executive of the Scottish Court Service (SCS) has confirmed.

In a letter to *The Oban Times*, Mr McQueen reiterated the SCS' view that the planned restructure will see jury trials moved to specialist 'sheriff centres' over the next 10 years, with that timeframe to allow for

several required changes - to legislation, infrastructure and technology.

However, that is still dependent on court capacity and the development of video links.

He further confirmed that the Sheriff Principal will still retain the right to hold a jury trial in any courthouse in the Sheriffdom, where he considers it appropriate and in the best interests of justice.

His letter comes after Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell claimed the SCS had a 'change of heart' regarding its plans to end jury trials in Argyll and Bute, something the SCS said wasn't the case. Mr McQueen said: 'I had a very helpful meeting with Michael Russell MSP, who clearly explained his constituents' concerns on our restructuring plans for Argyll and Bute. Importantly, I was

able to assure Mr Russell that our plans would not see an immediate withdrawal of jury trials from Argyll and Bute.'

'While we have set out definitive dates for court closures, with Rothesay Sheriff Court closing in November 2013, we have listened to stakeholders during the extensive consultation phase and are taking a different approach with the move to specialist sheriff centres,

which will be progressively introduced over the next 10 years.'

'We have also made it clear that even following the move to specialist centres, the Sheriff Principal will still retain the right to hold a jury trial within any courthouse in their Sheriffdom, where that is considered to be in the best interests of justice.'

See letter on page 10.

Islands' forum may lead to increased devolution

Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney join forces in bid for greater self-government

MORE POWERS for the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney may be possible in an independent Scotland, finance secretary John Swinney has claimed.

Pledge
The pledge follows an agreement between island representatives and local government minister Derek Mackay at the Scottish Cabinet meeting in Lerwick last week to establish a new forum to examine potential further devolution of responsibilities from Edinburgh.

The ministerial working group will include representatives from Our Islands - Our Future (Ar n-Eileanan - Ri teachd), the campaign by the three island councils' to win more self-government.

Mr Swinney said: 'One of the great advantages of the independence debate is the opportunity to reflect on the form of Scotland we wish to see.'

'Shetland, Orkney and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have already taken a lead in doing

that. Our Islands - Our Future is an important initiative which we discussed at the cabinet meeting this morning and I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish Government has agreed in principle, jointly with campaign leaders from the three island authorities, to convene a new ministerial working group to consider the issues it raises.'

Welcome
Comhairle leader Angus Campbell welcomed the new forum as evidence of the strength of the case the islands' councils are making.

'We want to fully realise the potential of our islands.'

Angus Campbell leader Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

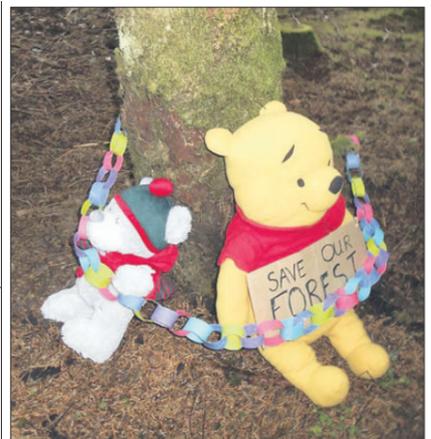
He said: 'I and my colleagues in Shetland and Orkney now look forward to engaging with the Scottish Government and we would hope that similar engagement will be forthcoming from the UK Government.'

'Our aim is to ensure that the three island groups have the means to improve the well being of the communities of their areas and contribute more to national prosperity.'

'In our view the best way of doing that is by devolving further powers to island areas.'

'We believe the constitutional debate currently taking place in Scotland offers a unique opportunity to engage in serious debate on these opportunities to improve, we believe, the lives of those living in the islands but also for the Scottish and UK Governments to derive the maximum possible benefit from the islands' economic, cultural and social resources.'

'We want to fully realise the potential of our islands.'



Some residents of the fairy forest staging a protest of their own against felling plans

Doubts voiced over community buyout of Lochaber 'fairy forest'

THE POSSIBILITY of a community buyout of a fairy forest trail under threat from estate owners has been dismissed by one of the women behind the site.

The Coille Rais Fairy Forest near Gairloch has grown in size and popularity since it was created six years ago by a local woman for youngsters in the village.

But as revealed in *The Oban Times* in June, forest owners Achnacarry Estate say the woodland is close to felling age and want to clear the trail.

Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson and local community council chairman John Fotheringham have been among those

suggesting a community buyout of the trail could preserve its future.

However, one of the woman who maintain the forest trail, who wishes to remain anonymous, told *The Oban Times*: 'If there was a buyout the community would want a plan, there would be signage, insurance, and people would know who the owners would be so it wouldn't be a secretive place anymore. I just didn't think it would work.'

Meanwhile, an online petition started by the creators of the Facebook page 'The Only Way is Fort William' against the estate's plans has attracted more than 300 signatures from across Lochaber and beyond.

who contributed to the scheme and recognised the work of Kelie Cooper, MacPhee's wills and executors paralegal for her efforts in the programme. 'Kelie did all the hard work,' added Kath.

Home-Start also hands out occasional food parcels through the churches charity Lord's Larder to families struggling to feed their children.

The donation from MacPhee's, which included a 'generous' gift from an anonymous donor, will help Home-Start to continue providing this vital service in Oban and Lorn.



Kath McMahon, Aileen Binner, Bob Clarke, Gill Cadzow, Kelie Cooper and Sandy Henry celebrate the donation to Home-Start. 16_131wills01

Fort William police files

TWO BIKES were stolen from outside houses in the Fort William area last week.

A blue-coloured girl's mountain bike was stolen from a garden in Lochy Road, Fort William between Monday July 22 and Thursday July 25.

A man's specialised mountain bike which was black with silver pedals was stolen from a garden on Broom Drive, Caol between 1.30am and 5pm on July 27.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'Please secure all property including bicycles within available sheds or garages. The use of cycle locks is also strongly advised.'

A TRAMPOLINE in a garden on Banff Crescent, Fort William was slashed between 8pm on Wednesday July 24 and 8am the following day.

TWO CARS were vandalised while parked on Kennedy Road, Fort William.

A Renault Clio and a Renault Megane were scratched on the bonnet and boot between 8pm on Tuesday July 23 and 9am the next morning.

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

Solicitors aid local charity with wills by donation

AN OBAN solicitors has raised thousands of pounds for a local charity by giving their time for free to make wills - in exchange for a charitable donation.

Staff at MacPhee and Partners handed over a cheque for £12,790.72 to Home-Start Lorn after completing their annual wills charity month in May.

Home-Start provides support to families with at least one child under five years old. They place volunteers, all parents themselves, with the family for a few hours a week to provide assistance for those who are struggling to cope for whatever reason.

Aileen Binner, Home-Start coordinator, recruits, selects and prepares volunteers before 'matching' them to a family. Gill Cadzow provides the admin support.

Aileen said: 'It is amazing to get this in one donation that we didn't have to spend months filling in application forms for.'

'Being given this will make such a difference to us and the families we support.'

Bob Clarke, chairman of Home-Start, added: 'We're extremely grateful to MacPhee's and their clients - the amount is beyond our wildest dreams.'

Kath McMahon and Sandy Henry, both partners at MacPhee's, thanked everyone

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Isle of Seil mobile phone signal petition gathers momentum

A PETITION demanding reliable mobile phone signal on the Isle of Seil is gaining momentum before being sent to local politicians.

The letter to be sent to MSP Michael Russell and MP Alan Reid calls for some of the UK Government's £150 million for improved mobile coverage to be spent on Seil. It states: 'Lack of a reliable mobile phone signal

in this community (Seil Island) is damaging the tourist trade and putting the lives of water sports participants at risk by hampering communications with the emergency services.'

Signatories include Donald Campbell, who said: 'It is disgraceful this area, in this day and age, does not have a mobile phone signal. It is long overdue!'

Murdoch Baxter added: 'Seil is a community of around 500 folk who are greatly disadvantaged by lack of any mobile signal. This has major safety, health, business and convenience detriments and unnecessarily and sadly makes the island out-of-touch, out-of-date and at risk.'

Pat Blunsden said: 'If the landline is down or unavailable

there's no way of getting help in an emergency. If I break down in my car at night on an isolated road how do I get help?'

The petition, started by Nick Bowles, had reached 85 signatures at the time of going to press.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I have been active on this subject since my election in May 2011 not

just about Seil but with regard to the poor quality of service throughout Argyll.'

'I am pressing the Mobile Operators Association to ensure that my constituents can enjoy the same levels of service and coverage as those in other parts of the UK.'

'Not to do so is simply unacceptable and is 'ripping off' their customers who are paying

for a service they are not receiving.'

'In many rural areas the mobile phone is a lifeline and is proven to save lives. The time for excuses has run out and the mobile phone companies now have to give serious thought to investing in Argyll and Bute.'

'They should not be rolling out 4g until 3g is available to all.'

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, added: 'As the petition says, the UK Government has allocated £150 million to improve mobile phone coverage in rural areas. This contract has been awarded to Arqiva.'

'I've written to Arqiva asking that Seil be included in their plans and have also asked them for a meeting or a telephone discussion regarding this.'

Anti-fish farm campaigner loses case

AN ANTI-fish farming campaigner - described as a 'zealot' - has been ordered to pay tens of thousands of dollars to one of the world's biggest aquaculture firms.

Don Staniford had previously won a defamation case brought against him in the Canadian courts by fish farmers Mainstream Canada, owned by Norwegian-based Cermaq which also has operations in Scotland.

Mr Staniford has visited the west coast of Scotland on several occasions, most recently speaking at a planning hearing about a proposed fish farm off Gometra, near Mull.

But Mainstream appealed the trial judge's ruling from 2012, claiming Mr Staniford's statements against the fish farming industry were not backed up by facts.

Three appeal judges recently upheld Mainstream's claim - leaving Staniford with his website shut down, \$75,000 the poorer and gagged from repeating 52 statements the court deemed defamatory on any future occasion.

In his deliberations, appeal judge Justice Tysoc quoted trial judge Elaine Adair as stating Mr Staniford was 'akin to a zealot' and 'virtually anything that conflicts with his view and vision is wrong, bad, disgraceful and worse Mr Staniford seems incapable of conceding he might be wrong on some things' and 'he cruelly and publicly mocks people who have a different point of view.'

Mr Staniford slammed this decision as a 'slap in the face of freedom of speech'. He said: 'This shocking judgment will have a chilling effect on all campaigners speaking out on environmental and social justice issues. The wide-ranging permanent injunction has huge implications for freedom of speech and cannot be allowed to stand.'

'I will fight this Norwegian multinational all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada via an appeal.'

'The truth always wins out in the end.'

Police called to ferry queue fight

POLICE were called to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal in Oban after two men were reported for fighting in the car lanes as they waited to board a ferry to the Isle of Mull.

The men, a 29 year old from Oban and a 26 year old from Mull were reported to police at around 7.25pm on Saturday.

Argyll estate plans go on hold

Muckairn Estate mothballs £6 million plan until fish farm decision is known

A MULTI-million pound redevelopment of Muckairn Estate has been put on hold - and could be cancelled entirely - pending the outcome of an application for a fish farm on Loch Etive.

Estate owner Keith Macmillan had already embarked on plans for a £6million redevelopment of Muckairn, which would provide 25 construction jobs over four years, but has mothballed the work after saying Dawnfresh's proposals for a 10-cage fish farm at Sailean Ruadh would 'undermine' the scheme.

While the first phase of the work is complete, Mr Macmillan has said he would find it impossible to carry on to rebuild the castle and other buildings while there is a possibility of a new fish farm on the loch.

He said: 'It is always a shame to suspend work on a project after so much time and effort has been put in by so many talented people but the prospect of a huge industrialised fish farm right on our doorstep seriously undermines the reasons for restoring the estate to its former glory.'

The estate currently employs four people and Mr Macmillan said he could not guarantee those jobs if the plans for the fish farm are approved.

The location at Sailean Ruadh directly borders the estate and the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Airds Bay.

Phase one of the restoration of the Muckairn Estate, which began three years ago saw two bridges replaced over the Allt Nathais river, the demolition of two of the houses, remaking the estate roads, providing a new water supply and restoring the

"It is always a shame to suspend work on a project after so much time and effort has been put in."

Muckairn Estate owner Keith Macmillan

walled garden.

Dawnfresh's application, meanwhile, has already attracted hundreds of representations with objections and letters of support both from the local area and from as far afield as England and Spain.

Among the supporters is Alastair Salvesson, Dawnfresh's owner, who represents himself as a general member of the public.

He says: 'SEPA and SNH have already approved the application for a larger fin fish farm on this site so environmental concerns have been covered.'

'Lice have never been a concern on farmed fish in the brackish water of Loch Etive. Dawnfresh Farming employ a lot of people in this area both directly and by using local contractors and will be employing more after this application is approved and this benefits the local economy. I therefore strongly support this application.'

Thieves ransack Oban laundrette

THE LAUNDRETTE in Oban's Stevenson Street has been ransacked by thieves after a break-in during the early hours of last Friday.

Oban police are seeking witnesses to the incident, which occurred around 2.50am, when the front door was forced open and a small amount of money

was stolen from inside.

Police are following a positive line of enquiry, however anyone who witnessed the break-in, saw anything suspicious in the area at the time or knows anything about the incident is encouraged to contact DC Stuart McNee at Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.



Keith Macmillan's plans for the redevelopment of Muckairn Castle, above, have been put on hold pending the outcome of Dawnfresh's application to build a new fish farm on Loch Etive.

Seagulls and rubbish create nightmare for Oban residents

Overflowing bin problem for four years

AN OVERFLOWING rubbish bin is making life a nightmare for residents on Oban's Gallanach Road.

The offending bin sits next to Cardingmill Bay pontoons and is meant for use by visiting boats - but the bin only gets emptied twice a week leaving litter scattered all over the pavement during busy periods.

The situation can get so bad on a Monday or Friday morning, just before the bins are emptied, that residents are woken up at 4am by birds attacking the rubbish bags.

Local resident Elizabeth Mason said: 'The seagulls start first thing, they burst the bags up and the rubbish ends up across the road scattered everywhere, including my front garden.'

'This has been going on for three or four years - ever since that bin was put there - from April to October. When it is

quiet you might not get much but from now until September it is just a nightmare.'

'It gets emptied on Monday and by Wednesday it is overflowing. During West Highland Yachting Week it is absolutely horrendous.'

'This is just July - we have got the rest of the summer to go through yet. It's not fair, nobody seems to be doing anything about it.'

'You want to encourage visitors to come here but people are coming into this street and just walking into that mess. It infuriates me.'

Argyll and Bute Council's bin men have to use shovels to clear the pavement of rubbish around the bin. 'I have gone across myself with a brush and a shovel,' added Elizabeth.

Oban Bay Community Berthing (OBCB), which runs the Cardingmill Bay Landing

Stage, pay the council to have the bin there.

Duncan Martin, OBCB director, said: 'We have it emptied twice a week and that isn't enough. It will be picked up three times a week for the next month.'

'The vast majority of the rubbish is nothing to do with us - it is cars and campervans stopping - there is far more rubbish going into that bin than could ever come from our boats.'

'But it was a mistake we made, it should have been picked up three times a week from late June and we will have to sort that out for next year. We know it has become overfull and I agree it has been an absolute eyesore recently.'

Right - Angry and frustrated resident Elizabeth Mason beside the overflowing bin next to her home. 16.131rubbish01



Puffins come out on top in west of Iona seabird count

HIGHLIGHTS of a recent bird count around the Isle of Iona's outlying islets included 350 puffins, other tracks beside freshwater pools and an excavated burrow containing manx shearwater feathers.

The count was organised by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) ranger service alongside members of Mull Bird Club, Seil Natural History Society and the Scottish Wildlife Trust in Lorn and Mid-Argyll. The group set off aboard the Birthe Marie of Alternative Boat Hire Iona. Their first stop was the island of Soa for a thorough count of the fulmar and shag colonies,

including ringing a number of birds. It was here the other tracks were found as well as the burrow with manx shearwater feathers. Ranger Emily Wilkins said: 'We hope the birds will come back to breed in future.'

'Choppy sea conditions presented quite a challenge but 350 puffins were counted in addition to plenty of guillemots and razorbills, cormorants, shags and gulls around Stac Mhurchaidh and Reidh Eilean to the west of Iona. Regular counts enable NTS to monitor the health of seabird populations and we're grateful for the help of local experts in achieving this.'

Drink driver jailed for six months at Oban

Disqualified driver admits 'wee dram'

A MAN who drove while disqualified, with no insurance and then failed to provide a breath sample to police, has been sentenced to six months in prison.

Derek Hughes of 44 Bispham Avenue, Leyland, admitted in Oban Sheriff Court on June 25 to the charges which took place on June 21 this year.

Prosecutor fiscal John Service explained to the court last Tuesday how Oban police spotted the 51 year old driving into Croft Road. When they approached him in his car they could smell alcohol and he told them he had drunk 'a wee dram'.

He said: 'He was taken to Oban police office where he was required to provide a breath specimen. The first attempt was unsuccessful, but at the second he was puffing his cheeks out and no breath was expelled.'

'After a third attempt when he still refused to provide a sample and claimed the mouth pipe was blocked, he was charged by police.'

It was then later discovered he had been disqualified from driving and therefore had no insurance.

Defence agent Laura McManus said: 'It was an impulsive decision.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said he had no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence. Hughes was also banned from driving for eight years.

Gathering joins with school to create mini games

IN A BID to find the Highland games champions of the future, the Argyllshire Gathering has joined forces with Oban High School to put on a 'mini games' day after the Oban Highland Games.

The gathering's senior steward Jon Strickland said there would be too many pupils to hold the events on the same day as the Argyllshire Gathering (August 22) and denied that the move was to appease those who see the games as elitist.

Mr Strickland said: 'We are trying to increase school participation, so we will share our facilities with the school.'

'We have noticed over the last

Highland dancers and pipers. The Argyllshire Gathering has also donated a solid silver cup for the best junior heavyweight in the school.

Pointing out that the gathering already funds half of the junior piping tutelage at Oban, Lochgilhead and Inveraray, which has seen a boom in the number of young Argyll pipers, Mr Strickland added: 'What you can do for the brain, you can do for the brawn.'

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Oban High School would like to thank

few years that most of the heavy events are dominated by overseas nationals and non-locals, so we are trying to encourage participation in these events at junior level.'

'This year we take this experience a step further by running our own Highland games. The heaviest tuition, the sponsorship of events and the provision of all the marquees and flags from the Gathering will ensure that we can now spark the interest of every pupil in the school for our local heritage.'

the Argyllshire Gathering for its continuing support. In recent years we have worked together to ensure that our youngsters have been given the opportunity to gain an experience of our heritage through participating in and supporting the games.'

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Morvern Lines

MACKEREL landings at Lochaline have been dismal so far this year. Ardness and Ardtornish Point, Inniemore, Rubha an Ridric and other traditional places along the Sound of Mull, have not yielded their usual large numbers.

Shoals are scarce and unpredictable even in perfect conditions. When fish are caught they are small and more akin to the size of herring. Lower than average sea temperatures and over-fishing by Icelandic and Faroese ships are being blamed.

The late Rev Archibald Clerk (1813-87) minister of Kilmallie and a noted collector of local folklore, recorded that God made all the fishes except the mackerel.

The devil wanted to try his hand at fish-creating and the result was the mackerel but at the end of the day he had to apply to God to put life into it.

Due to the connection with the devil few Highlanders would eat them as the flesh was thought to turn into 'mauchs' (maggots) on the way to the stomach.

When examined the belly of a mackerel is almost always empty giving rise to the old Gaelic saying, 'cho glan ri goile rionnach' - as clean as a mackerel's stomach.

Every fisherman knows that when the mackerel are taking they come thick and fast and baskets are quickly filled.

'Sitheadh rionnach aon de na tri sithead a's luaithe 's a chuan mhor' - the rush of the mackerel, one of the three fastest rushes in the great ocean - used to be another old local saying.

A mackerel-sky in the evening with clouds like variegated streaks seen on a mackerel's back, is supposed to mean fine weather the following day.



Old Ardtornish House once welcomed Sir Walter Scott and Florence Nightingale.

A NEW house is beginning to appear on the Morvern landscape above Ardtornish Point. It replaces an early 18th century building on the same site of an even earlier house erected by the Macleans after the nearby medieval castle, once occupied by the Lords of the Isles, had fallen into disrepair.

The 22-roomed Old Ardtornish House, one of the loveliest and most historic abodes in the area, once described as 'the grandest house in Morvern', was dismantled in 1896 and totally demolished in 1907 by Thomas Valentine Smith, the owner of Ardtornish Estate.

An old visitors' book records that many luminaries and literary figures passed through its doors including; Florence Nightingale, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Sir Walter Scott, Patrick Sellar, Rev John Macleod of Finarray, General Lothian Nicholson (Governor of Gibraltar) Edmund Lushington (Professor of Greek, Edinburgh University) and many other well known figures of the times.

A popular and much-looked for local visitor to Old Ardtornish House a few years before it was abandoned, was Hector Currie, the Lochaline postman, or 'Rural Messenger' to give him his official title.

Hector Currie was postman for upwards of 44 years: 23 of these carrying the mail from Balleroch, Fishnish, Mull in his boat and 21 on the Kingairloch-Lochaline route when Fort William, instead of Oban, became the head post office for Morvern.

He did much of this on foot without a break travelling an estimated 112,000 miles. When he retired he was given a pension and presented with a purse of sovereigns and the wishes of the whole community that he be long spared to enjoy both.

Fergie Macdonald, the well-known Moidart band leader and Mr Alistair Scouler, Lochaline who, for many years was the local correspondent for *The Oban Times*, are among Hector's descendants.

Donald Mackinnon, the Morvern bard who lived at Rhemore, composed a Gaelic song about Hector when he had to shoulder the mail in place of handling the tiller. The song is not often heard these days. Perhaps Fergie Macdonald could be persuaded to popularise it once again by writing a tune to his illustrious and popular forbear?

Iain Thorner. iain.thorner@btinternet.com.

Appin Murder comes under spotlight at mock re-trial

THE HIGHLANDS' most infamous murder mystery will come under the spotlight at a mock re-trial of the case in Fort William next month.

Expert witnesses

'The Appin Murder (1752) - A Case Review of James of the Glen' promises a fresh look at a brutal killing and the subsequent hanging of an almost certainly innocent man.

Organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) as part of its free public talks in Lochaber, the two-part re-trial opens in the Ben Nevis Hotel at 7.30pm on September 3 with historian Professor Jim Hunter FRSE discussing the historical context of the murder.

Expert witnesses will re-examine the evidence, taking account of modern methods of

detection and scientific forensic techniques.

Forensic science

At 7pm the following evening in the same venue, Professor Sue Black, head of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee, will lead the case review.

Forensic scientist and investigator Professor David Barclay,

skull and facial features specialist Professor Caroline Wilkinson, forensic expert Professor Anthony Busuttill, Professor Hunter and historian Dr Karly Kehoe will also give evidence.

The free public event comes just weeks after Glencoe folk marked the 80th anniversary of death of local priest Reverend Alexander Stewart MacInnes

- the last man reputed to know who really shot 'The Red Fox', Colin Campbell of Glencoe.

At the ceremony in St Mary's Church, Allan MacInnes, professor of early modern history at Strathclyde University said evidence pointed towards two men shooting Campbell by sniper fire.

Jacobite sympathiser James Stewart - 'Seumas a' Ghlinne'

(James of the Glen) - was hanged at Ballachulish on November 8, 1752 for killing Campbell, a government-appointed factor, after a cursory trial under Hanoverian presiding judge Archibald Campbell, the Duke of Argyll.

Registration for both evenings is essential. Free places can be booked online at www.royal-soced.org.uk.

70-year old walks 97 miles home for charity

'Very few of us have had no contact with cancer'

A FORT WILLIAM senior citizen showed age is no barrier to a fit and healthy lifestyle when he completed the West Highland Way on Friday afternoon.

Retired Customs and Excise officer Donald MacKenzie had always wanted to walk the 97 miles from Milngavie to his home town.

But he felt others should benefit from his marathon five-day trek - and raised hundreds of pounds for Cancer Research UK.

Donald, of Glasdrum Grove, strolled in to the start-finish point in Gordon Square bang on schedule with his sister Sandra Mackenzie to be met with a welcoming hug and kiss from his wife Anne.

Sandra, 63, from Abernethy in Perthshire, accompanied Donald for the final 15-mile leg through the mountains from Kinlochleven. He had set off from Milngavie on July 22 - his 70th birthday.

Donald told *The Oban Times* on arrival: 'I did not have any problem with it, although the up and down bits took a

bit longer than the flat bits. I did not feel at any time I was struggling.

'The weather was quite good for my purposes because it was not too hot and I got wet once or twice, but that was to be expected. There were thunderstorms coming up Loch Lomond-side on Monday and Tuesday.

'I found the walk a bit enclosed at times - I would rather climb Bidean nam Bian in Glencoe four or five times in a week, but I did enjoy it.'

Donald explained his reasons for nominating Cancer Research UK as his recipient charity.

He said: 'Very few of us have had no contact with cancer - either being personally affected or through friends or relatives. There is no doubt that the survival rate is improving, thanks to research work into the disease.

'However, too many people do not survive and it seems obvious that more research is likely to increase the survival rate.'

Anyone wishing to boost Donald's fundraising can donate at <http://www.justgiving.com/Donald-MacKenzie2>.



Donald MacKenzie celebrates completing the West Highland Way in aid of Cancer Research UK with sister Sandra.

Three days of talks aim to avert CalMac ferry strike over pay

NEGOTIATIONS have taken place to prevent strike action by staff of ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac).

CalMac had previously proposed cutting onshore workers' wages by up to 25 per cent - to the fury of union leaders, who threatened to ballot for a strike.

Manuel Cortes, leader of the TSSA union, had even accused ferry bosses of treating staff with 'contempt'.

But negotiations between the company and the TSSA union in Glasgow aimed at resolving the dispute took place over three days last week.

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne told *The Oban Times* as far as they were concerned an 'acceptable offer' had been tabled.

He said: 'Following a positive three days of negotiations between representatives of

CalMac Ferries and TSSA, an offer has been tabled by the company which the TSSA will now present to their members.

'At the request of the TSSA, the company has agreed to release TSSA reps over the coming days to enable them to consult with their members across the network. TSSA will contact their members in due course with a timetable of port visits.'

Lorraine Ward, TSSA assistant general secretary for Scotland, added: 'We regard this latest offer as a substantial improvement to the company's earlier offer but it will be for our members themselves to make the final decision.'

Consultation on the offer will end on August 9. The RMT and Unite unions have already reached agreement with CalMac over the staff's new terms and conditions.

Oban Sheriff Court

Motorcyclist drove at 111mph

A GLASGOW man who drove his motorcycle at 111mph on the A85 near Tyndrum has been banned from driving for three months and fined £400.

Iain Chisholm, of 1442 Dumbarton Road, Scotstoun, admitted the charge at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Procurator fiscal John Service told the court how the 51-year-old had been caught on a mobile speed camera as he drove towards Tyndrum on the A85 on April 20 this year.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is an extremely dangerous speed to drive at. There are many accidents up here because of motorbikes going at speed.'

Woman hid heroin in her mouth

A WOMAN who concealed a packet of heroin in her mouth when police officers tried to search her has been fined £600. Sharon Herron of Flat 24 Quebec House Clydebank, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday where she pled guilty to concealing and possessing the 0.58 grams of drugs on September 7 last year.

The 37-year-old's solicitor Sandy Mitchell told the court she had been out with friends in Oban when the incident occurred, adding: 'She was quite frank with police and said she panicked.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said to Mr Mitchell: 'I have dealt with your client on numerous occasions and I really did hope she had given up this type of behaviour.'

Oban man caught with methadone

AN OBAN man who was caught in possession of 25ml of methadone has been ordered to pay a £200 fine after appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Campbell Keen, aged 49, of 12 Kilchurn Place Oban, was caught with the drug by police officers on November 1, 2012 when they carried out a search under warrant.

Man fined after cannabis charge

A 25-YEAR-OLD man has been fined £275 after being caught in possession of 56 grams of a class B drug.

Stephen Kelly of 8D Alma Crescent Oban admitted at the town's sheriff court in June to possessing cannabis after police searched his car and discovered the drug. At sentencing last Tuesday procurator fiscal John Service told the court the drugs had a street value of £100.

Driver with no licence admits Taynuilt speeding charge

A FASHION photographer who drove at 75mph in a 30mph zone in Taynuilt without a licence or insurance has been fined £800. Ryan Davies of 833 Hud-

dersfield Road, Austerlands, Oldham, admitted the charges at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Procurator fiscal John Service told the court that police carrying out a speed check in the early hours of December 12 last year on the A85 were 'attracted to Davies' car due to the speed.'

He added: 'It later emerged that the accused was only on a provisional driving licence and not covered by any insurance.'

Sheriff Douglas Small also endorsed Davies' licence with six penalty points.

Women threatened witnesses

TWO women who stared at and threatened two other women in Oban Sheriff Court have been fined £450 each.

Ashley Livingstone of 29 Arden Terrace, Cambuslang and Kylie McMahon of 9 Kintyre Tower, Cambuslang, had been in Oban Sheriff Court on October 18 2011 when they threatened the two women with violence and made threatening gestures towards them.

The pair were back in court last Tuesday, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You're extremely lucky I didn't give you a custodial sentence.'

Oban man had diazepam tablets

AN OBAN man caught with 14 diazepam tablets in his possession has been fined £200.

Craig Duffy of 2 MacDougall Court, Dunollie, admitted to possessing the class C drug when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Procurator fiscal John Service explained to the court that on March 9 this year at Soroba Road, Oban, the 38-year-old was seen to be concealing something as he was approached by police officers. He added: 'A search was carried out and they found 14 tablets.'

Man was almost twice drink/drive limit near Dunbeg

A MAN who was caught at nearly twice the legal alcohol limit when driving, having been drinking the night before, has been banned from driving for 15 months and fined £350.

Lee Denholm of 16 Drum Farm Lane Bo'ness, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to driving with 66 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath, the legal limit is 35mcg.

Police had stopped Denholm's van as part of a general vehicle check on May 10 this year on the A85 near Dunbeg and smelled alcohol on him.

Father and son admit resisting arrest charge

A FATHER and son admitted resisting arrest when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Gavin Lafferty, aged 19, of

11B Angus Terrace Oban pled guilty to resisting arrest and kicking an officer on the leg on January 16 this year.

Malcolm MacColl, aged 44, of 7A Airs Place Oban pled guilty to attempting to rescue his son, Lafferty, and trying to pull him away from police officers while they were arresting him at his home address.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Lafferty £380 and MacColl £300.

Drunk man set fire to police cell

AFTER setting fire to a mattress in a police cell a man has been ordered to pay a £300 fine.

Christopher Campbell-Smith of Glenview Guest House, Soroba Road, Oban admitted when appearing at the town's sheriff court in June to setting fire to a mattress in Oban Police Office on June 15, while drunk, causing £89 worth of damage.

At sentencing last Tuesday, his solicitor Laura McManus told the court he had been to the police office to pay for the damage.

Sheriff Douglas Small said his fine would have been larger if he had not pled guilty at the earliest opportunity.

Stirling scrap man had no licence

A STIRLING scrap metal dealer who didn't have an appropriate licence has been fined £300 by Oban Sheriff Court.

James Furlong, aged 24, of 4 Newpark Road Stirling, pled guilty by letter in June to the charge which took place on April 23 on Lochavullin Drive, Oban.

Last Tuesday his defence agent Jane Thomson told the court: 'He didn't know he needed a licence to sell scrap metal.'

Teenager caused trouble on train

A TEENAGER who shouted 'I'm going to put a bottle in your face' at a train passenger has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Scott Goldie, aged 17, of 29c Kerrera Terrace, Oban, admitted to behaving in a disorderly manner, shouting, swearing, uttering threats of violence and breaching the peace on a Glasgow to Oban train on March 23 this year.

After also handing the construction apprentice a nine month supervision order, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It's the sort of behaviour on public transport the courts will not accept.'

'Make no mistake about it, you are extremely lucky to have escaped a custodial sentence.'

Oban man dropped trousers in restaurant

A MAN who pulled down his trousers and exposed his buttocks to staff and customers in a restaurant in Oban has been ordered to do 150 hours unpaid work.

Sean McGowan of Solas, Albany Street Oban, was earlier found guilty of behaving in a

threatening or abusive manner on April 22, 2012 on George Street Oban by dropping his trousers in front of people in a restaurant.

The 23-year-old had also refused to leave a house in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, by shouting and lashing out while punching a wall and kicking a glass panel, causing £250 worth of damage, on February 26 last year.

Defence agent Edward Thornton described the first charge as 'complete drunken stupidity' and the other incident as an occasion where he had 'consumed alcohol to excess and did not see sense'.

Sheriff Douglas Small also handed McGowan a 15 month supervision order.

Man threatened woman in bar

A MAN who told a woman on a night out to enjoy it as she 'won't have another' has been fined £360 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mark Ferguson of 3H Ulva Road, Soroba, admitted threatening the woman, with whom he had history with, shouting and swearing at her in a bar in Oban on February 17 this year.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton explained Ferguson had been in a relationship with the woman's friend, which had broken down and 'sides were taken'.

He added: 'It was a case of name calling and nothing more.'

Dunbeg fighter fined and barred

A DUNBEG man was fined £500 after challenging people to fight.

Iain Lockhart, 32, of 53 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, admitted to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner in an Oban hotel on March 7 this year.

Lockhart was also excluded from the hotel for three years.

Fighters in Oban shop are fined

A COUPLE who got in a fight with another man which then spilled into a shop in Soroba have been fined £200 each.

Lorne Farquarson, aged 23, of 8 Millpark Avenue, Oban and Kelly Ahmed, also 23, of 8E Colonsay Terrace, Oban pled guilty in June to behaving in a disorderly manner at a shop on McCaig Road on August 24 last year.

At sentencing last Wednesday, procurator fiscal John Service said shop staff saw Kelly Ahmed slap the man on the face. The incident spilled into the shop and punches were thrown between the trio.

Defence agent Laura McManus said the couple had been out for a walk when they were approached by a large group who started shouting at them. One of the men was carrying a bottle, which she smashed and began brandishing.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I accept there was a background to this incident. Unfortunately it caused alarm and discomfort to the shop owners.'



Glenforsa welcomes big visitor

ONE OF the heaviest aircraft ever to land at Glenforsa airfield on the Isle of Mull touched down recently.

The plane, which weighed 10 tonnes, was on a charter from Middlesex, taking a party from Iona to London.

It is operated by Air Winton Ltd. The Pilatus PC 12/47 cruises at nearly 300 mph and is fully pressurised for high altitudes.

It landed later in the afternoon at Malaga in Spain.

David Howitt, who runs the airfield, said: 'There were other, much heavier aircraft that landed at Glenforsa since my operation of the strip from its inception in 1966.'

'Probably the world's most famous aircraft', a Douglas DC3 Dakota operated by Air Atlantique and piloted by the late John Turnbull flew for the Ordnance Survey from Glenforsa updating their maps from 14,000 feet.'

But the heaviest aircraft ever to have landed at Glenforsa was a Chinook CH-47 helicopter involved in the Mull of Kintyre tragedy.

Picture by David Howitt.

Oban Winter Festival to have new choir

A NEW choir is to be established by the committee behind Oban Winter Festival thanks to a grant from the Health Improvement Fund.

Potential members are already being sought for the new group and the committee of volunteers is hosting an open meeting in the Royal Hotel on August 10 for potential members.

A spokeswoman for the Winter Festival said: 'We're looking for anyone keen to take up a new hobby or who has always wanted to try singing in a choir. It'd be ideal for anyone who is recently retired or who has a lot of spare time on their hands.'

The Sequence choir's Janet Fergusson will be on hand to answer questions at the meeting, held between 10am-12noon.

A82 overnight closures

Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui will begin on **Friday 9 August**, continuing until **Thursday 19 September 2013**.

The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85 and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

For further information please visit: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/A82-Improvements/A82-Pulpit-Rock





Andrew Thomson was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £1,100 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Son of Scotland's solicitor general is fined and banned at Oban after Isle of Islay drink driving crash

'You were clearly a danger to yourself and others around you.'

THE SON of Scotland's solicitor general has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined £1,100 at Oban Sheriff Court after driving a car into a marquee on Islay while at two and a half times the drink driving limit.

Admitted offences

Andrew Thomson of 4 Walmers Crescent, Glasgow, son of Lesley Thomson who is deputy of the lord advocate, admitted dangerously driving, driving without insurance, mounting a grass verge and going through the side of a marquee.

He also pled guilty to driving with 83 microgrammes of

alcohol in his breath, the legal limit is 35 microgrammes, on the A846 at Port Ellen on June 7 this year.

Thomson, aged 26, had travelled to Islay to take part in the island's beach rugby tournament with Melrose Rugby Club but was arrested the night before the event.

