

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Welcome return of flying boat

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SPORTS FEATURE

Camanachd Cup Final 2013

Green light for Soroba Lane pedestrian bridge

A PEDESTRIAN bridge is to be built at Soroba Lane, Oban, after councillors unanimously agreed planning permission on the site.

The plans will see a bridge built specifically for pedestrians while the current bridge is replaced with a bridge for vehicular access only. It will have armco on either side and will be single carriageway.

Richard Kerr, planning officer at Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The mixture of big vehicles and pedestrians using this bridge is undesirable.'

A new planning application had to be submitted for the bridge after an up-to-date examination of the ground conditions revealed the previous design would not be viable.

Villagers to get say on Islay mast plan

THE PROPOSED erection of a 60-metre mast next to the lighthouse on Orsay Island, off Islay, will be discussed in the village that has voiced most opposition to the project.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee will meet in Portnahaven Village Hall on Monday at 11am to discuss the controversial proposal by Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables.

The energy company's plan to erect the anemometer mast on the scenic spot for a period of six years was previously deferred by the planning committee.

Portnahaven postmaster and community councillor Alastair Redman has previously compared the proposed mast to 'an upside down, burnt-out Christmas tree'.

SSE Renewables said the mast was vitally important for its proposed Islay Offshore Windfarm.

BT begins new jobs recruitment

AROUND 90 of the 150 new jobs being created by BT in Scotland to support its fibre broadband network will be based in the Highlands and Islands.

The telecommunications company announced the start of its recruitment drive on Tuesday and is seeking new employees in the Oban and Fort William areas.



Double trouble! Elaine C Smith and Oban resident Elaine Smith treat Oban director Peter MacQueen to a shave in the town's Boutique Salon on Tuesday. Elaine C Smith is in town performing at the Corran Halls tonight, as well as filming a new TV show, A Burdz Eye View.

Close shave as Elaines connect in Oban

THERE was more than one Oban connection when comedienne and Rab C Nesbit star Elaine C Smith came to town this week - including another Elaine Smith.

The stand-up was in town on Tuesday ahead of her show, *Still Standing... Just at the Corran Halls* tonight (Thursday), doubling up her visit by recording a new show for STV, *A Burdz Eye View*.

Not only did Elaine C meet her namesake,

Elaine Smith - who will open a barbershop in George Street this November - but the director of the TV programme is Peter MacQueen, who is originally from Oban.

After toying with the idea of shaving off Peter's much-loved beard with her fellow Elaine, 'Mary Doll' took off to Oban Livestock Centre to film a segment for the show. She said: 'I always say you never see ourselves depicted properly in Scotland, so for my show I'm meeting people who live in

Oban and particularly the women who work there.'

She also described the welcome from Oban High School Pipe Band after stepping off the train on Tuesday as 'the highlight of my life'.

Peter, meanwhile, enjoyed his return to the town after working in Rio de Janeiro.

Elaine C Smith's show at the Corran Halls starts at 7.30pm.

Crash figures prompt A85 upgrade call

Alarming report reveals dangers between Oban and Dalnally

ALARMING figures showing the true extent of danger on the A85 between Oban and Dalnally were revealed this week - prompting calls for an upgrade to the road.

Oban's Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson revealed that from April 1 to Thursday last week, there had been 27 crashes on the section of the main artery out of Oban - more than one a week - resulting in two fatalities, six serious injuries and a further eight requiring hospital treatment. Eight people have been reported for dangerous driving as a result.

So troubling are the figures that Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan says if they related to assaults with two murders, he'd be expected to deploy significant resources to the problem.

Now, with five motorists caught travelling at 94mph or more on the A85 near Tyndrum on Sunday, calls have now been made for an upgrade of the route to help save lives.

The latest incident saw a 29-year-old man charged with dangerous driving following a three car pile-up at the Pass of Brander on Thursday. Two people required treatment for broken bones as a result.

Chief Superintendent McEwan said: 'If I had two murders in Oban and several serious assaults in this period, the expectation would be for us to put lots of resources into it.'

'When I look at these figures it causes me enough concern to want to speak to community planning teams to see what can be done to help.'

Of the speed checks on the A85 at Tyndrum, nine of 10 people stopped for speeding were from outside the local area.

The figures were presented to Oban Community Council on Monday night and local councillors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre both agree something has to be done.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'My view is the roads have got to be improved. The number of vehicles [coming to Oban] is going to increase quite dramatically and you have to ask if the road infrastructure is up to it.'

Councillor Robertson believes encouraging drivers to be considerate to other motorists is key across the whole area, citing the road between Creagan Bridge and Appin as another concern.

She believes signs asking slower drivers to allow traffic to pass could ease frustration that can lead to accidents.

'I've seen signs like that in the Highlands and I've already spoken to our roads department and to Transport Scotland about them. I believe the roads, if they are driven in the correct manner, are okay,' she added.

Transport Scotland and Police Scotland are to jointly inspect the road following the recent fatalities.

Action call over beach sewage

RAW SEWAGE spilling onto beaches on Iona and Tiree has led to calls for the Scottish Government to take action.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has told the government it will object to any residential or commercial development in these communities, hindering growth.

A female holidaymaker to Iona sparked the latest row when she wrote to local politicians after standing in raw sewage on Baile Mor beach.

She said: 'I stood in what I

initially thought was dog poop - but then more arrived. I looked and saw a pipeline about 10 feet away which was pouring untreated sewage directly onto the beach. Disgusted, I went into the hotel and inquired why there was no warning sign at the very least. I was told the pipeline has always been there, that the sewage is from some old houses and it's a rural community.'

'I feel that something should be done to stop/repair this immediately.'

SEPA has published a study which states it would take little

more than £2 million to fix the sewage problems with the 71 properties concerned on Iona and at Scarinish, Tiree.

A letter from SEPA to the Scottish Government states: 'It is not realistic to use SEPA's regulatory powers against each individual householder and so the sewage nuisance will continue indefinitely.'

Local councillor Fred Hall added: 'It is not acceptable in the 21st century for untreated human sewage to be leaked onto a beach. This pipe has to be fixed as soon as possible.'

Fresh concern over Coll and Tiree ferry timetable change

FRESH concerns were raised by residents of Coll and Tiree this week over last-minute proposals to change the winter timetable for the islands.

Coll Community Council and Iain MacKinnon Haulage on Tiree have urged ferries operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to bin plans to remove the *MV Clansman* from the Coll-Tiree-Oban winter run and replace it with the *MV Hebridean Isles*.

They feel the proposed change is as a result of the *MV Finlaggan* receiving several complaints it attracted on the Uig-Lochmaddy-Harris run last winter.

There are further concerns the *MV Hebridean Isles* could take even longer to reach the islands than previously thought as it is one of four ferries fitted with new propellers to make it more efficient - but slower.

Only seven weeks remain before the winter timetable is due to be in operation.

Coll Community Council chairman Rob Wainwright said: 'This is too late and we don't want a change. We've got businesses here, shops expecting deliveries - people have booked their holidays according to the ferries.'

Tiree's Iain MacKinnon,

owner of IA MacKinnon Haulage, added: 'This is because of the complaints made last year against the *MV Finlaggan*, which can't fit at the pier in Tiree or Coll. They've got a boat that's not fit for purpose.'

A CalMac spokesman said it would be inappropriate to comment while 'engaged in consultation' with affected communities - but admits arranging winter timetables during the period is a 'major challenge'.

He added: 'We inevitably face criticism no matter what we do, however as operator we must be allowed to take a network-wide view and deploy vessels accord-

ing to our professional judgement and in the best interests of the network as a whole.'

Issues created by boats fitted with new propellers were 'not significant enough to justify reviewing the proposed deployment of any particular ship,' he added. CMAL, which owns the ferry infrastructure, says the *MV Finlaggan* can dock at Coll and Tiree but admits some access points require alterations to ensure safe use.

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Kennacraig to Campbeltown route to be upgraded

FIRST Minister Alex Salmond used his visit to Campbeltown this week to announce the A83 is to be trunked and upgraded between Kennacraig and Campbeltown.

Those who have long campaigned for the 30-mile stretch to be trunked also hope it will mean a quicker and more emphatic response in times of bad weather. It was also revealed during the Scottish cabinet's two-day visit that Campbeltown will receive £500,000 to pilot a project on remote and rural healthcare.

Kintyre is the latest area to fall under the cabinet spotlight on ministers' summer tour around the country.

A public question and answer session chaired by Mr Salmond and involving all the cabinet ministers was set for yesterday (Wednesday)

afternoon. In the evening, Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and environment, was due to attend a Yes for Independence meeting and was expected to face tough questions from Kintyre's prawn fishermen over the impact of the EU's cod recovery plan.

On Tuesday, Mr Salmond officially opened the impressive new 32 social homes for rent at Park Terrace, Campbeltown built by Lochgilphead-based MacLeod Construction with £5.27 million funding from the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll Community Housing Association.

Mr Salmond also officially opened MacLeod Construction's conversion of the former Jaeger factory into business units, which have already been fully let by local companies.



Alex Salmond is helped by Campbeltown dancer Lisa McKellar, 9, and pupils from Dalintober Primary School as he covers up a time capsule in the garden of the new £5.2 million social housing development in the town's Park Terrace. 08_c35alex01

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Portree office workers on charity challenge

TWO TEAMS of office workers from Portree will take on teams from across Scotland in an arduous charity challenge in the Great Glen tomorrow (Friday). They will cycle, run, walk and canoe round a 60km course to help raise money for the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI). The Skye teams are made up of workers from the National Farmers Union Scotland office. Allan Bowie, who is leading one of the Portree teams, said: 'The work RSABI does in supporting those who live and work in Scotland's countryside is valued by all the teams taking part. All donations will help keep up the great work that RSABI does and make the blood, sweat, blisters and saddle sores seem worth it in the end.'

Lord Robertson installed as order chancellor

FORMER NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson of Port Ellen has been formally installed as the Chancellor of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George. The Labour Peer from Islay was installed at a special ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral, London, by the Primate of the Order, the Rt Rev David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, a native of Inverness who recently enjoyed a cycling holiday on Islay. A banner, which depicts Carriga Fhada lighthouse on the outskirts of Port Ellen, now hangs in the Order's Chapel within the cathedral. The Chancellor, who is third in rank to the Queen and the Duke of Kent, the Grand Master, is appointed by the monarch.



HOPE Kitchen's Mary Black, left, and Jessie MacPhee collect the cheque for £500 from Dave Bleazard. 16.12516ike01

Oban's backing for brothers' 'Bikeathon' leads to £500 HOPE Kitchen donation

SUPPORT from Oban residents for a 1,000-mile sponsored cycle has resulted in a donation of £500 to one of the town's charities. Dave Bleazard, who runs Outside Edge in the town, and his brother, Tim, have raised £5,000 by completing the Bleazard Brothers' Bonkers Bikeathon, cycling from Clitheroe in Lancashire to Oban and back. The fundraising challenge, which was completed in just 12 days, was in memory of their mother, Margaret, who died last year. The brothers had initially planned to give all proceeds to charities in their mother's home town of Clitheroe but, after receiving

so much support from Oban, decided some of the money had to stay north of the border. Dave explained: 'The town couldn't be ignored because of the amount of support and money people here gave us.' Margaret Bleazard spent much of her life supporting Christian Aid and other good causes, helping people who had fallen on hard times or were living in poverty. Dave added: 'We chose to donate to HOPE Kitchen because its work fits in with the type of charity my mum supported. It offers a food, shelter and companionship project to vulnerable and marginalized people in Oban. Mum would have been so pleased

with this one. Oban was her second home and had it been her first home, no doubt she would have been a HOPE volunteer.' The charity's treasurer, Mary Black, and project manager Jessie MacPhee were on hand to collect the £500 cheque from Dave. Jessie said: 'We have just moved into new premises in the former 'Mantrap' and we require a lot of things, as well as raising money for three years' rent, so this donation has been very welcome. We have four homeless people using our tents at the moment and we are looking for more donations of old tents, sleeping bags and clothing.'

Mull pupils defend money spent on two Gaelic teachers

SCHOOL pupils on the Isle of Mull have hit back at the suggestion too much money is being spent on Gaelic in Tobermory High School (THS). The youngsters, fourth year students in THS, wrote to *The Oban Times* in response to a letter sent in by James Knight of Mull. In his letter two weeks ago Mr Knight claimed pupils at the school would be better served by a Gaelic and Spanish teacher rather than two Gaelic teachers. But students at THS have now defended their teachers and 'highly disagree' with Mr Knight's letter as they see 'no real need' for a Spanish teacher. Their response states: 'There are two different types of Gaelic being taught in the school, one for Gaelic fluent speakers (Gaidhlig) and one for Gaelic learners. They are two completely different

subjects which, therefore, need two teachers.' The pupils go on to extol the opportunities now available for people with Gaelic, especially in media and education. They add: 'Gaelic not only broadens people's minds, it also brings people together with events such as the national and local Mods, which take place all over the country. This encourages a lot more people to choose to learn Gaelic, especially now, when it is quite difficult to find a job in many places in Scotland. With a second language like Gaelic, you can achieve so much more.' Mull councillor Alistair MacDougall remembers when English wasn't widely spoken on Mull and is pleased to see the pupils defending the language. He said: 'There is a terrific future for these people that can talk Gaelic - in television and

all sorts of communication - if you're not taught how to speak it you're going to lose out.' 'It is one of these things, you really have to fight to make it survive. I'm glad to hear the pupils have written in themselves, they are the ones that can make an impression.' In his letter, Mr Knight stated: 'Tobermory High School has two Gaelic teachers, no chemistry teacher and no Spanish teacher. Spanish is the world's third largest language. Mightn't it be in the pupils' interests in an ever more competitive world if in Tobermory there were one Gaelic teacher, a chemistry teacher (paid whatever it takes) and a Spanish teacher to provide an alternative or addition to Gaelic? That is how it would be in a good private school.' See the letters page for the pupil's full submission.

Programme launched to encourage young journalists

A PROGRAMME to encourage budding young journalists in the Highlands has been launched. Youngsters aged 11-21 years are eligible for 'Young

Reporters for the Environment', which is being run by charity Keep Scotland Beautiful. Those taking part will investigate environmental

issues in their area, propose solutions and publish a report, which may be traditional print journalism, photographic or video journalism.

Schools record improved exam results

WESTERN Isles schools overall have recorded near across-the-board improved exam results compared with 2012, according to SQA figures. The scores mean Eilean Siar is above the national average for local authorities at all levels. SQA Higher results show students achieving A or B in English at the Nicolson Institute rose from 26 per cent to 42 per cent. At Sgoil Lìonaclait on Benbecula, A or B passes at Higher English increased from 11 per cent to 29 per cent and in mathematics from 46 per cent to 60 per cent. Fewer students across the authority were presented at Advanced Higher level in 2013 but

overall pass rates (A-C grades) increased in almost all schools. At S4, in Standard Grade and Intermediate 2 examination results a number of schools reported progress in English and mathematics. At the Nicolson Institute and Sir E Scott, pupils achieving Standard Grade 1 or 2 in English rose from 43 per cent to 49 per cent and 53 per cent to 70 per cent, respectively. In maths, Sir E Scott posted a rise from 35 per cent to 53 per cent in pupils gaining grades 1 or 2. S4 Intermediate 2 pupils at Sgoil Lìonaclait on Benbecula achieving A or B in English jumped from 54 per cent to 85 per cent. Miller MacDonald, head

teacher of Sgoil Lìonaclait, said: 'These results are testimony to the hard work of the pupils, the commitment and dedication of the staff and the support of the parents and wider community.' Catriona Stewart, chairwoman of the education and children's services committee, praised the pupils' efforts as 'a credit' to their schools, teachers and families. She said: 'It is gratifying to learn that performance across the authority is above the last available national and comparator authorities' average at almost all levels. We are not complacent about the results and look forward to continuing to improve levels of attainment across all subjects in all schools throughout our islands.'



Food writer and chef Christopher Trotter, who will be holding a foraging and cookery course on Coll next month.

Food and drink fortnight a recipe for success

INVERARAY, Coll and Loch Lomond will be helping take this year's Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight to new highs with events this summer. Coll will be among the first areas to embrace the celebration - with the Ultimate LoColl Cookery Course: Foraging and Feasting starting the day before the fortnight, on September 6. Food writer and chef Christopher Trotter will be hosting the event at An Cridhe Bunkhouse and will demonstrate how the countryside can provide a meal quickly and easily. Best of the West, a celebration of all things great from Argyll and the islands, has a focus on food and drink and is one of the biggest showcases of the area's best produce. Not only will all

the area's whisky distilleries be represented, but Fyne Ales, the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar, Inverawe Smokehouse, Loch Awe, and the George Hotel, Inveraray, will be offering up their finest produce at the event in Inveraray Castle's grounds on September 14-15. Live music, family activities and stalls make the event one of Argyll's un-missable attractions. Balloch is home to this year's Loch Lomond Food and Drink Festival, which is now in its eighth year. Offering live music, amazing food, kids' entertainment, cookery demonstrations, real ale, whisky tasting and more, the free event is always a popular draw. For more events, see scottishfoodanddrinkfortnight.co.uk.

Raasay group in bid to buy 300 hectares of forestry land

A COMMUNITY group on Raasay has applied to buy nearly 300 hectares of forestry land on the island. Raasay Development Partnership (RDP) has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase several areas of land. To be successful, the RDP - an umbrella group representing various community organisations on the island - will have to show the buyout would be to the benefit of the residents on the island. Possible schemes planned for the forest land include woodland croft, developing a micro hydro scheme and a wood fuel business. An RDP spokesperson said: 'What this does is show the Forestry Commission that we are serious about looking at the benefits of owning the forest, and sets out how we hope to run it, should we be able to buy it.' 'If they approve our application we will have 18 months to prepare much more detailed plans. During that 18-month period we

will contact everyone on Raasay and ask them to approve or reject the plans and we will decide to continue or not on the result of that consultation.' A 28-day open consultation period on the application is now underway, with public comments on any aspect of the proposal welcomed. Details of the application can be viewed on line at www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls and all comments on the proposals detailed in the application must be submitted by Wednesday September 19. If successful, the RDP would be following in the footsteps of Sleat Community Trust, who purchased the 1,000 acre Tornmore Forest near Ardsvar in July 2011. Over 25,000 tonnes of timber have so far been harvested from the community-owned forest on Skye, while more than 50,000 new native trees have been replanted. The entire forest has been deer fenced and a secure large wood fuel facility is currently being built.



Lord George Robertson is pictured in the Order's Mantle and insignia with his grandson Michael Robertson, who acted as his banner bearer.

Chance to see Manxies on Isle of Rum

A NIGHT time expedition on the Isle of Rum will offer visitors the chance to see one of Scotland's important bird colonies - the Manx Shearwater. Rum is home to one third of the world's population of Manxies, and the guided walk on September 7, run by the Isle of Rum Community Ranger Service and Scottish Natural Heritage, will allow visitors to see the birds in their nesting area.

Views sought on police and fire services

A SERIES of public meetings is to be held in Portree and Caol seeking views on the local police and fire services. The ward forums are part of a series of 19 which will take place across the Highlands in September and October. The Portree meeting will be held in Tigh na Sgìre at 2pm

on Monday September 2, while Lochaber residents can have their say between 7pm and 9pm on Monday October 7. Police Scotland Chief Superintendent Julian Innes said: 'This is a partnership approach to engagement with local Highland communities. We look forward to listening

to people's views on how their local services are targeted.' Scott Hay, area manager for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, added: 'Public sector organisations work most effectively when they work in partnership. We'll continue to work together to keep communities safe.'

Unusual centrepiece for new Stornoway exhibition

AN EIGHT-foot tall peat stack will be the unusual centrepiece for a new exhibition in Stornoway about life and culture in the Western Isles. Moladh na Mòine - In Praise

of Peat - opens in An Lanntair tomorrow (Friday). An Lanntair Director Roddy Murray said the original idea came from cultural commentator Finlay Macleod. Mr Murray said: 'Way back, he suggested to the Tate that if Carl Andre's Equivalent VIII - more colloquially known as the Pile of Bricks - could be art, then surely so was a peat stack.'

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 DIARDAOIN 12 SULTAIN | THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER in CORRAN HALLS, OBAN @ 7.30pm
Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham
Mànran | Fèis Latharna in concert
 Tìogaidean - 01631 567333 - Tickets
 DISATHAIRNE 14 SULTAIN | SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER BUNESSAN HALL, MULL @ 7.30pm
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Pirate and Princess Summer Party fun

Birthday girl Eve Lawrie, from Appin, and her friends had the perfect excuse to dress up at the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary's Pirate and Princess Summer Party. The event, held last Sunday, raised money for Merlin's Magic Wand charity and saw staff and hundreds of visitors arrive at the Barcaldine visitor attraction in fancy dress. Eve, third from right, was celebrating her sixth birthday at the summer party with friends, from left: Daisy Carmichael, Emma Walker, Erin Jackson, Caitlin MacColl and Annie Gill. As well as the usual attractions at the sanctuary, extra activities included a treasure hunt, face painting and coconut shy, while the James MacPherson Trio and piper Jamie MacGregor provided the musical entertainment. 16, 135sealife02



Anger over closed door fish farm decision

Community council accused of ignoring public opinion

TAYNUILT Community Council has been accused of ignoring public opinion on a fish farm proposed for Loch Etive after backing the controversial application.

Unlike its Ardcattan equivalent, Taynuilt Community Council did not hold a public vote at the meeting where Dawnfresh's proposed trout farm was discussed - making its decision behind closed doors.

At that time, 92 per cent of the 88 Taynuilt residents who made representations to Argyll and Bute Council planners were against the fish farm.

Brigadier John MacFarlane, who attended the August 12 meeting, feels the decision was a fait accompli.

In a letter to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'Congratulations to Ardcattan Community Council who, on public advice, opposed the Dawnfresh fish farm application.'

'Unfortunately, our community council in Taynuilt did not display a similar resolve but supported the application.'

'I felt that [Taynuilt] council had already agreed to support the application.'

Brigadier MacFarlane said there was clear division within the room over the proposal, with applause at one point for someone demanding no more development on Loch Etive.

He said: 'The primary purpose of community councils is 'to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies'. It is not their role to

decide of their own volition what is in the best interests of the community.'

In a separate letter, GM Service wrote: 'It is worth emphasising, as your reporter stated in August 15 edition of *The Oban Times*, that there were 'mixed feelings in the hall' and that therefore it was not a unanimous decision of the people.'

A spokesman for the Friends of Loch Etive said its statutory duty by failing to 'ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities' the views of its community, as outlined in the legislation governing community councils.

Standing by the decision, Taynuilt chairman Murray Sim said: 'We're looking at it from the point of view of employment and things like that. We wouldn't ask for a show of hands, quite honestly.'

'There were a few folk for it and a few folk against it [at the meeting], but I think the people who were for it would not put their head above the parapet.'

By voting to support Dawnfresh's proposal, Taynuilt Community Council reversed a previous objection to an earlier - and later withdrawn - application for a larger farm.

'We felt Dawnfresh had addressed most of our concerns,' Mr Sim said. 'The fact Scottish Environment Protection Agency are quite happy about the whole development seems to speak lots for us and that it will be monitored very closely.'

Barra shop owner hits out over eviction notice

A BARRA businessman served with an eviction notice by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has accused the authority of changing the rules to suit itself.

Peter Nicholson hit out after being told by letter to find alternative premises for his Barra Island Stores and building firm in Castlebay Development Park.

The council claims retail makes up too large a part of his business and is 'not allowable'

under EU regulations governing the European grant award which helped to finance the building.

Mr Nicholson, who has operated from the premises for six years, says he only moved in after being told he would have to offer retail to secure a lease.

The building contractor reluctantly agreed to open a small shop - which prospered just as his main business suffered in the recession, along with the rest of the island's building trade.

Now the comhairle says the retail side has grown too much - and wants him to quit.

Mr Nicholson told *The Oban Times*: 'Six people work here, including myself. I'm not shifting.'

Visits 'After doing this for six years and with twice annual visits from council officers - with nothing said - I get a letter telling us to get out.'

'These buildings were built

with European money - ERDF funding - and the letter I got back from the council said ERDF was to stimulate business development and one condition was prohibition of retail.

'Either they misinformed me at the start or they're misinforming me now.'

Mr Nicholson, together with Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant, is demanding a rethink.

Mr MacNeil is to write to the authority about the notice to quit.

Useful

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a useful shop to the island and nearly everybody uses it. It'd be a bit of a shame if the council take the view that they're going to impact on business. They say it's a European funding issue - surely there's ways around that and there's certainly no pressure from Europe.'

A spokesman for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'Over time, however, Mr Nicholson's business became almost wholly retail in nature, which is not allowable and is the reason the comhairle is currently engaged in a legal process on which we cannot comment further at this time.'

'The comhairle is happy to work with Mr Nicholson in identifying an acceptable solution to all parties.'



Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

The Catalina pictured from Battleship Hill as it flies over Oban.

Hundreds witness return of flying boat

IT'S A sight that has possibly not been seen over Oban Bay in some 70-odd years - a flying boat.

In this case it was the UK's oldest airworthy amphibian plane, a 70-year-old, originally Canadian Catalina G-PBYA now based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford in England.

She flew over the Argyllshire Gathering's Oban Highland Games last Thursday and again over Oban Bay the following day as part of the Project Hawker 2013 100th Anniversary Circuit of Britain.

She was based at Oban Airport on Friday and Saturday, where hundreds flocked to see her and where pilots Jeff Boyling and Rod Brooking and crew chief Shaun Jarvis were on hand to answer questions.

Harry Hawker was the only entry in the Circuit of Britain Race in 1913. He and mechanic Harry Kauper flew more than 1,000 miles of the 1,540-mile circuit in their Sopwith

waterplane before crashing into the sea off Dublin.

Pilot Jeff Boyling said: 'He was a pioneer in the sense of sea planes and flying so bringing the Catalina here, with its history and association with Oban, makes it seem even more appropriate that an amphibian is flying the Circuit of Britain 100th anniversary commemorative flight.'

The Catalina left Duxford on Wednesday staying overnight at RAF Leeming before heading north again on Thursday. Bad weather meant the Catalina couldn't do a fly past at RAF Leuchars or Montrose, where Harry Hawker had put down, but was able to do a visual display off Aberdeen.

The Catalina put down briefly at RAF Lossiemouth before taking off towards the Cromarty Firth, down the Great Glen past Fort William to Oban. She left Oban Airport on Saturday, completing the circuit on Sunday at Duxford.

Council absence figures

IN THREE months, Argyll and Bute Council lost the equivalent of more than 24 years in work days due to staff absences.

For the period between April and June, the council lost 8,836.96 work days across all departments - the equivalent of every full time employee at the authority taking two and a half days off.

While most of the days off were recorded by teachers, it is one of the council's largest departments, equating to every teacher taking just over a day and a half off in that period.

Adult care accounted for the largest equivalent number of days, off, with the 1,374.73 days

lost equating to each full time employee taking 3.67 days off. The department also accounted for the least number of return to work interviews completed, with just over a third of members of staff in the department completing one in April, 38.03 per cent in May and 45.16 per cent in June.

Best attendance came from the strategic finance department, one of the smallest council departments, with just 33 work days lost - or each full time employee taking just over half a day off.

In total, absence because of sickness cost the council £715,400 for the quarter.

Oban drink driver banned for year and fined £500

ATTRACTING the attention of the law by not wearing his seatbelt ended badly for one Oban man when police officers breathalysed him and found him to be over the legal drink drive limit.

Robert MacPherson, 47, of 25a Dalintart Drive, Oban, denied the offences but was found guilty by Sheriff Tom McCartney after

standing trial Court last week at Oban Sheriff.

The court heard from PC Kevin Summers that his attention had been drawn to a white transit van with the words 'Robert's Floorcoverings' on it and he noted the driver was not wearing his seatbelt.

The officers turned their vehicle around and followed MacPherson

to his work yard in Lochavullin Road. When they approached him about his seatbelt they said they could 'smell alcohol' on his breath.

PC Summers told the court during evidence MacPherson was brought back to Oban Police Office and processed in the proper manner. The lower of his readings was

41mcg. But MacPherson denied this and claimed during evidence he had unlawfully been denied the right to a more accurate blood test and was made to sign documents without knowing what they contained.

He said: 'I couldn't read it without my glasses but signed it as I was told it was just a formality.'

These allegations were strenuously denied by the officers and Sheriff McCartney said the police evidence was both 'credible and reliable'. He added: 'I don't accept the evidence of Mr MacPherson.'

Sheriff McCartney banned MacPherson from driving for one year and fined him £500 for the two offences on May 28.

Woman returns from India to face driving charge

AN INDIAN woman returned from her home country to 'face the music' after she injured the rider of a motorbike when she hit him as she pulled out of a lay-by.

Divya Bhatia, 30, of New Delhi, pled guilty to careless driving and failing to stop after an accident last week when she appeared at

Oban Sheriff Court. Bhatia was on holiday in Argyll when she struck the motorcyclist as she pulled back onto the A82 at Bridge of Orchy after stopping to sightsee.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'The complainant didn't have time to take evasive action and was struck on his side

as the car emerged. This knocked him onto the opposing carriageway where he was struck against the side of a passing car.'

'He ended up lying in the prone position in the middle of the road where he remained for a period of time.'

The court heard Bhatia had

initially stopped and her husband got out to assess the situation but he returned to the car and the pair drove off.

'Extremely seriously' Defence agent Steven Macleod told the court Bhatia was taking the case 'extremely seriously'.

He said: 'She hasn't taken the

easy option. She has returned to face the music - to face justice. She has taken this very much to heart, she has had a fear hanging over her in relation to prison, it has been a very serious concern to her.'

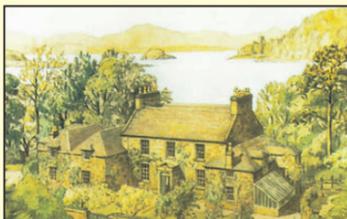
Sheriff Tom McCartney fined Bhatia £600 and banned her from driving in the UK for six months.

Tools stolen from van parked near Bridge of Orchy

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after £1,000 worth of tools were stolen from a van parked near Bridge of Orchy. The van was parked in a layby outside

Inveroran Cottage for two weeks. The owner discovered the tools were missing when he returned to the vehicle last Wednesday, August 21.

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Mull Lines

THREE callouts in four days kept the volunteer crew of Tobermory's RNLI busy last week.

The drama began last Tuesday when reports came through of a woman diver with suspected decompression sickness. The casualty was transferred from a dive charter vessel onto the Severn class lifeboat, *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey*, while she was at her berth in Tobermory Bay. The diver was then taken by lifeboat to Oban, receiving treatment on the way.

Less than six hours later the volunteer crew was again called into action when fears for a family missing in a dinghy in Loch Sunart were raised. The family, who had been staying at a local campsite, were reported to be late returning to shore and had not been seen since their departure earlier that morning.

But as the lifeboat sped to the scene, the Salen Coastguard Rescue Team reported seeing a small boat with four people on board heading for the shore and the lifeboat was stood down.

On Friday the crew was called to help another family in distress onboard a yacht taking on water in Loch Sunart.

The two adults and children were taken aboard the lifeboat and two of the volunteer crew were put aboard the casualty vessel to assess the situation.

Once the lifeboat crew had put the salvage pump aboard, the yacht was taken under tow to Tobermory where she was put alongside the pontoons just before midday.

Two of the lifeboat crew remained aboard the yacht for much of the afternoon where they assisted the owner with temporary repairs and pumping operations.

Andrew McHaffie, Tobermory RNLI coxswain, said: 'There was potential for there to have been a very different outcome today but the combination of the effective operation of the casualty's bilge alarm, the skipper's prompt distress call and the fast response from the volunteer lifeboat crew meant we were able to bring things under control before their situation deteriorated.'



A FUNDRAISING dinner full of the delights of the sea surrounding the Isle of Mull is being held to benefit local charities.

The 12th annual Dervaig Seafood Extravaganza takes place tomorrow (Friday) in Dervaig Village Hall. Proceeds from the night will be split between the hall and Tobermory RNLI.

The meal will see a celebration of locally produced seafood with a wide variety of options including crab, lobster, salmon and oysters. Guest chef Michelle Cowe will prepare the four course menu. Nick Turnbull, event organiser, said: 'I would like to thank all our sponsors, producers and voluntary helpers for making this fundraising event a highlight of the year. We are extremely fortunate to have Michelle Cowe and her team once more back in the kitchen.'

Lots of local producers are supporting the event including Inverlussa Mussels, Isle of Mull Oysters, The Island Bakery, Isle of Mull Cheese, The Scottish Salmon Company, Scottish Seafarms, Crown Estate, Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group and RA Clement Associates.

A special auction solely to raise funds for the Tobermory lifeboat will also take place on the night.



FORMER pupils of Tobermory School are being invited to rekindle friendships at a reunion this November.

Anyone who attended the primary or secondary in Tobermory between 1950 and 1960 as a pupil or staff member is welcome to attend the event.

being held in the Western Isles Hotel on the evening of Saturday November 16 with other events taking place on the Friday and a tour of the current school on Saturday afternoon. For more information contact Janet on tobarnhoire@sky.com or 01688 302351, by the end of September.

The main reunion is



Argyll McLetchie, left, and his cousin David Campbell outside Wembley before kick off.

Birthday surprise just the ticket

Wembley celebration for Argyll

A FORMER Ballachulish man was given the surprise of his life for his 65th birthday - a trip to Wembley Stadium, London, to watch the recent Scotland vs England clash.

Football-mad Argyll McLetchie had not been to a Scotland match for 34 years and desperately tried to get hold of tickets for the game - the first time the Auld Enemies had met since a 1-0 win for Scotland in 1999.

But the former Oban High School pupil, who now lives in Hampshire, was left disappointed as the 20,000 Tartan Army tickets on sale were quickly snapped up.

His daughter Kirstin, however, had contacts in the Scottish Football Association and

managed to get hold of four tickets for the much-anticipated game.

She invited Argyll's cousin David Campbell, also originally from Ballachulish, and managed to keep it a secret from her dad until the last minute.

Kirstin told The Oban Times: 'My dad is very patriotic and supports Scotland in everything they do and he used to go to a lot of Scotland-England games but his last one was 1979.'

'We told him we were going to London to watch the game at a screening in Hyde Park. It was really tough to keep it a secret and get him up to London without him being suspicious, but he didn't suspect a thing.'

'Before the game we went to a pub for lunch and gave him

a package, it had his original Scotland scarf from 1977, a flag, Scotland face paint and the tickets which he quickly looked at and put to the side; he didn't register what it was.'

'We gave it back to him and I think it took him about five minutes to register. He was in shock the whole day.'

Scotland went on to lose the friendly match 3-2 despite taking the lead twice, but Kirstin said her dad had the time of his life.

She said: 'Scotland played really well and didn't deserve to lose. But it was just great to see him with thousands of other Tartan Army fans and we were all still singing after the game.'

'It was a brilliant day and my dad still can't get over the shock.'

Pioneering project sees basking sharks tagged to monitor seasonal movement

TWENTY-SEVEN basking sharks around Tiree and Coll have been tagged in the second year of a project to find out more about their life cycle.

The work, which uses small tags attached to the sharks to track their movements, was carried out by a team of scientists from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter.

The movements of 15 of the sharks can be followed live online. So far most have stayed around the Inner Hebrides, one has ventured to the Outer Hebrides and back again and two headed to the north coast of Ireland.

The work is part of a wider programme of marine research

led by SNH and Marine Scotland, to help the Scottish Government and others to manage our future use of the sea.

A Scottish Government consultation 'Planning for Scotland's Seas' is currently underway and in the longer term, SNH say results from the tagging project will help them decide whether a Marine Protected Area should be put in place to help safeguard the sharks.

Dr Suzanne Henderson from SNH, who is managing the project, said: 'We had an ambitious target of tagging 27 basking sharks this summer.'

'They were slightly later to appear than in 2012 - this may be due to the availability of

plankton, which they feed on - however we're delighted to have successfully tagged all 27 and now we're looking forward to seeing where they go over the next few months.'

'Although we know a lot about basking shark biology and worldwide distribution, surprisingly little is known about their seasonal movements. The information we get from these tags will add to the results from the work we did in 2012, helping us build up a picture of the sharks' behaviour throughout the year.'

Dr Matthew Witt from the University of Exeter said: 'It is great to be able to learn more about the seasonal movements of these enigmatic animals, which

play an important role in the food chains of our coastal seas.'

The research team are asking for help in naming the 14 of the sharks that are being tracked online. Suggestions should be sent to baskingsharks@snh.gov.uk.

They are also appealing to anyone who finds a tag around the shores of the UK to get in touch. The tags are silver grey, torpedo shaped and 15 to 18 cm in length with a small antenna. If found please pick up and contact the SNH office in Oban on 0300 244 9360, or email baskingsharks@snh.gov.uk. There is a reward available for each tag returned.

To track the basking sharks online, go to www.snh.gov.uk.

Morvern Lines

I DO not know when Scotland began exporting Highland cattle to New Zealand but in 1893 a consignment of heifers bred by Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardnornish went from Morvern to Canterbury (NZ).

