

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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TV expert hunting for a bargain



New Islay ferry nears completion



Also inside this week: Focus on Mull business • Anglers get their skates on for tagathon • All the action from the shinty pitch

Three charged over alleged attempted raid on Co-op store

THREE people have appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court in connection with an alleged attempted robbery at the Co-operative store on Soroba Road.

Sophie Haralambos, 24, David Higginson, 47, and Keith Baker, 57, all from Cardiff, made no plea or declaration when they appeared from custody before Sheriff Douglas Small on Monday.

It is alleged that Haralambos stole three uniforms from the store and had adapted a name badge. The group is accused of being within the Co-operative warehouse and being in possession of an offensive weapon, a baton. Baker was also charged for driving without insurance. All three were committed for further examination. Higginson and Baker were remanded in custody while Haralambos was released on bail.

Disabled sports group planned

A NEW group is looking for people with disabilities from across Argyll to join a pilot scheme for a multi-purpose sports club.

Argyll Activities needs those with mental or physical disabilities to play a key role in the design and set up of a club, offering a wide variety of physical activities.

The Ardrishaig organisation is offering a unique opportunity for the disabled community to come together and create an active social centre based around activities and sports.

The pilot scheme is due to take place from May 16 and may include activities such as horse riding and kayaking. To find out more contact Antonia Baird on 01852 500731.

Cleaning up Connel

VILLAGERS are being urged to turn out in force on Monday April 18 to tidy up Connel.

The Connel Clean Up starts at 6pm. Anyone willing to take part should meet at the village hall at 6pm.

Bags are provided but people should bring their own gloves.



Nine-month-old Amber Campbell, winner of The Oban Times' Bonnie Baby Competition, with mum Tracy and sister Amy. 16_115baby01

Look who's the bonniest baby of them all

OBAN toddler Amber Campbell has been judged The Oban Times' Bonnie Baby of the Year 2011.

The nine-month-old was entered into the competition by her mum, Tracy Campbell, who said: 'Amber always takes a good picture.'

She added: 'We had just taken

Amber to have some baby pictures taken in Boots when I saw the competition advertised in the paper.

'So I sent in a picture we took that day,' said Tracy. 'We are delighted she has won.'

Amber, who lives in Breadalbane Street with her mum and

five-year-old sister Amy, was born in Oban in June last year.

Teeth
Described by her mum as 'being into everything' the tot has just started to crawl and greets everyone with a smile, showing off her two new teeth.

Amber's smile was won the

family a CoolPix digital camera and a £50 voucher for Argos.

Tracy said: 'We will certainly make good use of the camera taking family snaps and pictures of the girls.'

'Amy has already been looking through the Argos catalogue for toys for them both.'

Welcome for repairs to Oban-Lochgilphead road

MORE than £500,000 will be spent upgrading the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road this summer.

Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed structural repairs and resurfacing works will be carried out on 4,500 metres of the road.

The work, which begins in June, includes resurfacing and retexturing the road at Tibertich and structural repairs in Barranail, Carinban and Kintraw.

The repairs are part of a £2 million programme of road works to be carried out across Mid

Argyll, Kintyre, Islay, Jura and Colonsay.

The repairs will also see £525,000 spent on upgrading part of the A83 in Kintyre. Starting in May, 6,000 metres of the A83 between Westport and Balochantay will be retextured whilst Seal Point to Ballochroy will be resurfaced later in the year. The schedule of work was announced at the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee meeting last week.

At the meeting, technical officer for Argyll and Bute Council, Ju-

lian Green, said patchmaster vehicles had been tackling potholes on the minor roads across Argyll but severe cold weather had made permanent repairs difficult.

'We need to have a plan that is sustainable so we move away from temporary repairs,' said Mr Green. 'Winter conditions make it difficult but where possible more permanent repairs will be done.'

Sandy Dunlop, of Oban Electrical Services Ltd, which has staff based in both Oban and Lochgilphead, said the company

has a minimum of three or four vans on the road every day.

Mr Dunlop said: 'This is welcome news but I would like to see more work done. It is three miles being repaired; three miles out of 38 is not a lot.'

'These roads were never built for HGV lorries,' he said. 'They need to be hard around the edges.'

Argyll and Bute Council announced that an additional £3 million would be invested in the roads network when councillors approved the 2011/12 budget in February.

Council 'not listening' to threatened rural schools

ARGYLL education bosses have chosen not to make any changes to proposals to enter into official consultations on the closure of 12 rural schools.

Despite a series of 'pre-consultation' meetings with parents of children at affected schools - during which they were asked to make the case for saving their school - councillors will be asked to proceed to the next stage of a process which could lead to their closure.

Parents of children at schools earmarked for closure accused Argyll and Bute Council of 'not listening' following the pre-consultation meetings.

One angry parent from Achaleven Primary School said: 'They said they were listening but I wonder if they did not understand what we were saying.'

Argyll and Bute councillors will now vote next Tuesday on whether or not to put Ardrachattan, Ardconnel, Achaleven, Minard, Ashfield, Clachan, St Kieran's,

REPORT
by EDEL KENEALY
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

Skipness, Rhuahaorine, Luss, Toward and North Bute schools out to formal consultation for closure.

If approved, school closures would be implemented during the Christmas recess this year.

Parents say they have provided detailed and strong cases to keep their schools open.

Susan Bland, chairwoman of Ardrachattan Primary School Parent Council, said they had shown that the school was at the heart of the community during the pre-consultation meeting.

'But at no time has anyone asked the children involved what their opinion is,' she said.

'We hope that the council are going to look at the reports with an open mind and that they have not already decided on which school is going to consultation.'

Chairman of the Friends of

Achaleven, John Little, said the council is failing to meet the criteria for closure set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

He said: 'To put Achaleven School out to consultation again is simply wasting time and money while putting unnecessary stress onto the community, parents, pupils and staff.'

In Kintyre, parents of children at Clachan Primary School are meeting Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid tonight (Thursday) urging him to support their campaign to keep the school open.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Statutory consultation, if decided on by elected members, will take place between May 3 and June 30 2011. If statutory consultation is agreed, final decisions will be taken by councillors in October. Anyone who did not agree with the council's decision will have three weeks to refer their complaint to the Scottish Government.'

Probe continues into fatal Oban fire

A JOINT investigation by police and the fire brigade into a fatal fire at a flat in Oban's Airds Place is underway.

Matthew Watson, aged 32, died on arrival at Lorn and Islands Hospital after he was rescued from the burning flat, above Aulay's Bar, by firefighters. Two fire appliances from the Oban station arrived at the scene at 2.12am last Friday morning after receiving the emergency call from a member of the public at 2.07am and extinguished a fire in the kitchen.

Mr Watson, who was the manager at the town's Superdrug store, was given immediate trauma care at the scene.

Oban's Superdrug store was closed the day following the incident.

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish expressed concerns this week that the ambulance was only summoned at 2.25am and has called for a review of guidelines which state an ambulance is only called when it is confirmed someone is within a property.

He said: 'If an ambulance crew had been called out earlier, perhaps the situation might have been different for this man.'

'Although firefighters are trained up to a point in medical resuscitation, the ambulance would have the necessary equipment, medication and training. I understand the fire service has a policy of not calling the ambulance until they know there is a person in the building but in the case of a house fire, in the middle of the night, it would make sense to call an ambulance out straight away.'

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue has declined to comment on Councillor McCuish's statement and would not say when its investigation was likely to end.

A statement from Superdrug said: 'Everyone at Superdrug is devastated and shocked by the tragic news about Matthew Watson. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.'

Oban Hospice to 'widen its focus' as part of fundamental rethink of its future work

OBAN Hospice has had a 'fundamental rethink' on its future.

The board of directors says it has widened its focus and is no longer simply considering a single building.

Addressing the board's annual general meeting, chairman Dr Mac Armstrong said: 'Taking account of the needs of local patients and carers, best practice in other areas of the UK and the realities of the current economic climate, our conclusion was that we must widen our focus.'

While the news that there will be no hospice building in the town in the foreseeable future is a blow to many of the fundraisers, Dr Armstrong said he felt many had come to the same conclusion.

'Last year we were disappointed when we lost the opportunity to fund the redevelopment with Lorn and Islands Hospital but we have used that as an opportunity to explore every other avenue available to us.'

'We know these were hard won funds and we do not want to use them unwisely.'

'We will continue to work with the hospital to supplement NHS provision.'

'We have successfully concluded discussions with Lorn and Islands Hospital and will, over the next couple of months, be investing over

£40,000 in improving the single room accommodation in the new Intermediate Care Ward and the room for relatives staying overnight.'

'This will provide accommodation and facilities that the NHS could not otherwise afford at this time and will significantly improve the environment for patients and their relatives in our local hospital.'

Hospice at Home

'We are looking at providing a Hospice at Home service. Working with providers, we have identified gaps and we hope to fill them with a local partner organisation.'

'We are looking at providing a service in the local nursing homes to provide better palliative care facilities.'

'Finally, so everyone knows what we provide and where we are going, we are piloting a new website for later on this year.'

Practitioners generally welcomed the move saying that more people were choosing to stay at home in the last stages of their lives.

Dr Armstrong concluded: 'We asked ourselves some very difficult questions and I think we have come up with a sustainable plan to provide some much needed support to fill any potential gaps in services for people who are living with a terminal illness.'

The Queens Hotel
GLEN CAMPA RESTAURANT
Easter Sunday Luncheon

Tomato and Basil Soup served with a Seeded Bun
Smoked Haddock seasoned and bound with an Egg Yolk Cream then oven baked and served in a Crème Brulee style
Wild Mushrooms bound with a Warm Garlic Cream and fresh Herb Sauce set on a toasted Brioche
Chicken Liver, Port and Garlic infused Pâté

Roast Rump of Beef served with a Pan Jus and Yorkshire Pudding
Breast of Turkey served with Cranberry Sauce and a rich Gravy
Scottish Salmon Fillet rested upon sautéed Potatoes topped with Oven roasted Langoustine and a fresh Lemongrass infused Butter
Penne Pasta with oven roasted Sun Blushed Tomatoes served with Pesto Cream and a Side Salad (v)

Handmade Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream
Chef's own Vanilla and Strawberry Cheesecake dressed with a medley of Summer Fruits and drizzled in a Berry Coulis
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Sea anglers get their skates on for Craignish tagathon

A SCOTTISH sea angling event saw volunteers from all over the country converge in Craignish to tag some of the largest fish in the water.

The Skate Tagathon saw protected-species Common Skate drawn from the depths of the ocean before being tagged and replaced into the sea.

It certainly was not the one that got away for *The Oban Times*, when reporter Louise Lee managed to land a 165lb female who was previously untagged.

Willie Kennedy and Stuart Cresswell, volunteer organisers and former Scottish champions, say that the tagathon is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Willie said: 'The waters around Scotland are one of the few places where these tough creatures can be found.'

'They live on the bottom of the ocean floor and eat almost anything they find down there.'

'Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network is a purely voluntary organisation that tags both sharks and skate, always recording the animals they put

REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

back into the sea. The data we gather from tagging the skate and putting them back out to sea gives a good insight into various aspects of the life history of the fish.

Residency 'They have a complicated pattern of habitation and show some form of residency or territorial behaviour.'

Stuart added: 'The event brings a huge amount back into the local economy - from anglers and kayakers coming from all over the UK to Craignish and beyond. 'Sea angling is a healthy outdoor activity for the whole family.'

'It can contribute around £150 million a year to the Scottish economy and supports 4,000 jobs. We all benefit from the positive conservation message.'

Aboard 34ft vessel *The Real Deal*, Stuart and Willie were using lines to a depth of 140 feet.



The one that didn't get away - a 165lb skate reeled in by Oban Times reporter Louise Lee. 16_115skate2

Film director adds glitz to start of tourist season

THE FIRST week of the tourist season was given a touch of movie glitz and glamour.

Film director turned *Sunday Times* food critic Michael Winner and his fiancée, Geraldine Lynton Edwards, took a week-long cruise out of Oban on board the *Glen Tarsan*.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing for the couple, who had to put up with some inclement weather during their holiday.

The *Glen Tarsan*, which operates out of Oban, is one of two mini cruise ships operated by The Majestic Line.

The vessels can cater for up to 11 passengers and have a crew of four.

Spotted

Partner Andy Thoms said: 'Michael Winner spotted our ad in *Country Life* and took the ship for himself and Geraldine.'

He explained that in addition to their cruise, the couple enjoyed a day at Glencoe, a night at Inverloch Castle and enjoyed a tour of Mull.

The Majestic Line's sales



Back on dry land: Michael Winner and fiancée Geraldine with Andy Thoms, partner of The Majestic Line, and Angus McPhail, who piped the couple ashore. 07_115winner02

manager, Marie Thoms, said it was a great way to start what promised to be a busy season.

'We are full in April, May and June as well as most of July,' she said.

Mr Winner said that despite the weather, it had been an interesting week.

Easdale takes centre stage for RIB Rendezvous

EASDALE Island's harbour is to become centre stage for the Easdale RIB Rendezvous during the weekend of April 30.

Drawing on the experience of Seafari Adventures which operates a fleet of Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boats (RIBs) for wildlife tours from Easdale, the event has already attracted 46 registrations from as far afield as Coventry and Northern Ireland.

Subject to suitable weather on Saturday April 30, the RIBs will head out to Colonsay where The Pantry has kindly offered to act as the central meeting point.

Following an event barbecue at Easdale's Puffer Bar on Saturday night, Sunday will be gentler with some local cruising.

A visit to the Gulf of Corryvreckan, home of the World's Third Largest Whirlpool,

is planned. The aim of the event is to demonstrate the variety and potential for small boat cruising from Easdale.

Working together

Local businesses and accommodation providers are working together to positively market the area.

Tony Hill is delighted that Seafari can offer something back to accommodation providers

in the area. 'Easdale is such a fantastic cruising area. Our skippers and crew have a wealth of local knowledge and RIB experience, which we are more than happy to share with others,' he said.

He said anyone with a RIB may come along to fill Easdale harbour full of boats once more. Details at www.easdaleRIBrendezvous.org.uk.

Fr John Paul returns for new *Island Parish* series

BARRA will once again be the focus of television audiences across the country as filming starts for a second series of *The Island Parish*.

Camera crews will return to the island in the very near future to once again follow the fortunes of Father John Paul MacKinnon.

And while the first series examined how he adapted to his new role as Castlebay's priest at the village's church, Our Lady, Star of the Sea, the second series will catch up with him just over a year into the post to see how he's getting on.

A spokesperson for the production company behind *The Island Parish*, Tiger Aspect, said: 'There will be a second series. There's not much more I can say about that at present as some things are still being finalised.'

'But there's been such a huge amount of interest in the series and so much affection for the characters we've met.'

While the first four series, which focused on the Isles of Scilly, was popular, Barra's tale has proved a sensation.

The spokesperson said: 'Everyone has just loved the series and the viewing figures have been great.'

'When you consider that it has been going up against Coronation Street, it's remarkable.'

The man at the centre of all the attention, Father John Paul, is rather modest about the success of the programme.