Procurator fiscal John Service told Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday that Thomson was spotted driving north from Port Ellen in a car which was not his and after travelling a short distance he turned and went back.

He said: 'He started to lose control of the car, as a result of which it mounted the kerb then the grass verge.

'The car went towards a marquee which had been erected at the side of the road and the accused drove the car through the side of it, collided with a barrel and some tables which were at the side of the marquee.'

The front and rear offside tyres of the car were damaged, but Thomson drove the vehicle to a hotel in Port Ellen where he abandoned it and was later arrested by police in the hotel lounge.

Defence agent, Brian Fitzpatrick, said Thomson's decision to drive was 'impulsive and spontaneous' and the car was owned by someone involved with the marquee.

He said: 'He has compensated the person whose car it was.

'The driving was very brief and he has already had some consequence from this piece of stupidity.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I can't ignore the fact that you were over two times the limit. You were clearly a danger to yourself and others around you.'

Police find Portree man at bottom of gorge

A PORTREE man is recovering from his injuries after falling into a steep ravine north of the town.

Police began searching for Bruce Parker after becoming concerned for his safety last Thursday. The 44 year old had not been seen since the afternoon of the day before.

Following an appeal for sightings, police received a report on Thursday evening that Mr Parker's blue Seat Leon car was parked north of Portree.

Police quickly located the injured man at the bottom of the gorge and Stornoway coast-guard helicopter airlifted him to Broadford Hospital.

Mr Parker sustained some fractures but his injuries are not life threatening.

Police would like to thank members of the public for their assistance.

Lorn man in VAT fraud case

A CUAN man who used false invoices to avoid paying £52,375 of VAT, has been given a 300 hour community payback order at Oban Sheriff Court.

Andrew Usher, of 1 Cuan Core, South Cuan, pled guilty to fraudulently evading VAT by submitting false returns and obtaining repayments of VAT when he appeared at the court in June.

The 34-year-old had submitted returns between July 1 2009 and 31 October 2010 asking for VAT repayment on a house, boathouse and fishing boat - despite none of them existing.

At sentencing last Tuesday his defence agent Duncan Durban said the fisherman had debts.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Usher: 'Were it not for the fact you had never been in trouble and you had accepted your guilt I would have sent you to prison.'

Anne-Marie Gordon, assistant director, criminal investigation for HMRC, said: 'Usher stole from UK taxpayers by falsely claiming tax repayments for his own personal financial gain. His motivation was pure greed.

'Anyone tempted to commit this type of crime should be aware - HMRC are determined to pursue and bring VAT fraudsters like Usher before the courts, as well as looking to recover the illegal proceeds of their crimes.'

Usher was also given a three year supervision order.

71-year-old wins 'dream' apprenticeship

ONE lucky 71-year-old has had his whisky dreams come true after winning a job as an apprentice with Lagavulin Distillery, Islay.

John Parkinson from the north east of Scotland beat 10,000 other applicants to win a competition to become warehouseman Iain McArthur's apprentice.

John was given a variety of jobs, including peat cutting, whisky tasting, distilling and tea making.

He said: 'This was definitely an experience I will remember and savour for the rest of my life. I thoroughly enjoyed my Lagavulin apprenticeship on this magical island and encourage everyone to fulfil their dreams, whatever your age.'

Portree hospital doors damaged

A NUMBER of doors in Portree Hospital were damaged in the early hours of Tuesday, July 23.

Portree police would like to trace a man who was seen in the area at the time.

Anyone with information can contact either Portree Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 1111.

Artists and designers embark on west coast voyage of discovery

FASHION designers, artists and photographers joined scientists in Oban to board a sea voyage aiming to highlight the effects of global warming to a wider audience by visiting west coast islands.

The voyage, named What Has To Be Done, left Oban with 12 representative of science and the arts on board *The Lady of Avenel*.

The expedition is led by Professor Chris Wainwright and the pioneer of the Edinburgh Arts expeditions, Professor Richard Demarco CBE.

Speaking from Oban's North Pier, Professor Wainwright conceded a crew of artistic and creative people would not help solve global warming but said the expedition was more about awareness.

'We are looking for the multiplier effect of what these influential people can do when they get back from their voyage.

'It will allow them to connect to the environment and realise what is important. Most of these people live in cities and to put them in an elemental space, like the Scottish islands, will be inspiring.

'It is not a vacation; these people are here for a purpose.'

Among those at the North

Pier launch were Kevin Baker, Argyll and Bute's library and culture development officer, Linda Houston, Oban CHORD project manager, and Mike Rowell of BID4Oban.

The voyage is taking in the islands of Mull, Iona, Staffa, Eigg, Skye, Barra and Canna.

Professor Demarco undertook a similar voyage from Oban in 1980, alongside German artist Joseph Beuys, on board the *Marquez*. He said: 'We are not going to save the world without first understanding our coastline. That is where we will see the slow advance of climate change.'

Professor Wainwright added: 'The ultimate goal is to get everyone to commit themselves to the environment and create a network of people we can bring together for exhibitions, talks and films. It will also make these people think about what materials and resources they are using in their work.'

Funding for the 10-day What Has To Be Done voyage has come from private sources, including the University of the Arts, with which Professor Wainwright is Pro Vice-Chancellor, and is being run in conjunction with Professor Demarco's European Arts Foundation.



Professors Richard Demarco and Chris Wainwright mark the beginning of their voyage in Oban as crew and well-wishers from the Oban and Lorn area look on. 15_130voyage01

Retired teacher says small school education is 'fantastic'

'I think I've been to every remote or rural school in Argyll'

A TEACHER who has taught in most of west Argyll's schools has described the standard of education delivered at small schools as 'fantastic'.

Liza Bourne retired at the end of term after a career in teaching that has seen her move from large schools in Manchester to tiny schools across Argyll, with a stop off at one of the world's most remote islands in between - St Helena, in the south Atlantic Ocean.

Having worked in schools where the pupil roll varied from hundreds of pupils to just two, she has seen numerous different styles of education, but the 66-year-old former peripatetic teacher is in no doubt of the value of a rural education, having now retired after spending the last 11 years teaching in Coll.

Liza, who lives on Pulpit Hill in Oban, said: 'I've been working in Argyll since 1991 and was very much a nomad. I think I've been to every remote or rural school in Argyll. I was sent places that needed a stand-in. I've not been as far as Dunoon or Helensburgh, I've mainly been across the west of Argyll.

'I think small schools provide a fantastic education. The problem of numbers is outweighed by schools working together and in clusters to help with socialising and trips. From the point of view from Coll, for example, there's always been links with two or three other schools in Argyll, and we'd regularly meet up to share resources.

'I also find pupils from small schools are far more individually minded. They're much more confident and able to speak to adults and they find more of their views are listened to.

'When you have four kids and each has to do their bit according to their potential, it is very hard work and very intensive, but very rewarding.'

She hopes small schools are retained by the council as a result.

'I'd taught at Kerrera, Dalavich, Bridge of Orchy, St



Recently retired teacher Liza Bourne tries to chart the Argyll schools she's worked at since 1991. 16_130l2ab2

John's, all now closed. Schools are the focus of a community. In rural areas, children would find not only that their parents went there, but their grandparents. The children all identify with the school, so it's very hard when they close.

'I think if you remove a school you remove the heart of the community.'

Liza lived out of a suitcase for much of her travels; even after she was posted to Coll in 2002. With no permanent accommodation available, Liza moved from guest house to bed and breakfast. Eventually, she would manage to secure six months accommodation somewhere, but would move on after that.

'I was held up as one of the farthest travelled teachers and that was mostly on public transport. I even used to travel to work on the Post Bus in Luim.

'I'm from the very south of England and I have worked my way north all my life. I very much enjoyed working in the small schools. It was a privilege and a delight.

I won't miss it though. I'll miss the interaction with the children, but I'll find another way of doing that - my daughter is expecting my first grandchild!'

Rise in 'grow your own' leads to sharp demand for Isle of Skye allotments

AN ISLE of Skye group is hopeful of digging up £50,000 to help it open up allotments on cleared former forest land.

Broadford and Strath Community Company has applied to Community Spaces Scotland for the cash after being swamped by demand from local 'grow your own' enthusiasts.

The group aims to break open ground on land it acquired from Forestry Commission Scotland through the National Forest Land Scheme.

The purchase was believed to be the first under the programme, which gives communities the chance to own and develop parts of the national forest estate.

The plots form part of BSCC's plan to transform 23 hectares of shattered tree stumps next to Broadford village industrial estate into an public amenity area local people and visitors can enjoy. Open spaces and mixed woodland are also envisaged.

Children from Broadford Primary School planted the first trees last November.

BSCC director Alan Duffield told The Oban Times: 'We are proceeding with a high confidence for a grant in the region of £50,000 to set up a starter 10 allotments.

'We have certainly gathered much more support than that - we have over 30 inquiries so there are enough people in the village expressing an interest. Also, we are entering an agreement with the local branch of West Highland College in Broadford for them to use a piece of land as a training ground for agricultural skills.'

Mr Duffield acknowledged the path to becoming community landowners had not been easy - but expressed confidence the bold move would soon bear fruit.

He said: 'We think we were the very first application but we were obliged to pay the market price for the land - £35,000.

'We want to replant and have all sorts of trees as part of a mixed woodland. Around 15 hectares will be developed as open spaces and the allotments.'

He added: 'What is reassuring is that there are more and more community enterprises coming forward. It is definitely a case of small is beautiful.'

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MALLAIG

THE ANNUAL Mallaig and Morar Games, one of west Lochaber's biggest days out of the year, will be held at Lady Lovat Memorial Field on Sunday. Organisers will be hoping for better weather than last year's games, which were accompanied by overcast conditions and occasional showers.

PORTREE

THOUSANDS of visitors will descend on Portree next Wednesday for the Isle of Skye Highland Games. Isle of Skye Pipe Band will be joined by Chicago Stockyard Pipes and Drums and Goulburn Soldiers Pipes and Drums from New South Wales to entertain on the big day. Local artist Tommy MacKenzie will once again take on the role of chieftain. Honorary secretary Allan Stewart said: 'It is the 136th year of the Skye Games and we hope to attract a big crowd - it's the island's biggest day of the year.'

GLENUIG

THE RENOWNED classical music group The Edinburgh Quartet are to perform in the Glenugie Hall tomorrow night (Friday). The concert gets underway at 7pm.

SLEAT

MACKEREL are few and far between in the Sound of Sleat so far this summer, according to local reports. Neil Robertson, the elected spokesperson for non-affiliated fishermen in the northwest, owns an 11.5-foot dinghy, the Hot Dog. He told The Oban Times: 'My son James has been out and there's nothing round here. A creel man in Kyle also told me earlier this week that there were no mackerel. 'Round this part of the world they are pretty sparse, that's what I'm hearing. The water needs to get to a certain temperature for the mackerel to come off the bottom to start shoaling. 'I think the old fishwives tales are right - if you get a cold spring the mackerel always come in later.'

BERNERAY

LOCAL produce and crafts will be on sale in Berneray Community Hall on Saturday, August 17 from 12-2pm. To book a table call Christie MacAskill on 01876 40230.

KILCHOAN



These 'giant' strawberries were found growing in Kilchoan last week by local crofter Tom Bryson. He said: 'These are a variety bred for west Scotland and called Symphony', the flavour is quite good.' Photo courtesy of craigrandcroft.blogspot.co.uk

LOCHALINE

MORVERN Community Choir will be singing songs of praise after a summer barbeque at Keil Church, Lochaline on Sunday. The event starts at 3pm.

GLENGARRY

GARDENERS, bakers, jam-makers, artists and craft workers will show off the fruits of their labours at Glengarry Produce Show on Saturday, August 31. Entries must be exhibited at Glengarry Community Hall by 11am. Doors open 1pm, prize-giving at 2pm. Schedules from Gayle Rand on 01809 501449.



Two of the festival exhibitors were June Sutherland, left, who made the linen anniversary entry, and Pat McLeod, who entered an iron wedding arrangement. 15_t30flower01

GLENORCHY



Not so pretty in pink - the spray-painted Mallaig seagull.

Mallaig gull painted pink

AN ANIMAL welfare charity has criticised Mallaig 'pranksters' after a herring gull was found in the village covered in pink paint. Removal The young bird was taken to the Scottish SPCA's rescue centre near Alloa after being seen in the village, but specialists were unable to remove the paint. Centre manager Colin Seddon said he thought the gull may have been targeted for a joke. He said: 'We don't know exactly what type of material it is but we think it could be graffiti-type spray paint or hair dye. 'We are very concerned that someone has done this to a defenceless creature. 'It's lucky that the dye had not gone into its eyes as this could have blinded him or at the least caused pain and discomfort.'

GLENORCHY Parish Church was awash with colour as the second biennial flower show took place in Dalmailly. And the success of this year's event has convinced organisers to run the floral festival in 2015. This year's theme was wedding anniversaries, with floral arrangements representing paper (first anniversary) to platinum (75th anniversary) decorating the church. Pam Gibson, who organised the event alongside Jane Goodwin, said the response from the community had been fantastic. She added: 'People just joined in. We never had this level of participation at the inaugural festival two years ago but people seemed enthused by the wedding theme.' In all, 25 floral arrangements were on display during the weekend of July 19 - 21, including a remarkable silver wedding contribution from Craig Lodge, which marks its own 25th anniversary this year. The display featured a chalice that belonged to the Bredalbanes and has been dated circa 1550. It is decorated with St Peter, who is holding keys, and St Paul, who is holding a scroll. Pam's own diamond wedding entry, featured a photograph of her grandparents on the day of their diamond anniversary nearly 60 years ago. The festival raised around £300

to be split between two charities: Oban Hospice Ltd and children's charity Quarriers. Visitors to the festival were entertained throughout the weekend by organists Maud Gray, Irene Sibbald and Pam Dumas-Ekin.

FORT WILLIAM

FORT WILLIAM Community Council: abridged minutes from July meeting.

Members expressed concerns to Highland Council waste operations officer Andy Tuckwood about what seemed like reduced cleaning in the High Street area. Mr Tuckwood said the council has recently taken back responsibility for the street-cleaning and the bigger mechanical sweeper is no longer operational. There is a team of three manual workers with responsibility for litter-picking, and a small powered sweeper, plus a swift action team when needed. Mr. Tuckwood took note of the many complaints received by councillors.

North Rd. Bus Shelters - windows continually getting broken. Tree branches now growing through where the windows should be. Grange Rd car park area - this area too has so much litter just dropped about. CC asked for a cleanup here. Will be attended to.

Fines and Fixed Penalties for Litter and Dog-Fouling - Staff have now been trained for issuing Fixed Penalties, and some have already been issued. Several community councillors admitted to challenging some people who just drop litter without a second thought. 'General opinion' was that not enough fines were levied and that the fines were not severe enough to deter people from offending.

Gordon Square: this area has been tidied up since our June meeting, but really needs replanting. The road in this area and adjoining Fassifern Rd is badly potholed and desperately needing attention. Mr Tuckwood will look at all matters raised, and expressed his willingness to meet with FWCC on a regular basis, and was thanked for his attendance.

Police matters: Sgt Hough was briefed on complaints and concerns about the 101 service. Several instances were given where excessive time and questions resulted in callers giving up. Even when asked for Fort William Police, the amount of questions seems to delay getting put through. It would appear the most important piece of information the operator demands is a post code. (If you have an incident in the middle of nowhere how do you know the post code?) Sgt. Hough asked that the public should not give up, and that through time it will work.

Josh to Australia after the youngster had studied the country with his primary six friends. The pair spent two weeks in Perth, Western Australia and Colin said Josh was happy to have been after learning about the place in class.

Colin Thomson took his son Josh to Australia after the youngster had studied the country with his primary six friends. The pair spent two weeks in Perth, Western Australia and Colin said Josh was happy to have been after learning about the place in class.

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Down Your Way



The iconic and popular Revolutionaires, who will play at this year's Callander Jazz and Blues Festival.

NORTH UIST

THE REVOLUTIONAIRES will return to Callander Jazz and Blues festival this year, which once again hopes to jazz up the Trossachs this October.

A startling line-up of talented musicians and groups playing the United States' most famous musical styles will hit the town between October 4-6, with the likes of the Fabulous Boogie Boys, featuring Sarah Warren, the Indigo Kings, and the Jive Aces set to get things off to a lively start. There will be a series of workshops too to ensure the full jazz and blues experience, while the popular Jazz on Loch Katrine cruise returns once again - demand for places on the two hour sailing will be high, so tickets are offered on a first come first served basis.

Winston's Pennine Jazz and Quatro McJazz make up the trad jazz bands line up, while the mainstream jazz line up includes groups like Moodswing, the Scott Madden Trio and the Roger Cull Quartet. There will be a Kerfuffle too, with the jazz funk band a terrific juxtaposition to Gypsy, swing jazz band Rose Room.

The blues line up is just as exciting. Lyndon Anderson will return with his band, while Georgia Crawl will no doubt win an army of new fans with their set. Other blues acts set to play include the Truetones, Baby Isaac and Kwak. Soul-Fi will bring a touch of funk to the day, while the Linda Jaxon Trio and the Blue Rockets will have people on the floor.

As usual, musicians professional and amateur are invited to take part in the several open mic and jam sessions crammed in across the festival programme, ensuring even more choice for the audience. For more information on this year's festival, log on to callanderjazz.com.

A VACANT Callander property could be converted into a retail and coffee shop - if the proposal wins the approval of planners. Applicant Carol Foggo wants to redesign the shop Desirables, on 33 Main Street, converting the former clothing retailer and beautician's into Crafted Merchant, a coffee shop selling homewares and gifts, including stained glass.

The plans would see the non-load bearing partition walls used for the former treatment room at the rear of the premises removed, with a new partition to be created to form a new cubicle for the new, accessible toilet. Six tables will be dotted around the shop for the coffee shop, all on the Cross Street side of the shop, while retail will dominate the windows and the Main Street side.

A decision on whether or not to approve the plans will be made by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board by August 10. Meanwhile, the former Wolseley Park Hotel, on Stirling road, is to be subdivided into houses. Jennifer McAtasney's plan will see the hotel converted for residential use, splitting the building into two houses.

The hotel and separate cottage had been on the market for 18 months, but no interest was lodged in running it as a going concern. It had been closed for a number of years prior to this. The conversion of the hotel building will see it turned into a grand, five bedroom property, complete with a changing room, two dressing rooms, a games room, garage, kitchen, dining room and garage. Plans for the cottage will see it turned into a three bedroom property, complete with dining room and garage.

Next week reporter Richard Haddock visits Fort Augustus. You can contact Richard on 01793 703003 or email fort@obantimes.co.uk.

Another day at the games



Soaking up the sun and enjoying a gin and tonic at the recent Tainuill Highland Games are two of the village's finest nonagenarians Margaret Harris, left and Caroline Jamieson. Margaret Harris, 94, and Caroline, 97, have been friends for more than 85 years.

OBAN & ARGYLL
Capercaillie's Karen Matheson on why the West is best
PLUS THE FERAL GOATS OF JURA
WHY I LOVE MEN
EDINBURGH'S DOCTOR FEELGOOD

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Just don't get so engrossed you forget to walk the dog!

TOP 100

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

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Former Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leaders Ian Sutherland, Donald Watt, Terry Confield and Jimmy Ness, behind, join current deputy team leader Donald Paterson and team leader John Stevenson to celebrate the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Mountain rescue team win Royal award

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team were the proud recipients of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on Saturday afternoon.

Honour

Their £700,000 rescue base in Fort William was packed with invited guests for the award

ceremony which saw the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, bestow the honour on behalf of the Queen.

The monarch's signature 'Elizabeth R' adorns the document accompanying the embossed crystal award.

Deputy team leader Donald Paterson accepted the honour on behalf of the team. Leader John Stevenson was on duty at the time helping co-ordinate the airlift of a man from Ben Nevis.

Retired civil servant Gerard Boyle, 51, died after collapsing less than halfway up the mountain. Lochiel said: 'Without regard to their own safety this team of volunteers save many lives and for that we in Lochaber should be incredibly proud and grateful.'

Full story, page 11.

Lochaber hotel owner accused of sexual assault

Female foreign staff claim harassment by boss of former Duror-based hotel

TWO FEMALE hotel workers have accused the proprietor of a Lochaber hotel of sexually assaulting them hours after starting their employment.

The women took the stand at Fort William Sheriff Court to claim Shamsul Arefin made sexual advances and constantly spoke about sex during their short time working at The Stewart Hotel in Duror last year.

One of the women - who flew from Lithuania to give evidence against her former employer - said the empty hotel reminded her of the horror film 'The Shining' when she arrived, with no staff or guests.

The 23 year-old said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night before talking about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

Speaking through an interpreter, she said: 'It was really disgusting and unacceptable.'

She also claimed 45 year-old Arefin later tried to get her to convince another member of staff to have sex with him.

A Portuguese woman also gave evidence against Arefin, claiming he repeatedly propositioned her during her six days in employment and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She said: 'He hugged me and kissed me on the neck, I was revolted. I was very clear to him I was not interested in him in that way.'

The 38 year-old, who said she had a Masters in Psychology, decided to give Arefin one last chance to behave appropriately and 'as a test' agreed to go to Arefin's bedroom to watch a movie on the only DVD player in the hotel.

She made it clear beforehand they were only socialising as work colleagues - but Arefin renewed his advances.

She told the court: 'He grabbed me. I tried to push him off. He touched me and put his hand under my bra. I pushed him away and got up.'

Both women alleged Arefin had lied about his age, telling the Lithuanian he was 32 and the Portuguese that he and she



Shamsul Arefin

were the same age. Arefin, they alleged, also told them he was single, despite being married with children.

Defence lawyer Jim Friel suggested any sexual comments made by the accused were in connection with the content of a novel he was writing, rather than his own sexual feelings.

Under cross examination by Mr Friel, both women denied Arefin had ever mentioned a book.

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, London, denies sexually assaulting the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

The trial was adjourned until October 21.

The Stewart Hotel, which has lain empty for more than a year, was targeted by thieves last week. A large number of flat screens televisions were stolen after the property was broken into.

Highland Council come to Nevis Centre's aid

THE FUTURE of Fort William's Nevis Centre has been secured after a cash injection from Highland Council.

The 28 members of staff at the events venue were given letters recently warning them it was facing possible closure due to a cashflow problem, but the council have agreed to an early handover of part of a £90,000 grant due in October, believed to be £20,000.

The council gives £180,000 annually towards running costs to Linnhe Leisure, the charitable company which runs the centre.

Linnhe Leisure also plan to submit a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) after seeking advice from KSA Group, which specialises in helping ailing businesses.

A CVA allows a business with financial difficulties to reach a deal with companies it owes money to repay all or part of its debt over an agreed period of time.

Linnhe Leisure has appointed Sheana Fraser as its new chair, and she said she was confident creditors will approve the CVA deal.

Mrs Fraser said: 'With the reduction of debt achieved by the CVA in the near future, support from Highland Council and the resulting restructuring of the balance sheet the company is strongly placed to grow sales and profits over the next few years.'

'It is very much business as usual and our usual high levels of client service will, of course, continue to be maintained.'

Local MP Charles Kennedy welcomed the news.

He said: 'There is a lot of internal work ahead yet, but this crucial first step makes progress possible.'

'At least the question mark for the remainder of this year's tourist season has been lifted - for employees, locals and visitors alike.'

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Drug dealer jailed for six years

A FORT William man caught selling heroin in the town has been sentenced to six years in jail.

Michael Cameron, of Claggan, was found guilty by a jury at Edinburgh High Court of being concerned in the supply of the class A drug between January 2002 and April 2012.

The 33 year-old was caught following a Police Scotland operation into heroin supply in Lochaber.

Detective Inspector Andy Logan said: 'Our message to those involved in this type of crime is that we will continue to pro-actively target those who are involved in the supply of controlled drugs into the our communities.'

Fish farmers fear fabrication yard plan

A FISH farming company has aired concerns over proposals to transform a former North Sea oilrig platform fabrication yard in the West Highlands into an offshore renewable energy base.

The Scottish Salmon Company (TSSC) has lodged a formal objection with Highland Council to Kishorn Port Ltd's 'masterplan' for developing its deepwater base at Kishorn in Wester Ross.

TSSC, which operates a hatchery at Russell Burn on land earmarked for workers' accommodation blocks, fears the influx of hundreds of personnel could compromise strict measures designed to prevent contamination and disease.

The firm also says it may need part of KPL's land in future as it expands production.

TSSC says the hatchery has been operational for over 20 years and is 'a significant provider of employment' in the local area with one part time and 10 full time members of staff.

Its objection letter to the council states: 'TSSC has already invested heavily in this hatchery and the site supplies smolts to the majority of the company's sea sites.'

'TSSC is currently in the process of expanding its operations in Scotland and should the Russell Burn site be earmarked for expansion the only piece of land suitable for this is the land to the east of the site, i.e. the land involved in this proposal by Kishorn Port Ltd.'

'TSSC operates strict bio-security measures within all of its sites' limits in order to

minimise the risk of disease introduction and propagation.

'However, such a large number of people and vehicles in close proximity of the site would potentially increase the risk of breaches occurring in the bio-security of the hatchery, despite the measures taken by TSSC.'

It adds: 'The Scottish Salmon Company does not object to the overall Kishorn Port development but, for the reasons outlined above, it does object to the proposed location of the accommodation and associated welfare facilities.'

KPL is seeking approval for expanding the yard to allow construction of concrete bases for wind turbines, extending the existing quarry, site engineering works, concrete batching plants and erection

of industrial buildings.

The masterplan includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, an accommodation camp, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock, one of Europe's largest. A temporary holding area for offshore wind turbines in Loch Kishorn are also planned.

KPL says if planning permission is granted, the huge industrial site west of Lochcaron could again become a major manufacturing hub, this time for wind turbines, wave power machines and tidal devices.

The company estimates that over time up to 2,500 jobs could be created.

Kishorn was developed in the 1970s by Howard Doris Ltd for the fabrication of the 600,000-tonne Ninian Central platform.

Mother's Barra cycle to pay daughter's treatment

A MUM with close family ties to Barra will cycle around the island to help pay for treatment for her daughter, who was born with a paralysing neurological condition.

Juliet Galloway will travel to the Outer Hebrides on August 6 and, after visiting mum Dolina, she will hop on her bike and pedal her way 14 miles around the island for the Alexa Rett Cure charity, which helps fund her daughter's treatment.

Juliet's daughter, Alexa, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome at just six months old last February and since, the 43 year old has been working hard to raise awareness of the condition, a condition that affects the development of the brain. Typically affecting girls,

the disease mostly prevents verbal communication, can stunt growth and around half of those affected cannot walk, with some prone to seizures.

Juliet, who lives in Devon but whose mum is originally from Barra, said the island was the natural choice for the challenge, which aims to raise £1,000 to help pay for a specialist physiotherapy course to help Alexa learn to walk.

She said: 'I want to help my little girl reach her full potential. Although she has Rett syndrome which can rob her of her ability to talk, walk and use her hands, research has proven that girls who have intensive therapies such as hydrotherapy and physio do better. We need to raise £1,000

to pay for half of the cost of an intensive physio therapy programme, where Alexa will get a three week course of daily therapy to develop her core muscle strength and co-ordination and balance.

'Alexa must move her muscles and keep moving on a daily basis to limit future problems such as osteoporosis, scoliosis, brittle bones, and dystonia. She is only two and to prevent her from being in a wheelchair it is important that she gets much needed therapy frequently.'

Alexa, who is named after Juliet's father Jeffrey Alexander, will stay with Dolina while Juliet does her charity cycle. To donate, go online and visit justgiving.com/local/project/ALEXARETTURE.



Juliet with daughter Alexa during a visit to Barra last year.

Council halves spend on hospitality

NEARLY half a million pounds was spent on hospitality by Argyll and Bute Council over the past four years - but the annual spend has halved in that same period.

Figures obtained by *The Oban Times* under freedom of information show that the authority spent £80,444 during the 2012/13 financial year on hospitality, taking the total for the past four years to £448,785.

Of the total sum, £52,200 was accounted for through 'internal recharges' for catering, while 'external costs' for hospitality for the last financial year totalled £28,244 - the vast majority of which the council says goes towards local businesses.

The council's community services department was the most expensive department in the 2012/13 year, accounting for £31,000. Customer services was least expensive at £5,612.

The council says hospitality is 'only provided when there are meetings with external organisations, where it is cheaper to provide catering than allow employees or members to claim subsistence allowances; but only when employees or councillors 'are not at their normal place of work or as part of training courses'.

It added: 'Taken both internal and external together, the total of £80,444 is equivalent to 6.3p for every £100 of employee costs or 3.5p for every £100

of the net cost of services.'

Previous years saw the council spend £162,825 in 2009/10, £110,085 in 10/11 and £95,431 in 11/12.

Most departments have consistently lowered their hospitality spend, but the two hospitality bills to increase this year was for elected members, whose spend increased from £12,171 in 2011/12 to £13,557 in 2012/13, and for customer services, up from £5,081 to £5,562.

Best saver in the same period was development and infrastructure, which shaved 34 per cent from its costs by reducing annual spend by £6,358. Community Services' reduction of £8,200 represented a 17 per cent drop.

Rare whisky bottle is raffled for £1

A BOTTLE of rare Oban Lifeboat fundraising whisky - which retailed at £195 a time - is up for grabs in a £1 a ticket prize draw.

Organised by Oban Lifeboat Fundraising Committee, the raffle was announced as Edward and Fiona Robertson, of The Green Welly Stop, Tyndrum, handed over a cheque for £12,716.92 to Andrew Mead of the Oban Lifeboat crew.

The business had sold bottles of the whisky online and have made a personal donation.

The whisky fundraising venture was born because Oban Distillery donated a 250 litre hogshead of whisky

to the lifeboat in the 1990s for use in a future fundraising exercise once the 18 year-old malt matured.

So far, almost £40,000 has been made for the charity that saves lives at sea by releasing 240 bottles for sale via the Green Welly Stop, the Birchwood Filling Station, Oban, and Mulberry Bank Auctions in Glasgow.

The retail price was set at £195 after two of the limited edition bottles sold at auction for £260 each.

Anyone interested in buying prize draw tickets should contact Oban Lifeboat fundraising committee secretary Moira Kerr on 01631 563733.



Andrew Mead of Oban Lifeboat accepts a cheque for £12,700 from The Green Welly Stop's Fiona and Edward Robertson.

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A ROW of coloured houses is the postcard image that greets the eye when you arrive in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This spectacular town sits on the north of the island and is by far Mull's most famous landmark - having been the focus of several books and television shows. Mull's only distillery sits at the end of the pier in Tobermory, in an area known as Ledaig. Established in 1798, the distillery is unique in that it produces two very distinctly different malt whiskies, Tobermory and Ledaig. There are many producers on the island with some definitely worth a visit. On the Main Street there is the delectable Tobermory Chocolate while just along the street you'll find the divinely scented Isle of Mull Soap Company. Head out of Tobermory and take the turning for Glengorm, stopping off at the Isle of Mull Cheese on your way. There is a viewing window where you can see the delicious cheeses being made - don't forget to take some home with you. Carry on up the road to the magnificent Glengorm Castle where a wildlife project has started up. A variety of exhibitions and workshops take place here so do be sure to check the website for details. Duart Castle near Craignure (turn left when you get off the ferry) is also well worth a visit. For those into history a trip to the Mull Museum in Tobermory is a must. Across the other side of the bay you'll find the new marine visitor centre where you can learn all about the history and tradition of life on Mull's seas. There is also touch pools and interactive exhibits for children. Don't neglect the Ross of Mull on your visit to the island. A trip to the area's historical centre, based in Tigh na Rois Visitor Centre on the edge of Bunesan can provide a wealth of information about the history of the south of the island. The Ross of Mull Historical Centre also holds a large archive of genealogical material so if you are looking for relatives or ancestors from Mull this is a good place to start. Also take time to pay a visit to Ardalinish Weavers near Bunesan. This small mill welcomes visitors to see wool from its own farm being woven by machinery from the early 1900s into tweed cloth which is then transformed into a variety of products - all available to purchase in the shop. For those of you who prefer a walk on the wild side there are many boat operators which take you on wildlife trips. Try Turus Mara's trip to Staffa, and a visit to the famous Fingal's Cave, before they whisk you to Lunga in the Treshnish Isles for some 'puffin therapy'. Spend time among these fascinating birds and you're sure to leave the island feeling like you're walking on air. Only 45 minutes on the ferry from Oban - and very reasonably priced if you choose to travel as a foot passenger and use public transport when you arrive - Mull is one of the most accessible islands in the Hebrides.

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Spotlight ON Mull



NHS Highland on the lookout for new dentist at Tobermory

DENTAL services on the Isle of Mull have to be temporarily reduced until a new dentist can be recruited.

Mobile dental unit

Rosemary Downing, a dentist on the island for eight years,

left her post at the end of July. Mrs Downing worked from Tobermory while her colleague, senior dentist Chris Price travelled the island to visit patients.

The service from the mobile dental unit will still be available

but from fewer sites while NHS Highland seek to fill the vacant post.

Elizabeth Reilly, assistant dental clinical director, said: 'Mr Price and I are conscious of the needs of Mull residents who

would have difficulty travelling to Tobermory for treatment and we want to ensure that everyone has access to the service.'

'Mr Price has drawn up a new rota which will apply from Monday August 5 until a new

dentist is in post.

'The recruiting process is well underway but it is likely that it will be several months before a new dentist can start work in Tobermory.'

'We are open to making

further changes to the service during that time.'

'I would also like to thank Rosemary for her hard work during her time with us and to extend my best wishes to her and her family for the future.'

Posters detailing the new rota are on display at many NHS and Argyll and Bute Council premises across Mull.

More details are available by contacting The Dental Practice on 01688 302105.



Alex Eddington
Mull Yarn tours
Canada to great acclaim

A PLAY about the isolation a Canadian man experienced while working on the Isle of Mull is receiving critical acclaim.

Alex Eddington, from Toronto, is a 33-year-old composer, musician, writer and actor currently touring his new play, Yarn, around Canada.

Yarn tells the story of a 23-year-old Alex when he worked on Mull from April to October in 2003.

He said: 'I worked as a chambermaid, cleaning rooms as well as mowing lawns. I had been travelling around the UK and needed a job and that's where I landed.'

'I am not naming the hotel or proprietors for their privacy, but it was a small hotel not far from Dervaig in the north of Mull.'

'The show is less about the descriptions of the island in a fuller way as I keep expanding the show, and more about the effect that being more alone and isolated than I was used to had on me, combined with the pressure I put on myself to learn about the island culture and write words and music while I was there.'

Alex returned to Mull last summer for his honeymoon, and stayed in the same hotel he previously worked in.

'It was lovely to be back,' he added.

Cheviots get own class at Buessan

ORGANISERS at Buessan Show are welcoming a new sheep class for the first time this year.

Cheviot sheep will have their own section at the popular Mull show, a move that has been welcomed by judge Archie MacGillivray from Lismore, who has the task of judging this class along with the sheep other than Blackface.

Michael Simpson from Braco by Dunblane will judge the Blackface sheep while Alistair Jackson of Jackson's Bros. Master Butchers, Oban will judge the best pair of fat lambs and has donated a cash prize for this class.

John Kyle from Caledonian Marts, Stirling will judge the cattle classes this year and Jamie Craig from Appin has the unenviable task of judging the horse and pony section.

Gordon Rutherford, show vice-president, said he would like to thank all the committee members and the large army of helpers who have worked all this week getting everything ready for the big day.



A large group of military history enthusiasts will set up camp within Duart Castle

Militia return to Duart Castle after 360 years

Enthusiasts to re-enact invasion

AN INVASION of the Isle of Mull that took place 360 years ago is to be brought back to life at a dramatic re-enactment this weekend.

The event at Duart Castle will see a large group of military history enthusiasts setting up camp within the castle grounds on Saturday and Sunday.

The group, the First Captain's Company of Tilliers regiment, will re-create the 1653 Mull invasion.

Jess Higton, from Duart, said: 'In the middle of the 17th

century the British Isles were ripped apart by civil war as men fought for their King, their church and their rights.'

'To suppress Royalist risings, an English naval squadron sailed round the Western Isles to locations of known Royalist clans and in late summer of 1653, the ships arrived off the shores of Duart Castle.'

'Poised to invade Mull from the water, before English troops could land, nature stepped in and a great storm destroyed the English ships.'

A ship wreck was discovered in 1979, off Duart point, and has been subject to an underwater archaeological investigation with many relics being brought ashore.

The Swan still lies where she sank but some relics are now on display in the castle.

The weekend's free event promises something for all the family to enjoy including stories, parades, battles and displays. For more information visit www.duartcastle.com or call 01690 812309.

Isle of Mull Pony Club hold annual summer show at Knockalla

THE ANNUAL summer show of the Isle of Mull Pony Club was held recently with youngsters scooping several awards.