The most valuable animal in the shipment was a three year old heifer called 'Sgeithach IV of Ardnornish', the winner of several prestigious prizes at the Inverness and Stirling Highland cattle shows in 1891 and 1892. No price was given but it was noted that: 'A very high price had to be given to Mr Elliot, the Ardnornish factor, before he could be induced to part with an animal of such exceptional merit.'

WALTER Elliot (1852-1906), the estate factor, came to Ardnornish from Selkirk in 1880.

Although popular with Valentine Smith he was not a particularly good stockman and relied heavily on James Macfarlane's judgement. One autumn Elliot and his two sons accidentally burnt down the large hay barn at Achranich. Every man on the estate was put to work cutting grass anywhere they could find it to replenish what had been lost before the onset of winter.

Whenever one of the Ardnornish 'Highlanders' featured in a prize list Smith, who in later life suffered from senile dementia, awarded Elliot a large sum of money. He bought Elliot's sons farms in the Borders and when he died he left him a sizeable fortune.



High school welcomes new teachers

Lochaber High School welcomed five new teachers this session. Left to right: Leanne Blair, art and design; Husayn Al-Khairulla, chemistry; Marianne Couper, biology; David Rankin, art and design and Lynsey Rankin, English probationer. Also starting at the school is Elizabeth Gow, who has taken up the post of acting deputy head teacher with responsibility for pupil support and year head for S3 and 4.

Islay councillor joins Prime Minister on holiday flight

THE PRIME Minister David Cameron has been on holiday on Jura, after flying to Islay from Glasgow on a scheduled flight.

He was joined on the flight by Islay community councillor Alastair Redman, who had attended a Conservative party function on the shores of Loch Lomond where Mr Cameron was guest speaker. Mr Redman, who has recently become an approved candidate within the Conservative party, spoke to Mr Cameron on issues relating to the islands, such as public spending allocation, and highlighted Islay's poor infrastructure against its vast contribution to the UK Treasury.

The Prime Minister has family connections to the Tarbert Estate on Jura through his wife, Samantha.



The Prime Minister David Cameron with Islay community councillor Alastair Redman.

Slipway repairs

FOUR weeks of emergency repairs to one of the Corran Ferry slipways got underway on Monday night.

The repairs to the Ardgour slipway will be carried out overnight, with Highland Council saying noise and disturbance will be kept to a minimum.

A spokesperson said: 'The work will for the most part be conducted underwater with surface machinery supporting the operations located in the vehicle marshalling area away from properties. The repairs are necessary to ensure the continued and uninterrupted operation of the Corran Ferry.'

New head of education services

A FORMER Plockton High School assistant head teacher has been named as Highland Council's new head of education services.

Jim Steven, who has been head at Invergordon Academy for the last 14 years, replaces Calum MacSween, who is retiring. Mr Steven will start in his new role on September 23.

Dog fouling tenants' biggest concern

LOCHABER Housing Association tenants have named dog fouling as the biggest concern in their area.

Of the 225 residents who filled out an LHA questionnaire, 19 per cent said dog mess was a major problem.

The next issue of most concern was car parking with 12 per cent, while 10 per cent said flying tipping and misuse of bins was a big concern. Just three per cent said drunken or rowdy behaviour was an issue where they lived, but LHA said they were concerned one in every three tenants did not report instances of

anti-social behaviour. According to the results, 89 per cent were satisfied with repairs and maintenance, 78 per cent thought they got good value for money and 95 per cent were satisfied with the area they lived in.

A spokesperson said: 'The survey reveals that 91 per cent of tenants are satisfied overall with the service they receive.'

'Of course, the survey also identified several areas for improvement and we are currently preparing an action plan so we can respond to concerns.'

JAMES Duncan (1834-1905), who also had Benmore Estate near Dunoon (now owned by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh) devised a unique method of refining sugar which made him one of the wealthiest industrialists of his age and a key figure of Victorian Scotland.

He was a committed philanthropist and gave 20 per cent of his annual £100,000 salary to a range of worthy causes including helping the poor.

He was a noted art collector and a major participant in the world famous Paris International Exhibition of 1878 where he and James Macfarlane exhibited the Glensanda fold of Highland cattle. At the end of the exhibition, Duncan was asked by Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899), the most famous woman animal painter in the world at the time, if he would leave his cattle in a field near her chateau so that she might paint them. He obliged and James Macfarlane returned at least twice to see that they were being well cared for. Rosa Bonheur's paintings of highland cattle rarely come on the market these days but when they do they command high prices.

James Duncan brought back the 'Golden Gates' from the Paris Exhibition and erected them on Benmore where they can still be seen.

Following the sale of Glensanda, which Duncan had bought for its deer stalking, James Macfarlane took a croft on Lismore where he continued to breed high quality stock.

His son, also called James, lived at Hartwoodmyres near Selkirk and was one of Scotland's most noted breeders of Blackface sheep. Still in the family is a silver salver awarded in 1889 by Corson's Auction Mart, Oban, to James Macfarlane, Craignish, Salen, Isle of Lismore for the fattest Blackface wether.

JAMES Macfarlane built a special enclosure on Glensanda using a large, high-sided crevice for herding goat kids into when they were due for castration.

It is still to be seen near Eignaig, close to the march with Ardnornish Estate. Goats were once common along that part of the Morvern coastline especially above Airigh Shamhraidh - a once important Maclean mansion-house and farm lying between Glensanda and the mouth of Loch a' Choire. Nowadays the goats are confined to the cliffs between Kingairloch and Kilmalieu.



Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardnornish and one of his prize Highland heifers at Claggan, Morvern, 1893.

THOMAS Valentine Smith (1825-1906), a London brewer and distiller, inherited Ardnornish Estate from his father in 1871.

When he began to breed 'Highlanders' and where they originally came from is not known although it has been suggested he may have acquired a much older fold through John Sinclair of Tobermory and Lochaline Estate.

Further important animals, including 'The Fiunary Queen' came from the Glensanda fold through James Macfarlane, the manager of Glensanda Estate, when James Duncan the owner, sold out. Smith died aboard his 500-ton steam yacht, the 'Rannoch' on August 8 1906, in Gourrock Bay leaving £147 million in today's money.

AT THIS year's Lochaber Show held at Torlundy near Inverloch Castle, John Nudds of Torr-na-Faire, Lochaline, was the local champion with his four-crop, home-bred Blackface ewe, by an East Bracklins sire. This was her ninth local show championship. Congratulations to John for keeping an old Morvern tradition going.

Iain Thornber, iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

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Helping disabled people become more independent

AN INFORMATION day for disabled people in Lochaber considering becoming more independent and taking greater control of how their support is arranged is to be held in Fort William.

Lochaber Disability Access Panel (LDAP), in conjunction with Self Directed Support Scotland, are organising the event on Wednesday September 11 in the Salvation Army Hall, which will be open from 2pm to 5pm.

It will offer advice for those considering the self-directed support scheme, which allows people to receive a grant from the council which they can choose how to spend on support.

LDAP vice chair Maurin MacDonald said: 'It's really important we get input from family members, carers, parents. There will be plenty of information available of the day.'

Volunteers sought for Oban Big Beach Tidy

BID4OBAN will hold its second annual Big BID Beach Tidy next month and is looking for a team of volunteers to help.

Starting at 2pm, anyone will be asked to help return Oban's beaches to tip-top shape as they meet at the clock tower on Railway Pier on Sunday September 8.

Bags, gloves and litter picks will be provided for volunteers, while Piece will be providing soup and the Regent Hotel teas and coffees.

If you can volunteer, phone administrator Jasmine Boak on 01631 569915, or email jasmine@bid4oban.co.uk.

Oban group battles on to keep cruise ship passengers in town



The MS Albatros dwarfs Caledonian MacBrayne's Lord of the Isles ferry in Oban last week. ©35albatros01

AS A row of buses lined up to escort passengers from the cruise ship *MS Albatros* straight out of Oban to visitor attractions around the Highlands last week, a group in Oban was busy working to ensure the same doesn't happen next year.

The ship, which holds 830 passengers, docked in Oban Bay on August 22 following visits to Dublin, Dover and Bergen.

Tourists from *Albatros*, owned by V Ships but managed by Phoenix Reisen, were taken on tours around the Highlands, to Loch Ness, Inverary Castle or on The Jacobite steam train, also known as the Harry Potter train.

This was despite a group comprising BID4Oban, Argyll and Bute Council, Oban Community Council and Oban and Lorn Tourism Association being set up to encourage cruise ship visitors to stay in the town.

Mike Rowell, BID4Oban events manager, told *The Oban Times* that results of work being carried out by the group would not be seen until next season.

He said: 'We organised meetings with cruise ship operators, we brought them up here and showed them what the town has to offer.'

'Encouraging more people to stay within the town is the main priority and encouraging those who are just staying on the ship to come off and have a look around independently - those are the two main focuses.'

Mr Rowell said the group was also trying to get information leaflets onboard cruise ships but this was proving challenging.

'The shore side excursions are part of their income so cruise ship operators want to push passengers into an organised trip - but they are also keen to make sure their passengers have a great time while on the cruise. It is in everybody's best interests that the passengers have a good time,' he said.

Mr Rowell hopes people in Oban see a difference next summer with more cruise ship passengers favouring a visit to Oban rather than taking an excursion.

He added: 'We need the cooperation of the cruise ship operators to change what they are offering their passengers. We have had positive responses; they are always looking to refresh their offering to passengers.'

'But it is up to us to make suggestions, such as a trip which takes in local landmarks that doesn't immediately take people off to Inverary. That is what we are working towards.'

'Amazing' potential for growth in north west

HIGHLAND Council has urged Holyrood to recognise the potential for growth in the north west coast of Scotland in its upcoming national plan for priority development.

The Scottish Government is currently consulting over the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), which sets out a framework for development planning for the next 20 to 30 years.

The Pentland Firth, North Caithness and Inner Moray Firth have been included, but the council decided the west coast had not been given due prominence for its potential

for offshore renewables, better transport links, and west coast ports and harbours.

Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'Our response highlights the amazing potential the north west coast of Scotland has to boost the economy not just for local communities, but for the whole of the country.'

'The area we are looking at encompasses the whole of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the coastal parts of Argyll and Bute and the Highlands from Oban in the south, through Mallaig and Arisaig up to Ullapool and Lochinver.'



Marion in her RUC district inspector's uniform.

Search continues for resting place of influential Argyll police officer

THE SEARCH is continuing for the resting place of the most influential woman police officer to hail from Argyll.

Marion Macmillan worked for London's Metropolitan Police before moving to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), now the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in 1943 to establish a women's unit, the start of a successful 22 years with the force.

Now the RUC's Historical Society is trying to piece together

the last days of this remarkable woman's life.

Marion was the third daughter of Duncan and Marion Macmillan of Barcaldine and enjoyed an illustrious police career before moving to the Isle of Seil.

She retired on October 31, 1965 and settled in a little cottage called the But and Ben adjoining the Post Office overlooking the Sound of Seil.

When her health began to fail Marion moved to Bath House, 129 East Princes Street, Helensburgh, to live with her sister Buntie, who worked as a headmistress in a local school.

Marion passed away at Victoria Infirmary, Helensburgh, on December 23, 1984.

Now in the platinum anniversary year of the women's unit of the RUC, former members are trying to gather information about the life of Marion Macmillan in order to preserve the history of the unit.

Charlotte Murtagh, also ex-

Oban Sheriff Court

A TAYNUILT man has been sentenced to four months in prison after admitting selling drugs in Oban.

John Johnstone, 32, of Bruach, Taynuilt, pled guilty to possessing and supplying diazepam as well as possessing heroin when he appeared from custody last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

A YOUNG Oban man took his mother's car without permission, with no insurance, only a provisional licence and while drunk.

Jamie Tonner, 22, of 22 Nelson Road, Oban, admitted those offences as well as failing to stop after an accident when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

The court heard Tonner had been visiting his mother when he took her Peugeot convertible without her knowledge. When she realised her car was missing she phoned police.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'While driving on McCaig Road the accused collided with another vehicle, failed to stop at the scene and continued on his way.'

When breathalysed by police Tonner's reading was 122mcg - more than three times the legal limit of 35mcg.

Jane Thomson, Tonner's defence agent, told the court: 'He does recognise he has a problem with alcohol. He feels really bad and very sorry for what happened.'

Sentence was deferred until September 17 for the preparation of reports. Tonner was disqualified from driving.

AN OBAN man is awaiting sentence at the town's sheriff court after breaking into his neighbour's house.

Stanley Madej, 72, of 3 Stalcraig Crescent, Oban, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court last week stealing a quantity of household and electrical goods from another address in Stalcraig Crescent. Sentence was deferred until September 17 for the preparation of social work reports.

A WOMAN who was almost three times the legal drink drive limit when police found her in her car with the engine running has been fined and banned from driving.

Louise Gibson, 47, of 6 All-na-Ceardaich, Furnace, near Inveraray, admitted being drunk in charge of a vehicle when she appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

Gibson was found in her vehicle in the car park of the Barn Bar, Lerags, south of Oban, around 3am on August 7.

Her solicitor said she had gone to the pub to see what its live music was like and had intended to stay over but no rooms were available.

The court heard staff had told her she could stay in the car park in her vehicle and Gibson claimed she switched the engine on because she felt cold.

Sheriff Tom McCartney fined Gibson £275 and banned her from driving for six months. She had 101mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

AN OBAN man is awaiting trial at Oban Sheriff Court after denying stealing groceries from Tesco on two occasions, just two days apart.

Gavin MacColl, 31, of 2 Lorn Terrace, Miller Road, Oban, is also accused of shouting, swearing and uttering threats in the store.

MacColl has already pled guilty to entering

Tesco when the court had ordered him not to and stealing a bike from an address on Longsdale Terrace.

He is due to stand trial on September 18 and will appear in court next on September 16. He was remanded in custody.

A MULL man who admitted getting behind the wheel of a car while two and a half times the legal drink drive limit has been banned from driving for 18 months.

Andrew Rushton, 37, of Loch Frisa Cottage, North Loch Frisa, Tobermory, also admitted not having a valid MOT for his vehicle. He was fined £630 in total.

The court heard Rushton had crashed his car at the junction with Glengorn on the B8073 on June 15. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said his vehicle was 'on its roof and embedded into an embankment some way off the road.'

Defence agent Stephen Macleod told the court Rushton had been drinking earlier in the day but believed he was 'clear of alcohol'. He added: 'Obviously that was a misjudgement.'

AN OBAN teenager is awaiting sentence after assaulting a 14-year-old boy by repeatedly punching and kicking him.

Mark MacLennan, 17, of 21e Shuna Terrace, Oban, admitted the offence last week when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Sentence was deferred until September 17 for the preparation of social work reports.

A DALMALLY man who repeatedly questioned his wife before smashing a garden chair was fined £270 when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

Stuart Saunders, 41, now of 4 Breadalbane Mews, Oban, previously pled guilty to the offence.

WALKING out of Tesco with a trolley full of hundreds of pounds worth of stolen shopping has landed one Lochgilphead woman with 80 hours of unpaid work to do.

Lisa Townsley, 18, now of 8 Westhaugh Caravan Park, Clackmannanshire, admitted stealing £543.14 worth of goods from the Oban store when she appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

The court heard security guards had noticed Townsley acting suspiciously with a group of others in Tesco, putting items into bags, before bypassing the tills and walking out without paying for the 'heavily loaded' trolley.

Defence agent Sandy Mitchell said: 'She is at a loss to explain why she did this. It was something that was just decided upon by her when she was about to enter the shop.'

Townsley will carry out the work as part of a six-month community payback order.

DEMANDING that the police help him to gain entry to a pub while drunk proved costly for one man last week as he was fined £480 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Craig O'Brien, 24, of 235 Brenfield Road, Glasgow, admitted trying to enter The Lorne on Oban's Stevenson Street while drunk, shouting and swearing and resisting arrest by throwing himself on the ground and struggling with officers.

He further pled guilty to possessing cocaine,

which was found on him when he was searched at Oban Police Office.

O'Brien told the court: 'It was out of character - I drank too much - I really regret what I have done, I know I have done wrong.'

AN OBAN man who tried to bite a police officer on the hand was fined a total of £560 last week when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mark Robertson, 26, of 20 Millpark Terrace, Oban, admitted the assault on the police sergeant as well as causing a disturbance in George Street by standing in the middle of the road, shouting and swearing on April 28.

ENGAGING in a stand up fight in Graham Court, Dunollie, has left one man with 90 hours of unpaid work to do.

Peter MacCush, 33, now of 15 Carrick Road, Lochside, Dumfries, previously admitted the offence and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

Sheriff Tom McCartney placed him on a community payback order for nine months after hearing MacCush had been well behaved since moving to Dumfries.

A FIFE man accused of stealing diesel from a service station at Bridge of Awe will stand trial at Oban Sheriff Court in October.

James MacDonald, 25, of 163 Wellesley Road, Methil, Fife, denied taking the fuel from Awe Service Station when he appeared last week from custody.

He is expected to stand trial on October 16 and will appear in court next on September 17.

AN OBAN man who stole an iPod docking station from Tesco is awaiting sentence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Brendan McGuckin, 29, of 49a Combie Street, Oban, appeared from custody at the court last week and admitted the theft of the item worth £39.50.

Sentence has been deferred until September 17 for the preparation of reports.

AN OBAN man is awaiting sentence for two separate charges of drink driving on the town's Soroba Road.

Wayne Parker, 45, now of Ardmore Guest House, 98 West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, admitted the older offence last week when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

He had previously pled guilty to the other charge.

Parker was more than twice the legal drink drive limit when he was stopped by police on June 1.

He had 80mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Sentence was deferred until September 18 for the preparation of social work reports.

A TEENAGER from Dunoon is awaiting trial at Oban Sheriff Court for allegedly sending a sexually explicit photo to a girl under 16.

John Mency, 17, of Albany Lodge, 201 Marine Parade, Hunters Quay, Dunoon, denies sending the image, as well as three further abusive messages to other individuals - including a 15-year-old boy.

Mency is due to stand trial on November 11 and will appear in court next on October 15.

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SLEAT

THE ANNUAL Sir Iain Noble memorial lecture will take place in Talla Dhonaigh Chaimbeil, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, on Monday September 2 at 7.30pm

The address by Dr Roddy MacLeod will be in Gaelic with simultaneous translation available. Music and refreshments will follow. Everyone welcome.

TIREE

FOR THE first time, Tiree has a full time wildlife ranger, Stephen Nagy.

Stephen, who has lived on the island for the past three years with his wife Tina, is well known locally and comes into the position after a funding application from Tiree Rural Development (TRD) to Scottish Natural Heritage and other organisations.

Among his duties, Stephen will be leafleting camper vans, motor homes and caravans to make sure their owners are informed of the need to protect the sensitive machair.

Based at the Rural Centre, Stephen will also have the task of producing heritage brochures and leaflets for Tiree Chapels, using Tiree roads, local birds, maps and wildlife and heritage guides.

Stephen first came to Tiree as a kite surfer. On moving three years ago, he worked as an electrician until the ranger job came up.

Stephen, 48, who lives with Tina and their dog Misty at Crossapol, said: 'I am excited about my new job. I will be just as happy working in the office as outside meeting people, although there is no opportunity for my other two hobbies - apart from kite surfing, rock climbing and mountain biking.'

'I would like to thank John Bowler [at TRD] for all his hard work on the various applications, including those for grants for the funding and for making the job a reality.'

'I would also like thanks to be given to Colin Woodcock of Blue Beyond art gallery, who provided some of the funding from Discover Tiree and who helped out with lots of graphics and logo items for our new van.'

'Colin also gave us advice on the tourist focus items in the project plan when we were applying for funding.'

Stephen's contract is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage, Discover Tiree and Tiree Trust.



Stephen Nagy, Tiree's new full-time ranger.



By Alison Kennedy

A TIREE resident with severe mobility problems praised Oban Ambassadors this week after an 'angel' appeared to help him return to his island home.

Retired journalist Ian Sharp got stuck in the middle of the road outside the Caledonian Hotel as he tried to get to the ferry terminal on his crutches.

He explained: 'I only recently lost most of the power of my legs through a form of Parkinson's Disease and it was the first time I had travelled since it happened. I was returning home after visiting my brother at Inveraray. I got off the bus in Oban just after noon and thought I had plenty of time to get to the ferry terminal to catch the 2.50pm sailing to Tiree.'

'I tried to cross the road outside the Caledonian Hotel, but my legs suddenly froze and I found I couldn't move.'

'I was worried vehicles would come towards me but fortunately the area was quiet - probably because most people were having their lunch.'

'I saw and heard a woman asking me if she could help. I agreed and she took my arm and slowly walked me to safety.'

'I thought she was an angel and I still do.'

Ian's angel turned out to be



Avich and Kilchrenan Horticultural Show prizewinners celebrate their success with councillor Elaine Robertson.

Nan wins five trophies at horticultural show

NAN MACINTYRE won five overall trophies at this year's Avich and Kilchrenan Horticultural Show.

Councillor Elaine Robertson opened the show and presented the prizes.

Winners of this year's show were: Nan MacIntyre, Best Overall Garden, Lochran Cup; Flora Winter, Best Formal Garden, Garden Trophy; Mick

AVICH AND KILCHRENAN

Cope, Best Vegetable Garden, Drissag Cup; Nan MacIntyre, Best Overall Garden Cakebread Voucher; Mike Cope, Best Overall Vegetable Entry, Duncan MacGregor Cup; Ruth Ritchie, Most Points in Vegetable Classes, Vegetable Cup; Nan MacIntyre, Most Points in Flower Classes, Rose Bowl; Nan MacIntyre, Three Individual Roses, Helen Brown Cup; Nan MacIntyre, Six Sweet Peas, Spencer Plaque; Carol Johnston, Best Baking Exhibit, Poppies Voucher; Carol Johnston, Most Points in Baking

Class, McPhie Trophy; Kath Sankey, Cake Summer Garden Decoration, £10 Voucher; Julie Beamish, Best Exhibit of Eggs, Egg Cup; June Raven, Best Art, £10 Voucher.

Children's results: Best Painting of a Deer - 1 Paul MacIntyre, 2 Sarah McIntyre, Model of Fruit in a Bowl - 1 Paul McIntyre, 2 Sarah McIntyre. Baking cookies - Sam Love.

Kay MacDonald, one of the four new Oban Ambassadors employed by BID4Oban to offer assistance to visitors to the town.

He continued: 'Kay put me in her own car and drove me to the Caledonian MacBryne terminal building. She helped me to the waiting lounge upstairs and came back an hour later with a cup of tea for me.'

'That gesture was above and beyond the call of duty and I can't thank Kay and the business people in Oban who fund the service enough.'

Ian thanked the CalMac staff for their concern and care for him, as well as for getting him on board in a wheelchair.

Kay said: 'When I spotted him he was stuck in the road because he couldn't get his legs to work.'

'I have worked with people with mobility problems and I have been trained in how to hold, support and help them to walk safely.'

PORTREE

PORTREE will on Monday host the first in a series of 19 ward forums being held across the Highlands to seek the public's views on local police and fire services.

The meeting in the Chamber, Tigh na Sgìre, starts at 2pm.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes said: 'We look forward to listening to people's views on how their local services are targeted.'

ROY BRIDGE

ST MARGARET'S Church in Roy Bridge has been given three priests robes which date back hundreds of years.

The vestments were handed to the church by Major Dominic Dobson, of Achaderry, after they passed down through his family for generations.

In the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries in England, Catholicism was virtually outlawed, meaning services often had to be held in secret. The robes given to St Margaret's were used by the Blount family in Oxfordshire who provided a safehouse for priests, despite a possible death penalty being the punishment.

Father Tom Wynne said the 'sacred vestments' had found a safe home.

He said: 'I received them on Friday and I consider it a great privilege to have them.'

'I wish to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the parish to Major Dominic for his kind and thoughtful gesture.'

'The vestments will be treated with loving care and the greatest respect at St Margaret's because of the sacred role they played in helping the Catholic faith to survive during the centuries of persecution.'



A SPINE chilling time was had by more than 60 people recently when the Walking Theatre Company returned to Arduaine Garden.

Its unearthly production of The Haunted Garden, a double murder mystery, was performed among the shrubs and across the lawns of Arduaine as the shades of evening fell.

The Head Gardener, recently returned in spirit from his unfortunate death at the Battle of Culloden where he was set upon by a horde of hairy Highlanders, kept a watchful eye on the

ARDUAINE

proceedings, accompanied by his two feline Spirit Guides.

Several members of the audience were called upon to ghost a number of spooky characters such as Claire Voyant, Vlad the Inhaler and Mr Paul T Geist, the family lawyer. The customary peace of this tranquil place was shattered more than once when blood-curdling shrieks rang through the twilight and the unfortunate victim staggered into view.



Sara with her ukulele and cross stitch. t35kilmelford1no

INVERGARRY

THE BLAS Festival is to visit Invergarry next month, with Calum MacCrimmon performing a new work 'Boraraig' on pipes, whistles and vocals.

Also taking to the stage at Glengarry Community Hall will be Eilidh Shaw, Angus Nicolson, Mischa MacPherson and more.

BROADFORD

BROADFORD Hall was transformed into a seashore festival with games, seaside adventures and tapas for the third Highland Seashore Roadshow.

Around 100 people enjoyed the day, with activities including storyteller Bob Pegg's musical storytelling sessions for youngsters and local chef Cristina Hermoso Escalas's hour-long cooking workshop on how to use local sustainable foods to create seafood tapas.

Dr James Merryweather also led a rock-pooling safari

Sara hits the right note

A CROSS stitch made by a nine-year-old girl is being used to promote a musical group in Kilmelford.

Sara MacIntyre, from Scammadale, gave her creation to Peter Salmond, leader of Melfort Ukuleles, at the end of last season as a thank you for his tuition. Peter is now using it on all advertising material to promote the club for the coming year.

He said: 'It came out of the blue, Sara presented me with it on the last night of the season before the summer break. I thought it was a very nice touch, it was just a wee thank you.'

The image of Sara's cross stitch replaces a photo of a ukulele that was previously used for advertising the club. Peter said he thinks the update

to find crabs, winkles and dog whelks, and Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum showed attendees the range of microscopic life living on the Skye seashore.

Project co-ordinator Janet Ullman said: 'It was great to see so many people enjoying the seashore and learning a lot more about it.' The roadshow, run by Highland Biodiversity Partnership, visited Arisaig in July.

SEIL

A SEIL man has composed the music for a new play, the Baroness, which is about to embark on a UK tour.

Aidan O'Rourke is working with Dogstar Theatre to produce this latest piece of work, which is visiting Ardfern and Tobermory as part of its visit to Scotland.

The Baroness is played by Roberta Taylor opposite Ewan Donald. The play is directed by Matthew Zajac. It is set in 1948 and tells the story of Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen) the celebrated writer of *Out of Africa*, who was 62 when she met the recently married and successful 29 year young poet and writer Thorikild Bjornvig.

The two shared a powerful and intimate friendship, their pact, which lasted six years before falling apart. The play charts the course of this relationship and the relationship of a third character, Benedicte Jensen, to Bjornvig and Blixen. Benedicte was the wife of Bjornvig's patron and publisher.

Aidan O'Rourke is one of Scotland's most exciting composers and musicians and a member of the trio LAU, three times winner of the BBC2 Folk Awards Band of the Year.

Roberta Taylor is best known for her long-running roles in *Eastenders* and *The Bill*. She is also a best-selling author with her memoir, *Too Many Mothers*.

The Baroness will be at Mull Theatre, Drummfin, Tobermory, on September 24 at 7.30pm and Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, on September 25 at 7.30pm.

ACHALEVEN

ACHALEVEN Primary School has become one of the first in the area to source only Fairtrade uniforms for their pupils.

As part of their responsible citizens coursework under the Curriculum for Excellence, the school decided to use Fairtrade firm Cotton Roots as its supplier. School clerical assistant Ellie Cooper said: 'Both the sweatshirts and polos are organic and 100 per cent Fairtrade cotton.'

'Around 25 per cent recycled materials. Everyone looks really smart in their new uniforms and it's great to know we are doing our small part to help make a difference.'

KILMELFORD

is 'just magical'. He added: 'I was very touched with her kindness and thoughtfulness. Sara is one of three girls from the same family in the band and they are all as keen as mustard.'

Melfort Ukuleles started just over two years ago and has members from Kilmelford, Scammadale, Oban and Tainuill.

Classes restart on Wednesday September 6 from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in Kilmelford Village Hall. All ages are welcome and a spare ukulele is usually available for newcomers to try. Peter Salmond can be contacted on 01852 200787 or petersalmond@btinternet.com.

Down Your Way

Lismore



Lismore pupils harvested a bumper crop of potatoes and beetroot at the start of the new term.

LISMORE Primary School children are delighted to have their own council school bus for travelling to and from school this year.

Despite only being a week into term, the children are already very busy and have harvested a bumper crop of potatoes and beetroot, some of which they have sold to the island café.

The pupils are also planning their own design

for the upcoming Lismore Scarecrow Competition and will be making these over the coming weeks. And as part of a history project, the pupils have been learning about old buildings on the island.

Meanwhile, the school is working on gaining its second Eco Schools Green Flag and is organising a fun run in aid of ABCD (Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease) for North Lorn schools.

IF YOU think you've been to some epic ceilidhs before, then consider a challenge on Lismore at the end of September, when islanders will take on a 24-hour ceilidh.

The 24-hour Ceilidh for Cancer will start on the evening of Friday September 27 and carry on throughout Saturday at the village hall.

The event will kick-off with a dance - in the usual Liosach style - and this marathon effort will make way for a food break at around 3.30pm, although food and refreshment will be available throughout the night.

At around 8am there will be a barbecue breakfast and more ceilidh music, a children's session, a formal ceilidh, country dance master class and a final Oreadian Strip the Willow along the road outside the village hall.

All proceeds will be split between Cancer Research and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The committee of organisers has been busy drumming up enough ceilidh bands to cover the long shifts and is also encouraging dancers to take a sponsor form and get involved.

Co-organiser Laura Cook said: 'This year cancer caught our family off guard. We didn't get the chance to

fight it, and we would have fought so very hard. As a family we have decided that we need to step up our fight against this awful disease and we wanted to organise something big, something that will raise funds and smiles, something which will unite the community and bring people together.'

'This event is not being run as a memorial event. It is for everyone who has been affected by cancer and their families.'

Organisers hope to have a final list of bands involved by next week and are toying with idea of a previous Mod winners concert to take place during the 24 hours.

The committee of organisers include Laura Cook, Marie Carmichael, Neil Carmichael, Duncan MacLean, Douglas MacDougall, Lorne MacDougall, Peter MacDougall and Murray Willis.

There has also been support from the island community.

To register for a sponsor form, email your request to ceilidhforcancer@hotmail.com with your name, address, phone number and, if applicable, names of your team members, or phone Laura Cook on 07973687325.



Appin's Gregor MacCormick and his son John gave a nod of recognition to a Lismore farmer and friend at the recent Appin Agricultural Show. The father and son organised a display of old engines and farm equipment at the show, complete with a dummy in the shape of a crofter. Asked what the mannequin was called, the MacCormicks made sure their pal was in earshot when they replied, 'John Carmichael, Fiart'. 16. 134appin02

Next week Down Your Way visits Aberfeldy with reporter Steven Flanagan. Contact Steven on 01631 568000 or email sflanagan@otimes.co.uk.

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Call forcroft house refusal re-think

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation has urged the Scottish Government to reconsider its decision to refuse a Torridon mum-of-three permission to build a house on her croft.

Elaine Holmes planned a grass-roofed dwelling in the village of her birth, but last month the government upheld Highland Council's earlier rejection of her application.

Planners said the building would 'erode its wider landscape setting' - despite the view of government statutory adviser Scottish Natural Heritage the house 'would not compromise' views.

The SCF claims the decision runs counter to the government's own policy of supporting sustainable communities in remote areas - and has asked local government and planning minister Derek MacKay to intervene.

SCF vice chairwoman Fiona Mandeville said: 'It is important for crofting, and for fragile west coast areas in general, that Mr MacKay reconsiders the Government's reasoning on this matter.'

Lochaber Area Committee appoints new leader

THE LEADER of the new Lochaber Area Committee is Councillor Thomas MacLennan after he was chosen for the role by fellow members at the group's first meeting in Fort William on Monday.

Councillor MacLennan was nominated by Councillor Bren Gormley and seconded by Andrew Baxter.

A run-off vote for the position was not required after Councillor Brian Murphy declined to put his name forward. Councillor Allan Henderson, seconded by Councillor Eddie Hunter, had proposed Councillor Murphy.

Independent member Councillor MacLennan, who represents Fort William and Ardnamurchan, said: 'I am honoured to have been elected leader of the area committee. Our aim must be to work in partnership with other key agencies and represent this very special area as best as we can.'



Family's winning Lochaber Show smiles

It was a great day out at the 2013 Lochaber Agricultural Show at Inverloch Castle Farm, Torlundy, on Saturday for Iain MacKay and daughters Kate, aged four and Eilidh, aged six, from Torloisk on Mull. The girls won first in class with their ewe lamb - with a little help from their dad. The event proved another big hit for organisers and the 1,500-strong crowd which flocked to the showfield to enjoy a great day's entertainment and the display of top-class livestock. See our special show coverage, pages 16 and 17. 20_835show10

Provost's role could be over in fortnight

THE ROLE of Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson as Provost of Lochaber could be over within a fortnight.

Lochaber councillors will decide whether to end his six-year association with the civic post on September 9 - but it looks certain Councillor Henderson's tenure will be at an end.

The move follows the election of Councillor Thomas MacLennan as leader of the new Lochaber area committee at its first meeting on Monday.

Post-meeting discussions on the issue sparked claims of a plot from the provost, who maintains neither he nor colleague

Eddie Hunter had knowledge of what was afoot. Councillor Hunter had gone home expecting business to be concluded for the day.

Councillor Henderson said: 'They had convened a kangaroo court and my years, as provost, were over, despite me always making clear my role was non-political. Although time consuming and unpaid I derived a lot of pleasure from this post and was honoured to serve Lochaber.'

Councillor Bill Clark vehemently denied any suggestions of a stitch up.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is just pathetic and sad. We were at the area

committee and at the end we went into the North Committee Room to ask [wards manager] Dot Ferguson to put an item on the agenda for our next business meeting on September 9 regarding the civic role.'

'Naturally in the discussions which followed there were statements regarding the need for two civic leaders, with Thomas MacLennan just having been elected as leader of the area committee.'

'We will debate the issue in full at the meeting.'

Councillor Hunter said: 'At least when Caesar was knifed in the back he made the steps of the senate.'

Donations and volunteers secure Invergarry defibrillator

INVERGARRY has its own lifesaving heart defibrillator thanks to local donors and volunteers.

Glengarry Sheep Dog Society chipped in with £620 and the Glengarry Trust handed over a further £2,000 to buy the machine.

Lucky2Bhere, the Portree-based charity set up to provide

defibrillators in rural areas to reduce response times to emergencies, organised 'heart start' training in Glengarry Community Hall on Friday night. Lea McNally of Glengarry Community Council told *The Oban Times*: 'We had 24 local folk turn up for training in the hall, including five Fort Augustus and Glengarry guides

and brownies. It was an excellent response - we only had to train up 10 people but we got two dozen. That together with the money donated allowed us to satisfy the criteria for Lucky2Bhere to go ahead with it. One thing that was putting folk off initially was that they perhaps felt obligated to use the machine - which they don't have to do if they don't want to.'

He added: 'The machine is going to be placed outside Glengarry post office so it will be available for anybody and everybody.'

Portree man Ross Cowie set up Lucky2Bhere after he almost died from a heart attack in 2007. It was only by chance the ambulance crew which saved his life was passing by at the time.

Opposition group fights to see off BID

RUMBLINGS of discontent over proposals for an all-Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) have turned into outright opposition after the launch of a 'no' campaign, BID Farewell.

The group, which was set up following a meeting of around 20 local business representatives in Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team base on Friday, claims the BID would mean another tax for little benefit.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snnorris@obantimes.co.uk

Living Lochaber, the organisation promoting the controversial initiative, says every business in Lochaber would pay a compulsory levy to fund 'additional projects and services that businesses would like to have, and which the local authority is not required to provide'.

Levies would be imposed on a sliding scale with companies with the highest rateable value paying the most.

'Tourism and retail' businesses would pay between £196 to £4,100 annually, 'commercial sector' operators £147 to £3,075 and 'education and well-being' providers £98 to £2,050. Living

Lochaber estimates £360,000 would be generated each year - £1.8million over the five-year BID period. Highland Council would collect levies on behalf of the BID directors.

Opponents claim the move is progressing by stealth, with far too little information available as the Highland Council-run BID ballot date of November 28 draws closer.

If more than 50 per cent of businesses by both number and rateable value vote in favour, the BID will go ahead.

Simon Ingram, who runs Ballachulish Visitor Centre, told the Glencoe meeting: 'Complacency is the biggest threat and also the easiest way for a minority to achieve a 'yes' vote for the BID. It is crucial that every eligible business is aware of the BID and how it will affect them, and that abstaining at the poll is simply not an option.'