He said: 'The programme has



The star of *The Island Parish*, Father John Paul MacKinnon. 115frjohnp1

been received very well and I believe it's performed better than expected. I put it down to Barra itself, the beauty of the island, the weather being stunning and the warmth of the people.'

A side-effect of the series is a significant boost to the local tourist trade.

Father John Paul, a native of South Uist, said: 'There's been a little boost for the local hotels and B&Bs and I'm delighted I could play a part in that.'

The last episode in the current series of *The Island Parish* is on BBC Two this Friday at 7.30pm.

Drunk ran off after punching taxi driver

AN OBAN man is £950 poorer after telling a taxi driver that he hated him before punching him in the face and running off.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Dene Cassells, 23, of 11 Lunga Road, admitted the assault at 12.50am on December 5 last year, also pleading guilty to attempting to butt a police officer after his arrest that same evening.

Both offences were committed while he was on bail.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said Cassells had entered the cab at Oban town centre after being refused entry into a pub due to his intoxication, giving the driver an address in Soroba.

Mr Glancy said: 'In the course of the journey, the driver heard the accused say "I hate you." He thought Cassells was on a mobile phone. He realised he wasn't and that the comment was directed at him. The driver doesn't know the accused. He then asked what the problem was, and the accused said something like "I'm smashed."

'At that time the taxi had arrived. As the driver turned to tell Mr Cassells what the fare was, he was punched in the face.'

The driver phoned the police after Cassells quickly departed.

Sheriff Eric Brown fined Cassells £550, ordered him to pay the taxi driver £250 compensation and fined him £150 for the attempted assault on the police officer.

Residents plan Watch scheme

GLENCRUITTEN residents hope to start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Battling crime is on the agenda but tackling 'dirty' dog owners is the highest priority.

The group's monthly meeting heard the area required a big clean up and dog owners needed to be more responsible when it came to cleaning up after their animals.

Police officers in attendance at the meeting said there was a small crime rate in the area that could be effectively tackled by volunteers.

The residents association decided to look into formally setting up the group.

Ex-soldier punched teenage girls

A FISHERMAN from Oban punched two 15-year-old girls during an unprovoked rampage at a house in Ulva Terrace last month.

Russell MacLennan, 22, of 18a Dalinart Drive, Oban, a former soldier, admitted the tantrum when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week, also admitting breaking a window and committing a breach of the peace.

Pleas of not guilty to charges alleging two other assaults on other persons within the property and breaking a glass panel on a door were accepted by the Crown.

Sentence was deferred until May 3 for reports.

Special sailing to commemorate 80th anniversary of steamboat

A STEAMBOAT named after Loch Fyne will be commemorated later this month in Oban.

Caledonian MacBrayne's *Lochfyne* was a regular feature in and around Argyll during the 1930s-1960s.

The steamboat will be remembered by way of special sailings in and around Oban on Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1. The sailings commemorate 80 years since *Lochfyne* entered service in Oban.

Lochfyne was built to operate out of Oban, and now, Caledonian MacBrayne's vessel *Rover*, will operate some unique sailings from the town.

Ian Ramsay worked aboard *Lochfyne* for a season in the 1950s and remembers hearing about the surprise the steamer's design had on her passengers when she was first commissioned in 1931. He explained: 'Although I was around when

Lochfyne entered service, being one year her junior, I was not, needless to say, personally aware of the shock that her design and her appearance must have had on the steamer enthusiasts of 1931.'

'Apart from her then revolutionary diesel electric propulsion system, she was quite different from any other British coastal excursion ship with her two dumpy funnels having their tops, unusually, parallel to the load waterline.'

Mr Ramsay added: 'Based on my own memories from the late 1940s, *Lochfyne* was a very happy ship with a regular crew that did not change appreciably in more than 20 years.'

Lochfyne's happy saga as a Royal Mail and excursion ship came to an end in September 1969 when she was withdrawn from service and David MacBrayne Limited retired from serving the Royal Route to Ardrishaig. 'Her sad and lingering end until she finally went to the shipbreakers at Faslane, is, perhaps, best forgotten on today's happy excursion,' added Mr Ramsay. *Rover* can be seen coming through the Crinan Canal, at Ardrishaig, on Friday April 29, at about 10.30am, before making her way up to Oban Harbour.



Lochfyne will be commemorated by way of special sailings to and from Oban later this month.

Mary-Jean is Argyll children's champion

ARGYLL and Bute's looked after children have a new champion.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon took up the post of Children's Champion late last year.

Mary-Jean, who suffers with Multiple Sclerosis, said: 'The government suggested that each authority had an advocate for children. I was delighted to be asked.'

'My job is to listen to children who are adopted, fostered, in kinship arrangements or live in secure units.'

'There are 208 children in Argyll and Bute who are looked after by the authority. We have three children's

homes based in Helensburgh, Dunoon and Oban.

'I have been visiting children and listening to them. I have also met with carers and potential adopters.'

Amazed

'I am amazed by the commitment of people.'

'I met one woman who has been fostering children for 34 years. She has five children of her own and she still has time to look after others. Her own children are now fostering children.'

'If there are issues I want to know about them. Sometimes we are so

busy ticking boxes that we forget that children need to be listened to. My priority is to keep children safe.'

Voice

Dougie Dunlop, Argyll and Bute's head of children and families, added: 'This position was created to ensure that looked after and accommodated children are directly represented in all aspects of council services.'

'It is vital that some of our most vulnerable youngsters have a voice at the highest levels of the council, and our children's champion is a very effective way of making sure those voices are heard.'

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Repairs at last for Tesco roundabouts

ROUNDABOUTS outside Tesco in Oban will be repaired by Argyll and Bute Council next week after it admitted the road surface had 'completely failed'. The roundabouts not only serve the town's busiest supermarket but are also the access point for the industrial estates at Lochavullin.

However, since they have been installed the road surface has steadily broken up and following the cold winter has crumbled under the strain of heavy traffic.

A full road closure will be in place from 7pm on Sunday to 6am the following day.

The white liners will then line the works during the early morning shift on Monday.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I have had lots of representations regarding this roundabout and I am glad the council has agreed to fix it.'

'We apologise for the inconvenience but this work, as everyone knows, is necessary.'

'This is one of the busiest roundabouts in the town and an overnight closure is the only way of doing it quickly.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The road surface at these roundabouts has completely failed. We have programmed in resurfacing works for this location overnight next Sunday.'

'A night shift is essential due to the number of retail and other business outlets for which the roundabouts provide the only viable route of access.'

Sailing club season launch

OBAN Sailing Club will mark the beginning of the 2011 season with its annual launch supper on Saturday.

The ceilidh, curry buffet and quiz will begin at 7pm and anyone who wishes to attend should contact ylva.powlett@yahoo.co.uk

Sustainable events

SUSTAINABLE Oban has announced a series of events taking place in the area over the next few weeks.

This Saturday, an Easter Tea will take place at Oban Library, with an art competition, face painting and games.

The following day will be a Linear Walk to The Barn with Oban Walkers, leaving Lochavullin free car park at 10am. On May 15 there will be a beach clean at Ganavan.

Valuation day boost for Phoenix Cinema fund



Sheonagh and David Robertson, from Fort William, brought this picture along for TV antiques expert Anita Manning to inspect.

TV's Anita goes hunting for a bargain

ANITA Manning, auctioneer and BBC antiques expert, went bargain hunting on Saturday at a special valuation day to raise funds for the Oban Phoenix Cinema appeal.

Anita, and fellow experts from Great Western Auctions in Glasgow, were inundated with folk keen to know if they were in possession of a little known masterpiece or priceless trinket.

Hundreds turned up, which kept Anita and her colleagues busy all day.

Anita said: 'The turnout was great. It was lovely meeting the people of Oban and hearing the stories behind the antiques.'

Pendants
'We saw some beautiful Edwardian pendants, rings and lovely silverware. There were many Scottish landscape paintings and we expected to see these in Oban, however, there is one picture in particular I will do more research on because the signature isn't very distinct.'

'We saw a variety of Clairice Cliff including some unusual pieces. The most exciting find of the day, however, were two beautiful Paul Ysart paper weights which are very rare and of considerable value. I can't say who they belong to at the moment but it was a delight to see these items.'

Delighted
Anita added: 'I am delighted to have been a part of the fundraising to re-open the cinema. It has been a great day. I hope to see lots of people at the auction house

in Glasgow with the items we evaluated.'

The event is expected to have added another £1,200 to the campaign to buy the former Highland Theatre and re-open it as a community-run cinema.

Events continue this Sunday at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls with a family fun day featuring arts, crafts, food, jewellery, beauty treatments, Celtic art, chutneys, jams, local seafood and baking.

The fun starts at 2pm.

Double-charge mix-up leaves disabled man penniless

A DISABLED Bonawe man was left penniless after Tesco double-charged him for his shopping - then told him he couldn't get his money back for days.

Simon Anderson, who suffered brain damage 21 years ago after a diving accident, had intended to buy his groceries at the Oban store last Friday before topping up his electricity, a carefully planned routine to stretch every penny of the £75 a week disability living allowance he lives on.

But he was astonished when Tesco charged him twice for his £48.98 of shopping - emptying his bank account.

He complained to the shop's

manager, but was told that it was a 'ghost payment' and there was nothing he could do but wait to get his money back.

That left him without enough cash to top up his electricity meter or put fuel in his car.

The episode also left Mr Anderson, who suffers from mood swings and depression as a result of his brain injury, extremely unwell over the course of the weekend.

He said: 'The manager told me these 'ghost payments' happen quite regularly and there's nothing you can do but wait a few days for it to correct itself.'

'I said to him I needed the

money, but he was really flippant. He didn't apologise or offer me a refund there and then. He just didn't care.'

'I had no money left after that, so I couldn't put the heating on or any of the appliances in my house. My kids were due to come round that night too but I had to cancel as I wasn't well enough. I was really low and I'm still not comfortable with it.'

Mr Anderson is now concerned that other people are effectively being ripped off by Tesco and haven't noticed, accusing the retail giant of double standards.

He said: 'How many people are they doing that to? How much

other people's 'ghost payments'? It's effectively stealing from me; I didn't give them permission to do that. If I walked in to their shop and took double what I'd paid for, I'd be arrested and in jail.'

A spokesman for Tesco said: 'There was a human error and the gentleman was charged twice as a result. We are very sorry for the inconvenience this has caused. A refund has been processed and will be in his account very shortly.'

The spokesman said the Oban store would get in touch with Mr Anderson to apologise.

Bookings for summer on the up, says CalMac

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne says bookings for the 2011 season are well above average on its most popular routes.

Speaking at VisitScotland Expo 2011, managing director Phil Preston said: 'We have high hopes for the summer season as more people are booking well in advance than ever before and indications are that we can expect

a very busy year on ferries, especially the traditionally popular services to Arran, Mull, Skye and the Western Isles.'

'We currently still have plenty of capacity, especially on off peak sailings, but clearly anyone planning to travel during the summer is advised to book early to avoid disappointment and, if possible, be flexible with their travel plans.'

The next major milestone for the company is the introduction of the new *MV Finlaggan*, which was launched in Poland on June 30 2010.

The new vessel is a modern Ro-Ro Euro Class B passenger ferry with capacity for 550 passengers and 88 cars, as well as coaches and commercial vehicles.

Mr Preston said: 'Everyone at CalMac is looking forward

to taking delivery of the *MV Finlaggan* for the Islay route later in the spring.'

'We have been working on its design for several years and it is the most advanced ferry in terms of technology, environmental efficiencies and comfort in our network, setting a new benchmark for ferry services on the Clyde and Hebrides routes.'

Special feature - page 9.

Fury over science park plan changes

Dunbeg residents claim HIE has turned its back on them

ANGRY residents of Dunbeg say they have been 'betrayed' by Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) over a change of design to its £7.5m Dunstaffnage Science Park.

Emotions ran high at a busy public meeting on Monday in Dunbeg Parish Church where HIE representatives told residents phase one plans would be going ahead, with or without their blessing.

The mood of the meeting was in stark contrast to six years ago when HIE first opened a regular dialogue with residents over the plans.

Dunbeg Community Council said in the past year communication had broken down, resulting in design changes going un-noticed. It also claims an agreement to upgrade the Kirk Road access through Dunbeg has been broken, although HIE said it will conduct 'minor improvements' to the road.

Construction firm Rok went into administration after successfully gaining the tender for the science park and HIE hopes to find an alternative contractor by July this year. Construction will have to begin in September in order to meet European funding deadlines.

Community council secretary Ian Moody said: 'There was a lot of antagonism when the 10-unit

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

science park was first spoken about but we reluctantly agreed it was a good thing because of the carrot of a potential 200 jobs for the area. They also told us road improvements would be made in phase one.

'The next thing we hear Rok has gone in and the project has gone through a metamorphosis.'

'We feel betrayed and angry. The whole community feels like it has been lied to. There is a feeling they used us to get their outline planning permission and as soon as the get it, they turn their back on us. They have completely lost the community's trust.'

HIE had advertised the change in design but community council chairwoman Gwyneth Neal said any major changes in the development had always been brought to the attention of the community before. Gwyneth also sits on the Dunstaffnage Strategic Planning Committee, of which HIE is a partner, and changes to the plans were not mentioned.

She said: 'Because we were waiting for a planning application that included the road, the planning notice wasn't seen. But we had no reason to believe they wouldn't inform us of any major changes because they had done

that for the past six years. The road is already a major safety risk. A lot of young families, disabled residents and elderly people live down there and the amount of traffic that goes down there is ridiculous.'

'The road has been on the agenda since day one and for HIE to ignore that now is very sad.'

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Neil Mackay was at the meeting on Monday. He said: 'Considering the level of community involvement previously at local council level, I am very disappointed in HIE with the lack of community consultation in this particular application.'

'I acknowledge and understand they had deadlines to meet and didn't want to lose their funding, however it would seem that they have lost the community.'

A spokeswoman for HIE said: 'HIE submitted detailed proposals in 2010, which the council advertised in July.'

'These included minor improvements to Kirk Road. After the HIE board approved funding for phase one of the Marine Science Park in August 2010, HIE issued a news release which included specific reference to the detailed proposals under consideration by the council. HIE also published an animated tour of the science park online so people could see exactly what was envisaged.'

Long delayed Barra distillery will go ahead, insists businessman

THE MAN hoping to build a £1.8million distillery on Barra insists it will go ahead, despite admitting attracting investors to fund the construction is proving difficult.

Peter Brown, who lives on the island, initially claimed construction on the Isle of Barra Distillery would start in Borne in the autumn of 2009, with planning permission granted in July of that year.

Construction has to start within five years of permission being granted for planning to remain valid.

However, he has struggled to obtain enough capital to get the bricks and mortar in place, despite a number of whisky enthusiasts shelling out between £1,200 and £1,000 in advance for one of the first casks to roll off

the production line. Mr Brown says some investment is in place, however, as four individuals have bought shares in his company, Uisge Beatha nan Eilean.

More capital is needed though. He said: 'Basically, there's been a recession and we are finding it a lot more difficult to finance this than expected.'