The show was held at Knockalla, Garmoy, by kind permission of the MacGillivray Family. The day dawned warm and sunny and a light sea breeze

kept both competitors and ponies cool for the morning's ridden showing classes, judged by Antonia Stewart and Jo Smith from Lochgilphead.

Conditions were near to perfect when, after much deliberation, the judges found their champion in the shape of

Shona MacGillivray riding her own 12-year-old thoroughbred gelding Rio Sueno. Reserve champion was 10 year old Orla MacLennan riding Juliet Grieves' pony Dandelion.

Meanwhile, in ring two Kate MacTaggart from Jedburgh was making light work judging

best pony club pony classes. Champion of this section was 28-year-old Welsh pony Baldivie Apollo (Fred) ridden by seven-year-old Keira Munro.

Reserve was Molly Reade on her Tobermory Boy.

Molly and Toby also went on to win the horse and hound

trophy and the intermediate jumping cup.

The breeze dropped and the heat became quite intense and competitors and spectators were all very grateful that Jim Barrons and his ice cream van were in attendance - the club would also like to thank Jim for

his very generous donation to pony club funds.

The afternoon's show jumping classes completed the day, where young Emma MacDougall with her pony Yogi were on great form, winning the junior open and Louise Reade riding Court Justice took the top spot

in the open jumping.

Organisers wished to thank everyone who made the day possible, including sponsors John Paterson, Irene Peden, Alan Cameron, Andy and Naomi Knight, Pennygown Farm, Norman and Caroline MacPhail and the Munro family.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

TWENTY YEARS AGO

July 29 1993

Third Acharacle Feis

THE THIRD Feis nan garbh Chriochan, which attracted over 80 children, raised the roof in Acharacle last week.

Clarsach player Alison MacDougall, from Mallaig, takes a break during the proceedings.



Proudly displaying the new strips presented to them by Mrs Catherine Webster of the Falls of Lora Hotel at Connel is Dunbeag Football Team. The players assembled for a photocall accompanied by manager George McLuckie and coaches. Immediately after the team celebrated by trouncing Taynuilt.



Below: Pictured handing over a cheque to D J Scobie, consultant surgeon at the West Highland Hospital, Oban, is Ralph McCleary and his wife Morven. Ralph ran the London Marathon in a time of two hours, 34 minutes, finishing 189th out of 28,000 runners.



Above: Inspecting the herd at Gartvaigh Farm, Southend, during the Kintyre Ayrshire Breeders Competition.

Scotrail's high flyer

A WOULD-be fighter pilot's career has changed course so dramatically that she now prefers trains to planes.

At only 22 years old, Alison MacKenzie, originally from Perth, has taken up the post of Scotrail service manager for the West Highlands.

On leaving school with six highers Alison secured a place with the RAF to train as a fighter pilot. This was an achievement in itself, as she was among the first three women ever to be accepted onto the tough course.

Right: Alison MacKenzie, Scotrail's new service manager for the West Highlands, pictured with some of the staff at Fort William.



The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FOR TOO long, mobile phone customers in the west Highlands and islands have been paying over the odds for a service that, frankly, is not up to scratch.

We pay the same prices as everyone else for our contracts and pay as you go phones, yet companies like Vodafone, O2, EE and 3 continue to provide a service that, at best, is patchy and years behind what you'll find in our cities.

That's galling enough, but when you see the profit margins enjoyed by these companies and consider the relative expense of upgrading mobile phone masts to the latest technology - as well as providing more of them - it beggars belief.

In May, Vodafone announced revenues of £44.4 billion, with an adjusted operating profit of £11.96 billion.

O2 recorded profits of £332 million for 2012. EE? Revenue of £2.99 billion for the first half of 2012 - with profits of £673 million. Even 3, which struggled to make a profit in its infancy, is in the black.

The cost of erecting a mast? Cursory searches on the internet suggest between £100,000 and £200,000.

In among all of this, our MSPs say they've been calling for more to be done. Nothing has changed - so what's the answer?

It seems unfashionable, but could the Scottish Government consider introducing its own, nationalised service and remove the doubt? Could legislation be introduced?

Either way, it has become clear waiting for our phone providers to come up with their own solution is a fruitless exercise.

GLASGOW LETTER

Commonwealth Games 2014

The countdown is now on. With less than a year to go, the Games commence on July 23 2014, it is now time to organise tickets for the events you wish to attend.

A Ticketing Guide is now available at various locations, within the city and beyond, and tickets can be ordered from August 19 either online or by post. Ticket prices will start at £15 with two thirds of all tickets being £25 or less and ticket price will include public transport on the day of your event. Tickets will be half price for over 60s and those under 16 years of age. The last date for the application of tickets is September 16.

Held every four years this will be the 20th Commonwealth Games and will feature 17 sports in 11 days of competition with 261 medal events on show. 4,500 athletes will take part with 15,000 local volunteers involved.

Piping Live 2013
With only a couple of weeks to go it is time to purchase tickets for the evening concerts which as I have indicated previously have had to be moved to alternative venues since the Strathclyde Suite in the Royal Concert Hall is not available because of renovation.

The details of these concerts is as follows:-
Monday August 12, Masters Solo Piping Competition in the National Piping Centre when some of the best pipers in the world will compete. The Piobaireachd commences at 10am and the March, Strathspey and Reel at 5pm.

Tuesday August 13, the RT Shepherd and Sons Annual Quartets Competition at 7.30pm in the New Athenaeum Theatre in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and which will feature nine different bands.

Wednesday August 14 - Again in the New Athenaeum Theatre at 7.30pm Pipes and Strings will explore the connection between pipes and strings across the world. Along with our own Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout the concert will feature Andrea Beaton, Matt McIsaac and Troy MacGillivray and Galician group Bellon Maceriras.

Thursday August 15 is the evening of Gaels and Graenotes, same venue and time as the previous two nights, and will star Julie Fowlis, the Armagh Pipers and piper James MacKenzie showcasing his new CD accompanied by Alasdair White, Matheu Watson and Hamish Napier. On the same evening there will be a bonanza of piping in the SECC Armadillo at 7.15pm when the Scottish Power Pipe Band, New York Metro Band

and the 78th Highlander's Pipe Band will all be playing.

Friday, August 16 is the Folk Night in Oran Mor at 7.30pm when Ross Martin and Angus MacKenzie of Daimh team up with two Cape Breton musicians in a newly formed quartet and the rest of the bill will consist of Niall and Cillian Valley from Armagh and then Piping Live favourites Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson. Tickets can be booked at the venues.

Live at the Star

Barluath, winners of the Danny Kyle Award at Celtic Connections 2012, will play at the Star on Tuesday, August 6.

The group is made up of five students of the traditional course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and feature in their line-up Scots and Gaelic song, bagpipes, whistle, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bass, clarinet and piano as they explore the traditional and contemporary music of Scotland.

Tall Ship Ceilidh Dance

Years ago several venues in the city, with the Highlander's Institute being the most popular, hosted ceilidh dances on a regular basis but for some years no single location has managed to replicate that pattern.

The boys of Deoch'n Dorus, Ceilidh Band of the Year 2012, have been at the forefront of finding a successful location and on Thursday August 15 they will be holding a dance in the Tall Ship with tickets, available at the door, cost £8.5.

Dates for Diary

Friday August 2 Tolbooth, Stirling, 7.30pm-Sarah MacNeil and Friends.
Saturday August 3 Donnie Munro, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.
Sunday August 4 Horse, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.
Monday August 5 Capercaillie, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.
Tuesday August 6 Live at the Star, Admiralty Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm-see above.
Saturday August 10 Dougie MacLean, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.
Sunday August 11 Peatbog Faeries, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

Pub Scene

Nicky McMichan will play in the Park Bar on Friday, Erich (from Tarbert) on Friday with Sunday still to be confirmed. In the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.

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



This week's picture comes from The Oban Times of October 1975. It was taken on high ground to the south east of Fort William and demonstrated the rapid expansion of the town through private and local authority housing. Between the census of 1961 and the census of 1971, Fort William's population grew by almost 54 per cent to 4,214. Over the next four years the population is estimated to have increased by a further 500 people. In the background are the villages of Corpach and Caol, which have become almost as big as Fort William itself. 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 regarding court changes

Sir,

I was concerned by the interpretation that may be taken from the recent article published on *The Oban Times* on court changes and thought it helpful to offer some reassurance to your readers.

I had a very helpful meeting with Michael Russell MSP, who clearly explained his constituents' concerns on our restructuring plans for Argyll and Bute.

Importantly, I was able to assure Mr Russell that our plans would not see an immediate withdrawal of jury trials from Argyll and Bute.

While we have set out definitive dates for court closures, with Rothesay Sheriff Court closing in November 2013, we have listened to stakeholders during the extensive consultation phase and are taking a different approach with the move to specialist sheriff centres, which will be progressively introduced over the next 10 years.

This largely reflects the likely timescale for legislative change to introduce the new proposed judicial tier of summary sheriff, and is dependent on availability of court capacity and the development of video links and associated legislation to support the use of technologies in court proceedings, including the hearing of evidence.

This would play a crucial role in allowing residents of Campbelltown, for example, to be able to give evidence from their local court in a sheriff and jury trial that may physically be held in Dumbarton.

We have also made it clear that even following the move to specialist centres the Sheriff Principal will still retain the right to hold a jury trial within any courthouse in their Sheriffdom, where that is considered to be in the best interests of justice.

I hope this is helpful in clarifying our commitment to the delivery of justice across Argyll and Bute.

Eric McQueen chief executive, Scottish Court Service

Suspicious of Royal Mail motives

Sir,

I find my suspicions arisen when Royal Mail senior management feel the need to write to local newspapers to try and sell privatisation to the public.

Your readers may also be interested to know, and I don't think Mr McAuley mentioned, that Royal Mail has just undergone a three-year modernisation programme, and through the hard work and commitment of a workforce committed to serving the public, Royal Mail has turned a £440 million profit.

'Proving it can be a success in public ownership'. So then why would the government have to allocate money to it over schools and the NHS?

There are many issues that need to be aired and debated such as the universal service, and downstream access mail, and many others which space would dictate cannot be highlighted in one short letter.

I have written to my MP and local councillors in my ward suggesting that there should be public meetings throughout Argyll and Bute to allow the public their say and to raise their concerns.

In my opinion this is far too important to allow politicians to decide the fate of a treasured institution.

Voters have the power to make change, so don't allow apathy to get in the way.

I would love to see a success story at the end of it all. But I will close with these words of warning.

'You won't miss it until it's gone.'

John MacLean, Oban

Royal Mail letter delivers more questions

Sir,

The recent letter from Gerry McAuley, Royal Mail, raises more questions than it answers.

How exactly, will private ownership 'enable Royal Mail to become more flexible and fleet of foot'?

Also, how will Royal Mail 'have long-term access to capital when we need it'?

With regard to the Universal Service, while OFCOM may have specified minimum standards, also 'enshrined in the Postal Services Act 2011' is the power 'to impose different conditions for different cases (including different conditions in relation to different parts of the UK)' (Schedule 6, Para 2).

Can Royal Mail guarantee it will never approach OFCOM seeking changes on the grounds of financial burden of complying with its Universal Service obligations?

'Indeed, while the Act requires "at least one delivery of letters every Monday to Saturday" (Section 31) it also requires "delivery of other postal packets every Monday to Friday".'

Of course, at the moment, Royal Mail delivers packets and parcels on Saturdays. But how long before it cites that section of the Act and stops parcel deliveries on Saturdays, in order to reduce operating costs? And will it then seek to suspend Saturday letter delivery as being uneconomic?

Finally, if, as Mr McAuley claims, 'our people are at the heart of Royal Mail' why does it take months to fill staff vacancies?

There is a long-standing vacancy for a postman/postwoman at Oban Delivery Office which has yet to be advertised.

Ah, perhaps that's what Mr McAuley's 'fleet of foot' refers to - posties running round their deliveries, doing two jobs for the price of one.

Mark Higgins, Oban

CAP deal good for Scottish farmers

Sir,

We are entering the height of the agricultural show season and a topic on everyone's lips up and down the country is sure to be the EU's new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). I write to praise the recent agreement on the outlines of the new CAP at the end of June between the European Council, Parliament and Commission and believe it represents a solid deal for farmers.

Throughout this process, UK Conservative ministers worked closely with Scottish officials to make sure their views were heard at Europe's top table, with the SNP's Rural Affairs and Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead himself declaring that 'the new CAP policy is a good

one for Scotland.'

The deal contains real victories for Scotland, including better greening policies and new measures designed to ensure payments only go to active farmers. UK negotiators also secured a greater emphasis on regional decision making, giving the Scottish Government the power to implement what is effectively a Scottish CAP. As I know from my own work on the recently concluded Common Fisheries Policy reform, devolving control away from Brussels bureaucrats and back to Scotland is sure to reap big benefits.

On balance, the new CAP package is a positive one for Scottish farmers. The ball is now firmly in the Scottish Government's court as it determines how it will use the resources at its disposal to ensure a prosperous Scottish farming sector.

Struan Stevenson MEP, Brussels

A need for greater seal control

Sir,

It was a beautiful day yesterday during which I was fortunate enough to be able to sit on the beach at the entrance to Loch Fleet Nature Reserve.

After the tide turned on this very narrow entrance it became the hunting ground for eight seals. They fished for two hours and were still there when I left.

On many days on my way into Tain I see upwards of 200 seals at low tide below Glenmorangie Distillery. On my way across the Cromarty Bridge I am able to count almost as many. This is a scene which is repeated in many estuaries and river mouths around our island.

Where once there were many commercial nets men operating around our coast line and keeping these very large 'selkies', as the Shetlanders call them, at manageable levels, there appears now to be zero control.

Any population which is increasing i.e. deer, hedgehogs etc is normally kept in check.

While there should be a balance struck between sense and sensibility, it would appear in this case that the lunatics have taken over the asylum!

At one point on this island nation we used to deploy submarine nets. Could an adaptation of this not be put into place?

This solution could at least satisfy anglers and seal lovers.

David Catto, Ardgay

Gaelic dictionary wasted money

Sir,

In these straitened times, we hear often from community groups and charities about how difficult it is to come across money.

Groups established to support people suffering from illness, homelessness shelters and even people struggling to pay for treatment for their children will testify to how hard cash is to come across - even for the most worthy of causes.

So you can imagine my delight when our introspective government announced it was providing £2million of funding for an online Gaelic dictionary.

I'm sure those people unable to find a council house or struggling to get by on meagre carers' allowances will welcome this enormous waste of money.

Alex Salmond, that great ambassador of Gaelic who - unless he's had a recent crash course - doesn't speak a word of the

languishing language, said he is 'delighted' the funding was found.

Wake up, Mr Salmond. This will bring no economic benefit to Scotland and will do nothing to preserve a language that has already passed the point of no return.

Some estimates say Scotland is spending £50million a year to preserve Gaelic. Can we really say this is money well spent?

A Rodger, via email.

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The Oban Times asked our Facebook page fans:

'Argyll and Bute Council has announced that elections for community councils will take place in October this year and is encouraging people to 'speak up' for their communities. What would encourage you to become a community councillor? Or what would stop you from putting yourself forward?'

Kevin Irvine said: 'It's all about filling each other's pockets and personal agendas. No faith at all.'

Margaret Macfarlane said: 'Maybe other community councils in the town and surrounding area work okay, but ours is a wee cleeck, same folk been in it for years and nobody else gets a look in...and they only do what suits them not the community so therefore only the select few attend them.'

Jacqueline Walley said: 'They wouldn't really choose someone who had great prospering ideas for the town anyway. As change would involve too much work.'

Lorn Argyll said: 'Community councils are about working for your community - not for the council - and they are being given more and more influence over what is happening to government - bypassing the council. There has never been a more important time to have FULL active and diverse community councils. You CHOOSE who goes by standing - everyone can do it - across the ages as long as you are of voting age; the more young people the better and the more older people. Get the needs of YOUR community heard.'

April Hendry said: 'Why stand for Community Council when you know you're not wanted. They fight for what they want but if someone else wants something that they don't, well that's just tough on them. Some people have to understand this is a new era we're not living in the dark ages; we want things for our kids to do. What is there to do when you out grow the play park?'

Allan M Strang said: 'A lot of the folk in and around Oban are fed up. Councils take advantage of people who they think can't see past them but they're wrong; us Oban folk know what's wrong and nothing gets noted as far as our opinions go.'

Jean Macintyre said: 'Would be interesting to see a positive comment for a change. Speaking up for their 'communities' won't bring instant vital shops into the town, unless you want lamb's wool sweaters and more Tartan. Or yet another food place.'



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

GED NACH E gnìomhachas ùr a tha sna buidhnean isad goirid dha daoine a tha gann ma choinneamh latha pàighidh tuarastail, chan eil teagamh nach eil iad air fàs nas motha agus nas lionmhora.

Tha feadhainn aca cuideachd air fàs mòran nas proifeiseanta, a' cleachdadh margaideachd sguileil agus teicneòlas dèiseatach a tha a' ciallachadh gun tèid aca air airgead a thoirt seachad ann am beagan mhionaidean. Gun teagamh, dhan fheadhainn a tha aig leithid de dh'èiginn is gum bheil feum aca air a dhol a shireadh isaid air an leithid seo 's e faothachadh mòr a th' ann "cobhair" fhaotainn cho sgiobalta ach tha lot gu math goirt ann an riadh a thig orra a pàighidh. Tha e coltach gum bheil an riadh sin ann am bitheantas aig mu 1% san latha agus a' ciallachadh fìu 's an ceann 10 latha de dh'iasad ceud no gum biodh fiachan ort de £110.47! Ann an ceann mìos bhiodh na fiachan agad suas trian air na fhuair thu agus an ceann nas lugha na trì mìosan, bhiodh a dhà uimhir agad ri pàighidh! Tha e furasta fhaicinn mar a dh'fhaodadh daoine a dhol fodha ann am fiachan gun chrioch ma choinneimh chosgaisean riadh den t-seòrsa seo agus tha mi cinnteach gum bheil mòran, mar a tha mi fhìn, a' moladh an ionnsaigh aig an Àrd-Urramach Justin Welby air leithid de chleachdaidhean. Ged a tha fìu 's an Eaglais aige fhèin air ionnhas a chur an sàs anns a' ghnìomhachas seo roimhe, chan eil sin agh atharrachadh gliocas a' bheachd a thug e gur còir cur às dha na h-iasadan peanasach seo. Tha an Riaghaltas air ionnhas ùr a thoirt seachad gus aonaidhean creideis a leudachadh agus tha Welby airson gun cuir an Eaglais Shasannach làn-thaic ri sin gus roghainn nas saoire a thoirt dhan fheadhainn a tha an èiginn agus feumach air cobhair airgid ann an cabhair.

Fhad 's a bha seo a' tachairt, bha an Seansalair ga mholadh fhèin leis gun robh fàs ann an eaconomaidh na dùthcha. Ach tha an t-adhartas fada air deireadh air na gheall e a thachradh. Tha a' mhòr-chuid fada nas miosa deth na bha iad còig bliadhna air ais agus tha àireamh mhath ann an làn-bhòchdainn. Chan atharraich sin chun an tig fàs ceart air an eaconomaidh le cothroman cosnaidh ùr.

'S e mo bheachd gun dèan Welby barrachd dha daoine bochda na dùthcha aig an àm seo na os Ìsborne agus le eisimpleir Chrìosda fhèin an aghaidh luchd-giullachd airgid, nach bu mhath an cothrom seo dha na h-eaglaisean uile obrachadh còmhla airson math nan daoine nas miosa deth?

WHILE THE CHANCELLOR predictably claims credit for modest growth in the economy, thousands are being forced into crippling loans.

The Most Reverent Justin Welby's plan to extend credit unions makes sense and is surely an issue on which all churches could unite to help some of the poorest in society!

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

Le taic bho

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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| 25 | | | | | | |

Across

- 1 Distraught (7)
- 5 Labourer (5)
- 8 Cover (7)
- 9 About sound (5)
- 10 Pet name for a feline (5)
- 11 Later today (7)
- 12 Pictures taken (6)
- 14 Widened (6)
- 17 Time classes are held (7)
- 19 Half note (5)
- 22 Squeezed (5)
- 23 Fight (5-2)
- 24 Overseer of an estate (5)
- 25 Type of desk (4-3)

Down

- 1 Group of Bovidae (5)
- 2 Skilled (5)
- 3 And they're off! (5-2)
- 4 Howling mammal (6)
- 5 Month after Adar (5)
- 6 Sour fluid (7)
- 7 Sailed (7)
- 12 After the big fight (7)
- 13 Eclipse (7)
- 15 On the verge of feeling (7)
- 16 Sharp shooter (6)
- 18 Fireplace (5)
- 20 Perfect American game for the pitcher (2-3)
- 21 Clean (3,2)

Last week's solution

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Rugby club start season as nomads due to funding shortfall

LOCHABER Rugby Football Club kick off their league campaign in three weeks time - but have no idea where they will be playing home games this season.

Drainage work had been due to start at the club's Highland Council-owned Banavie ground in June.

But it is understood a shortfall between the £80,000 funding available and tender prices received has stalled the project.

The flood-prone pitch was out

of commission for much of last season, wreaking havoc with the club's fixture list and player fitness levels.

According to club officials, Highland Council are investigating securing the required shortfall and expects to make a decision by the end of August.

If the project gets the green light, Lochaber would play its home matches at Black Parks in Inverloch while new drains are laid.

Any prolonged delay to the

drainage works would mean another season on the muddy flats of Banavie.

Club secretary Pauline Donaldson told *The Oban Times*: 'Fingers crossed it goes ahead and we get the money. We are very anxious about where we are going to be playing.'

'We have been talking to TEC services who are in the same situation as ourselves and are waiting for the state of play to be confirmed one way or the other.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT
by
STEPHEN NORRIS
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She added: 'TEC services have been very helpful to us - as soon as they found out things were on hold they cut the grass and said they will have Banavie ready for our pre-season games.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The works were unable to commence in June

due to tender prices being received which were above the overall budget available.'

'A request for additional funding to bridge the gap has been made by ECS to committee and this is due to be discussed at a council meeting on the 21 August.'

'If successful the contract will be let shortly afterwards.'

'In terms of where the club will be playing this season, they were informed shortly after it became apparent that there

was a funding shortfall, that they should continue with their pre-season preparations on the basis that they would be playing in their temporary home of the Black Parks.'

'Should additional funding be unavailable we are currently, in conjunction with our consultants, looking into an adapted works package to fit the available funding package,' he added.

Lochaber RFC are scheduled to play pre-season friendly

matches against Isle of Mull RFC at home on Saturday and away in Tobermory on August 10.

The season officially starts on August 24 with an RBS Caledonia League Division 2 away fixture at Stornoway.

Lochaber's first league home game is on August 31 against Aberdeen Wanderers - venue to be confirmed.

See 'captain's hopes for new season' in our sports section on Page 28.

£2 million boost for new Gaelic dictionary

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO) is to receive over £2m of extra funding. First Minister Alex Salmond announced on a visit to the Gaelic college on Skye college on Friday.

The cash will fund the development of a comprehensive Scottish Gaelic dictionary - *Faclair na Gàidhlig*.

Mr Salmond also announced £100,000 to support a National Sound Archive for Scotland and £25,000 for the FilmG 2014, Scotland's national Gaelic film competition.

The National Library of Scotland is working with SMO-based Toobar an Dualchais to digitise, archive and preserve audio recordings from across Scotland dating back more than 80 years.

The First Minister said: 'We're committed to working with a range of other public bodies to create a secure future for the Gaelic language.'

Police investigate Sleet thefts

TWO properties in Sleet were broken into overnight last week with a number of high value items stolen.

An Apple desktop computer, a Honda 10 horse power outboard motor and a number of power tools were stolen from a shed and motor vehicle in Camuscross overnight between Thursday July 25 and the next morning.

A mountain bike, several power tools and internal fittings were taken from an address in Drumfearn on the same night.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact police on 101.

Fort assault trial postponed

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of punching a man in a Fort William pub in the town's sheriff court was postponed on Monday until September 24 due to a lack of court time.

Alexander Williamson, of 4 Glenmallee Terrace, denies assaulting the man on March 3.

The 23 year-old is also accused of headbutting a police officer during the incident.

Glenelg 'drams' cancelled again

ONE OF the West Highlands smallest music festivals, 'Drams in the Field' at Glenelg, will not go ahead for the second year in succession. Organiser Charlie MacDonald and his team had hoped to secure sufficient funding to stage the event but unfortunately this has not proved possible.

'Drams' volunteer Mary Ann Chisholm said: 'Being such a small village we were just not able to raise enough.'

Hill death mars rescue team award

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team gains Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

CELEBRATIONS to mark a major award for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were tinged with tragedy on Saturday when a man died on a Ben Nevis charity walk.

Retired civil servant Gerard Boyle collapsed below the Half-way Lochan as the ceremony in the team base in Fort William got underway just after midday.

Lochaber MRT secretary Miller Harris told 120 waiting guests, which included many past team members and leaders: 'There's a rescue ongoing on the mountain. Some people may have to disappear very shortly. We have a helicopter coming in over Ben Nevis at the moment.'

Highest honour
Proceedings were delayed as Lochaber MRT leader John Stevenson and police co-ordinated the rescue effort with a helicopter crew from RAF Lossiemouth. The team was put on alert but were not required.

Mr Boyle received attention from two off-duty doctors climbing behind his party but nothing could be done.

It is understood a woman with south Lochaber connections was in the medical group who tried to aid the 51 year-old, who was from the Glasgow area.

A local source told *The Oban Times*: 'She was up with friends and they came across a man either dead or dying and they tried to help but to no avail. It was a spoiled day for them all round.'

At the rescue centre on Ben Industrial Estate, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, bestowed the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest honour for volunteer groups - on behalf of the monarch.

He said: 'Without regard to their own safety this team of volunteers save many lives and for that we in Lochaber should be incredibly proud and grateful.'

Superintendent John Chisholm, who worked closely with the team as Chief Inspector for Lochaber, said: 'Without the support and assistance of mountain rescue our job would be nigh impossible. I congratulate Lochaber Mountain Rescue team in achieving this magnificent award today and I am delighted with the support they provide to the police service.'

He added: 'Sod's Law dictates there would be a callout in the hills today.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson said: 'The team has done fantastic work since being formed 40 years ago. It is the biggest team in the UK and answers over 100 callouts every year.'

'The number of people that do things voluntarily is absolutely amazing. I am so pleased the team is being recognised today. The award is equivalent to a MBE to an individual.'

John Hutchison, chairman of the John Muir Trust which owns much of Ben Nevis, nominated the team for the award.

Mr Hutchison, also executive director of the Nevis Partnership and a qualified summer mountain leader, praised the team's commitment.

He said: 'The real job you do is having the skill and courage and being available to get up the hill to save your fellow human beings.'

Deputy team leader Donald Paterson, whose nine-year-old daughter Cassie was among the guests, thanked all supporters and team members past and present.

He said: 'On behalf of the team I am extremely proud and delighted to receive this award.'

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said ahead of the event: 'This is a singular and, the most senior, recognition of their quite remarkable life protecting and life saving commitment - in a highly personal yet hugely professional way. Our gratitude and admiration to all involved on this landmark day.'



John Hutchison, Miller Harris, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Inspector John Chisholm, Donald Paterson and Skye, and Dave Thompson MSP celebrate the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. Mr Hutchison and Lochiel were presented with statuettes depicting mountain rescuers from days past. 20_31mountain02

Pipers celebrate Scottish Championship grade win

FORT William-based Glen Mor Pipe Band were named the top band in their grade at the Scottish Championships in Dumbarton on Saturday.

The band came through a competition with some 48 other teams from across Scotland to be named best in the grade 4b category, the first time they have won a national title.

Pipe major Willie Evans said it was 'massive' for them to win the prestigious prize.

He said: 'It's a huge boost to the band. We've been competing for a number of years and we've always been close but not quite been good enough to win.'

'The band were just ecstatic afterwards. We've got a few members who've only just joined so it's great for them as well.'

The band also came second in the British Championships earlier in the year, and must fancy their chances the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow later this month.

Mr Evans said: 'We're just hoping to qualify. If we can do that it would be really good for the band.'

Fish farmers come to aid of Plockton sailors

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club's main safety and rescue boat has been fitted a £4,000 replacement outboard engine thanks to Scottish Sea Farms.

The cash came from the company's Heart of The Community Trust, which is currently accepting applications. The club has been an integral part of the local community since its foundation 80 years ago.

Treasurer Douglas Hamilton was 'absolutely delighted' with the donation.

He said: 'Our membership has increased steadily over the last few years thanks to a range

Crofters' group oppose Barra plan

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has criticised the Scottish Government's decision to impose a marine Special Area of Conservation (mSAC) on the Sound of Barra.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse announced last week that the area, which lies between Barra and South Uist, will go forward to the European Commission for inclusion in plans for an EU-wide network of SACs.

SCF director Roddy MacDonald said: 'SCF is disappointed that the Minister has chosen to push ahead with it in the face of local opposition rather than working for local buy-in.'

Golf day raises more than £6,000 for charity

AN ANNUAL golf tournament at Fort William raised £6,703 for local charity STAR For Harris on Sunday - topping last year's total by more than £2,000.

The course was packed out for the fourth annual event, with every available tee slot taken in the Texas scramble.

The day is held in memory of Lochaber baby Harris Ross who lost his long battle with an inoperable brain tumour aged just 16 months in 2010. His parents Tanya

and Allan, who founded STAR for Harris, thanked everyone who took part on the day and the businesses who helped with sponsorship.

Tanya said: 'The day was such an incredible success. We really enjoyed catching up and meeting everyone at the 12th hole bar.'

'Particular thanks to Jimmy, Neil and Gerry for organising it and to the many volunteers who helped run it - we are so grateful to you all.'

A trio of Mark Rydings, Tommy Disher and Billy Glen won the men's

competition after a close finish with David Matheson, Neil Young and Ewan MacColl.

The ladies event was equally close, with Iona Cameron, Hazel Cameron and Gail Anderson taking a narrow win over Paula Halas, Frances MacTavish and Kathleen Leitch.

After the golf was finished, an auction was held which helped boost the funds. Prizes included Wet Wet Wet tickets, golf rounds at top golf courses and necklaces handmade by Harris' ward friend Shannon.



Tanya and Allan, along with Harris' grandparents Jimmy and Bridie Ross, with the cheque from the event

August Edition

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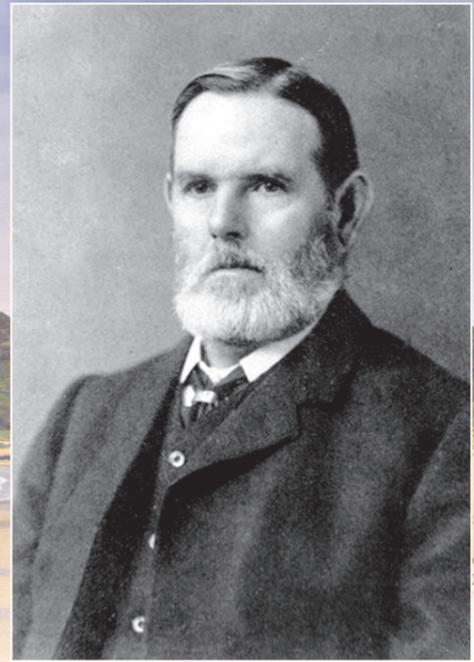
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Donald Mackinnon - Colonsay's champion of culture

Islander becomes the first elected professor of Celtic languages, literature, history and antiquities at Edinburgh University



AN ISLANDER from Colonsay was the original champion of Gaelic and groomed the language through 'scholarship not propaganda'.

Donald Mackinnon, born in 1839 in Kilchattan, was to become the first elected professor of Celtic languages, literature, history and antiquities at Edinburgh University.

This was to be a chair he occupied from 1882 until the year of his death in 1914. Mackinnon's achievements during those years are numerous, including his edition and translation of the Glenmasan Manuscript and cataloguing the manuscripts in the Advocates Library collection.

In earlier years Mackinnon enjoyed a good education, enrolling in the Sean Sgoil (The Old School) before attending the Church of Scotland Training College at 18, a popular route to study at Edinburgh University.

Between 1860 and 1863 Mackinnon worked as a school teacher in Lochinver, Sutherland where he studied the dialects and literature of the north Highlands.

He was then clerk to the Church of Scotland Educational Scheme before continuing his study at Edinburgh University, obtaining the degree of MA in 1870. Later he became clerk and treasurer to the School Board of Edinburgh.

Ironically it was to be

In 1888 he wrote his observations, *Place Names and Personal Names in Argyll, in The Scotsman* in 18 parts.

Mackinnon's experience in the north of the country which stood him in good stead to take up the role as a member of the Crofters Royal Commission chaired by Lord Napier in 1883. By this time he had held the Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University for one year.

Mackinnon's contribution to the Napier Commission helped speed up legislation which improved conditions for the country's crofters.

He was no stranger to publishing work, having produced essays for *An Gaidheal*, which ran from 1871 to 1877, but it was from now on that words really began to flow from Mackinnon. He wrote his observations, *Place Names and Personal Names in Argyll, in The Scotsman* in 1888, in 18 parts.

Following these years Mackinnon published a host of work, far too numerous to detail, but including enough in *The Scotsman* to form several books, many articles in the *Celtic Review* and

The Abaid of Statius.

The *Descriptive Catalogue* deserved special mention because according to observers: 'No one else could have written this book'. But 'the most monumental of his works still lies in manuscript ... an amended, enlarged, and exhaustively revised edition of the *Highland Society's Dictionary*'.

There remains at Edinburgh University boxes upon boxes of Mackinnon's writings, with critics only lamenting the fact he never put the pieces together in a book.

Edinburgh University's website states: 'There are bundles of papers of different sizes with unrelated contents, notebooks containing lecture notes on Gaelic grammar and Gaelic literature, notebooks containing transcripts of Gaelic poetry, Gaelic versions of classical epics, notes on the history of Scotland, newspaper cuttings and draft copies of work.'

There are also some 1,700 books and 300 pamphlets on Celtic studies and Scottish theology, mainly published in the 19th or early 20th centuries, from Mackinnon's library. The bulk of the collection was bequeathed to the library by Dr Roger McNeill, medical officer of health for Argyll, in 1924.

But in some opinions, Donald Mackinnon's contributions to *An Gaidheal* were 'a better indication of his worth as a Gaelic

scholar than any other department of his literary work'.

Despite his burgeoning files of writings some question the impact Mackinnon made while in the Celtic Chair. Although even after more than 25 years in

the role he still shared his love of Gaelic literature wherever possible.

On Thursday January 26, 1911, on the front page (in its small print of notices), the *Dundee Advertiser* announced: 'Dundee

Highland Society Lecture Tonight, 8 o'clock, Professor Mackinnon, Celtic Chair, Edinburgh University, Subject - The 'Run' in Gaelic Literature, Chairman - John MacLennan, Esq, M.A., Rector, High School.'

The speaker and the chairman were not strangers; the former arts student, from Maryburgh, Ross had enrolled in the professor's Celtic class for the university's 1891 to 92 session. The society's year book later applauded Donald Mackinnon: 'A native of the island of Colonsay who had a distinguished career at Edinburgh University.'

But they, like other audiences, expected more from the first occupant of Scotland's first Celtic Chair: 'It is a misfortune that professor Mackinnon's special qualifications for sustaining and promoting the Gaelic language are not backed by that assertiveness which is necessary to influence a public such as the Gaelic people.'

As usual, the 71-year-old professor was buried beneath a flurry of research and writing. He would soon publish the initial instalments of *The Gaelic Version of the Thebaid of Statius* in the *Celtic Review*, followed in 1912 by his *Descriptive Catalogue of Gaelic Manuscripts in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and Elsewhere in Scotland*.

After the catalogue's publication, he celebrated at the 'Edinburgh University Celtic Society

Annual Reunion' where 'a racy and characteristic address was given in Gaelic by Mr Neil Macleod, the well known Celtic bard', as reported in *The Oban Times* on June 8, 1912.

There are 1,700 books and 300 pamphlets on Celtic studies and Scottish theology, from Mackinnon's library

His next, and last, two years were not always kind ones. When the last of his friends passed away Donald Mackinnon felt more alone in the city, absent such Gaelic elite.

And the news from Bruce County, Ontario - the destination of so many Isle of Colonsay emigrants during Mackinnon's youth - did not help.

His older sister Janet died there on December 18, 1913: 'A noble Christian pioneer mother passed away,' reported the *Paisley Advocate*, Ontario on January 8, 1914.

She was buried in rural Rusk's Cemetery where nearly 100 islanders, their families and descendants are buried.

Like a Dundee listener or a eulogy reader, others may have sensed some constraint when Mackinnon retired from the

Celtic Chair in 1914.

He ended the letter of June 25, 1914 for his successor, William J Watson, with a terse reminder: 'You might be relied upon to discharge the duties of the chair as efficiently as a single unaided man can do.'

That summer he and his family returned to Balmahad in Colonsay only to witness, with everyone else, the outbreak of World War I.