Viki Sutherland, a founding member of Glencoe and Loch

Leven Marketing Association said: 'This proposal will impact on almost every business in Lochaber and will, whichever way the vote goes, split the community.'

'We have even been told that if the BID is not approved funding of local marketing groups will not be forthcoming from Visit Scotland.'

Mel Macaskill, chairman of Ballachulish Community Council, said: 'Our council's concerns centre on the undemocratic nature of this process as we understand that the levy can be legally enforced against all businesses even if only 13 per cent vote in favour of the BID.'

'We are hearing from many local businesses that they are unhappy with the process and the lack of specific information.'

Fort William High Street businessman Drew Purdon claimed the only businesses being kept informed of the BID progress and plans were those which indicated initial approval.

He said: 'The BID group are unwilling/unable to provide a list of the businesses which received their original package.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter, who attended the meeting, said: 'There are so many unanswered questions about the process and more importantly the potential impact on local businesses.'

'As a business owner, I understand the concerns that were expressed. As a councillor, it's my role to express those concerns and ask probing questions. A proposal as complex as this needs careful public scrutiny and shouldn't simply be nodded through on the basis of an officer's recommendation.'

LIVING Lochaber steering group chairman Frazer Coupland insisted the BID process had been fair, open and democratic throughout - and would continue to be so.

Mr Coupland accepted the BID would go through if a bare majority voted 'yes' on a 25 per cent poll - the minimum turnout allowed under the legislation - but pointed out there was no such minimum requirement for council or community council elections. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The steering group has worked within the legislative framework laid down by Scottish Ministers and we have followed that to a 't'. There have been no secret meetings and it was interesting to see that nobody from the steering group was invited to the meeting in Glencoe, but I don't want to get into a tit-for-tat slanging match. Of course there's a lot of people that think this is a great concept but they will make up their minds when they see the business plan. Any business worth its salt will take part in the ballot process and if they don't like the plan then they will vote 'no'.'

The business plan, currently in draft form with Highland Council, would be published in the week commencing September 23, Mr Coupland said.

'The concept has been very well received. All we want is for Lochaber to be a better place in which to work, study, live and play,' he added.

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Primary ones



in the picture



Park Primary School, Oban, welcomed its 40th consecutive batch of P1 pupils this year, with the 31-strong yeargroup one of the largest in recent times. Their arrival in the school's fourth decade has seen a minor hiccup with the class furniture late to arrive, however, they have been making the most of their current surroundings and are enjoying their lessons so far. 16_135parkps2



Eoligarry's new primary ones are, from left: Scott Campbell, Vivienne McCathie Colvin de Valle, John-Francis O'Carroll, Maria MacDonald and Seumas McGuire.



Portree Primary School welcomed a large group of new P1s to the school.



All smiles from the new primary one pupils at Arrochar.



Caol Primary saw a bumper intake this term, with 34 new pupils starting at the school. 20_f35cao101



Eight youngsters started at Lochside RC Primary School this term. 20_f35lochs201



Lewis Knox, left, and Neo Boomer were the only two new recruits at Fort William Primary School this year. 20_f35for101



The 13 new P1s at Fort William Gaelic Medium Primary line up during their first week of school. 20_f35gaelic01



These youngsters were delighted to start their school days at Dervaig Primary School, Isle of Mull.

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Students praise video link course

A BOLD move by West Highland College UHI to provide a full time early education and childcare course entirely by video conference (VC) has earned plaudits from students.

The initiative saw learners from Ullapool, Portree and Kilchoan link up to a lecturer based in Fort William and other students at the Lochaber college centre.

The move allowed people living in remote locations to access a course which may otherwise have been beyond their reach.

Ullapool woman Jo Marsh said: 'Studying by VC has been a bit trickier than I expected but I had a lot of support from my lecturers and the local college centre manager.'

'I have enjoyed being able to study from home, and had a few visits to Fort William to get a taste of student life at a college campus.'

'I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to study in my local area without a tiresome and impractical commute to my nearest city of Inverness.'

'It's a great link for people in rural communities and I would definitely consider furthering my studies as a result of having studied this course.'



Growing their own: Jan Wreford, front centre, and Bob Bull, front right, with SLUG allotment holders at the open day. 20_135allot01

Open day marks growing success of Fort William allotment group

A FORT William allotments group marked three years of growing their own food with an open day on Saturday.

The aptly named Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG) were joined by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) representatives to view 17 allotments on the exposed sloping site high on Cow Hill. It has been a mixed story so far for SLUG, with some gardeners struggling to devote enough time to their allotments while others reaped a rich harvest of vegetables.

Heavy manuring and terracing have been needed to turn root-strewn clay and peat soil into workable plots capable of producing crops.

Chairman Jan Wreford, from Lochyside, told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a hard site to work and some plots have changed hands. Because of the slope everything has to be done on a manual basis, which makes it bloody hard graft. Without the terracing the soil would start sliding down the

hill. Some people have worked harder than others while some have given up altogether and moved on - but there are always new faces coming in.'

New entrants benefit from each allotment coming with its own shed - which were made at Barlinnie - and composting toilets at the bottom of the site.

One couple, Michael and Barbara Laing from Glasdrum, Fort William, have just taken over a bareplot and are busy breaking it open by pick and shovel. Mr Laing said: 'It will take us at least two years before it starts to produce vegetables. It's just have the time to devote to it - but it will be worth it.'

Bob Bull, one of FCFCG's network of field workers supporting community growers' projects, said: 'We can provide training, advice and put projects in touch with others across Scotland so they can share knowledge with each other.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson had hoped to attend the open day but was ill.



Frank Chambers: up for slimming award.

Frank up for slimming award

HE IS barely half the man he was - but Frank Chambers from Kinlochleven is not complaining after being named as a male semi-finalist in Scottish Slimmers' Slimmer of the Year competition.

Mr Chambers, 52, general manager at the Ballachulish Hotel, has lost 11 stone three pounds in the past year - and now tips the scales at a svelte 14st 8lb compared with a hefty 25 stone 10lb in 2012.

He said: 'Losing almost a whole person in weight has meant a whole new wardrobe, which has been fun.'

The Male Slimmer of the Year will be announced at the grand final at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld on October 6.

Cops' tough task as thieves strike in overnight blitz

LOCHABER was hit by a spate of overnight thefts just as a major Police Scotland crackdown on rural crime got underway last week.

Robbers entered three premises in the Gairloch area to steal bikes and chain saws before and after the launch of 'Operation Engage' on the A82 at Glencoe - showing just what a tough task local cops face in catching the sneak crooks.

The first robbery, between 9pm on Monday August 19 and 8am the next morning, was followed by two more in the Gairloch area between 10pm on Tuesday August 20 and 10.30am the next day.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

In all three incidents mountain bikes and chainsaws were removed from either insecure or empty garages.

Elsewhere in Lochaber, would-be thieves forced entry to a yard and made a search of premises in Camaghael near Fort William between 5pm on Monday, August 19 and 7.15am the next day.

Sergeant David Campbell of Fort William police told *The Oban Times*: 'We have pulled extra troops in - and all of this just shows the problem we are up against.'

'But we just need to get lucky once with these criminals.'

'We have been hammered all summer. The total value of property stolen is up over £57,000 in Lochaber alone.'

'We just have to keep banging the drum that if people are going to leave their property unsecured it is an invitation for trouble.'

He added: 'I would ask any member of the public to report any suspicious activity or vehicles, especially during the hours of darkness.'

'Operation Engage' saw road checks set up on four main routes into the area, the A82 south, A82 north, the A828 from Oban and the A86. Hundreds of

motorists were stopped under the initiative, which aims to deter criminals coming into Lochaber to steal. Twenty extra officers from across the Highlands and Islands have been drafted into Lochaber, Skye and to help tackle the crime wave. Lochaber has been hardest hit with over half the 70 reported thefts since April 1. Items taken from homes, industrial sites, garages and sheds include power tools, bikes, televisions and jewellery.

Anyone with information on the four incidents can contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

German woman is SMO student of the year

A WOMAN from Germany has been named as 'student of the year' at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye.

Andrea Kluge, fully fluent in Gaelic after five years at SMO, has promoted the learning and use of Gaelic within the college, the wider community and abroad.

She is one of the principal advocates of the 'Abair Thusa' initiative, where students are given the chance to meet local people to speak Gaelic in an informal setting.

Andrea also proposed then established 'Café Ostaig' as a meeting place where visitors can converse in Gaelic with people from the college.

Overseas, she attended the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in the United States

to promote SMO and Gaelic. Andrea will receive £150 as part of her award and her name goes forward for the UHI Student of the Year award which is announced later in the year.

She said: 'I'll be forever grateful for all the help I got over the years, but I guess I'll be learning forever and therefore we'll need more people from the community to come to Abair Thusa.'

Andrea's course leader Mark Wringe said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is fortunate to attract remarkable students, who make the place special, and give of themselves every bit as much as they get from their studies.'

'Andrea is a wonderful example of the commitment and spark in so many of our students, and she has truly earned this award. Congratulations to her.'



Andrea Kluge: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig student of the year.

Rally car cash boosts Mallaig lifeboat



Stormy Stan and Isle of Skye Band Band entertained at Portree lifeboat open day. Photograph by The Tartan Lens.

A 'JAMES Bond' Aston Martin DB V was among 44 supercars that rolled into Mallaig from Fort William on Sunday.

Lamborghinis, Ferraris and Porsches were among the high-powered machines that roared away from the Ben Nevis Hotel under police escort at 10.30am for the 45-mile road trip.

And it was good news for Mallaig lifeboat after the gleaming cavalcade arrived when rally organiser Mark Ryan presented coxswain Michael Ian Currie with £450 for the local RNLI crew.

The spectacular car display followed Mallaig Lifeboat Gala

Day the previous day, which made its return to the heart of community life after an absence of two years.

Organisers estimate the event, which saw emergency services personnel battle it out in a greasy pole competition, raised £3,600.

Armada-based Seafari tours chipped in with basking shark sightseeing trips to Knoydart, with all funds going to the lifeboat.

Meanwhile, Portree RNLI lifeboat's open day on Saturday proved a big hit with visitors and locals. Isle of Skye Pipe Band and Stormy Stan were among the attractions.



Supercar rally organiser Mark Ryan presents Mallaig lifeboat coxswain Michael Ian Currie with £450. Photograph by Moe Mathieson.

Cyclists saddle up for wild west trip

A FUNDRAISING cycle run through Lochaber's wild west will set off from Killmalie Community Centre in Corpach on Saturday morning.

The event, organised by Fort William Baptist Church in conjunction with Tearfund Cycling, will see riders tackle a scenic 100-mile route out to Lochailort round to Ardgour via Salen and Strontian then back to Corpach via Treslaig and Lochelside.

Monies raised will be split 50-50 between the Tear Fund and the church, Rev David White told *The Oban Times*.

He said: 'It is becoming quite an event and its growing year on year.'

'Last year we had 44 people taking part and this year it's already 64 and we could end up with 80 on the day.'

'It is a beautiful part of the world to cycle around. Last year the weather was outstanding and we are praying it will be the same this time as well.'

'We have a number of volunteers from the church who are manning food and refreshment stops along the course. We will also provide first aid and breakdown cover should the need arise.'

Fond farewell to Portree High School matron



Christine MacKenzie surrounded by staff and some of 'her girls' at her retirement party.

FRIENDS, family, colleagues and hostel girls bade a final farewell to a Portree High School matron at an official retirement function held in her honour on Friday.

Christine MacKenzie filled her post diligently at Margaret Carnegie Girls Hostel for 32 years and throughout that time parents were secure in the knowledge that their girls were well cared for.

Christine was presented with gifts and flowers to mark her retirement and residence manager Margaret Anne Beaton paid tribute to her valuable contribution to The Highland Council, school hostels and the wider communities of Skye and surrounding islands, as well as her role in fundraising on behalf of many charities.

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The games must go on

THIS year's Argyllshire Gathering committee should be praised for making sure the event carried on regardless, after a crash on the A85 delayed a number of competitors and visitors.

An already packed programme stood up to fierce scrutiny by judges, competitors and stewards, all keen to make sure their events ran to schedule.

Only at times like that, is the full extent of the Argyllshire Gathering organisation made obvious. The event is still a source of pride for so many in and around Oban. This is evident through the sheer number of those involved, who helped save the day.

The Argyllshire Gathering also retains its prestige within the piping world and no-one would grudge Canada's heroes their famous wins last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering piobair-reachd competitions.

However, the victories did raise the question of where Oban's next piping champions were coming from. Angus MacColl has won more titles than he can recall and his son, Angus John, is following in his footsteps.

But with no local representation this year in the Gathering's MacGregor Memorial Medal (for pipers under-22) can Oban's army of young pipers now convert their enthusiasm for band playing into the discipline required for solo piping?

The talent is there to ensure Oban has champions for years to come.

GLASGOW LETTER

Reflections on piping events

WITH the World Pipe Band Championships past, there will be time for reflection particularly on the new format which saw the event taking place over two days instead of the customary one day.

Provisional dates for next year have been announced, August 16 and 17 2014, with a final decision to be taken on the format at a meeting of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association in the coming weeks. By then all interested parties will have had the opportunity to post their comments with the inclement weather experienced over the two days this year likely to add an extra dimension to the discussions.

Early comments from the bands would seem to favour the two days format but presumably those in charge of the accounts will have an important role to play. During the past weeks I have concentrated the content of this column on Piping Live 2013, before and after the event, and hopefully I have been able to raise an awareness of the high quality of musicianship experienced throughout the week at formal and informal events at a variety of locations with many of them free of charge.

The week was not all about the playing of live music but was an opportunity for many related activities with new books and CDs being launched.

"Our Journey", a highly anticipated book by James Laughlin featuring the world's greatest pipers and drummers sharing their stories like never before, was the first book launch and was followed by "Blueprint", the debut tune book of Treacherous Orchestra featuring tunes from their album "Origins" and some new compositions.

Fergus Muirhead, who has been busy at Piping Live over the past 10 years as compere at daytime events and also evening concerts, launched "A Piper's Tale" which is full of fascinating stories about some of the world's greatest pipers and snare drummer Graham Brown launched "A Tap and a Roll".

Add in Fred Morrison's "Outlands", which I have previously mentioned, and you will appreciate there is much new material still in printed form despite this age of technology.

During the week Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout launched a new album and Lewis born piper James MacKenzie did likewise.

Young Traditional Musician of the Year

THE 12 semi-finalists who will compete for a place in the final of the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year during Celtic

Connections 2014 have been announced. They will perform in front of an audience and a panel of judges in Coulter Hall, near Biggar, on Saturday October 5.

The full list is: Alistair Iain Paterson, piano, Bishopstoun; Edward Scaman, pipes/whistle, Edinburgh; Graham MacKenzie, fiddle, Inverness; Iain Smith, accordion, Tiree; Jack Badcock, song/guitar, Edinburgh; Kirsty Law, song, Borders; Kirsty Watt, song, Lewis; Mhairi Marwick, fiddle, Fochabers; Neil Ewart, fiddle, Kilchoan; Pippa Reid-Foster, clarsach, Kilmeggon; Robyn Stapleton, song, Stranraer, and Suzanne Houston, piano/song, Golspie.

Mearns

Community Week

MEARNS Community Week will take place from August 31 until September 8 and will include events, to take place in Mearns Library, McKinlay Place, for those interested in the Gaelic language. This coming Saturday, August 31, there will be a Gaelic workshop, from 10am until noon for those aged over 16 years, which will concentrate on improving knowledge of the language by seeing how many words and phrases can be learned. Places can be booked at the library.

Then on Thursday September 5 there will be a Gaelic Bookbug Session introducing simple rhymes, stories and songs to introduce children to books. It is necessary for this session. Both events are free.

Forthcoming season

I WOULD be pleased if local association secretaries could forward to me their syllabus for session 2013-14 unless they have already done so.

Diary dates

Thursday August 29: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Howden Park Centre, Livingston, 7.30pm.

Friday August 30: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30pm.

Tuesday September 3: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, Katy Moffat.

Saturday September 14: Ceol's Craic, Americano Night, 7.30pm, CCA - full details next week. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend music will be provided by Eriskey Litt on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday. In the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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

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The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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

Correction

AN ARTICLE headlined "Gavin picks up two medals in Ainess" in The Oban Times of August 15 incorrectly stated Gavin Shirley was the North of Scotland 100-mile cycling record holder.

The record is in fact held by Mark Atkinson of Fort William, who completed the distance in 3 hrs 49 mins and 45 secs in 2006.



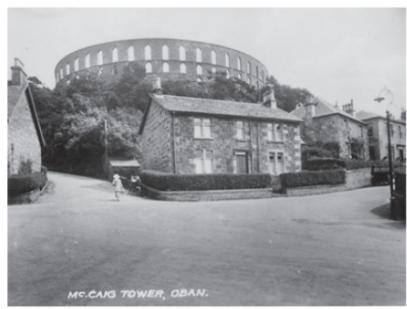
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Four views of Oban

Reader Sandy Rokitta of Oban submitted these views of old Oban. 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.

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Two Gaelic teachers vital

Sir, We write in response to the letter written by James Knight headlined "Too much being spent on Gaelic".

We disagree with the letter saying that it is not necessary to have two Gaelic teachers at Tobermory High School.

There are two different types of Gaelic being taught in the school, one for Gaelic fluent speakers (Gàidhlig) and one for Gaelic learners. They are two completely different subjects which, therefore, need two teachers.

Gaelic not only broadens people's minds, it also brings people together with events such as the national and local Mods, which take place all over the country.

Over recent years, the language has become more popular. Places such as Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - the Gaelic College in Skye - attract thousands of people from all over the world.

There are so many job opportunities now available for people with Gaelic, especially in Gaelic media and education. This encourages a lot more people to choose to learn Gaelic, especially now, when it is difficult to find a job in many places in Scotland.

With a second language like Gaelic, you can achieve so much more. Gaelic can also bring families together, as many of the older generation in places like Mull had Gaelic as their first language.

At Tobermory High School, there are opportunities to learn other languages within the school but there has not been a real demand for this recently.

Therefore, unlike Mr Knight, we see no real need for a Spanish teacher in our school.

Finally, with regards to Tobermory High School's need for a chemistry teacher, a post for a chemistry teacher has been advertised. In the meantime, pupils are being taught by a chemistry teacher.

S4 Pupils, Tobermory High School, Isle of Mull.

Giving our children the best start

Sir, James Knight's ignorant, snobbish and direct stab at the two Gaelic teachers and their apparent lack of worth in Tobermory High School, in his eyes, made my blood boil.

Tobermory is the only high school on the island and teaches both learners Gaelic to pupils who are starting to learn the language at secondary and fluent speakers courses to pupils who have gone through Gaelic Medium Education from P1 in Salen Primary School.

These pupils are lucky enough to be bilingual by the end of primary. In secondary therefore, each year there is a learners and a fluent class which cannot be taught at the same time therefore two teachers are required.

Years of studies have proven bilingual children who are fluent in two languages by the end of primary school, are equal or more often ahead of other children in their first language.

So surely the best start we can give to our children's education is to give them the opportunity to learn a second language from a young age. It does not make a difference what second language they have learnt - the results are the same.

As we live in the west coast of Scotland our children should be allowed, and indeed encouraged to learn their native language and culture. If Mr Knight had chosen to move to Wales instead of Scotland to bring up his family, would he be brave enough there to question how many Welsh teachers there are in Welsh schools today - I think not.

Mairi Hargreaves, Tobermory.

Congratulations on fishfarm plan objection

Sir, Congratulations to Ardcathann Community Council which, on public advice, opposed the Dawnfresh fish farm application at the Sailean Ruadh, Loch Etive.

Unfortunately, our community council (CC) in Taynuilt did not display a similar resolve but supported the application.

At the latest Taynuilt Community Council, I felt that council had already agreed to support the application.

The management of the Dawnfresh item seemed to me to lack objectivity and impartiality.

Ninety per cent of the 762 comments Argyll and Bute Council received on this application from PA35 were against the application - an indicator of widespread concern for the well-being of our community. This was ignored.

As far as I know, there was no prior public exercise to ascertain the opinions of local residents and interested parties.

Dawnfresh was exclusively permitted to present in support of their case. No invitation was extended for a presentation against the proposal.

Many hostile comments, one of which, significantly, gained a spontaneous, supportive round of applause, left us in no doubt members of the audience felt this application was neither sustainable nor "clean/green".

There was a touching faith in the abilities of SEPA to police increased pollution of the loch.

No consideration was given to the Loch Etive Integrated Coastal Zone management plan: a blueprint for future safe use and development of the loch - an expensive exercise presumably supported by our CC. Most significantly, there was no show of hands at the close of the meeting.

I hope that, when Argyll and Bute Council holds a public hearing, an objective assessment and decision will take place.

JM Macfarlane, Taynuilt.

Management plan being ignored

Sir, Taynuilt Community Council has made a unanimous decision regarding the Dawnfresh Loch Etive fish farm application in its response to the Argyll and Bute Council.

It is worth emphasising, as your reporter stated in the August 15 edition of *The Oban Times*, that there were "mixed feelings in the hall", therefore it was not a unanimous decision of the people at the meeting on August 12.

I think that it is a travesty that so little regard seems to be being paid to the proposals set out in the Loch Etive Integrated Management Plan relating to the area in question in which Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme, The Crown Estate and Scottish Natural Heritage invested so much time, research and money.

G M Service, Taynuilt.

Policing in Oban

Sir, I read with interest your article in last week's *Oban Times* "Officers voice concern over target based policing".

Could I suggest through *The Oban Times*, that officers who have given information regarding (KPIs) - persuading police officers to chase charges - is indeed correct, and that we should be proud of those officers who have exposed this way of life within the police.

We live in a small community where police officers must show respect to gain respect and information; this cannot be the case if this form of ruthless policing is pursued.

Gone are the days of good old community-spirited policing by the likes of PC Law, PC McLuckie, Sergeant Paul Burns, all old style who walked the beat, talked to people and gained full respect.

If Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson believes for one minute that community relations with the police in Oban are good, then he is going around blinkered.

In the past I interviewed a former Oban inspector on a radio station programme and he confirmed that what those officers have exposed was correct. Needless to say he did not last long in Oban Police Office.

Let's have a public meeting on this issue as soon as possible.

George Berry, Oban.

Queue of traffic behind cyclists

Sir, There have been several letters in your paper over recent weeks regarding the use of cycle paths.

On several recent occasions I have seen cyclists travelling into Fort William from the roundabout at Lochybridge and behind them is a queue of traffic

from the National Tyres garage backing up to the roundabout. Vehicles are unable to pass because of the volume of oncoming traffic.

Presumably the cyclists are not local and their journey south is planned along the A82. A zebra crossing exists for pedestrians and cyclists purposely for routing them behind the BA Club, past Inverloch Castle, then along the "rat run", used by locals when the traffic is bad, through Inverloch village and eventually ending up near Morrisons.

Is it a case of cyclists not being well informed, or do they want to be seen passing through the town, such as charity runs, or is it a case of be damned it's not their fault that the road is too narrow?

I enjoyed a bit of cycling myself and went on short journeys on the A82 in winter when it was not so busy.

My bike had a wing mirror so that I could check for any build up of traffic behind, but the A82 is now so busy and dangerous, having lived by it for more than 10 years, I would not dare to cycle between Fort William and Inverness without the existence of the Great Glen Way.

A Robinson, Spean Bridge.

Mutual tolerance required

Sir, I found the two letters published on August 22 interesting - but the bulk of my sympathy is with Mr Pinnington.

Mr Kitt seems to be under two illusions. First, that people only cycle for fun; second, that they have no right on "his" road. Both are erroneous.

So far, this year, my bike has run up 2,860 miles, of which well over 2,000 has been work related. I've probably driven about 1,500 miles in the same period, also work related.

Any cycle path is an alternative to public roads. They are not compulsory, any more than a motorway, and, like the motorway, they are used when they provide a better service than the existing roads.

For Mr Kitt to have a valid opinion on whether I or anyone should be using a cycle path, he would require a detailed knowledge of the route, including obstructions, surface, directness, even existence, an exact knowledge of where I started and intend to finish and what the object of the journey is.

I will grant he may have the first, but he cannot have the other pieces of necessary information.

In my opinion, having cycled for 30 years or so, the A82 is not an unusually dangerous road, while the cycle track is generally badly designed and constructed.

The road is faster and at some points actually safer, so I tend to use the road.

Having said all that, I have equally limited patience with some cyclists.

Riding in large groups on busy roads, riding at night without lights and cutting through traffic lights without even considering other traffic tends to get cyclists noticed for all the wrong reasons.

A bit of mutual tolerance is required, but please, Mr Kitt, remember even cyclists have to work and are entitled to be on the roads.

Graeme Allan, Glasgow.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NACH math a bhith a' faicinn na h-aonta a tha a' nochdadh eadar phearsachan eaglaisean a thaobh na h-ìomairt airson dùbhlachadh athaidh A9.

Agus carson nach biodh aonta eatarra mu phrìomh rathad a th' air a mbeas mar fhear a tha cho cunnartach ri gin ann an Alba? 'S dòcha gur i a' cheist is còir a faighneadh carson nach eil a h-uile eaglais a' bruidhinn a-mach air a' chuspair seo agus cuideachd muinntir nan seirbheasan slàinte agus gach roinn de bheatha làitheil agus eaconamach na dùthcha.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba gan dìon fhèin air rathad gum bheil iadsan air an leasachadh seo a ghealltainn agus fù 's ged nach biodh an obair air a crìochnachadh airson còrr air deich bliadhna gum bheil iadsan air barrachd a dhèanamh na rinn partaidhean eile nuair a bha iadsan a' riaghladh. Ged a bhiodh sin fìor, tha e cuideachd fìor gum bheil 'adhaircean mòra air crodh tha fad' às agus gum bheil deagh adhbhar air daoine a bhith amharasach à geallaidhean airson leasachadh a tha fada air adhart. Ach a rèir coltais, 's dòcha mu dheireadh thall gum bheil plana leasachaidh coileanta gu bhith air a dhealbhadh airson an A9 air fad a dhùbhlachadh seach na corran leasachaidh a th' air a bhith gan dèanamh an siud 's an seo thar nam bliadhnaichean. Tha ceist ann carson a rachadh airgead mòr a chosg a' leudachadh pìosan den rathad gu ìre trì slighean nuair a tha aonta fharsaing air a bhith ann bho chionn bhliadhnaichean gur e làn-dhùbhlachadh an aon fhearagairt a bh' air an t-suidheachadh.

Gun teagamh tha cuid a chanas nach eil an seo ach an tuilleadh gèilleadh dhan ghaol a th' againn air carbadan agus gum bheil sinn a sior chur ri sgrìos na h-àrainneachd agus gur e bu chòir dhuinn a dhèanamh ach còmhdaill poblach a leasachadh an àite an airgid mhòir a chosg air rathaidhean. Tha Riaghaltas Lunnainn agus argamaid gum bheil buannachd eaconamach dol a thighinn à billeanan a chosg air tràna luath eadar Lunnainn agus meadhan Shasainn a dh'aoindeoin na bheil ann de phrìomh rathaidhean mar-thà. Ma tha sin fìor, tha fhios gum bheil an aon argamaid a' seasamh a thaobh prìomh rathad agus rèile cheart gu ceann a tuath Alba. 'S e fìrinn na cùise nach eil goireasan còmhdaill eadar tuath is deas ann an Alba a' tighinn faisg air ìre na seirbheis a th' aca aig deas agus fù a' dràibheadh gu deas tha thu mothachail mar a tha staid na rathaidhean a' fas nas fhèarr mar as fhaide a shùbhlais tu.

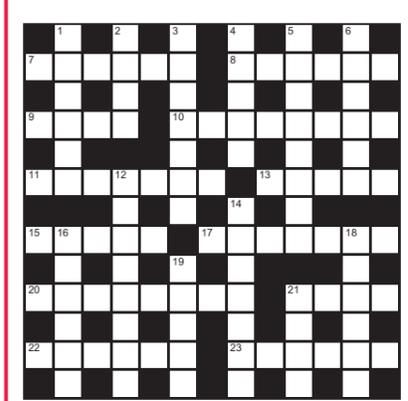
IT IS heartening to see church leaders uniting in pressing the Scottish Government to advance the timetable for dualing the A9.

At a time when the Westminster Government is prepared to invest billions in fast trains between London and the English Midlands it is indefensible for an arterial Scottish road to be classed as one of the most hazardous in the country.

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

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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Hurt from accident (6) | 1 Remove from power source (6) |
| 8 Flip (6) | 2 Dry covering of seeds (4) |
| 9 Type of jacket (4) | 3 Performer on mats and bars (7) |
| 10 Worthless (8) | 4 Wild dog (5) |
| 11 Fret over a decision (7) | 5 Enthusiastic receptions (8) |
| 13 Ticket to wealth perhaps (5) | 6 Wood destroyer (3-3) |
| 15 Famous (5) | 12 Programme of events (8) |
| 17 Blight (7) | 14 Singing holy songs (7) |
| 20 Cast out of home (8) | 16 New to (6) |
| 21 Walk through deep water (4) | 18 Lessen (6) |
| 22 Misbehaves (4,2) | 19 Fast moving (5) |
| 23 Discern (6) | 21 Beside another (4) |

LAST week's SOLUTION

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Argyllshire Gathering bounces back from traffic delay setback



Charles Williamson-MacDougall receives a quail for outstanding service to the games from senior steward Jon Strickland, left, and the Duke of Argyll. 16_135gath15



Former piping steward Angus Nicol, right, presents the new Angus Nicol Quail to champion grade B piper Darach Urquhart of Kyle of Lochalsh, as piping steward Jamie Mellor looks on. 16_135gath19



Local heavyweight champion, Oban's Craig Nicholson, competes in the weight for distance. 07_135gath02



Heavyweight Bruce Robb receives the new Ewen Cameron Quail from Ewen's daughter, Tooti Cadzow and donor Jean-Leonard de Meuron. 16_135gath18

Memorial trophy presented for first time

A MEMORIAL trophy for one of the most celebrated Argyllshire Gathering heavyweight competitors and judges has been presented for the first time this year. The Ewen Cameron Quail will be presented annually at the games to the winner of the 22lb hammer, which was this year won by Bruce Robb, Fife. The quail was presented by Ewen's daughter, Tooti Cadzow, from Luining, and Argyllshire Gathering supporter Jean-Leonard de Meuron. The Swiss man, who grew up in Scotland and

was wearing a newly registered de Meuron tartan last week, donated the quail after hearing stories from his friend Mrs Cadzow about her father's exploits. Mr Cameron, who died 15 years ago, was from Lochearnhead and a Scottish and British heavyweight champion between the years of 1956 and 1964. He competed and judged at the Argyllshire Gathering over a number of years. The new quail, which came from Oban's Iona Shop, is adorned with the Cameron crest.



Oban High School Pipe Band play on the games field. 16_135gath14



A large crowd follows the march to the games field. 16_135gath06



Molly MacPherson, aged 11, from Oban, won the shield for best Oban High School dancer after winning the under-12s section. Molly attends the Adele Askew School of Dance. 16_135gath13



Park Primary School won the Argyllshire Gathering primary school shinty tournament. 16_135gath10



Announcer Murray Hamilton helped get the games schedule back on track after the delay. 07_135gath03



The Duke of Argyll presented shields to the championship winners in the Highland dancing. 16_135gath12



Runners set off on the hill race. 16_135gath17



A photo finish for the handicapped 100-metre race. 07_135gath04



SEE page 14 for full RESULTS

Left: Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie, who had joined Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid on his summer tour of the county, competed in the hill race at the games. 16_135gath16

THERE was a nervy start to this year's Argyllshire Gathering, as Mossfield seemed to fill more slowly than usual because of delayed games traffic on the A85.

But come the afternoon the hill and the stand at the venue were packed with visitors, as the sun shone on the Highland games spectacle last Thursday.

A road crash at the Pass of Brander had delayed competitors and visitors, causing the heavyweight competition, in particular, to be delayed by a few hours. However, committee members and volunteers worked hard to get the event back on schedule and competitors who had travelled from across the country expressed their gratitude for allowing them time to enter.

Running to a tighter schedule, the games programme took on a fierce pace, giving the crowds plenty to cheer throughout the afternoon.

By the close of play, heavyweights Bruce Robb, from Fife, and Polish athlete Lucas Wenta could not be separated and they shared the championship, ahead of Australian Aaron Neighbour.

Local champion was Oban's Craig Nicholson, who has had a successful games season, winning the open competition at Lochaline and Glenurquhart.

Another local success was the emergence of young thrower Ross Christie, Kilchrenan.

The Argyllshire Sprint Championship was retained by

Clackmannanshire's Martin Patterson, with Peebles' Amy Clancy winning the women's championship.

The middle distance equivalent was also successfully defended; Andrew Douglas of Halkirk took top honours, with Christine Rankin winning the women's title.

There was local success in the light event championship as Kilmore's David Clunie and Kilfinver's Amelia Inglis placed third in the men and women's events, respectively. These championships were won by Edinburgh's Allan Hamilton and Courtney MacGuire.

Oban High School pupils dominated the youth events, with Scottish junior sprinter Ben Coates taking the honours ahead of Paddy Dunne and Scott Black.

Brighde Chambeul from Kyle of Lochalsh finished second in the girls' championship, splitting Oban's Emma Thompson, in first, and Grace Thompson.

In the Highland dancing, Kirsty Barrett from Bute won best Argyll dancer, while Oban's Molly MacPherson, who had earlier won the under-12 section, was named best Oban High School dancer.

The Argyllshire Gathering welcomed two bands to the games this year. Oban High School Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, and the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums, led by Pipe Major Jimmy Banks.



Canadian pipers, from left: Alan Bevan, Jack Lee and James Troy won the three piobaireachd competitions at this year's Argyllshire Gathering. 16_135gath08

Canadian pipers toast of Argyll

THERE could have been a banner depicting the maple leaf at the head of the march to the Argyllshire Gathering, after three Canadian pipers completed a clean sweep of the previous day's piobaireachd competitions.

Gold medal winner Alan Bevan, silver medal winner James Troy and senior piobaireachd winner Jack Lee all hail from the same province, British Columbia. But last week they were the toast of Argyll as they led the march to Mossfield.

Only Argyll's winner Stuart Liddell and second-placed Willie McCallum prevented Jack Lee from also winning the former winners' March, Strathspey and Reel.

Mr Lee, who won the gold medal in Oban in 2001, explained the triple-victory for his home

country was not a total surprise. He added: 'Piping has been very strong in British Columbia for a number of years.'

'Our piping association was founded 90 years ago and embarked on a campaign of teaching, so when Alan, James and I started playing we were already within a strong piping community.'

'I am very proud to see us all doing well.'

Argyllshire Gathering piping steward Jamie Mellor said: 'This is a huge success for Canadian piping.'

Jack Lee is usually among the prizes but this year the Canadians took all the piobaireachd honours. I doubt that has been done before. They work jolly hard at it and come a long way to compete and on the day they were the best players.'



Rockfield Primary School won the inter-school relay race. 16_135gath09

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Alexander MacPhail

Hector steals the show

DUNBEG gardener Hector MacKenzie has won the best in show at Oban Horticultural Society's annual event - and this year his success would have been one of the most satisfying.

Having won the Binnie Cup for the show's best entry every year since it was first awarded in 1989, Hector lost his title last year to Hugh MacLeod.

Asked how it felt to regain his title with his display of carrots and leeks, Hector replied: 'It feels very, very good.'

Hector credited much of his success to the work of his daughter, May. He added: 'She does all the work - I help her!'

Hector MacKenzie celebrates winning the Binnie Cup for best exhibit in show. 16.135obanshow01



RESULTS

TROPHIES: Challenge Trophy by J C Paton Oban; R MacKillop; Oban Town Council Challenge Cup: R MacKillop; Oban & Lorn Horticultural Society Challenge Trophy: P Sinclair; Challenge Trophy presented by Messrs W & H Hay Oban; P Sinclair; Loch Elve Challenge Trophy: W Hay; Mrs Willox of Dumbarton Challenge Trophy: H MacLeod; Alistair MacLeod Memorial Trophy: D Hay; Oban Times Challenge Trophy: H MacKenzie; Strathcona & Mount Royal Challenge Trophy: H MacLeod; Oban & District Hotel and Boarding House Association Challenge Cup: K Munro; Challenge Trophy presented by Mrs H Hutton Oban: A Malloch; Challenge Trophy presented by the late Lady Campbell of Arduaine: H MacLeod; The Willis Cup: A Clark; Alexander Binnie Cup: H MacKenzie.

Brown: 1 Vase Dahlias (5 Blooms): 1 P Sinclair, 2 W Hay, 3 D MacDougall; 1 Vase Ball Dahlias (up to 4" in diameter) 3 Blooms: 1 D MacDougall, 2 Brown, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Pompano Dahlias (up to 2" in diameter) 5 Blooms: 1 D MacDougall, 2 W Hay, 3 P Sinclair.