'We are making progress but it's slow progress. There is some money in place. We will start as soon as we've got the investment in place.'

'There have been other expressions of interest from potential investors in recent months.'

In order to make investment more appealing, Mr Brown is considering maturing the malt for eight years as opposed to the originally intended 12, although

there is no change to his intention to produce 25,000 litres a year. While he said there are other options available if investment continues to be difficult to source, he refused to reveal what they are.

'Business is run on confidence. There are many different ways to capitalise a business.'

When it is built, the distillery will initially create two jobs for the island, with the number set to increase when the product is ready for retail.

Up to half of all the whisky produced will be sold on the island, Mr Brown said.

Mr Brown intends to power the building through wind turbines, saying the only time it is likely to require to buy electricity from the grid is when they're firing up the stills.

Self Build Roadshow Oban

Thinking of building your own home?

If you are planning a self build project, thinking of building your own home or would just like to find out more about how you can go about a self build, then come along and meet our team at the Caledonian Hotel, Oban on the 20th and 21st April.

For further information call: Sandy Farquhar at our Dundee Office on 01382 561772

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Island golf club receives cash to train coaches

ISLAY Golf Club's commitment to building its junior membership has been rewarded with a £500 grant from the Golf Foundation to train new coaches.

In 2008 the club began junior coaching through the national junior programme, Clubgolf, when four members became qualified to coach.

At the same time, PGA professional Ron Goudie moved to the island to start a bed and breakfast and lent his support to the programme.

Junior membership has since grown from zero to more than 30, a direct result of the weekly coaching overseen by Ron.

The club will invest the grant by training two new Clubgolf Level 1 coaches, and send three existing coaches on a one-day advanced training course with the PGA.

It will also be used to buy new clubs and improve the drainage in the practice area.

'On Islay, Clubgolf has become a way for the children to get proper exposure to golf from an early age so they can take up the game properly,' said Ron.

'We are at the point where kids have been on the programme for two years and starting to see more children on the golf course, whereas three years ago golf was almost non-existent for local children.'

'Everyone was a member of the football club but nobody would have been playing golf unless mum or dad was a member,' he added.

This season the club has expanded junior coaching to run two weekly classes; Mondays for complete beginners and children in year two coaching, and Tuesdays for the more advanced youngsters.

'For those on the Tuesday night sessions the focus is taking them on to the golf course around the first five holes,' said Ron.

'We are going to teach rules, make sure they understand etiquette, watch golf videos and bring a balanced approach to their play.'

Award

The £500 award from Clubgolf partner, the Golf Foundation, is through its Discretionary Grant Scheme for clubs and facilities signed up to deliver Clubgolf.

Colin Bell, Clubgolf regional manager for Argyll and Dunbartonshire, said: 'Ron and all the volunteer coaches at Islay Golf Club have done a fantastic job in establishing a coaching pathway for children on the island and their efforts are rewarded with the large numbers coming to their coaching.'

'Despite the remote location of the club they have become a model for junior development. I hope the golf club will see the impact of their work for many years to come.'

£165,000 grant to community forest to offer green energy advice

A CHARITY has been awarded funding to help Kilfinan residents save both fuel and cash with a new green project.

Kilfinan Community Forest has been awarded £165,000 from the Climate Challenge Fund to deliver energy saving advice catered to the specific needs of Kilfinan households.

Members of the community forest will carry out door-to-door surveys with householders identifying ways in which they can lower their carbon footprint.

A green event has also been planned for the summer where people will be shown how timber and firewood can provide sustainable resources for the community. At the 'Tree to Table' event forest managers will demonstrate tree felling, thinning, extraction, processing and milling.

Celebrate

The educational event will celebrate the forest as a local asset and encourage locals to become more involved in community forest projects.

Kilfinan Community Forest was established in March 2010 with the aim of allowing the local community to manage and develop their forest, creating opportunities for a sustainable future for the local economy, recreation, tourism, the environment and education.

Cadbury Easter Egg Trails at Crarae Garden and Arduaine Garden

The National Trust for Scotland has teamed up with Cadbury to bring Easter Trails to 40 places across Scotland.

Get some fresh air with your family this Easter as you follow the trail, collect the clues, solve the puzzle and win a Cadbury Egghead!

Each of the 40 trails is different - a great excuse to visit some stunning locations throughout Scotland - and to try your hand at more than one trail!

Arduaine Garden, Oban
Fri 22 to Mon 25 Apr, 9.30am-4.30pm
Trail is included in usual admission price.
Tel 0844 493 2216

Crarae Garden, Inveraray
Fri 22 to Mon 25 Apr, 10am-4pm
Trail is included in usual admission price.
Tel 0844 493 2210

the National Trust for Scotland
a place for Easter

Easter Egg Trail

For more information or to find out about family events across Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007244

Thousands wish William and Kate 'all the best'

40-ft wedding card raises £3,350 for Oban RNLI branch

A 40FT-LONG wedding card signed by 2,072 well-wishers is winging its way to Prince William and Kate Middleton.

And the card - believed to hold the record as the biggest ever sent to a royal couple - has been on an incredible journey.

It has travelled 500 miles around the west coast, collecting signatures in return for a small donation to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Oban RNLI Fundraising Group members have spent two months taking the giant card - rolled into a scroll for transportation - to 40 locations around Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

To fill the 12-metre card with signatures seemed a mammoth task when the project was launched on the RNLI's national SOS fundraising day at the end of January.

But since then the well-travelled card has been everywhere - from a ceilidh to a council chamber, to a hospital and a hotel.

Thanks to its own ferry pass, courtesy of Caledonian MacBrayne, it travelled all over Mull and on to Iona Abbey where it was blessed, as special prayers were said for the future happiness

of William and Kate. The young couple asked people for donations to charity, in lieu of wedding gifts.

Les Stewart, treasurer of Oban RNLI Fundraising Group, said the Sign Our Scroll project had raised £3,343.46.

Mr Stewart said: 'The card's popularity has surpassed all our expectations. It has been extremely popular and the public reaction has been very favourable - towards the charity and the royals.'

'It's been signed by locals and visitors, by young and old - the youngest person to sign it was a four-year-old boy and the eldest was a 96-year-old woman.'

Sign
Mr Stewart added: 'There is Gaelic writing on it - and Chinese - and we have had Hungarians, Polish, Dutch, Australians and Americans all queuing up to sign the card.'

Leading paper distributors Antalis McNaughton donated the special strong canvas that makes up the card and artist Ian Gowdie, from Benderloch, near Oban, decorated it with painted emblems of the RNLI flag and the ancient Galley of Lorne, a recognised

symbol of the local area. Hours of work went into the scroll, which has congratulatory words set out in beautiful calligraphy by Mr Gowdie at the beginning, with the final total, raised for the RNLI, added at the end.

George Berry, the fundraising group's chairman, said: 'We have had tremendous support for this project. The committee would also like to thank all the local businesses, organisations and schools that hosted card signing sessions.'

The card is being hand delivered to the royal household in London by Kenneth MacKinnon, the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

A St James's Palace spokesman said: 'Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton have been overwhelmed by the incredibly kind messages they have received in connection with their forthcoming wedding and are immensely touched and grateful for all the cards and gifts they have received.'

Prince William's late grandmother, Frances Shand Kydd, lived on Seil island, near Oban and was renowned for the amount of charity work she did for the area.



Best wishes: The 40-ft wedding card which is being sent to Prince William and Kate Middleton, signed by more than 2,000 well wishers. 15_115scro01

Teenager banned after careering into bridge

AN OBAN teenager has been given a £400 fine and banned from the roads for a year after nearly driving his car over the edge of Connel Bridge.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that Connor MacIntyre, 18, of 4A Scalpay Terrace, was lucky not to have killed himself and his two passengers in the incident, which saw his Vauxhall Corsa car climb 1.6metres up one of the girders of the cantilever bridge, teeter over the brink of falling into the Falls of Lora, before falling back onto the road surface and skidding for more than 60 metres across the road surface.

MacIntyre was driving at around 55mph as he approached the bridge from North Connel at

12.10am on August 29 last year and clipped the offside kerb, causing him to lose control of the car.

The joiner admitted causing the crash when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Disaster
Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said: 'The officers who attended this case were at pains to stress the potential for a genuinely cataclysmic disaster here, and it is from nothing more than good fortune that we're not dealing with an incident that could have resulted in multiple fatalities.'

'The vehicle cleared the top of the safety barriers and climbed about 1.6metres above road level. 'At that stage, if it had toppled

westerly, then it would have gone over the parapet and into the waters below.'

'Thankfully, it topped the other way. The vehicle eventually came to a halt about 60 metres from the point it left the road surface.'

There were fears the structure of the bridge had been damaged and police closed access until a full assessment could be carried out.

The only person in the car not to be injured as a result of the incident was MacIntyre himself.

Defending, agent Duncan Durbin said his client was an inexperienced driver, having only driven for two or three days after passing his driving test six months previously.

He said: 'It is just as well that the spars and girders that form the bulwark of the bridge were there because they stopped something far more serious happening.'

'The standard of driving here is dangerous driving, of that there's no argument.'

'It's fortunate there were no other road users nearby.'

'Mr MacIntyre has had more than just a fright. This experience will be with him for the rest of his driving career.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Eric Brown gave MacIntyre only the minimum period of disqualification for the crash, adding: 'The fine would have been £500, but is reduced to £400 in these circumstances.'

Youth set fire to curtains and cloth

A JOHNSTONE teenager admitting starting a fire in an Oban home before biting a police officer, when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Craig Duffy, 17, of 3B Chestnut Place, pled guilty to charges alleging that, on February 24 this year, at 23 High Street, he set fire to curtains and a table cloth, before biting the police officer's arm at Oban Police Office that day.

Duffy, who is being held on remand in connection with charges alleging attempted murder, had sentence deferred until May 3 for reports.

'Act of stupidity' results in fine

AN OBAN fisherman who went into an ambulance while paramedics were attending an emergency call out has been fined £160.

Jason Burger, 23, of Flat 1/2, Stevenson Street, admitted the charge when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Sentencing, Sheriff Eric Brown said: 'This was an act of stupidity but I accept no harm came of it.'

Fine and ban for drug driver

AN ARDRISHAIG man who drove his car while under the influence of drugs has been banned from driving for a year and fined £250.

Appearing from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Graham Leith, 29, of 3 Seaside Park, admitted that on March 20 on Oban's Soroba Road, he drove while unfit.

Leith had already spent 15 days behind bars in connection with the charge.

Pick pocket punched victim

A TEENAGER stole a wallet from a man in Oban's Station Square then punched him in the face when he asked for it back.

Stefan Grant, of 14F Albert Lane, Oban, had previously admitted committing the offences on February 18 last year.

While there was no evidence that he took money from the wallet, when it was recovered it was missing £360.

Grant was ordered to pay £360 compensation and pay an £80 fine.

Sheriff orders air weapon forfeiture

CARRYING an air pistol designed to look like an authentic Walter handgun has cost a Dalmlally teenager £120.

Alistair Leiper, 19, of 12 Forestry Cottages, admitted having the weapon during a trip to Oban on April 7 last year.

Sheriff Eric Brown also ordered the forfeiture of the air pistol and its accessories.

Joiner texted insulting messages

AN UNEMPLOYED joiner who sent insulting text messages to his girlfriend of 13 months was fined £200 at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Martin Campbell, 50, of Flat 2-10, 470 Cumberland Street, Glasgow, admitting sending messages calling his partner a 'freak' and a 'cow' between January 30 and February 2 this year.

Development plan identifies nine 'economically fragile' communities

NINE communities in Argyll and Bute should be given 'prime consideration' when planning social and economic regeneration, according to a new report.

Argyll islands, Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Bute, along with mainland towns Campbelltown and Dunoon have been earmarked as priority areas for economic development.

Deficit
Described as 'economically fragile' or with a significant 'employment deficit' the nine areas have been identified in the Local Area Development Plan Main Issues Report.

Produced by Argyll and Bute Council, the local development plan is a strategic document which sets out a vision of what the region should look like over the next 20 years.

The main issues report identifies areas for housing, industry, renewable energy, tourism and conservation.

Setting Argyll and Bute up as a leader in the renewable energies industry, the report identifies Coll, Tiree and Islay as areas with a large off shore renewable energy potential.

Meeting the technical needs of the industry, Machrihanish has been highlighted as a base for an Argyll green technologies hub.

Centre
Identified by the Scottish Government as a key site for the evolving off shore renewable energy industry, Machrihanish is ideally placed as a manufacturing, research and service centre for all types of green technologies.

Sandbank Industrial Estate has also been mentioned as an area

with the potential for growth, with the possibility of delivering 800 jobs. Situated on the Cowal peninsula, the estate could boost employment figures in neighbouring Dunoon.

Quality jobs
Dunstaffnage Marine Science Park, near Oban, is also estimated to have the potential to provide up to 400 high quality jobs.

The main issues report, which notes both a falling and aging population in Argyll and Bute, states the continued growth of these key industries within the region will encourage young people to continue working and living in the area and boost immigration.

Members of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI) area committee noted the report when they met last week.

Flag flying to celebrate school's green efforts



Kilniver Primary School pupils celebrate after being award a Green Flag for their conservation in and around the classroom. 16_115kilniver1

Swimmers take plunge for cancer charity



A group of swimmers took to the pool in Atlantis Leisure on Friday to raise cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The swimathon was part of a national fundraising effort to raise cash for the charity. Rebecca MacKinnon, swimming development officer at Atlantis, said the swimmers had two-and-a-half hours to complete as many lengths as possible. 'It was very exciting for us to be part of the fundraising which was going on all over the UK,' she said. 15_115swimathon01

Programme of events to mark Oban's bicentenary begins to take shape

A HISTORIC and fun-filled ten days of events have been organised for Oban's Bicentennial celebrations in July.

Oban Community Council and elected members have been working together to put on a spectacular show for friends and visitors.

Oban and Lorn should experience a tourist boom as the town marks 200 years of being a borough.

The plan of events so far is that on July 9 the celebration kicks off with a stage of the Rally of Argyll.

But it will be the core day of celebrations on July 12 with a

Bicentennial parade ending in a rededication of the town at The Corran Halls that hopes to inspire people to get involved.

A week long arts programme will include Wee Three Crows in the Studio Theatre and a special exhibition at the Oban War and Peace Museum.

On July 14 there will be a Bicentenary Gala Concert with special guests in the Corran Halls while on July 15 there will be the reunion to end reunions with the Bicentenary Ball and Oban High School reunion at the Corran Halls.

July 16 will see an attempt made on the Guinness Book of

Records Strip the Willow - when it is hoped 2,000 people will take to the streets followed by a mass choir on the North Pier before sending out a beacon of hope for the future with 200 lanterns floating off into the night sky.

On July 17 there will be a day long celebration with an Ecumenical Church Service celebrating Oban's Saints and a family fun day in the afternoon.

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of the community council, said: 'We want this to be an event where everyone is involved. We are very glad there has been such a fantastic response to the programme so far.'

Climate Challenge grants awarded

ELEVEN projects across Argyll and Bute are to benefit from almost £1 million in funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

The money will be used to help reduce carbon emissions.