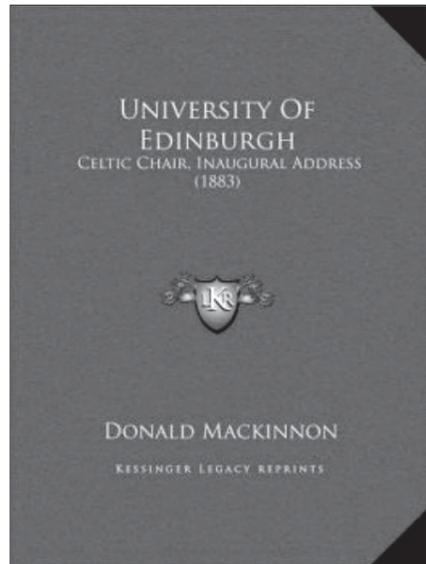
On November 24, a month before his death, Donald Mackinnon wrote a letter of thanks to Edinburgh's Senatus Academicus 'for the kindly minute which they sent me in connection with my retirement from their membership'.

Then he ended with another sentiment: 'Celtic study touches the work of the Senatus at so few points that it does not naturally take up a large portion of its time.'

Mackinnon's death - in the early morning of Christmas Day at Balmahad - brought eulogies and notices throughout Scotland and beyond but the public praise remained mingled with some doubts about the Celtic Chair and his impact.

The Oban Times would like to thank Professor John W Sheets, of the University of Central Missouri, for his assistance with this feature.

Main picture by Dennis Hardley Photography.



Mackinnon presented his inaugural address to Edinburgh University in 1883

TREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW:

PURE BRED CATTLE:

Best Suckled Cow or In-calf Heifer: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 P. Boyd, 3 A & I MacLennan; Best Heifer suitable for breeding: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 A & I MacLennan, 3 P. Boyd; Best Calf: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 M. Armstrong, 3 P. Boyd; Gunning Cup: Champion Pure Bred Animal: CHAMPION: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; RESERVE: Pat Boyd, Drumglea;

YOUNG STOCK PEPERONS:

Best Crossbred Suckled Calf: Duncan MacLennan; CROSSBRED BREEDING CATTLE: Cameron Calves Cup: Best Suckled Cow: 1 C MacKinnon, 2 A MacLennan, 3 A MacLennan; Best Heifer suitable for breeding: Born before 1/1/12: G Campbell, Best Heifer suitable for Breeding Born after 1/1/12: 1 A MacLennan, 2 E MacKinnon; CROSSBRED CATTLE: Drumharrow Cup: (Builder) Cup: Best Beef Heifer: AJ MacLennan, CHAMPION: Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; RESERVE: Alasdair MacLennan, Heylipol; Society Cup: Best Beef Bullock: Tearlach MacDonald, Main Road; John MacKinnon (Builder) Cup: Best Beef Heifer: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol; Best Bullock Calf - Any Breed: Autumn Born: T MacDonald; Best Heifer Calf - Any Breed: Autumn Born: 1 C MacKinnon, 2 C MacKinnon, Spring Born: Best Limousin Male Calf: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 A & I MacLennan, 3 A & I MacLennan; Spring Born: Best Limousin Female Calf: 1 AJ MacLennan, 2 A MacLennan, 3 L Kennedy; Best Overall Limousin Calf: Autumn or Spring Born: G Campbell; Best Charolais Male Calf: 1 AJ MacLennan, 2 F MacLennan, 3 L Kennedy; Spring Born: Best Charolais Female Calf: 1 G Campbell, 2 AJ MacLennan, 3 AJ MacLennan; Best Overall Charolais Calf: Autumn or Spring Born: G Campbell; Garrahal; Spring Born: Best Male Calf: Any Other Continental Breed: 1 A Paterson, 2 A Paterson, 3 D MacLennan; Spring Born: Best Female Calf - Any Other Continental Breed: A Paterson; Belgian Blue Society Cup: Best Overall Belgian Blue sire: Autumn or Spring Born: Calf: Duncan MacLennan, Ruairi;

SPECIAL PRIZES:

CHAMPION: MacLennan Motors Salver; Champion Male Crossbred Suckled Calf: Tearlach MacDonald, Main Road; RESERVE CHAMPION: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; CHAMPION: ID MacKinnon Cup: Champion Female Crossbred Suckled Calf: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol; RESERVE CHAMPION: Tearlach MacDonald, Main Road; CHAMPION: 1 A MacLennan, 2 A MacLennan, 3 L Kennedy; United Auctions Ltd Prize: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol, Charolais heifer by Thrunon Equity; RESERVE CHAMPION: Cameron Livestock Prize: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol; Spring Born Limousin heifer calf by Tweedale Goldie; CHAMPION: Parkhouse Cup: Supreme Champion in Cattle Section: Cornaig Veterinary Practice Prize: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; RESERVE CHAMPION: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol; Corson Cup: Best Cattle Animal bred by Exhibitor: AJ MacLennan, Heylipol; Three Association Prize: Most Points in Cattle Section: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi & Stafford Elgin Shields; Most Points in Cattle Section for Crofters: Colin MacKinnon; The Royal Bank of Scotland Cup: CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi;

SHEEP:

YOUNG STOCKPEPERSONS: Best Crossbred Ewe Lamb suitable for Breeding: 1 D MacDonald, 2 J Brown, 3 J Brown; ANNIE CAMERON CUP: Champion from Cattle and Sheep Sections (Under 10): Dougie MacLennan, Tyree, Benderloch; HEYLIPOLE FARM CUP: Best Young Handler in Sheep Section: Dougie MacLennan, Tyree, Benderloch; PRIME LAMBS: Best pen Prime Suffolk Cross Lambs: 5 Brown, Best Pen 3 Prime Cross Lambs: Any other Breed: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 A & I MacLennan, 3 S Brown; Best Single Prime Lamb: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 S Brown, 3 G Campbell; DA MACLEAN CUP: Champion Pen of Prime Lambs: CHAMPION: A & I MacLennan; RESERVE: Sandra Brown, Balevullin; BLACKFACE SHEEP: Best Blackface Ewe: 1 A MacDonald, 2 A MacDonald, 3 A MacDonald, 3 A MacDonald; 2 A MacDonald, 3 A & I MacLennan; Best Blackface Ewe Lamb: 1 G Campbell, 2 G Campbell; THE ROBERT NISBET MEMORIAL SALVER: Champion Blackface Sheep: CHAMPION: Alasdair MacLennan, Roadside; RESERVE: Alasdair MacLennan, Roadside;

CROSSBRED SHEEP:

Best Halfbred type Gimmer: 1 E MacKinnon, 2 E MacKinnon; Best Scotch Mule Ewe: 1 S Brown, 2 G Campbell, 3 A MacLennan; Best Scotch Mule Gimmer: 1 A MacLennan, 2 A MacLennan, 3 G Campbell; Best Scotch Mule Ewe Lamb: 1 C MacKinnon, 2 A MacDonald, 3 C Williams; The "Kilchattan Drumharrow" Quinch Best Scotch Mule Sheep: Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Best Suffolk Cross Ewe Lamb: 1 G Campbell, 2 S Brown; Best Textile type Cross Ewe: 1 S Brown, 2 S Brown, 3 G Campbell; Overall Best Crossbred Ewe: S Brown; Overall Best Crossbred Gimmer: S Brown; Overall Best Crossbred Ewe Lamb: A & I MacLennan; UNITED AUCTIONS LTD CUP: Champion Crossbred Female Sheep: Sandra Brown Balevullin; Reserve Champion Crossbred Female Sheep: RESERVE: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; BLUE BREED SHEEP: Best Suffolk Ewe: 1 F MacLennan, 2 S Brown, 3 S Brown; Best Suffolk Gimmer: 1 F MacLennan, 2 F MacLennan, 3 S Brown; Best Suffolk Ewe Lamb: 1 A & I MacLennan, 2 A & I MacLennan, 3 S Brown; Best Textile type Cross Ewe: 1 S Brown, 2 F MacLennan, 3 S Brown; Best Ewe Lamb - Any Other Breed: 1 F MacLennan, 2 G Campbell, 3 G Campbell; Best Ram Lamb - Any Breed: 1 A MacLennan, 2 F MacLennan, 3 A & I MacLennan; Best Shearling Ram - Any Breed: S Brown; Best Ram Lamb: A & I MacLennan, 2 S Brown, 3 A MacDonald; MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION CUP: Champion Pure Bred Ram: CHAMPION: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; RESERVE: Alasdair MacLennan, Heylipol; Overall Best Pure Bred Ewe: Fraser MacLennan; Best Overall Pure Bred Gimmer: Alasdair MacLennan; Best Overall Pure Bred Ewe Lamb: Alasdair MacLennan; TARRIFF VALLEY CUP: Champion Pure Bred Female: CHAMPION: Alasdair MacLennan, Heylipol; RESERVE: Fraser MacLennan, Heylipol; The DRUMHARROW CUP: Supreme Champion Sheep and Cornaig Veterinary Practice Prize: SUPREME CHAMPION: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi; RESERVE: Alasdair MacLennan, Heylipol; The

SOCIETY CUP: Most Points in Sheep Section:

Sandra Brown, Balevullin; THE STAFFORD AND FLORA ELGIN SHIELD: Most Points in Sheep Section for Crofters: Sandra Brown, Balevullin.



Stuart Jackson from Ardnurchan and Skye won the Tossing the Sheep competition

Picture: Rhoda Meek

HOME INDUSTRIES:

HANDICRAFT SECTION: Pram Cover Knitted or Crocheted - Any Yarn: 1 S Grant, 2 F Maxwell, 3 N Omand; Knitted baby set of cardigan and hat - 4 Ply: 1 J Bennett, 2 M Smith, 3 J Gray; Knitted child's patterned jumper: 1 M Smith, 2 J Gray, 3 E Gillies; Cross stitch book mark: 1 J Gray, 2 M Smith; Baby card - Any craft: 1 E Gillies, 2 J Gray, 3 A Grant; A painted tea light holder: M MacArthur; Photograph of a Tree sunset - Any size: 1 A Campbell, 2 Joseph Bennett, 3 Jacque Bennett; TREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CUP: MOST POINTS IN HOME INDUSTRIES SECTION: Jessie Gray, Balmearine; LADY PEGGY HOARE SALVER: BEST KNITTED ARTICLE AT SHOW: Sandra Grant, Ruairi - Pram cover; SCARINISH HOTEL SPECIAL PRIZE: BEST EXHIBIT IN HOME INDUSTRIES SECTION: Jessie Gray's Cross stitch book mark; VISITOR'S SECTION: A Baby Card - Any craft: 1 H Samwells, 2 R McGoogan, 3 J Whiteside; Book Mark - Any craft: 1 R Benn, 2 J Whiteside, 3 S Cox; Photograph of a Tree sunset - Any size: 1 J Wilson, 2 C Boothby, 3 R Cartwell; Banana Loaf: 1 M Finnigan, 2 M Kerr, 3 H Samwells; A quiche: 1 S Cox, 2 H Samwells; A dish of coleslaw: 1 S Gunderson, 2 S Cox, 3 C Smyth; 4 Squares of tablet: 1 C Wylie, 2 M Bennett, 3 J Whiteside; THE CHRISTINA MACLEAN CAMERON MEMORIAL SALVER: MOST POINTS IN VISITOR'S SECTION: Hannah Samwells and Su Cox; SCARINISH HOTEL SPECIAL PRIZE: BEST EXHIBIT IN VISITOR'S SECTION: Martin Finnigan's Banana Loaf; PRODUCE SECTION: Clotie Dumping: 1 E Brown, 2 E Gillies, 3 B MacLennan; Victoria Sponge - sandwiched with jam: 1 E Brown, 2 F MacLennan, 3 N MacLennan; Madeira Cake: 1 J Brown, 2 E Brown, 3 N Campbell; Banana Loaf: 1 E Brown, 2 F MacLennan, 3 J Brown; Plain Gingerbread: 1 E Gillies, 2 J Brown, 3 C

JONES; 3 Plain oven scones:

1 E Brown, 2 F MacLennan, 3 J Brown; 3 Girdle scones: 1 E Brown, 2 J Gray; 3 Pancakes: 1 N MacLennan, 2 C Kennedy, 3 J Gray; 3 Empire biscuits: 1 J Brown, 2 F MacLennan, 3 J Gray; 1 J Gray, 2 F Armstrong, 3 J Smith; A jar of chutney: 1 J Gray, 2 J Jones, 3 M Armstrong; 1 A MacArthur, 2 F Armstrong, 3 M Armstrong; 6 Duck eggs: 1 F MacKinnon; THREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CUP MOST POINTS IN PRODUCE SECTION: Elizabeth Brown, Crossopol; THE RURAL CUP: MOST POINTS IN HOME INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCE SECTIONS: Elizabeth Brown, Crossopol; SCARINISH HOTEL SPECIAL PRIZE: MOST OUTSTANDING ITEM IN PRODUCE SECTION: Elizabeth Brown's Clotie Dumping; HORTICULTURE SECTION: Potatoes - 4 best of variety - round: 1 J Vale, 2 R Vale; Potatoes - 4 best of variety - kidney: 1 J Vale, 2 NH & K MacKinnon, 3 C Williams; 3 Onions: 1 J & T Michie; 3 Carrots - any variety: 1 J & T Michie; 1 Lettuce - any variety: 1 J Vale; A Cucumber: 1 A MacKinnon, 2 I MacKinnon, 3 F MacKinnon; Bunch of Parsley: 1 J Vale, 2 J Campbell; Bunch of mixed herbs: 1 J Jones, 2 J Vale, 3 J & T Michie; 3 stalks of rhubarb: 1 A Campbell, 2 J Vale, 3 R MacKinnon; Tray of Soft Fruit - single variety: 1 J Vale, 2 P Cameron; Basket of mixed vegetables - max 5 varieties: 1 J Vale; Garden pink: 1 R MacKinnon, 2 J & T Michie, 3 S Grant; A Single Rose: 1 R MacKinnon, 2 C Smith, 3 J Vale; Begonia House Plant: 1 Peggy Cameron; Fresh foliage arrangement in a bottle: 1 Jo Vale, 2 M Jarvis, 3 R MacKinnon; Small fresh flower arrangement in an eggcup: 1 J Vale, 2 C Gunderson, 3 D MacKinnon;

CHILDREN'S SECTIONS:

Kathleen Munn's decorated stone; VISITING CHILDREN: Pre School: Picture of a Tree boat - Any medium: IA Hyines, 2 S Whiteside, 3 O Moore; A decorated stone: 1 F Jones, 2 O Moore, 3 A Hyines; 3 Decorated happy face tea biscuits: 1 E Fraser, 2 A Hyines, 3 M Wilson; 3 Chocolate crispies: 1 M Wilson, 2 S Whiteside, 3 A Hyines; THREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHIELD: Most Points: Sarah Whiteside; VISITING CHILDREN: 7 years and under: Picture of a Tree boat - Any medium: 1 N Campbell, 2 E Fraser, 3 M Wilson; A decorated stone: 1 F MacCush, 2 E Fraser, 3 N Campbell; 3 Decorated happy face tea biscuits: 1 E Fraser, 2 N Campbell, 3 M Wilson; 3 Peppermint creams: 1 E Fraser, 2 N Campbell & M Wilson; THREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHIELD: Most Points: Eubha Fraser; VISITING CHILDREN - under 11 years: Picture of a Tree boat - Any medium: 1 S Bradley, 2 J Brown, 3 E MacArthur; A decorated stone: 1 E Gunderson, 2 S Bradley, 3 M Gunderson; A book mark - Any craft: 1 J Brown, 2 S Bradley, 3 E Gunderson; 3 Peppermint creams: 1 R MacArthur, 2 E MacArthur, 3 J Brown; 3 pieces of Mars Bar tray bake: 1 S Bradley, 2 R MacArthur, 3 E MacArthur; THREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHIELD: Most Points: Stephanie Bradley; VISITING CHILDREN - under 16 years: Picture of a Tree boat - Any medium: 1 K MacKinnon, 2 C Tilley, 3 L MacArthur; A decorated stone: 1 P Daly, 2 L MacArthur, 3 R Bean; A book mark - Any craft: 1 C Tilley, 2 R MacArthur, 3 J Brown; 3 Peppermint creams: 1 C Tilley, 2 K MacArthur, 3 pieces of Mars Bar tray bake: 1 K MacArthur, 2 Rogers, 3 A Kerr; THREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHIELD: Most Points: Kirsty MacArthur; SCARINISH HOTEL SPECIAL PRIZE: BEST EXHIBIT IN VISITING

CHILDREN'S SECTIONS:

Stephanie Bradley's picture of a Tree boat. PET SECTION: Dog with Waggiest Tail: 1 Sheena Chaney - Mickey, 2 Rhoda Meek - Zac, 3 Rhona McGoogan - Cheva Bacca; Best Six Legs: 1 Charlotte MacIntyre - Homer, 2 Sophie Biggart - Elsa, 3 Jenna MacArthur - Alfie; Best Golden Oldie: MacDonald Langley Quinch: 1 Lynda MacIntyre - Megan, 2 Cynthia Gunderson - Tess, 3 David & Marit Moran - Henry; Best Pet under 12 months: 1 Claire Urquhart - Tilley, 2 Stephanie Bradley - Mac, 3 Jona Garrick - Skye; Best Collie - Dog or Bitch: 1 Meryn Gunderson - Mav, 2 Catriona Duncan - Sam, 3 Sarah Henderson - Bruce; Best Dog or Bitch - Any Gun Dog Variety: 1 Iain MacLennan - Major, 2 Janis MacArthur - Max, 3 Catherine Ina MacKinnon - Dileas; Best Dog or Bitch - Any other Breed: 1 Katie & Ellie Bunnes - Tiel, 2 Jona MacArthur - Buddy, 3 Anna Kerr - Millie; Best Pet - Other than above classes: 1 Kirsty Barbour - Elmo, 2 Jacque Bennett - Rumble, Hadley Shield - Champion Pet; Champion - Iain MacLennan, Ruairi with Pip, a German Pointer; Reserve - George Urquhart, Balnoe with his collie pup, Tilley. HORSE AND PONY SECTION: Best Ridden M&M Large Breeds (Confined): 1 Nicole MacKinnon - Shona; Best Ridden M&M Small Breeds (Confined): 1 Emily Armstrong - Twich, 2 Abby McDowall - Dougal, 3 Kathleen Munn - Twich; Best Ridden Pony - Any other breed or Parbred: 1 Lauren MacArthur - Tigga, Best Ridden Horse (Confined): 1 Jan Paterson - Tallina Fan T Sudein; 2 Eilidh Campbell - Flo; Champion Horse or Pony at Show: Christian Quach; Champion - Jan Paterson, Balnoe with Friesian mare - Tallina Fan T Sudein; Reserve: Lauren MacArthur - Tigga; Best Turned out pony - from above classes: 1 Kathleen Munn - Mical, 2 Lauren MacArthur - Tigga, 3 Laura Hayes - Marcus; Best Turned out Horse

FROM ABOVE CLASS:

Jan Paterson - Tallina, 2 Eilidh Campbell - Flo; Best Young Handler 16 years and under: Treen on Horseback Shield (Confined): 1 Nicole MacKinnon, 2 Emily Armstrong, 3 Lauren MacArthur & Laura Hayes; Fancy Dress Open to all ages: 1 Kathleen Munn, 2 Emily Armstrong, 3 Abby McDowall; HEAVY HORSES: Best Clydesdale Gelding: 1 Mary Flora MacDonald, Roadside - Major, 2 Sandra Brown, Balevullin - Kypheall Floyd, Best Single Horse Turnout: 1 Sandra Brown, Balevullin - Kypheall Floyd, 2 Mary Flora MacDonald, Roadside - Major; Donald MacIntyre Cup: Champion Clydesdale: Mary Flora MacDonald, Roadside with Major; POLYTRAY SECTION: Any Variety Purebred Hen: 1 F Urquhart, 2 J Straker, 3 G Kerr; Any Variety Purebred Pullet: 1 F MacKinnon, 2 J MacArthur, 3 C MacArthur; Best Drake: 1 T MacDonald, 2 C MacArthur, 3 J Straker; The Main Road Farm Cup: Poultry Champion: Fiona MacLennan, Gribun with a Bluebell Pullet; Reserve: George Urquhart, Balnoe With a Cockerel. The Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: For Champion of Champions at Show: A & I MacLennan, Ruairi with Limousin heifer, Artagnan Grouse. THREE TRACTOR PARADE: 1 Iain MacKinnon, 2 Duncan Cameron, 3 Donald Archie Brown; Vintage machinery: 1 Donald Archie Brown, Champion Tractor: Iain MacKinnon, Kilmoulaig - Massey Ferguson 35. TOSsing THE SHEAF: The Omand Motors Shield and Alec Walker Prize: Stewart Jackson (Gunn Sound Band).

Advertisement for 'REVIEW NOW' magazine, August 2013 issue. The ad features a large 'REVIEW NOW' logo and a picture of a bottle of whisky. Text includes 'Delivered free to mainland homes and businesses in and around Oban' and 'Also available from The Oban Times offices in Oban and Fort William'. Contact information: 'For editorial and advertising opportunities contact maud@wyvexmedia.co.uk'.

Celebrating the Year of Natural Scotland 2013



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All of nature for all of Scotland
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Year of Natural
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JOIN in the celebrations in the Year of Natural Scotland 2013.

From stunning landscapes and iconic wildlife, to creative events and nature festivals, Scotland's outdoors is waiting to be discovered - by you! This year Scottish Natural Heritage, EventScotland and Visit Scotland celebrate the rich diversity of Scotland's landscapes and wildlife and you too can join in the celebrations.





Scotland's National Nature Reserves
Magical places, amazing wildlife.

5napberry
as part of
Artmap Argyll open studio weekend

23rd - 26th August 2013
Venue: Taynish National Nature Reserve, Tayvallich, Argyll

An exhibition of photographs by students from Lochgilphead High School set in Argyll's only outdoor exhibition space the Piggery, where ancient Atlantic oakwoods give way to the shores of Loch Sween.

For further information on the Snapberry project contact
Caroline Anderson.
Tel: 01546 603611
email: caroline.anderson@snh.gov.uk
Visit: www.artmapargyll.co.uk

Open all hours. No charge
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For more information on
Argyll's National Nature Reserves
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www.nnr-scotland.org.uk
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This is Year of Natural Scotland, a celebration of Scotland's outstanding natural beauty. So make 2013 your year to explore our amazing variety of wildlife both close to home and further afield - in the hills and forests or on the rivers and lochs.

Or why not choose our spectacular coastline or opt instead for the magical islands of the Hebrides? Our breathtaking natural environment in the West Highlands and islands has been a source of inspiration for artists, poets, writers, musicians and many other creative people for centuries and

continues to be so in the 21st century. And they form a suitable backdrop to the Year of Natural Scotland 2013. From stunning landscapes and iconic wildlife, to creative events and nature festivals, Scotland's outdoors is waiting to be found.

Find out how you can get involved and discover and re-discover the splendour and beauty of nature for yourself in the Year of Natural Scotland 2013.

Our free apps, Big5, Scotland's Nature and View from the Train, offer a fascinating, unique insight into Scotland's finest landscapes and wildlife. View from the Train, available in Android and iOS format, contains audio guides for four of the main routes across Scotland with a further two currently in development. Narrated by Mark Stephen of BBC Scotland's Out of Doors programme and BBC's Fiona MacDonald, the audio guides will make your train journeys come alive with information on history, culture and poetry as you travel through the landscapes of Scotland. The audio guides are also available to download as MP3s from our website www.snh.gov.uk/train.



Photo: Colin MacFarlane

To find out more about events in your area and to download our free apps and resources, visit our website at www.snh.gov.uk/natural.

Come and visit the Scottish Natural Heritage team at Argyll's Agricultural events:

- Lorn Show, Benderloch - August 3, 2013
- Salen Show, Isle of Mull August 9, 2013
- Mid Argyll Agricultural Show, Lochgilphead August 10, 2013
- Appin Agricultural Show, Stalker Croft, Appin August 17, 2013
- Dalmally Agricultural Show, Mart Park, Dalmally Sept 7, 2013




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Year of Natural Scotland 2013

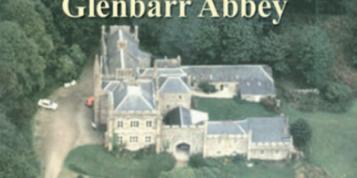
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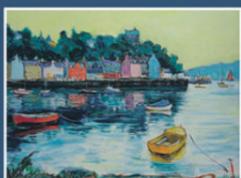
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HOLROYD GALLERY

Art Exhibition - Alan Anderson



F.W.Holroyd Art Gallery and Picture Framer
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Holroyd Gallery is delighted to host an exhibition of new work by talented local artist Alan Anderson. Alan is a graduate of Industrial Design at Glasgow School of Art. While a student he exhibited paintings and sculptures at the RGI. When he left he became an art teacher and design lecturer in Glasgow.

His varied career since then includes working as a partner in a Product and Design Consultancy in Glasgow, tutor in Art and Design for Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council and a part time tutor for Strathclyde Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Clydebank College, Argyll College and Glasgow University. He now lives north of Oban and spends most of his time painting. He paints in oils, mainly West Highlands and Islands and exhibits in select galleries throughout Scotland. Shown alongside Alan's work is a selection of work by other gallery artists.

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The competition is open until 7th November 2013. For more information and to upload your photos go to www.facebook.com/youngscot. Remember to state where your photo was taken. You can also find more details on the competition and more ways to enjoy the Year of Natural Scotland at www.snh.gov.uk/natural. So get your cameras out and get snapping Scotland's awesome natural heritage.

In addition to the main competition, 20 pictures of the West Highlands & Islands with the most votes will be exhibited at The Piggery, Taynish National Nature Reserve, Tayvallich, outdoor exhibition space, the overall winner in this category will have their picture printed in the Oban Times.



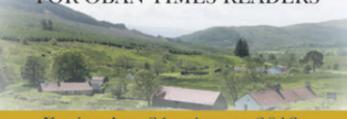
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Auchindrain is a complete historic farming village which has been preserved to help us understand and remember what life used to be like. It's a unique and nationally important place, the only survivor of thousands of small farming communities that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

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

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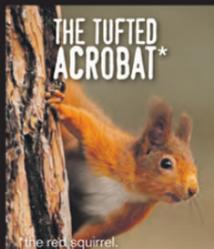
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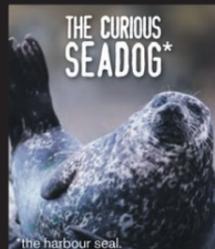
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scotlandbig5@snh.gov.uk



Natural Scotland Photo Challenge Scottish Natural Heritage/Young Scot

As part of YONS 2013, SNH has been working with Young Scot to inspire more young people to get out and about and enjoy Scotland's nature and landscapes. In the first half of this year, we've promoted some great ideas for young people by young people to get active in the great outdoors - over 2000 young people across Scotland have taken part to date with some 70,000 activities undertaken. We're now looking to develop a new map of Natural Scotland created from photos taken by young people during the course of the year. So if you are aged between 13-25 and are inspired to capture on camera the nature and landscapes you experience in the outdoors this year, we want

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12noon from Station Square
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Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (starts 9.30)
Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
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| PIOBAlREACHD Silver Medal | Senior Pìobaireachd |
| Gold Medal | LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners) |
| Silver Medal Final | |

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - August 1

8.45am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Creran walk, meet Ballachulish tourist info or Oban's Longdale Road car park.
10am, LORN Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11am, Fun in the Sun, Aros Park, Tobermory, Mull.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
1.30pm, Hand weaving using plant fibres, Kilmartin Museum.
6pm, Paperback launch of *Island Wife* by Judy Fairbairns, Waterstone's, Oban.
7pm, Tales of the Sea, Columbia Hall, Port Ellen, Islay.
8pm, Jacques Brel, Mull Theatre, Duimfin, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9pm, Quiz, Coasters, Oban.
11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish, Oban.

FRIDAY - August 2

9.30am, Islay Festival of the Sea, Port Ellen, Islay.
10am, Bunesan Show, Mull.
10.30am, Coffee morning, Kilmelford Village Hall.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
9pm, None The Wiser, The Galley of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.
9.30pm, Rod Stewart tribute band, McCaig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - August 3

Re-enactment, Duart Castle, Mull.
Islay Half Marathon, Bowmore, Islay.
Craigish Arts Festival.
10am, Islay Festival of the Sea, Port Ellen, Islay.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
10.30am, Coffee morning, Congregational Church, Oban.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
9pm, Dead Grateful, The Galley of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.
9.30pm, Ballochmyle Band, Bowmore Hall, Islay.
9.30pm, Kenny Pearson, McCaig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Starbuck, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - August 4

Re-enactment, Duart Castle, Mull.
Craigish Arts Festival.
9.30am, Islay Festival of the Sea, Port Ellen, Islay.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
10.30am, Ramblers Scotland Fort William walk, meet Lochaber College entrance.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.
2.30pm, Producers Market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
3.45pm, Sunday Session, Barn Bar, Oban.
8pm, Karaoke, McCaig's Return, Oban.
9pm, Red Pine Timber Co, The Galley of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - August 5

Craigish Arts Festival.
10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
2.30pm, Live accordion music, Tartan Tavern, Oban.

TUESDAY - August 6

Craigish Arts Festival.
10am, National moth night, Ardanish Weavers car park, Bunesan, Mull.
10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
10.30am, Oban USA, Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
1.30pm, Seascape brochures with Jae Ferguson, Kilmartin Museum.
8pm, Opera Alba, Mull Theatre, Duimfin, Tobermory, Mull.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - August 7

Craigish Arts Festival.
10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
7pm, Oban High School Pipe Band busking, Station Square, Oban.
7.30pm, Opera Alba, Corran Halls, Oban.
9pm, Quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9.30pm, Quiz, The Galley of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.

THURSDAY - August 8

Craigish Arts Festival.
9.15am, Ramblers Scotland Tyndrum walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park or Glencoe Village car park.
10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
10am, ArtyFacts, Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern.
10am, Salen Show, Mull.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
11.15am, Family inflatable fun session, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
1.30pm, Medicinal and edible plant trail, Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
7pm, Clay pigeon shooting, Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connel.
8pm, Oban Pipe Band and Eilidh MacInnes Highland Dancers, McCaig's Tower, Oban.
8pm, Summer Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
9pm, Pub quiz, Coasters, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
11.30pm, Thursday night disco, Skippinish Ceilidh House, Oban.

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

Inveraray pipe band is Argyll's leading light at championship



Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band cemented its position as one of the best in the world with a third place finish at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships. The success of the grade one band at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton follows on from a second place at the European championship and a third at the British major.

Band secretary Jim McMillan said: 'Although it would be nice to win a major we are consistently finishing in

the top three and I feel the gap is getting smaller between ourselves and the very best.'

Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, from Northern Ireland, won the Scottish major for the fifth year in a row.

Oban Pipe Band is beginning to establish itself in grade two and achieved sixth position at the Scottish Championship. Islay Pipe Band finished ninth in grade 3A, ahead of Cowal in 14th, while Inveraray and District, Kintyre Schools

and Oban High School finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively in the juvenile grade.

In the novice juvenile category Kintyre Schools Pipe Band was the best of the Argyll youngsters in eighth place, ahead of Oban High School and Mid Argyll.

The final major of the season will be the World Pipe Band Championship on August 17 and 18.

Meanwhile, Oban High School Pipe

Band plans to use its practice night on Wednesday, August 21 at Station Square as a fundraiser for two charities.

The weekly outdoor practices, between 7pm - 9pm, have doubled up as a busking set for the young pipers throughout the summer, raising hundreds of pounds each night for travel and equipment expenses.

However, for one night all proceeds will be split between Oban Hospice and Riding for the Disabled Association.

Argyll ceilidh trailers get support from Celtic cousins at impressive opening gig

ARGYLL'S most talented young traditional musicians began their summer ceilidh tour with a bang as they were joined by Lochaber and Irish counterparts for their opening gig.

The Feis Latharna Argyll Ceilidh Trail opened its tour of the county last Wednesday in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, before playing Dalmainy, Tobermory and Iona on consecutive nights. The trail recommences in Lismore tonight (Thursday).

In Oban, young musicians from Derry and Donegal visited as part of a cultural exchange and joined in with their Celtic cousins for a session that thrilled the Oban audience.

Also joining in were the ceilidh trailers from Lochaber, who were coming to the end of their summer tour.

The cultural exchange was organised between Scotland's Bord na Ghaidhlig and Ireland's Foras na Gaeilge.

Before the concert, Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson and Alistair MacDougall gave a welcome to a civic reception organised by the council.

The Argyll Ceilidh Trail is being led by professional musician Sileas Sinclair.



This year's Argyll Ceilidh Trailers. 15_celidhtrail01

Scottish artist claims Argyll is 'misunderstood'

'Every child should be encouraged to smell the tangle o' the isles.'

ONE OF Scotland's most influential artists has said the Scottish arts scene is poorer for having 'misunderstood' Argyll and has claimed the Hebrides can be as inspirational as the Galapagos Islands.

Richard Demarco CBE, a professor at the Kingston University in London, last week joined a team of artists and scientists aiming to raise awareness of climate change by sailing around Scotland's west coast islands.

Likening the impact the trip could have on the crew to Charles Darwin's journey to the Galapagos Islands, Professor Demarco said Argyll and the islands were 'underestimated' by the arts fraternity nationally.

Misunderstood
He said: 'I have been bringing artists to Argyll since 1960 and this area has been misunderstood, misrepresented and underestimated by the powers that be who operate the education system and cultural life from the urban areas.'

'I think the reality of Scotland is not within the major cities. It is among folk outside of the urban areas, who spend their lives waking up in an environment that is second to none in the world.'

'That is why I have taken hundreds of artists to Argyll and the isles from the Edinburgh Festival because I can educate them in a way they have never been educated if they live in New York, Berlin, London or even Edinburgh.'

'Every child living in an inner city area should be encouraged

to smell the tangle o' the isles.'

A Creative Scotland spokesperson said: 'Creative Scotland retains a firm focus on supporting development in the arts and creative industries in all areas of Scotland, and we have and continue to support and work with artists, organisations and local authorities across the Highland and Islands area.'

'There is a team of Creative Scotland staff with a remit to focus specifically on the Highland and Islands areas.'

'Our support includes funding of over £1m provided to individuals and organisations based in the Argyll and Bute local authority area in 2011/2012.'

The recently announced Cultural Programme for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games will include a staging on Mull of GRIT, an ambitious new, multi-artform, site-specific, international collaborative theatre production based on the inspiring life and music of one of Scotland's most innovative, pioneering and influential musicians, Martyn Bennett, produced in association with Mull Theatre, now part of Comar.'

George Freeman, lead councillor for culture at Argyll and Bute Council welcomed Richard Demarco's comments.
He said: 'The fact that Argyll and Bute is seen as being so important and potentially developmental to the creative artist is good news and the council is working closely with Creative Scotland and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative to get that message out there.'

Fancy dress fun at pram race

Proceeds from the event to go towards Kilchoan jetty upkeep

MODIFIED prams and fancy dress were the order of the day in Kilchoan on Friday for the annual fundraising jetty pram race.

Locals and holidaymakers lined the streets to see an array of prams and carts race from Ormsaigbeg through the village to the Kilchoan Hotel.

Cheyenne Cameron and Ben White won the senior race in a speedy time of nine minutes exactly, while youngsters Alastair Peterson and Isla Ip teamed up to win the junior event.

Rosie Curtis and Morven MacLachlan's extravagant Flintstones-inspired pram design may not have given them much help aerodynamically, but it did win them the prize for best pram.

All the proceeds from the day will go towards the upkeep of the Kilchoan jetty.



Pram race winners Cheyenne Cameron and Ben White with their shield. Photo: Ricky Clark

Youngsters shine at Taynuilt ceilidh

AN AUDIENCE at last Thursday's Taynuilt ceilidh got a glimpse of the talented young Burach band, after group member Kimberley Campbell, from Lochawe had opened proceedings with a rousing selection of pipe tunes.

Kimberley later joined fellow Oban High School pupils Rachel Campbell, Ross Christie, Bronwen Davies and Anna Garvin in Burach, producing some impressive music.

The Isla Sinclair Dancers once again impressed with Chelsea MacAuley, Isla Buchanan and Mairi MacCorquodale producing fine displays of Highland dancing.

Local soloists Alison MacVic and Mary Heather MacColl provided some excellent singing while Mid Argyll's Christine Johnston and Josie Campbell entertained the audience with their usual mixture of enjoyable songs and witty remarks.

Bean an Taighe for the evening was Audrey Paterson who kept proceedings flowing smoothly. At the previous week's ceilidh,



The three Isla Sinclair Dancers, from left: Chelsea MacAuley, Isla Buchanan and Mairi MacCorquodale.

the piper was Oban's Aaron Hossain. The Isla Sinclair Dancers and Appin School of Dance combined to produce wonderful displays of Highland dancing, courtesy of Isla Dunlop, Iona MacKay, Ailie Munro, Isla MacKay, Eva MacColl and Isla Buchanan.