Beans: 1 T MacDonal, 2 T MacDonal, 3 P Creech; 6 Pods French Beans: 1 J Grieve, 2 P Moss, 3 H MacLeod; 6 Pods Broad Beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 J Grieve, 2 H MacLeod; 3 Parsnips: 1 H MacLeod; 1 Marrow: 1 & 2 J Grieve; 1 Cucumber: 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve; 3 H MacLeod; 2 Courgettes: 1 P Creech, 2 M Peden, 3 J Grieve; 9 Pods Peas: 1 J Grieve, 2 H MacLeod; 1 Pot Parsley: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 D Black, 3 H MacLeod; 1 Cabbage: 1 J Grieve, 2 H MacLeod, 3 J Grieve; 6 Shallots: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; 1 Bunch Mixed Herbs: 1 F Morrison, 2 J Moss, 3 F Morrison.

Argyll to host Blas festival performances for first time

PERFORMANCES during the Blas festival will take place in Argyll for the first time since the event started nine years ago.

Blas is a musical extravaganza which celebrates the Gaelic language and culture of the Highlands. Blas 2013 runs from Friday, September 6 until Saturday, September 14 and will deliver more than 100 cultural events at a variety of venues across the area.

The programme this year includes Islay's Ramsay Hall, Oban's Corran Halls and Bunesan Hall on Mull.

Donna Macrae, Blas festival director, said: 'Blas is delighted to be extending its reach to new communities and it is hugely encouraging that several local authorities want the festival to have a presence in their areas.'



Darren Maclean.

'Blas 2013 is delighted to be dipping its toe in the Argyll and Western Isles waters this year and we hope that people in those areas enjoy the events we have planned.'

The opening day of the festival sees Darren Maclean, Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout, accompanied by young local musicians from Feis Oigridh Ile 's Dhiura, appearing at Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall.

One of the festival highlights will be the appearance of the highly popular Manran, together with Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, as well as youngsters from Feis Latharna, on Thursday September 12 at the Corran Halls.

On the final night of Blas 2013, Bunesan Hall on Mull will be bouncing to Donald Black's Band and the superb musical skills of Paul MacCallum and Maggie MacDonald. Full details of shows and venues at www.blas-festival.com.

Concert to celebrate Scotland's traditional music

ONE OF the highlights of the opening weekend of Blas 2013 will be 'Blasadh bhon Tobar/Water from the Well'.

This is a concert celebrating the priceless material to be found in Tobar an Dualchais, or the Kist o' Riches, an archive of Scots and Gaelic recordings held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) on Skye.

The concert at SMO on Saturday September 7, billed as 'a complete celebration of Scotland's traditional music', is presented by a great line-up of talented traditional singers and musicians who have themselves been inspired by the archive project.

Renowned Gaelic singers Margaret Stewart and Gillebride MacMillan and accomplished Scots musician Steve Byrne all worked as song specialists on Tobar an Dualchais.

They will be joined by acclaimed Skye singer Anne Martin and by award-winning piper Decker Forrest.

The Gaelic name 'Tobar an Dualchais' literally means 'Well of Heritage' - an apt description for the wealth of material. The

Scots term 'Kist o' Riches' conveys the vast store of material to be found on the websites www.tobaranualchais.co.uk or www.kistoriches.co.uk

amounts to around 33,000 Gaelic and Scots recordings from all over Scotland and collected from the 1930s onwards.

Many precious recordings which were in danger of deteriorating beyond use have been preserved and can now be heard freely throughout the world, bringing enjoyment and inspiration to many.

Arthur Cormack, from Blas Festival organisers, Feisean nan Gàidheal, said: 'We are delighted that Tobar an Dualchais will be showcasing some of the material from its unique archive.'

'Blasadh bhon Tobar' will be a celebration of Gaelic and Scots, both of which are represented in the archive and we welcome this collaboration between the local promoter, SEALL, and Tobar na Dualchais.'

Tickets for the 7.30pm concert are available locally from 01471 844 207 or through ticketmaster.co.uk.

what's on THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - August 29

- 9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Craignure walk, meet Oban ferry terminal, Lochaline ferry slipway at 9.40am or Corran Ferry slipway at 8.15am.
10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
11am, Coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Summer lunch, Connel Church Hall.
1.30pm, Nature mosaic, Kilmartin Museum.
7pm, Clay pigeon shooting, Lom Clay Target Club, North Connel.

FRIDAY - August 30

- 10am, In the Footsteps of St Columba art exhibition, Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.
11am, Art and craft market, Bunesan Hall, Mull.
7pm, Seafood extravaganza, Dervaig Village Hall, Mull.
9.30pm, Gunna Sound, Markie Dan's, Oban.
7.30pm, Lady Gaga and Cher tribute, McCalig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9.30pm, Oban Mic, O'donnells Bar, Oban

SATURDAY - August 31

- 12pm, Alf's Rally, meet Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
2pm, Afternoon tea, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
7pm, Barbeque, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.
7.30pm, The Osligi Warriors, Corran Halls, Oban.
7.30pm, Angus Weaver of Grass, Bowmore Hall, Islay.
9.30pm, Fraser Jones, Markie Dan's, Oban.
9.30pm, Ceol an Aire, McCalig's Return, Oban.

SUNDAY - September 1

- 8.40am, Ramblers Scotland Fort William walk, meet Woolen Mill.
11am, Craft fair, Seil Island Hall.
2.30pm, Producers market, Dervaig Village Hall, Mull.
7pm, Karaoke, McCalig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - September 2

- 8pm, Scottish Country Dancing, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
8.30pm, Music session, Shower of Herring, Kilmelford.

TUESDAY - September 3

- Great annual show and sale of Top Draw Blackface Wedder Lambs and special sale of all other breeds, Oban Livestock Centre.

WEDNESDAY - September 4

- 1pm, Ranger service Ardtun Fossil leaf beds guided walk, meet Bunesan car park.
8pm, Edinburgh Choreographic project, Mull Theatre, Drumfin, Tobermory, Mull.
9pm, Quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY -

- 9.20am, Ramblers Scotland Bridge of Orchy walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

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

North Connel flower show



Successful competitors in the children's classes included, from left: Aimee Newiss, Charlotte Jackson-Stark and Dana Johnstone. 16.135northshow01

THE SCHOOLS competition - last held in 2002 - made a welcome return to the 54th North Connel and District Horticultural Show.

The reinstatement of the schools competition coincided with the largest entry of vegetables in living memory.

There was also the return of an egg class after an absence of more than 40 years and a new trophy for this section was presented by the Ranald Hotel.

Money raised from the show's clearing sale will be donated to projects in the area's schools.

RESULTS

Flowers: Flowering Shrub: 1 Jessie Wormald; Ornamental Foliage: A McDougall; Sweet Peas-Mixed: 1 E Hill, 2 E MacPherson, 3 C Needham; Sweet Peas - one colour: 1 & 2 E Hill, 3 C Needham; Rose 1 specimen: 1 M Newiss; Lily One Stem: 1 & 2 J Wormald, 3 M Newiss; Antirrhinum Four Spikes: 1 G Gorabett; Violas Six Blooms: 1 J Eccles, 2 E Hill; Specimen Flower One Bloom: 1 F Harvey, 2 M Steeman, 3 R Flower; Plant in Flower: 1 M Newiss, 2 M Steeman, 3 S Greenwood; Begonia: 1 M Steeman, 2 C Anderson; Fuchsia: 1 J Eccles, 2 M Steeman; Foliage Plant: 1 F Harvey, 2 M Steeman, 3 K Anderson; Cactus/succulent: 1 & 2 K MacKay, 3 K Anderson; Vegetables: Onions: 1 C MacPherson, 2 & 3 Ardchattan School; Leeks: Lochnell School; Shallots (4): 1 H Needham, 2 E Hill, 3 C Needham; Potatoes - white: 1 R Robb, 2 M Newiss, 3 F Shaw; Potatoes - other: 1 S Greenwood, 2 & 3 R Robb; Carrots Long: 1 C MacPherson, 2 J MacDonal, 3 R Robb; Beetroot: 1 E Hill, 2 & 3 F Shaw; Courgettes: 1 F Shaw, 2 & 3 J MacDonal; Dish of Soft Fruit: 1 K MacConnachie, S Greenwood, 3 E Hill; Sticks of Rhubarb: 1 S Greenwood, 2 R Robb, 3 M Steeman; Marrow: 1 J MacDonal, 2 & 3 M Newiss; Lettuce: 3 C Needham, 2 CUS; Tomatoes: 1 & 2 J Wormald, 3 J MacDonal; Tomatoes - Cherry: 1 & 2 C Needham; Cucumber: 1 Barcaldine School, 2 Sturrock, 3 C Needham; Pot of One Herb: 1 S Greenwood, 2 J Eccles, 3 S Greenwood; French Beans: 1 & 2 S Greenwood, 3 C Needham; Broad Beans: 1 C Needham, 2 & 3 S Greenwood; Runner Beans: 1 J Wormald, 2 S Greenwood, 3 Eccles; Peppers: 1 C Needham; Pods of Peas: 1 F Shaw, 2 CUS, 3 H Needham; Peaspod Mangle Tot Sugarnap: 1 & 2 C Needham, 3 S Greenwood; Cabbage: 1 K

MacConnachie, 2 J Wormald, 3 R Robb; Children's Baking: 7 years and under: Pieces of Chocolate Tray Bake: 1 Harry Needham, 2 Penny Huddleston; Muffins: 1 & 2 H Needham; Cup Cakes: 1 Harry Needham, 2 E Bavington, 3 D Johnston; Chocolate Truffles: 1 K MacConnachie, 2 A Newiss, 3 A Charlton 8-12 years: Pieces of Chocolate Tray Bake: 1 R McIntyre, 2 Freya MacKechnie, 3 G Charlton; Muffins: 1 F MacKechnie, 2 E Munro, 3 G Charlton; Victoria Sponge(decorated): 1 Freya MacKechnie, 2 E Munro; Pieces of Tablet: 1 F MacKechnie, 2 G Charlton; Baking and Preserves: Tray Bake: 1 E Munro, 2 & 3 J Mulqueen; Fruit Loaf: 1 Moira Newiss, 2 Eileen Hill, 3 V Huddleston; Wholemeal Loaf: 1 E Hill, 2 V Huddleston, 3 M Newiss; Cup Cakes: 1 E Munro, 2 M MacKay, 3 E Hill; Themed Decorated Sponge Cake: 1 S Bland, 2 E Hill, 3 S Hill; Savoury Fiani Quiche: 1 Eileen Hill; Chocolate Truffle: 1 Moira Newiss; Jar of Jam: 1 Marian Steeman, 2 E Hill, 3 Moira Newiss; Jar of Fruit Jelly: 1 Moira Newiss; Jar of Marmalade: Moira Newiss; Lemon Curd: 1 Heather Morrison; Hens Eggs: 1 A Needham, 2 & 3 J Wormald. Floral Art: Arrangement in unusual container: 2 A Needham, 3 M Newiss; Kitchen windowsill (edible): 1 D McCormick, 2 M Newiss; Miniature: 1 J Eccles; Silver-Gilt Arrangement: M Newiss; James Bond Film Title: 1 C Needham, 2 M Newiss. Photography: Adults: Flowers: 1 K Anderson, 2 A Richards, 3 S Greenwood; Garden Scenes: 1 & 2 S Greenwood, 3 T Donovan; Mountain Scenes: 1 S Greenwood, 2 J Campbell, 3 K Anderson; Wildlife: 1 J Campbell, 2 K Anderson, 3 Sue Greenwood; Water: 1 J Campbell, 2 K Anderson, 3 A Richards. Children under 14 years: Flowers: 1 F MacKechnie, 2 R McIntyre, 3 F MacKechnie; Garden Scenes: 2 F MacKechnie; Mountain Scenes: 3 F MacKechnie; Pets in the Garden: 1 F MacKechnie, 2 R McIntyre, 3 G MacDonal; Water: 1 F MacKechnie, 2 P McIntyre, 3 F MacKechnie. Children's Classes: 9 years and under: A Mask of a Garden Creature: 1 J MacDonal, 2 K MacKechnie, 3 C Jackson Stark; Flower Arrangement: 1A Newiss, 2 E MacPherson, 3 M Rodwell; Model of a Garden Creature: 1 N Latham, 2 A Needham, 3 R Carre; Plant Growing in a Pot: 1 Eild MacPherson; Garden on a Plate: 1 A MacCorquodale, 2 F Taylor, 3 A Newiss; Picture of my Favourite Season: 1 A Needham, 2 F Blackadder, 3 A McMillan; 10 - 14 years: A Mask of a Garden Creature: 1 E Barron, 2 D MacDonal, 3 G MacDonal; A Design for a Bird Feeding Table: 1 S Black, 2 K MacCorquodale, 3 T Howe; A Picture of the Four Seasons: 1 S MacKechnie, 2 R McIntyre, 3 A MacTaggart. Cups and Shields: Championship Cup and McLeod Shield: Flowers and Vegetables: = Carol Needham and Sue Greenwood; Lees Milne Cup: K MacConnachie; Oban Times Cup: Eileen Hill; Campbell Godley Quich: Marian Steeman; Dundonald Vase: Jessie Wormald; Agnes MacKay Quich: Jane Eccles; Tensfield Cup: Sue Greenwood; Silver Baking Cup: Harry Needham; Silver Rose Bowl: Freya MacKechnie; An Claddich Quich: = Eileen Hill and Moira Newiss; Best Eggs Trophy: Alice Needham; Achnacreebeg Cup: Moira Newiss; Graham Stooke Photography Cup: Sue Greenwood; Silver Photography Shield: Freya MacKechnie; Silver Vase: Eild MacPherson; Donald Morrison Cup: Shona MacKechnie; Jean Campbell Cup: Stuart Black; Schools Challenge Cup: Ardchattan School.

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New cinema management team ushers in change

A CHANGE of management at Oban Phoenix Cinema is coinciding with a frantic period of activity.

Fee Shaw has left the community-run cinema to return to Edinburgh University, leaving the existing team of Eleanor MacKinnon, Jason Twort and Scott Werran, headed by Carol Devine, taking over day-to-day operations.

The quartet will now turn their attention to overseeing the introduction of a new loyalty card, starting this week, where customers will get free entry after five visits; the moving of the concession stand to the foyer outside what will soon be cinema two; moving the box office to where the fridges currently are and using the new open space as a small café.

It is hoped that cinema two will be completed by the end of October.

Carol said: 'It sometimes is the way with funding applications that everything happens at once.'

'A lot of these things have been in the pipeline for a

while and there's lots of suggestions from community feedback we're working on. 'It'll be nice for people who maybe haven't been in to have a look around and just sit and enjoy a coffee. We'll have free WiFi too so hopefully that will draw people in.'

The stage on cinema one is to be revamped further and new lighting sourced. Cinema two will be a flexible space hosting, among other things, regular mother and toddler screenings.

Plans to reduce the building's carbon footprint include much-needed changes to the radiators.

'Currently, we don't have regulator valves on the radiators, which you notice if the cinema is either too hot or too cold,' said Carol. 'That will be changed.'

So far, 50,000 cinema-goers have been to the Phoenix since it opened last year.

However, the search is still on for volunteers and extra cash to help improve the building. For more information, drop in, phone 01631 562905 or log on to obanphoenix.com.



Oban Phoenix Cinema's new management team of Scott Werran, Carol Devine, Eleanor MacKinnon and Jason Twort get a taste of what leading the community venture is about.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Kick-Ass 2	Thursday 29th August	20:30
Grown Ups 2	Thursday 29th August	18:00
The Lone Ranger	Friday 30th August	17:30 3D, 21:00
	Saturday 31st August	13:00 3D, 17:00, 20:30 3D
	Sunday 1st September	13:00 3D, 17:00 3D, 20:30
	Monday 2nd September	17:30, 21:00 3D
	Tuesday 3rd September	18:00 3D, 21:30
	Wednesday 4th September	17:30 3D, 21:00
	Thursday 5th September	18:00, 21:30 3D

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Kick-Ass 2 (15)
After Kick-Ass' insane bravery inspires a new wave of self-made masked crusaders, led by the badass Colonel Stars and Stripes, our hero joins them on patrol. When these amateur superheroes are hunted down by Red Mist -- reborn as The Mother F%&*^r -- only the blade-wielding Hit Girl can prevent their annihilation. When we last saw junior assassin Hit Girl and young vigilante Kick-Ass, they were trying to live as normal teenagers the Mindy and Dave. With graduation looming and uncertain what to do, Dave decides to start the world's first superhero team with Mindy. Just as they start to make a real difference on the streets, the world's first super villain, The Mother F%&*^r, assembles his own evil league and puts a plan in motion to make Kick-Ass and Hit Girl pay for what they did to his dad. But there's only one problem with his scheme: If you mess with one member of Justice Forever, you mess with them all.

Grown Ups 2 (12A)
After having the greatest time of his life three summers ago, Lenny (Adam Sandler), decides he wants to move his family back to his hometown and have them grow up with his gang of childhood friends and their kids. But between old bullies, new bullies, schizophrenic bus drivers, drunk cops on skis, psycho grade school girlfriends and 400 costumed party crashers he finds out that sometimes crazy follows you wherever you go!

The Lone Ranger (12A)
A thrilling adventure infused with action and humour, in which the famed masked hero is brought to life through new eyes. Native American spirit warrior Tomo (Johnny Depp) recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid (Armie Hammer), a man of the law, into a legend of justice, taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption.

Charity music night raises cash for Vision Action



Oban Specsavers' staff at the event: David Nicol, Tina Tomson, Iona Campbell, Emily Macdonald, Karen Thomson, Jenny Culverwell, Leah Brady, Sheoban Summers, Ken Macdonald and Pako Serumola. t35vision1no

STAFF at Specsavers in Oban have raised more than £1,500 for charity at a recent music night event.

The opticians hosted the musical extravaganza to raise funds for Vision Action -- an organisation dedicated to training people in developing countries to spot potential eye problems.

Director of the Specsavers store, Ken Macdonald, is the founder of the charity. He said: 'The work of eye care in developing countries is a cause which is really close to my heart.'

'The money raised will enable us to continue to make a difference to people, especially in Cameroon. To

date, our work has helped to restore vision and help train people on the ground to spot optical conditions.

'I'm thrilled that our music night proved such a success. The substantial funds raised by Oban locals who came along to the concert will help us make a difference where it counts.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the event a resounding success.'

The funds raised will enable the delivery of simple, sustainable and low-cost supply of glasses to those in need. Later this year, Ken is leading a team to Cameroon that will focus on helping visually impaired children.

Plockton High School hosts launch of new piping book

THE NATIONAL Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music and Plockton High School are to host the Highland launch of a significant new book on piping.

'A Piper's Tale' by Fergus Muirhead and published by Cargo contains entertaining stories from some of the world's greatest pipers and gives a fascinating insight into what makes them tick.

Roddy MacLeod, Willie McCallum, Gordon Walker, Ian Duncan, John Wilson, Murray Henderson, Jack Lee, Stuart Cassells, Finlay MacDonald, Dougie Pincock and Iain MacFadyen are among those who feature.

The pipers talk about why they have chosen to play the type of music they play, how they prepare for the next competition, concert or recital, where they have played and who they have met since they first picked up a set of pipes.

Mr Muirhead is an experienced writer and broadcaster who has written on all aspects of money and consumer issues for a number of newspapers and magazines.

He has travelled the world playing the bagpipes, initially with Molendinar in the late seventies and more recently with The Caulbuns Ceilidh Band.

He has acted as MC at concerts in every 'Piping Live!' festival over the last 10 years and at the World Pipe Band Championships, and is in demand as a speaker at Burns' nights all over the world.

The launch at Plockton High School on September 5 at 6pm will have Mr Muirhead in conversation with two of the featured pipers, Dougie Pincock and Iain MacFadyen. The event is open to the public.

'A Piper's Tale' is now in shops and on line following an official launch in the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.

Cycling duo impressed by Argyll



Shane and Kate Cadzow took the cyclists from Ardlussa Pier on Jura to Luing by boat.

TWO CYCLISTS who have been travelling round the British coastline in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) have been so impressed with Argyll that they plan to come back with their families.

Rad Hart-George and Nick Bouverie have used 10 days of annual leave every year, since 2010, to cycle the RNLI Tour of Britain to raise £40,000 for the charity and have so far raised £29,000.

On the recent west coast leg of their journey, they were keen to make use of some local contacts when they reached Argyll.

Luing native Archie Cadzow works for Rad at

the London-based Airvolution Energy, so when the intrepid but weary cyclists reached Jura, Archie's family stepped in to aid their voyage, taking them by sea from Jura to Luing.

This year's leg finished in Oban, having started from Chester nine days, 32 RNLI stations and 1,360 kilometres earlier. Their adventure is sponsored by Knight Frank and Rackspace.

Next year's cycle will take them from Oban to Aberdeen via the Outer Hebrides, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands at the beginning of August 2014.

Donations to the fundraising effort can be made online at the Virgin money giving website.

Expert to give algae talk

ONE of the world's leading experts on algae is to give a talk in Dunbeg on the benefits and dangers of the marine plant.

Professor Keith Davidson, head of the microbial and molecular biology department at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI, will explore how marine phytoplankton can be both vital for and harmful to life.

The tiny organisms form the base of the marine food chain and are crucial to global climate.

However, some marine phytoplankton species, often called harmful algae, produce bio-toxins that can be dangerous to humans and other mammals, which can have a negative impact on coastal aquaculture like shellfish.

Professor Davidson said: 'I am honoured to be invited to present the first

of the university's inaugural professorial lectures to be given at SAMS UHI.

'I hope the lecture will provide some insights into the fascinating world of marine microbes.'

Marine Phytoplankton: The Good, The Bad and The Not so Ugly, is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands' free public lecture series.

It will be the first public talk the academic has given since being made a Professor of the university earlier this year.

The lecture takes place from 5.15pm to 7pm at SAMS UHI, Dunstaffnage, Oban, on Monday, September 9.

To book a place or find out about video conference facilities in your area, contact the university's events team on 01463 279 344 or at events@uhi.ac.uk.

High standard praised in Oban in Bloom Competition



The Oban in Bloom prizewinners. 16_t35bloom01

ORGANISERS behind this year's Oban in Bloom competition have praised the high standard of entries as the awards were handed out last Saturday.

The annual prizetaking for the competition took place at the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Show in Glencruitten Church Hall.

RESULTS

Small Gardens: Thomson Trophy: 1 Duncan Black, 2 Iain and Jane MacIntyre; Medium Gardens: Poppies Garden Centre Cup: 1 Anne Black, 2 F John Mackenzie, 3 James Livingstone; Large Gardens: MacDougall Cup: 1 Ross Dalgetty, 2 Andy MacDowall, 3 Lorna MacCulloch; Hotels and

Guest Houses: MacTavish's Kitchen Cup: Dungalann Country House Hotel; Commercial Premises: Cakebread Cup: 1 MacGillivray Seafoods, 2 MacQueen Self Storage Ltd, 3 Millennium Garden; Hanging Baskets: 1 Aulay's Bar, 2 The Lorne Bar, 3= Bossard's Patisserie and The Royal Hotel.

Oban in Bloom Committee thanked sponsors ACHA, Atlantis Leisure, Cakebread Garden Centre, Dungalann House Hotel, Homebase, Kinlochlach Garden Centre, MacGillivray Seafoods, MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, Matheson Furniture, Poppies Garden Centre and Tesco.

Gaelic Classes in Lochaber - September 2013

This term's Gaelic Classes will start the week beginning the 9th September 2013 and will run for 12 weeks with a two-week break for the October school holidays.

Enrolment for Classes will take place on Thursday 5th September at Lochaber High School between 7pm and 8.30pm. Please note that Classes may not run if insufficient people enrol.

Fort William
Beginners Gaelic Class - Tuesday, 7pm to 9pm, Lochaber High School
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 32 to 44 - Tuesday, 7pm to 9pm, G8, Lochaber High
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 47 to 59 - Monday, 7pm to 9pm, G8 Lochaber High
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 47 to 59 - Thursday, 1pm to 3pm, 2nd floor, Lochaber House, High St.
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 103 to 115 - Wed. 2pm to 3.30pm, St Andrews Church Hall
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 103 to 115 - Wed. 7pm to 9pm, G8, Lochaber High

Parents Class - Monday 1-2pm at An Drochaid (No enrolment required)
Babies/toddlers welcome! To start on the 2nd September. Free of charge.

Strontian
Gaelic Ulpan Unit 22 to 34 - details to be confirmed.
Cost - Beginners Class £54 or £27 for GM parents/HC employees. Ulpan classes - £79 or £52 for Gaelic Medium Parents/ HC employees.

For further information, please contact Margaret Mulholland, Highland Council at 01463 703690 or Margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk



Scottish WHISKY AWARDS 2013

Thursday 31 October, 6.30pm at the Hilton Grosvenor, Edinburgh

BUY TICKETS

Join Scottish Field and Informed Edinburgh as we play host to this glittering event, the culmination of a unique Scottish based blind tasting whisky challenge.

This is your opportunity to meet the winners, mingle with our judges and actually sample some of the very best whisky from the class of 2013.

Your ticket also includes:

- Gala awards evening • 3 course dinner and wine • Gift bag
- After dinner entertainment from Scottish rugby legend Jim Renwick

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Sell Island Hall **Craft Fair**
Sunday, September 1
11am - 4pm
Wide selection of craft stalls, outdoor activities, including body zorbing and bouncy castle
Teas, coffee, light lunches home baking and barbecue
Organised by Eastdale School Parent Council and Sell Hall SCO2819

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN
AFTERNOON TEA
Saturday 31st August 2013
In St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban
2.00pm - 4.00pm
Annual Prize Draw
Admission £3
Stalls - Baking, Preserves, Books & Bric a Brac

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.95 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

ST ORAN'S CHURCH
Connel 125th Anniversary Celebrations
Sunday 1st September - BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
Were you married or baptised in Connel or Dunbeg? Did you attend Sunday school or Bible class there? A warm welcome is extended to anyone who may have had a church connection in the past, and to everyone who would like to come and join us for our 'Back to Church Sunday Services.'
St Oran's Church - 10.30 am (Tea and Coffee after service)
Dunbeg Church - 12 noon (Church open from 11.15 for tea and coffee)

Scottish Country Dancing
Introductory Classes
Monday 2nd Sept At 8PM
Church Of Scotland
Glencruitten Road, Oban
Contact Sue Porter on 01831 563103

Argyllshire Gathering results 2013

Under 12s Shinty: 1 Park, 2 St Columba's, 3 Rockfield; PIPING: Highland Society of London Gold Medal: 1 Alan Bevan, Canada, 2 Douglas Murray, Fife, 3 Dr Innes Smith, Stirling; Senior Probaireachd: 1 Jack Lee, Canada, 2 Bruce Gandy, Canada, 3 Alastair Dunn, Ireland; Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal: 1 James Patrick Troy, Canada, 2 Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon, 3 Jamie Forrester, Isle of Mull; Junior March, Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Aaron Hussain, 2 Alastair MacLean, 3 Jamie Kilorn; March (Local): 1 Angus J McColl, 2 Cameron Underwood, 3 Aaron Hussain; Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Angus J McColl, 2 Cameron Underwood, 3 Alistair McLean; March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners): 1 Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, 2 William McCallum, Bearsden, 3 Jack Lee, Canada; March Grade 'A': 1 Alastair Lee, Canada, 2 Alastair Dunn, N Ireland, 3 Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon; March Grade 'B': 1 Darach Urquhart, Caol, 2 Stuart Easton, New Zealand, 3 Greig Canning, Edinburgh; Strathspey & Reel Grade 'A': 1 Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh, 2 Alan Bevan, Canada, 3 Alex Gandy, Canada; Strathspey & Reel Grade 'B': 1 Gordon Bruce, Kilwinning, 2 Greig Wilson, Fife, 3 Stuart Easton, New Zealand; Jigs: 1 Andrew Hayes, Canada, 2 Ian MacDonald, Canada, 3 Gavin Ferguson, Campbeltown; MacGregor Memorial Competition: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie, 3 Steven Leaske, Irvine; Brigadier Lorn Campbell of Airds VC Trophy: Alan Bevan, Canada; College of Piping Silver Salver: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; McCallum Memorial Trophy: Stuart Liddell, Inveraray; MacNeil of Barra Memorial Cup: Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh; Kiberry Cup: Jack Lee, Canada; Donald Ramsey Trophy: Andrew Hayes, Canada; OHS Shield Silver Medal: Aaron Hussain, Oban; Angus Nicol Quach: Darach Urquhart, Caol; Royal Celtic Society prize: Jack Lee, Canada. DANCING: 7 yrs to 13 yrs (Local): Highland Fling: 1 Molly MacPherson; 2 Sean Triubhas; 1 Molly MacPherson; 3 Hullachan; 1 Molly MacPherson; Webster of Oban Trophy: Molly MacPherson; 13 yrs to 16 yrs (Local): Highland Fling: 1 Nicola MacKinlay, 2 Kate MacPherson, 3 Kirsty MacInnes; 3 Kirsty MacInnes; Sean Triubhas; 1 Nicola MacKinlay, 2 Kate MacPherson, 3 Emily Gunn;



Tommy Askew leads the march to the games past a sea of visitors keen to get a photograph. 16_1359ath05

Hullachan: 1 Nicola MacKinlay, 2 Emily Gunn, 3 Kirsty MacInnes; Kitchen Garden Trophy: Nicola MacKinlay; 16 yrs and over (Local): Highland Fling: 1 Kirsty Barrett, 2 Chelsea Higgins; Sean Triubhas: 1 Kirsty Barrett, 2 Chelsea Higgins; Hullachan: 1 Kirsty Barrett, 2 Chelsea Higgins; Farquhar Martin Memorial Trophy: Kirsty Barrett; Best Local Adult: William MacLennan Trophy: Kirsty Barrett; Best Argyll Dancer: 12 years and under Open: Highland Fling: 1 Kayla Sutherland, 2 Kate Bonar, 3 Molly MacPherson; S w o r d Dance: 1 Kayla Sutherland, 2 Molly MacPherson, 3 Kathryn Attler; Sean Triubhas: 1 Kate Bonar, 2 Kayla Sutherland, 3 Molly MacPherson; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Kayla Sutherland, 2 Kate Bonar, 3 Kathryn Attler; Stewart Family Trophy: Kayla Sutherland; Best overseas juvenile dancer: Kayla Sutherland; 15 years and under: Highland Fling: 1 Nicola Chatten, 2 Bethany Lyall, 3 Katie Reisma; Sword Dance: 1 Bethany Lyall, 2 Katie Reisma, 3 Nicola Chatten; Sean Triubhas: 1 Bethany Lyall, 2 Nicola Chatten, 3 Katie MacPherson; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Bethany Lyall, 2 Nicola Chatten, 3 Katie Reisma; Calley Fisheries

Trophy: Bethany Lyall; Best overseas junior dancer: Nicola Chatten; Argyllshire Gathering Shield: Bethany Lyall; Oban High School Shield: Molly MacPherson; 16 yrs and over (Open): Highland Fling: 1 Fiona Lee, 2 Rhuna Wall, 3 Hayley Wade; Sword Dance: 1 Fiona Lee, 2 Shanon Reinhard, 3 Hayley Wade; Sean Triubhas: 1 Fiona Lee, 2 Jacqui Houllihan; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Fiona Lee, 2 Laura Morris, 3 Jacqui Houllihan; Challenge Medal: Fiona Lee; Best overseas dancer: Fiona Lee. TRACK & FIELD: Scottish Highland Games 3200 m Open: 1 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk, 2 Jamie Crowe, Dundee, 3 Craig Robertson, Logierait; Women: 1 Christine Rankine, Kilbarchan; Local: 1 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Argyllshire Long Jump: Open: 1 Allan Hamilton, Edinburgh, 2 Jax Thoires, Glasgow, 3 Toby Harris, Edinburgh; Women: 1 Courtney MacGuire, Edinburgh, 2 Hazel Blair, Glasgow, 3 Amelia Inglis, Oban; Local: 1 David Clunie, Oban, 2 Gregor Bryden, Oban, 3 Sam Lines, Taynuilt; Argyllshire Youth and Girls 100m: Open: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Paddy Dunne, Oban, 3 Jamie MacPherson, Oban; Girls: 1

Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh, 2 Emma Thompson, Oban, 3 Katie Gillespie, Oban; Argyllshire Light Stone (16lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, Poland, 2 Aaron Neighbour, Australia, 3 Bruce Robb, Fife; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 James Campbell, Mull, 3 Andrew Johnston, Appin; Argyllshire Youths High Jump: Boys: 1 Ben Coates, 2 Hector McDonald, 3 Paddy Dunne; Girls: 1 Emma Thompson, 2 Grace Thompson and Kirsty Buchanan; Primary Schools Relay: 1 St Columba's; SHGA British Light Hammer Championship (16lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, Poland, 2 Bruce Robb, Fife, 3 Aaron Neighbour, Australia; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 Angus MacPhail, Tiree, 3 Andrew Johnston, Appin; Scottish Highland Games British 100m final: Open: 1 Allan Hamilton, Edinburgh, 2 Jax Thoires, Glasgow, 3 Donald Tod, Edinburgh; Women: 1 Amy Clancy, Peebles, 2 Courtney MacQuire, Edinburgh, 3 Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh; Local men: 1 David Clunie, Oban, 2 John MacCallum, Campbeltown, 3 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Argyllshire Triple Jump: Open: 1 Allan Hamilton, Edinburgh, 2 David Watson, Paisley, 3

Martin Patterson, Clackmannan, 2 Ewan Dyer, Pitreavie, 3 Donald Tod, Edinburgh; Women: 1 Amy Clancy, Peebles, 2 Courtney MacGuire, Edinburgh, 3 Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh; Argyllshire 28lb weight for distance: 1 Bruce Robb, Fife, 2 Aaron Neighbour, Australia, 3 Lucas Wenta, Poland; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 Angus MacPhail, Tiree, 3 James Campbell, Mull; Tossing the sheaf (over 16): 1 Nick Fraser; Argyllshire High Jump: Open: 1 Allan Hamilton, Edinburgh, 2 Jax Thoires, Glasgow, 3 David Clunie, Oban; Women: 1 Amelia Inglis, Oban, 2 Courtney MacGuire, Edinburgh, 3 Hazel Blair, Glasgow; Local: 1 David Clunie, Oban, 2 Gregor Bryden, Oban, 3 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Argyll Youths Long Jump: Open: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Scott Black, Oban, 3 Daniel Speirs, Connel; Girls: 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh, 2 Emma Thompson, Oban, 3 Becky Bruce, Oban; Highland Caber: Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, Poland, 2 Bruce Robb, Fife, 3 Neil Elliott, Helensburgh; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 Angus MacPhail, Tiree, 3 James Campbell, Mull; Argyllshire 400 Metres: Open: 1 Martin Patterson, Clackmannan, 2 Ewan Dyer, Pitreavie, 3 Calum McWilliam, Giffnock; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, Kilbarchan, 2 Christine Rankin, Kilbarchan, 3 Amy Clancy, Peebles; Local: 1 John MacCallum, Campbeltown, 2 Craig Tomison, Mull, 3 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Highlander Clachd (22lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, Poland, 2 Bruce Robb, Fife, 3 Aaron Neighbour, Australia; Argyllshire 42lb weight over the bar: Local & Novice: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 James Campbell, Mull, 3 Andrew Johnston, Appin; Argyllshire 1600 Metres: Open: 1 Andrew Butchart, Central, 2 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk, 3 Craig Robertson, Logierait; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, Kilbarchan, 3 Christine Rankin, Kilbarchan; Local: 1 Craig Tomison, Mull, 2 Gary Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Ian MacFarlane; Argyllshire 56lb weight for distance: 1 Bruce Robb, Fife, 2 Aaron Neighbour, Australia, 3 Lucas Wenta, Poland; Argyllshire Youths 600 metres (NEW): Youths: 1 Dylan Lindsay, Glenrothes, 2

Daniel Brookling, Slough; Girls: 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh, 2 Grace Thompson, Oban, 3 Ciirstaidh Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh; 1600m Handicap: Open: 1 Colin Donnelly, Lochaber, 2 Andrew Butchart, Central, 3 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk; Highlander 56lb weight over the bar: Open: 1 Bruce Robb, Fife and Lucas Wenta, Poland, 3 Aaron Neighbour, Australia; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, Oban, 2 James Campbell, Mull, 3 Andrew Johnston, Appin; 100m Handicap final: Open: 1 Billy Martin, Glenrothes, 2 Ewan Dyer, Pitreavie, 3 Donald Tod, Edinburgh; CHAMPIONS: Argyllshire Sprint Championship: Open: 1 Martin Patterson, Clackmannan, 2 Ewan Dyer, Pitreavie, 3 Donald Tod, Edinburgh; Women: 1 Amy Clancy, Peebles, 2 Christine Rankin, Kilbarchan and Natalie Sharp, Kilbarchan.

Argyllshire Middle Distance Champion: Open: 1 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk, 2 Andrew Butchart, Central, 3 Craig Robertson, Logierait; Women: 1 Christine Rankin, Kilbarchan, 2 Natalie Sharp, Kilbarchan, 3 Kathryn Pennel, Pitreavie; Light Event Champion: Open: 1 Allan Hamilton, Edinburgh, 2 Jax Thoires, Glasgow, 3 David Clunie, Oban; Women: 1 Courtney MacGuire, Edinburgh, 2 Hazel Blair, Glasgow, 3 Amelia Inglis, Oban; Argyllshire Open Youth & Girls Championship: Youth: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Paddy Dunne, Oban, 3 Scott Black, Oban; Girls: 1 Emma Thompson, Oban, 2 Brighde Chaimbeul, K of Lochalsh, 3 Grace Thompson, Oban; Argyllshire Heavyweight Championship: Open: 1 Bruce Robb, Fife and Lucas Wenta, Poland, 3 Aaron Neighbour, Australia.