Projects receiving funding includes Roseneath Peninsula West Community Development Trust, Balnakailly Hydro Scheme and Strachur Memorial Hall, where £7,500 will go towards a

new heating system which will allow rooms to be heated only when they are booked out to user groups.

Councillor Donald Macdonald, chairman of the Environment Group, warmly welcomed this funding to projects in Argyll and Bute from the Scottish government.

'This is a great boost for diverse communities located all over Argyll and Bute.

'It is a testament to the quality of the submissions made by their representatives that so many projects have received these grants to help develop their concepts towards realisation. Reducing our carbon footprint and the impact of climate change is a moral obligation on everyone when we consider the fragile situation in which some of the less fortunate people in our world find themselves.'

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Probation for attacker who kicked man in head

A FORMER soldier who repeatedly kicked an Oban man in the head while he was lying on the ground, causing it to collide with a metal pole, has escaped jail.

Donnie Lopez, 23, of 16 Soroba Road, was found guilty at trial in February this year of assaulting the man on April 2 2009 in what Procurator Fiscal David Glancy had previously described as a 'cowardly attack'.

The victim suffered a significant cut to his head as a result and required treatment at hospital.

But Sheriff Eric Brown said that, despite the fact Lopez was on bail at the time for another matter, he took into account that since the assault Lopez had not committed any further offences and ordered him to complete 120 hours community service within a year.

He said: 'It is not to be seen as a soft option but as an alternative to a custodial sentence.'

Meanwhile, co-accused, Russell MacLennan, 22, of 18a Dalinart Drive, was fined £150, after being found guilty of pushing the same man prior to Lopez's attack, causing him to fall to the ground.

Search on for top volunteers

NOMINATIONS for the Volunteer of the Year are now open.

This year, Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA) has not one, but two awards that also carry a cash prize.

The Sargus Memorial prize for volunteer of the year as in previous years will win £1,000 travel vouchers.

New for this year is the community group award with a £1,000 cash prize for the group voted for on the day, June 17, as the most deserving.

Eleanor MacKinnon of AVA said: 'We are looking for a really good selection of nominations. Decisions on winners for categories will be judged by people living and working outside Argyll.'

'The top five from the community group section will showcase their activity on the day and the audience will decide on the winner.'

£200 fine after 'shouting match'

AN OBAN man has been fined £200 after he was involved in a heated shouting match on Christmas Day last year.

Steven Alexander McLaughlin, 29, of 22 Shuna Terrace, admitted to behaving in an aggressive manner when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small reduced the fine from £300 to £200 because of the timing of his plea.

Invitation to take part in exhibition

AN TOBAR is planning an open submission exhibition of postcard-sized works in Gallery Two during August this year.

There is an open invitation to submit one piece, and whether or not you live on Mull or Argyll, you are eligible to exhibit.

Artists must pay an admission fee of £5. This will cover the costs of the blank board, its delivery and postage of the artwork to the buyer. Boards will be available from May 1 until July 10, while stocks last.

Jobless man grabbed woman

AN UNEMPLOYED Oban man has had his probation extended to two years after admitting grabbing a woman by the throat.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that Lee Campbell, 23, of Flat 7, 35 High Street, Oban, had grabbed the woman during a party at an address in Miller Road on December 3 last year.

Fisherman stole power tools

AN OBAN fisherman admitted stealing power tools and copper piping from a property in Glencruitten when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Mark James Petrie, 28, of 32B Glencruitten Drive, was fined £225 and ordered to pay £30.



Searching for a sweet treat - youngsters who took part in the East egg hunt at the Sensory Garden. 15_t15sensory01



Sue Vest and Caroline Silkowski hard at work weeding and planting at the Sensory Garden. 15_t15weeding01

Volunteers help spruce up Oban's Sensory Garden

GREEN-fingered volunteers were out in force at the weekend helping to spruce up Oban's Sensory Garden.

Organisers had asked for people to come and lend a hand getting rid of the weeds and putting in new plants.

Volunteer Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'We need more days like this when volunteers help us to weed and plant the garden.'

'The main purpose of the sensory garden is to create a place which is accessible to all in the community and develop more social inclusion, particularly for people with disabilities.'

In 2003, the garden was nothing more than an idea, but when it was opened in 2009 it became a great benefit to the whole community and has helped many people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The Big Lottery Fund is the garden's main source of funding.

Eleanor added: 'Right now, the garden is in full swing. We would like to see even more community involvement and volunteers over the summer months and hold barbecues in the garden. We would also like to see the schools being more involved.'

Making good use of the garden prior to its spring clean was a group of 14 children who took part in an Easter egg hunt.

The event was organised by Oban School's Out and the organisers hid a variety of chocolate treats around the garden ensuring there was enough for all the children as they hunted for the special 'golden' eggs.

Tricia Slater, Community Learning and Development worker, said: 'Over the summer, we hope to have some more events in the garden and invite young people and children with learning difficulties.'

Conservation areas 'could cost island jobs'

PLANS to designate two areas around Barra as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) could cost the island nearly 40 jobs, it has been claimed.

Gerard MacDonald, local development officer for Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (GBAB), says he's deeply concerned by the proposals being put forward by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for East Mingulay and the Sound of Barra.

Any designation would give SNH the power to effectively put to an end any aspect of island life - within the proposals' boundaries - if they feel it could potentially

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

damage either site, be that burning a coal fire in a home or fishing within either area.

Mr MacDonald said that could effectively cost the island up to 38 jobs, and with the island's largest employer Barratlantic employing about 50 people, he says that kind of figure simply cannot be lost to the island's economy.

He said: 'The main concern, from our point of view, is jobs.'

'The simple fact is that if the SACs go ahead, up to 38 jobs

could go. That's a significant hit to the economy.'

Mr MacDonald said most of the jobs to go would be related to the island's prosperous fishing industry.

However, the proposed SACs can only be fought on the grounds of science, as is governed by EU law. Therefore, as Mr MacDonald says, the only way to fight the proposals is to 'out science' SNH.

While he doesn't think that would be too difficult, it would be too expensive for islanders themselves to fight.

The proposals at the Sound of Barra, which will cover 10,849 hectares, were originally brought

forward in 2000 and the SAC is being re-proposed because of sandbanks and the presence of common seals.

The 30,527 hectare site at East Mingulay focuses on the coldwater coral found there.

Mr MacDonald said: 'For a start, the seals are moving elsewhere and have done since the causeway was built at Eriskay. It's not that they're dying, but that they're moving.'

'For East Mingulay, they're just proposing it because they've found it. They don't even know how big it is because it hasn't been surveyed properly. So they have proposed a buffer zone for

something they don't know the size of.'

'They're also not that uncommon. They've found them in Norway, for example.'

'This is a fight that has to be fought on scientific grounds, but we can't afford to approach that in any way.'

'The fight has been taken out of the ordinary person's hands.'

Local campaign group SHAMED says the proposal seems to have stemmed from the Scottish Government and for political, rather than scientific reasons, claiming EU law demands a certain number of SACs must be designated.

Duke helps author launch new book

A FORMER Oban man, described as one of the finest Scottish historians of his time, returned to Argyll last week for the launch of his latest book.

Allan MacInnes, historian, professor and author, attended a special reception at Inveraray Castle to celebrate his book - The

British Confederate: Archibald Campbell, Marquis of Argyll, c1607-1661.

Published last year, the biography reviews Archibald Campbell's formative influence in shaping British frontier policy during the period 1607-38 and his leadership of the Covenanting

Movement in Scotland between 1638 and 1645.

Allan enjoyed privileged access to the archives in Inveraray Castle during his research of the man, so often referred to as the Scottish Cromwell.

Speaking at the reception he said: 'It takes me back coming here tonight. I remember coming here over 20 years ago, for what was the most difficult interview of my life with the late Duke of Argyll to gain access to the papers kept here.'

Papers at the castle have informed a range of books written by the former Oban High School Pupil including Charles I and the Making of the Covenanting Movement, 1625-41; Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788; and Union and Empire: The Making of the United Kingdom in 1707.

Having been charged with writing the political biography several years ago, Allan said he nearly gave up three times. 'I will never do it again,' he joked. 'This is, by far, the most difficult book I have ever written.'

Born in Ballachulish, Allan later moved to Dunbeg when he attended Oban High School. He is currently Professor of Early Modern History at Strathclyde University.



The Duke of Argyll opened the doors of Inveraray Castle to celebrate the latest book by Allan MacInnes. 08_t15book01

Disruption proves costly to town traders

BUSINESSES in Oban's Stevenson Street say they have unnecessarily lost trade after workmen unexpectedly left a site outside their shops.

The work to build new ducting and a new junction box in the street began around four weeks ago but after the first week, workmen left the site to go to a priority job at Glasgow Airport and returned after 10 days.

BT said the workmen had since apologised to the shop owners but frustration remains.

John Miller, of Scott's Sandwiches, said: 'After a week of working they just put barriers up and left the pavement dug up.'

'People would come in, surprised that we were open and I know my takings have been down.'

'I estimate that during the time the work site was there I could be down as much as £50 per day.'

A spokesman for BT said: 'The reinstatement work is now complete. The contractor's gang who attended have apologised to the shopkeepers for the disruption and not being there, and they have explained that they had been called away to carry out urgent work on circuits at Glasgow Airport, which took priority.'

'We would, of course, wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst these essential works in Stevenson Street were carried out.'

Lorn Lines

OBAN accordion maestro Hector MacFadyen is to play his second live broadcast for the popular dance band radio show Take the Floor, hosted by Robbie Shepherd.

It has been 20 years since Hector first played a studio-recorded set for the programme - his first airing on the show, which requires musicians to go through an audition before being featured. Hector has since played other studio-recorded sets and one other live broadcast.

The Hector MacFadyen Band will also consist of Hector's son Craig, on second accordion; Tom Orr on piano; Alastair MacLeod, Tobermory, on bass; Maurice Duncan, Oban, on fiddle; and Fraser McInnes on drums.

The live broadcast will be at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls on April 28 from 7pm. Tickets are free and will be available through www.bbc.co.uk/programmes or by phoning 0370 901 1227.

Although the performance will be recorded in front of a live audience, the show will not be aired on the night and a date for the programme's broadcast is yet to be announced.

GRIT will be delivered to Glencruitten in Oban on a regular basis next winter.

Residents have offered to distribute the grit on the paths around the whole area.



The clock on Oban's North Pier has been cleaned up and is now back in working order. Fixed by Ritchie's Clockmakers of Bathgate, it was put back into place by Oban Electrics. 16_t15clock1



At the end of February, the 12th annual Mathsfest took place at Oban High School, organised by the maths department.

Primary 7 pupils from local feeder schools joined 48 first year pupils to form teams of four students. Throughout the day these teams enthusiastically tackled written and practical maths problems. Good teamwork and perseverance were as important as the mathematical skills being used. The two winning teams were Team 24 - Patrick Wall, Alastair Murphy, Daniel Spiers and Ethan Grier and Team 15 - Emily Robertson, Kirsty Wright, Lucy Stewart and Lauren Powell. Winners are pictured with deputy head teacher Mrs Pupillo who presented the prizes.

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Last society night of the season

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club's monthly club night on April 7 in Argyllshire Gathering Hall was the last night of a successful winter season.

Chairman Michael Garvin welcomed everyone and thanked the large audience and all local and visiting players for their attendance. The evening began with Janet Graham, Cumbernauld, playing accordion, Michael on second box and Archie Cameron, Oban, on drums. The other piano accordion players were Calum MacDonald, Fort William, Eilidh McFadyen, Isle of Tiree, Craig McFadyen, Oban, Sileas Sinclair, Connel and on button key Calum MacColl, Fort William.

Playing drums were Duncan Campbell and David Cameron, both Oban, on keyboard Sileas Sinclair and Anna Garvin, Oban, and fiddle Joanie Garvin, Oban.

Michael then introduced the guest artist, Lumphnan-based Jennifer Forest Trio. Jennifer played piano accordion and keyboard, with her husband Brian Cruickshank playing fiddle and Fraser MacInnes, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, on drums. The guest artist played many familiar tunes and sets with stories from Jennifer and a solo on the fiddle from Brian. The evening finished with a stramash. The next club night is Thursday October 6, featuring the Donald MacLeod Trio.

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Islay Letter

Record whisky tasting

OAKFIELD children's home in Dumfries has benefited by almost £13,000 thanks to a record whisky tasting evening in the town's Cairndale Hotel. Behind the venture were Duncan MacGillivray and Jim MacEwan, the general and production managers at Bruichladdich Distillery. The evening attracted close on 300 eager tasters and the event could prove to be a record breaker and may even make the Guinness Book of Records.

Duncan's eight-year-old autistic grandson Adam Patterson attends Oakfield for respite when his parents, Donna and Bill and four-year-old sister Grace, who live at Dornock near Annan, need a break.

Adam, who is also partially sighted, attends Lockerbie Primary School but his visits to Oakfield engender excitement.

Oakfield is an NHS-run centre and the money raised will help with some refurbishment as well as buying toys for the children. The Dumfries evening exceeded all expectations with Bruichladdich Distillery producing more than 300 bottles of a special edition whisky for the event.

Co-organiser Duncan describes himself as being 'gobsmacked' at the success of the event and greatly touched by the generosity of the supporters.

Busy boy footballers

THE COMING months are going to be particularly busy for everyone involved in Islay Boys' Football Club.

Later this month they are holding a local soccer mini festival and it is planned that teams from Oban, Campbeltown and Tarbert will participate.

This will give the boys the opportunity to sharpen up their soccer skills before heading to Stockholm where they will meet up with the Sollentuna Football Club. It is hoped a permanent link will be established between the two clubs and lead to regular exchange visits.

The club's under 11s section will be travelling to Lochgilhead for a tournament on April 29 and the under 14s will head for Ayr on May 13 for the Easter and Spring Football

Festival. This is the largest youth football tournament in Scotland and will provide the local lads with more exposure to competitive soccer.

They will be donning their boots again early in June for another competition at Dunoon.

Plans are afoot to establish an Argyll league with Islay participation. Club members, led by chairman the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, attended a recent meeting on the matter in Inveraray where there was large support for such a move. The interest in the young players continues to be most heartening and the club is indebted to the boys for their enthusiasm.

Plaudits also go to the coaches, parents and sponsors for their continuing encouragement and support.

Easter services

EASTER is an important landmark in the Christian calendar and a number of special services will be held in local churches to mark the event.

On Maundy Thursday, April 21, Holy Communion will be celebrated at St Columba's Episcopal Church at Bridgend at 7.30pm.

On Good Friday, a 'Walk of Witness' will take place from the Round Church to Bowmore's Morrison Square where an open air service will be held at 2pm. That same evening a further act of Easter worship will be held in Port Ellen's St John's Church at 7pm.

Easter Day sees an open air service at the community garden at Port Ellen followed by breakfast in the local Baptist Church.

The Islay Churches Kid's Club holds its Easter Egg Treasure Hunt in Bowmore Baptist Church at 2pm and a further act of worship takes place at Gortanvogie Eventide Home at 4pm.