Oban accordionist Robert Robertson was kept busy with frequent visits onto the stage, while Ann Barlow provided further enjoyable music on the fiddle.

Helen Watt and Audrey Paterson both sang impressive Gaelic duets with Davy Paterson while soloists Jennifer Lloyd and Graeme Campbell were also in fine form. Bean an Taighe was Isabel Banks.

Islay's Festival of the Sea set to make waves

A HUGE marquee, the size of Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall will be erected in the village as Islay welcomes the Festival of the Sea this weekend.

Beginning today (Thursday) the four-day festival will see skiff racing, adventure activities, traditional music and talks by famous sailors, celebrating the sea-faring heritage of Islay.

The Green in front of the Co-op will be the site for the marquee, which will host most of the shoreside events.

Festival committee member Niall Colthart said: 'This is an event in the Islay calendar that attracts tourists, particularly to the south end of the island, and is good for local businesses.'

'But the island also has a big affinity with the sea and Port Ellen is the natural place to hold a festival like this. It also encourages the local children into outdoor activities and I hope we are creating a lasting legacy.'

Highlights from the four days will likely include the outdoor water sports undertaken by Stramash and the skiff race, which will involve two teams from Islay Rowing Club against other invited teams.

The festival, now in its third year, aims to showcase the maritime heritage of the island, its seafood, wealth of local talent, abundant wildlife and historical links with Ireland which have endured since the time of St Columba.

Meek award shortlist complete

FOUR new Gaelic books have been shortlisted for the Donald Meek Award, established by the Gaelic Books Council in 2010 to encourage and support Gaelic writers.

The publications in the running for this year's award are *Dearc* written by Peter MacKay, *Mairi Dhall agus Sgeulachdan eile* written by Duncan Gillies, *A' Challaig seo, Chall O* written by Martin MacIntyre and *Bardachd (gun ainn fhathast)* written by Angus Peter Campbell.

Rosemary Ward, the Director of the Gaelic Books Council said: 'We are delighted with the increased entries for this award year on year.'

'We received 12 entries this year; representing a range of genres including poetry, adult fiction, teenage fiction and short stories.'

'I didn't envy the judges with their task in trying to whittle down the shortlist as all the submissions were of an extremely high standard.'

Last year's award went to Moray Watson for *A' Bardachd Ghaidhlig*, a definitive collection of the poetry of Iain Crichton Smith.

The winner of the 2013 Donald Meek Award will be named at a special reception at 2pm in the Party Pavilion in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh on August 22.

Homecoming to benefit Highlands

HIGHLAND tourism businesses are being urged to capitalise on international visitors seeking their Scottish roots as Scotland prepares for Homecoming, the Ryder Cup and the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

The call comes as Cabinet Secretary John Swinney launched a new Ancestral Tourism in Scotland guide aimed at helping businesses cash in on the growing sector.

Latest figures estimate the current 800,000 people visiting the land of their ancestors each year could rise to 4.3 million by 2018.

The guide is available to businesses by registering at tourism-intelligence.co.uk

Society marks 50 years in Lorn

The Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS) celebrated its golden anniversary at Dunollie at the weekend.

LAHS was formed on February 1, 1963 in Oban with the encouragement of Eric Cregeen, who worked in the Department of Extra-Mural and Adult Education of the University of Glasgow.

Lily Cregeen, Mr Cregeen's widow, attended the celebration on Sunday. She is a member of the Kintyre Antiquarian and Natural History Society. Mr Cregeen was succeeded by professor Eddie Peltenburg.

Mr Peltenburg, a professor in archaeology, carried on an involvement with the society when he took over in 1969, spending a total of 10 years in Oban.

He said: 'I got involved in societies up and down the country, it was quite a lively time in the 70s.'

The society's oldest member, Willie Taylor, also celebrated the special anniversary. The nonagenarian will celebrate his 100th birthday in January.

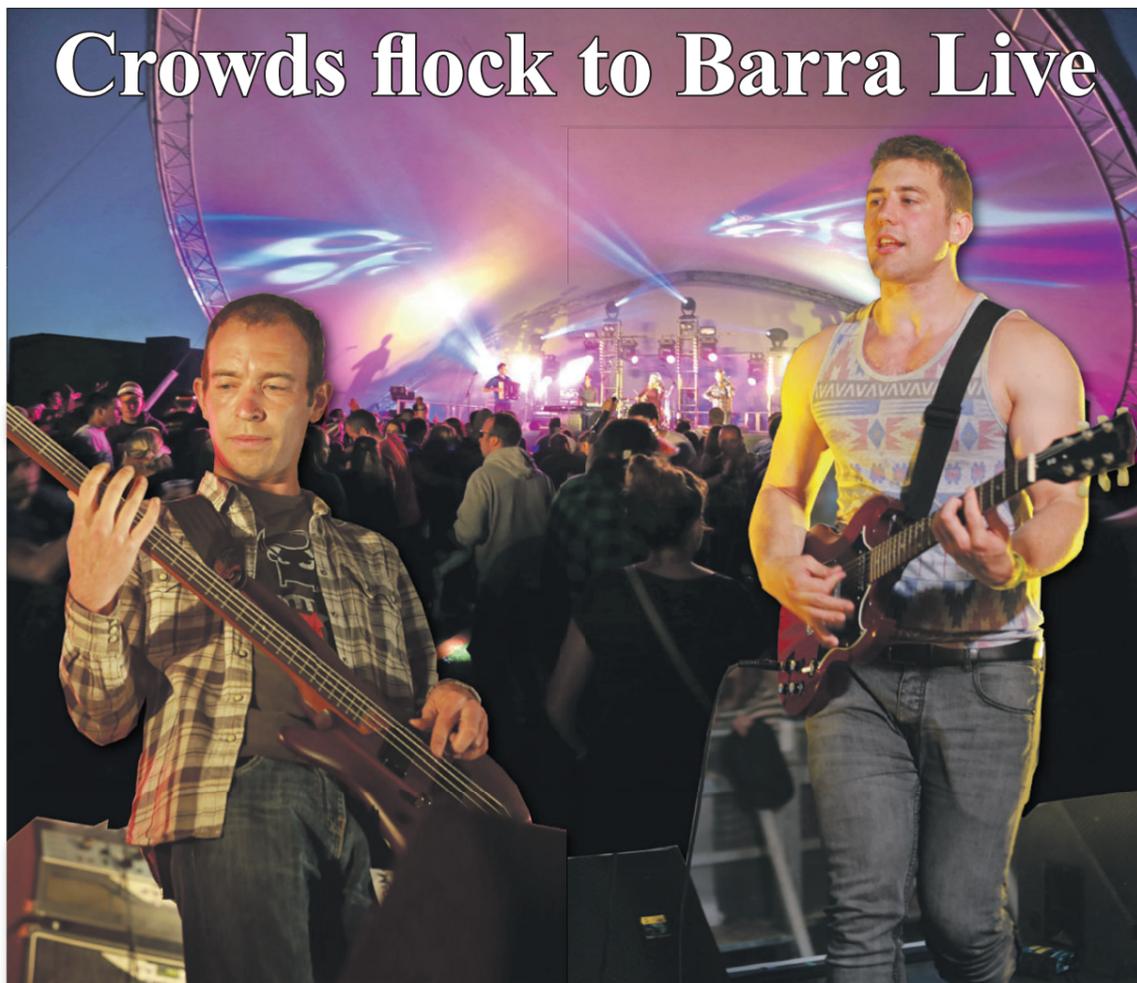
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Crowds flock to Barra Live



Stevie Finlayson of Oban band Chunks during his performance at Barra Live. Photo by sandiephotos. t31barralive5no

Face the West's colourful stage show matched their lively performance. Photo by sandiephotos. t31barralive6no

Brad McCarthie of Lost in Audio. t31barralive8no



Revellers young and old got in the spirit. Photo by sandiephotos. t31barralive7no

GOOD weather, great crowds and terrific music meant the relaunched Barra Live festival, with the move outdoors described as a great success.

Organiser Neil Morrison said he was delighted with the response to the rebranding, adding that the crowd and the community played their part in creating a special atmosphere.

Held over Saturday and Sunday and welcoming acts including the Vatersay Boys, Wolfstone, Skerryvore, Chunks, Face the West and Gunna Sound, the event run by Fèis Bharraigh welcomed a hefty crowd to venue at Tangasdale Machair on the west of the island.

So popular was the event that tickets for the Saturday sold out, while the weather was kind to revellers too.

However, Neil said he's already planning on making changes for next year.

He said: 'The whole festival was just spot on. I think we got lucky with the weather - it was fantastic - but it all went really well.'

'This year was very different from what has been done before and we felt we had to move

outside. It worked out really well. 'Next year will be outside again, but we'll maybe make some changes to how we do it. The marquee we had for example was only really big enough for people to go in, get their drink, then be on their way again. 'Again, we were lucky with the weather. 'It's always harder to relaunch an existing event so hopefully the message will spread about this year's festival.'

The clean up job started in earnest on Monday morning, with revellers starting to leave early to catch the ferry. 'Two or three tents were left behind,' Neil admits. 'Some were still occupied though. We got it all cleaned up though.'

Neil also thanked the scores of volunteers from the island who pulled together to ensure the event went without a hitch. 'The volunteers were great,' he said. 'Some of the work they put in you wouldn't believe - I mean they put in a real shift.'

'Barra has a really tight community and they were all brilliant.'



Wolfstone was among the more popular bands at the festival, the first Barra Live event to move outdoors. t31barralive1no



Oban band Chunks on the main stage. t31barralive2no



Saturday's bands welcomed a sell-out crowd and hopes are high more will travel to the island next year. t31barralive4no

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Oban Phoenix Cinema | Monsters University | Thurs 1st | 14:30 2D |
| | Pacific Rim | Thurs 1st | 20:30 3D |
| | Stand Up Guys | Thurs 1st | 17:45 |
| | Despicable Me 2 | Fri 2nd | 15:00 3D |
| | | Sat 3rd | 12:00 3D |
| | | Sun 4th | 12:00 2D |
| | | Mon 5th | 15:00 3D |
| | | Tues 6th | 15:00 2D |
| | | Wed 7th | 15:00 3D |
| | | Thurs 8th | 15:00 2D |
| | The Worlds End | Fri 2nd | 20:30 |
| | | Sat 3rd | 20:30 |
| | | Sun 4th | 20:30 |
| | | Mon 5th | 17:30 |
| | | Tues 6th | 20:30 |
| | | Wed 7th | 17:30 |
| | | Thurs 8th | 20:30 |
| | The Wolverine | Fri 2nd | 17:30 3D |
| | | Sat 3rd | 14:30 2D, 17:30 3D |
| | | Sun 4th | 14:30 2D, 17:30 3D |
| | | Mon 5th | 20:30 2D |
| | | Tues 6th | 17:30 3D |
| | | Wed 7th | 20:30 3D |
| | | Thurs 8th | 17:30 2D |

Monsters University (U)
Mike Wazowski and James P. Sullivan are an inseparable pair, but that wasn't always the case. From the moment these two mismatched monsters met they couldn't stand each other. "Monsters University" unlocks the door to how Mike and Sulley overcome their differences and become 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.

Pacific Rim (12A)
When legions of monstrous creatures, known as Kaiju, started rising from the sea, a war began that would take millions of lives and consume humanity's resources for years on end. To combat the giant Kaiju, a special type of weapon was devised: massive robots, called Jaegers, which are controlled simultaneously by two pilots whose minds are locked in a neural bridge. But even the Jaegers are proving nearly defenceless in the face of the relentless Kaiju. On the verge of defeat, the forces defending mankind have no choice but to turn to two unlikely heroes. A washed up former pilot (Charlie Hunnam) and an untested trainee (Rinko Kikuchi) who are teamed to drive a legendary but seemingly obsolete Jaeger from the past. Together, they stand as mankind's last hope against the mounting apocalypse.

Stand Up Guys (15)
After 28 years in prison, Val (Al Pacino) is released and reunites with old comrade, Doc (Christopher Walken). However the local mob boss, Claphands (Mark Margolis) has ordered Doc to kill Val and Doc has only until morning or he will be killed. It's a long night and Val wants to party. After midnight, they pick up Hirsch (Alan Arkin), their old getaway driver, realising their bond is stronger than ever. The sun rises, Claphands wants Val dead, and Val, has figured out his fate, is resigned. But is there anything left to take care of?

Despicable Me 2 (U)
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! In this equally hilarious sequel to 2010's "Despicable Me" Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal. With Steve Carell once again voicing this Anti-Villain single father of three, it promises more laughs, more fun but most importantly more minions! This fun filled sequel really is more "despicable" than the original.

The Worlds End (15)
20 years after attempting an epic pub crawl, five childhood friends reunite when one of them becomes hell bent on trying the drinking marathon again. They are convinced to stage an encore by mate Gary King, a 40-year old man trapped at the cigarette end of his teens, who drags his reluctant pals to their home town and once again attempts to reach the fabled pub, The World's End. As they attempt to reconcile the past and present, they realize the real struggle is for the future, not just theirs but humankind's. Reaching The World's End is the least of their worries.

The Wolverine (12A)
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This 460 kilo Limousin bullock won M/s Semple, Dippen, Carradale the Tarbert Fair Day Show at Dalmally for the fifth consecutive year last Friday. The bullock later sold to Mr W B Hamilton, Bee Edge for £1240

Rise in entries at Dunvegan

DUIRINISH and Bracadale Agricultural Association's Dunvegan Show, together with the Horse Show hosted by Isle of Skye Riding Club, was blessed with fine weather on Saturday. Club secretary Sam Nicolson, who is also vice-president of the agricultural association, said things could not have gone better for the horse show.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was fantastic. We had a beautiful July day, friendly atmosphere, happy competitors and their horses and ponies.'

'It was great to see the trend of increased number of entries continuing with 18 horses entered and more classes offered.'

'A new trophy, the Tracey MacLennan Memorial Trophy, was introduced this year for Novice Combination to encourage new partnerships between riders with ponies who have not competed in a ridden class at a show before.'

'This was won by Mairi Macleod and Glenedin Lieutenant with some strong competition from Faye Macrae and Glenhaultin Ashling and third placed Clare Whitney with her Welsh Section D gelding Maesmynach Cadfridg, known as Alfie.'

Sam added: 'The show ended with a demonstration by members of the Isle of Skye Riding Club of Horse Agility, a new up and coming equine sport.'

'Local Judge Ruth Winterbourne was very impressed with the high standard of competition and the lovely atmosphere.'

'A very successful and enjoyable day.'

Horse Show results:

In Hand Classes:
Highland Pony 7 years & Under - 1 Glenhaultin Ashling & Fay MacRae; 2 Scruuffy of Glenshiel & Michael Wood; 3 Deiance of Lochalsh & Sam Nicolson. Highland Pony 8 years & Over - 1 Glenedin Lieutenant & Mairi Macleod; 2 Mossie Morfin & Michael Wood; 3 Glenhaultin Charlie & William Gordon. Mountain & Moorland (Including Eriskey & Icelandic) - 1 Ruadh Gillie & Fay MacRae; 2 Nethermoss Bucks Fizzuadh Gillie & Elizabeth MacInnes; 3 Maesmynach Cadfridg & Clare Whitney. Pony - Any Other Breed 14.2 and Under - 1 Cracker & Karen Warby; 2 Princess Lucky Spots & Sam Nicolson; 3 Geri & Rebecca Jewitt.

Turn Out Classes:
In hand Turnout, Native - 1 Glenhaultin Ashling & Fay MacRae; 2 Glenhaultin Charlie & Rachel MacPhee; 3 Glenedin Lieutenant & Holly MacPhee.

Ridden Turnout Native, walk only - 1 Scruuffy of Glenshiel & Maureen Wood; 2 Mossie Morfin & Michael Wood; 3 Morayelphin Clunie & Bridget Mackinnon. Ridden Turn, Non Native, walk only - 1 Midnight & Claire Stewart; 2 Cracker & Daniel Warby led by Karen Warby; 3 Geri & Rebecca Jewitt. Ridden Classic, Tracey Macleod Memorial Trophy, Novice Combination - 1 Glenedin

Lieutenant & Mairi Macleod; 2 Glenhaultin Ashling & Fay MacRae; 3 Maesmynach Cadfridg & Clare Whitney. Best Rider Age up to 16 years - 1 Nethermoss Bucks Fizz & Elizabeth MacInnes; 2 Cracker & Daniel Warby led by Karen Warby; 3 Midnight & Claire Stewart. Best Rider Age 17 and over - 1 Glenedin Lieutenant & Rachel MacPhee; 2 Midnight & Melanie Newman; 3 Mossie Morfin & Bridget Mackinnon.

Horsemanship Classes:
Horse Agility, in hand, IOSRC Members Only - Deiance of Lochalsh & Sam Nicolson; Erray Nicotiana & Mairi Macleod; Morayelphin Clunie & Bridget Mackinnon; Mossie Morfin & Michael Wood; Princess Lucky Spots & Lynne Howarth.

Show Winners:
Champion Rider (1st & 2nd placed Classes 10,11,12) Ridden Classic Classes - 1 Glenedin Lieutenant & Mairi Macleod; 2 Nethermoss Bucks Fizz & Elizabeth MacInnes.

Champion Turn Out (1st & 2nd placed Classes 6-9) - 1 Midnight & Melanie Newman; 2 Scruuffy of Glenshiel & Maureen Wood. Champion Horse or Pony (1st & 2nd placed Classes 1-5) - 1 Glenedin Lieutenant & Mairi Macleod; 2 Midnight & Melanie Newman. Champion - Midnight & Melanie Newman; Reserve Champion - Glenedin Lieutenant & Mairi Macleod.

Dippen wins Fair Day title at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their Annual Fair Day Show and Sale of 336 cattle at Dalmally Auction Mart.

Bullocks sold to average 250.5pence per kilo or £988.90 per head (209 pence per kilo last year).

Heifers sold to average 229.4 pence per kilo or £889.00 per head (196 pence per kilo last year).

Judging the various classes prior to the sale was Mr J A Brown, Gandykehead Farm, Airdrie and the

following were his awards:
Charolais Bullocks:
1st M/s Semple, Dippen - 456k - £1180 to M/s DG and B Watt, Cairntack;
2nd M/s Ronald, East Laggan - 466k - £1150 to A Shand, Corticram;
3rd M/s Semple - 458k - £1230 to M/s Watt.
Limousin Bullock:
1st M/s Semple - 460k - £1240 to Mr W B Hamilton, Bee Edge;
2nd Mrs Ruby Currie, Low Dunashery - 472k - £1200

to Mr A Shand;
3rd M/s Buchanan, Achnaba - 460k - £1210 to West Camp Farms.
Charolais Heifer:
1st & 2nd M/s Semple - 560k & 486k - £1360 & £1250 to M/s Stevenson, Balmacolly respectively.
Limousin Heifer:
1st Mr Currie, Low Dunashery - 422k - £1020 to Mr J MacAllister, Wester Thomaston.
Pens of 4 Bullocks:
1st M/s Semple - 456k

- £1140 to M/s Watt;
2nd M/s Ronald - 426k - £1190 to West Camp Farms;
3rd Mr T Glenn, Saddle Home Farm - 390k - £1060 to M/s Watt.
Champion Calf M/s Semple - Limousin Bullock Reserve Champion Mrs Ruby Currie - Limousin Bullock Opposite Sex to Champion M/s Semple Charolais Heifer

Market report

DALMALLY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £1170 - Cleongart.
British Blue X: £960 - East Laggan.
Charolais X: £1410 and £1320 - Baleggregan. £1230 - Dippen £1200 - Baleggregan £1190(4) - East Laggan £1190(7) - Baleggregan £1180 - Dippen £1180 - Baleggregan(2) £1170(3) - Dippen £1170 - East Laggan £1150(6) - Dippen £1150 - East Laggan £1140(4) - Dippen £1120(2) - Ardmaleish £1060(4) and £1050(4) - Saddle Home Farm £1050 - High Tirfergus £1030 - Ardmaleish(2) and East Laggan £1000(3) - High Tirfergus £990(3) - Dippen £940(2) - East Laggan.
Limousin X: £1320 - Cleongart £1240 - Dippen £1230 - Cleongart £1210 - Achnaba £1200 - Cleongart(2) and Low Dunashery £1190(3) - Dippen £1170 - Uigle(2) and Cleongart £1160 - Cleongart £1150 and £1110 - Uigle £1110(2) - 9 Killeonan £1100(2) - Uigle £1100 and £1090(2) - Achnaba £1040(2) - Cleongart £1020(4) - Uigle £1010(2) - Dippen £990 - Uigle(2) and Dippen(2) £940 - Dippen(2) and Low Dunashery £910(3) - Marchfield.
Simmental X: £1190 - Baleggregan £1060 - Marchfield £950(2) - Baleggregan.

Heifers
Charolais X: £1360 and £1250(2) - Dippen £1250(2), £1200(2) and £1160(3) - Baleggregan £1140 - Dippen £990 - Baleggregan £960 - Saddle Home Farm £950 - Dippen(3) and East Laggan £920(3) - Dippen £910(2) - High Tirfergus.
Limousin X: £1310 - Cleongart £1220 - Baleggregan £1110 - 9 Killeonan £1080 - Cleongart and Achnaba £1070 - Uigle and Achnaba £1050(3), £1040, £1030(2) - Cleongart £1020 - Low Dunashery £970 - Dippen £950(2) - Cleongart £910 - 9 Killeonan £900 (3) - Uigle £900 - Marchfield.
Simmental X: £1090(2), £1080(4) - Baleggregan £1010 - Marchfield.

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 244p - Cleongart
British Blue X: 226p - East Laggan.

Charolais X: 279p(4) - East Laggan 273p(2) - Ardmaleish 272p(4) - Saddle Home Farm 269p - Dippen 267p - East Laggan 264p(4) - Saddle Home Farm 263p(5) - Dippen 262p(3) - High Tirfergus 261p - Ardmaleish(2) and Keil 259p - Dippen 258p(2) - Baleggregan 255p(2) - Amod 253p(3) - Dippen 252p(4) - Baleggregan 250p - Dippen(4) and Baleggregan 249p - East Laggan(3) and High Tirfergus(2) 247p - East Laggan 244p(3) - Baleggregan 240p(3) - Dippen.
Limousin X: 298p - Uigle 291p - Achnaba 279p - Uigle 273p(2) - Ardachy 271p - 9 Killeonan and Ardnamurchan Estate(4) 270p - Uigle(2) and Dippen 268p(6) - Uigle 265p(2) - Ardnamurchan Estate 263p and 262p - Achnaba 260p - High Tirfergus 259p(3) - Ardachy 258p(3) - Dippen 256p - 7 Craigneich, Lismore(6) and Marchfield 255p - Amod 254p - Low Dunashery 253p - Dippen(2) and Cleongart(2) 252p - 9 Killeonan, Cleongart and Achnaba 251p(2) - East Laggan 249p - Low Dunashery 245p(2) - Marchfield 244p(2) - Cleongart and Ardnamurchan Estate 242p - 7 Craigneich 241p - Dippen(2) and Marchfield(3) 240p(2) - Low Dunashery.
Simmental X: 252p - Baleggregan 248p - Ardmaleish.
Heifers
Charolais X: 257p, 253p(3), 249p and 248p - Dippen 244p - Ardmaleish 243p - Dippen 241p(3) - Baleggregan 241p - Saddle Home Farm 240p - Baleggregan(2) and Saddle Home Farm 238p(2) - High Tirfergus 236p(3) - East Laggan 235p - Baleggregan(2) and Keil 233p(3) - Dippen 231p - Baleggregan.
Limousin X: 263p - Achnaba 260p - Cleongart 257p and 256p - 9 Killeonan 254p - Ardachy 250p(2) - Cleongart 248p - Achnaba 244p - Cleongart and Baleggregan 242p - Low Dunashery 241p(2) - Uigle 239p - Cleongart 237p and 236p - 9 Killeonan 236p - Cleongart 235p(4) - Uigle 234p - Low Dunashery 233p - Ardachy(2), Dippen, Marchfield(4) and Kilwhipnash(3) 231p - Ardachy & Marchfield 230p - Cleongart(3) and Kilwhipnash(3).



Tim Nicolson, aged five, enjoying his first rosette - riding Gillie Ruadh, led by Fay MacRae. Picture - Sam Nicolson



Dunvegan Horse Show 2013 Supreme Champion Midnight - owned and ridden by Melanie Newman. Picture - Sam Nicolson



Judge Ruth Winterbourne with Mairi Macleod and Glenedin Lieutenant, winner of the Tracey MacLennan Memorial Trophy - Novice Combination. Picture - Sam Nicolson

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Business

Kishorn to host aquaculture safety event

Two companies fined total of £640,000 after fish farm workers die

FISH and shellfish farmers are being encouraged to attend a special aquaculture and maritime safety event in Wester Ross.

The free seminar at Kishorn Port on September 3 will focus on identifying common workplace hazards and precautions.

Qualified instructors and experienced personnel from the industry will present practical demonstrations on how to avoid the most common causes of accidents and ill health arising in aquaculture and other marine activities.

In the last decade the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has investigated four cases of drowning in the fish farming sector.

In 2011 two companies were fined a

total of £640,000 after two fish farm workers died as a result of working in confined spaces.

'Unforgiving'

HSE inspector Ann Poyner said: 'Aquaculture is an important industry in Scotland and one that we can be very proud of.'

'However, we must not forget that the marine environment is dangerous and unforgiving.'

'The excellent attendance at previous events demonstrates the industry's real desire to protect its workforce and improve standards.'

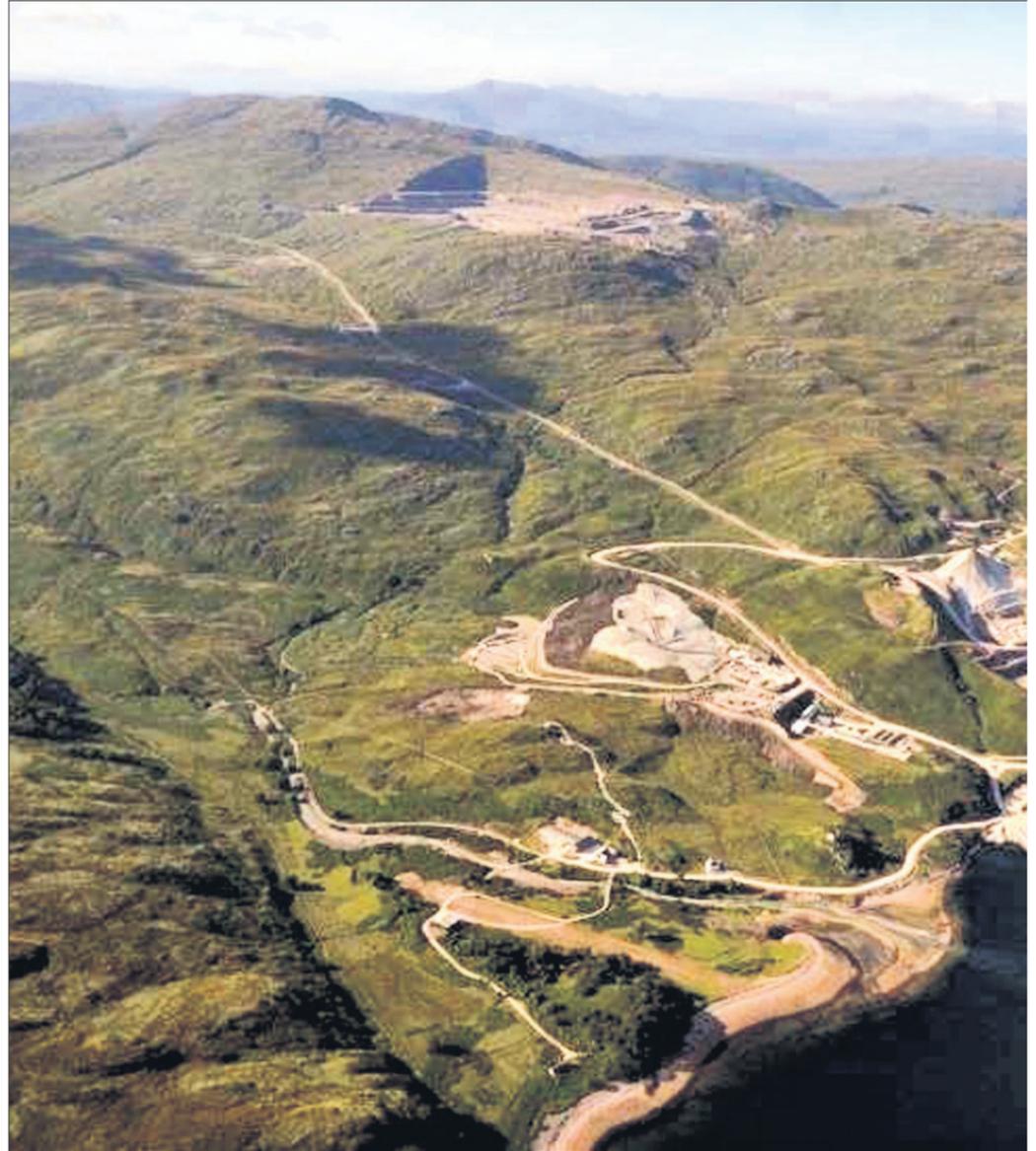
William Forsyth from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said earlier seminars had highlighted the need for seafarers to wear lifejackets on deck.

He added: 'The awareness days are an effective tool which companies can use to enhance their own safety management systems in the workplace.'

The event, organised by the Scottish Aquaculture Industry Forum, is by invitation only and will take place at Kishorn Port courtesy of Ferguson Transport (Scotland) Ltd from 10.30am.

Anyone wishing to book a place should contact Iain Sutherland at HSE by emailing iain.sutherland@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO), Ferguson Transport, Loch Duart Ltd and the Crown Estate are providing support and financial assistance.



Glensanda can now record production data, monitor logistics and access information online.

First phase of European Marine Science Park collects national construction award

High standard of site during construction impresses

THE COMPANY that built the first phase of the European Marine Science Park at Dunstaffnage, near Oban, has won an award for the high standard of the site during construction.

Monitored

Robertson picked up a gold award in recognition of its excellent standards of consideration towards neighbours, workforce and the environment in the recent Considerate Constructors Scheme National Site Awards.

Under the awards scheme, construction sites are monitored and assessed to ensure they meet the scheme's code of conduct and are run in a way that shows consideration to neighbours and the environment and minimises any disruption to the surrounding community.

The Dunstaffnage development involved constructing 20,000sq ft of laboratory and office space in a high-specification sustainable building. The development is aimed at

supporting Scotland's growing Life Science sector and is expected to support up to 125 jobs.

Frank Reid, regional managing director of Robertson said: 'I would like to commend the team at Dunstaffnage for continuing our fine record of performing to high construction standards.'

'We constantly strive to be responsible neighbours at all our construction sites and I'm delighted that our efforts have been recognised.'

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Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full CV and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk



TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER COVERING MID - ARGYLL AND KINTYRE AREA

Salary Scale: Grade 4
£23,464- £ 25,973

Fyne Homes are currently recruiting for a Technical Services Officer to be based in our Lochgilphead office and will involve travel to cover the area of Mid Argyll and Kintyre. Due to the nature of this role a current driving licence and use of a car for business purposes is required.

You will provide an effective and efficient property management service, as part of a small team within Fyne Homes and work closely with the contractors supplying services under our framework agreements.

Key tasks include day to day management of reactive, cyclical and capital investment programmes.

You should preferably have at least 5 years property maintenance experience, some of which consists of experience at a supervisory level. Much of the work involves communicating directly with tenants and other members of the public in a front line role. You will require good interpersonal and communication skills, a strong commitment to customer service and the ability to work as part of the team and on your own initiative within laid down objectives and targets. A knowledge and understanding of legislation and statutory responsibilities is necessary as is a working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite of programs.

It is desirable that candidates either hold or are studying towards a relevant professional qualification or can demonstrate equivalent working knowledge and experience in the property maintenance/building sector.

The hours of work are 35 hours per week.

In return for the above we offer an attractive salary and conditions.

Application packs can be obtained from

Fyne Homes Ltd
81 Victoria Street, Rothesay
Isle of Bute PA20 0AP
Tel: 0845 6077117
e-mail: postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk

or visit our website -
www.fynehomes.org.uk

Closing Date: Noon on Thursday 15th August 2013
Interview Date: Tuesday 27th August 2013

Fyne Homes Ltd believes in promoting equality and diversity



Supporting People & Communities

HOMECARE ASSISTANTS - LOCHABER

£12,438 - £13,272 pa (pro rata)

You will be involved in assisting people with personal care and practical tasks such as getting up, washing and dressing and meal preparation.

RELIEF SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£7.02 plus paid annual leave

Carr Gomm has opportunities for Relief Support Assistants across Argyll & Bute based in the following areas: Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Oban, Lochaber as well as the Isle of Mull and Isle of Islay. Our services include: overnight response, care at home (days) and housing support (including support of homeless people). If you are flexible and looking to work on an ad-hoc basis, we would love to hear from you, regardless of how many hours you can spare.

We offer competitive terms and conditions including:

- No experience necessary— full training given, including opportunity to complete SVQ
- Travel time and cost of travel between visits is paid. Mileage at 40p per mile
- 35 days annual leave (including public holidays) in the first year
- Uniform provided (for Homecare Assistant role)

As our services deliver throughout Argyll & Bute, car use is desirable, with mileage and travel time between visits paid. For posts in Lochaber use of a car is essential.

Please quote job reference number:

330 when applying for Homecare Assistant posts
301 when applying for Relief Support Assistant posts

We offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, and training opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination. For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

Closing Date: Noon, Monday 19th August 2013

Part Time Care Worker

£14,864 - £17,045 pro rata • Qualification bar applies
27 hours over 4 days per week

CrossReach is one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations, offering care and counselling. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, we provide specialist dementia care that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves.

We offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. Applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is an Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010. This post is subject to PVG Scheme Membership.

For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568. Closing date: 15th August 2013.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk

CROSSREACH

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sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021



First internet access comes to Europe's largest quarry

ONE OF the most remote businesses on the west coast of Scotland has joined the online revolution, gaining internet access for the first time in its history.

Glensanda, on the south coast of the Morvern Peninsula, is the largest super-quarry in Europe producing more than seven million tonnes of aggregate for some of the biggest civil engineering and construction projects in the world.

But it's so remote that for years it's had to operate with no internet access or mobile phone coverage.

Now this massive operation is finally online after satellite broadband provider, Internet Anywhere, made a 15-hour round trip to install a state-of-the-art system at the site.

John Fitzgerald, owner of Internet Anywhere, said: 'This was one of the most hard-to-reach locations that we've been to, for sure.'

'It's not accessible by road, so we had a long drive to the port where a special barge took our kit across the water.'

'A drive 2,000ft up the side of a mountain and a two-hour induction course later, we were ready to set up the system. We installed two dishes

and within a few hours, out in the middle of nowhere, this site had fast, reliable broadband.'

Glensanda will now be able to record production data, monitor logistics and access vital company information online.

It's a welcome improvement for the site which operates with more than 200 staff, a processing plant, its own landing strip for small aircraft and a fleet of ships that transport granite aggregate to customers around the world.

Paul Bird, project manager at the super-quarry, said: 'We are at the start of a four year contract and we need reliable communications to allow orders to be placed quickly with suppliers.'

'In a day, we've gone from having no email and no access to our company servers or intranet, to having four lines hard-wired and wireless. It's all working well and the system is surprisingly simple.'

Glensanda started operations in 1986 and reserves of granite are estimated to last at least until the year 2100, when the excavation will have created a new corrie a mile and a half square and 400 feet deep.

Report claims seas are worth millions to coastal communities

Environmental designations bring monetary and emotional benefits

A NEW report has claimed environmental designations for Scottish seas are worth millions of pounds to coastal communities.

Not universally popular

Published by the National Ecosystem Assessment, the report claims there are both monetary and emotional benefits of marine designations, adding that Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) give reassurances to recreational visitors that sites will be there to enjoy in future years.

Some 1,683 divers and sea anglers were surveyed for the UK-wide study, which claimed the designations in Scotland alone could generate millions of pounds of business - while further claiming divers and sea anglers would make a collective one-

off payment of between £142 million and £255 million to see more areas protected.

MPAs are not universally popular on the west coast, with Barra-based campaign group SHAMED (South Herbicides Against Marine Environmental Designations) among those claiming they are prohibitive to development and industry.

But the report has been welcomed by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), which has urged the Scottish Government to take it into account during its forthcoming consultation on a network of MPAs to 'improve the fortunes of Scotland's seas'.

MCS Scotland programme manager Calum Duncan said: 'This groundbreaking study has revealed that div-

ing and angling in 20 proposed MPAs in Scotland is worth between £67million and £117million to the economy each year.