His Grace the Duke of Argyll presents the gold medal to Canadian piper Alan Bevan. 16_1359ath07

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

TWENTY YEARS AGO Thursday August 26 1993



Young shinty players assemble on Saturday for the march through Newtonmore which preceded the opening of a new sports pavilion. 134twenty05

New sports pavilion opens

NEWTONMORE Camanachd Club achieved yet another milestone in its proud history when a new sports pavilion was opened at the club's ground, the Eilean, on Saturday.



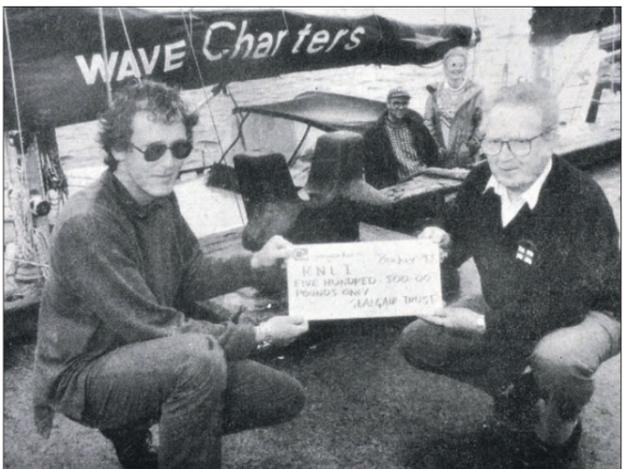
The revived version of the traditional Kerrera to Oban swim has raised around £1,000 for charity. Despite appalling weather conditions, Kyle and Russell Dodds, Karen Oman, pictured, Mhairi Stewart, Morvern Summers and Diane Wylie from Atlantis Leisure recently swam from the island of Kerrera to the slipway of Oban Sailing Club, taking about 30 minutes to complete the crossing. 134twenty01



Ranald and Amy Rixson with their father Dennis outside Mallaig Heritage Centre. 134twenty03

Mallaig heritage project

THE SEARCH is on for old photographs which could be put on display at the new Mallaig Heritage Centre. Dennis Rixson, secretary of the Heritage Centre Trust, hopes to house a major photographic exhibition when the facility opens in October.



Wave Charters' cash boost for lifeboat

Bob Hunter, of Wave Charters, Crinan, handed over a £500 cheque to Captain Norman MacLeod of Oban Lifeboat. The money was presented on behalf of the charitable trust 'Sealgar'. Most of its funds go to west coast based charities. Other cheques will go to the Tobermory, Mallaig, Islay and Castlebay lifeboats. 134twenty02



Star treatment for Rhona at new Co-op

STAR-struck Oban schoolgirl Rhona MacDonald rolled up in a chauffeur driven limousine on Tuesday to open the town's new £5 million Scottish Co-op. Rhona, 11, from North Connel, won her celebrity status and opportunity of opening the store in a school essay competition, run jointly by the Co-op and The Oban Times.

Left: Rhona waves to the crowds after arriving at the new Co-op. Also pictured are other special guests, including pupils of Ardchattan Primary School. 134twenty04

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FARMING

United Auctions

Stirling

UNITED Auctions, Wednesday August 21, sold 1,127 store cattle at its Stirling sale last Wednesday, where bullocks averaged 231.2p (-2.21p) to 295.8p per kg for a 480kg Charolais Cross from Hayfield and £1,610 for a 604kg Aberdeen Angus Cross from Mollanldhu.

Black and White Blks averaged 159.3p (+4.58p) to 177.1p per kg for a 655kg Holstein Friesian cross from Corscaplie and £1160 for a pen of 655kg Holstein Friesian cross from Corscaplie.

Heifers averaged 220.73p (+0.05p) to 275p per kg for a 320kg Limousin cross from Auchinflower and £1,270 for a 492kg Limousin cross from West Park.

Forward Cattle averaged 188.72p to 249p per kg for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Balwherric and £1230 for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Whitfield.

Cast Cows - averaged 126.5p to 189.3p per kg for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Mackiesmill and £1430 for a Charolais cross from Whitfield.

STIRLING United Auctions Bullocks; Up to 250kg: Knollhead £500, 234.7p; 251-300kgs; Escart £775, Knollhead 273.4p; 301-350kgs; Wester Ochtermuthill £870, Knollhead 2625.8p; 351-400kgs Castlehill £1090, 275.9p; 401-450kgs Castlehill £1120, 264.8p; 451-500kgs Hayfield £1420, 295.8p; 501-550kgs Mollanldhu £1340, 246.2p; 551-600kgs Mollanldhu £1400, 235.7p; 601-650kgs; Mollanldhu £1610, 266.6p; Corscaplie £1430, 218.7p

Heifers; Up to 250kg Strathavon £590; Escart & Crossaig 245.5p; 251-300kgs Mackiesmill £670, Escart & Crossaig 235.2p; 301-350kgs Auchinflower £880, 275p; 351-400kgs Laight £1010, 256.30p; 401-450kgs Auldtonn £1100, 260.7p; 451-500kgs West Park £1270, 258.1p; 501-550kgs Balnagleck £1180, 229.6p; 551-600kgs Graystale £1210, 213.8p.

OTM Cows - Whitfield (Char) £1430, 177.9p; Bolfracks (Saler) £1210, 164.9p; West Park (BRB) £1130, 189p; Boghall & Forneth Estate (Sim) £1110, 168.7p; Whitfield (AA) £1090, Mackiesmill 189.3p; Whitehouse (Lim) £1090, 181.9p

Forwards - Whitfield (AA) £1230, Balwherric 249p; Balwherric (Sim) £1190, 205.1p; Whitehouse (Lim) £1110, Barfilan 203.2p; Graystale (BRB) £1090, 213.7p

OTM Bulls - Middlehill (Char) £1630, East Buchanty 165.4p; Chesterstone (AA) £1310, 181.9p; Balwherric (Sim) £1490, 209.3p; Blanebank (Lim) £1310, 139.7p

Store Sheep (£470) Average; TexX lambs £61.20 (-£0.22 on the week) Mule lambs £55.33 (-£0.51 on the week) Btex lambs £63.43 (-£0.92 on the week)

week) BF lambs £36.94 (-£2.12 on the week) SuffX lambs £65.80 (+£2.12 on the week)

Leading Prices: Sheddock (Mule) £64; Halls (Mule) £62; Knowhead (Mule) £61; Ashintully (Btex) £69.50; Low Tirlagus (Btex) £68; Glenhead (Btex) £66; Craigview (BF) £46; Little Port (BF) £41; Drumnaghina (Suff) £71.50; Ashintully & Luss Estate (SuffX) £69.50; Lenamhor (Suff) £68; Easter Woodside (Tex) £78; Tulloch (Tex) £71.50; Toward (Tex) £69

UNITED Auctions sold 6,375 prime sheep including 4,684 lambs and 1,691 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale and Beltex Society Show last Thursday, when judge H Moir awarded champion pen to Kirk and Calvert, Otfield realising £95 to the judge. Reserve Champion M's MacDougall, High Mildovan.

Leading prices: Lambs: Keillour Park (Btex) £97; Kinclaven (TexX) £101; South Flanders (SuffX) £90; Braeside (BF) £67; Stobshield Mains (HB) £75.20; Bangour (Char) £86; St. Mungoes (Mule) £76; Garvald Mains (Chev) £79. Rams: Saddlebank (Btex) £23p; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (TexX) £21p; Currie Inn (SuffX) £191p; Jaw (BF) £69p; Stobshield Mains (HB) £175p; Shanry (Char) £188p; Wester Bowhouse (Mule) £175p; Garvald Mains (Chev) £176p.

Ewes: Pathed (Suff) £90.50; Kipperoch (Tex) £117.50; Laignpark (Mule) £68.50; Beech Knowe (Chev) £87.50; Glendamp (BF) £57.50; Bangour (Cross) £72.50; Lawfield (Chev/Mule) £78.50.

Rams: Redheugh (Suff) £90.50; Forteviot (Tex) £87.50; South Moorhouse (BF) £57.50.

Islay

UNITED Auctions held their first lamb sale of the season at Islay Auction Mart when they had a catalogued entry of 2,000 head.

All stock was cleared at values comparing favourably to principal mainland centres. Tallant Farm led the prices per head with Texel Crosses selling to £80 whilst Ardbeg Farm led the prices per head for Suffolk Crosses, also to £80. Blackrock topped the sale per kilo when their Texel Crosses sold to 192pence. Second and third draw lambs recorded a decrease in weight of around two kilos on the year and the sale average was £58.79 per head.

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Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their second sale of all classes lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart when they sold 2,683 head.

The entry of lambs again consisted mainly of hill types and all classes were sharper on the week.

No14 Poltalloch led the top call per head when their Texel Crosses sold to £71.50. Several lots of lambs sold in excess of £2 per kilo and to a top of 213pence for Crosses from Acha-Bheim. The sale averaged £49.93 per head or 175pence per kilo and

all stock offered, was easily cleared, to a strong ringside of buyers. Again, all classes of lambs recorded a drop in weight of around two kilos on the corresponding sale last year.

Caledonian Marts

Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts had on offer 1,943 Prime Lambs and 678 Cast Ewes and Rams at its Stirling sale last week.

Prime Lambs sold to 230p for Beltex scaling 43kg from R Anderson and Son, Oldwalls and to £100 for 46kg Texels from AM Duncan, Easter Tullatur Farm to average 185.74p (+4.2p on the week).

Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 3,575 store lambs and feeding sheep at its Oban sale last Tuesday, where store lambs averaged £52.53, down 61p on the year to £79 from Matheson, 379 Garrynamonie, South Uist.

Feeding Ewes averaged £32.62, -£13.71 on the year, to £88 from E MacGilvary, Barcaldine Home Farm.

Dingwall and Highland marts

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,680 store lambs and 242 feeding sheep at its Stornoway sale last week, where all classes sold at satisfactory rates similar to other centres.

Overall average showed a decrease of £1.44 on the corresponding sale of last year.

Cheviot lambs averaged £40.14 and sold to £59 gross from 7 Ivorhill, Stornoway.

Texel cross lambs averaged £48.49 and sold to £59 gross 5B Arivruaich, Lochs.

Suffolk cross lambs averaged £47.17 and sold to £63.50 gross from 30 Gravr, South Lochs.

Blackface lambs averaged £28.50 and sold to £45 gross twice from 6 Percival Road, Stornoway, and 20 Ranish.

Cross lambs averaged £39.62 and sold to £66.50 gross from 9A Ranish.

Feeding sheep sold to £69 gross from 40 Crossbost, Lochs.

Portree

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,726 store lambs and ewes at its Portree sale last week, where all classes met a keen demand and numbers were short of requirements, the overall sale average rose by £1.30 on the year.

Lambs averaged £40.64 sold to £74.00 per head for Suffolk crosses from 1 Waterstein, Glendale.

Ewes, Gimmers and Rams sold to £65.00 for a Cheviot ewe from 2 Drummuie, Portree.



Millie Ferguson on Waitwith Welsh Magic, supreme champion, horses and ponies section.



Angus MacColl from Fanmore, Mull won the overall cross-breed sheep championship with his home bred gimmer by a Camwell Laird tup, Biggar.



It's tense in the ring as Blackface judge Kevin Hunter, from Milton of Aberarder, Farr, casts an eye over some prime stock.

Farming newsdesk
01631
568000

APPIN SHOW RESULTS

Overall Champion

Champion: E MacGilvary, Spring Born Calf; Reserve D MacCorquodale, Gimmer.

Cattle: Suckler Cow (instead of hill cow/Scott Rae Cup: 1 W MacLeod; Breeding Heifer (exc. Classes 5&7): 1 J H Weir; 2 W MacLeod; Bullock Calf born Sept. to Dec 2011: 1 W MacLeod; Best in Classes 3 & 5Airds Cup: 1 D MacDonald; Heifer Calf born Sept. to Dec 2011: 1 D MacDonald, 2 W MacLeod; Bullock Calf born 2012: 1 E MacGilvary, 2 D MacDonald, 3 E MacGilvary; Heifer Calf born 2012: 1 D MacDonald; Best in Classes 6 & 7Ardur Cup: 1 E MacGilvary; Jas. MacMillan Cup: Champion: E MacGilvary; Reserve: D MacDonald. Sheep: Blackface: Male: Aged Ram: 1 W MacLeod; Shear Ram: 1 D Colthart, 2 W MacLeod, 3 D Colthart; Shearing Ram: Home Reared: 1 W MacLeod, 2 D Colthart; Shearing Ram: Home Bred: 1 D Cameron, 2 D Colthart; Ram Lamb: 1 D Cameron, 2 J H Weir, 3 D Cameron; Home Bred: Male: Cameron Cup: 1 D Cameron; Best Blackface: Male: Johnny Cameron Shield: 1 D Colthart, 2 W MacLeod; Blackface: Female: Ewe in Milk: 1 D Cameron, 2 D MacCorquodale, 3 W MacLeod; Gimmer in Milk: 1 D Cameron, 2 W MacLeod, 3 J H Weir; Gimmer: 1 & 2 D MacCorquodale, 3 W MacLeod; Ewe Lamb: Show Cup: 1 D Cameron, 2 D MacCorquodale, 3 W MacLeod; Champion B.F. Female: Johnny Cup: Champion: D MacCorquodale; Reserve: D Cameron; Female Bred by Exhibitor: Morrison Cup: 1 D MacCorquodale; Females: MacGregor Cup: 1 D MacCorquodale; Females: 1 Male/Keil Cup: 1 D Cameron; B.F. Champion: Achnacone Cup: 1 D MacCorquodale; Reserve: D Cameron; Pure Breeds other than B.F.: Male N E Shield: Champion: A MacKellar; Reserve: D MacCorquodale; Ewe: 1 A MacKellar, 2 D MacDonald, 3 D MacCorquodale; Gimmer: 1 A MacKellar; Ewe Lamb: 1 D

MacCorquodale, 2 D MacDonald, 3 A MacKellar; Female Champion: A MacKellar; Reserve: D MacCorquodale; Champion: Blades Cup: A MacKellar; Reserve: A MacKellar; Ram Lamb: 1 & 2 D MacCorquodale, 3 D Cameron; Shearing & Aged Ram: 1 A MacKellar, 2 D MacCorquodale; Cross sheep: Ewe: L A MacKellar; Ewe Lamb: 1 D Colthart; Pair Prime Lambs: Any Breed: Glenclarran Cup: 1 J Carmichael, 2 A MacKellar.

Root and Grain:

3 White Potatoes: 1 Jim Weir; 3 Coloured Potatoes: 1 R Lander; Yellow / Swede Turnip: 1 R Lander; 3 Stumpy Carrots: 1 Marina Curran - Colthart; 3 Long Carrots: 1 MacColl Family; 3 Beetroot: 1 R Lander; 6 Runner Beans: 1 Janet Tricker; Round Cabbage: 1 Betty Jackson; Conical Cabbage: 1 Betty Jackson; 3 Onions (plants): 1 R Lander; 3 Onions (sets): 1 Jim Weir; 6 Pods Peas: 1 R Lander; Broad Beans: 1 Duncan Cameron; Ram Lamb: 1 D Cameron, 2 J H Weir, 3 D Cameron; Display Box of 6 different veg: 1 D Gilkes; Best Exhibit: R Lander; For Onion Sets: Most Points: R Lander; Runner up: J Weir; Glenclarran Trophy: J Weir. Flowers: 4 Pom Pom Dahlias: 1 R Lander; 4 Cactus Dahlias: 1 R Lander; 4 Roses: 1 Ann Calvert; Single Rose: 1 Duncan Cameron; 4 Marigolds: 1 Marina Curran-Colthart; 9 Sweet Peas: 1 J Cameron; 6 Pansies: 1 Duncan Cameron; Flowering Pot Plant: 1 R Lander; Foliage pot plant: 1 R Lander; Best Exhibit: R Lander; Most Points: R Lander; Runner Up: D Cameron. Floral Art: Arr. depicting a poem 24" base: 1 P Wyeth - Webb; Arr. in unusual container 20" base: 1 Linda MacLeod; Simplicity, using 5 blooms 12" base: 1 Marina Curran - Colthart; Arr. in a wine glass: 1 Linda MacLeod. Best Exhibit: Marina Curran - Colthart; Most Points: Linda MacLeod; Runner Up: Pat Wyeth - Webb. Senior Handicrafts: Hand Knitted Fingerless Gloves, 4ply: 1 Morag

White; Ladies Jumper, any ply: 1 Moira Thomson; Something Knitted from 100g of yarn, or less: 1 Barbara Carmichael; Heavy Crochet Knee Rug, ma. 48"x48": 1 Brenda MacLeod; Embroidered Item: 1 Morag White; Machine Sewing, Something New From Something Old, include photo of original: 1 Fiona Landale; Machine Sewing, Apron: 1 Morag White; A Mask: 1 Brenda MacLeod; Greeting Card, not computer: 1 Pat Wyrth-Webb; Item Any Craft: 1 Corinne Allward; Best Exhibit: Morag White; Most Points: Brenda MacLeod; Runner Up: Morag White.

Junior Handicrafts

Pre school: 1 Decorated Yogurt Pot; 1 Jack Groom; Collage Of A Sheep, A4: 1 Ruari MacLeod; Picture, A4: 1 Ruari MacLeod; Most Points: Ruari MacLeod & Jack Groom; up to 7 years: Model From A Washing UP Bottle: 1 Eva MacColl; Item in Papier Mache, Max 34cms: 1 Erin Jackson; Picture Of A Highland Cow, A4: 1 Ealasaid Jackson; 8 to 11 years: Doughcraft Animal: 1 Ben MacCorquodale; Fish Mobile: 1 Abi MacCorquodale; Poster For Shiny Match, A4: 1 Isla Dunlop; Most Points: Abi MacCorquodale; 12 to 16 years: 1 Pad Cover: 1 Arran King; Wire Model, max. 30cms: 1 Craig MacCorquodale; Most Points: Arran King & Craig MacCorquodale; Best Exhibit Junior Handicrafts: Eva MacColl.

Open Handicrafts

A Goat: 1 Aonad Gaidhlig; Painting In Watercolour: 1 Llewli Hensman-Marban; Picture Any Medium: 1 Stewart Sandeman. Photography Mounted Photograph Max. 20x30 cms: A Favourite Beauty Spot: 1 John Landale; Un-Mounted Photograph max. 15x20 cms: Moody Blue: 1 L Thomson; Monochrome Photograph Max. 12x18 cms: 1 L Thomson. Senior Baking 3 Pancakes: 1 Barbara Carmichael; 3 Girdle Oatcakes: 1 Moira Thomson; 3 Cheese Oven Scones: 1 Moira

Thomson; White Soda Bread: 1 Neil Carmichael; Chocolate Sponge with Filling: 1 Rena Cameron; Clotted Dumpling: 1 Ella Gunn; 3 Cheese Straws: 1 Alison MacCorquodale; Plate Apple Tart, Shortcrust Pastry: 1 Rena Cameron; Madeira Cake: 1 Barbara Carmichael; Salmon Mousse, in Ramekin: 1 Caroline Henderson; 4 Different Petit Fours: 1 Neil Carmichael; Tomato Soup, in a flask: 1 Neil Carmichael; Most Points: Neil Carmichael; Runner Up: Rena Cameron; Best Exhibit: Ella Gunn; Dumpling Quaich: Ella Gunn.

Junior Baking

3 Savoury Muffins: 1 Rory Latham; Banana loaf: 1 Cara Nicol; Fruit Loaf: 1 Sophie Latham; 3 Empire Biscuits: 1 Ealasaid MacLean; Individual Trifle: 1 Eva MacColl; 3 Sugar Mice: 1 Innes Jackson; Most Points: Ealasaid MacLean; Runner up: Innes Jackson; Best Exhibit: Sophie Latham. Jam and Eggs Marmalade: 1 Barbara Carmichael; Raspberry Jam: 1 Betty Jackson; Strawberry Jam: 1 Alison MacCorquodale; Redcurrant Jelly: 1 Fiona Landale; Gooseberry Jam: 1 Alison MacCorquodale; Lemon Curd: 1 Alison MacCorquodale; Chutney: 1 Morah White; 6 eggs, any colour: 1 Sandy Carmichael; Most Points: Alison MacCorquodale.

Dogs

Collies: 1 Lucy/Caroline Henderson; Gun Dogs: 1 Millie/ Neill Carmichael; Terriers: 1 Nellie/ Eilidh MacKenzie; Pet Dogs: 1 Tiggy/ Laura Murray; Champion: Nellie/ Eilidh MacKenzie; Reserve: Millie/ Neill Carmichael. Trophy awarded for winner Gorteenor Cup: Show Champion: E MacGilvary; A. Scott Rae Cup: Hill Cow in Calf or Milk: W MacLeod; Airds Cup: Calf Born 2012: D MacDonald; Ardur Cup Calf Born 2013: E MacGilvary; James MacMillan Cup: Commercial Cattle Champion: E MacGilvary; Ploughing Match Cup: Overall Cattle Champion: E MacGilvary;

Cameron Cup: Home Bred B.F. Male Sheep: D Cameron, Johnny Cameron Shield Best B.F. Male: D Colthart; Morrison Cup: Best B.F. Female Bred By Exhibitor: D MacGregor Cup; Group 3 B.F. Female Sheep: D MacCorquodale; Keil Cup: Group 3 Female + 1 Male B.F. Sheep: D Cameron; Appin Show Cup: B.F. Ewe Lamb: D Cameron; Johnny's Cup: Female Champion: D MacCorquodale; N. E. Shield: Male Champion: A MacKellar; Blades Cup: Pure Bred Champion: A MacKellar; Tigh-an-Tuim Cup: Cross Sheep Champion: J Carmichael; Glenclarran Cup: Cross Lambs: D Colthart; Royal Bank Cup: Overall Sheep Champion: D MacCorquodale; Ferguson & Bonniwell Cup: Best Collie Dog: Caroline Henderson / Lucy; Beaton Cup Best Pet Dog: Laura Murray / Tiggy; Seamus Nelson Cup: Champion Dog: Eilidh MacKenzie / Nellie; Young Farmers Cup: Most points Senior Baking: Neil Carmichael; Sutcliffe Shield: Runner Up Senior Baking: Rena Cameron; Appin Agricultural Club Cup: Best Exhibit Senior Baking: Ella Gunn; MacDonnell Quach: Best Clotted Dumpling: Ella Gunn; Appin Agricultural Club Cup: Most Points Junior Baking: Ealasaid MacLeod; Sutcliffe Cup: Runner Up Junior Baking: Innes Jackson; Salon Mudge Cup: Most Points Jams And Eggs: Alison MacCorquodale; Madges Trophy: Most Points Floral Art: Linda MacLeod; Gunns Garage Cup: Best Exhibit Floral Art: Marina Curran-Colthart; Invernyhle Cup: Most Points Root and Grain: Bert Lander; Abhainn Cottages Cup: Best Exhibit Root and Grain: Bert Lander; Hutchison Cup: Most Points Flowers: Bert Lander; Yeaman Rose Bowl: Best Exhibit in Flowers: Bert Lander; Glenclarran Trophy: Most Points Novice Flowers / Root & Grain: James Weir; MacRae Cup: Most Points Senior Handicrafts: Brenda MacLeod; S.W.R.I. Plate:

Best Exhibit Senior Handicrafts: Morag White; Junior handicrafts Cup: Most Points Junior Handicrafts: Pre-School, Up To 7 yrs, 8 to 11yrs. (12 to 16 years): Ruari MacLeod & Jack Groom; Erin Jackson & Ealasaid MacLean; Abi MacCorquodale; Craig MacCorquodale & Arran King; Junior Handicrafts Quaich: Best Exhibit Junior Handicrafts: Eva MacColl.

Highland Cattle Section

Bull: Any Age: 1 Warrior of Isle of Bute/ R MacMillan, Little Grenash, 2 Adhamh 1st of Achnacloch/ S and M O'Hara, Cnoc, 3 Feador of Torosay/ J MacGilvary, Penngown; Veteran cow: 1 Lady Jane Harviston/ Q Strickland, Cladich; Cow with calf or in Milk: 1 Charlotte 3rd of Mottistone/ M Poland, Mottistone; Heifer 3 year old: 1 UK540930601940/ Sir Wm Lithgow, Ormsary; 2 Leonara of Greenfield/ J MacGilvary, Penngown; 3 Sorchadhub of Cladich/ Q Strickland, Cladich; Heifer 2 Yr old: 1 Flora 4th of Mottistone/ M Poland, Mottistone; 2 Bridein 4th of Kynedore/ S and M O'Hara, Cnoc; 3 UK541137500491/ D Buchanan/ Shenavallie; Heifer yearling: 1 UK540930202363/ Sir Wm Lithgow, Ormsary; 2 Alma Grianach 3rd of Cladich/ Q Strickland, Cladich; 3 DosanOg 89th of Achnacloch/late Mrs JY Nelson, Achnacloch; CALF: 1 Yana 1st of Cnoc/ S and M O'Hara, Cnoc; 2 Lady Jane Campbell of Cladich/ Q Strickland, Cladich; 3 UK58263200106, Isle of Bute/ R MacMillan, Little Grenash; Group of three: Q Strickland, Cladich; Young Handler: 12 years and over: Ruby Bosomworth, Ormsary; Under 12 years: Ross Shaw, Drimmin; Champion: Flora 4th of Mottistone/ M Poland, Mottistone; Reserve champion: Warrior of Isle of Bute/ R MacMillan, Little Grenash; Special awards: Appleyard Lander Distance Trophy: R MacMillan, Little Grenash; Pierhouse Dinner for Two: Wm MacLean, Mottistone.

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Quality shines through at Lochaber Show



Trophy winners in the cattle section line up: from left, Sydney and Maureen O'Hara and stockman Iain McKay from Cnoc Fold, Appin; Robert and David Wright, Woodend, Clovullin; Donald Campbell, Camaghael, and Steven Cameron from Borlun, Glendoe Estate Fort Augustus. 20_135show05

LADY Catherine, a three year-old first calf Limousin cross from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin, won the overall cattle championship at a high-quality Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday.

Robert's son David Wright Jnr prepared the cow for the show ring in the hope of repeating his success at Sunart and District Show two weeks previously, when the same animal was reserve cattle champion.

Overall sheep champion was also a cracker - a one crop Blackface ewe from Kevin MacKinnon of Corrievarrie, Tomatin.

The ewe, bred at Glenrath, Peebles, was by a £26,000 Dalchirla tup out of a Glenrath-bred dam by a £40,000 Nunnerie tup.

The ewe is no stranger to top awards - she was champion at the Sutherland Show and reserve at the Black Isle.

And Mr MacKinnon scored a double success when the ewe's lambs won reserve sheep champion.

Delighted
A delighted Mr MacKinnon told *The Oban Times*: 'It is my first time here. I was supposed to come last year but I never made it. To get the champion and reserve was a bit unexpected - but I won't say no.'

Angus MacColl from Fanmore, Mull, won the any other breed sheep championship with a home bred ewe-in-milk Texel, while Highland cattle champion was a two-year-old cow from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara of Cnoc Fold, Appin.

Lady Catherine wins overall cattle championship

John Nudds of Torr-na-Faire, Lochaline, won best local sheep in show with a Blackface gimmer, while Donald Campbell from Camaghael won best pedigree heifer in show with an Aberdeen Angus.

In the horse and pony section, Millie Ferguson claimed the supreme championship with Waitwith Welsh Magic.

Trophy winners:
Blackface sheep (local): David Parker Cup - Best Home Bred Shearling Tup, John Nudds, Glen Gloy Cup - Best Tup Lamb, Sam Mackenzie, Dr Van Voss Cup - Best Ewe in Milk, John Nudds, Braeroy Cup - Best Gimmer Bred in Lochaber, John Nudds, Major MacDonald Cup - Best Ewe lamb, John Nudds, Glenfintaig Trophy - Best pair of Prime Blackface Lambs - Paolo Berardelli, Alistair MacKenzie Memorial Cup

- Best Local Homebred Group, John Nudds, Ben Nevis Auction Mart Cup - Local competitor with most points, John Nudds, Welcome Foundation Shield - Best Sheep Bred in Lochaber Outwith Champion and Reserve, John Nudds, Lochell Estate Cup - Local Reserve Champion Blackface, Major MacDonald Cup - Local Champion Blackface (All Local 1st prize winners to compete), John Nudds.

Sheep (open): Laggan Farms Trophy - Open Best Homebred Group, John Nudds, Bidwells Shield - Open Reserve Champion Blackface, Kevin MacKinnon, Ian Macrae Memorial Cup - Open Champion Blackface (all Open 1st Prize winners to compete), Kevin MacKinnon, Open Champion: Kevin MacKinnon, Open Res Champion: Kevin MacKinnon.

Local Champion: John Nudds, **Local Res Champion:** John Nudds.

Cross Sheep: West Highland Oil Cup - Best Pair of Prime Cross Lambs: M & S Cameron, Highland Livestock Services Cup - Reserve Champion Cross Sheep: M & S Cameron, Glen Gloy Cup - Champion Cross Sheep: M & S Cameron, **Cheviot:** Achnasaul Bowl - Champion Cheviot: Duncan Buchanan (Gimmer), Keil Cup - Reserve Champion Cheviot: Iain Makay (Tup Lamb), **Any other breed:** David MacDonald Trophy - Best Cheviot Tup Lamb: Iain Mackay, Millennium Shield - Reserve Champion Any Other Breed: Angus MacColl, L Macnally Open Cross Sheep Shield: M & S Cameron, Alistair MacDougall Cup - Champion Any Other Breed: Angus MacColl, Cheviot Champion: Duncan

Buchanan (Gimmer), Cheviot Res Champion: Iain Makay (Tup Lamb), AOB Champion: Angus MacColl (Ewe), AOB Res Champion: Angus MacColl (Gimmer), Cross Champion: M & S Cameron (Prime Lambs), Res Cross Champion: M & S Cameron (Ewe & Twin Lambs).

Cattle:
Glen Nevis Trophy - Best Highland Calf: Sydney & Maureen O'Hara, Mary MacLean Balure Cup - Reserve Champion Highland: Kenneth Knott, Miss E. Weir - Champion Highland Animal: Sydney & Maureen O'Hara, Royal Bank of Scotland Cup - Best Pedigree Animal (out with Highland): Donald Campbell, Ewen MacPherson Cup - Best Cross Calf Bred in Lochaber: M & S Cameron, Archibald Carmichael Memorial Trophy - Best Charolais Calf Bred in Lochaber: Hugh MacDonald, The Mr & Mrs Jock Carmichael Cup - Best Cross Cattle Exhibit bred in Lochaber: Robert Wright, Major MacDonald Cup - Best Ewe Calf: M & S Cameron, British Alcan Cup - Best Breeding Beef Cow (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): Robert Wright, Bank of Scotland Cup - Best Female Bred in Lochaber (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): Donald Campbell, The Carmichael Cup - Best Calf of Native British Breeding: Donald Campbell, West Highland Estates Office Cup - Best Crofters Animal: Robert Wright.

Cross Cattle Champion: Robert Wright, Cross Cattle Res Champion: M & S Cameron, N.F.U. Salver - Best animal bred in Lochaber out with Champion and Reserve (All 1st prize winners bred in Lochaber): M & S Cameron, Inverlochy Castle Cup - Reserve Champion: Sydney & Maureen O'Hara, Hon Wills Cup - Supreme Champion: Robert Wright.

More results in next week's Oban Times.



Lexie Cameron, aged four, from Fort Augustus was among the winners in the groomed lamb class. 20_135show02



Left: Overall sheep champion was this one crop Blackface ewe from Kevin MacKinnon, Corrievarrie, Tomatin. Her lamb was reserve. 20_135show09



Highland cattle champion was this fine two year-old cow from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara, Cnoc Fold, Appin, shown by stockman Iain McKay. 20_135show06



John Nudds from Torr-na-Faire, Lochaline won the local championship with this Blackface gimmer. 20_135show08



Brothers Chris, Sam and Jamie MacKenzie from Moss, Acharacle had a great day at Lochaber Agricultural Show. Sam won the Glen Gloy Cup for best tup lamb. 20_135show07

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All offered to prior sale ex location.

Scottish Vintage Tractor and Engine Club
Farming Yesteryear and Vintage Rally
at Scone Palace Parklands, Scone, Perth,
on Sunday, 8th September, 2013
Adults £10, Concessionaries and Children £5.
www.svtcc.org

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SEPTEMBER SALES 2013

TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER AT 11.00AM
Great Annual Show & Sale of Top Draw Blackface Wdr Lambs
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TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
Show and Sale of Suckled Calves
Sale of Store, Breeding and OTM Cattle
Special Sale of Store Lambs and Feeding Sheep

TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER
Special Sale of Blackface Wedder & Ewe Lambs
Also Store Lambs, Breeding & Feeding Ewes

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
Great Annual Sale of warranted Ewes, Gimmers & Ewe Lambs

For further information on the above sales contact:
Alastair Logan - 07713 342514 or Ronnie Maccormick - 07717 435248

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Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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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

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Excellent Basic (+OTE), plus Car, BUPA and Enhanced pension

Based in Oban and reporting to the Advertising Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

The Oban Times **campbeltown courier** **argyllshire advertiser** **THE ARRAN BANNER**

Farm Technician Arkaig
Salary £17,454 - £22,144 plus overtime

We currently have a vacancy for a Farm Technician at our freshwater site at Arkaig. The position is offered on a full time, permanent basis. The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided. A driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of 13th September to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Business Development Officer

You will help our organisation to grow by developing new projects, securing contracts and exploring new business opportunities. You will be a self motivated, self starter with good business sense and lots of enthusiasm, who is interested in energy issues and climate change.

35 hours per week; job share considered. Location: can be flexible within Argyll but expected to be in our Oban offices frequently.

Starting salary: £24,509; Initial contract for 12 months - but may be extended, depending on success

Closing date: Thursday 12th September
Interviews planned: 25th September
Job packs can be downloaded from www.alienergy.org.uk.
Or ring 01631 565183;
email mandie@alienergy.org.uk

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Administrative Officer, Cairnbaan
Part-time 21 hours per week
£18,745- £20,180 (pro rata) plus benefits

For a full job description and to apply, please visit our website; www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

✉ resourcing@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Please quote ref 0040-3
Closing date: 11 September 2013.
No recruitment agencies please.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

Scottish Sea Farms

PROCESSING ENGINEER SOUTH SHIAN

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd is looking to recruit an Engineer based within our Processing operation at South Shian, Connel. The role requires an individual who is multi-disciplined, preferably with an electrical bias. Candidates should be familiar with faultfinding and diagnosis of electro-mechanical equipment. Previous experience in primary and secondary processing is also essential. In offering this position, Scottish Sea Farms are providing a unique and valuable opportunity to join a dynamic, hardworking team, which is focused on delivering the highest quality product to the world's most demanding customers.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate:

- A hands on approach
- Excellent supervisory and communication skills
- Computer literacy
- The ability to oversee the Health and Safety of employees to a high standard
- The ability to motivate staff
- Be willing to learn and work in a flexible environment
- Be able to work with minimal supervision

Terms and conditions will be attractive, reflecting the skill and experience of the successful applicant.

A job description and company background can be obtained by contacting Claire Scott on 01786 445521.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter, setting out how your skills and talent will improve our operations, to claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com by Friday 13th September 2013.

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Opportunities for Freelance Work

We are looking for self-motivated, self-starters with knowledge and experience in energy efficiency or renewable energy who are interested in doing freelance work with ALIenergy. Work may include energy survey/assessments and reports; awareness raising and education; research and information gathering; project development and/or contributing to various types of consultancy work.

Reasonable remuneration, depending on skills and experience.

If you are interested in working with us, please send a brief CV and Resume outlining your skills and experience to: mandie@alienergy.org.uk or post to ALIenergy, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR to reach us by Thursday 19th September. Visit www.alienergy.org.uk for more information.

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

MCFADYENS CONTRACTORS
CAMPBELTOWN LIMITED
Civil Engineering and Drainage Contractors, Plant Hires and Quarry Masters

Job Vacancy - Quantity Surveyor
Location - Campbeltown

We have a full time vacancy for a Quantity Surveyor, preferably with a minimum of 3 years contractor experience, post graduate to be based at our office in Campbeltown, Argyll. Consideration will also be given to a Civil Engineering Technician/Graduate with measurement experience. The successful candidate will be self motivated and able to work both on own initiative and as part of our team.

Duties include:-

- preparing quotations for tenders, with and without Bills of Quantities
- dealing with a range of specifications and Conditions of Contract
- on site measurement as required
- preparing weekly costings for contracts from operative and plant timesheets and material records
- prepare Interim and Final Valuations and liaise with clients
- allocate work to subcontractors, value work completed and issue payments

The candidate must be IT literate and have good communication skills with the ability to learn and take on new tasks as required. In return we offer a very competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with the ability and experience.