These special services are in addition to the regular acts of worship in local churches.

The first of the Round Church monthly coffee mornings is being held in Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday April 23 at 10.30am. Admission is £2 and lots of bargains will be available.

Ruby wedding

CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel and Alasdair Whyte, proprietors of the award-winning Glenmachrie Guesthouse, who have notched up 40 years of happy marriage.

Family and friends greet you on your ruby achievement. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**



School stages annual Easter competition

Banavie Primary School was a blaze of colour last Thursday as the school staged its annual Easter competition. All children from nursery to P7 took part and Corpach Co-op manager Willie Gunn was handed the difficult task of picking the winners. Pupils were given the choice of making an Easter card, writing an Easter poem, making an Easter bonnet or decorating an egg. The competition coincided with the school's Easter assembly. 11_15banavie01

LISMORE

ISLANDERS were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Kerr MacGregor of MacGregor Solar only a few days after he brought his expertise to the island and demonstrated how to make solar water heating panels.

At a recent meeting of the Energy Project, sympathy was expressed for his family and a message of gratitude and sympathy was subsequently sent.

ON SATURDAY March 26 members of the Energy Project held a successful energy awareness event in the hall.

This was part information, with a variety of material, and part consultation exercise with a talking wall for islanders' suggestions and comments on a range of topics.

Jill Bowis from Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) offered advice to local producers working to create a sustainable way of living in North Argyll.

Mandie Currie from Alienergy, who also oversees the energy project on behalf of the community council, had expertise to share, as did two representatives from Renewables Now, based at the Marine Resource Centre, Bardalene, who advised on heat pumps among other things.

In addition there was a range of informative posters and leaflets from Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Power Renewables, the Energy Saving Trust, The Grab Trust and Zero Waste Scotland.

Visitors helped pedal a bike to power light bulbs and several household gadgets, including fridge thermometers, were on show. A range of eco toys also featured.

John McCormick and Stephen Green, the two energy project officers, and members of their steering committee discussed the areas they had been working on over the past year and explained how far they had got in making the island more sustainable and reducing the carbon footprint.

Unfortunately, following a subsequent meeting of the community council which ran the project, it was their last event, for the moment at least, as there is no more funding. However much has been accomplished in a short time thanks to the efforts of John, Stephen, Mandie Currie of the community council and the keen volunteers.

LISMORE Historical Society held its annual general meeting

LISMORE

in the museum room on Saturday March 27.

The chairman thanked the army of people who had worked so hard to make the previous year a success. These included the curators, the organisers of special exhibitions and outings, managers of the shop, library, IT and the centre itself, volunteers running the museum desk and all those willing to step in on an almost daily basis.

The museum opened for the season on April 1 from 12 to 3pm and from May will be open from 11am to 4pm. Volunteers are always needed for the museum desk; contact the centre manager if you can offer any time.

INVERGARRY

INVERGARRY residents have their full paths network open again after Forestry Commission Scotland completed repairs to the Black Bridge over the River Garry.

The footbridge had been out of commission for more than a year as a result of structural problems, leaving locals and visitors unable to cross the river for woodland walks.

Glengarry Community Council welcomed the move at its meeting last Monday.

Chairman Alastair Hutchison said: 'It is a footbridge that connects riverbank walks and various core paths. Not only that, it is an integral part of village communications.'

The community council also noted with satisfaction a deer fence round the cemetery is now fully in place. Deer had been chewing wreaths and flowers laid at gravesides.

Meanwhile, the community council has received a request from Glengarry Action Group that the Forestry Commission be approached about other possible uses for its former depot in the village. Developers had identified the site for a possible biomass plant, but Highland Council planners rejected the bid in February.

LOCHGOILHEAD

A COMMUNITY owned hydro scheme planned for Lochgilhead looks more likely this week after the local development trust was awarded funding.

Lochgilhead Community Development Trust was awarded £32,700 by Keep Scotland Beautiful's Climate Challenge Fund.

The money will be used to pay

for a feasibility study, which the trust hopes will provide more evidence that a hydro scheme in the area will be successful.

The study is phase two of a project, which has already identified Donich Water as a site for a small-scale hydro scheme.

It is estimated that a hydro scheme at Donich could produce 25kilowatts of energy per year, which could be fed into the national grid.

If successful the project could potentially generate £24,000 for the local community.

Pete Clarke of Lochgilhead Community Trust said: 'After 12 months of hard work the project team is delighted that Keep Scotland Beautiful gave us this funding. The money will be used to do the study and generate a business plan for the project.'

'Hopefully within the next 12 months we will have a detailed plan, business plan and the necessary planning permissions.'

The hydro-scheme is the latest in a string of 'green' projects organised by the community trust. A community bus, running between Lochgilhead and Carrick Castle, has been introduced to help locals lower their carbon footprint. Energy saving tips for people's homes have also been issued by the trust.

GLENUIG

GLENUIG Hall is to host a special Loch Shiel version of Aaron Copland's Pulitzer Prize winning *Appalachian Spring* orchestral suite on May 10.

The second half of the evening will feature a production of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, which is being specially customised for the hall as part of the May 7-11 Loch Shiel Spring Festival.

Musicians and cast members include artistes of international acclaim and young local talents from Lochaber Youth Theatre and Ballet West. Director is Christopher Josey and choreography is by Jasmine Adams.

SPEAN BRIDGE

SPEAN Bridge Woollen mill was forced to close last Wednesday after floodwater poured into the building from the nearby bridge on the A82.

The popular outlet shut up shop at 9.45am as staff, nearby residents and employees of local builders RE Campbell battled to halt the torrent with sandbags.

It is understood drains on the road were overwhelmed by torrential rain, sending water cascading down the slope into the mill.

General manager Stewart MacDonald told *The Oban Times* emergency action by quick thinking staff prevented any stock being damaged, but the restaurant and shop were under several inches of water.

'The water was coming in so fast - it was just like a flash flood,' he said. 'But the staff were fantastic, as were the local people who rushed to help because they care about the mill. I would just like to say a big 'thankyou' to everybody.'

LAGGAN

GERGASK Primary School pupils who wrote letters of condolence to the Japanese Consulate in Edinburgh after the recent earthquake have received a letter of thanks.

The children were midway through their class project on Japan when the country was hit by a quake and a tsunami, killing thousands of people. Each pupil wrote a letter to Consul General of Japan Masataka Tarahara to express their sympathy.

The Laggan school also held a fundraising daffodil tea recently where they entertained locals with singing and dancing. The event raised more than £200 for the tsunami appeal.

Head teacher Alda Munro said: 'Naturally the children were particularly shocked as events unfolded following the earthquake and tsunami. They felt they wanted to express their sympathies with the Japanese people.'

'They were very pleased and honoured to receive a reply.'

ARISAIG

A SOUP and sandwich morning was held in Arisaig on Saturday to raise funds for Lady Lovat Primary School.

Waterstones organised the day in Astley Hall, with parents and pupils from the school making and serving the food. Some of the money will be used to fund the P7s trip to Ardgour next month.

PLOCKTON

THE MONTH of March in Plockton saw three inches of rain, the same as 2010.

The highest temperature was 13°C and the coldest 0°C.

The annual village clean-up was held at Plockton on April 1 when three skips were filled to capacity. However, with the ending of the skip service for the village, many people were concerned that fly-tipping will increase.

Lochan, the local arts network, held its AGM in Plockton hall on March 23. They were delighted to add two young women to their committee, Catriona Campbell and Islay MacRae.

Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society won first place at the Scottish Community Drama Association Highland finals in Wick on March 26 with club member Ann MacLaren's play 'Billy's Coming Home'.

The society also won two other trophies for best acting and best production. Producer Gill James said she was 'delighted' and is

looking forward to the Scottish finals at Eden Court in Inverness on May 6. Stornoway Thespians were runners-up.

ROY BRIDGE

ROY BRIDGE Primary School got a touch of African colour and music last Wednesday when the pupils celebrated 'African Antics Day'.

The P4-P7 class has studied Africa for their class project this term, culminating in a day of activities and fundraising for the school.

They held an assembly in the afternoon for parents, friends of the school and fellow pupils where they dressed up in traditional African clothing and read out poems they had written.

They also performed four songs written by local composer Peter Rose about the continent from his musical 'African Jigsaw'.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust development officer Moira Hartley received an unexpected bonus on April 1 - a Mother's Day hamper.

Moira won the prize after her ticket was drawn in the local Co-op store's charity raffle in aid of Enable Scotland, the Co-operative charity of the year. A total of £103 was raised.

Other local fundraising efforts are planned including matching the baby photo to staff member, recipe book and sponsored walk. Staff member Paul Martin of local band The Shine will also be busking at the Pre 65 Trial later this month.

Kinlochleven Co-op manager Paul Groundwater said: 'We have had a lot of good fun with our fundraising efforts for a great cause and I thank our customers for all their continued support.'

SUNART

YOUNG members of Sunart Centre Youth Club in Strontian staged their own version of the X-Factor recently.

Fourteen youngsters took part with acts including rock and traditional music and a variety of dance styles.

Judges Katie Sharp, Kay Malcolm, Sean Turner and Jim Hunter had a difficult task picking winners.

But after much debate Andrew Jackson from Ardgour and Billy Drury of Salen won best group for their version of Oasis's 'Wonderwall'.

Best solo act was Alejandra Gomez Hoyas from Lochaline for her rocking version of 'No

Ordinary Girl' by Kate Alexa. Thanking everyone for their efforts, centre manager Eoghan Carmichael said: 'Like all youth clubs, ours relies on dedicated volunteers to ensure that there are enough activities to satisfy the youngsters, and I congratulate all involved on the terrific success of this evening, which we hope will become an annual fixture.'

The club runs on Thursday nights and attracts young people from Ardgour, Acharacle, Lochaline as well as Strontian.



X-Factor winner Alejandra Gomez Hoyas.

INVERARAY

BOOK lovers descended on the George Hotel, Inveraray, recently when the Waterstones touring bookstore came to the Royal Burgh.

The touring van, which brings books to remote communities across the north west of Scotland, was a huge hit with local children.

Books such as Jacqueline Wilson's *The Longest Whale Song* were in particular demand along with colouring pens and sticker books.

Catherine Manchester, who operates out of the Oban Waterstones store said the travelling bookstore was very popular in Argyll.

'People in rural communities are very loyal to us,' she said. 'I travel as far north as Skye and the Uists, visit the Western Isles, drive as far east as Killin and south to Campbeltown. Whilst you can buy a book online, there is no substitute for coming to see a book and having a look through it.'



Red Nose Day dress up fun raises £103

St Bride's Primary School in North Ballachulish has topped up donations from activities to raise cash on Red Nose Day. The children raised £103.73 by paying to come to school dressed in any way they wished.



Connel Surgery Coffee Shop ladies celebrate

The ladies of Connel Surgery Coffee Shop enjoyed an evening celebration to mark their first successful six months under the auspices of Taynuilt Medical Practice Charitable Trust.

AROUND THE RURALS

Oban

SIXTEEN members of Oban SWRI met on March 29 when the topic was keep fit.

Guest speaker was Anthony Sircar of the Mind, Body and Soul Fitness Company, who gave an interesting and informative talk on the importance of diet and exercise to maintain health and longevity.

His emphasis on the importance of foods that feed the body and mind and avoid the dangers of diabetes and obesity were of particular interest and a lively question and answer session followed.

Competitions: Photographs - Alive and Kicking: Anne Malloch, gold; Kay MacDonald, silver. Crochet toy - Lindsay Elliot, gold.

Taynuilt

SWRI member Jessie Servant welcomed 21 members and six visitors to a meeting on March 9 in Taynuilt Village Hall.

The president then welcomed demonstrators for the evening, Brenda MacLeod and Doreen Evans from Appin.

Members had the chance to choose China painting with Brenda or crochet for beginners with Doreen.

Marlene Stanners thanked the ladies for giving such an instructive evening. Tea was served by Cathie Reid and Mary Livingstone.

Competition winners: Egg and bacon fan: 1 Stella Huntingford; 2 Alice Campbell; 3 Celia Keenan.

Tablet: 1 Alice Campbell; 2 Mary Livingstone and Celia Keenan; 3 Doreen Penswick.

MULL

A BRING and buy book sale in Dervaig Primary School for Red Nose Day raised £140.

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KILMORE



Piper Emma Law opened proceedings at Kilmore SWRI's recent fundraiser in the village hall, with poetry and singing featuring during the evening. 15_114kilmore1

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SUNDAY APRIL 24 Leave 1pm back 6.30pm Steam past the Isles of the Sea and cruise the lochs of Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan as you cruise to the Corryreckan Whirlpool £27 SC £23	SUNDAY MAY 1 Leave 10am back 8pm Visit the Isle of Coll £35 SC £31 or stay aboard and enjoy a cruise of the Island's coast £37 SC £35	WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 Leave 3.30pm back 5pm Enjoy an afternoon cruise amidst the spectacular scenery of Loch Nevis only £11!	
SUN APRIL 24 Leave 8am back 1pm or Leave 6.30pm back 10pm Watch the sun go down as you cruise Loch Linnhe - view the Corran Narrows & Ben Nevis as you sail to Fort William £15 SC £13. Return by inclusive coach from Fort William for Evening Sailing	MONDAY MAY 2 Leave 10am back 8pm Visit Tobermory £19.95 SC £17.95 or stay aboard and visit the Isle of Staffa - see the world famous Fingal's Cave! £37 SC £35	sailing from TOBERMORY Pier	
MONDAY APRIL 25 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm Steam to the sacred Isle of Iona - there is time ashore to visit historic Iona Abbey and soak up the atmosphere of this world famous Island £37 SC £35	TUESDAY MAY 3 Leave 9am back 7pm Steam past the Isles of the Sea & the famous Corryreckan Whirlpool - view the islands of Jura, Islay & Gigha - and sail round the Mull of Kintyre to Campbeltown where you join your coach for the return journey to Oban £25 SC £21	SAT APRIL 23 Leave 12noon back 6.45pm £25 SC £23	
		SAT APRIL 30 Leave 12noon back 7.30pm Visit Armadale £23 SC £21 or Inverie £25 SC £23	
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DOWN YOUR WAY

This week - Barra

CASTLEBAY Community School could be set to change its class times so all pupils can go home on the same bus.

The school hopes the move will also give more time for extra-curricular activities and make it easier for children to complete homework or take part in study classes.

Parents are to be consulted on the move, which would see both the primary and secondary days finish by no later than 3.15pm.

A NEW recycling scheme on the isle of Barra could see old glass re-used as aggregate to repair the roads.

The project is being led by the Coimhearsnachd Bharraigh agus Bhatarsaidh Ltd (CBAB), after it received £79,800 of funding for recycling projects.

The group hopes to be able to recycle 100 per cent of the island's glass and is to work with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to devise a way to deliver the project.

It is hoped that the project could get underway by May and help save the local authority a small fortune.

A spokesperson for CBAB said: 'Hopefully by the beginning of May the council will provide everyone with a bin for glass and then we can get started.'

BARRA is preparing itself for a boom in tourism as the ripple effect from hit BBC show The Island Parish takes full effect.