'This research only questioned divers and anglers, which means the figures don't provide a full account of the value of our seas. Other large sea user groups like sailors and tourists are also likely to attach value to the enjoyment and protection of the sea - and these values have yet to be measured.'

Jasper Kenter from the University of Aberdeen, who led on this study, said: 'Increasingly we are able to assess the economic value of nature conservation. But it is also tremendously important to look at the deep emotional connection divers, anglers and others feel for the places that they visit.'

'When we talk about the value of recreation, we can recognise excitement people feel when they see a creature they've never seen before, the bond people develop when they go out together or the peacefulness that someone feels when they are alone with the immensity of the sea.'

'It is because of these kinds of feelings that divers and anglers want to protect these places, and much of this report is about showing the significance of these values.'

The study was jointly published by the universities of Aberdeen, De Montfort, Aberystwyth and Birmingham City.

Sainsbury's slow to change mislabelled 'Hebridean' salmon

SUPERMARKET chain Sainsbury's says it will introduce new packaging on its 'responsibly sourced' Mid Argyll salmon this week - two months after saying it had changed inaccurate labelling.

The Salmon and Trout Association Scotland (STAS) originally complained to the Advertising Standards Authority and Trading Standards on May 20 that the supermarket was misleading customers with its 'Taste the Difference' Scottish Salmon.

While the packaging claimed it was sourced from 'fast flowing sea water locations around the isles

of Skye, Lewis and Uist' it was in fact from calm-water lochs in Mid Argyll, Rubha Stiellaig, Meall Mhor and Tarbert South.

At the time, Sainsbury's apologised and said the error occurred when they changed supplier - but the mislabelling has continued.

STAS has criticised Sainsbury's for failing to update their packaging, while further questioning the quality of the fish from the Mid Argyll farms, alleging that all three had failed previous Fish Health Inspectorate checks for sea-lice levels.

Hughie Campbell-Adamson,

chairman of STAS, said: 'The almost unbelievable state of affairs, whereby Sainsbury's is continuing to pass off mainland farm-reared salmon as having come from the Hebrides, is bad enough.'

'The claims of responsible management at the farms concerned, as Sainsbury's puts it, to protect and maintain the natural environment, need to be justified. If Sainsbury's cannot justify their claims, then they must stop making them.'

A spokesperson for Sainsbury's this week told *The Oban Times*: 'We would never seek to mislead

our customers and would like to reassure them that this error has had no impact on our industry-leading sourcing standards.'

'All our salmon suppliers have environmental management systems in place and are independently certified to the GlobalGAP standard for good agricultural practice.'

'They also all participate voluntarily in the scheme relating to the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.'

'We have changed the design of the packaging and this new packaging will be in store from this week.'



Supporting People & Communities

SUPPORT ASSISTANT - OBAN & MULL

Part time: £13,684 - £15,284 pa (pro rata)

We are recruiting to two part-time Support Assistant vacancies. One will be based in our Oban Homecare Service and the other in our Overnight Response team on the Isle of Mull.

Support Work covers the whole range of tasks to help people live in their own homes safely, to follow their interests, develop friendships and deal with health issues.

SOCIAL CARE CALL HANDLERS - OBAN & LOCHGILPHEAD

£15,670 - £16,314 pa (pro rata)

Based in Oban or Lochgilphead you will be responsible for responding to all calls which are received by the Social Work Emergency Service out with normal office hours. You will require to listen carefully, establish the nature of the problem and decide on the required action. You will have excellent communication skills, be comfortable dealing with potentially difficult situations and be confident to liaise with a variety of people, internal and external to the organisation.

As our services deliver throughout Argyll & Bute, car use is desirable, with mileage and travel time between visits paid.

Please quote job reference number:

338 when applying for Support Assistant posts

339 when applying for Social Care Call Handler posts

We offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, and training opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination. For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

Closing Date: Noon, Monday 19th August 2013

Mallaig Boatyard Ltd Required Marine Engineer/Plant Fitter

Marine Engineer, Required for busy Boatyard in the Highlands of Scotland.

Skills required:

Knowledge on Marine engines ie. CAT, Kelvin, Cummins etc, Fabrication of Hydraulic Hoses, Hydraulic systems for winches and net drums Experience with a Boatyard environment would be an added bonus

Skills that would come in Handy:

Fabrication/welding skills, Working independently, Team player, Leadership skills

Please contact Melissa-Jane Trow

T 01687 462 304

email: mallaigboatyard@hotmail.co.uk

Seasonal Stalker

(19 August - 20 October)

required for large sporting estate on Isle of Lewis

Must have experience, DSC Level 1

and valid firearms certificates

Good wage and accommodation provided

Apply by email: lmilne@savills.com

or tel: 01356 628621



Sous Chef - Full Time - 40 hours a week

Experienced Sous Chef required, previous experience of a similar role is essential

Senior Chef De Partie - Full Time - 40 hours a week

Experienced Chef De Partie required, previous experience is essential

Wages subject to experience, applications can be made at the Hotel Reception or by email to royalobanmanager@strathmorehotels.com

Taynuilt Hotel Old Coaching Inn



EXPERIENCED FULL TIME BAR PERSON

Required for newly refurbished public bar.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual. Weekend working so must be flexible with hours. As a hard working individual, you will be enthusiastic, have good initiative and excellent customer service skills.

Rate dependant on experience

Contact John or Angela

Taynuilt Hotel. 01866822437

taynuilthotel@email.com

Fyne Families

Fyne Families is a voluntary sector, parent run, charitable company, whose purpose is to support families in Mid Argyll and ensure good quality play and learning experiences for children. Fyne Families has three member organisations: Elfs, Lochgilphead After School Club and Duncholgan Family Centre.

MANAGER

20 hours per week term time plus 2 weeks

£9.10 per hour

We are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to lead our services. The successful candidate will work in partnership with the Board of Directors to develop and shape Fyne Families services and ensure a sustainable future for the organisation. Applicants must have, or be willing to undertake study towards, an appropriate degree level qualification. Appointment is subject to PVG scheme membership.

For an application pack, contact Jenny at fynefamilies@yahoo.co.uk or 01546 605342 / 07842 077735

Closing date FRIDAY 16th AUGUST.

Fyne Families is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number 302932) and a registered charity (SC 037443) having its registered office at the Community Centre, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QX.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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Crinan Hotel/ Coffee Shop

General Assistant

Required

Seasonal, Full time/Part Time

Tel. Catherine or Mrs Ryan on 01546 830261 or email reservations@crinanhotel.com

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Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership

NHS Highland

Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Locality
Mid Argyll Community Hospital & Integrated Care Centre
Lochgilphead
All Wards

Bank Staff Nurse - Band 5
£21,388 - £27,901 pro rata

Hours as & when required

We are looking to recruit first level Registered Nurses (Adult & Psychiatry) to join our Nurse Bank at the Mid Argyll, Community Hospital & Integrated Care Centre, Lochgilphead.

The Bank covers adult acute in Glenaray Ward with support to Accident & Emergency. Dementia Services are provided in Knapdale and Cara Wards.

Recent Acute nursing experience is essential preferably in Medical and Dementia Care experience is preferred. You should have excellent communication, prioritising and decision making skills. Bank shifts may be rotational and we require the successful candidates to be flexible to meet the needs of the service.

You should have a calm disposition and work well within a team.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Mary-Anne Douglas, Senior charge Nurse on tel: 01546 462 355 or by email to: maryanneturner@nhs.net

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - recruitmentlab@nhs.net

Please quote job reference number 13bk/145

Closing date for receipt of applications: 16 August 2013.

www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

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Business

Japanese chefs take tour of Scottish seafood industry



The Japanese group at the Scottish Salmon Company's site at Ardhleslaig on Loch Torridon.

FIVE MEMBERS of the All Japan Chefs Association (AJCA) and two Japanese journalists checked out the seafood industry in the northwest Highlands last week under a marketing drive to net new business in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Three-day visit

The extensive three-day visit included the Scottish Salmon Company's Ardhleslaig sea site on Loch Torridon, a tour of Scotwest Seafoods' live langoustine holding facility at Kyle of Lochalsh, a cooking demonstration by Michelin Star chef Marcello Tully at Kinloch Lodge and a trip on a shellfish boat out of Portree to watch creel fishermen at work catching lobster and crab.

The group also visited a scallop diver at Aultbea, independent salmon operators Loch Duart Salmon and Wester Ross Salmon, and learned about the Scottish pelagic industry from Michael Croan of Croan Seafood and Iain MacFadden, chairman of the Scottish Pelagic Association.

Highlights on the tour

organised by Seafood Scotland (SFS) and Scottish Development International, included a tour of Talisker Distillery on Skye, where the Japanese took part in a seafood and whisky pairing.

Clare Dixon, SFS marketing manager said: 'The Japanese chefs are very excited about using Scottish seafood and appreciate its premium quality, and the pristine environment in which it is fished and farmed.'

'Appreciated' 'Along with many other international chefs, the Japanese see Scottish seafood as one of the world's top quality products, and this is something we would like our own local chefs to appreciate more widely.'

She added: 'We hope to create interest throughout Japan in our products, and help them to understand the wide variety of premium quality seafood available from Scotland. We are after all, a small nation with big export ambitions.'

The visit part of Scotland's sponsorship of Scottish

salmon and langoustine for the World Chefs' Societies (WACS) World Chefs Global Challenge and the Hans Buesukins Junior challenge.

Among the group were top chefs AJA Chairman Hisatoshi Utsunomiya, AJAC Director Yutaka Ishinabe, and AJCA Secretary Kiyohiro Kawabata, as well as Ms Aiko Obayashi and Isao Iwasaki, and journalists from Professional Cooking Magazine and Suisan Keizai Shimbun, a leading Japanese Seafood Industry newspaper.

Graham Young, head of Seafood Scotland, said: 'By inviting these guests to Scotland, we aim to forge closer relationships with the Japanese Chefs' Association and their members, and to influence a larger group of important contacts in their country.'

'They have been highly impressed with all they have seen and heard, and I am confident the trip will lead to increased use of Scottish seafood on menus throughout Japan in the future.'

Five-point plan launched to support fishermen

A dramatic fall in the availability of prawns this year has caused exceptionally difficult times for fishermen

THE SCOTTISH government has launched a five-point action plan to support prawn and white fish fishermen.

Both sectors have faced tough conditions in recent years with high fuel prices, shrinking export markets and the EU's Cod Recovery Plan (CRP) hitting the industry hard.

The dramatic fall in the availability of prawns this year has also caused the fleet to experience exceptionally difficult times.

The action plan, underpinned by up to £6 million in funding, includes:

- The establishment of a £3 million hardship fund for fishermen who may be facing exceptional stresses on their viability.
- An invitation to vessels to trial a discard-free prawn fishery this year by fishing with gear that eliminates whitefish by-catch.

These vessels will have additional time at sea to catch their quotas where necessary.

The government will look to secure, through European funding, a

guaranteed income as they adapt to new ways of working.

□ Alternative support for vessels not joining the discard free trial, with help to develop new fishing gears and measures to achieve the discard reduction targets.

□ Removing, where possible, barriers that stop fishermen diversifying into alternative sustainable fisheries.

□ Measures - and potentially additional funding - to promote the seafood sector and develop a Scottish brand to support the onshore sector in maximising economic growth.

'Big challenges'

Fisheries secretary Richard Lochhead, who made the announcement as he visited the North Atlantic Fisheries College in Shetland, said 'big challenges' lay ahead for Scotland's £500 million fishing industry.

He said: 'The Scottish Government wants to support our fishing industry and their communities as they seek to overcome short term challenges. We also want to help fishermen

adapt to a future where they will no longer discard any of their catch.

'As we work together to implement this action plan, we will also discuss what further steps can be taken by industry and Government to strengthen the resilience and adaptability of businesses in the fishing industries.'

Scottish Fishermen's Federation chief executive Bertie Armstrong welcomed the action plan.

He said: 'There are some very severe and specific challenges facing the Scottish prawn and whitefish fleets. This action plan demonstrates the Government's recognition of that and the five headlines closely reflect the recent tough discussions with industry. 'Frustratingly, some of the critical problems such as fuel price and external regulation are outside government and industry direct control, however, there is much that can be done and we look forward to developing with government the offered actions as soon as possible.'

PUBLIC NOTICES

Musdale Wind Farm Ltd ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Musdale Wind Farm Limited, (registered company number 08071739), First Floor, 500 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton, NN4 7YJ, has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate Musdale wind farm approximately 7km south east of the village of Kilmore near Oban (Central Grid Reference E195550, N 722265). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 64 MW comprising 16 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of up to 132 meters.

Musdale Wind Farm Limited has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Oban Service Point, Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban. PA34 4AW

Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban. PA34 4AL

Kilmelford Post Office, Village Store, Kilmelford, Oban. PA34 4XA

Taynuilt Post Office, Argyll. PA35 1JE

Dalavich Village Shop and Post Office, 17 Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1HN

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from Musdale Wind Farm Limited (tel: 0131 243 1380) at a charge of £500 hard copy and £10 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or

by post to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 19 September 2013.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit process applications under The Electricity Act 1989. During the consultation process letters of representation can be sent to Scottish Ministers in support of or objecting to these applications.

Should Scottish Ministers call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI), copies of these representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website with personal email address, signature and home telephone number redacted (blacked out).

Copies of representations will also be issued to the developer on request, again with email address, signature and home telephone number redacted.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the Planning Authority, the developer, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled, please email the Energy Consents and Deployment Unit at: energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to Energy Consents and Deployment, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITTEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number
T R Potts
52 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.091 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4,86,44163
Conditions: 1, 2, 3a, 4

- Conditions
- (1) Purchase area within 5 years of the date of direction.
 - (2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
 - (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of: (a) acquisition
 - (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORING AT SALEN RUADH

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 | Co-ordinates 56° 27.146' N | Co-ordinates 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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PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES
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The Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996

Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of Regulation 8 of the Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996, the calorific value of natural gas supplied by Scotland Gas Networks (part of Scotia Gas Networks Ltd) on and after 16/08/2013 shall be set out in the schedule.

Schedule

A calorific value of 38.1 Megajoules per cubic metre
In the Strathclyde Region:
Part of the Local Authority District of Argyll and Bute

Dated 18/07/2013

By Authority of Scotland Gas Networks



NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following properties:

| Property: | Area (approx): | Grid Ref: | Location: |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| House Plot at Bunesan | 0.23ha | NM382216 | Bunesan, Mull |
| House Plot at Dalmally | 0.24ha | NN178273 | Dalmally, Argyll |
| 'Dairrainich' (House) | 0.23ha | NM677451 | Lochaline, Lochaber |

Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at: ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Councils and Non Government Organisations.

www.forestry.gov.uk

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.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 13/01192/PP | Installation of satellite dish | 140 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NX | Oban Area Office |
| 13/01241/PP | Repair works to existing weir including installation of 2 flumes and formation of walkway | Eas Dalnair Weir Glen Lochy Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Dalmally |
| 13/01300/PP | Erection of extension to existing we to form changing shelter and alterations to car parking area to allow 11 new kayaking spaces | Public Toilet Garavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute | Oban Area Office |
| 13/01301/PP | Change of use of land for the formation of car parking area, installation of ramp to access beach and associated works | Land West Of Bothanuaire Arduaine Oban Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Kilmelford |
| 13/01461/PP | Demolition of steading and erection of dwellinghouse | Land South East of Assapol House Bunesan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DW | Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull |
| 13/01555/PP | Erection of holiday cabin | Plot 2 Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Taynuilt |
| 13/01613/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access | Land North of Greenbank Moss Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute | Tiree 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 |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| 13/01119/PP | Erection of 2 self-catering holiday letting units | Isle of Eriska Hotel Isle of Eriska Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SD | Sub Post Office Ledraig |

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 13/01160/PP | Installation of 3 antennas on existing telecoms mast | Kilchiaran Radio Station Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Port Charlotte |
| 13/01361/PP | Change of use of land from agricultural to a municipal garden. | Colonsay Village Hall Scalasaig Isle Of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7W | Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay |
| 13/01592/PP | Renewal of planning permission 08/00997/DET (Formation of new vehicular access to serve 4 dwellings) | Cairn Cottage Avongovio Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7DE | Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay |

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.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (SCARINISH, ISLE OF TIREE) (DESIGNATED DISABLED PERSON'S VEHICLE PARKING BAY) (VARIATION) ORDER 2013

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to the designated disabled person's vehicle parking bay at Scarinish, Isle of Tiree. The bay will be located to the south end of the lay-by outside the Co-Op to accommodate a new bus shelter at the north end of the lay-by.

Full details of the proposal together with a Plan, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Scarinish Post Office, Scarinish Farm, Isle of Tiree;
- (ii) Roads and Amenities Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, by 23rd August 2013.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

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BIRTHS

BENNETT - Alistair and Fiona (née MacLeod) are delighted to announce the birth on July 10, 2013 of a beautiful daughter Alice Josephine. Sister for Jennifer and granddaughter for Catherine and the late Murdoch MacLeod of Helensburgh and Howard and Joan Bennett, now of Edinburgh.

CAMPBELL - John and Susan (née Smith) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jude, a little brother for Kadya, a third grandchild for Jim and Susan and fourth for Kenny and Marion. Many thanks to all in Raigmore Maternity Unit and special thanks to Alison and Sharon.

MARRIAGES

BRECHIN - BROCK - On Sunday July 7, 2013, at Strathblane Parish Church, by the Rev. Richard Begg, Cameron, elder son of Gordon and Shona Brechin, Kilmartin to Jennifer Christine, only daughter of Drew and Joan Brock, Lenzie.

CAIN - WHYTE - Stuart and Shona from Isle of Seil and Dufftown were married at Loch Insh near Aviemore on July 13, 2013. A happy, sunny day enjoyed by all.

WRIGHT - KAY - On July 20, 2013 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Balornock, Glasgow, by Fr Mark Morris, Charles son of Charles Wright and the late Mrs Linda Wright to Michelle eldest daughter of Mrs Roseleen Kay and the late Michael Kay. A wonderful day was enjoyed with family and friends.

DEATHS

BROWN - Peacefully at home 8 Lynne Gardens, Oban, formerly of Seil and Luig on July 24, 2013, John beloved husband of the late Jessie, much loved father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral took place on July 29, 2013 at Kilbrandon Church and interred at Kilbrandon Cemetery.

CAMERON - Suddenly, at the Princess Royal Hospital, Kent, on June 10, 2013, John Douglas Cameron, aged 86 years, formerly of Glengary Buildings, Fort William, son of the late John (Jock) the Blacksmith and Flora, much loved brother of Ishbel and the late Mary and Margaret, and a very dear 'Uncle John' to all the family. Interment of Ashes to be held on Saturday, August 10, at 10.30am in Old Kilmallic Cemetery, Fort William, to which all are welcome to attend. Arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons. Tel. (01463) 712255.

CHARITY - William David (Dave), died peacefully at his home in Pitlochry on Tuesday, July 23, 2013. He was a beloved and loving husband, father, grandfather and a valued friend to many. He will be sadly missed and long remembered. Dave's funeral took place on Monday, July 29 in Pitlochry.

CLARK - Michael McConnachie aged 57 years tragically killed as a result of a road traffic accident on July 23, 2013 at North Ballachulish, father to Katrina, Samantha and Craig, son of Nan (McConnachie) Clark, formerly of Greenock. The funeral will be held on Friday, August 2, 2013 at 12 noon within the Tailrace Inn, Kinlochleven.

MACDONALD - Suddenly at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, on Sunday July 28, 2013, in her 72nd year, Alda née MacPherson, beloved wife of the late Hector MacDonald, devoted mother to Christine, Liz, Caroline and John, mother-in-law to Andy, Gary and Dolina, much loved granny to Kenneth, Daniel, Karina and Andrew, dear sister of Hughie and the late Donnie and Alastair. Gone to join the one she loved.

MACMILLAN - Anne (née Stewart), Lismore House, Oban passed away on July 23, 2013. A much loved mother, granny, great-granny and friend. Funeral will take place at St John's Episcopal Church, Ballachulish at 1p.m. on Thursday, August 1. Family flowers only. Retiring collection to S.S.P.C.A.

McMILLAN - Peacefully after a long illness at the Glenary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, on July 26, 2013, Charles McMillan, aged 71 years, of Westport, St. Clair Road, Ardrishaig, loving brother of the late George, Donald and Mhairi. A much loved brother-in-law, much admired uncle and cousin to all the family. A good friend and neighbour and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church on Friday August 2, 2013, thereafter to Achnahearn Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Chest, Heart and Stroke.

MURRAY - Peacefully at Eader Glinn on Monday July 29, 2013 with her family by her side, Catherine (née MacSwan) formerly Connel, in her 103rd year. Dear mother of Sarah, much loved grandma of Fiona and Murray, and proud 'great-grama' to Eva, Roan and Ross. Funeral will take place from St. Oran's Church, Connel on Monday August 5, at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Eader Glinn Resident's Comfort Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The Cameron family, Hollybank, Acharacle wish to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support shown after the passing of their mother Helen. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses of the Pines Medical Practice, private nursing resources and Mossparc Care Home. Our grateful thanks to Mike McFall and Rev Fiona Ogg for organising and conducting the funeral service and to all who attended the church service and graveside. Thanks also to the staff of Ardsheleach Lodge for their hospitality and efficient service in providing tea and refreshments after the service.

MORGAN - Russ and family wish to thank everyone for their cards and kind expressions of sympathy after the sad loss of Lily. Special thanks to Crossroads Carers, Lochaber Home Care, Macmillan and Marie Curie Nurses. Thanks also to Scott and Ewen of McLellan Funeral Directors, Rev C Tongue and May MacIntyre (organist). The sum of £683 was raised, to be divided between Crossroads Lochaber and Macmillan Nurses.

MEMORIALS

BARRY - In loving memory of my dear husband, our dad and granddad John, who passed away August 1, 2002. Time may hide the sadness Like the smile that hides the tears But the loving memories keep you near Despite the passing years. - Rachel, Alan, Katie and grandchildren. xxx

GUNN - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, dad John died February 9, 1996 and Mam, Cathie died August 5, 2003. Also brother and uncle Calum died July 29, 1991. Loving thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever - Inserted by the family.

LIVINGSTONE - Treasured memories of Duncan, dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and father-in-law who passed away July 30, 2009. Time passes, memories stay Loved and remembered every day. - Mary, Gregor, Stuart, Claire, Caya, Abbie and Rowan.

MACPHERSON - Precious memories of our Raymond. In our hearts forever. R.I.P. - Love mum, dad, your sisters and nieces and nephews.

McCOMBIE - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, mother-in-law and granny, Cathie who died July 27, 1990. Always in our thoughts. - Bert and family

McDERMID - Remembering with great affection Archibald McDermid, Bruichladdich, Islay, his wife Elsie and their family James, Margaret and Elsie. - Archie, Peter and Elspeth.

McFALL - Treasured memories of our dear sister Ilene, passed away August 4, 2008. It's five years since that sad day When the sister we loved was called away The day, the hour We could never forget In our hearts she is with us yet God Bless. - Kate, Maureen and Alyson. xxx

McLACHLAN - Remembering with love my darling Maria. Five years have passed since that sad day Always on our minds Forever in our hearts. - Mum, Colin, Angela, Julie, Paul and Billy. xxx

PROSSER - Alexander Sellar Prosser Snr died August 10, 1999 and Alexander Sellar Prosser Jnr died July 30, 2008. My darling husband and my beautiful son How I miss you both In my thoughts today and always. - Love Annie (mum). xxx

PROSSER - Alexander Sellar Prosser Snr died August 10, 1999 and Alexander Sellar

Prosser Jnr died July 30, 2008. If only there was a miracle cure For dealing with such a loss No words can express how much of an impact it had on our lives The years fly past But the pain is still there Loved and remembered always. - Margaret, Donald, Jessie and families.

PRYCE - Treasured and loving memories of Jim, a dearly loved husband and dad, who passed away August 1, 2003. We keep in our hearts the love of the past For there it was planted forever to last Too deep in our hearts for death to divide Each day of our life you walk by our side. - Anne, Emma and Ailsa.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of our dear dad and grand dad Charlie, passed away August 7, 1996. Treasured memories of when we were all together God Bless. - Kate, Maureen, Alyson and families. xxx

STEWART - In loving memory of Alistair a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, who passed away August 1, 2008. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept To love and cherish and never forget. - Christine and family.

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa, Bill, who died August 5, 1999. You left a place no one can fill We miss you now and always will. - Rosemary, Ewen and family, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

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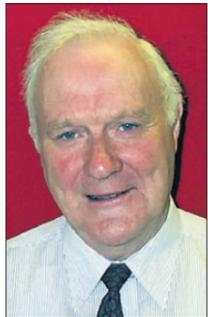
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Obituary

TRIBUTES have been paid to former Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) convener Donald M Mackay OBE, who died last week. Mr Mackay represented the Lochs area of Lewis from 1980 to 1999 and during 19 years on the comhairle served as chair of many committees including education, transportation, development services, and policy and resources. He was also a pioneer of renewable energy in the Western Isles and a strong advocate for the Gaelic language. Mr Mackay was unanimously elected comhairle convener in 1994 and under his tenure a series of bridge and causeway projects were completed, including the Bemeray causeway and the Scalpay bridge. Comhairle convener Norman A Macdonald said of Mr Mackay: 'Donald was an extremely able councillor who rose to the top but always remained a servant of the people who elected him. 'He was a fine ambassador for the Western Isles both at home and abroad and was a champion of the Gaelic language and the development of the comhairle's bilingual policy. 'Donald was a fine man, much beloved by his family and friends. He was of great assistance to me as a new councillor and he showed much kindness. 'He served his community and the wider community of the Western Isles well and was highly respected both within the chamber of the comhairle and throughout Scotland. 'He was a true gentleman.

Our thoughts are with Norma and his children, Donald Murdo, Cathie Margaret, Angus and Norman. Comhairle leader Angus Campbell described Mr Mackay as 'a man of great political vision' He said: 'Not only did Donald oversee many of the fantastic construction projects that linked our islands for the first time but he also had a vision of what the future could offer to the Islands in terms of renewable energy. 'Donald also had a great respect for the traditions of the islands and was a formidable campaigner for the Gaelic language and the indigenous industries including Harris tweed, crofting and fishing.' He added: 'I had great respect for Donald and I know that all in the comhairle and throughout the Western Isles and many in the wider community of Scotland will be thinking of Norma and his family at this sad time.' Mr Mackay's funeral was held at Gravrì Free Church on Saturday 11am.



Donald Mackay: islands ambassador and Gaelic champion. © Donald Ino

Thought for the Week

What's in a Name? Following the birth of the royal prince, there was much speculation as to what names he would be given. Each of the names chosen, George Alexander Louis, has its own significance for the family and for the nation... In our tradition a baby is usually given a name which has importance for the family, perhaps the name of a grandparent. Nowadays, however, children, especially the offspring of public figures like David Beckham, are sometimes given rather strange and even bizarre names. In biblical times everyone's name had a meaning. Parents would choose a name which contained a kind of prayer that the child would grow up to be worthy of the name they had been given. Film stars and other entertainers often adopt a stage name which is quite different from that which they were given after their birth. Michael Caine is a perhaps a more appealing name than Maurice Joseph Micklewhite. In the Bible we read about people whose name was changed. The name Jacob meant something like a supplanter, a cheat, which seemed to fit his early history. But with a new beginning in his life he was given a new name, Israel, one who strives with God. In the Book of Acts in the New Testament we are told of the first occasion when the followers of Jesus were given the name "Christians". Perhaps it began as a kind of nickname, but then it became a title of which to be proud. The challenge for all who claim to be Christians is to try to live up to all that is contained in the name, to be Christ-like in thought and word and deed. **Roddy MacLeod**

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Holy Eucharist.....15.15
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Mattins followed by Holy Eucharist.....11.00

Holy Cross, Portnacraoish, Appin
Evensong.....18.00

A cordial welcome to people from any church or none
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.15
Holy Eucharist.....14.30
Wed 7 August

GRADUATIONS



Christie Brunton recently graduated with M.A.(Hons) in Celtic and German (2.1) from Edinburgh University. Daughter of Sandy & Jane Brunton, Isle of Mull. Granddaughter of Maimie & the late Tom Brunton, Isle of Mull, and Ian & Leila Reynard, Helensburgh. Former pupil of Bunnass Primary and Oban High School. The sinn gu math moiteil asad. Meal do naidheachd bhon teaghlach gu lèir.



Lewis MacDonald graduated with M.A. in Philosophy from Glasgow University. He is the son of the late Ian A. MacDonald and grandson of Isobel and the late Ian MacDonald, Ardbeg, Kinlochleven.



Katie Carabine graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Biology from University of St Andrews. Katie is the daughter of Ewen and Annette Carabine, Tomacharich and is granddaughter of Helen and the late Jackie Carabine, Tomonie and Ina and the late Lachie Roberts, Corpach.



Laura Barrington graduated with MA (Hons) 2.1 in Modern European Languages from Edinburgh University. Laura is the daughter of John and Jane Barrington, Benderloch and is a former pupil of Lochnell Primary and Oban High School.

WEDDINGS



CRUICKSHANK - DAVIES
Donald Cruickshank and Hannah Davies were married at Taynuilt Church on June 15, 2013. Donald is the son of Donald and Carol Cruickshank, Oban and Hannah is the daughter of Sheila and John Davies, Taynuilt. Photograph by Wee Beauty Photography



STEPHEN-MITCHELL
Fiona Stephen and Iain Mitchell were married at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe on July 13th 2013. They celebrated with a large number of family and friends at the Corran Halls Oban. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

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Oban winner as West Highland Yachting Week gets underway

OBAN'S Eric Chapman and his Sigma 33 Amber Haze stole the honours in the first race of the 66th West Highland Yachting Week Regatta with both line honours and a first in class.

Light winds beset the fleet for the opening races of the event, which runs until tomorrow (Friday), with the feeder race from Oban to Craobh the previous day won by Geoff Bowerman's J 109 No Worries and the Chapman's Amber Haze lifting second place. There were no finishers in the Gigha feeder race.

With no wind and an ebbing tide for the passage race from Craobh to Oban, race officer Malcolm MacGregor took the fleet north to start off Easdale where the light breeze filled in from the north.

This made for a short race to the bottom end of Kerrera. John Stamp's J111 Jacob V from Port Edgar took Class 0 with Ruth Christensen's Elan 40 Caol Beag taking a good win in Class 1.

Iain Laidlaw's J97 Jaywalker, fresh from his overall title at this year's Scottish Series won Class 3 ahead of second-placed Brian Robertson of Lochilphed with Celtic Spirit and Steven Forthwith of Oban driving his father's boat Shadowfax, third.

Jock MacDougall's Shoki showed winning form once again in Class 7 with Angus Fyfe's Contessa 25 Popcorn winning Class 8 by 10 minutes on corrected time.

In the Argyll Fleet white sail classes John Mill's Lorca J won Class 2 with Donald MacLaren's Sigmatic taking Class 4.

Last year's Class 9 winner, Judy Orr from Campbeltown, showed the fleet a clean pair of heels with Eureka winning from Alistair's Gay's Nicholson 35 Orwell Lass and Darren Taylor's Chimera, racing for the first time at WHYW, in third.



The crew of Red Aye look relaxed before the start of West Highland Yachting Week. Photo: Yachtingimages.co.uk

Rugby stars out in force in Oban

SCOTLAND rugby star Sean Lamont will be getting his hands dirty at Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club this month as he helps the club prepare for the new season.

Lamont, who has 79 caps for his country, is coming to Oban on August 10 as part of the RBS RugbyForce event, which is sending Scotland players to 10 clubs across the country to help

with a pre-season project. The Scottish Rugby Union also announced this week that Lamont will be joined by fellow Glasgow Warriors stars Ed Kalman, a promising young

prop and hooker Fraser Brown, who recently made his Scotland debut.



Sean Lamont, pictured in action against England during the Six Nations, will be helping Oban Lorne prepare for the new season.

prop and hooker Fraser Brown, who recently made his Scotland debut.

Oban Lorne president Dee Bradbury said: 'It is brilliant to get such a high profile player and everyone is delighted with the news.'

'I think it endorses the fact we are undertaking a big event at Glencruitten.'

The RBS RugbyForce initiative, driven by Scottish Rugby's principal partner RBS, allows clubs to benefit from financial, practical and promotional assistance to run a pre-season event.

Oban Lorne, alongside Argyll and Bute RFC, will be cutting grass, levelling the ground either side of the pitch, cleaning and painting the clubhouse and undertaking some ground work between 11am - 2pm.

Afterwards, at 3pm, the first team will take on Glasgow Acadies in a pre-season match.

Mrs Bradbury added: 'We want to see players, former players and junior club members coming along to help. It is an investment in the grounds to maintain it for years to come and will be a club family day.'



Sonin strikes for Saints

Oban Saints had their three Japanese signings on show last Saturday when they took on top Caledonian League side Milton in a pre-season friendly at the rugby pitch. And it was one of the brothers, Sonin Kurishita, who got on the scoresheet for the Oban side with a great header from a Donald Campbell free kick in a 1-1 draw. Saints should have won the game as they passed up several good scoring chances and also missed a penalty. The Oban side continue their build up to the new season on Saturday with a game against old rivals Greenock HSPF. The match will take place at Glen 2 with a 2pm kick-off. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Innisfree Trophy held at Oban Bowling Green

BOWLS

THE INNISFREE Trophy was contested at Oban green on Sunday in what proved to be a closely-fought final.

Eight triples competed for the trophy and through the round robin stages emerged the finalists of Lyn Laverty, Moira Spreadbury and Janice Fraser, who played eventual winners Bill Goldie, Maureen Goldie and Rosemary Miller.

National finals
Oban Bowling Club's Helen MacLean, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie played very well at the National Finals in Ayr last week when they reached the semi final of the Two-Bowl Triples, before losing out to the eventual winners.

Suzanne picked for endurance team

HORSE RIDING

AN ARGYLL horse rider has been recalled to the Scottish endurance team for this month's Home International at Barbary Castle, Wiltshire.

Suzanne Taylor, from Balvicar, has been included in the squad for this year's event, on August 18, having been on the winning team in 2010.

The competition will feature the best endurance riders and horses from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales.

Suzanne, who will ride 15-year-old part-bred Arab Salsa Caramel, said it was 'great' to get the call up after the team selectors approached her, based on performances already this season.



Suzanne Taylor on Salsa Caramel.

Oban Athletic host football tournament

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic will be holding a round robin football tournament on Saturday kicking off at 10am.

Games will take place on Glen 1 and Glen 3 (rugby pitches). Teams taking part along with Athletic are Lochgilphed Red Star, Tarbert, Carradale and Lochfyneside.

The round robin nature of the competition will ensure all players get plenty of game time before the amateur leagues start up again in August.

Last Saturday the Oban side took on Myre Athletic from Dumbarton in a pre-season warm-up game where the Oban team turned in a first class performance winning the game 4-2 thanks to goals from Dean

Smith, Lance MacCuish and a Scott Maitland penalty.

This was an impressive win for the Oban lads as Myre were the Greater Glasgow League second division champions last season winning 17 games, drawing one and losing only four.

As well as the tournament this Saturday, Athletic have organised a friendly warm-up game against SAFL Premier Division outfit Kilbowie Union on Saturday, August 10 with the West of Scotland League programme commencing the following Saturday.

As yet the Oban lads don't know who their opposition will be in their first league game.



Taynuilt

DAVID Howie secured his 20th club championship at Taynuilt on Sunday by a margin of 26 over four rounds.

Howie got off to the perfect start with two rounds of 67, while his closest challenger and eventual runner-up Fraser Inglis carded 73 and 75.

Howie went on to consolidate his position at the top of the leaderboard with rounds of 69 and 70.

Meanwhile Ewen McGlynn won the handicap Collaig Cup, ahead of Robbie MacLarty, who finished this season in third place in the club championship.

Results
Club Championship 2013 (scratch): 1 David Howie, 273 (67 67 69 70); 2 Fraser Inglis, 299 (73 75 75 76); 3 Robert MacLarty, 310 (75 75 79 81).

Club Championship fourth round (scratch) played on July 28: 1 David Howie, 67; 2 Jim Carmichael, 75; 3 Calum Munro, 75.

Collaig Cup 2013: 1 Ewen McGlynn, 123 (63, 60); 2 Robert MacLarty, 127 (65, 62); 3 Jim Carmichael, 129 (63, 66).

Gents' Collaig Cup second round played on July 28: 1 Ewen McGlynn, 60 (25); 2 Robert MacLarty, 62 (13); 3 David Howie, 64 (3).

Tobermory

MENS' Section: Third Round Centenary Trophy - 1 Peter MacCrone 73-10-63; 2 Tim Gardiner 70-07-63; 3 Ross Laurie 83-19-64.

Ladies' Section: Glenys Clegg Trophy - 1 Kathy McAdam 37 points; 2 Doris Hargreaves 33 points; 3 Olive Brown 22 points.

Junior Section: Third Round Summer Challenge - 1 Lewis Wilshire 66-07-59; 2 Ross MacCrone 74-13-61; 3 William MacCrone 72-05-67.