Applications in writing by CV providing details of experience to:-
McFadyens Contractors (Campbeltown) Ltd, Glebe Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6LR.

PMG SERVICES
TRUCK & PLANT SERVICES

PMG Services is looking for a qualified Plant/HGV Mechanic. Please send CV's to the address below or contact Peter on 07766513585.

PMG Services, 1 Black Crofts, North Connel, PA37 1QX

Isle of Mull Slaughterhouse Ltd
- Slaughterman/Butcher

The Isle of Mull Slaughterhouse is a small community enterprise, providing slaughter and butchery to a high standard to both island and mainland clients.

We now wish to appoint an experienced slaughterman/butcher to join our team who is able to provide our clients with the high standards of meat and meat products they have come to expect.

Please email esplinchapman@aol.com with your CV and for further details of this vacancy.

Lochaber Environmental Group
Energy Officer- Lochaber Initiative on Fuel & Energy project
Organisation: Lochaber Environmental Group
Part time- 21 hours p/w, 6 month fixed term contract, £18,000 pro rata
Visiting targeted buildings throughout the Lochaber area the Energy Officer will conduct free energy efficiency surveys. They will offer one-to-one impartial advice on how to best reduce energy use, cut carbon dioxide emissions and empower residents act on the information provided.
Closing date: Tuesday 3rd September 2013
Application packs from lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk or 01397 700090

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

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 6th September.**
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 8DX

Health Care Assistant/Dispensing Assistant

Ross of Mull and Iona
Medical Services, Buessan.
12 hours per week over 3 mornings.

Experience desirable, although not essential, training will be given to the right candidate.

For a job description email the Practice Administrator: emma.morgan4@nhs.net
Please email a CV and covering letter, closing date 13/09/2013.

MCFADYENS CONTRACTORS
CAMPBELTOWN LIMITED

are looking to recruit:

Experienced 360° Excavator Operators

Must have Current Driving Licence and CITB Tickets.

Please apply in writing or by e-mail stating previous experience to:
McFadyens Contractors Ltd
Glebe Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6LR
E-mail:
info@mcfadyenscontractors.co.uk

Leading the way in Learning Disability

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people across Scotland.

OBAN SERVICES

Personal Support Workers
2 x 30 hour posts. Salary: £14,602 per annum, pro rata. Ref: OF624/81

We are looking for honest, reliable and motivated people with the right attitude and values to join our support teams. We provide our services to people with learning disabilities who take an active part in community activities.

The people we support have varied interests which they pursue both at home and within their local communities. As these posts are over a number of different services we are looking for team members who can support people that have a variety of interests.

You will need a person centred approach and the ability to work within a small team in addition to being a good communicator and able to work on your own initiative.

Sessional (Bank) Support Workers
£7.20 per hour. Ref: OF624/82. Hours are dependent on the needs of each service.

We believe in developing all our staff and provide an extensive training programme. We offer positive terms and conditions, including a contributory pension scheme.

You will need a person centred approach and the ability to work within a small team in addition to being a good communicator and able to work on your own initiative.

To apply please visit: www.enableScotlandJobs.org.uk
to register and complete your online job application. If you require any further information about this position, please contact steve.heard@enable.org.uk
Closing Date: 6th September 2013.

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

North Argyll Carers Centre

North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support. The organisation is seeking to recruit the following:

Carers Support Worker
20 hours per week - £19,000 pro-rata
Five of the hours are subject to continuation funding
This post requires a highly motivated individual with excellent interpersonal skills who understands issues affecting carers.
Use of car and a current driving licence essential.
Closing date: Thursday 12th September

Young Carers Sessional Worker
No set hours - £8.09per hour
North Argyll Young Carers Service requires a sessional worker to work with young carers supporting regular after school clubs and holiday activities. The successful candidate will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG Scheme update check.
Use of car and a current driving licence essential
Closing date: Thursday 12th September
North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process

For a recruitment pack or further information on both jobs please telephone 01631 564422 or email: info@northargyllcarers.org.uk
Registered Charity No: SC040902

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

G McNaughton & Son
LOCHGILPHEAD
Experienced 360 degree excavator operator & also Loading Shovel operator required

Must have experience
Driving License essential
Tel: (01546) 602 389
during office hours for an application form or email c.v.to.gmnaughton@gmail.com

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION Ltd
Customer Services Assistant
[2 positions]
EVH Band 3 (£15,457 - £17,784)

With a qualification bar to Band 4 (£18,562 - £20,991)
The Association is seeking to recruit two Customer Services Assistants. The main purpose of the posts will be to provide excellent front line customer service to tenants, applicants, owners and other stakeholders as well as administrative support to other sections of the Association.

Applicants should possess general administration experience in a busy office environment. Must be a good communicator and be fully competent in the use of Microsoft Office. On completion of the CIH Certificate in Housing Practice (or equivalent) and satisfactory performance this post would attract an EVH Band 4. EVH conditions of service and contributory pension scheme are offered.

We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from all sectors of the community. We are a Scottish Charity No SC017357

Application packs are available from May Tosh, Corporate Services Manager. Please email may@westhighlandha.co.uk for a pack
Closing date for Applications will be Wednesday 4th September 2013, with interviews being held on Wednesday 11th September 2013

ACHA
argyll community housing association

Clerk of Works Lochgilphead
Salary £26,311 - £30,507 per annum
35 hours per week
To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 13th September 2013
Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead in late September 2013

NEIL MCGOUGAN
JOINER & BUILDING CONTRACTOR LTD

Requires
Reliable Office Worker (Part time)
to assist in the daily management of our busy office (based in Oban).

Must have relevant experience and be flexible.
Please reply to mcgouganvacancies@outlook.com
With full details of experience

LGV Drivers (Class I)

Experienced Full/Part Time LGV Drivers required to join busy haulage company based in Argyll area.

Please contact :-
Peter McKerral & Co Ltd
Darloch Yard, Kilkenzie
By Campbeltown, PA28 6NT
Please apply in writing to above address,
Email: petermckerral4@gmail.com or
Telephone: 01586 820 258
Mobile: 07717 531 242

Record results for Marine Harvest

A FISH farmer with several operations around the west coast of Scotland has reported its best ever second quarter results.

The Marine Harvest Group says it has achieved an operational earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of £94.94million in the second quarter of 2013, up from £24.34million for the same period in 2012.

Cash flow from operations was reported at £118.34million, up from £96.74million last year.

Chief executive Alf-Helge Aarskog said: 'Backed by a strong market, Marine Harvest delivers the best second quarter in history.'

'Naturally, we are very pleased with these results. As a consequence we are proposing an extraordinary dividend of NOK 0.05 (half a penny) per share. The future prospects for Marine Harvest are also good. We are ramping up production estimates with 55,000 tonnes in 2014, to 390,000 tonnes.'

Operational revenues and other income for the second quarter of 2013 was reported as £468million, with total harvest volumes were 79,438 tonnes in the quarter.

Marine Harvest Scotland reported operational EBIT per kilo of £1.42 per kilo, up 75p, while the Canadian operation reported operational EBIT of £1.53 per kilo.

'I would like to highlight the results of Scotland and Canada,' said Aarskog. 'These countries are examples of how a long term and systematic approach to biological issues improves not only the fish welfare; it also shows on the bottom line.'

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Marion MacPherson gets ready to tuck into one of Poppies' meringues with staff Joyce MacFarlane, left, and Cara Johnstone, right, after their sweet treat was given a bronze medal as one of the best in the country by the Scottish Baker of the Year Awards. 15_134poppies1

West coast quartet rise to the top with National Baking Award nominations

A QUARTET of west coast bakeries are to 'rise' to the top after receiving nominations for this year's National Baking Awards.

Poppies Garden Centre, Oban, will hope to add to their recent batch of awards with their nomination for best customer service, while Brambles Tearoom in Inveraray is the other Argyll-based finalist at this year's competition, vying for the best overall premises.

Two businesses in Brig o'Turk, near Callander, are also nominated, Achray Farm and the Erincroft Bakery, both of which have been nominated in the best market stall category.

All four have been nominated in a further eight categories and will find out

on September 21 if they've won, when the awards ceremony is held in Glasgow's Mar Hall.

Poppies' owner Marion MacPherson said: 'I'm just delighted that the companies that do home baking - all the nitty gritty, behind the scenes stuff - are being recognised.'

Quality
'The award recognises businesses that have quality products and people who go all-in for quality, therefore it's a great, really prestigious award.'

Brambles' owners, Stuart and Victoria Campbell, said: 'It'd be an excellent achievement for our business if we were to pick up the award - we would all be chuffed if we won. It would definitely bring benefits

to the business because of the standards that we set - which are very high.'

The not for profit awards ceremony not only recognises the outstanding home baking that exists in Scotland and an online guide to tourists, but also alerts local people to the best establishments producing top class home-baking.

The Scottish Home Baking Awards Ceremony in September will be hosted by Michelle McManus, a television presenter and singer-songwriter. Also attending will be judges Mark Greenaway - the only Scottish chef to be awarded 3 AA Rosettes for outstanding cuisine - and Lady Claire MacDonald, an award-winning cook and patron of Scottish Food Fortnight.

Coveted gold stars for Lochaber food firm

A LOCHABER artisan fine foods company has scooped three gold stars for one of its products in the world's largest and most rigorous food awards scheme.

Great Taste Awards judges rated Great Glen Game Ltd's green pepper venison salami as 'an unusual and delicious product, a most excellent salami in every way'.

The Roy Bridge-based firm, established in 2003 by Jan Jacob Baak, counts delicatessens across the UK including Fortnum

and Masons, Wholefoods and The House of Bruar among its customers. Michelin starred chefs also use the lean, low cholesterol, low calorie wild venison products.

'Thrilled' marketing and sales manager Anja Baak said: 'At Great Glen Game we are always trying to improve our products. It is great to see this hard work is paying off and that our salami is now one of the top 125 food products in the UK.'

To award a product with three gold stars as many as 40 experts

must unanimously agree the food delivers the 'wow' factor.

Of almost 10,000 products entered into Great Taste 2013 just 125 were awarded the coveted designation. The judging panel included Masterchef judge and restaurateur critic Charles Champion, Michelin Star chef Russell Brown and food buyers from top high street stores.

The Golden Fork winners and Great Taste Supreme Champion 2013 will be announced at the Royal Gardens Hotel in London on September 9.

Project looks to future with farmed 'cleaner' fish

A £2MILLION joint research project based at Machrihanish will see 9,000 farmed 'cleaner' fish sent to fish farms across Scotland over the next two months.

The 6,000 Ballan and 3,000 Goldsinny wrasse are seen as key to the future development of the fish farming industry, as the species predate on sea-lice which severely damage farmed fish stocks.

In the past, wild caught wrasse have been successfully deployed on a number of Argyll and Highland marine salmon farms, but farmers know that the use of wild wrasse is limited to the numbers that can be sustainably caught in inshore waters.

It is therefore hoped that the farmed Machrihanish wrasse will reduce the need for

medicinal chemical treatments, improving the environmental footprint of the farms and reducing the sealice risk for both wild and farmed salmon.

It is the result of a joint project between Scottish Sea Farms, Marine Harvest Scotland and Stirling University which have been working together since 2010 to develop the farming of ballan wrasse on a commercial scale. They say captive breeding of wrasse will allow all salmon farmers in Scotland to utilise 'cleaner fish' and further enhance Scottish salmon's clean and green credentials.

'This project is fundamentally different from other smaller projects as the scale of what we are investing in could transform sea lice management across the aquaculture industry,' said Jim

Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'This is an enormous step forward for the aquaculture industry. The results we have seen so far are very impressive and a sign of what we can achieve through collaboration.'

The 2013 hatch from the breeding programme at Machrihanish has already yielded hundreds of thousands of viable larval Ballan wrasse. These offer the promise of a record number of adult Ballan wrasse for use in the Scottish industry during late 2014.

Of the 9,000 fish currently being sent out, a further 1,000 bred Ballan will be kept as broodstock for the future.

Nominations sought for business rural 'Oscars'

RESIDENTS across the Highlands and Islands are being urged to put their favourite local businesses forward for an award dubbed the 'rural Oscars'.

Jamie McGrigor MSP made the call after the Countryside Alliance opened nominations for this year's awards. Businesses can be nominated

in four categories, local Food; village shop/post office; butcher; and start-up.

Exposure
Scottish winners in each category qualify for a UK-wide final, with each round bringing welcome exposure for nominated firms. Jamie, who is the Scottish Con-

servative environment spokesman, said: 'The Highlands and Islands has some world-class rural enterprises producing very fine foods and serving their local communities.'

'I would encourage constituents to nominate their favourite producers, local shops or butchers before the November 1 deadline.'

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

MARINE SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SEAWEED POLICY STATEMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 2013 AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Seaweed Policy Statement will provide greater certainty for the industry at an early stage in its development, informing potential developers of the Government's expectations, while ensuring that activities which may have an environmental impact are understood and mitigated. It also provides an opportunity for respondents to convey their views on a range of issues relating to the future growth of the seaweed cultivation and wild harvesting industries in Scotland. The Scottish Government is seeking views from the public on the Seaweed Policy Statement Consultation Document and its SEA Environmental Report. Responses should be made no later than **Sunday, 17 November 2013**.

In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the policy statement is accompanied by a SEA Environmental Report discussing the potential for significant environmental impacts. Both documents can be viewed at www.scotland.gov.uk/seaweed and can be made available to view in hard copy on request.

Enquiries and responses should be directed by email to spconsult@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the Seaweed Policy Statement Consultation, Marine Scotland, Area 1-B (North), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/02928/MSC	Land 145M North West of Boatman's Cottage Isle of Muck, Mallaig	Erection of house
13/02522/FUL	Loch Lochy Fish Farm Gairloch Spean Bridge	Installation of a floating feed barge at Loch Lochy Fish Farm and updating the consented layout of the pens.

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION CRETSHENGAN HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Ormsay Farmers for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Cretshengan Hydroelectric Scheme, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Abstraction of 1,730 m ³ per day of water	Tributary of the Crear Burn	NR72516 67391
Abstraction of 10,368 m ³ per day of water	Crear Burn	NR73460 67031
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.2m in height	Tributary of the Crear Burn	NR72516 67391
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.59m in height	Crear Burn	NR 73460 67031
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.7km away from abstraction point	Eras Breugaig	NR 70900 67438

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPAS's Lochgilphead Office, Kibrandon House, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QX, 01546 602876. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/114073: **Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Grassier House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Before determining the application, SEPA will: assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities; assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected; consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified; consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity; assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment; assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use, and apply and have regard to relevant legislation SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Mr & Mrs Ian B Sutherland have registered their croft 1 Glenuig, Arisaig & Moidart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court by May 16, 2014. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share(s)

Mrs Frances Campbell is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazings share(s) pertaining to the croft at 3 Mallaig, Glenelg, to Richard Kilpatrick, of Bayview Cottage, Kinloch, Isle of Rum, by Mallaig. If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

RECRUITMENT

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WITH the end of another boating season fast approaching plans for winter storage must be made. Yard space needs booked with the choice dependent on location and facilities required. It pays to make a check list of work required over the winter since this may determine whether the boat is laid up undercover or outside and the cost. Every boatyard has different haul-out procedures and timings so booking early can avoid disappointment.

Most yards pressure wash the hull on lift out to clean and help prepare the surface for anti-fouling next spring. A good wash down of the whole boat and a protective wax on the topsides gives protection over the winter. This is the best time to check the whole boat for damage, plan repairs and carry out those 'wee' jobs that have been waiting all summer to get done. If you want the boatyard to carry work out when it is laid up, let the manager know early so it can be included in the work schedule.

After lift Out

At lift out look for any 'weeping' at the keel joint in case keel bolts are loose. Check for play in the rudder bearings and the prop-shaft and any cracks in the hull and keel. Covering the boat is preferably when stored outside but make sure the yard permits this and that covers are well secured, allow for ventilation and watch for chafing at regular intervals. Equally, make sure your cradle, trailer or support legs are in good condition.

Standing and Running rigging

All deck equipment should be overhauled with any replacements made. Check sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for wear and tear and signs of corrosion. Wash everything with fresh water. Substitute halyards with messenger lines to aid longevity. Inspect for chafe and wash and dry halyards before storing in a dry place. With the mast down, check masthead instrumentation and masthead blocks are running freely. Anchors and chain can be store on a pallet below the boat.

Onboard

After removing any equipment not in use over the winter wash the interior thoroughly including lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets. Allow good ventilation and paint/varnish when weather permits. A de-humidifier and heater will keep the interior warm and dry. Check the condition of all fittings and make a list of any items required for next season. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer and drain. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate disconnecting hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Get a qualified gas engineer to inspect gas systems on board.

Safety Equipment

Check lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear and renew anything that looks suspect. Store lifejackets partially inflated over the winter. Keep flare packs ashore and replace any that are out of date. The RNLI offers a safety check on boats and safety equipment and this is a great service. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre.

Engines and Fuel tanks

Drain the diesel tank and winterise both inboard and outboard engines. Flush the outboard through with fresh water. Replace fresh cooling water with antifreeze/water mix. Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil soaked rag. Fill fuel tank to prevent condensation and add a biocide. Change filters as required and bleed system for next season. Change engine and gearbox oil and make a note of the date of change. Minimise condensation by spraying the engine with WD40 and cover with a cloth. Put batteries on a trickle charge.

Sails

Advice is always available on all aspects of sail requirements and maintenance from the local sail lofts and if you need new sails, it's a good time to place an order. Clean and overhaul existing sails and store correctly in a well ventilated area away from rodents. Remember some sail lofts offer cleaning as well as repair services and even storage.

Good layup preparation will make fitting out in the spring much easier.

Expert advice on any problems is on hand from your local boatyard operator, service engineer, chandler or sail-maker if there's anything you're unsure about. And once the boat is tucked away clean and dry you can relax and enjoy the winter planning your sailing season for 2014.

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BIRTHS

SPREADBURY - KELSO
Charles and Hazel are delighted to announce the birth of their baby girl Macy on Friday August 16, 2013. A baby sister for Charlie, Alyssa, Aimee and Lucie. Thanks to all at Oban Maternity and Royal Alexandra Hospital Paisley especially to Elaine and Fiona for helping to bring Macy safely into the world.

ENGAGEMENTS

CADZOW - FOOTE
The engagement is announced between Rebecca Cadzow, daughter of Patrick and Gill Cadzow, Kilwiner and Richard Foote, Melbourne, Australia.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Alexandra (Sandra), At the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on Friday, August 23, 2013 after an illness bravely fought Sandra of Bowmore, Isle of Islay, beloved wife of Capt John Cameron, much loved mother of John and Helen and mother-in-law of Alison, adoring granny 'Islay granny' to Joshua and Charlotte. Funeral service to be held at Linn Crematorium, Lainslaw Drive on Friday, August 30 at 10.45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, may be sent to RNLI and SSPCA.

CAMERON - Sudden, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on August 24, 2013, Annabell, in her 81st year, dear wife of the late John and loving mother of the late John Jr and much loved gran of Mairi and Fiona, loving sister of David, Christine and the late Jim. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place on Friday, August 30, 2013 at 1.00 pm at the Church of Scotland, Glenrudden Road, Oban, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

CRUICKSHANK - Sudden, at home, 5 Shuna Terrace, Soroba, Oban, on August 22, 2013, Flora, beloved wife of Duncan, adored mum of Catherine and Duncan, much loved mother-in-law, nanna and "big" nana, also sister, sister-in-law and aunt. A special lady who will be sorely missed by family and friends. Interred at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

DAVIDSON - Gordon D S Davidson died, aged 46 years, on August 24, 2013 after a long, brave battle against cancer. He died with his wife and family at his side. His passing was very peaceful, which was in keeping with the dignity and courage that he expressed during his illness, his thoughts always being his concern for his boys Angus and Robert, his wife Su-a and his loved ones. He will be sadly missed by so many.

DYKES - Sudden, but peacefully at Raigmore Hospital on Friday, August 23, 2013, Alistair Dykes, beloved husband of Sheila and much loved dad of Peter and Allan. Funeral will take place today (Thursday), August 29 at 2pm in St Bride's Episcopal Church, Onich, thereafter to Innis-na-Birlinn Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses. Forever in our thoughts. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel 01397 702128.

HENDERSON - Peacefully at home in Dalnally on August 21, 2013, in his 80th year, Alistair Henderson, beloved husband of the late Jenny, dear father of Norman and much loved grandfather. Sadly missed.

MACLEAN - Peacefully after a short illness on August 21, 2013, Margaret MacLean of Craignure, Isle of Mull. Loving wife of Alan, much loved mum of James, devoted granny of Ella. Sorely missed by all her family. Funeral service was held at Kilpatrick Cemetery Duart on Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

McLOONE - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital on August 25, 2013, in her 74th year, Amy, beloved wife of Jimmy, much loved mother of James and Sharon, a dear nana of Iona, Karen, Eilidh, Morvern and Beth, mother-in-law to Ian and Susan. Sorely missed by all.

PALMER - Sudden but peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Friday, August 23, 2013, in his 62nd year, Thomas Tyson, of Kilchrenan, loving and inspiring husband of Elaine, devoted father to Joy, Gena and Tomus. Greatly loved and missed. A Graveside Service will take place at Kilchattan Cemetery, Isle of Luing, on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 12.00 noon, to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend.

PEACH - Annie Mackenzie MBChB, MRCP. Peacefully at home on August 3, 2013. Only daughter of the late Benjamin Neeve and Elizabeth Peach late of Corrach, Inverness-shire, Scotland. Cremation at 12 noon on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, London, W10. No flowers but donations, if wished to Imperial College Health Care Charity - 5055. c/o E.A. Langley Funeral Directors Tel: 0207 286 8718

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MITCHELL - Nan, Gwyneth and Brian sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their words of comfort, sympathy cards and letters received during their recent bereavement. We express our thanks to Dr Grace Gibson, Mr Michael Grattan dementia nurse and all other doctors, medical staff and carers who were involved with Jim. Our deep gratitude to the dedicated staff of Gortanvogie Home in Bowmore, Islay, who did so much to help him during his illness, also the friends and neighbours and staff of Crossroads who supported Nan with practical help with transport to visit Jim. Thanks to the Rev Valerie Watson for her support and her comforting service that reflected Jim's life, also to Craig and Jean Macaffer for their efficient and sensitive handling of funeral arrangements, Irene McKenzie for playing dad's favourite hymns, Fiona Doyle for the beautiful flower arrangement, James McEachern for piping at graveside. Thanks to all pallbearers and to Port Charlotte Hotel for the purvey. A collection of £282.00 was made and is to be shared between Gortanvogie Home's Independent fund and the charity Crossroads.

MEMORIAMS

FORRESTER - Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father, father-in-law and grandfather who died on September 2, 2002. Forever in our thoughts.

- Joan and family, Oban, Uddingston and High Wycombe.
MACCUISH - Micky. In loving memory of our dear dad who passed away September 1, 2012. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through. We will always love and remember you forever. Sleep well.

- Love Frank and Tara. You are too precious to be forgotten and too priceless to be replaced.

The precious dad I cared for so dearly, you were one in a million, never to be forgotten.
- Love Annmarie and Stephen xxx
Miss you papa. Love you forever. Sleep well.

- Jodie xxx
MACDONALD - Lena. Always in my thoughts.
- Loving husband Ian.
MACDONALD - In loving memory of Lena a loving mother and grandmother, who was sadly taken away from us on September 1, 2001. Loved and remembered every day.
- John, Eilidh and Beckie. xxx
MACDONALD - Lena. September 1, 2001. A much loved mum and granny. Treasured memories, always in our thoughts.
- Donald, Danielle, Sophie and Liam xxx
MACDONALD - Lena. September 1, 2001. A much loved mum and granny. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts
- Kenneth, Karen and family xxxxxxx
MACKINNON - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and gramps, Alexander (Andy), who died August 30, 2009. Loved and remembered always.
- Kay, Colin, Sandy, Kath, Mairi and Kirsten.

MACMILLAN - In loving memory of Ian dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and grand uncle who passed away September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts.
- Calum, Flora and Family.

McLEOD - Morag MacLachlan of Glenfeochan, Kilmore, Oban, who died August 31, 1983. Wife of Malcolm McLeod and a very dear sister of the late Ian MacLachlan of Lynn Court, Oban. In loving memory of a wonderful mother to Gordon and friend to many. Fondly remembered for 30 years and always.

- Inserted by Gordon MacLachlan, London and cousin Sheena, Alexandria.

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Painting of famous battle on display

A PAINTING that pays tribute to the soldiers in the 8th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who fought in the Battle for Longstop Hill, has been on display in Inveraray Castle.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the battle the specially commissioned painting, which recognises the efforts of Major John Anderson and his battalion, has been on a tour of Argyll.

A special ceremony was held at Inveraray Castle to mark its arrival and was an opportunity for people to learn more about the heroic efforts of those that fought in the 1943 battle.

At the event Major Duncan Macmillan, who is the last survivor from the battle, said the painting was the perfect tribute to the men who lost their lives that day.

Major Macmillan, who was involved in the design of the painting, said: 'It is a very good tribute to everyone who fought in the battle. I helped give ideas and said whether I thought it was right or wrong.'

Recalling the battle he said: 'Major Anderson was a wonderful man and the battalion came to life for the battle. Everyone seemed to know a lot depended on it, but a lot of soldiers lost their lives.'

He added: 'On the night of the battle we had built a shelter and we went out on patrol, when we came back it was gone. There was definitely someone looking over my shoulder that night. It was a truly wonderful battalion to be part of.'

Also present was Margaret Johnston, a native of Oban, whose late father, Alex Lockhart, fought along with Major MacCallum at the battle.



Oban native Margaret Johnson, Argyll and Bute Provost Isobel Strong, Major Duncan Macmillan and the Duke of Argyll unveiled the painting at Inveraray Castle. 06_23spating01

Men-only club officially opens

TO MARK its 30th anniversary in Oban the Salvation Army held a special service and opened its latest project - The Men Shed.



Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish, right, and Salvation Army community development worker Cath Thomson welcome Dylan Birnie, Crawford Adrian and Joe Devaney to The Men Shed. 16_13smeshed01

The premises, located in the former Captain's Table Cafe next to the Salvation Army Hall, has work benches and tools for men to use on joinery projects and space for model engines to be displayed and tinkered with.

The Men Shed was officially opened last Saturday by Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish, who then attended the Salvation Army anniversary service.

Cath Thomson, the Salvation Army's community development worker for the area, said: 'We have opened the workshop for the community, so people can come and share skills and resources for different projects and hobbies.'

'It will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for men only on these days but outwith those times we can hold art classes and projects.'



The churches of Dalavich, Kilchrenan, Muckairn and the Church of the Visitation recently held a fun run and barbecue in Kilchrenan.

Although the weather was very unpredictable, with some torrential showers, the run went ahead with some 34 people taking part and more people turning up for the barbecue. Due to the inclement weather, the five members from the Tainuill Swing Band played in the village hall, where they gave a lively performance. The event raised £261, which will be given to Mairi's Meals. Pictured cooking up a treat at the barbecue are Donald McNeill and Ronnie and Angus Neil, from Tainuill.

Thought for the week

The 70's tv programme Happy Days was a firm favourite with many, the Fonzie, the main character, boys wanted to be like him and girls loved his special powers.

He was seen as being cool, wearing a black leather jacket, riding a motor bike, snapping his fingers and girls flocking at his feet and his famous catchphrases 'hjeeyyyy!' and 'whoa!'

He was the coolest. The Fonzie was everything I wanted to be when I was a child. Today I don't particularly want to be the Fonzie, all I wish for are Happy Days.

How often have we heard people say, 'oh, how happy I

would be if I only had the...what she has' or someone say, 'I know that I would be happy if I could do...like he does.'

However, none of us will be happy until and unless we are able to accept ourselves as we are. The Bible recognizes that each of us have limitations in ability, personality, and resources.

The Lord illustrated this truth in the parable of the talents. There were three men each having his own ability (Matthew 25:15). The Lord expected each one to do what he could in accord with the ability he possessed.

When he condemned the one talent man, it was not because

he was not like the other two, but rather because he did not use the ability he had. While we are all different each of us has been blessed with talents from God. Basically, there are three kinds of people in the world: the wills, the won'ts and the can'ts. This first kind does everything, the second kind opposes everything and the third fails at everything.

Too many of us are failing because we will not do what we can do and be pleased with it. Let's have Happy Days and be glad in who we are.

Rev Robert Brookes, Kilchrenan and Dalavich linked with Muckairn Tainuill

Oban-born Morvern Callar author wins literary prize

AN OBAN-born author has won £10,000 after being named a winner of the James Tait Black Prize.

Alan Warner, who is best known for the 1995 Oban-set book Morvern Callar, won the best work of fiction category in the prize for his book, Dead-man's Pedal. The book by the writer-in-residence

at the University of Edinburgh tells the story of a teenage boy in the Highlands who leaves the school to work as a train driver, upon which he discovers a glamorous and seductive new world.

Fiction judge Lee Spinks described the book as an 'exceptionally fine novel, richly evocative in detail' and 'beautifully poised in execution'.

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GRADUATIONS

The Family are very proud to announce that Karen McFarlane, graduated with LLB Hons from Glasgow Caledonian University. Karen is continuing her studies at Strathclyde University. Karen is the daughter of Mairi and the late Gerard McFarlane; and the grand-daughter of the late Iain and Catherine MacPhail, Ardnarmurchan and Ranish.

Morven Helen Alexander graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in July with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Radio Therapy and Oncology. Morven is the daughter of Ellen and Bill Alexander, Bishopbriggs and the grand-daughter of Jessie and the late Ian MacLaren, Kilmore, Connel. Morven has accepted a post at Newcastle Freeman's Hospital.

WEDDINGS

McDONALD - BACK
Tracy McDonald and Andreas Back from Fort William were married on July 20 at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William.

David John Hunter graduated from the University of Stirling with a BSc Hons in Sports and Exercise Science. David John is the son of Donald Hunter and the late Caroline Hunter and the grandson of John and Catherine Hunter, Oban and David and the late Margaret Wilson, Fife. He has now been accepted into a Research Postgraduate MPhil in Sport Studies at the University of Stirling and then hopes to progress to a PhD in Health and Exercise Science. All his family would like to congratulate him.

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Holy Communion.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.15
Holy Eucharist.... Wed 4 Sept 14.30

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Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final 2013 Kyles Athletic V Newtonmore

An Aird, Fort William, September 14 at 2.15pm.

IT SEEMS fitting that shinty's two best cup teams will be competing for the game's main prize, the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, on September 14.

Defending cup champions Kyles Athletic and Orion Group Premiership champions Newtonmore are two of the best in the business and their only previous meeting this season was

a cracker - a 4-3 victory for the Tighnabruach men in the final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup. While Kyles already have two cups in the trophy cabinet - having also won this season's AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup - they have struggled for form in the Orion Group Premiership. Their opponents, meanwhile, have sustained unstoppable league form and

remain undefeated with 12 wins from 13 games.

As tickets for the blue riband event went on sale, *The Oban Times* spoke to four of the men at the heart of the rivalry: Kyles' trainer James Perlich and captain Robbie MacLeod and Newtonmore manager PJ Macintosh and captain Jamie Robinson.



Kyles' recent cup final experience and knowledge of their opponents will stand them in good stead come Camanachd Cup final day, according to club trainer James Perlich.

Having only played Newtonmore once this season - the 4-3 victory in the Artemis Macaulay Cup final - there is still room for a surprise or two, but both teams will have learned a lot about each other from the previous tie.

Perlich said: 'We learnt a lot about them and vice-versa but we have maybe been guilty of looking at them a bit too much, rather than concentrating on our own game.'

'To them, seeing our recent results, they will think we are a bit inconsistent, but that's fine with us. All I know is I have a squad of talented players, who all want to be in that starting 12 come the final.'

Asked how his players will handle the occasion, Perlich added: 'I'll be telling the players to just concentrate on the shinty. They understand what it means to play in front of the television cameras, to play in the big final. If they focus on their game, the result will take care of itself.'



Kyles Athletic captain Robbie MacLeod has fond and vivid memories of last season's thrilling Camanachd Cup final, when Kyles defeated Argyll rivals Inveraray.

And the 24 year old says the build up to this year's final feels very similar.

'I played in the final in 2009 and 2012 and the build up does feel similar to last year,' he said. 'Everyone is excited about it and it is the only thing people seem to be talking about.'

'At the start of the season the Camanachd Cup is the trophy that really matters. You can win nothing else but that all season and the year would be considered a success.'

'It will be special for me to lead the team out; it's something I have always wanted to do since I was younger. It will be an honour for me.'

Asked if the players would be ready for the Newtonmore backlash, following Kyles' victory over their opponents in the recent Artemis Macaulay Cup final, Robbie replied: 'Most of the players were involved in last year's final, so they know what the occasion is all about.'



Newtonmore manager PJ Macintosh wants no repeat of the Macaulay result, which saw 'More's pre-match billing as hot favourites count for nothing.

He said: 'I think some of the boys were reading too much into some of the press publicity and we could have done a whole lot better.'

'There are one or two changes we can make and juggle things around a wee bit - we have enough strength in depth to be able to do that.'

'Playing against Newtonmore seems to bring out the best in their danger man Roddie MacDonald but we have the guys who can match him.'

'We are fortunate the game is in Fort William because it's only an hour down the road, so we don't have to leave hours in advance.'

'In Newtonmore, we were brought up in a great shinty tradition and Camanachd Cup finals were part of that. Winning is really important to us and it's something we can do more often.'



Newtonmore captain Jamie Robinson is determined to turn the tables on Kyles after the 4-3 defeat in the Artemis MacAulay Cup final.

The 27-year-old centre told *The Oban Times*: 'Obviously because it's Kyles and what happened in the Macaulay we want to win the Camanachd even more. If you can't give 110 per cent for this one you are never going to do it.'

'I would not say it's revenge, we are playing in the biggest competition of them all and it would mean so much to us to win.'

'And of course there will be nerves - Norman Campbell, Fraser Macintosh and Glen Macintosh spend most of the time in the toilet before the really big games. It's the build up and the waiting around more than anything else.'

'In league matches, we go through the warm up five minutes before the start - but in finals like this you are hanging about in the changing rooms for 15 or 20 minutes. That's a distraction to a certain extent.'

He added: 'We won the Camanachd against Kingussie at the Bught in 2011 after a gap of 25 years. It almost feels as if we would be bringing the cup back to its rightful home - although Kyles would argue it is the same for them.'

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would like to wish Kyles Athletic Shinty Club all the best on Saturday 14th against old rivals Inveraray and hope that the match will be a good advert for South Shinty.

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Good Luck Newtonmore!

Oban High School holds its own Highland Games event

OBAN High School's traditional sports day will now be held at the start of term after the success of its first-ever formal Highland Games last week.

Utilising the equipment and infrastructure already in place for the Argyllshire Gathering on the previous day, the school's Friday games was a hit with pupils, who dressed up in their clan colours to compete in a host of traditional events.

Not only did it bring a new sense of occasion to the event, but the pupils helped create a vibrant

HIGHLAND GAMES

atmosphere and bring a real spirit of competition to the Mossfield surface.

Deputy head teacher John MacPherson said: 'We have about 800 pupils here and it's been great.

'We used to hold a sports day but I think we'll do this from now on, as it's ideal. We've got all this infrastructure, so it just makes sense.'

Clan Diarmid were overall winners on the day. For a list of prizewinners see next week's Oban Times.



Stewart Twort competes in the long jump. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



Teacher Tim Woodcock gets into the spirit of the sportsday by volunteering his services at the 'wet sponge' stall. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



Ossian's Isla Donald takes part in the hurdles race. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



Kinlochleven Bowling Club members took the honours at the Railway Bowling Club's Duncan Gillies nominated triples competition. Receiving the shield, front right to left, are Mavis Fletcher, Keith Brannigan, Willie Lawrie, from, front right, Patricia and Duncan Gillies. Back row, left to right, are Jim Bell, Railway Club President, Bill Clark, Elizabeth Kennedy and Gogs Hamilton.

Oban Lorne lose out in RBS Shield

RBS Regional Shield first round
Newton Stewart 27
Oban Lorne 14

RBS NATIONAL Bowl and West Division 3 champions Oban Lorne struggled with a step up in class, as they started the new season with a trip to Newton Stewart.

But the Green Machine, who dominated last season in the bowl competition, didn't look out of place in their new competitive environment last Saturday.

The Oban side were without the experienced trio of Dougie Pender and twins Cammy and Struan Smith, yet managed to dominate the early period of the game when a Craig Wright penalty gave them a 3-0 lead.

However, Newton Stewart always looked dangerous and raced to a 10-3 lead at half time.

By 50 minutes Oban Lorne had reduced the deficit to 10-9 with two further penalties from Wright but just as Oban were back in the game the hosts stunned them with two tries within two minutes of play.

With 15 minutes remaining a shell-shocked Oban Lorne went all-out attack and were rewarded with a great individual effort from Tommy Sutherland; the prop received the ball at pace from seven metres out, brushed off two defenders and managed to get the ball over the line.