Advance bookings at hotels are up and locals are expecting a bumper summer with visitors coming from across the British Isles to see the home of Father John Paul MacKinnon, one of the stars of the show.

The only problem, it seems, is the lack of beds on the island to cope with the demand.

BARRA And Vatersay Producer Group's next local produce sale will be held at Castlebay Community School this Saturday.

Starting at 2pm, there will be a car wash for the Barra Youth Cafe, while proceeds from the sales of teas will go towards the Castlebay Christmas Decorations fund.

There will also be a timely competition to find the best decorated egg, just in time for Easter. Entries are to be in to the school by no later than 2.30pm on the day.

The event is run by the Barra and Vatersay Agricultural and Horticultural Producers Association.



Now open for the new tourist season, Kisimul Castle is one of Barra's most photographed landmarks, and it's easy to see why.

Seen here bathed in the warm glow of a spring sunset, the structure is the only significant surviving medieval castle in the Western Isles, and is the seat of the Chiefs of the Clan MacNeil, currently Ian Roderick.

VATERSAY could be complemented with the introduction of a new pontoon if plans to boost tourism and fishing are realised.

Currently, over £200,000 of shellfish are landed on the beach, because the causeway has eroded and no longer connects to the land, rendering it useless.

Coimhearsnachd Bharraigh agus Bhatarsaidh Ltd (CBAB) now hope to restore the causeway and establish a pontoon to increase turnover and improve access.

Marine Harvest have already agreed to provide the pontoon, speeding their plans considerably.

CBAB's Gerard MacDonald said: 'We want to raise some funds, reconnect the slip and install an anti-erosion measure.'

'It will make the landing of shellfish easier and quicker and save in fuel costs, which is going through the roof.'

'Hopefully, that will give a big boost to the fishing industry. Also, it will give visitors somewhere else to berth and give the people of Vatersay the opportunity to develop business around it.'

'It will open an economic door for the area.'

The group is to explore various funding streams over the coming weeks, and will hold meetings in the community sfbarra.coast15

MORE than 14,000 tonnes of rock, 3,600 square metres of geofabric and 200 tonnes of concrete are now in place at Craighston's new coastal defences.

John MacLennan Contractors recently put the finishing touches to the work, which was funded by the Scottish Government and supervised by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Due to the constant action of the sea sections of the road were under threat of becoming undermined, which in time would have caused the road to collapse. To protect the road Consultant Engineers Mott MacDonald produced the Craighston Coastal Protection Works Scheme.

The works also included rebuilding the roadside rock parapets, surface water drainage and replacing a collapsed culvert through the main road.

Up to 15 local people were employed by John MacLennan Contractors as part of the scheme.

MORE than 150 people gathered in Castlebay Community School on Saturday for the annual Lasagan Dancing Competition.

Over 60 competitors converged at the school from locations as diverse as the mainland, Uist and Barra itself.

Edinburgh's Judy Jennifer Mudie-Garcia ran the rule over the competitors, who produced a high standard of dancing throughout.

The competition itself was contested keenly, with no easy trophies for any of the participants.

Two of the more remarkable winners were Margaret and Collette Douglas, sisters from Barra who took both trophies in the 11 years and over novice section.

BARRA Fire Brigade was called to Ardevenish Pier last week after a fishing boat caught fire.

The Mary Manson's accommodation block suffered considerable damage as a result of the blaze, which was brought under control by firefighters using hoses, pumps and breathing apparatus.

The vessel has since left Ardevenish for repairs following the fire.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Islay with Chief Reporter Euan Paterson.

You can contact him at 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk.

ISLAY

AN COMUNN Gaidhealach Meur Ile has announced that Gaelic testing will be available this year at the upcoming Islay Provincial Mòd, to be held on Saturday, June 4 in Islay High School, Bowmore.

This will be a good chance to try for your bronze, silver or even your gold Card at your local Mòd. There's no need to enter in advance, just turn up on the day. Also, please note that entries for Islay Mòd competitions close on April 23.

ON APRIL 1, an exhibition of several original artworks used in 'Leabhar Mòr na Gaidhlig/The Great Book of Gaelic', opened at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile with an evening of poetry and music.

The Leabhar Mòr contains 100 poems and 100 artworks contributed by poets and artists from throughout the Scottish and Irish Gaidhealtachds. One of the Leabhar Mòr project's key contributors, Aonghas 'Dubh' MhicNeacail opened the evening by reading some of his own and other poets' contributions to the book, and local Gaelic singer Iseabail MacTaggart performed poems set to music from Leabhar Mòr.

One of Iseabail songs was 'Fios chun a' bhaird' (A Message to the Bard), written by one of Islay's Bards, William Livingstone of Lonban.

ISLAY Golf Club juniors have started their 2011 coaching programme.

Although Machrie Hotel, owners of the golf course, is in administration and to be sold, Islay Golf Club is still running as normal.

On Sunday March 13 a junior prizegiving was held for all the children who took part in last years coaching programme.

EASDALE

THE PUFFER Bar and Restaurant on Easdale Island gears up for the coming season March in itself has been a very busy month with many well attended events.

At the beginning of the month World Book Night brought customers to the pub accompanied by their favourite read and they were treated to a free copy of Nigel Slater's 'Toast' and chef Des's delectable prawn toasts.

Next up was the murder mystery, which transported everyone back to the 1920's for a night of gangsters, flapper girls and murder mayhem. Despite white



Glencoe pupils with their milk bottle igloo.

Igloo project helps Glencoe pupils with maths

DESPITE spring officially starting, the infant classroom at Glencoe Primary School still has a wintry feel after the children constructed their own igloo.

P1-3 pupils made the igloo, which is big enough to house the entire class, from more than 500 recycled four-pint milk bottles as part of their class project 'Polar Lands'.

Friends and families, as well as two local businesses, the Glencoe Café and Crafts and Things, donated their empty milk bottles to help the project.

Lessons

Head teacher *Marilyn Macdonald* said: 'A lot of maths lessons were linked to the construction of the igloo.'

'The pupils counted the bottles donated daily and recorded the amounts on a chart. They measured the width and height, and calculated the amount of bottles row by row.'

'The igloo may become a permanent feature in the classroom, and the children already have plans to turn it into a quiet reading area or a den.'

APPIN

APPIN Community Council has now set up its own website, whereby anyone will be able to access previous minutes of meetings, amongst other information.

This has been made possible through funding from LEADER, to which Appin Community Council had to match fund the amount.

Council secretary Issy Silkowski said: 'This has been achieved through a donation from Appin Community Trust, money to be made from a forthcoming litter pick in the area and the balance being paid by community council funds.'

'As well as the website, part of the funding also went to renewing

the community noticeboards at Portnacroish and Gunn's Garage, with additional ones at Stalker Cafe, Inverfolla lay-by and one to go at the Creagan Inn in due course.'

The new website address is www.appincommunitycouncil.co.uk.

ARDNAMURCHAN

FIVE senior Ardnamurchan High School pupils have been presented with certificates in recognition of voluntary work they carried out in recent months.

Sine Ferguson, Joe Derham, Alistair Rae and Katie MacKinnon and Kathleen Rosier gave up their time to help at youth clubs, playgroup and nursery.

The young volunteers also took part in Ardnamurchan High School pupil mentoring and Youth Voice - the Highland-wide youth parliament, with links to the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Four of the group earned Millennium Volunteer (MV) Bronze Award certificates for achieving 50 hours of volunteering, while Sine Ferguson received a Silver Award after completing 100 hours.

Sixth year pupil Sine said: 'I enjoy volunteering at the youth clubs because it gives me an opportunity to get to know all the younger kids from the area. I would recommend volunteering to anyone.'

Head teacher Chris Millar Craig said: 'We are delighted with the contribution our young people have made to the community and to the school and that this is recognised through the MV programme.'

Youth development officer for West Lochaber Stewart Malcolm said Highland Council would continue to work with the school and Volunteering Highland to support young people doing voluntary work.

PRIMARY 7 pupils who are going to Ardnamurchan High School after the summer got their first taste of life at secondary school recently.

For the first of three transition events the youngsters put on a fashion show, with help from senior high school pupils. A recycling theme was chosen for the show.

The children also prepared food with a little help from the S3 hospitality class and learned how to use the lighting and stereo equipment.

Principal English teacher Katie Sharp said the show helped the kids feel more confident about moving up to secondary school.

ROY BRIDGE



Children of Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochabair raised £72.76 towards Marie Curie Cancer Care recently when they hosted a daffodil tea for the parents and grandparents attending the Rionnagan Beaga Gaelic toddler group.

MID ARGYLL



VisitScotland chairman Mike Cantlay opened the Dalriada Heritage Access Network in Mid Argyll.

Dalriada Project opens new heritage trail

A NEW heritage trail, featuring 800 ancient monuments, linking Carnasserie Castle, near Kilmartin, to the Crinan Canal has been launched.

Built by the Dalriada project, the 20 kilometre Mid Argyll walking route takes in the Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve, Dunadd Fort, ancient Atlantic oak woodlands, the finest prehistoric rock art in Europe and round stone circles.

The trail, part of a £3 million Heritage Lottery funded network of paths, features interpretation boards, leaflets and podcasts allowing the ancient monuments to be seen in one day.

A consortium of local businesses and organisations has come together to promote the trail, along with other Mid Argyll tourist attractions.

Known as the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance, the consortium formed in November 2010 to promote Mid Argyll as an area rich in water, nature and history.

In Lochgilphead to launch the industry led group and open the Dalriada Heritage Access Network chairman of VisitScotland, Mike Cantlay, said it is important organisations work together to identify opportunities for growth: 'I am keen to outline what VisitScotland can do for Argyll businesses, tourism groups and the wider industry,' he said.

Dalriada Project chair Karen Moore said: 'The opening of the access network and the emergence of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance is just a small part of what has been achieved already and will provide a lasting legacy of the Dalriada Project.'

use green heat

RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI)

The government has announced that from summer 2011, the RHI will support non-domestic users of heat who want to install wood fuel boilers, solar hot water panels or heat pumps.

There will also be support for householders.

In April, there are use green heat advice surgeries for businesses and householders looking to install a renewable heating system:

April 18th
Strachur Memorial Hall, 4pm to 7.45pm
April 19th
Stagecoach Inn, Cairndow, 2pm to 7.30pm
April 20th
Aqualibrium, Campbeltown, 3pm to 8pm
April 21st
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban, 3.30pm to 7.45pm

If you are unable to attend a surgery but would like more advice and support call ALI energy on 01631 565183 or email: info@usegreenheat.co.uk

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your Future

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

MV Finlaggan given best possible start

THE OBAN Times was the guest of CalMac and CMAL at the Remontowa Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, last week and it was evident that everyone involved is excited about the arrival of MV Finlaggan in Scottish waters.

There have been questions asked, and quite rightly, about what will happen when it does come. Will it fit the piers on Islay? Can it be used on other routes? Where will the Isle of Arran, the ship it will replace, be deployed?

However, one criticism that has been mooted by some did seem unfair - the price. By all accounts the Polish shipbuilders gave good value for money.

There are some fancy gadgets and innovative changes compared with other ships in the fleet but is that not expected? If MV Finlaggan is to serve Islay for the next 30 - 35 years it will be a dinosaur by the time it comes to the end of its service. Why give it a handicapped start by not using the latest technology?

Tesco repairs not a moment too soon

BUSES and HGVs are reduced to a crawl and cars are almost requiring off-road capability to get through the potholes.

No, it's not some rural B-road that lies quiet for hours at a time - the roundabouts at Tesco carry one of the heaviest volumes of traffic in Oban, yet are arguably the most damaged. News of their imminent repair has coem as welcome news to all motorists.

Argyll and Bute Council has come in for a lot of flak for its roads recently. Credit to it for acting on this serious problem.

GLASGOW LETTER

Erskine charity concert

WHEN Erskine Hospital was set up in 1916 to look after the huge numbers who were injured in the 1st World War, few would have imagined that almost 100 years later its vital work would still be necessary as a consequence of conflicts such as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is therefore appropriate that the Clydebank and District Highlander's Association should continue to organise an annual concert to raise funds for their work. With the Town Hall out of commission, the concert took place in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, the venue the association has been using for all its functions this session.

Once or twice in recent months I have emphasised with association secretaries as they strive to organise functions while faced with unforeseen problems and I have to do so again as hard working Mairi Howieson faced a logistical nightmare with late alterations to the publicised programme. Murdo MacDonald from Barra was in the chair and it was his task to orchestrate the evening with fewer artists than expected. This meant that the artistes, piper Graham Richardson, accordionist John Carmichael and soloists Joy Dunlop and Iain MacLean, last year's Mod Gold Medallists, had to take an extra shot on stage as did Murdo who was also billed as one of the singers. Accompanist for the concert was Kirsteen Grant.

It is perhaps no bad thing to change the format of a programme from the traditional of having one spot per artiste in each half. As ever, the hospital residents enjoyed their evening out and hopefully a healthy sum of money will be forwarded to the hospital. If it is in proportion to the number of raffle prizes that will certainly be the case.

'The Wee Skye'
THE FINAL ceilidh of the session for Glasgow Skye Association, affectionately known as the 'Wee Skye', will take place this Saturday in Partick Burgh Hall at 7.30pm.

This ceilidh has, for many years, been a highlight on the social calendar of Highland associations in the city and this year looks to be no different with the committee putting together an excellent programme. Add to that the excellent home baking and you will appreciate why it is a ceilidh not to be missed.

Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra
THE 123RD annual concert of the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra will take place this

coming Saturday in the City Halls at 7.30pm.

This has proved to be an excellent venue for the orchestra and members are looking forward to a packed hall once again. This year's guest artiste will be Alistair McDonald, the acclaimed Scottish singer, and the concert will also feature the Deighan family. For tickets telephone 0141 353 8000 or online at www.glasgowconcerts.com.

Condolences

IT IS with great sadness I have to intimate the sudden passing of Kirsteen MacCallum, wife of Raibeart, who was for many years conductor of the successful Glasgow Hebridean Gaelic Choir before they returned to Campbelltown.

I am sure all readers will join with me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Raibeart and the immediate family at this very sad time.

Congratulations
CONGRATULATIONS to Malcolm Campbell, president of the Glasgow Islay Association and his wife Elizabeth, long standing member and treasurer of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, who celebrated their silver wedding with a ceilidh dance in Johnstone Town Hall with music provided by Islay Ceilidh Band. Proceeds from the function will be shared between the association and the choir.

Diary dates
Thursday April 14: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Dave Gibb.
Saturday April 16: Glasgow Skye Association Spring Concert - The Wee Skye, see above.
Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Fraser McGlynn's Band. CLASP Piping Competition, National Piping Centre, 9am-5pm, Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra Concert - see above.

Tuesday April 19: Glasgow Gaelic Society, Gaelic School, 7.30pm - Roibeard O Maolalaih.

Wednesday April 20: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

Thursday April 21: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tania Opland/Mile Freeman.

Saturday April 23: Ceol's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street-Breton Connections - full details next week. National Youth Pipe Band, Old Fruitmarket, 7.30pm.