Islay

LIFEBOAT Spoon played Sunday 28 July: 1 Keith MacDonald 75 Less 7 Net 68; 2 Neil Johnston 79 Less 9 Net 70; 3 David Johnston 79 Less 8 Net 71 CSS.71

Fort William

THE SECOND round of the MacIver Cup was played at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday, with Neil Young taking a nine shot win.

Neil Henderson finished second with Brian Gillespie third.

The ladies annual outing to The Carrick saw Ann Lovat win the West Highland Oil Tray with a score of 37 points,

from Theresa Smith and Kim Topping.

A series of competitions was held throughout last week for the club's fun week, sponsored by Ben Nevis Distillery.

Andrew Brown and Stephen Howden won a close two person Texas scramble on Monday. Hazel Cameron won a singles Stableford competition on Tuesday with a score of 39.

David MacDonald, Barry MacLean and Adrian Traynor won Wednesday's three person Texas scramble with a net 56.

Stewart Duncan scored 41 to win a singles Stableford on Thursday, and the four person Texas scramble on Friday was won by David MacDonald, Barry MacLean, Duncan Rodger and Adrian Traynor with a net 57.

This Saturday the club will host the Letterfinlay Open three person Texas Scramble.

Dragon's Tooth

THE DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club Open was again held in warm sunshine as more than 50 competitors took to the Ballachulish course on Saturday.

Local golfer Bill Bryce took the honours in the Stableford competition with a winning score of 42 points. Fort William's Peter Laing was two points back in second place with Roderick Leitch of Dragon's Tooth third on 39.

The ladies competition also saw a home win, with Sue Watson coming first on 31 points. Lily McKay of Dalmally Golf Club was second ahead of her clubmate Ann Munro.

Garry Dunlop Jnr of Fort William hit the longest drive while Sue Watson hit the longest in the ladies. Nearest the pin was won by Fort William's Murdoch Murray and Eileen Hill of Taynuilt.

Traigh

TRAIGH Golf Club played its club medal on Sunday.

Results: 1 James Manson 75 (9) 66; 2 Johnnie MacMillan 78 (11) 67 bh; 3 Stewart Cameron 76 (9) 67.

Inveraray

THE INVERARAY Golf Club Open is one competition amongst many that have been held on the Royal Burgh's fairways in recent weeks.

The George Hotel sponsored Open saw local player David 'Bingo' Robertson scoop the top prize, winning by an impressive five strokes, ahead of his father Duncan Robertson. Bingo's net 66 saw him win the Open title and the Traveller Trophy for best local player.

In the Scratch competition Oban golfer Graeme McColl took the title with a gross 74 and Inveraray player Jimmy Kerr took second spot with an 83.



Prizewinners from Fort William Golf Club's fun week. Left to right, Stephen Howden, Willie Duncan, Adrian Traynor, Brian O'Neill, 'Toon' Brown, Stewart Duncan, Owen Sweeney, Iona Cameron, David MacDonald and Frank Sweeney. 20_131golf01

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMpetition

WIN £850

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The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, 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.

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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.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
A MacIntyre, Millpark Avenue, Oban & M A Young, Bowmore, Isle of Islay

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

First Camanachd Cup semi final this weekend

Kyles take on Kingussie at An Aird

KYLES ATHLETIC have cup form and a full squad going into this weekend's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-final but the club management expect the players to step up their game. Kyles play Kingussie at An Aird for a place in the final on September 14 and already have this season's Celtic Society Cup in the trophy cabinet. There is also a Macaulay Cup final on August 17 to look forward to. But Kyles trainer James Perlich knows the dangers Kingussie possess, especially in the game's most celebrated cup competition.

'The team will have to step up another gear to beat Kingussie and progress to the final. Hopefully we will have a good crowd from Tighnabruich.'

Kyles will be familiar with the An Aird pitch after beating Fort William there last weekend 3-2, thanks to a late Grant Irvine goal.

Defender Andrew King made a welcome return to the team after missing most of this season through injury.

KINGUSSIE take on Kyles Athletic this Saturday looking to secure their third Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final appearance in four years.

Kings manager Russell Jones has said all season long his eyes were firmly on shinty's biggest prize, but they will face a stern semi final test against last season's cup winners at An Aird in Fort William.

He told The Oban Times: 'This is our season - it's make or break. We definitely want to be in the cup final, but I'm sure Kyles do as well.'

Fraser and Louis Munro will both miss the big match, but Kings are hopeful Paul Gow will shake off an injury in time to make the squad.

Jones said his side's 3-2 win over Kyles in the league in April will have little bearing on the semi final.

Kings' hopes of finishing second in the league took a blow with a 2-1 loss away to Lovat last weekend.

Jones said: 'Lovat are a good side, it's always enjoyable to play them. It was a good game - there was nothing in it and it was good preparation for the semi final.'

LOCHABER could take a big step towards safety with a win against fellow relegation battlers Oban Camanachd this Saturday at Spean Bridge.

A win for Lochaber would mean Oban could not overtake them on points, but manager Robert Johnstone told The Oban Times he wasn't looking any further ahead than this weekend.

He said: 'We're not looking at anything, we just want to get a good performance and a good result and I'm sure the rest will sort itself out.'

'Oban got beaten by Newtonmore on Saturday but that won't dampen their spirits as they've been playing well up until then. We'll just try to play the way we've been playing and hopefully get a result.'

'We had last weekend off so they should all be recuperated.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell admitted this weekend's scheduled league match with relegation rivals Lochaber was his side's cup final of 2013.

Campbell has challenged his players to take maximum points from their last four games in a bid to avoid relegation, starting with two points on Saturday.

Having gained some confidence from recent results, Camanachd were brought crashing back down to earth by a 7-0 defeat at the hands of champions-elect Newtonmore.

An early Gareth Evans own goal gave Newtonmore the lead and the defending champions

'We are not safe yet from relegation; we need another two or three points.'

MacPherson is looking to find the first of these points on Saturday against Kinlochshiel, although he is likely to miss the game, as well as Ruairidh Graham.

Douglas Dando, however, may return to the fold.

The news of Dando's return from injury will be a welcome boost to an Inveraray side that could only field 11 fit players against Glenurquhart last Saturday - an almost immobile Euan McMurdo played at full forward with a dead leg.

There was further bad luck



Oban Celtic's Daniel Madej shields the ball from Bute's Robert Walker during the Marine Harvest South Division One game at Ganavan last Saturday which the islanders won 5-2.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

gave their southern counterparts a lesson in finishing.

Campbell said: 'Their first goal was really unfortunate; it could have gone anywhere but it ended up in our net.'

'But just before that we had a golden opportunity to score with three chances from the one attack.'

'It is easy for me to say but I don't think there were seven goals in it. We actually played quite well but the difference was how they took their chances.'

With midfielders Ian 'Gussie' Campbell and Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish absent, the Camanachd defence had to stand strong and James MacMillan was a standout for the visitors. Substitute Daniel MacKinnon was also praised for his direct approach.

INVERARAY player-manager Garry MacPherson was quick to deny his team had nothing to play for this season, insisting premier league survival had not yet been secured.

With no further involvement in the cups, and a seemingly secure mid-table berth in the Orion Group Premiership, the Royal Burgh's season is in danger of fizzling out.

'Absolutely not,' was the reply from MacPherson when it was suggested Inveraray's 2013 season was over.



Strachur's Alan Paterson fears the worst but Lochside's Keith Burnett only has his eyes on the ball. Photo: Stephen Lawson

SHINTY

That said, Daniel Stewart netted twice against Kyles - but scoring regularly has been an elusive prize all season and time is running out for the team to click in front of goal.

Fort would give their eye teeth for a repeat of their last encounter with the Glen - a fine 2-0 win in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup quarter-final at Drumadrochit.

But the Loch Ness side are nothing if not tenacious and notched a fine 2-1 win over Inveraray at home on Saturday to boost their own survival chances.

Fort co-manager Victor Smith said: 'We should have Niall MacPhee and Chris Bamber back, which should help us a bit.'

'More have no game this weekend, and will no doubt be using the time to plan for their upcoming Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi final against Fort William on August 10.'

'More found themselves 4-0 up at half time against Oban with Danny MacRae, Scott Chisholm and Rory Kennedy all on target.'

A late flurry added to 'More's already impressive goals tally, with Premiership top scorer Fraser MacIntosh moving on to 15 for the year with a brace and John MacKenzie also on the scoresheet.

KILMALLIE will almost certainly clinch the Marine Harvest North Division One title on Saturday if they can beat Caberfeidh at Canal Park.

Cabers are still pushing for the third promotion spot to National League Division One next season and will prove no easy opponents, especially after their 1-0 win in Portree on Saturday.

He said: 'Fort William will be stiff, they showed that against Kyles last weekend when they almost got the win. But if we can get the win on Saturday that will be us almost there. We'd be looking up again rather than down.'

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Ewen Brady and Eddie Tembo will serve the second of their two game suspensions, but Andrew Corrigan is expected to make his return from injury.

Last weekend, a threadbare Glen squad - which saw co-manager MacKenzie and Drew McNeill both named on the bench - saw off Inveraray to take the win.

Neale Reid moved into double figures for the season when he struck in just the third minute.

'Ary drew level through Peter MacIntyre, but a second half own goal was enough from Glen to take both points.'

LOVAT took a firm grasp of second spot in the Orion Group Premiership when they edged out rivals Kingussie 2-1 at Balgate Park.

Livewire forward Kevin Bartlett put the Kiltarilly men ahead on 25 minutes before Thomas Borthwick drew Kingussie level just before the break.

Lovat scored the winner midway through the second half after Kings' keeper Craig Dawson's attempted clearance hit off full back James Hutchison and Lorne MacKay took full advantage.

Coach Allan Macrae told The Oban Times after the game: 'We were needing the win and to get two points on the board. It has been a few weeks since we did that.'

'We have been a wee bit stale recently and we freshened things up in a few positions. We are a bit luckier than some in not being down in the mire and this is the time we can try out a few different things.'

Lovat have no game this Saturday due to the Belladrum music festival.

NEWTONMORE made light work of relegation battlers Oban Camanachd last weekend as they



Newtonmore's John MacKenzie slips the ball past Oban Camanachd goalkeeper Robert Dunning for his side's sixth goal during the Orion Group Premiership match held the Eilan last Saturday. The Badenoch side won the game 7-0. Photo: Stevie Tunstall

continued their unbeaten Orion Group Premiership season.

It is now surely just a matter of time until a fourth league title on the trot is confirmed, with the Badenoch side sitting five points clear with a game in hand.

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Pair nan Laoch. Injuries and call-offs forced manager Willie MacRae to field a weakened team and the handicap proved too much as Skye were sunk by a controversial penalty award in injury time.

Stand in goalkeeper Jamie Gannon performed heroics to keep his side in the game, notably one breathtaking stop from Cabers' dangerman Ally MacLennan.

But he could do nothing about MacLennan's penalty in the 91st minute, a goal which means in all likelihood that Skye will need some kind of a result in their final league game at Beaulieu next Saturday to pip Cabers to the third promotion spot.

Skye now hold just a single point lead over Caberfeidh, who have three games left.

A disappointed MacRae told The Oban Times: 'It was the last hit of the ball and was a contentious penalty which nobody saw apart from the goal judge.'

'The players are totally gutted, as it means we have to go out and beat Beaulieu. We will need to have all our top guys back for that one.'

'We were missing a few players on Saturday.'



Ballachulish and Lochcarron contested the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup final at Smith Park, Farr, last Saturday. Our photo shows Lochcarron's Andrew Slaughter and John MacDonald from Ballachulish in a tussle for the ball. Ballachulish won the game 3-1 after extra time. Photo: Donald Cameron

Assistant Kilmallie coach Donald Lamont is reckoning on only one change from the team that defeated Beaulieu 1-0, a replacement for defender Martin Stewart, who is on holiday.

Peter Carmichael, out through suspension against Beaulieu, will also be on holiday and Michael Rodger will again slot in at half-back.

Lamont told The Oban Times: 'Caberfeidh are still trying to get third place and we have had hard games against them already this season.'

He added: 'We are looking forward to it. We won't take Caberfeidh lightly and we will be looking for the same attitude we showed against Beaulieu.'

SKYE CAMANACHD'S ambitions for a place in the National League Division One next season are on shaky ground after the islanders lost 1-0 to promotion rivals Caberfeidh at

completely different to the one we faced last year and they have some really good players. The boys know this will be a tough game.'

Ewan MacCorquodale is the only known absentee for the game this weekend.

Lochside Rovers continued their good form in 2013 with a 3-1 victory over Strachur last Saturday, when Sean Morgan opened the scoring and Brian MacCallum hit two penalties to secure the points.

For **GLENORCHY** forward Kieran McKay it seems a change of position is as good as a break after he hit all four goals in the win against Kilmory.

McKay, who has been playing on the wing in recent weeks, rediscovered his scoring touch after being reinstated in the forwardline.

Glenorchy coach John Smith said: 'Kieran has been playing well on the wing but sometimes when you play someone in a different position for a few weeks, he comes back rejuvenated. I thought Kieran had been struggling to hit the target earlier this season and was a bit frustrated with himself.'

Smith praised the work of the entire forwardline, including Steven Turner, Grant MacPherson and Duncan Smith but also singled out recent signing Kieran Gallagher for praise.

Looking ahead to this Saturday's home tie against Oban Celtic, Smith said: 'We have three games left and we have to win them all.'

OBAN CELTIC'S youngest team of the season took to the field against Bute last Saturday and this was one of the few positives the club could take out of a 5-2 home defeat.

More senior players should be available for this Saturday's trip to Dalnally but last weekend's first team squad included six under-17s and both their goalkeepers were teenagers.

Club president David Hamilton said: 'You have to take positives out of a game like that and the fact we scored two goals and played so many of our under-17s are two of them.'

'Young David Martin made some great saves in goals and it was good to see Andy MacDonald and Rory Bruce get on the scoresheet against one of the better teams in the league.'

Nineteen-year-old Daniel Madej played with the assurance of a veteran last Saturday, as he became one of the 'old heads'.

Having beaten Glenorchy in Oban 2-1 a few weeks ago, Oban Celtic will be looking to take something out of their trip to east Lorn.

TAYNUILT are back in action at home against Strachur on Saturday in a bid to escape the clutches of the bottom sides, which include the Cowal men.

Strachur currently sit bottom of the South Division One table with Taynuilt only two points ahead, albeit with two games in hand.



Fixtures

Saturday 3 August

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi Final
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
at An Aird, Fort William
Deek Cameron - 2pm

Orion Group Premiership
Lochaber v Oban Camanachd
Evan MacRae
Inveraray v Kinlochshiel
Graham Cameron - 3pm
Fort William v Glenurquhart
Colin MacDonald - 4.30pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Skye
Daniel MacRae 7.30pm
Kinlochshiel v Aberdeen Uni
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochbroom v Lochcarron
Calum Girvan
Strathglass v Lochaber
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
David Mitchell
Kilmory v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Dunkie Kerr
Taynuilt v Strachur
Alex MacVicar
Bute v Aberdour
Colin MacDonald - 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Tayforth
Neil MacDonald - 12pm
Inveraray v Glasgow MA
John MacGregor - 7.30pm

Bullough Cup
Ballachulish v Lochside Rovers
Ronnie Campbell - 2pm

(All Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Results

Saturday 27 July

Orion Group Premiership
Glenurquhart 2 - 1 Inveraray
Lovat 2 - 1 Kingussie
Newtonmore 7-0 Oban Caman
Fort William 2 - 3 Kyles Ath

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness 2 - 2 Strathglass
Skye 0 - 1 Caberfeidh
Kilmallie 1 - 0 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Beaulieu 0 - 1 Glenurquhart
Fort William 2 - 4 Lovat
Kingussie 4 - 1 Glangarry
Aberdeen Uni 0 - 4 Newmore

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Strathglass v Lochbroom
Postponed Strathglass unable to field a team points to Lochbroom
Strathspey 8 - 6 Kilmallie
Lewis 0 - 9 Lochaber

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Lochside Rovers 3 - 1 Strachur
Kilmory 0 - 4 Glenorchy
Aberdour 0 - 5 Glasgow MA
Oban Celtic 2 - 5 Bute

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen v Tayforth
Postponed Tayforth unable to field a team points to Col Glen
Aberdour 1 - 2 Inveraray

The Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup
Lochcarron 1 - 3 Ballachulish

Bullough Cup
The Scots 0 - 2 Kyles Athletic



Ballachulish win Sutherland Cup

BALLACHULISH won the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup for the first time in more than 40 years on Saturday with an extra-time victory over Lochcarron.

Balla's previous success in the competition came in 1971 when they defeated Skye Camanachd at the end of a run of four consecutive finals that season - it was the only one they won.

An energy-sapping final on Smith Park, Farr, on Saturday was the fourth time this season a cup final has gone into extra

time. Despite Lochcarron having the better of the first half, Michael Slezas latched onto a Duncan MacDonald through ball to put Ballachulish ahead in the 28th minute.

Equaliser
But into the second half Lochcarron captain Croisdean Finlayson found himself in acres of space to hit an equaliser.

As the game went into extra time the superior fitness of Ballachulish began to tell and Scott Henderson and John MacDonald sealed the victory on 110

and 115 minutes.

At the end of play club captain Alan Clark, who could not play in the fixture, took the cup with captain for the day John MacDonald. David Campbell was named man of the match.

The exhausted players managed to find the extra energy to celebrate in style long into the night at the Laroch Bar, Ballachulish.

Balla now have to compose themselves for a Bullough Cup semi-final with Lochside Rovers.



Ballachulish celebrate their Sutherland Cup final victory. Photo: Neil Paterson

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Double up for young golfer

GOLF prospect Robert MacIntyre has become the first junior player to hold the national youths and boys' stroke play titles in the same year, after winning the latter event last week.

The Oban teenager, who celebrates his 17th birthday on Saturday, produced a third consecutive 66 to storm to an incredible nine-shot victory in the Stephen Gallacher Foundation Scottish Boys Stroke Play Championship at The Roxburgh, Kelso.

MacIntyre capped a memorable week by collecting the

trophy from event sponsor and European Tour professional Gallacher, who won the championship 1991 and 1992, before turning pro three years later.

Having led the major from the off, MacIntyre broke away from the chasing pack to win his second major title of the season with a dominant 18-under-par total of 198.

After winning the competition, which included international competitors, the Glencairn Golf Club member said: 'It feels really good to win and this week

was up there with the Youths, the way I played.

'My putting was really the key to my success this week. I struggled with it at the start of the season but I've been working really hard on my stroke with my coach, George Boswell, and it's been much more consistent.'

The Scottish Golf Academy member later told The Oban Times: 'I don't think about being the first player to hold both junior majors, I just see it as another national win.



Stephen Gallacher presents the boys' stroke play title to Robert MacIntyre.

Friendly family rivalry

A SHINTY rivalry will be played out on the golf course at this week's Fairstone Scottish Amateur Championship when Oban's Robert MacIntyre takes on Kingussie's Jordan Shaw in the first round of the matchplay event.

Although Robert and Jordan have never faced each other before on the golf course or the shinty pitch, their fathers are old rivals from their shinty playing days for Oban Camanachd and Kingussie, respectively.

Robert's father, Dougie, said: 'I played against Jordan's dad Brian 'Tattie' Shaw from school through to the senior game. He was a very good full back and I played up front, so we had some good battles. We know about Jordan because his father and I have a blather at golf tournaments and he is on really good form, breaking course records in the Kingussie area.'

'It is funny that we have another Oban Camanachd versus Kingussie, albeit a different generation and a different sport!'

The match between the two young golfers was teeing off as The Oban Times went to press.

'I'm playing quite well just now, so I'm going into every junior event believing I have a chance of winning.'

Gallacher said he was hugely impressed with the performance of MacIntyre, who broke his elbow at the beginning of the season. 'To shoot 18-under par anywhere is great but to do it on an excellent course like The Roxburgh is very impressive,' he said.

Runner-up Ewen Ferguson, from Bearsden, said: 'If you'd offered me nine-under par at the start of the week I'd have bitten your hand off, so to go out and score that myself and be beaten by nine shots is incredible. Hats off to Bob, his scores were amazing.'

MacCuish doesn't lack drive after 15th club win

IF YOU thought that winning the Glencairn Golf Club championship for the 15th time tempered David MacCuish's desire to keep winning the trophy, you thought wrong - it's the only one he is allowed to keep in the house.

MacCuish, who lives on Oban's Nelson Road, retained the championship for a record 15th time - his seventh successive win - on Sunday after trailing Allan McKie with nine holes to play in the final round.

But a swing of five strokes in MacCuish's favour over the 10th, 11th and 12th holes saw him retain his valued prize.

The champion told The Oban Times: 'I set my whole season around the four rounds of the club championship. It sounds a cliché but the 15th win means as much as the first.'

'The trophy has its own spot on a shelf in the living room and it's the only one I'm allowed to keep in the house!'

'I have quite a few shinty and golf trophies and my fiancée, Tia MacDonald, says they clutter the place. The club

championship trophy gets to stay but the rest are at my mum's house in Dalintart.'

In fact, the club championship trophy has become such a permanent fixture on that shelf that it was more notable by its absence eight years ago when MacCuish lost his title. 'I had to by a picture frame that year!' he quipped.

MacCuish won with a score of 255 (67, 65, 62, 61) ahead of runner-up Alan McKie on 261 (66, 64, 65, 66). Phillip Murphy was third with a score of 264 (64, 65, 67, 68).

Michael Kelly won the Handicap Championship with a nett score of 253, Gavin Owens was second with 254 (61, 64, 64, 65) and Phillip Murphy was third with 258. In the ladies section on Thursday in the Arc Stableford Diane Colewell scored 38 points (13) and Diana Dalgety scored 37 points. The George Smith third round and Monthly Medal will be held on Saturday and August 6.



The boys who took part in the residential summer camp, run by Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae.

Spanish youngsters take part in residential football camp

THE ANNUAL residential football camp in Oban had an international feel this year when two Spanish brothers took part.

The week-long residential camp teaches aspiring footballers what it takes to be a young professional, as they train, play and live together.

The youngsters have between six and seven hours of football per day on the Oban Community Pitch and train and stay at the school's Glencairn Hostel.

Although the majority of the 31 players were from the local area, Jaime Catala,

aged 15, and his brother Luis, 13, from Majorca attended the camp during a holiday in the area.

The boys' family had wanted to visit Scotland but chose Oban on the back of the residential camp, the details for which they found online.

Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae, who runs the camp, said: 'I just got an email from the boys' parents but I didn't know how they heard about it. It is great to see them here.'

'Their English is fantastic, so they get on

YOUTH FOOTBALL

well with everyone.

'The purpose of this week is to show the boys what it is like to be a young pro footballer, looking at eating habits, respect, discipline and daily chores.'

'It is about giving them responsibility but also getting them to mix with each other. The social aspect is important too.'

Last year the residential camp, which is in its third year, had a boy from Ireland among the group.



Football coaches Stewart Maule, left, and Martin Rae with Spanish boys Jaime and Luis Catala. 15_131camp02

Hurdler gets Scotland call

ATHLETICS

A YOUNG Kilmore hurdler has been handed his first Scotland vest for this Saturday's Celtic Games in Colwyn Bay, Wales.

Ben Coates, aged 14, has been selected to represent his country in the under-16 age category of the annual competition, which also features young athletes from Northern Ireland, Ireland and Wales.

Coates will be Scotland's sole age group representative in the 100 metres hurdles and was selected on the back of wins at the Scottish Indoor Championships and at the West District Championships, where he won the 100-metre hurdles.

Ben, whose idols are Usain Bolt and Colin Jackson, said the news of his call up took a while to sink in.

'After the phone call to say I had been picked I didn't really realise what had happened. It only sunk in when my mum said, 'You are going to compete for Scotland!'

Saints captain signs for Fort FC

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints captain Keith Millar has left the club and signed for Highland League side Fort William.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said the club were sorry to see Keith go, but thanked him for his loyal service over the years and wished him well with in his new venture.

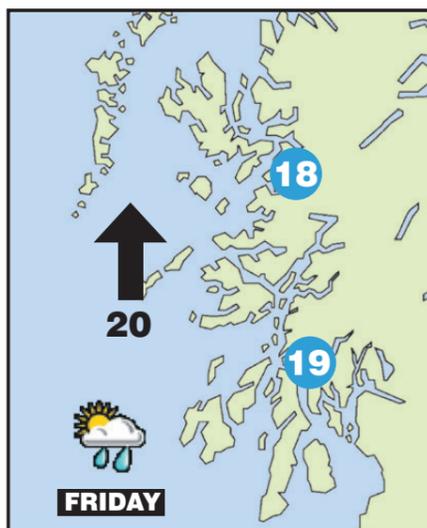
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 16°C to 19°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

Weekend Outlook Thundery showers
Winds light southerly
Temperatures 14°C to 17°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, August 1, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 01.18 2.8 07.10 1.8 13.43 2.8 20.09 1.9 | |
| Fri | 02.49 2.9 08.26 1.7 14.53 3.0 21.47 1.8 | |
| Sat | 03.41 3.1 09.33 1.6 15.43 3.2 22.36 1.6 | |
| Sun | 04.18 3.3 10.21 1.4 16.24 3.4 23.13 1.5 | |
| Mon | 04.54 3.5 11.00 1.2 17.02 3.6 23.45 1.3 | |
| Tues | 05.31 3.7 11.36 1.0 17.39 3.8 *** ** | |
| Wed | 00.15 1.2 06.06 3.8 12.11 0.9 18.13 3.9 | |

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

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Golf day raises more than £6,000 for charity **Page 3**



97 mile walk home for charity **Page 4**

SPORTS NEWS
Morale-boosting win for Fort



Former Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leaders Ian Sutherland, Donald Watt, Terry Confield and Jimmy Ness, behind, join current deputy team leader Donald Paterson and team leader John Stevenson to celebrate the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Mountain rescue team win Royal award

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team were the proud recipients of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on Saturday afternoon.

Honour
Their £700,000 rescue base in Fort William was packed with invited guests for the award ceremony which saw the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, bestow the honour on behalf of the Queen.

The monarch's signature 'Elizabeth R' adorns the document accompanying the embossed crystal award.

Deputy team leader Donald Paterson accepted the honour on behalf of the team. Leader John Stevenson was on duty at the time helping co-ordinate the airlift of a man from Ben Nevis.

Retired civil servant Gerard Boyle, 51, died after collapsing less than halfway up the mountain.

Lochiel said: 'Without regard to their own safety this team of volunteers save many lives and for that we in Lochaber should be incredibly proud and grateful.'

Full story, page 3.

It adds: 'The Scottish Salmon Company does not object to the overall Kishorn Port development but, for the reasons outlined above, it does object to the proposed location of the accommodation and associated welfare facilities.'

KPL is seeking approval for expanding the yard to allow construction of concrete bases for wind turbines, extending the existing quarry, site engineering works, concrete batching plants and erection

of industrial buildings.

The masterplan includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, an accommodation camp, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock, one of Europe's largest. A temporary holding area for offshore wind turbines in Loch Kishorn are also planned.

KPL says if planning permission is granted, the huge industrial site west of Lochcaron could again become a major manufacturing hub, this time for wind turbines, wave power machines and tidal devices.

The company estimates that over time up to 2,500 jobs could be created.

Kishorn was developed in the 1970s by Howard Doris Ltd for the fabrication of the 600,000-tonne Ninian Central platform.

Lochaber hotel owner accused of sexual assault

Female foreign staff claim harassment by boss of former Duror-based hotel

TWO FEMALE hotel workers have accused the proprietor of a Lochaber hotel of sexually assaulting them hours after starting their employment.

The women took the stand at Fort William Sheriff Court to claim Shamsul Arefin made sexual advances and constantly spoke about sex during their short time working at The Stewart Hotel in Duror last year.

One of the women - who flew from Lithuania to give evidence against her former employer - said the empty hotel reminded her of the horror film 'The Shining' when she arrived, with no staff or guests.

The 23 year-old said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night before talking about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

Speaking through an interpreter, she said: 'It was really disgusting and unacceptable.'

She also claimed 45 year-old Arefin later tried to get her to convince another member of staff to have sex with him.

A Portuguese woman also gave evidence against Arefin, claiming he repeatedly propositioned her during her six days in employment and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She said: 'He hugged me and kissed me on the neck, I was reviled. I was very clear to him I was not interested in him in that way.'

The 38 year-old, who said she had a Masters in Psychology, decided to give Arefin one last chance to behave appropriately and 'as a test' agreed to go to Arefin's bedroom to watch a movie on the only DVD player in the hotel.

She made it clear beforehand they were only socialising as work colleagues - but Arefin renewed his advances.

She told the court: 'He grabbed me. I tried to push him off. He touched me and put his hand under my bra. I pushed him away and got up.'

Both women alleged Arefin had lied about his age, telling the Lithuanian he was 32 and the Portuguese that he and she



Shamsul Arefin

were the same age. Arefin, they alleged, also told them he was single, despite being married with children.

Defence lawyer Jim Friel suggested any sexual comments made by the accused were in connection with the content of a novel he was writing, rather than his own sexual feelings.

Under cross examination by Mr Friel, both women denied Arefin had ever mentioned a book.

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, London, denies sexually assaulting the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

The trial was adjourned until October 21.

The Stewart Hotel, which has lain empty for more than a year, was targeted by thieves last week. A large number of flat screens televisions were stolen after the property was broken into.

Highland Council come to Nevis Centre's aid

THE FUTURE of Fort William's Nevis Centre has been secured after a cash injection from Highland Council.

The 28 members of staff at the events venue were given letters recently warning them it was facing possible closure due to a cashflow problem, but the council have agreed to an early handover of part of a £90,000 grant due in October, believed to be £20,000.

The council gives £180,000 annually towards running costs to Linnhe Leisure, the charitable company which runs the centre.

Linnhe Leisure also plan to submit a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) after seeking advice from KSA Group, which specialises in helping ailing businesses.

A CVA allows a business with financial difficulties to reach a deal with companies it owes money to repay all or part of its debt over an agreed period of time.

Linnhe Leisure has appointed Sheana Fraser as its new chair, and she said she was confident creditors will approve the CVA deal.

Mrs Fraser said: 'With the reduction of debt achieved by the CVA in the near future, support from Highland Council and the resulting restructuring of the balance sheet the company is strongly placed to grow sales and profits over the next few years.'

'It is very much business as usual and our usual high levels of client service will, of course, continue to be maintained.'

Local MP Charles Kennedy welcomed the news.

He said: 'There is a lot of internal work ahead yet, but this crucial first step makes progress possible.'

'At least the question mark for the remainder of this year's tourist season has been lifted - for employees, locals and visitors alike.'

Drug dealer jailed for six years

A FORT William man caught selling heroin in the town has been sentenced to six years in jail.

Michael Cameron, of Claggan, was found guilty by a jury at Edinburgh High Court of being concerned in the supply of the class A drug between January 2002 and April 2012.

The 33 year-old was caught following a Police Scotland operation into heroin supply in Lochaber.

Detective Inspector Andy Logan said: 'Our message to those involved in this type of crime is that we will continue to pro-actively target those who are involved in the supply of controlled drugs into the our communities.'

Fish farmers fear fabrication yard plan

A FISH farming company has been operational for over 20 years and is 'a significant provider of employment' in the local area with one part time and 10 full time members of staff.

The Scottish Salmon Company (TSSC) has lodged a formal objection with Highland Council to Kishorn Port Ltd's 'masterplan' for developing its deepwater base at Kishorn in Wester Ross.

TSSC, which operates a hatchery at Russell Burn on land earmarked for workers' accommodation blocks, fears the influx of hundreds of personnel could compromise strict measures designed to prevent contamination and disease.

The firm also says it may need part of KPL's land in future as it expands production.

Its objection letter to the council states: 'TSSC has already invested heavily in this hatchery and the site supplies smolts to the majority of the company's sea sites.'

'TSSC is currently in the process of expanding its operations in Scotland and should the Russell Burn site be earmarked for expansion the only piece of land suitable for this is the land to the east of the site, i.e. the land involved in this proposal by Kishorn Port Ltd.'

'TSSC operates strict bio-security measures within all of its sites' limits in order to

minimise the risk of disease introduction and propagation.

'However, such a large number of people and vehicles in close proximity of the site would potentially increase the risk of breaches occurring in the bio-security of the hatchery, despite the measures taken by TSSC.'

It adds: 'The Scottish Salmon Company does not object to the overall Kishorn Port development but, for the reasons outlined above, it does object to the proposed location of the accommodation and associated welfare facilities.'

KPL is seeking approval for expanding the yard to allow construction of concrete bases for wind turbines, extending the existing quarry, site engineering works, concrete batching plants and erection

of industrial buildings.

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Kishorn was developed in the 1970s by Howard Doris Ltd for the fabrication of the 600,000-tonne Ninian Central platform.



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Three cars collide near Onich

THREE cars collided on the A82 near Onich at Inchree junction early on Tuesday afternoon.

Eye witnesses reported the vehicles crashing into the back of each other around 1pm.

Police said there were no injuries and the road remained open.

The shunt occurred less than two miles from where Kinlochleven motorcyclist Michael McConnachie Clark died last week.

Police investigating the fatal accident carried out high visibility road checks in the locality on Tuesday afternoon.



Morag MacDonald with her card from First Minister Alex Salmond

'Hard work' takes Morag to 100

ONE OF Skye's oldest residents has chalked her longevity up to 'hard work' after celebrating her 100th birthday on Tuesday.

Sleat woman Morag MacDonald marked the occasion surrounded by friends and family, including her two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and a small party was held for her in Tarskavaig Communities Hall.

Mrs MacDonald was born and raised in Tarskavaig in Sleat before moving to Glasgow with her husband.

After 40 years in the central belt she returned to live on a croft in the village, and despite reaching her centenary she still lives in her own home.

Before Mrs MacDonald's traditional congratulatory message from the Queen arrived in the post, a card from First Minister Alex Salmond and his wife Moira was handed to her.

Morag's grandson Neil MacDonald said: 'She was delighted to receive a card from the First Minister and Mrs Salmond, and suggested that next time they were on Skye they would be welcome to pop by for a cup of tea or wee dram.'

Mr Salmond was asked to sign the card during his recent visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

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Rugby club start season as nomads due to funding shortfall

LOCHABER Rugby Football Club kick off their league campaign in three weeks time - but have no idea where they will be playing home games this season.

Drainage work had been due to start at the club's Highland Council-owned Banavie ground in June.

But it is understood a shortfall between the £80,000 funding available and tender prices received has stalled the project.

The flood-prone pitch was out

of commission for much of last season, wreaking havoc with the club's fixture list and player fitness levels.

According to club officials, Highland Council are investigating securing the required shortfall and expects to make a decision by the end of August.

If the project gets the green light, Lochaber would play its home matches at Black Parks in Inverloch while new drains are laid.

Any prolonged delay to the

drainage works would mean another season on the muddy flats of Banavie.

Club secretary Pauline Donaldson told *The Oban Times*: 'Fingers crossed it goes ahead and we get the money. We are very anxious about where we are going to be playing.'

'We have been talking to TEC services who are in the same situation as ourselves and are waiting for the state of play to be confirmed one way or the other.'

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

She added: 'TEC services have been very helpful to us - as soon as they found out things were on hold they cut the grass and said they will have Banavie ready for our pre-season games.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The works were unable to commence in June

due to tender prices being received which were above the overall budget available.'

'A request for additional funding to bridge the gap has been made by ECS to committee and this is due to be discussed at a council meeting on the 21 August.'

'If successful the contract will be let shortly afterwards.'

'In terms of where the club will be playing this season, they were informed shortly after it became apparent that there

was a funding shortfall, that they should continue with their pre-season preparations on the basis that they would be playing in their temporary home of the Black Parks.'

'Should additional funding be unavailable we are currently, in conjunction with our consultants, looking into an adapted works package to fit the available funding package,' he added.

Lochaber RFC are scheduled to play pre-season friendly

matches against Isle of Mull RFC at home on Saturday and away in Tobermory on August 10.

The season officially starts on August 24 with an RBS Caledonia League Division 2 away fixture at Stornoway.

Lochaber's first league home game is on August 31 against Aberdeen Wanderers - venue to be confirmed.

See 'captain's hopes for new season' in our sports section on Page 28.

£2 million boost for new Gaelic dictionary

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO) is to receive over £2m of extra funding. First Minister Alex Salmond announced on a visit to the Gaelic college on Skye college on Friday.

The cash will fund the development of a comprehensive Scottish Gaelic dictionary - *Faclair na Gàidhlig*.

Mr Salmond also announced £100,000 to support a National Sound Archive for Scotland and £25,000 for the FilmG 2014, Scotland's national Gaelic film competition.

The National Library of Scotland is working with SMO-based Toobar an Dualchais to digitise, archive and preserve audio recordings from across Scotland dating back more than 80 years.