Any thoughts of a comeback were dashed, however, when

RUGBY

the home side scored again in the dying minutes, from a five-metre scrum.

As the final whistle went Oban spirits remained high, as they knew they had put in a good performance against a team in a higher league.

The Green Machine play their first league game this Saturday away to McLaren.

Mini rugby
Oban Lorne RFC will be re-launching its mini rugby section on Saturday, September 7 from 11am - noon at Glencruitten.

All primary school pupils from primary 4-7 are welcome.



Taynuilt

LADIES: Nant Trophy played 20 August - 1 Sally Thompson 33 pts (35); 2 Moira MacVicar 32 pts (30); 3 Sandra Elliott 32 pts (26).

Gents: Lochnell Quaich 1st Round played 24 August - 1 David Currie 60 (17); 2 Michael Wardrop 62 (17); 3 Calum Munro 63 (10).

Lochnell Quaich 2nd Round played 25 August - Alan Wilson 59 (11); 2 David Thomson 61 (13); 3 Michael Wardrop 62 (17).

Lochnell Quaich 2013 - 1 Alan Wilson 122 (63 59); 2 Michael Wardrop 124 (62 62); 3 David Currie 124 (60 64).

Dalmally

DALMALLY Golf Club will make a second attempt at running their annual Gents Open this Sunday, and with better weather forecast, a repeat of the July washout seems unlikely.

The same start sheet as July will be used, available on the club's website, and with several additional entrants, over 70 golfers are set to try their luck on the testing Strathorchy course.

Any previous entrants who are now not available to play are asked to contact the organisers on 07867 318583, while last minute entries will be received up to Saturday lunchtime.

The Annual Mixed Open took place on an excellent course, despite inclement weather in the week leading up to the competition on August 18.

Scratch: 1 Stuart and Christine Cameron, Glencruitten (Scratch 82), 2 Des McNulty and Lily MacKay, Dalmally (Scratch 85), 3 Gerry Davies, Glencruitten and Alison Fairbairn, Troon Ladies (Scratch 86).

Handicap: 1 David Grant, The Glen and Sheila Tolan, Dalmally (61.5), 2 Angus McGilivray and June Sutherland, Dalmally (68), 3 Jack Tolan, Taynuilt and Janet Buchanan, Dalmally (69).

Other prizes: Mr & Mrs: John and Margaret Nicolson, Dumbarton; Non Mr & Mrs: Richard Bergans, Taynuilt and Eitve Brown, Dalmally; Nearest the Pin: Iain MacKinnon, Dunaverty.

Glencruitten

MICHAEL Kelly won the Cameron Trophy, which was

played for on Saturday and Sunday, with a net score of 63 giving him a total of 126. Arvid Fagerfold scored a net 56 on Saturday but followed it with a net 71 on Sunday to take the runner-up spot.

James Muir won the Captain's Prize with a score of 61 - 4 = 57. On Saturday the Stableford Finals take place.

Results of Ladies Red Cross and Extra Medal played on Thursday 22 August: 1 Angela McLauchlan 64 (27), 2 Diane Colewell 67 (13), 3 Mary Plunkett 71 (24)

Tobermory

GENTS Section: Paul Mackinnon is the Club Champion and Shaun Fisher wins the Handicap Trophy.

The 4th round Centenary Trophy - 1 Paul MacKinnon 67-06-61; 2 Iain Wilshire 79-17-62; 3 Shaun Fisher 81-18-63.

Junior Section: Distillery Trophy - 1 Ross MacCrae 44 points; 2 Scott Paterson 43 points; 3 Lewis Wilshire 41 points.

Islay

SUMMER League played 14th August - 1 A MacMillan 40 Pts; 2 P Kennedy 37 Pts; 3 D Gillies 33 Pts. Ccs 72.

Fort William

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club's Neil Hardie Memorial white box stableford on Sunday proved a close run affair and it was Willie Hendrie who prevailed with a score of 43 points (bih).

Second was Keith Sangster, also with a score of 43, with Dougie Duncan third with 40 points.

Nearest the pin at the 12th hole was Davie Mathieson, while David MacPherson was nearest the pin at the 16th. Winner of the longest drive at the 11th was Duncan Rodger.

Club steward James Duncan told The Oban Times: 'We had a total of 68 people competing, which was quite a good turnout.'

Meanwhile on Saturday, the club staged the second round of the RBS Trophy. The competition was judged on gross scores. Result: 1, Eric Wallace 75, 81 - 156; 2, Stevie Jamieson 76, 81 - 157; 3, Andrew Brown 80, 83 - 163.

Fort William Golf Club ladies held a ladies' LGU Extra Medal and Eclectic on Tuesday August 22.

Result: 1, Helen Brian net 74 (91 - 17); 2, Kathleen Leitch net 75 (89 - 14); 3, Kim Topping net 76 (91 - 15).

Saints throw away three-goal lead against ten men

Scottish Amateur League
- Premier Division
Haldane United 3
Oban Saints 3

INLER Park, Balloch was the venue for this Premier Division league fixture and Saints must be kicking themselves that they failed to come home with all three points after leading 3-0 and seeing their opponents go down to 10 men after 60 minutes.

The visitors started well and Allan MacKay had the first chance of the match, but he blasted the ball over the bar, then Craig MacEwan had a header well saved by United keeper Chris Connelly.

Saints took the lead in the 15th minute after some good work in midfield between Brian MacKay and Donnie Campbell. The ball was fed out to Craig MacEwan who fired a great cross into the box, which took a deflection off a defender into the path of Paul Kerr who had to stretch but managed to knock the ball home.

Four minutes later the visitors increased their lead when Donnie Campbell and Brian MacKay, who were running the

show in midfield, set up Allan MacKay who despatched a well placed shot past Chris Connelly. Allan should have scored again when he was put through the middle but missed a great opportunity when one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

The home team were stunned by these two goals and came storming back into the game and were unlucky when a Daniel McLlman shot crashed off the bar.

Haldane are a big physical side and were always a danger at free kicks and corners, but credit to the Saints defence they were handling these dead ball situations well.

The visitors increased their lead in the 32nd minute when Brian MacKay was upended in the box - a stonewall penalty. Mattie Rippon stepped up and drilled the ball home to give Saints a 3-0 lead at the interval.

More of the same in the second half was the message from manager Iain Jackson, but that didn't happen as his team failed to get to grips with the game in the second period.

Saints should have been on easy street, 3-0 in front with Haldane getting a man sent off for a rash tackle on Mattie Rippon on the hour mark, but instead it was the home team who started to dominate the vital midfield area and pulled a goal back when Donnie Campbell and Brian MacKay lost possession on the halfway line. The ball was played through the middle, which caught the Saints



Paul Kerr - opened the scoring.

defence napping and Alan MacPherson raced through to score. This was a bad goal for Saints to lose.

However, the team should have been experienced enough to get back in the game and use the extra man to their advantage, but this didn't happen and it was Haldane who were starting to dictate play in the middle of the park.

The home side pulled another goal back and keeper Daniel Cassells will be disappointed that he allowed a corner from Alan MacPherson to sail over his head and although Paul Kerr made a brave effort to head the ball off the line, it had clearly crossed the whitewash and the goal was given by referee Gordon Hay, who was in a perfect position to award the goal.

The visitors were only a shadow of the team that had controlled the first half of the match and as the game entered the final minutes Haldane equalised when a looping header from Robert McKenzie dropped into the far corner of the net to make the final score

FOOTBALL

3-3, much to the joy of the home players and supporters.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was raging after the match. He said: 'We were in control of the game, playing well against a good team, leading 3-0, plus they get a man sent off with half an hour to go and we end up drawing the game! I couldn't believe it and it's just not good enough.'

'We have an experienced squad who have played at a high level for a few years now and we should have been able to see the game out. Credit to Haldane they never gave up, but we should never have let them back into the game. I'm very disappointed.'

Saints will be hoping to get back to winning ways this Saturday when they take on Thorn Athletic at Glencruitten. The game kicks-off at 2pm with referee Robert Doolan from Greenock in charge.

This will be another tough game for the local side as Thorn have never lost to Saints in Oban.



New sponsors for Oban youngsters

Oban and District Primary Football League team Spartak were delighted to welcome new sponsors for this season. Amanda and Alan MacPhail from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund handed over a set of new strips, while Linda Parisella also met the players last Sunday to deliver new footballs, courtesy of Trinity Hairdressers. t16_13spartak01

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMpetition

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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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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Bullough and Strathdearn Cup finals decided this weekend

INVERARAY manager Garry MacPherson says getting two points last Saturday, which all but ensure premiership survival, was more rewarding than getting one over Argyll rivals Kyles Athletic.

Kyles have inflicted three painful defeats on the Royal Burgh in this season's cup competitions but Argyll took their revenge on Saturday with a 2-1 win in Tighnabruach that sees them sit fourth in the Orion Group Premiership, while Kyles continue to have the threat of relegation hanging over them.

The result, which came courtesy of Garry MacPherson and Lewis MacNicol goals, also means Inveraray have beaten Kyles in both league matches, following up a 3-1 win at Winterton Park at the start of the season.

Asked if last weekend's victory was particularly sweet, given the opposition, MacPherson replied: 'It was a great feeling to win but I am honestly more satisfied with the two points than beating Kyles.'

'I was saying to the boys before the game that Kyles have only beaten us once over 90 minutes this season [other defeats came after extra-time and penalties] so they haven't been as dominant as it may seem in these fixtures.'

Inveraray face Kingussie at the Winterton this Saturday.

Having not met this season, MacPherson admitted Kings would be an unknown quantity. The team may experiment with players in different positions in the absence of Douglas Dando and Andrew McMurdo.

KINGUSSIE face a sticky looking away trip to Inveraray as they seek to secure their place in the Orion Group Premiership for another season.

The men from The Dell were undone 6-1 at home by title favourites Newtonmore last weekend and will have to post a massive improvement in form to come back from Argyll with some reward.

Co-manager Davie Anderson will be without regulars Ronald Ross, Ryan Borthwick, Gary Munro and Paul Gow while Ryan MacWilliam and Jake MacPherson are both sidelined with broken thumbs.

Anderson told The Oban Times: 'The game is as important as they come. The boys are putting in a lot of effort week in, week out but we seem to be coming up that wee bit short.'

'It is a very competitive league and it's a shame that they have decided to send two teams down. We are treating the game with all the respect it deserves and we will see what we can do on the day.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell insists his plan to introduce young players to premier league action will continue this Saturday, as the Oban side host Kyles Athletic.

With Camanachd all but relegated, youngsters like Shaun Morgan will be given their chance to prove themselves ahead of next season.

Morgan did himself no harm last Saturday by scoring his side's only goal in a 4-1 defeat to Lovat.

Manager Campbell was with-

He added: 'Last Saturday we were 11 short - six that would have started and five who would have replaced them. I was a couple of steps from getting off the bench myself.'

NEWTONMORE can take a giant step towards the Orion Group Premiership title if they can dispose of relegation-threatened Fort William at The Eilan.

'More were merciless in last weekend's 6-1 hammering of local rivals Kingussie at The Dell - and victory against the Fort would see them needing just a single point from their four remaining games to retain the premier league crown.'

Two goals each from Danny MacRae, Glen MacKintosh and Fraser MacKintosh put Kings to the sword, with the home team's solitary consolation being a late goal from Louis Munro.

FORT WILLIAM face a daunting - but not impossible - task if they are to avoid relegation from the Orion Group Premiership after Saturday's defeat to local rivals Lochaber at Spean.

Fort's last four games could not be much more difficult - away fixtures at second placed Lovat and Oban Camanachd and a home and away double-header against title odds-on favourites Newtonmore.

Theoretically the An Aird men can still reach 17 points if they win all their games - but for that to happen they will need to find the goal scoring touch that has abandoned them for most of this season.

A huge slice of better fortune would also not go amiss, given that the Fort have gone down in several games by the odd goal while hitting the woodwork - which is exactly what happened against Lochaber.

Co-manager Victor Smith is not giving up hope - but to take anything from Saturday's encounter against More at The Eilan is a tall order.

He told The Oban Times: 'It is still mathematically possible for us to stay up so we will just persevere and keep going.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell insists his plan to introduce young players to premier league action will continue this Saturday, as the Oban side host Kyles Athletic.

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Manager Campbell was with-

SHINTY

out a number of first-team picks and had to use four players who had just returned from holiday.

Campbell said: 'It was a day of too many injuries. I was forced to play guys who weren't fit. 'I think that with a full strength squad we could have got something from the game but I have said already this season that Lovat are the best shinty team out there at the moment and I am surprised they haven't done better in the cups.'

There was good news for Camanachd as Scott MacMillan came through 90 minutes unscathed, as he returns from a long-term injury.

KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich denied that his players had their minds on the Camanachd Cup final when they lost at home to Inveraray last weekend.

The Tighnabruach men may need three wins from their remaining six games in the Orion Group Premiership to be sure of league survival and were disappointed to lose at home to their Argyll rivals; John Whyte scored their only goal in the 2-1 defeat.

LOVAT guaranteed themselves at least second place in shinty's top tier after a 4-1 demolition of Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

A Greg Matheson hat-trick did the damage before Shaun Morgan pulled one back for Oban on 75 minutes. Kevin Bartlett made absolutely sure the points



Whack! Scott Paterson fires home Lochaber's priceless winner against Fort William. 20. f35shinty09

Perlich said: 'We were missing a few players through injuries and suspensions but I would have been much happier with even a point.'

Kyles will be heavy favourites away to bottom-placed Oban Camanachd this weekend but Perlich is taking nothing for granted.

'Oban Camanachd will be coming out fighting and we need the two points, so it will be a good game,' he said. 'I have always rated Oban Camanachd as a team, so we will give them the respect they deserve.'

LOCHABER Camanachd manager Robert Johnstone has praised his side's efforts in securing Orion Group Premiership survival by beating Fort William 2-1 at Spean Bridge.

Asked what was behind his team's remarkable run from being relegation certainties to their third place in the top flight, Johnstone was typically modest about his role in the achievement.

He told The Oban Times: 'Mr Kevin Cheeseman is a really good trainer and the boys get on well with him and work hard. He has been a real asset to the club, as have all the other staff here.'

'It has been a great all-round team effort and Michael Delaney put a good side together which

travelled back to Kiltarity with a late strike.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae told The Oban Times after the game: 'I was delighted with the performance, the whole team played well.'

'Oban did well too - we were just 1-0 up for most of the first half but getting the second goal made a big difference to us.'

'I think we have secured at least second place now, nobody can overtake us and I'm delighted with that. We have improved again after coming third last season.'

Lovat second team take on Kinlochshiel in the Strathdearn Cup final at Invergarry on Saturday. First team regular, defender Danny Kelly, will be eligible to play as he is under 17, MacRae said.

GLENURQUHART have no game on Saturday - but they could be all but guaranteed Orion Group Premiership safety if Fort William lose at The Eilan.

Drew McNeil's men have one game left - away to Kyles - and should the Newtonmore-Fort William result go their way the pressure will be off after a long, tough season.

Glen chairman Russell Fraser told The Oban Times: 'At the beginning of the campaign we had so many players we did not



Oban Camanachd's Aidan MacIntyre is thwarted by a Lovat defender during last Saturday's Orion Premiership match at Mossfield last Saturday. f35shinty1

Calum Cameron picked up.

'The core of the team was there and I just worked on different aspects and that has paid off.'

He added: 'We had Hughie Innes and Martin Johnstone away on holiday but Ryan Johnstone and Stuart Callison put in a performance for us.'

KINLOCHSHIEL have no game this weekend, giving them another week to prepare for their two remaining Orion Group Premiership fixtures against Newtonmore and Inveraray.

Johnstone Gill's men are not yet mathematically safe from demotion to shinty's new second tier next season - but were done a huge favour by Lochaber on Saturday when the Spean Bridge outfit consigned relegation-threatened Fort William to a 2-1 defeat.

'Shiel's second team, however, are in cup final action in the Strathdearn Cup against Lovat at Craigar, Invergarry. Throw-up is at 2pm. Referee is Neil Ferguson.'

GLENGARRY bagged a vital point at home to Lovat on Saturday to ease their relegation worries - now they are looking to go one better against Fort William at Craigar.

Manager Ewen Cameron will be fielding a far from full strength squad as Fraser MacInnes has a broken foot, Gordon MacDonald and Ken Henderson are playing golf while Shaun Sloggie has work commitments.

Cameron told The Oban Times: 'A win would be a bonus as we have Newtonmore and Beaulieu in our last two games.'

'The match is not quite so important after getting a point last Saturday - at least we are off the bottom of the league now with Aberdeen losing.'

He added: 'But we want to beat Fort William - we always want to beat Fort William.'

The omens are good for **BALLACHULISH**, as they go into this weekend's Bullough Cup final against Kyles Athletic at Mossfield Park.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the last time they won the trophy, in a final that was also played in Oban.

Balla will be without Elliot Wilson, who is on holiday, but club captain Alan Clark could return after a long injury lay off.

A win at Kilmory this Saturday would satisfy **TAYNUILT** coach Willie Gillies, who has steered his side to mid-table respectability this season, despite introducing young and untested players to the first team.

With only three games remaining, Gillies also wants two

points against Strachur before the season is out.

He said: 'We want to win as many games as possible but the boys don't have anything to play for, so we have set a target of four points from our last three games, which could take us up to fifth.'

A battling performance at Taynuilt Sportsfield saw the home team come back from two goals down to claim a 2-2 draw against Glenorchy, with goals coming from Stuart Scott and an Alan Duffy penalty.

In what proved to be an aggressive and entertaining derby, Stuart Gillies was sent off and Ewan Neilson suffered a nose injury during the game, but chose to play on.

Gillies said: 'Glenorchy thought they were going to walk it after they went two goals up but we fought for the full 90 minutes and you wouldn't have known we were a man down for the last 15 minutes.'

'It was a proper old school game of shinty, with strong challenges going in from both sides.'

and we now have to watch other teams finish their season but I think we have done enough to get into the new National Division One.'

Smith's one point of grievance was a perceived dive by Stuart Scott to win Taynuilt's penalty.

He added: 'I think with diving skills like that he has a chance of getting into the Commonwealth Games squad!'

OBAN CELTIC president David Hamilton has called on his players to show more commitment this weekend at Bute to avoid another embarrassing scoreline.

While Celtic went down 8-0 to Glasgow Mid Argyll last Saturday, the islanders were busy knocking 12 goals past the hapless Strachur.

Ex-Celtic player Mark Bain put his former team to the sword last Saturday, chipping in with four of his team's goals.

Hamilton said: 'GMA are a good team but it didn't help that we lacked so much commitment.'

'For team that has been playing well all season to lose eight goals like that was so disappointing that I can't really put it into words. We really let ourselves down.'

'We left Oban late and got caught in traffic, so we were pretty much off the bus and onto the pitch. We got caught cold at the start but that was of our own making.'

'I hope to get a reaction from the boys this weekend because it is our last game of the season and we want to finish on a high.'

YOUTH RESULTS
Monday 26 August
Marine Harvest Under 17 League
 - London Shield
 Oban Celtic v Fort William

Friday 30 August
Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1
 Beaulieu v Kilmallie
 Skye A v Kingussie

Division 2
 Fort William v Lovat
 Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore

Division 3
 Caberfeidh v Strathglass

RESULTS
Saturday 24 August
Orion Group Premiership
 Kingussie 1 - 6 Newtonmore
 Kyles Athletic 1 - 2 Inveraray
 Lochaber 2 - 1 Fort William
 Oban Camanachd 1 - 4 Lovat

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Strathglass 2 - 2 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Bute 12 - 0 Strachur
 Glasgow MA 8 - 0 Oban Celtic
 Taynuilt 2 - 2 Glenorchy

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Aberdeen Uni 2 - 4 Skye
 Beaulieu 8 - 1 Fort William
 Glenorchy 1 - 1 Lovat
 Newtonmore 5 - 0 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Kyles Ath 1 - 1 Ballachulish

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Kilmallie P - P Strathspey
 Due to Bereavement
 Lewis P - P Lochbroom
 Lochbroom unable to field a team points to Lewis
 Lochcarron 7 - 0 Inverness

YOUTH RESULTS
Tuesday 20 August
Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield
 Lochcarron 5 - 0 Glenurquhart
 Skye 4 - 0 Caberfeidh
 Kilmallie 1 - 3 Kingussie
 Newtonmore 1 - 1 Fort William

Thursday 22 August
Marine Harvest Under 14 League
 Caberfeidh 1 - 6 Glenurquhart

Friday 23 August
MacMaster Cup Semi Finals
 Skye 4 - 2 Kingussie
 Kilmallie 3 - 5 Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest Under 14 League
 Lovat 2 - 2 Kinlochshiel

Womens Camanachd Association
Friday 23 August
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Skye 8 - 1 Strathglass

Saturday 24 August
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Skye 2 - 1 Lochaber

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	13	12	1	0	53	11	25
Lovat	16	9	6	1	36	15	24
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Inveraray	15	6	4	5	24	23	16
Glenurquhart	17	6	3	8	24	28	15
Kingussie	15	7	0	8	26	29	14
Kinlochshiel	16	5	4	7	29	40	14
Kyles Athletic	12	5	1	6	22	19	11
Fort William	14	2	5	7	15	30	9
Oban Camanachd	16	3	1	12	19	47	7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaulieu	14	11	1	2	40	15	23
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Caberfeidh	14	6	1	7	35	32	13
Strathglass	13	1	3	9	17	45	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	14	11	2	1	64	5	24
Bute	14	10	2	2	54	18	22
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	15	9	1	5	34	26	19
Aberdour	15	6	1	8	33	45	13
Oban Celtic	15	5	1	9	25	41	11
Taynuilt	13	4	2	7	23	38	10
Strachur	15	2	3	10	19	64	7
Kilmory	15	1	3	11	17	51	5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	12	1	2	57	19	25
Lovat	16	9	6	1	39	26	24
Skye	16	11	2	3	38	28	22
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Beaulieu	15	7	3	5	34	23	17
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Fort William	17	5	1	11	30	55	11
Glenorchy	15	4	1	10	22	31	9
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	16	3	4	9	24	46	8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	14	12	1	1	58	7	25
Ballachulish	11	9	1	1	61	10	19
Col Glen	14	8	1	5	47	32	17
Inveraray	13	7	2	4	36	27	15
Bute	13	4	1	8	22	40	8
Tayforth	14	4	1	9	16	52	5
Glasgow MA	14	3	0	11	22	67	5
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	15	42	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	18	15	0	3	92	28	30
Lochcarron	17	13	1	3	76	22	27
Boleskine	18	13	1	4	67	30	27
Kilmallie	17	9	3	5	51	47	20
Caberfeidh	18	6	2	10	34	48	14
Lochbroom	17	6	0	11	38	61	12
Strathspey	16	5	1	10	33	60	11
Strathglass	18	6	2	10	34	66	11
Lewis	16	2	3	11	28	59	9
Inverness	17	4	1	12	27	59	9



Determination is written all over the face of Oban Camanachd's Lewis Cameron as he chases the ball during last Saturday's game against Lovat. 16. f35camano1



Scott Paterson is mobbed by his delighted teammates after scoring Lochaber's winner against Fort William last Saturday that guaranteed premier league shinty for the Spean Bridge club next season. 20. f35shinty10

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The kayaks leave Oban at the start of the Round Kerrera Race. Photo: Stephen Lawson



The prizewinners pictured after the race. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Round Kerrera race record smashed

THE OBAN Sea Kayak Race cemented its position as the main national event for the sport after nearly doubling its entry on last year.

Such is the prominence of the event in 2013 that its new winner is seven-times world champion

Ivan Lawler, who smashed the round-Kerrera course record with his time of 1.41.33.

Impressed
The Londoner, who is also a three-time Olympian, had only ever been in Scotland once before and was instantly impressed

by Oban and its potential for kayaking.

The 20km race is in its fourth year and helps put Oban on the kayaking map throughout the world; this year the race attracted 85 kayakers from 15 to 60 years old, from as far away

as Cornwall, London, Inverness and even South Africa.

A new performance racing category was introduced this year, which allowed organisers to stagger the start times for the racing and the touring boats.

The 1pm start on Saturday saw all the touring and double kayakers leave the start line at the North Pier. Then, at 1.20pm, the racing boats left in full pursuit.

Race organiser Gus Brydon said: 'We had a lot more competitors this year and that is down to the reputation of the race, coupled with the work we are doing on social media.'

'The race has become known throughout the UK and is really taking off.'

'And as the only event of its type in Scotland, we seem to have inspired a lot of east coast kayakers to get involved.'

'It was great to have Ivan Lawler involved and he set an incredible time to win.'

After the race, competitors received tea and basking at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, before the barbecue and drinks got underway, with the presentation of trophies and medals for all the winners in the late afternoon sunshine.

The evening continued with live traditional music, until the sun disappeared behind Kerrera, which had been the focus of attention for so many that day.

The organisers would like to thank all the businesses around Oban that supported this year's event.

KAYAKING

Connel rider looking for more consistency at Silverstone

RACING Team Germany's British rider John McPhee will be looking for more consistency this weekend as he competes in his home race of Silverstone this weekend.

The Connel teenager kicked-started the second half of his Moto3 Grand Prix season with 13th place at Brno last weekend after a race-long battle for a top 10 finish.

Still recovering from a virus that plagued him last time out at Indianapolis, McPhee looked impressive as he locked onto the rear of the lead group at the start to join a feisty five-way fight for sixth.

But by mid-distance McPhee, struggling with tyre degradation, was starting to slip back.

McPhee said: 'For the first

eight laps it was probably one of the easiest races I've ever had because the bike was good and the front guys were so clean and fair.'

'But then, unfortunately, I had the rear tyre starting to go off and I dropped back.'

'Hopefully we can carry the same level of performance over to Silverstone for the British Grand Prix - but without the end-of-race tail off.'

Memorable

McPhee's debut at Indianapolis on August 18 became memorable for all the wrong reasons when he was struck down with a mystery illness. The RSF-backed rider, who complained of feeling light-headed and drained during the warm up session, had spent two days in hospital before

MOTOR CYCLING



John McPhee finishing in the top 20 from 30th on the grid.

'It was probably the most difficult race I've ever completed,' he said.

On your marks for Craggy triathlon

TRIATHLON

THE AWARD-winning Craggy Island Triathlon will be back bigger than ever this year after securing funding from the BID4Oban Events Grant Scheme.

The BID has donated £2,400 to the triathlon event, which last year attracted more than 1,200 extra people to the town.

The event, which will be held this Saturday and Sunday, will see 400 competitors swim from Oban's Cardingmill Bay to Kerrera, with a cycle and run finishing at Gylen Castle.

The event was established in 2011 and attracted a sell-out 200 entries. The inaugural event won the Triathlon Scotland 'Most Enjoyable Event of the Year' and was featured on the BBC2 'Adventure Show'. It doubled in size in 2012 to 400 entries.

Hockey training starts up again

HOCKEY

OBAN Hockey Club training starts again this week, with the first session taking place tonight between 6-7pm at Oban High School.

The club would welcome new members as it continues to grow in popularity.

Both the men's and women's teams are playing in the West District Cup this year, as well as various other mixed tournaments.

Any queries can be sent to menscaptain@obanhockeyclub.co.uk or womancaptain@obanhockeyclub.co.uk.

Amateur football results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

SAFL Premier Division - Haldane United 3, Oban Saints 3; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Rolls Royce EK 1; Premier Division Two - East Kilbride 2, Lochgilphead Red Sar 2. Division 1A - Rosehill Sar 2, Tarbert 4. West of Scotland League Cup - Third Lanark 0, Oban Athletic 4.

Saturday's Fixtures: Oban Saints v Thorn Athletic; Shawlands v Campbeltown Pupils; Glencastle Sparta v Lochgilphead Red Star; Drumchapel v Tarbert; Oban Athletic v Erskine Thistle.



Killin welcomed some of the country's most talented bike riders at the weekend as it hosted the fifth round of the Scottish Bike Trials. Competitors completed a challenging route over the Falls of Dochart, which is rapidly earning a name as one of the most exciting circuits in the UK.

Photo by The Studio, Killin.



Fundraising day at Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

A BIG weekend for Oban Bowling Club has seen their gents and ladies championships decided and £1,700 raised for club funds.

The club held its fundraising day last Saturday, with stalls and games creating a fun atmosphere at the green.

The day was also used to attract potential new members.

The following day the club played six of its single finals, including the ladies and gents championships.

The gents champion is former winner Robert Dairon and the ladies champion is Maureen Goldie, who is a first-time winner in this competition.

Oban Bowling Club president Gerry Flannigan, centre keeps an eye on members Neil MacDougall, left, and Roddie MacLeod during the fun games at the club's fundraising day. 16_135bowl01

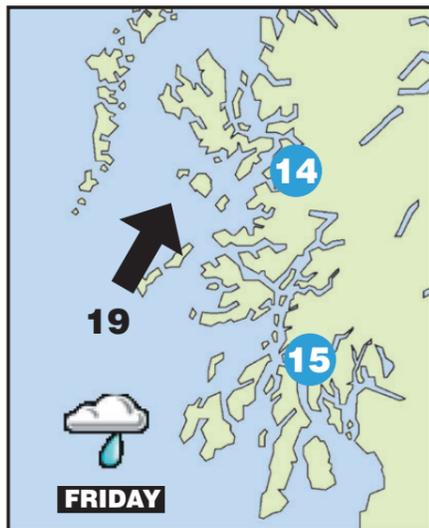
Weather

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 13°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 29, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.21	1.7 10.46 2.9 17.48	2.0 *** **
Fri 00.08	2.7 06.27 1.8 13.04	2.8 19.18 2.1
Sat 02.33	2.8 07.46 1.8 14.40	2.9 21.35 1.9
Sun 03.25	3.0 09.04 1.6 15.28	3.2 22.19 1.7
Mon 04.00	3.2 09.37 1.4 16.05	3.4 22.52 1.5
Tues 04.33	3.5 10.37 1.2 16.41	3.7 23.21 1.3
Wed 05.08	3.7 11.12 1.0 17.16	3.9 23.49 1.1-

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8162

Thursday 29 August, 2013

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Frank up for slimming award
Page 3

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final 2013 Kyles Athletic V Newtonmore

Sports
Feature
page 25



Call for croft house refusal re-think

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation has urged the Scottish Government to reconsider its decision to refuse a Torridon mum-of-three permission to build a house on her croft.

Elaine Holmes planned a grass-roofed dwelling in the village of her birth, but last month the government upheld Highland Council's earlier rejection of her application.

Planners said the building would 'erode its wider landscape setting' - despite the view of government statutory adviser Scottish Natural Heritage the house 'would not compromise' views.

The SCF claims the decision runs counter to the government's own policy of supporting sustainable communities in remote areas - and has asked local government and planning minister Derek MacKay to intervene.

SCF vice chairwoman Fiona Mandeville said: 'It is important for crofting, and for fragile west coast areas in general, that Mr MacKay reconsiders the Government's reasoning on this matter.'

Lochaber Area Committee appoints new leader

THE LEADER of the new Lochaber Area Committee is Councillor Thomas MacLennan after he was chosen for the role by fellow members at the group's first meeting in Fort William on Monday.

Councillor MacLennan was nominated by Councillor Bren Gormley and seconded by Andrew Baxter.

A run-off vote for the position was not required after Councillor Brian Murphy declined to put his name forward. Councillor Allan Henderson, seconded by Councillor Eddie Hunter, had proposed Councillor Murphy.

Independent member Councillor MacLennan, who represents Fort William and Ardnarnach, said: 'I am honoured to have been elected leader of the area committee. Our aim must be to work in partnership with other key agencies and represent this very special area as best as we can.'



Family's winning Lochaber Show smiles

It was a great day out at the 2013 Lochaber Agricultural Show at Inverloch Castle Farm, Torlundy, on Saturday for Iain MacKay and daughters Kate, aged four and Eilidh, aged six, from Torloisk on Mull. The girls won first in class with their ewe lamb - with a little help from their dad. The event proved another big hit for organisers and the 1,500-strong crowd which flocked to the showfield to enjoy a great day's entertainment and the display of top-class livestock. See our special show coverage, pages 16 and 17. 20_135show10

Provost's role could be over in fortnight

THE ROLE of Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson as Provost of Lochaber could be over within a fortnight.

Lochaber councillors will decide whether to end his six-year association with the civic post on September 9 - but it looks certain Councillor Henderson's tenure will be at an end.

The move follows the election of Councillor Thomas MacLennan as leader of the new Lochaber area committee at its first meeting on Monday.

Post-meeting discussions on the issue sparked claims of a plot from the provost, who maintains neither he nor colleague

Eddie Hunter had knowledge of what was afoot. Councillor Hunter had gone home expecting business to be concluded for the day.

Councillor Henderson said: 'They had convened a kangaroo court and my years, as provost, were over, despite me always making clear my role was non-political. Although time consuming and unpaid I derived a lot of pleasure from this post and was honoured to serve Lochaber.'

Councillor Bill Clark vehemently denied any suggestions of a stitch up.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is just pathetic and sad. We were at the area

committee and at the end we went into the North Committee Room to ask [wards manager] Dot Ferguson to put an item on the agenda for our next business meeting on September 9 regarding the civic role.'

'Naturally in the discussions which followed there were statements regarding the need for two civic leaders, with Thomas MacLennan just having been elected as leader of the area committee.'

'We will debate the issue in full at the meeting.'

Councillor Hunter said: 'At least when Caesar was knifed in the back he made the steps of the senate.'

Donations and volunteers secure Invergarry defibrillator

INVERGARRY has its own lifesaving heart defibrillator thanks to local donors and volunteers.

Glengarry Sheep Dog Society chipped in with £620 and the Glengarry Trust handed over a further £2,000 to buy the machine.

Lucky2Bhere, the Portree-based charity set up to provide

defibrillators in rural areas to reduce response times to emergencies, organised 'heart start' training in Glengarry Community Hall on Friday night. Lea McNally of Glengarry Community Council told *The Oban Times*: 'We had 24 local folk turn up for training in the hall, including five Fort Augustus and Glengarry guides

and brownies. It was an excellent response - we only had to train up 10 people but we got two dozen. That together with the money donated allowed us to satisfy the criteria for Lucky2Bhere to go ahead with it. One thing that was putting folk off initially was that they perhaps felt obligated to use the machine - which they don't have to do if they don't want to.'

Portree man Ross Cowie set up Lucky2Bhere after he almost died from a heart attack in 2007. It was only by chance the ambulance crew which saved his life was passing by at the time.

He added: 'The machine is going to be placed outside Glengarry post office so it will be available for anybody and everybody.'

The business plan, currently in draft form with Highland Council, would be published in the week commencing September 23, Mr Coupland said.

'The concept has been very well received. All we want is for Lochaber to be a better place in which to work, study, live and play,' he added.

Opposition group fights to see off BID

RUMBLINGS of discontent over proposals for an all-Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) have turned into outright opposition after the launch of a 'no' campaign, BID Farewell.

The group, which was set up following a meeting of around 20 local business representatives in Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team base on Friday, claims the BID would mean another tax for little benefit.

Living Lochaber, the organisation promoting the controversial initiative, says every business in Lochaber would pay a compulsory levy to fund 'additional projects and services that businesses would like to have, and which the local authority is not required to provide'.

Levies would be imposed on a sliding scale with companies with the highest rateable value paying the most.

'Tourism and retail' businesses would pay between £196 to £4,100 annually, 'commercial sector' operators £147 to £3,075 and 'education and well-being' providers £98 to £2,050. Living

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber estimates £360,000 would be generated each year - £1.8million over the five-year BID period. Highland Council would collect levies on behalf of the BID directors.

Opponents claim the move is progressing by stealth, with far too little information available as the Highland Council-run BID ballot date of November 28 draws closer.

If more than 50 per cent of businesses by both number and rateable value vote in favour, the BID will go ahead.

Simon Ingram, who runs Ballachulish Visitor Centre, told the Glencoe meeting: 'Complacency is the biggest threat and also the easiest way for a minority to achieve a 'yes' vote for the BID. It is crucial that every eligible business is aware of the BID and how it will affect them, and that abstaining at the poll is simply not an option.'

Viki Sutherland, a founding member of Glencoe and Loch

Leven Marketing Association said: 'This proposal will impact on almost every business in Lochaber and will, whichever way the vote goes, split the community.'

'We have even been told that if the BID is not approved funding of local marketing groups will not be forthcoming from Visit Scotland.'

Mel Macaskill, chairman of Ballachulish Community Council, said: 'Our council's concerns centre on the undemocratic nature of this process as we understand that the levy can be legally enforced against all businesses even if only 13 per cent vote in favour of the BID.'

'We are hearing from many local businesses that they are unhappy with the process and the lack of specific information.' Fort William High Street businessman Drew Purdon claimed the only businesses being kept informed of the BID progress and plans were those which indicated initial approval.

He said: 'The BID group are unwilling/unable to provide a list of the businesses which received their original package.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter, who attended the meeting, said: 'There are so many unanswered questions about the process and more importantly the potential impact on local businesses.'