Pub scene
IT WILL be a first appearance in the Park Bark for Captain Spendous Plays Ceilidh on Saturday evening while it will be Gaberlunzie on Friday and Gunna Sound on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn this weekend it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Norrie MacIver on Saturday.
Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Kyles Athletic Shinty Club - 1961

R Brown of Tighnabruach submitted this week's flashback photograph which features Kyles Athletic Shinty Club, winners of the Sutherland Cup 1960/61. They beat Newtonmore 6 - 1 in the final played at Oban's Mossfield Park, referee J Tait, of Bute. This victory by the Kyles Junior Team kick-started a golden era for shinty in the Kyles, the senior team winning the Camanachd Cup on five occasions in the '60s - 1962, 1965, 1966, 1968 and 1969. Back row, left to right: Jimmy Nicolson, president; Roddy Carswell; Peter MacBride; Charlie Black; Sandy Jamieson; John Beaton; John Edgar and Neil Paterson. Front: Duncan MacNeill; Bobby Nicolson; Billy Crawford, captain; Dugie Thomson and Rae Brown. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. 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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Keep up the good work George

Sir,
I was dismayed to read the letter in last week's *Oban Times* from Resident, Tighnabruach entitled 'April Fool with Chainsaw'.

The letter writer tore apart the fantastic work that George Berry is doing in Soroba, particularly in Colonsay Terrace.

George and some other neighbours have been working extremely hard in their own time and free of charge over a long period to make a difference in Soroba.

The children in the photo were there simply as part of the photo and at no point were anywhere near George when the trees were being felled.

I know this as I saw it all unfolding over several weeks from my kitchen window in Colonsay Terrace, unlike the letter writer who hides behind the anonymity of 'Resident, Tighnabruach'.

If your letter writer had a fraction of the community spirit, kind heart and work ethic of George Berry, and put it to proper use, perhaps Tighnabruach or any other place might benefit in the way Colonsay Terrace has and will in the future.

Keep up the good work George. Name and address supplied.

Safety was paramount

Sir,
We write in response to the disgruntled resident from Tighnabruach in regards to his gripe about the tree cutting at Soroba, Oban.

He says that the power saw in the photo was running. If he/she can tell this from a photograph then they must have special powers.

The saw was NOT running as working alongside a former fireman, George Berry, safety was paramount.

The tree was partly cut through but was secured by a block and tackle supplied by a professional tree cutting contractor.

This was the same contractor whom we took advice from before felling any tree.

The children in the photograph were in no danger whatsoever and at all times were sent to a safe distance from all operations.

Perhaps the resident from Tighnabruach could come to Oban and ask the opinion of the Soroba volunteers and residents on their verdict instead of speculating on assumptions.

The volunteers, Soroba, Oban.

Tesco should help improve path

Sir,
Regarding the right of way between High Street and Tesco, I do not see any good reason why this retail giant cannot put money into improving the path and making it safer.

After all, it is in the store's own interests. A safe shortcut means quicker entry to the store. Also, a safe path makes it better for people with buggies and heavy shopping.

After reading that Tesco cannot put out money for this popular path because of 'future expansion

plans' I wonder if it was intending to expand onto the hillside. It would be a major architectural feat!

Or is the store thinking of blocking off this path for good? If so it is definitely not on as this path was around many decades before Tesco was.

There is also the matter of approach by buses. Tesco caused the bus routes to be changed making buses come over the little bridge over the Black Lynn to maximise access to the store. All well and good, except that the bridge badly needs upgrading. It is far too narrow and there have been many collisions with the railings.

How about a bridge that is wide enough for buses and a pavement to make it safer for pedestrians?

It is not a shortage of funds, more a lack of will that makes us put up with unnecessary inconvenience and compromised safety in regards to the footpath and the bus lane.

Sarah Swain-Nisbet, Dalintart Drive, Oban.

Support your customers

Sir,
May I, through your letters page, give my support to the campaign to get a proper path built between High Street and Tesco car park in Oban?

I live in Oban town centre with my 12-year-old daughter and we use the path nearly every day to and from the supermarket.

It is a disgrace Tesco, which predominantly owns the land with West Highland Housing Association, is not willing to back plans for 'substantial improvement' to the public right of way that is used by their customers who don't use a motor vehicle to carry shopping home.

Sophie Hamilton, 4 Drimvargie Terrace, Oban.

Two-way traffic plan a great idea

Sir,
I read with interest the article in *The Oban Times* regarding a two-way traffic system on the esplanade and a partly covered pedestrian shopping centre.

What a splendid idea. This would show Oban off to all visitors, with excellent sea views over Oban Bay to Kerrera.

A car free shopping centre would create a restful ambience conducive to shopping and give plenty of scope to shop owners with outside tables and chairs to create an appreciative continental air.

The sooner this is done, the better for Oban.
Henry Tarbutt, Easdale Island.

Delighted and bemused

Sir,
I was delighted to read in last week's *Oban Times* that Argyll and Bute Council is finally backing a proposed marina in Oban, and believe that the area to the north of the North Pier is the right place for such a development.

I was equally bemused, however, to read in the same edition that the council intends to set a closing date for the sale of

the White Building on the North Pier.

If the proposal to make the Esplanade two-way is to be successful, the 'pinch-point' at the Oban Inn will need to be resolved.

Assuming there is no proposal to raze one of Oban's oldest buildings, the only alternative would appear to be to re-route the road behind the Columbia Hotel and through the car park on the North Pier.

This being the case, perhaps the council should think twice about pushing ahead with a sale of the White Building, at least until it has been established whether it may need to be demolished to make way for the new road.

Given that the building first went on the market eight years ago, a further delay of a few months to allow the detailed proposals to be finalised seems sensible. It would be rather embarrassing, and expensive, if the council was forced to compulsorily re-acquire a building it had just sold, to allow the re-routing of Esplanade.

No doubt the community company currently running the charity shop in the building would be equally appreciative of a 'stay of execution'.

Gregor King, Albert Lane, Oban.

Barge must go too

Sir,
It was good to read, in recent issues, that at long last the *Lady Evelyn* is to leave her 'berth' at the North Pier, Oban.

She has (dis)graced if for long enough. Hopefully, the same will be done with the black barge which seems to have taken up residence off shore.

If it is removed we will once again see, in the words of the song by the late 'Doc' Anderson, 'the natural beauty of dear Oban Bay'.

Duncan Johnston, Dalrigh, Oban.

Craigmore Community Building

Sir,
In response to the recent letter in *The Oban Times*, I would like to clarify matters as follows.

It must be noted this was a retrospective application following unauthorised building work by Mull and Iona Community Trust.

Whilst it did obtain consent for its centre in 2008, during the construction phase it materially deviated from its approved designs sparking public complaints and intervention from the council's Monitoring and Enforcement Officer.

The outfall pipe, which was the subject of much debate and focus of the condition, referred to in *The Oban Times* letter dated March 31, was not included at the time planning permission was approved in 2008. It must also be remembered that the location of the Community Building and related outfall pipe is highly visible to all those using the Oban to Craignure ferry.

The outfall pipe which was installed without consent was first assessed by the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee in January 2011.

At that time it was noted that its above watermark location and length made it unsightly and was an unacceptable form of development in its current form. Following negotiation with planning staff, a compromise was reached that met both the acceptance of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Mull and Iona Community Trust which involved a scheme to reroute the pipe underground which is due to start in the coming weeks. This has resulted in both the discharge requirements of the Community Building and appearance of Craignure being safeguarded.

Councillor Daniel Kelly, chairman of Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee.

Don't panic! Continue enjoying the sea

Sir,
Don't panic! Passengers on the CalMac ferries will not have to wear immersion suits while sitting in the lounge.

Views similar to those stated in the article about 'new rules' for small commercial vessels (SCV) were expressed at a public meeting of the Seil and Easdale Community Council. I was asked to investigate.

Having discussed the proposed rules for personal clothing with the RYA, ASTO and the MCA, I can state the following.

All small commercial vessels currently adhering to one of the existing codes will not be affected by the change in wording. They will continue to be required to operate under their present code, which recommends immersion suits be available when operating in high latitudes.

MCA spokesman Mark Towl will rewrite the clause, which he agrees is poorly written and open to various interpretations.

Careful reading of the proposed code shows the carrying of emergency immersion suits is not mandatory. They do not have to be purchased, carried or worn by anyone. The ambiguous wording states the owner/skipper should advise the requirements for suitable personal clothing, one of which is an immersion suit for wear in the event of entering the water when the temperature is less than 10 degrees. That is in the event of abandoning ship.

As an RYA first aid instructor, I agree that anyone entering the sea at a temperature of less than 10 degrees would be much less likely to suffer from cold shock or hypothermia if wearing an immersion suit.

It is unlikely that the statement will be withdrawn. However, all SCVs carry approved lifejackets and skippers have had survival training. In the event of abandoning ship they would endeavour to transfer the crew to a life raft without entering the sea. I am sure common sense will prevail and look forward to reading the new wording when it is published. Meanwhile we can continue to enjoy the sea, with sensible and appropriate personal clothing for the type of vessel and area of operation.

Robert J Rae, Director, Westward Quest Ltd, Ardara, Clachan Seil, Oban.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THA BEACHD AIG A' MHÒR-CHUID air poilitigs agus spòrs agus am measg Ghàidheil donnan cuideachd beachd air dè 's còir a dhèanamh gus Gàidhlig a leasachadh. Ach ge b' e dè an taobh ris am bheil sinn ag aomadh a thaobh poilitigs, chan urrainn dha duine ciallach sam bith gun tomhas de cho-fhàireachadh a ghabhail ri Riaghaltas a tha a' feuchainn ri òrdugh a thoirt air an t-suidheachadh cosnadh a th' againn an-dràsta.

Tha miltean a' call cosnadh ri linn chaomhnaidhean an Riaghaltas air seirbheisean poblach agus miltean eile a' fulang san roinn phrìobhaideach mar thoradh air na h-aon ghearraidhean. Tha miltean cuideachd a' call an cuid obrach ann am feachdan dìon na dùthaich air linn dhòighean measaidh ùra air co-dhùth' na daoine airidh air sochairean, tha miltean eile a rèir coltais freagarrach airson obair. Air uachdar sin uile, tha barrachd dhaoine òga a' sireadh chothrom cosnadh na chumachas bho chionn linn-teang agus tha a-nise cead ag' daoine cumail ag obair seachad air trì fichead 's a còig! Nach eil an dàrna rud a' magadh air an rud eile?

Gun teagamh, tha e iomchaidh gu leòr nach bithe a' call sgilean agus eòlas luachmhor as an t-saoghail obrach air sgàth aoise, ach aig an aon àm, tha feum air leantainneachd neo thig latha is cha bhì sgilean no fìù 's tuigse air beus obrach aig an fheadhainn a tha tighinn às ar deidh. Dè ghabhas dèanamh gus na dùbhlain sin a chothromachadh? A dh'aindeoin na h-carbas a th' aig Riaghaltas na Co-bhanntachd gun toir fàs as an roinn phrìobhaideach leasachadh air an eaconamaidh, tha e doirbh misneachd fhòtainn le gearradh is call a' nochdadh air gach taobh. Agus mura bheil an fheadhainn as sine a' gluasad an dàrna taobh, tha an suidheachadh nas miosa buileach.

Ach theagamh gun gabh ruigheachd air còirichean-cosnadh dhaoine a tha seachad air trì fichead 's a còig agus cothrom obrach dhan òigridh. Nam biodh daoine a tha airson cumail ag obair seachad air seagad 's a còig a' dèanamh sin pàirt-ùine seach làn-ùine, gheibheadh an òigridh cas air aradh a' chosnadh agus aig an aon àm, cothrom ionnsachadh bhon fheadhainn as sine.

THE RIGHT TO WORK on beyond sixty-five comes at a bad time with thousands losing employment as a result of public sector cuts and major private sector job losses following from these. Over and above this many thousands of young people are desperately seeking a start in work and over a million previously on benefit are now assessed fit to work. And while UK armed forces engage in action in the Middle East thousands of them face redundancy.

Government has been depending on growth in the private sector to absorb redundant public sector workers, but it is increasingly difficult to see this happening even in the mid-term. Perhaps if people over sixty-five were to work part-time rather than full-time there may be some opportunity for the young to get a start and to learn from senior experience.

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

How holy are holy books?

TIME there was when those who scoffed at the Bible or the Koran were in dire threat of being hanged, beheaded or even burned at the stake but, for the Bible at least, most such punishments have long ceased to be imposed as 'the punishment' is not now deemed to fit the crime.

Much as serious fundamentalists would revel if those who are not 'believers' were still subject to severe punishment for not accepting the literal word of the Holy Bible. It is not just that rampant secularism has taken over, it is just that even Christians can't bring themselves to be 'unco religious'. We all, or at least a large majority of us, do live longer and put off giving serious consideration to whether there is an 'after-life'.

No matter that even those who are not zealots for things of the spirit do point out that there are tragedies happening every day to those who have probably never given a second thought to an early death?

Early deaths of innocent young men and women do pull us up with a jolt and concentrate our minds on the potential brevity of life, but such is soon removed from top of our priority list as life moves at such a pace that we don't want to be left behind but need to run with the pack to retain our status.

The (Holy) Bible has to fight for position in religious education. Indeed, it doesn't even get top spot in schools where there are no Muslims, except to acquaint pupils of it as one of many religious books that represent a number of faiths. Secularists defend it because it is the British religion whereas the Koran is that of those who come to 'take our jobs', get preferential treatment when it comes to the provision of social housing and a lot of other myths.

Naturally, the Koran - the Muslim equivalent of the Bible - has what might be the pious platitudes of all religious books, but more of them than most others. It certainly does not admit that men and women are equal. There are still Muslim men who do not allow that the female of the species should be allowed to dress as she wishes or marry whom she chooses. Tales of 'fixed' or 'forced' marriages do not help good relations between religions. While we have freedom now to criticise the contents of The Bible with hardly a ripple, we certainly can't do that with the Koran.

Television personality Melvyn Bragg has just had his comments on the Bible as a book published and he is, in parts, scathing. He cites the

comments of the hero who seems to forget his own story rather quickly. 'God creates man twice within about 200 words in Genesis' but he does admit that the poetry of Ecclesiastes takes the palm for 'And the doors shall be shut in the streets when the sounding of grinding is low'.

Early spin doctor?

WITH the launch of 'The British Confedrate' by Allan I MacInnes at Inveraray Castle last week, the intriguing question arose: was Archibald Campbell, the first and only Marquis of Argyll, the first who could be described as such?

While he was a Clan Chief, a Scottish Laird and always active on matters of religion in Scotland, especially the predominance in his mind of Presbyterianism at a time when Cromwell was sacking castles and royalist properties and, indeed anything that might seem to be Popish, he wanted to play a crucial part in British politics. When King Charles the First lost his head, Archibald Argyll was implicated in his death and was warned that should Charles the Second be restored as King he should get away from London; indeed, he was advised that he shouldn't go near the capital but concentrate on his many interests in Scotland. But he didn't take the advice, went to London and suffered the fatal consequences. This sums up what Professor MacInnes' book is about but there is so much more to it. A huge amount of research has gone in to it, much of it done in the archives of Inveraray Castle by permission of Torquill 13th Duke of Argyll and his late father Duke Iain.