The First Minister said: 'We're committed to working with a range of other public bodies to create a secure future for the Gaelic language.'

Police investigate Sleet thefts

TWO properties in Sleet were broken into overnight last week with a number of high value items stolen.

An Apple desktop computer, a Honda 10 horse power outboard motor and a number of power tools were stolen from a shed and motor vehicle in Camuscross overnight between Thursday July 25 and the next morning.

A mountain bike, several power tools and internal fittings were taken from an address in Drumfearn on the same night.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact police on 101.

Fort assault trial postponed

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of punching a man in a Fort William pub in the town's sheriff court was postponed on Monday until September 24 due to a lack of court time.

Alexander Williamson, of 4 Glenmallee Terrace, denies assaulting the man on March 3.

The 23 year-old is also accused of headbutting a police officer during the incident.

Glenelg 'drams' cancelled again

ONE OF the West Highlands smallest music festivals, 'Drams in the Field' at Glenelg, will not go ahead for the second year in succession. Organiser Charlie MacDonald and his team had hoped to secure sufficient funding to stage the event but unfortunately this has not proved possible.

'Drams' volunteer Mary Ann Chisholm said: 'Being such a small village we were just not able to raise enough.'

Hill death mars rescue team award

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team gains Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

CELEBRATIONS to mark a major award for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were tinged with tragedy on Saturday when a man died on a Ben Nevis charity walk.

Retired civil servant Gerard Boyle collapsed below the Half-way Lochan as the ceremony in the team base in Fort William got underway just after midday.

Lochaber MRT secretary Miller Harris told 120 waiting guests, which included many past team members and leaders: 'There's a rescue ongoing on the mountain. Some people may have to disappear very shortly. We have a helicopter coming in over Ben Nevis at the moment.'

Highest honour
Proceedings were delayed as Lochaber MRT leader John Stevenson and police co-ordinated the rescue effort with a helicopter crew from RAF Lossiemouth. The team was put on alert but were not required.

Mr Boyle received attention from two off-duty doctors climbing behind his party but nothing could be done.

It is understood a woman with south Lochaber connections was in the medical group who tried to aid the 51 year-old, who was from the Glasgow area.

A local source told *The Oban Times*: 'She was up with friends and they came across a man either dead or dying and they tried to help but to no avail. It was a spoiled day for them all round.'

At the rescue centre on Ben Industrial Estate, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, bestowed the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest honour for volunteer groups - on behalf of the monarch.

He said: 'Without regard to their own safety this team of volunteers save many lives and for that we in Lochaber should be incredibly proud and grateful.'

Superintendent John Chisholm, who worked closely with the team as Chief Inspector for Lochaber, said: 'Without the support and assistance of mountain rescue our job would be nigh impossible. I congratulate Lochaber Mountain Rescue team in achieving this magnificent award today and I am delighted with the support they provide to the police service.'

He added: 'Sod's Law dictates there would be a callout in the hills today.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson said: 'The team has done fantastic work since being formed 40 years ago. It is the biggest team in the UK and answers over 100 callouts every year.'

'The number of people that do things voluntarily is absolutely amazing. I am so pleased the team is being recognised today. The award is equivalent to a MBE to an individual.'

John Hutchison, chairman of the John Muir Trust which owns much of Ben Nevis, nominated the team for the award.

Mr Hutchison, also executive director of the Nevis Partnership and a qualified summer mountain leader, praised the team's commitment.

He said: 'The real job you do is having the skill and courage and being available to get up the hill to save your fellow human beings.'

Deputy team leader Donald Paterson, whose nine-year-old daughter Cassie was among the guests, thanked all supporters and team members past and present.

He said: 'On behalf of the team I am extremely proud and delighted to receive this award.'

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said ahead of the event: 'This is a singular and, the most senior, recognition of their quite remarkable life protecting and life saving commitment - in a highly personal yet hugely professional way. Our gratitude and admiration to all involved on this landmark day.'



John Hutchison, Miller Harris, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Inspector John Chisholm, Donald Paterson and Skye, and Dave Thompson MSP celebrate the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. Mr Hutchison and Lochiel were presented with statuettes depicting mountain rescuers from days past. 20_31mountain02

Pipers celebrate Scottish Championship grade win

FORT William-based Glen Mor Pipe Band were named the top band in their grade at the Scottish Championships in Dumbarton on Saturday.

The band came through a competition with some 48 other teams from across Scotland to be named best in the grade 4B category, the first time they have won a national title.

Pipe major Willie Evans said it was 'massive' for them to win the prestigious prize.

He said: 'It's a huge boost to the band. We've been competing for a number of years and we've always been close but not quite been good enough to win.'

'The band were just ecstatic afterwards. We've got a few members who've only just joined so it's great for them as well.'

The band also came second in the British Championships earlier in the year, and must fancy their chances the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow later this month.

Mr Evans said: 'We're just hoping to qualify. If we can do that it would be really good for the band.'

Fish farmers come to aid of Plockton sailors

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club's main safety and rescue boat has been fitted a £4,000 replacement outboard engine thanks to Scottish Sea Farms.

The cash came from the company's Heart of The Community Trust, which is currently accepting applications. The club has been an integral part of the local community since its foundation 80 years ago.

Treasurer Douglas Hamilton was 'absolutely delighted' with the donation.

He said: 'Our membership has increased steadily over the last few years thanks to a range

Crofters' group oppose Barra plan

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has criticised the Scottish Government's decision to impose a marine Special Area of Conservation (mSAC) on the Sound of Barra.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse announced last week that the area, which lies between Barra and South Uist, will go forward to the European Commission for inclusion in plans for an EU-wide network of SACs.

SCF director Roddy MacDonald said: 'SCF is disappointed that the Minister has chosen to push ahead with it in the face of local opposition rather than working for local buy-in.'

Golf day raises more than £6,000 for charity

AN ANNUAL golf tournament at Fort William raised £6,703 for local charity STAR For Harris on Sunday - topping last year's total by more than £2,000.

The course was packed out for the fourth annual event, with every available tee slot taken in the Texas scramble.

The day is held in memory of Lochaber baby Harris Ross who lost his long battle with an inoperable brain tumour aged just 16 months in 2010. His parents Tanya and Allan, who founded STAR for Harris, thanked everyone who took part on the day and the businesses who helped with sponsorship.

Tanya said: 'The day was such an incredible success. We really enjoyed catching up and meeting everyone at the 12th hole bar.'

'Particular thanks to Jimmy, Neil and Gerry for organising it and to the many volunteers who helped run it - we are so grateful to you all.'

A trio of Mark Rydings, Tommy Disher and Billy Glen won the men's

competition after a close finish with David Matheson, Neil Young and Ewan MacColl.

The ladies event was equally close, with Iona Cameron, Hazel Cameron and Gail Anderson taking a narrow win over Paula Halas, Frances MacTavish and Kathleen Leitch.

After the golf was finished, an auction was held which helped boost the funds. Prizes included Wet Wet Wet tickets, golf rounds at top golf courses and necklaces handmade by Harris' ward friend Shannon.



Tanya and Allan, along with Harris' grandparents Jimmy and Bridie Ross, with the cheque from the event

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Flash floods hit Lorn

Worst flooding near Bonawe in 60 years

FLASH flooding, lightning and twisters battered North Lorn on Monday evening, causing rivers to break their banks and blocking roads in what's thought to be the area's worst floods in 60 years.

A sudden cloudburst at around 5pm caused chaos, particularly between Benderloch, Barcaldine and Bonawe, with several sections of the road made impassable by the torrents of water coming off the hills.

Conservative estimates suggest rivers rose by an average of eight to 10 feet in places, with streams turning into white water rapids as the lochs, Dubh Loch Beag, Dubh Loch Mor and Lochan Uaine above Achnaba were overwhelmed by the storm.

Ross McNab watched the swirling storms forming from Loch Eive.

He said: 'I could see all the strange clouds and thought to myself at the time 'looks like there might be tornados in that' and seen what looked like a big one forming over Connel/Benderloch. Thank god it never touched down.'

Meanwhile Keith Carmichael's photograph of the tornado near Kilvaree between Oban and

Lightning strike hits community hydro scheme



Keith Carmichael's photograph of the tornado near Kilvaree between Oban and Connel has attracted more than 500 likes so far on The Oban Times Facebook

Connel has attracted more than 500 likes so far on our Facebook page.

Among the worst affected by

the floods was Craig McGougan, who returned home after work to find his brand new garden at Achnaba destroyed when the

river next to his house burst its banks.

While the full extent of the damage is to be determined, he is a footbridge and a wheelie bin down, with both washed away. Thankfully, the house was not damaged.

The director of Neil McGougan Builders said: 'We built the house higher up in case the tide was high on the shore. I didn't expect this.'

Neighbour Alan Langley said the flood was '18 inches' from completely submerging Craig's sheds, which are six foot high.

The rivers next to Ardcattan Parish Church burst their banks, flooding the road, with the bridge at Alt an t-Siomain among those washed over.

Kirsty Petre, who lives at Tigh an t-Siomain, returned home to find her home unscathed, but said: 'The last time there was such an overflow was in 1953, when the road was washed away at Achnaba Church.'

Sections of the Gleann Salach road were transformed into a waterfall, washing debris onto the road and down river. Barcaldine residents also had to contend with a flooded road and inundated gardens. Sections of

the forest at Am Maoilean were overwhelmed too, with Dearg Abhainn at one point spanning more than 40 feet across the forest floor.

Councillor Iain MacDonald, who lives at Bonawe, was a victim of a lightning strike, which struck a community hydro station next to his house, knocking power out at his home.

He said: 'I alerted the council to the flooding straight away and they are to inspect the culverts immediately. There's a few lessons to be learned.'

'The council will be cautious after bridges were washed away on Mull last year because of flash flooding.'

Argyll and Bute Council said technicians were checking the roads on Tuesday.

Right - Aimee Whittaker's photograph shows how the flood quickly submerged Craig McGougan's garden at Achnaba. Logs and other forest debris was washed down the river by the floods. For more pictures and a video, see www.obantimes.co.uk.



Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Van driver charged with dangerous driving in Taynuilt

A WHITE van man has been accused of dangerous driving in Taynuilt after allegedly tailgating other vehicles and carrying out dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.

The 32-year-old Ford Transit driver, from the Glasgow area, was driving through the village at around 6pm last Friday.

The man is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.



The Royal Navy helicopter at Castle Stalker.

Rescue helicopter winches patient off roof of Appin castle

A MAN who took ill while visiting Appin's Castle Stalker was airlifted by a Royal Navy helicopter in a dramatic rescue on Tuesday - at what was also Oban Lifeboat's 1,000th call out.

The man was winched into the aircraft from the roof of the famous tourist attraction before being rushed to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

Fiona Holland, a spokeswoman for the Navy's search and rescue helicopter HMS Gannet, confirmed the 'unusual' call-out was not the result of an accident and instead was caused by a medical condition the middle-aged man had.

She said: 'A doctor had gone to the island and had made the man comfortable before the winching

took place.'

She declined to comment on what the medical emergency was and the man's condition was not known at the time of going to press.

HMS Gannet was airborne at 2.25pm, arriving at Castle Stalker just before 3pm. The crew spent almost an hour there before winching the casualty on board.

Oban lifeboat crew also attended and secured the casualty onto a stretcher before carrying out the delicate operation of moving the man from the upper level of the castle to the roof to be winched onto the helicopter.

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Mother's Barra cycle to pay daughter's treatment

A MUM with close family ties to Barra will cycle around the island to help pay for treatment for her daughter, who was born with a paralysing neurological condition.

Juliet Galloway will travel to the Outer Hebrides on August 6 and, after visiting mum Dolina, she will hop on her bike and pedal her way 14 miles around the island for the Alexa Rett Cure charity, which helps fund her daughter's treatment.

Juliet's daughter, Alexa, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome at just six months old last February and since, the 43 year old has been working hard to raise awareness of the condition, a condition that affects the development of the brain.

Typically affecting girls,

the disease mostly prevents verbal communication, can stunt growth and around half of those affected cannot walk, with some prone to seizures.

Juliet, who lives in Devon but whose mum is originally from Barra, said the island was the natural choice for the challenge, which aims to raise £1,000 to help pay for a specialist physiotherapy course to help Alexa learn to walk.

She said: 'I want to help my little girl reach her full potential. Although she has Rett syndrome which can rob her of her ability to talk, walk and use her hands, research has proven that girls who have intensive therapies such as hydrotherapy and physio do better. We need to raise £1,000

to pay for half of the cost of an intensive physio therapy programme, where Alexa will get a three week course of daily therapy to develop her core muscle strength and co-ordination and balance.

'Alexa must move her muscles and keep moving on a daily basis to limit future problems such as osteoporosis, scoliosis, brittle bones, and dystonia. She is only two and to prevent her from being in a wheelchair it is important that she gets much needed therapy frequently.'

Juliet's father Jeffrey Alexander, will stay with Dolina while Juliet does her charity cycle. To donate, go online and visit justgiving.com/local/project/ALEXARETTURE.



Juliet with daughter Alexa during a visit to Barra last year.

Council halves spend on hospitality

NEARLY half a million pounds was spent on hospitality by Argyll and Bute Council over the past four years - but the annual spend has halved in that same period.

Figures obtained by *The Oban Times* under freedom of information show that the authority spent £80,444 during the 2012/13 financial year on hospitality, taking the total for the past four years to £448,785.

Of the total sum, £52,200 was accounted for through 'internal recharges' for catering, while 'external costs' for hospitality for the last financial year totalled £28,244 - the vast majority of which the council says goes towards local businesses.

The council's community services department was the most expensive department in the 2012/13 year, accounting for £31,000. Customer services was least expensive at £5,612.

The council says hospitality is 'only provided when there are meetings with external organisations, where it is cheaper to provide catering than allow employees or members to claim subsistence allowances,' but only when employees or councillors 'are not at their normal place of work or as part of training courses'.

It added: 'Taken both internal and external together, the total of £80,444 is equivalent to 6.3p for every £100 of employee costs or 3.5p for every £100

of the net cost of services.'

Previous years saw the council spend £162,825 in 2009/10, £110,085 in 10/11 and £95,431 in 11/12.

Most departments have consistently lowered their hospitality spend, but the two hospitality bills to increase this year was for elected members, whose spend increased from £12,171 in 2011/12 to £13,557 in 2012/13, and for customer services, up from £5,081 to £5,562.

Best saver in the same period was development and infrastructure, which shaved 34 per cent from its costs by reducing annual spend by £6,358. Community Services' reduction of £8,200 represented a 17 per cent drop.

Rare whisky bottle is raffled for £1

A BOTTLE of rare Oban Lifeboat fundraising whisky - which retailed at £195 a time - is up for grabs in a £1 a ticket prize draw.

Organised by Oban Lifeboat Fundraising Committee, the raffle was announced as Edward and Fiona Robertson, of The Green Welly Stop, Tyndrum, handed over a cheque for £12,716.92 to Andrew Mead of the Oban Lifeboat crew.

The business had sold bottles of the whisky online and have made a personal donation.

The whisky fundraising venture was born because Oban Distillery donated a 250 litre hoghead of whisky

to the lifeboat in the 1990s for use in a future fundraising exercise once the 18 year-old malt matured.

So far, almost £40,000 has been made for the charity that saves lives at sea by releasing 240 bottles for sale via the Green Welly Stop, the Birchwood Filling Station, Oban, and Mulberry Bank Auctions in Glasgow.

The retail price was set at £195 after two of the limited edition bottles sold at auction for £260 each.

Anyone interested in buying prize draw tickets should contact Oban Lifeboat fundraising committee secretary Moira Kerr on 01631 563733.



Andrew Mead of Oban Lifeboat accepts a cheque for £12,700 from The Green Welly Stop's Fiona and Edward Robertson.

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Isle of Seil mobile phone signal petition gathers momentum

A PETITION demanding reliable mobile phone signal on the Isle of Seil is gaining momentum before being sent to local politicians.

The letter to be sent to MSP Michael Russell and MP Alan Reid calls for some of the UK Government's £150 million for improved mobile coverage to be spent on Seil. It states: 'Lack of a reliable mobile phone signal

in this community (Seil Island) is damaging the tourist trade and putting the lives of water sports participants at risk by hampering communications with the emergency services.'

Signatories include Donald Campbell, who said: 'It is disgraceful this area, in this day and age, does not have a mobile phone signal. It is long overdue!'

Murdoch Baxter added: 'Seil is a community of around 500 folk who are greatly disadvantaged by lack of any mobile signal. This has major safety, health, business and convenience detriments and unnecessarily and sadly makes the island out-of-touch, out-of-date and at risk.'

Pat Blunsden said: 'If the landline is down or unavailable

there's no way of getting help in an emergency. If I break down in my car at night on an isolated road how do I get help?'

The petition, started by Nick Bowles, had reached 85 signatures at the time of going to press.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I have been active on this subject since my election in May 2011 not

just about Seil but with regard to the poor quality of service throughout Argyll.'

'I am pressing the Mobile Operators Association to ensure that my constituents can enjoy the same levels of service and coverage as those in other parts of the UK.'

'Not to do so is simply unacceptable and is 'ripping off' their customers who are paying

for a service they are not receiving.'

'In many rural areas the mobile phone is a lifeline and is proven to save lives. The time for excuses has run out and the mobile phone companies now have to give serious thought to investing in Argyll and Bute.'

'They should not be rolling out 4g until 3g is available to all.'

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, added: 'As the petition says, the UK Government has allocated £150 million to improve mobile phone coverage in rural areas. This contract has been awarded to Arqiva.'

'I've written to Arqiva asking that Seil be included in their plans and have also asked them for a meeting or a telephone discussion regarding this.'

Anti-fish farm campaigner loses case

AN ANTI-fish farming campaigner - described as a 'zealot' - has been ordered to pay tens of thousands of dollars to one of the world's biggest aquaculture firms.

Don Staniford had previously won a defamation case brought against him in the Canadian courts by fish farmers Mainstream Canada, owned by Norwegian-based Cermaq which also has operations in Scotland.

Mr Staniford has visited the west coast of Scotland on several occasions, most recently speaking at a planning hearing about a proposed fish farm off Gometra, near Mull.

But Mainstream appealed the trial judge's ruling from 2012, claiming Mr Staniford's statements against the fish farming industry were not backed up by facts.

Three appeal judges recently upheld Mainstream's claim - leaving Staniford with his website shut down, \$75,000 the poorer and gagged from repeating 52 statements the court deemed defamatory on any future occasion.

In his deliberations, appeal judge Justice Tysoc quoted trial judge Elaine Adair as stating Mr Staniford was 'akin to a zealot' and 'virtually anything that conflicts with his view and vision is wrong, bad, disgraceful and worse Mr Staniford seems incapable of conceding he might be wrong on some things' and 'he cruelly and publicly mocks people who have a different point of view.'

Mr Staniford slammed this decision as a 'slap in the face of freedom of speech'. He said: 'This shocking judgment will have a chilling effect on all campaigners speaking out on environmental and social justice issues. The wide-ranging permanent injunction has huge implications for freedom of speech and cannot be allowed to stand.'

'I will fight this Norwegian multinational all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada via an appeal.'

'The truth always wins out in the end.'

Police called to ferry queue fight

POLICE were called to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal in Oban after two men were reported for fighting in the car lanes as they waited to board a ferry to the Isle of Mull.

The men, a 29 year old from Oban and a 26 year old from Mull were reported to police at around 7.25pm on Saturday.

Argyll estate plans go on hold

Muckairn Estate mothballs £6 million plan until fish farm decision is known

A MULTI-million pound redevelopment of Muckairn Estate has been put on hold - and could be cancelled entirely - pending the outcome of an application for a fish farm on Loch Etive.

Estate owner Keith Macmillan had already embarked on plans for a £6million redevelopment of Muckairn, which would provide 25 construction jobs over four years, but has mothballed the work after saying Dawnfresh's proposals for a 10-cage fish farm at Sailean Ruadh would 'undermine' the scheme.

While the first phase of the work is complete, Mr Macmillan has said he would find it impossible to carry on to rebuild the castle and other buildings while there is a possibility of a new fish farm on the loch.

He said: 'It is always a shame to suspend work on a project after so much time and effort has been put in by so many talented people but the prospect of a huge industrialised fish farm right on our doorstep seriously undermines the reasons for restoring the estate to its former glory.'

The estate currently employs four people and Mr Macmillan said he could not guarantee those jobs if the plans for the fish farm are approved.

The location at Sailean Ruadh directly borders the estate and the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Airds Bay.

Phase one of the restoration of the Muckairn Estate, which began three years ago saw two bridges replaced over the Allt Nathais river, the demolition of two of the houses, remaking the estate roads, providing a new water supply and restoring the

"It is always a shame to suspend work on a project after so much time and effort has been put in."

Muckairn Estate owner Keith Macmillan

walled garden.

Dawnfresh's application, meanwhile, has already attracted hundreds of representations with objections and letters of support both from the local area and from as far afield as England and Spain.

Among the supporters is Alastair Salvesson, Dawnfresh's owner, who represents himself as a general member of the public.

He says: 'SEPA and SNH have already approved the application for a larger fin fish farm on this site so environmental concerns have been covered.'

'Lice have never been a concern on farmed fish in the brackish water of Loch Etive. Dawnfresh Farming employ a lot of people in this area both directly and by using local contractors and will be employing more after this application is approved and this benefits the local economy. I therefore strongly support this application.'

Thieves ransack Oban laundrette

THE LAUNDRETTE in Oban's Stevenson Street has been ransacked by thieves after a break-in during the early hours of last Friday.

Oban police are seeking witnesses to the incident, which occurred around 2.50am, when the front door was forced open and a small amount of money

was stolen from inside.

Police are following a positive line of enquiry, however anyone who witnessed the break-in, saw anything suspicious in the area at the time or knows anything about the incident is encouraged to contact DC Stuart McNee at Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.



Keith Macmillan's plans for the redevelopment of Muckairn Castle, above, have been put on hold pending the outcome of Dawnfresh's application to build a new fish farm on Loch Etive.

Seagulls and rubbish create nightmare for Oban residents

Overflowing bin problem for four years

AN OVERFLOWING rubbish bin is making life a nightmare for residents on Oban's Gallanach Road.

The offending bin sits next to Cardingmill Bay pontoons and is meant for use by visiting boats - but the bin only gets emptied twice a week leaving litter scattered all over the pavement during busy periods.

The situation can get so bad on a Monday or Friday morning, just before the bins are emptied, that residents are woken up at 4am by birds attacking the rubbish bags.

Local resident Elizabeth Mason said: 'The seagulls start first thing, they burst the bags up and the rubbish ends up across the road scattered everywhere, including my front garden.'

'This has been going on for three or four years - ever since that bin was put there - from April to October. When it is

quiet you might not get much but from now until September it is just a nightmare.'

'It gets emptied on Monday and by Wednesday it is overflowing. During West Highland Yachting Week it is absolutely horrendous.'

'This is just July - we have got the rest of the summer to go through yet. It's not fair, nobody seems to be doing anything about it.'

'You want to encourage visitors to come here but people are coming into this street and just walking into that mess. It infuriates me.'

Argyll and Bute Council's bin men have to use shovels to clear the pavement of rubbish around the bin. 'I have gone across myself with a brush and a shovel,' added Elizabeth.

Oban Bay Community Berthing (OBCB), which runs the Cardingmill Bay Landing

Stage, pay the council to have the bin there.

Duncan Martin, OBCB director, said: 'We have it emptied twice a week and that isn't enough. It will be picked up three times a week for the next month.'

'The vast majority of the rubbish is nothing to do with us - it is cars and campervans stopping - there is far more rubbish going into that bin than could ever come from our boats.'

'But it was a mistake we made, it should have been picked up three times a week from late June and we will have to sort that out for next year. We know it has become overfull and I agree it has been an absolute eyesore recently.'

Right - Angry and frustrated resident Elizabeth Mason beside the overflowing bin next to her home. 16_131rubbish01



Puffins come out on top in west of Iona seabird count

HIGHLIGHTS of a recent bird count around the Isle of Iona's outlying islets included 350 puffins, other tracks beside freshwater pools and an excavated burrow containing manx shearwater feathers.

The count was organised by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) ranger service alongside members of Mull Bird Club, Seil Natural History Society and the Scottish Wildlife Trust in Lorn and Mid-Argyll. The group set off aboard the Birthe Marie of Alternative Boat Hire Iona. Their first stop was the island of Soa for a thorough count of the fulmar and shag colonies,

including ringing a number of birds. It was here the other tracks were found as well as the burrow with manx shearwater feathers. Ranger Emily Wilkins said: 'We hope the birds will come back to breed in future.'

'Choppy sea conditions presented quite a challenge but 350 puffins were counted in addition to plenty of guillemots and razorbills, cormorants, shags and gulls around Stac Mhic Mhurchaidh and Reidh Eilean to the west of Iona. Regular counts enable NTS to monitor the health of seabird populations and we're grateful for the help of local experts in achieving this.'

Drink driver jailed for six months at Oban

Disqualified driver admits 'wee dram'

A MAN who drove while disqualified, with no insurance and then failed to provide a breath sample to police, has been sentenced to six months in prison.

Derek Hughes of 44 Bispham Avenue, Leyland, admitted in Oban Sheriff Court on June 25 to the charges which took place on June 21 this year.

Prosecutor fiscal John Service explained to the court last Tuesday how Oban police spotted the 51 year old driving into Croft Road. When they approached him in his car they could smell alcohol and he told them he had drunk 'a wee dram'.

He said: 'He was taken to Oban police office where he was required to provide a breath specimen. The first attempt was unsuccessful, but at the second he was puffing his cheeks out and no breath was expelled.'

'After a third attempt when he still refused to provide a sample and claimed the mouth pipe was blocked, he was charged by police.'

It was then later discovered he had been disqualified from driving and therefore had no insurance.

Defence agent Laura McManus said: 'It was an impulsive decision.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said he had no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence. Hughes was also banned from driving for eight years.

Gathering joins with school to create mini games

IN A BID to find the Highland games champions of the future, the Argyllshire Gathering has joined forces with Oban High School to put on a 'mini games' day after the Oban Highland Games.

Highland dancers and pipers. The Argyllshire Gathering has also donated a solid silver cup for the best junior heavyweight in the school.

The gathering's senior steward Jon Strickland said there would be too many pupils to hold the events on the same day as the Argyllshire Gathering (August 22) and denied that the move was to appease those who see the games as elitist.

Mr Strickland said: 'We are trying to increase school participation, so we will share our facilities with the school.'

few years that most of the heavy events are dominated by overseas nationals and non-locals, so we are trying to encourage participation in these events at junior level.'

Pointing out that the gathering already funds half of the junior piping tutelage at Oban, Lochgilhead and Inveraray, which has seen a boom in the number of young Argyll pipers, Mr Strickland added: 'What you can do for the brain, you can do for the brawn.'

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Oban High School would like to thank

the Argyllshire Gathering for its continuing support. In recent years we have worked together to ensure that our youngsters have been given the opportunity to gain an experience of our heritage through participating in and supporting the games.'

'This year we take this experience a step further by running our own Highland games. The heaves tuition, the sponsorship of events and the provision of all the marquees and flags from the Gathering will ensure that we can now spark the interest of every pupil in the school for our local heritage.'

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Fort get off on the right foot

'I felt we were the better side over the 90 minutes, especially for the first hour'

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM warmed up for their Highland League opener against Turriff at Clagan Park this Saturday with a morale-boosting win over Muir of Ord Rovers to march into the AJG Parcels North of Scotland Cup second round.

A solitary Darren Quigg strike early in the second proved enough in the end - and Fort should have scored more in a game they dominated until late on.

But Danny Conlon's men hung on to claim a deserved victory, one which the manager

gratefully received with the new league season looming.

He told the Oban Times: 'I felt we were the better side over the 90 minutes, especially for the first hour.'

'Fitness is the main issue just now. We had six new players on Saturday and because our pre-season has been so disrupted some did not even know each other - so taking everything into consideration I'm reasonably pleased.'

'Keith Millar was full of energy and I think he will bring a lot to us while Gordon MacCarroll's work rate was super. He could have had a couple of goals in the first half.'

He added: 'We will go up a

FOOTBALL

couple of levels playing Turriff this week and the boys are well aware of what to expect. It's going to be a real hard game.'

With ex-Oban Saints and Dumbarton player Keith Millar a natural playmaker in midfield and former Sleat and Strath striker Gordon MacCarroll prominent up front Fort created plenty of chances against the North Caledonian League side.

Andy Maclean's 18-yard drive on 22 minutes was saved well by Stephen, then the keeper stopped Gordon MacCarroll's near post header from a Sean Grant corner.



Midfield maestro: Fort's Keith Millar, left, only has eyes for the ball as Daryl Henderson moves in to challenge. 20_03160010

Iain MacLellan almost opened Fort's account in spectacular style with a dipping 30-yard volley which crashed off the crossbar on 44 minutes.

Shortly after the break it was 1-0, Darren Quigg firing home

after Stephen failed to hold Sean Grant's long range free-kick.

Rovers' sharper match fitness began to tell and Daniel MacLennan's 25-yarder on 66 minutes looked a scorer until diminutive Fort keeper Robin

Harvey brilliantly turned it round the post.

MacLennan sliced through the Fort defence shortly after but could get no power in his shot.

Back came Fort and a great through ball from Millar found

Robson wide left whose fierce angled drive demanded a fine stop from Stephen.

With time slipping away MacLennan powered down the right but his square ball found no takers and Fort held on.

Kilchoan lose out to fit Mull side

FOOTBALL

KILCHOAN FC fell to a disappointing 5-0 loss to Mull on Saturday afternoon.

The home side started well and both sides were creating chances, but it took until the 22nd minute for Mull to open the scoring. Kilchoan's task became doubled tough when they conceded again before half time after a ball over the top of the defence.

The Ardnamurchan side nearly pulled one back straight from kick off in the second half. But as the half wore on Mull's superior fitness came to the fore as they rattled off three late goals to take a comfortable victory.

Good conditions for time trial

CYCLING

WEST HIGHLAND Wheelers enjoyed great conditions for their 25-mile time trial to Glenfinnan and back to Corpach last week with dry roads and light winds.

Results (PB denotes personal best): 1. Stevie Martin 57:26 PB; 2. Alec Kitson 61:53 PB; 3. John Shirley 64:07; 4. Steve Bradley 66:40 PB; 5. Mairi Meldrum 67:03; 6. Sile Morris 68:35; 7. Marek Polowianuk 68:55; 8. Donnie Meldrum

Lochaber Rugby Club looking for new players



Lochaber Rugby Football Club: raring to go as new season looms. 20_0317rugby01

NEWLY INSTALLED Lochaber RFC captain Mike McLeish is looking forward to the new season and welcomes any new players who wish to join the Banavie side.

Mr McLeish, who came to Lochaber last year and works for Marine Harvest at their factory on Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, hails from the home of rugby, Melrose.

He told The Oban Times at training: 'I think if we can get a strong squad we can do well. We have a good team but we need more boys to come in to provide cover if we get any injuries.'

The Lochaber coaching team, fully trained by the SRU, are currently getting prepared for the new season ahead.

The club boast excellent facilities for players and members in the clubhouse, including an eight-station multi-gym, exer-

RUGBY

cise bike, running machine and stepper to aid players fitness, together with multiple shower rooms.

Lochaber RFC received its Positive Coaching Award from the SRU in May this year and is determined to build for the future through commitment and hard work.

Mr McLeish added: 'We are always looking for new players and this is the perfect time of the year to join us. In the future the club aims to set achievable goals and work hard to achieve these, then set new targets - but never forget where we have come from.'

Training is held every Tuesday and Thursday night. Detailed information can be found at www.lochaberrfc.co.uk

Kilmallie beat nearest rivals in race to North Division One title

SHINTY

KILMALLIE took a giant leap towards the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title with a hard fought 1-0 win over closest rivals Beaulieu at Canal Parks.

With manager Duncan Kelly on holiday it was up to assistant coach Donald Lamont to inspire the troops - and they responded with a gutsy performance full of flair and commitment.

The Caol side never had it easy against a dangerous Beaulieu outfit and it took a sterling defensive effort to shackle the visitors' forward line.

Martin Stewart, Martin Graham and Michael Rodger - who was switched to half-back for the suspended Peter Carmichael - were all outstanding, while Liam MacDonald in midfield must have covered every blade of grass.

Martin Munro was pitched in against Scotland under-21 internationalist Conor Cormack but the diminutive forward, himself recently selected for the Scotland under-17 squad, was never overawed and scored the priceless 29th minute winner.

Kilmallie, though, were good value for the win on chances created. Goalkeeper Kevin Toye had few saves to make - unlike his opposite number Mackay Murray who pulled off a string of impressive stops to keep Beaulieu in the hunt.

The visitors opened the stronger but Kilmallie fought back, and when Murray saved John Stewart's shot Munro was on the ball in a flash to slam home the rebound.

Murray brilliantly kept out three Liam MacDonald efforts as Kilmallie turned the screw but Beaulieu knew it was win or bust and Kevin Toye had to look sharp to knock away Barry MacDonald's effort on 50 minutes.

Stevie MacAllister came on

for the injured Liam Cameron before the resolute Murray saved from Munro and MacDonald in quick succession.

The Beaulieu keeper was in action again to deny Stewart and deflect a trademark Grant MacKenzie thunderbolt wide.

The visitors still carrying menace and almost snatched an equaliser right at the death, but the impressive Rodger blocked Sean Stewart's close range effort.

Donald Lamont was a happy man at full time and paid tribute to his players.

He told The Oban Times pitchside: 'It was do or die today and Beaulieu were in the same position. At 1-0 they could have sneaked one but the whole team played well and I can't fault any of them.'

'It was a very tight game and

Beaulieu are a very good side. This means a lot to us. Even if Beaulieu win both their games in hand we are still two points ahead. We are also 32 goals better off - there is no way they will make that up in four games, so that's worth another point.'

Disappointed Beaulieu coach Stephen Maclean said at full time: 'Our keeper was clearly busier but this a tough one to take. 'Kilmallie having the two home games against us was a massive advantage - they are the only two league games we have lost all season.'

'But we are a young and resilient bunch and we'll come again - we had nine players under 23 out there today.'

| Marine Harvest North Division 1 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Kilmallie | 13 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 63 | 8 | 24 |
| Beaulieu | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 35 | 12 | 18 |
| Skye | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 28 | 25 | 14 |
| Caberfeidh | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 30 | 25 | 13 |
| Strathglass | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 39 | 4 |
| Inverness | 15 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 14 | 75 | 3 |



Brian MacKinnon shows great stick work to hold off a challenge from Doug Blain. 20_0318shinty01



Nominated pairs at the Railway Club

Martin Keenan, Duncan Gillies and Tam Rodgers won the Millies nominated pairs competition at the Railway Bowling Club in Inverlochy. The winners are pictured with runners up Agnes Thain, Wilson Thain and Bill Gibbons and members of the Millies family



Good turnout for the Harlequin Pairs

On the hottest day of the year so far at Kinlochleven Bowling Club, there was a good turnout for the Harlequin Pairs with all the games very keenly contested. Above, winners Gogs Hamilton and Liz Kennedy receive the shield and prizes from Hugh and Kate Dailly, who have sponsored the competition for the last 16 years. Runners up were Alan MacDonald and Emma Norval.

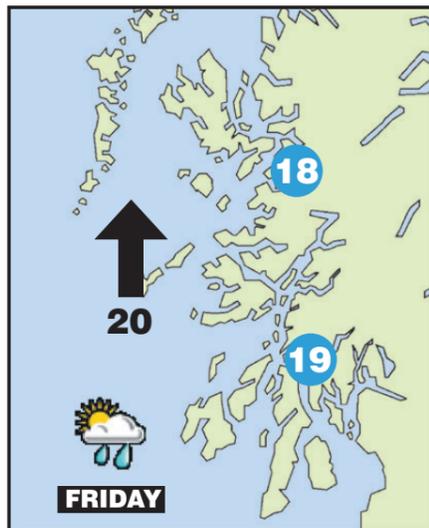
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 16°C to 19°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

Weekend Outlook Thundery showers
Winds light southerly
Temperatures 14°C to 17°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, August 1, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 01.18 2.8 07.10 1.8 13.43 2.8 20.09 1.9 | |
| Fri | 02.49 2.9 08.26 1.7 14.53 3.0 21.47 1.8 | |
| Sat | 03.41 3.1 09.33 1.6 15.43 3.2 22.36 1.6 | |
| Sun | 04.18 3.3 10.21 1.4 16.24 3.4 23.13 1.5 | |
| Mon | 04.54 3.5 11.00 1.2 17.02 3.6 23.45 1.3 | |
| Tues | 05.31 3.7 11.36 1.0 17.39 3.8 *** ** | |
| Wed | 00.15 1.2 06.06 3.8 12.11 0.9 18.13 3.9 | |

| Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban) | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|
| Ardrishaig | -5.35 | Mallaig | +0.25 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Portree | +0.55 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | Dover | +5.30 |
| Lochboisdale | +0.30 | | |

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