'As a business owner, I understand the concerns that were expressed. As a councillor, it's my role to express those concerns and ask probing questions. A proposal as complex as this needs careful public scrutiny and shouldn't simply be nodded through on the basis of an officer's recommendation.'

LIVING Lochaber steering group chairman Frazer Coupland insisted the BID process had been fair, open and democratic throughout - and would continue to be so.

Mr Coupland accepted the BID would go through if a bare majority voted 'yes' on a 25 per cent poll - the minimum turnout allowed under the legislation - but pointed out there was no such minimum requirement for council or community council elections. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The steering group has worked within the legislative framework laid down by Scottish Ministers and we have followed that to a 't'. There have been no secret meetings and it was interesting to see that nobody from the steering group was invited to the meeting in Glencoe, but I don't want to get into a tit-for-tat slanging match. Of course there's a lot of people that think this is a great concept but they will make up their minds when they see the business plan. Any business worth its salt will take part in the ballot process and it they don't like the plan then they will vote 'no'.'

The business plan, currently in draft form with Highland Council, would be published in the week commencing September 23, Mr Coupland said.

'The concept has been very well received. All we want is for Lochaber to be a better place in which to work, study, live and play,' he added.



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Great Glen forestry ground work to resume

FORESTRY Commission Scotland is set to resume steep ground harvesting and slope stabilisation programme along the Great Glen now that the peak summer traffic flows have reduced.

Works will begin at Glen Righ south of Fort William and Loch Lochy north of Spean Bridge on September 9.

One lane will be closed between 8am to 6pm at both locations with traffic lights being removed at the end of each working day.

Traffic management will be in place at Glen Righ until mid-October and at Loch Lochy until November 15.

Some short periods of road closure in both directions will be required during the works period.

Street league star Jamie celebrates



Jamie McConnell: best overall player in the Lochaber Street League. 20_135street01

INVERLOCHY youngster Jamie McConnell lifted the Ian MacLean Memorial Trophy for best overall player in the Lochaber Street League in an awards ceremony at Caol Community Centre on Friday evening.

The talented nine year-old also won the Kilmallie Community Council Cup for best player aged nine and under at the ceremony, at which Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson presented the trophies and medals to the young footballers.

The league, run by community volunteers in conjunction with Fort William police community liaison officer Ian Fraser, has proved a big hit in keeping local children fit and active over the

summer holidays - and out of harm's way. Jamie said: 'I never thought I was going to get it. Every night I have been really tired because I have been playing so much football.'

'Normally I have nobody to play with and I'm not doing anything but this had made me play more often.'

'Co-organiser Eileen Ross said: 'We had over 100 kids in the street league and over 50 for the tournament at Claggan Park.'

'It is very important - it gives them something to do and gets them outside for something they enjoy.'

'I would like to thank all the volunteers and everyone involved for really pulling together. We are just one big team.'

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Students praise video link course

A BOLD move by West Highland College UHI to provide a full time early education and childcare course entirely by video conference (VC) has earned plaudits from students.

The initiative saw learners from Ullapool, Portree and Kilchoan link up to a lecturer based in Fort William and other students at the Lochaber college centre.

The move allowed people living in remote locations to access a course which may otherwise have been beyond their reach.

Ullapool woman Jo Marsh said: 'Studying by VC has been a bit trickier than I expected but I had a lot of support from my lecturers and the local college centre manager.'

'I have enjoyed being able to study from home, and had a few visits to Fort William to get a taste of student life at a college campus.'

'I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to study in my local area without a tiresome and impractical commute to my nearest city of Inverness.'

'It's a great link for people in rural communities and I would definitely consider furthering my studies as a result of having studied this course.'



Growing their own: Jan Wreford, front centre, and Bob Bull, front right, with SLUG allotment holders at the open day. 20_035allot01

Open day marks growing success of Fort William allotment group

A FORT William allotments group marked three years of growing their own food with an open day on Saturday.

The aptly named Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG) were joined by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) representatives to view 17 allotments on the exposed sloping site high on Cow Hill. It has been a mixed story so far for SLUG, with some gardeners struggling to devote enough time to their allotments while others reaped a rich harvest of vegetables.

Heavy manuring and terracing have been needed to turn root-strewn clay and peat soil into workable plots capable of producing crops.

Chairman Jan Wreford, from Lochyside, told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a hard site to work and some plots have changed hands. Because of the slope everything has to be done on a manual basis, which makes it bloody hard graft. Without the terracing the soil would start sliding down the hill. Some people have worked harder than others while some have given up altogether and moved on - but there are always new faces coming in.'

New entrants benefit from each allotment coming with its own shed - which were made at Barlinnie - and composting toilets at the bottom of the site.

One couple, Michael and Barbara Laing from Glasdrum, Fort William, have just taken over a bare plot and are busy breaking it open by pick and shovel. Mr Laing said: 'It will take us at least two years before it starts to produce vegetables. It's just have the time to devote to it - but it will be worth it.'

Bob Bull, one of FCFCG's network of field workers supporting community growers' projects, said: 'We can provide training, advice and put projects in touch with others across Scotland so they can share knowledge with each other.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson had hoped to attend the open day but was ill.



Frank Chambers: up for slimming award.

Frank up for slimming award

HE IS barely half the man he was - but Frank Chambers from Kinlochleven is not complaining after being named as a male semi-finalist in Scottish Slimmers' Slimmer of the Year competition.

Mr Chambers, 52, general manager at the Ballachulish Hotel, has lost 11 stone three pounds in the past year - and now tips the scales at a svelte 14st 8lb compared with a hefty 25 stone 10lb in 2012.

He said: 'Losing almost a whole person in weight has meant a whole new wardrobe, which has been fun.'

The Male Slimmer of the Year will be announced at the grand final at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld on October 6.

Cops' tough task as thieves strike in overnight blitz

LOCHABER was hit by a spate of overnight thefts just as a major Police Scotland crackdown on rural crime got underway last week.

Robbers entered three premises in the Gairloch area to steal bikes and chain saws before and after the launch of 'Operation Engage' on the A82 at Glencoe - showing just what a tough task local cops face in catching the sneak crooks.

The first robbery, between 9pm on Monday August 19 and 8am the next morning, was followed by two more in the Gairloch area between 10pm on Tuesday August 20 and 10.30am the next day.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

In all three incidents mountain bikes and chainsaws were removed from either insecure or empty garages.

Elsewhere in Lochaber, would-be thieves forced entry to a yard and made a search of premises in Camaghael near Fort William between 5pm on Monday, August 19 and 7.15am the next day.

Sergeant David Campbell of Fort William police told *The Oban Times*: 'We have pulled extra troops in - and all of this just shows the problem we are up against.'

'But we just need to get lucky once with these criminals.'

'We have been hammered all summer. The total value of property stolen is up over £57,000 in Lochaber alone.'

'We just have to keep banging the drum that if people are going to leave their property unsecured it is an invitation for trouble.'

He added: 'I would ask any member of the public to report any suspicious activity or vehicles, especially during the hours of darkness.'

'Operation Engage' saw road checks set up on four main routes into the area, the A82 south, A82 north, the A828 from Oban and the A86. Hundreds of

motorists were stopped under the initiative, which aims to deter criminals coming into Lochaber to steal. Twenty extra officers from across the Highlands and Islands have been drafted into Lochaber, Skye and to help tackle the crime wave. Lochaber has been hardest hit with over half the 70 reported thefts since April 1. Items taken from homes, industrial sites, garages and sheds include power tools, bikes, televisions and jewellery.

Anyone with information on the four incidents can contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

German woman is SMO student of the year

A WOMAN from Germany has been named as 'student of the year' at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye.

Andrea Kluge, fully fluent in Gaelic after five years at SMO, has promoted the learning and use of Gaelic within the college, the wider community and abroad.

She is one of the principal advocates of the 'Abair Thusa' initiative, where students are given the chance to meet local people to speak Gaelic in an informal setting.

Andrea also proposed then established 'Café Ostaig' as a meeting place where visitors can converse in Gaelic with people from the college.

Overseas, she attended the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in the United States

to promote SMO and Gaelic. Andrea will receive £150 as part of her award and her name goes forward for the UHI Student of the Year award which is announced later in the year.

She said: 'I'll be forever grateful for all the help I got over the years, but I guess I'll be learning forever and therefore we'll need more people from the community to come to Abair Thusa.'

Andrea's course leader Mark Wringe said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is fortunate to attract remarkable students, who make the place special, and give of themselves every bit as much as they get from their studies.'

'Andrea is a wonderful example of the commitment and spark in so many of our students, and she has truly earned this award. Congratulations to her.'



Andrea Kluge: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig student of the year.

Rally car cash boosts Mallaig lifeboat



Stormy Stan and Isle of Skye Band Band entertained at Portree lifeboat open day. Photograph by The Tartan Lens.

A 'JAMES Bond' Aston Martin DB V was among 44 supercars that rolled into Mallaig from Fort William on Sunday.

Lamborghini, Ferraris and Porsches were among the high-powered machines that roared away from the Ben Nevis Hotel under police escort at 10.30am for the 45-mile road trip.

And it was good news for Mallaig lifeboat after the gleaming cavalcade arrived when rally organiser Mark Ryan presented coxswain Michael Ian Currie with £450 for the local RNLI crew.

The spectacular car display followed Mallaig Lifeboat Gala

Day the previous day, which made its return to the heart of community life after an absence of two years.

Organisers estimate the event, which saw emergency services personnel battle it out in a greasy pole competition, raised £3,600.

Armada-based Seafari tours chipped in with Seafaring shark sightseeing trips to Knoydart, with all funds going to the lifeboat.

Meanwhile, Portree RNLI lifeboat's open day on Saturday proved a big hit with visitors and locals. Isle of Skye Pipe Band and Stormy Stan were among the attractions.



Supercar rally organiser Mark Ryan presents Mallaig lifeboat coxswain Michael Ian Currie with £450. Photograph by Moe Mathieson.

Cyclists saddle up for wild west trip

A FUNDRAISING cycle run through Lochaber's wild west will set off from Killmalie Community Centre in Corpach on Saturday morning.

The event, organised by Fort William Baptist Church in conjunction with Tearfund Cycling, will see riders tackle a scenic 100-mile route out to Lochailort round to Ardgor via Salen and Strontian then back to Corpach via Treslaig and Lochelside.

Monies raised will be split 50-50 between the Tear Fund and the church, Rev David White told *The Oban Times*.

He said: 'It is becoming quite an event and its growing year on year.'

'Last year we had 44 people taking part and this year it's already 64 and we could end up with 80 on the day.'

'It is a beautiful part of the world to cycle around. Last year the weather was outstanding and we are praying it will be the same this time as well.'

'We have a number of volunteers from the church who are manning food and refreshment stops along the course. We will also provide first aid and breakdown cover should the need arise.'

Fond farewell to Portree High School matron



Christine MacKenzie surrounded by staff and some of 'her girls' at her retirement party.

FRIENDS, family, colleagues and hostel girls bade a final farewell to a Portree High School matron at an official retirement function held in her honour on Friday.

Christine MacKenzie filled her post diligently at Margaret Carnegie Girls Hostel for 32 years and throughout that time parents were secure in the knowledge that their girls were well cared for.

Christine was presented with gifts and flowers to mark her retirement and residence manager Margaret Anne Beaton paid tribute to her valuable contribution to The Highland Council, school hostels and the wider communities of Skye and surrounding islands, as well as her role in fundraising on behalf of many charities.

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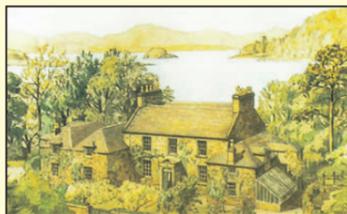
Livestock, including Large Highland Cattle Class, Dog show, Shinty Tournament, Argyll Brass, Foods from Argyll Food Hall and,

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Green light for Soroba Lane pedestrian bridge

A PEDESTRIAN bridge is to be built at Soroba Lane, Oban, after councillors unanimously agreed planning permission on the site.

The plans will see a bridge built specifically for pedestrians while the current bridge is replaced with a bridge for vehicular access only. It will have armco on either side and will be single carriageway.

Richard Kerr, planning officer at Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The mixture of big vehicles and pedestrians using this bridge is undesirable.'

A new planning application had to be submitted for the bridge after an up-to-date examination of the ground conditions revealed the previous design would not be viable.

Villagers to get say on Islay mast plan

THE PROPOSED erection of a 60-metre mast next to the lighthouse on Orsay Island, off Islay, will be discussed in the village that has voiced most opposition to the project.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee will meet in Portnahaven Village Hall on Monday at 11am to discuss the controversial proposal by Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables.

The energy company's plan to erect the anemometer mast on the scenic spot for a period of six years was previously deferred by the planning committee.

Portnahaven postmaster and community councillor Alastair Redman has previously compared the proposed mast to 'an upside down, burnt-out Christmas tree'.

SSE Renewables said the mast was vitally important for its proposed Islay Offshore Windfarm.

BT begins new jobs recruitment

AROUND 90 of the 150 new jobs being created by BT in Scotland to support its fibre broadband network will be based in the Highlands and Islands.

The telecommunications company announced the start of its recruitment drive on Tuesday and is seeking new employees in the Oban and Fort William areas.



Double trouble! Elaine C Smith and Oban resident Elaine Smith treat Oban director Peter MacQueen to a shave in the town's Boutique Salon on Tuesday. Elaine C Smith is in town performing at the Corran Halls tonight, as well as filming a new TV show, A Burdz Eye View.

Close shave as Elaines connect in Oban

THERE was more than one Oban connection when comedienne and Rab C Nesbit star Elaine C Smith came to town this week - including another Elaine Smith.

The stand-up was in town on Tuesday ahead of her show, *Still Standing... Just at the Corran Halls* tonight (Thursday), doubling up her visit by recording a new show for STV, *A Burdz Eye View*.

Not only did Elaine C meet her namesake, Elaine Smith - who will open a barbershop in George Street this November - but the director of the TV programme is Peter MacQueen, who is originally from Oban.

After toying with the idea of shaving off Peter's much-loved beard with her fellow Elaine, 'Mary Doll' took off to Oban Livestock Centre to film a segment for the show. She said: 'I always say you never see ourselves depicted properly in Scotland, so for my show I'm meeting people who live in Oban and particularly the women who work there.'

She also described the welcome from Oban High School Pipe Band after stepping off the train on Tuesday as 'the highlight of my life'.

Peter, meanwhile, enjoyed his return to the town after working in Rio de Janeiro.

Elaine C Smith's show at the Corran Halls starts at 7.30pm.

Crash figures prompt A85 upgrade call

Alarming report reveals dangers between Oban and Dalmally

ALARMING figures showing the true extent of danger on the A85 between Oban and Dalmally were revealed this week - prompting calls for an upgrade to the road.

Oban's Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson revealed that from April 1 to Thursday last week, there had been 27 crashes on the section of the main artery out of Oban - more than one a week - resulting in two fatalities, six serious injuries and a further eight requiring hospital treatment. Eight people have been reported for dangerous driving as a result.

So troubling are the figures that Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan says if they related to assaults with two murders, he'd be expected to deploy significant resources to the problem.

Now, with five motorists caught travelling at 94mph or more on the A85 near Tyndrum on Sunday, calls have now been made for an upgrade of the route to help save lives.

The latest incident saw a 29-year-old man charged with dangerous driving following a three car pile-up at the Pass of Brander on Thursday. Two people required treatment for broken bones as a result.

Chief Superintendent McEwan said: 'If I had two murders in Oban and several serious assaults in this period, the expectation would be for us to put lots of resources into it.'

'When I look at these figures it causes me enough concern to want to speak to community planning teams to see what can be done to help.'

Of the speed checks on the A85 at Tyndrum, nine of 10 people stopped for speeding were from outside the local area.

The figures were presented to Oban Community Council on Monday night and local councillors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre both agree something has to be done.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'My view is the roads have got to be improved. The number of vehicles [coming to Oban] is going to increase quite dramatically and you have to ask if the road infrastructure is up to it.'

Councillor Robertson believes encouraging drivers to be considerate to other motorists is key across the whole area, citing the road between Creagan Bridge and Appin as another concern.

She believes signs asking slower drivers to allow traffic to pass could ease frustration that can lead to accidents.

'I've seen signs like that in the Highlands and I've already spoken to our roads department and to Transport Scotland about them. I believe the roads, if they are driven in the correct manner, are okay,' she added.

Transport Scotland and Police Scotland are to jointly inspect the road following the recent fatalities.

Action call over beach sewage

RAW SEWAGE spilling onto beaches on Iona and Tiree has led to calls for the Scottish Government to take action.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has told the government it will object to any residential or commercial development in these communities, hindering growth.

A female holidaymaker to Iona sparked the latest row when she wrote to local politicians after standing in raw sewage on Baile Mor beach.

She said: 'I stood in what I initially thought was dog poop - but then more arrived. I looked and saw a pipeline about 10 feet away which was pouring untreated sewage directly onto the beach. Disgusted, I went into the hotel and inquired why there was no warning sign at the very least. I was told the pipeline has always been there, that the sewage is from some old houses and it's a rural community.'

'I feel that something should be done to stop/repair this immediately.'

SEPA has published a study which states it would take little more than £2 million to fix the sewage problems with the 71 properties concerned on Iona and at Scarinish, Tiree.

A letter from SEPA to the Scottish Government states: 'It is not realistic to use SEPA's regulatory powers against each individual householder and so the sewage nuisance will continue indefinitely.'

Local councillor Fred Hall added: 'It is not acceptable in the 21st century for untreated human sewage to be leaked onto a beach. This pipe has to be fixed as soon as possible.'

Fresh concern over Coll and Tiree ferry timetable change

FRESH concerns were raised by residents of Coll and Tiree this week over last-minute proposals to change the winter timetable for the islands.

Coll Community Council and Iain MacKinnon Haulage on Tiree have urged ferries operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to bin plans to remove the *MV Clansman* from the Coll-Tiree-Oban winter run and replace it with the *MV Hebridean Isles*.

They feel the proposed change is as a result of the *MV Finlaggan* receiving several complaints it attracted on the Uig-Lochmaddy-Harris run last winter.

There are further concerns the *MV Hebridean Isles* could take even longer to reach the islands than previously thought as it is one of four ferries fitted with new propellers to make it more efficient - but slower.

Only seven weeks remain before the winter timetable is due to be in operation.

Coll Community Council chairman Rob Wainwright said: 'This is too late and we don't want a change. We've got businesses here, shops expecting deliveries - people have booked their holidays according to the ferries.'

Tiree's Iain MacKinnon, owner of IA MacKinnon Haulage, added: 'This is because of the complaints made last year against the *MV Finlaggan*, which can't fit at the pier in Tiree or Coll. They've got a boat that's not fit for purpose.'

A CalMac spokesman said it would be inappropriate to comment while 'engaged in consultation' with affected communities - but admits arranging winter timetables during the refit period is a 'major challenge'.

He added: 'We inevitably face criticism no matter what we do, however as operator we must be allowed to take a network-wide view and deploy vessels accord-

ing to our professional judgement and in the best interests of the network as a whole.'

Issues created by boats fitted with new propellers were 'not significant enough to justify reviewing the proposed deployment of any particular ship,' he added. CMAL, which owns the ferry infrastructure, says the *MV Finlaggan* can dock at Coll and Tiree but admits some access points require alterations to ensure safe use.

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Pirate and Princess Summer Party fun

Birthday girl Eve Lawrie, from Appin, and her friends had the perfect excuse to dress up at the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary's Pirate and Princess Summer Party. The event, held last Sunday, raised money for Merlin's Magic Wand charity and saw staff and hundreds of visitors arrive at the Barcaldine visitor attraction in fancy dress. Eve, third from right, was celebrating her sixth birthday at the summer party with friends, from left: Daisy Carmichael, Emma Walker, Erin Jackson, Caitlin MacColl and Annie Gill. As well as the usual attractions at the sanctuary, extra activities included a treasure hunt, face painting and coconut shy, while the James MacPherson Trio and piper Jamie MacGregor provided the musical entertainment. 16, 135sealife02



Barra shop owner hits out over eviction notice

A BARRA businessman served with an eviction notice by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has accused the authority of changing the rules to suit itself. Peter Nicholson hit out after being told by letter to find alternative premises for his Barra Island Stores and building firm in Castlebay Development Park. The council claims retail makes up too large a part of his business and is 'not allowable'

under EU regulations governing the European grant award which helped to finance the building. Mr Nicholson, who has operated from the premises for six years, says he only moved in after being told he would have to offer retail to secure a lease. The building contractor reluctantly agreed to open a small shop - which prospered just as his main business suffered in the recession, along with the rest of the island's building trade.

Now the comhairle says the retail side has grown too much - and wants him to quit. Mr Nicholson told The Oban Times: 'Six people work here, including myself. I'm not shifting. Visits 'After doing this for six years and with twice annual visits from council officers - with nothing said - I get a letter telling us to get out. 'These buildings were built

with European money - ERDF funding - and the letter I got back from the council said ERDF was to stimulate business development and one condition was prohibition of retail. 'Either they misinformed me at the start or they're misinforming me now.' Mr Nicholson, together with Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant, is demanding a rethink.

Mr MacNeil is to write to the authority about the notice to quit. Useful He told The Oban Times: 'It's a useful shop to the island and nearly everybody uses it. It'd be a bit of a shame if the council take the view that they're going to impact on business. They say it's a European funding issue - surely there's ways around that and there's certainly no pressure from Europe.'

A spokesman for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'Over time, however, Mr Nicholson's business became almost wholly retail in nature, which is not allowable and is the reason the comhairle is currently engaged in a legal process on which we cannot comment further at this time. 'The comhairle is happy to work with Mr Nicholson in identifying an acceptable solution to all parties.'

Anger over closed door fish farm decision

Community council accused of ignoring public opinion

TAYNUILT Community Council has been accused of ignoring public opinion on a fish farm proposed for Loch Etive after backing the controversial application. Unlike its Ardschattan equivalent, Taynuilt Community Council did not hold a public vote at the meeting where Dawnfresh's proposed trout farm was discussed - making its decision behind closed doors. At that time, 92 per cent of the 88 Taynuilt residents who made representations to Argyll and Bute Council planners were against the fish farm. Brigadier John MacFarlane, who attended the August 12 meeting, feels the decision was a fait accompli. In a letter to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'Congratulations to Ardschattan Community Council who, on public advice, opposed the Dawnfresh fish farm application. 'Unfortunately, our community council in Taynuilt did not display a similar resolve but supported the application. 'I felt that [Taynuilt] council had already agreed to support the application.' Brigadier MacFarlane said there was clear division within the room over the proposal, with applause at one point for someone demanding no more development on Loch Etive. He said: 'The primary purpose of community councils is 'to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies'. It is not their role to

decide of their own volition what is in the best interests of the community.' In a separate letter, GM Service wrote: 'It is worth emphasising, as your reporter stated in August 15 edition of *The Oban Times*, that there were 'mixed feelings in the hall' and that therefore it was not a unanimous decision of the people.' A spokesman for the Friends of Loch Etive said its statutory council went against its statutory duty by failing to 'ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities' the views of its community, as outlined in the legislation governing community councils. Employment Standing by the decision, Taynuilt chairman Murray Sim said: 'We're looking at it from the point of view of employment and things like that. We wouldn't ask for a show of hands, quite honestly. 'There were a few folk for it and a few folk against it [at the meeting], but I think the people who were for it would not put their head above the parapet.' By voting to support Dawnfresh's proposal, Taynuilt Community Council reversed a previous objection to an earlier - and later withdrawn - application for a larger farm. 'We felt Dawnfresh had addressed most of our concerns,' Mr Sim said. 'The fact Scottish Environment Protection Agency are quite happy about the whole development seems to speak lots for us and that it will be monitored very closely.'



Hundreds witness return of flying boat

IT'S A sight that has possibly not been seen over Oban Bay in some 70-odd years - a flying boat. In this case it was the UK's oldest airworthy amphibian plane, a 70-year-old, originally Canadian Catalina G-PBYA now based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford in England. She flew over the Argyllshire Gathering's Oban Highland Games last Thursday and again over Oban Bay the following day as part of the Project Hawker 2013 100th Anniversary Circuit of Britain. She was based at Oban Airport on Friday and Saturday, where hundreds flocked to see her and where pilots Jeff Boyling and Rod Brooking and crew chief Shaun Jarvis were on hand to answer questions. Harry Hawker was the only entry in the Circuit of Britain Race in 1913. He and mechanic Harry Kauper flew more than 1,000 miles of the 1,540-mile circuit in their Sopwith waterplane before crashing into the sea off Dublin. Pilot Jeff Boyling said: 'He was a pioneer in the sense of sea planes and flying so bringing the Catalina here, with its history and association with Oban, makes it seem even more appropriate that an amphibian is flying the Circuit of Britain 100th anniversary commemorative flight.' The Catalina left Duxford on Wednesday staying overnight at RAF Leeming before heading north again on Thursday. Bad weather meant the Catalina couldn't do a fly past at RAF Leuchars or Montrose, where Harry Hawker had put down, but was able to do a visual display off Aberdeen. The Catalina put down briefly at RAF Lossiemouth before taking off towards the Cromarty Firth, down the Great Glen past Fort William to Oban. She left Oban Airport on Saturday, completing the circuit on Sunday at Duxford.

Council absence figures

IN THREE months, Argyll and Bute Council lost the equivalent of more than 24 years in work days due to staff absences. For the period between April and June, the council lost 8,836.96 work days across all departments - the equivalent of every full time employee at the authority taking two and a half days off. While most of the days off were recorded by teachers, it is one of the council's largest departments, equating to every teacher taking just over a day and a half off in that period. Adult care accounted for the largest equivalent number of days, off, with the 1,374.73 days lost equating to each full time employee taking 3.67 days off. The department also accounted for the least number of return to work interviews completed, with just over a third of members of staff in the department completing one in April, 38.03 per cent in May and 45.16 per cent in June. Best attendance came from the strategic finance department, one of the smallest council departments, with just 33 work days lost - or each full time employee taking just over half a day off. In total, absence because of sickness cost the council £715,400 for the quarter.

Oban drink driver banned for year and fined £500

ATTRACTING the attention of the law by not wearing his seatbelt ended badly for one Oban man when police officers breathalysed him and found him to be over the legal drink drive limit. Robert MacPherson, 47, of 25a Dalintart Drive, Oban, denied the offences but was found guilty by Sheriff Tom McCartney after

standing trial Court last week at Oban Sheriff. The court heard from PC Kevin Summers that his attention had been drawn to a white transit van with the words 'Robert's Floorcoverings' on it and he noted the driver was not wearing his seatbelt. The officers turned their vehicle around and followed MacPherson

to his work yard in Lochavullin Road. When they approached him about his seatbelt they said they could 'smell alcohol' on his breath. PC Summers told the court during evidence MacPherson was brought back to Oban Police Office and processed in the proper manner. The lower of his readings was

41mcg. But MacPherson denied this and claimed during evidence he had unlawfully been denied the right to a more accurate blood test and was made to sign documents without knowing what they contained. He said: 'I couldn't read it without my glasses but signed it as I was told it was just a formality.'

These allegations were strenuously denied by the officers and Sheriff McCartney said the police evidence was both 'credible and reliable'. He added: 'I don't accept the evidence of Mr MacPherson.' Sheriff McCartney banned MacPherson from driving for one year and fined him £500 for the two offences on May 28.

Woman returns from India to face driving charge

AN INDIAN woman returned from her home country to 'face the music' after she injured the rider of a motorbike when she hit him as she pulled out of a lay-by. Divya Bhatia, 30, of New Delhi, pled guilty to careless driving and failing to stop after an accident last week when she appeared at

Oban Sheriff Court. Bhatia was on holiday in Argyll when she struck the motorcyclist as she pulled back onto the A82 at Bridge of Orchy after stopping to sightsee. Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'The complainant didn't have time to take evasive action and was struck on his side

as the car emerged. This knocked him onto the opposing carriageway where he was struck against the side of a passing car. 'He ended up lying in the prone position in the middle of the road where he remained for a period of time.' The court heard Bhatia had

initially stopped and her husband got out to assess the situation but he returned to the car and the pair drove off. 'Extremely seriously' Defence agent Steven Macleod told the court Bhatia was taking the case 'extremely seriously'. He said: 'She hasn't taken the

easy option. She has returned to face the music - to face justice. She has taken this very much to heart, she has had a fear hanging over her in relation to prison, it has been a very serious concern to her.' Sheriff Tom McCartney fined Bhatia £600 and banned her from driving in the UK for six months.

Tools stolen from van parked near Bridge of Orchy

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after £1,000 worth of tools were stolen from a van parked near Bridge of Orchy. The van was parked in a layby outside

Inveroran Cottage for two weeks. The owner discovered the tools were missing when he returned to the vehicle last Wednesday, August 21.

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Lochaber complete Houdini act with win in local derby

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

SPEANBRIDGE is still celebrating after Lochaber Camanachd completed an incredible relegation Houdini act by defeating local rivals Fort William in their final Orion Group Premiership league match.

The gritty 2-1 win took Lochaber's points tally under manager Robert Johnstone to 14 in nine games - six wins, two draws and just one defeat - and guarantees top flight shinty at Spean for another year.

A delighted Johnstone would not be drawn on whether he will be in charge next season.

"That's for another day," he told The Oban Times pitchside. "It was a hard fought game and it was not easy. We got more luck on the day - that's all there is to it."

Both teams played well but thankfully it was us who got the result. It was a good all round team performance and it had to be because Fort William gave us no quarter anywhere on the park.

'It was not a truly exciting game but I'm sure Fort William will be gutted nonetheless.'

Fort William co-manager Victor Smith was rueing another game that arguably should have seen his team garner at least one point.

He said: 'We were never lacking in effort that's for sure, and again we hit the woodwork at least twice.'

'It was a good end to end game but maybe we switched off after the foul which led to the second goal - which was never a foul. I don't know where that decision came from but we should still not switch off.'

Lochaber started strongly and went ahead inside five minutes through Kevin Ferguson's smart finish, but the Fort levelled when Duncan Rodger fired past Calum MacDonald.

The Lochaber keeper came off worst in a 50-50 shoulder-to-shoulder collision with Gordy MacKinnon before the break but recovered after treatment.

Fort William's Bryan Simpson's mazy run clean through the Lochaber defence on 49 minutes almost found a reward before three players - Fort

SHINTY

William's Neil Robertson and Stevie Stewart and Lochaber's Kevin Ferguson - were booked within five minutes as the game threatened to boil over.

MacKinnon lost control at the critical moment in front of goal after a brilliant run but it was Lochaber who grabbed back the initiative on 78 minutes.

Stevie Stewart looked to be the injured party when he was bundled over, but the foul went to Lochaber and from Shaun Nicolson's short tap Scott Paterson fairly rifled the ball past McKay.

Fort fought back and MacKinnon was desperately unlucky to see his shot cannon off the post before Brennan MacDonald brilliantly knocked away Simpson's goal-bound effort.

Back came Lochaber and great interplay between Callison and Paterson almost produced a third for the home side.

Fort almost levelled at the death but Neil MacDonald's intervention proved enough to deny MacKinnon as he prepared to strike.



Clash of the ash: Neil Paterson and Shaun Nicolson hold nothing back. 20_f35shinty07

Fort still looking to pick up first points of the season

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM take on Nairn County at Claggan Park still in search of their first points of the season - but will be greatly encouraged by a gutsy showing in last Saturday's 3-2 defeat at Huntly.

Manager Danny Conlon will have a stronger squad at his disposal with Iain Foggo, Sean Grant, Duncan Campbell and Pedro Dhiento all likely to return to the starting line-up.

However, key defender Andy Martin will be at a wedding and his absence will be a big miss for the Fort.

Conlon admitted to being 'gutted' at the loss at Huntly which saw his layers troop off the park wondering how they had come away empty-handed.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'We really should have won the game - we were the better side over the 90.'

'It was probably our best performance in the two and a half years I have been here and we just got caught out by two freakish goals. The boy cut in on to his right foot and the ball whipped up off the grass into exactly the same spot in the corner of the net.'

'We had a trialist keeper, and without being too critical he had a lack of games behind him and although he lost the goals he did well until then. We did not have a bad player on the park.'

Conlon added: 'James Mackay in the middle was the best player on the park by far. The trialist defender was very good and we are hoping to make a move for him. Keith Millar was outstanding too with his natural ability and energy.'

'I was gutted to lose and even their players coming off the pitch said we were the better team.'

'Nairn will be a tough proposition but we will see how we get on.'

Against Huntly, Fort twice took the lead through Gary Farquhar and Iain MacLellan but a late Daniel Stewart double ensured a cruel defeat.

Fraser MacPhee Tournament

PRIMARY SHINTY

THE ANNUAL Fraser MacPhee primary school shinty tournament will be held at An Aird on Sunday September 15.

As well as the tournament games, there will also be a speed gun hitting competition and a barbecue before the trophies are handed out at the end of the day.

For more information, contact Niall MacPhee on 07957 166 152.



Phoenix boxers back in training



Chris Bradley, left, will not be fighting for Lochaber Phoenix this season after moving to Peterhead to work. 20_f35boxing01

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club have started serious training in the last few weeks for the upcoming boxing season.

And as part of their preparations members of the Fort William-based club travelled to Inverness last weekend to take part in a multi club sparring session that lasted three hours on Saturday afternoon.

Club official Steve Docherty can't wait for the real action to get underway - and has been impressed by the numbers of both experienced and novice boxers turning up regularly for fitness and sparring sessions.

Star 16 year-old Chris Bradley will not be boxing for the club this year as he has moved to Peterhead for a job.

He said: 'The club seems to be busier than ever and I believe we will have more active boxers than ever before during the next season.'

'We have youngsters as young

FOOTBALL

as nine years old at our gym together with senior boxers in the super-heavyweight division and they are all working together to help each other improve.

'Everybody is training hard and showing improvement and while we have a hardcore group who have been boxing for the last few seasons, including some Scottish champions, we also have some newcomers who are ready to make waves - plus the return of light welterweight Stephen Cameron and heavyweight twins Chris and Ewan Donnelly.'

Lochaber Phoenix hold their next home show is at the Nevis Centre on October 5. Tickets are available from Niall Clark 07554994744, Steve Docherty 07767069532 or the venue 01397 700707.

Options include a three course meal, waitress service and a standard stand ticket.

Lochaber open season in style win impressive bonus point win on the Isle of Lewis

RBS Caledonia North Division Two
Sornoway 14
Lochaber 23

LOCHABER RFC opened their RBS Caledonia North Division 2 in great style with a fine away victory at Sornoway on Saturday.

A warm and sunny day on the Isle of Lewis saw a great game of rugby in which the Banavie side surged into a lead and went on to seal the win.

Lochaber travelled away with 16 players whereas the home side had a full complement of 22 men.

The opening 10 minutes were exciting as both teams tested the opponent's set piece and defence.

Conor Taylor opened the try scoring with a powerful run, utilising his superb hand-off to break through the defence and score.

Sornoway were proving dangerous opponents however and time and again their centres hit hard and fast lines in the middle of the park.

Eventually from the back of a ruck, a big Sornoway prop managed to bundle over the line and touch down despite best efforts from Lochaber to hold the ball up.

The setback seemed to spur the visitors on, and for rest of the game they defended excellently and made Sornoway pay for mistakes by scoring breakaway tries from Innes Ireland, Donnie

RUGBY

MacDonald and resident Aussie, Ben Leon.

For the last few minutes Lochaber were hard pushed in their own 22 and really had to defend every wave of attacks Sornoway could throw at them.

But a gritty defensive team effort ensured the visitors conceded no points in the second half to hang on for a morale-boosting victory.

Lochaber vice-captain Jack Baxter said: 'All in all, it was a great opening weekend of rugby and a bonus point win for Lochaber and we are now looking forward to Saturday's double header away to Aberdeen Wanderers.'

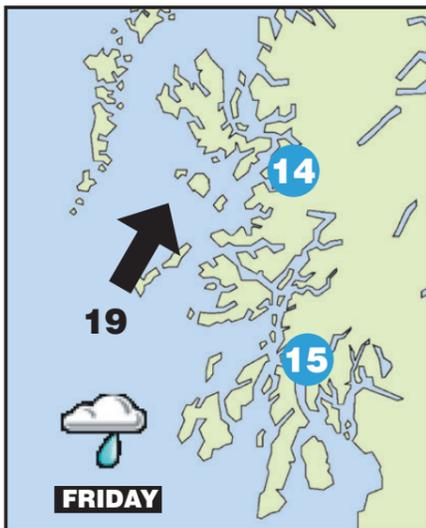
Weather

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 13°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 29, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.21	1.7 10.46 2.9 17.48	2.0 ** ** *
Fri 00.08	2.7 06.27 1.8 13.04	2.8 19.18 2.1
Sat 02.33	2.8 07.46 1.8 14.40	2.9 21.35 1.9
Sun 03.25	3.0 09.04 1.6 15.28	3.2 22.19 1.7
Mon 04.00	3.2 09.37 1.4 16.05	3.4 22.52 1.5
Tues 04.33	3.5 10.37 1.2 16.41	3.7 23.21 1.3
Wed 05.08	3.7 11.12 1.0 17.16	3.9 23.49 1.1-

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Torbemory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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