It was Torquill Argyll who welcomed a large crowd to the castle last week for the launch of Professor MacInnes' book which is published by John Donald, an imprint of Birlinn Books. Professor MacInnes has strong Argyll connections as he was born in Ballachulish and educated at Oban High School. He is currently Professor of Early Modern History at Strathclyde University.

In an interview with Professor MacInnes, Alistair Campbell of Airds, author of a three-volume history of Clan Campbell, Brigadier John MacFarlane and Campbell Cameron, McCaig asked how the 1st Marquis of Argyll compared to the best known modern British 'spin doctor' Alistair Campbell, right-hand man to former British premier Tony Blair. He would more than hold his own as the general consensus.

Television personality Melvyn Bragg has just had his comments on the Bible as a book published and he is, in parts, scathing. He cites the

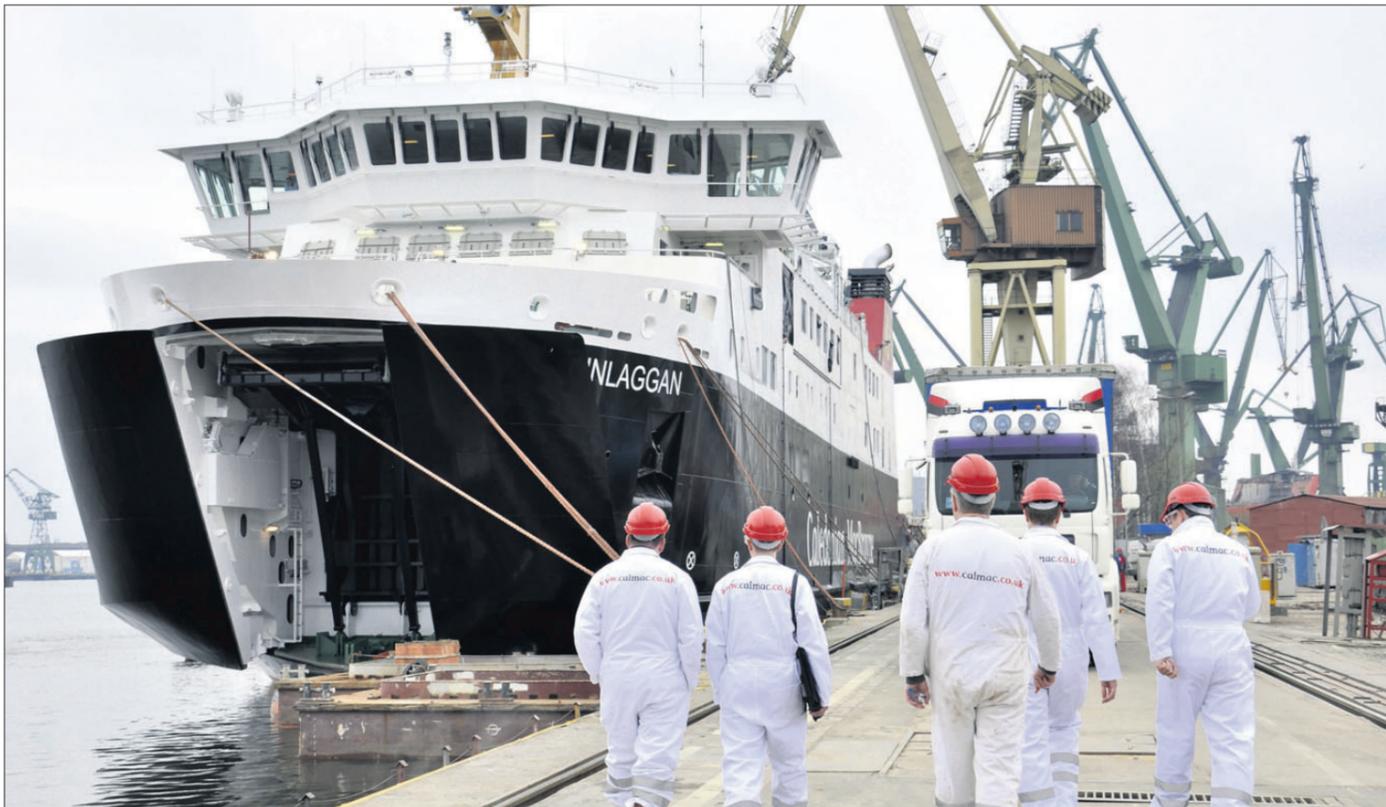
McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

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MV Finlaggan vital statistics

Overall length:	89.80m
Breadth:	16.4m
Speed:	16.3 knots
Power:	2 x 4,000kw
Passenger capacity:	550
Cars:	320 car lane metres (88 cars including mezzanine deck)
Commercial vehicles:	10 x 44-tonne articulated vehicles.
Gross tonnage:	5,209

Scottish influence evident in port city

GDANSK has been heavily influenced by various cultures, from bishops and Teutonic Knights to German and Dutch communities in a colourful history, to say the least. But the Scottish influence through old trade links is also evident in two of the city's suburbs being named New Scots and Old Scots and, more recently, its own pipe band. Dr Krystian Paczkowski, founder of the band, said: 'My friends and I were interested in Scottish culture and managed to get hold of a cassette of the Gordon Highlanders Pipe Band and started learning how to play. We also listened a lot to the Battlefield Band and I have since been to see them play.' The city had to be rebuilt after being flattened during World War Two. The reconstruction of the city centre was carried out from 1949 and into the 1990s, during which time many of the traditional designs were restored. In recent times the city is better known for laying the origins of the Solidarity movement, inspired by shipyard electrician Lech Walesa, who later became president of Poland. Today, despite its unique architecture and amber jewellery stalls, much of the centre has the feel of a modern European city.

History in the making as new Islay ferry nears completion

The final touches are being put to the MV Finlaggan, Caledonian MacBrayne's first new large ferry for a decade. EUAN PATERSON travelled to the shipyard in Gdansk where she is being constructed.

ENTERING the conference room at Remontowa shipyard, a scale model of the MV Finlaggan sits in pride of place, enclosed in a protective glass casing. It is a shipyard tradition, yet symbolises the care and attention to detail taken over this three-year project, worth £24.5m. Gdansk's shipyards are famous for the birth of the Solidarity movement in Poland, inspired by Lech Walesa, which was instrumental in the eventual downfall of the Soviet Union. As Remontowa chairman Andrzej Wojkiewicz explained: 'History is made here.' Certainly, the MV Finlaggan, which will operate between Kennacraig and Port Askaig and is the first new ferry for Islay in nearly 40 years, will go down in CalMac's history books. The third ship Remontowa has built for CalMac - following the construction of the Argyll and the Bute - Finlaggan is the first

large ferry it has built for the ship operator. It has been a decade since CalMac's last large ferry, the Hebridean Isles, was built, but leaps in technological possibilities and the increased awareness of fuel consumption have moved the goalposts considerably. The new MV Finlaggan has the same distinctive black and white body but on the face of things there have been many changes. The most striking of alterations is the bow of the ship, which parts sideways for vehicle traffic to embark and disembark the ship. Known as clam shell doors, they accommodate the ship's bulbous bow, a design feature that CalMac's senior technical manager Scott Ure says will increase fuel efficiency by 10 per cent. Scott explained: 'Fuel efficiency was a big element in the design of the ship. Technology has become more widely available in the last five or 10 years; 20 years ago



CalMac staff touring the MV Finlaggan take a moment to survey part of the vast Remontowa Shipyard. 15_115gdansk07

people were not as concerned about fuel consumption.' Larger and more numerous windows to the fore and aft of the ship have given better views for passengers and a modern-looking coffee shop, entertainment area and 'quiet room' have been installed as a result of passenger feedback. There are three passenger decks with two lifts from the car deck, as well as stairs. Yet the most impressive things about this ship are the least visible. The state-of-the-art technology involved in running the ship will not be immediately apparent to passengers but will make the ship safer and more comfortable. Officers on Finlaggan's bridge can monitor 27 CCTV cameras throughout the ship and are informed of any technical irregularities by any one of 2,000 alarms, from a serious engine fault to a change in temperature in the galley freezer. In fact, the spacious bridge looks more like a NASA control room when compared to those on other CalMac ships, with hundreds of computers, lights and control panels. There is an Optical Giro Compass for precise navigation

and a waypoint setter, which can steer the ship accurately on a plotted course on autopilot. Barra's Roddy MacLeod, who is one of two masters on Finlaggan, said: 'During sea trials we reconstructed a power outage while at sea. The engine was able to maintain momentum while the computer system restored power automatically within six seconds. Capabilities 'We really have to test the ship's capabilities during these trials but it has coped easily with anything we have thrown at it. 'It is the most advanced ship in the fleet by a mile. As soon as you start the ship the computers can tell Gourock [CalMac's head office] everything from the number of passengers and cars on board to the depth of the ship in the water.' The demise of the once proud Glasgow shipbuilding industry has made it necessary to seek the construction of such vessels in foreign ports, however, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has praised the Polish shipbuilders for delivering the ferry on time and within budget. Remontowa builds an average of 12 ships a year but the 60-year-old company also specialises in ship repairs and currently houses the Glensanda bulk cargo ship Yeoman Bontrup, badly damaged by fire in July last year. Jan Paszkowski, Remontowa Shipyard's director of shipbuilding, said: 'The Finlaggan is one of the biggest ferries we have built, although we build larger vessels, and at the moment there are around 400 people working on it because it is so close to the delivery date. 'There will be mixed feelings when it goes to Scotland; we will be sad to see it go but there will be relief and happiness that the project has been completed on time.' While the shipbuilding process seems to have gone on without incident, the preparations for its

arrival have been more eventful. The wider design of the Finlaggan means Port Ellen pier must be overhauled to accommodate it, meaning the island will be down to one port for nine months. Work to upgrade Kennacraig ferry terminal is still on course to be completed in time for Finlaggan's arrival. The ferry will be handed over from CMAL to CalMac Ferries Ltd at the beginning of May when the crew will sail for five days to the Scottish west coast - Oban is the most likely destination - where further sea trials will take place. A naming ceremony and open day are likely to take place on May 17 and 18, respectively. CalMac has also set an aspirational date of May 23 to begin the Kennacraig to Islay service. CalMac managing director Phil Preston said: 'It is only a matter of weeks until the MV Finlaggan comes into service and everyone is looking forward to welcoming her to Scotland as the latest addition to the fleet. 'A huge amount of effort has gone into her design and construction and she boasts a number of innovations that will ensure that anyone who sails on her can be assured a comfortable and memorable experience.' The Ro-Ro Euro Class B ferry MV Finlaggan was launched at Remontowa in June last year. It will have the capacity to carry 550 passengers and 88 cars when the mezzanine deck is used. It can also transport commercial vehicles and coaches.

“A huge amount of effort has gone into her design and construction.” Phil Preston CalMac MD



Pictured on the ship's bridge are, from left: Chief engineer Gordon Haig, ship's master Roddy MacLeod and CalMac's senior technical manager Scott Ure. 15_115gdansk06

Celebrating Voluntary Action in Argyll & Bute

Argyll & Bute Council Argyll Voluntary Action

Annual Volunteer Awards 2011 Nominations now open

Nominate the individual volunteer and/or organisation for an award and sponsored prize

Join us at the award event and help decide the winning group on the 17th June

Nomination forms available From your local Argyll Voluntary Action Office Leisure Centres/Active Schools tel : 01369 700100/01631 564839 By email dev.avbc@tiscali.co.uk www.argyllcommunities.org Or www.argyll-bute.gov.uk sportscoaching@argyll-bute.gov.uk Nominations close 18th May 2011

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Voluntary Sports Event
Awards will take place 17th June 2011 Council Chambers Kilmory Lochgilphead

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OT

Work starts on Laggan Bridge

WORK to replace electrics on the Laggan Swing Bridge on the A82 gets underway on Monday for two-and-a-half weeks.

The road will be reduced to a single lane controlled by traffic lights during the day. The lights will not be in operation overnight.

Motorists should allow extra time for their journeys.

Man seen running over parked cars

A MAN was seen running on top of three parked vehicles parked on Kitson Crescent, Portree, about 1.30am on Sunday morning.

The man, who was with two others, is described as being aged between late teens and early twenties, approximately 6ft, of stocky build and was wearing knee length shorts.

All three vehicles sustained light damage as a direct result of this man's actions.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident is urged to contact either Police at Portree on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 1111.

Planning ahead

LOCHABER Welfare Football League secretary Ronnie Wegner is hoping for a big turnout to a pre-season planning meeting at the BA Club next Thursday at 7pm.

Eight teams took part last season, the perfect number for cup competitions, Mr Wegner said. 'All the teams wanting to take part in this year's league should send a representative,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'We are looking for as many teams as possible - eight would be ideal - but if we get 10 we will take them.'

Grant boost

FORT William Cricket Club has built a new artificial wicket at its BA Club ground.

An Awards for All grant of £8,665 and help with drainage from the BA Club and Rio Tinto Alcan means fewer games will be lost to wet pitches. Alcan also funded a new mower, while a Lochaber Sports Council grant paid for practice and training equipment. Club secretary Derek Spencer said the pitch represented 'a significant investment' in the future of Lochaber Cricket. Fort's inaugural match on the new pitch will be a friendly against Oban on Saturday at noon.



Flames creep closer to Ardshealach Lodge, Acharacle, during Sunday's moorland fire.

Acharacle residents flee hill blaze

ACHARACLE residents and their household pets had a lucky escape at the weekend when a huge wild fire spread across heath and grass land to within yards of local homes.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to the blaze around 3pm on Sunday afternoon as flames, fanned by strong winds, destroyed five square kilometres of vegetation.

Police evacuated people, including young children, from three nearby houses. Goats and guinea pigs were among the animals taken to safety. Firefighters and estate workers managed to extinguish the fire around 9pm.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

nearby Ardshealach Lodge, where owner Jill Gosney took them in. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It started very quickly and you could see the fire all the way up the hill.'

'The police came round and asked people to move from their houses for their own safety. There was a lot of smoke, the flames were quite high and they were worried about the homes. Some of the flames got into their back yards. The fire brigade and the police were absolutely brilliant, they reacted very quickly and worked so hard.'

Strontian, Lochaline and Kilchoan attended the scene and were able to put out the flames before any damage was caused to properties.

Kilchoan fireman David Curtis said their main aim had been to make sure the fire did not threaten oil and gas tanks and cause them to explode.

He said: 'I think it started behind Macnaughton Crescent and then the wind just took it away. It was a typical wildfire, lots of smoke. It got right up to the fences of some of the houses. The houses have gas and fuel oil so that was the main concern.'

He added: 'It was one of the bigger fires I've been involved with in a few years.'



David MacFarlane of Lochaber Archaeological Society and district forester Ken Knott with winners Morgan Birrell, Natasha Findlay and Jack MacCallum. 11_f15decoy01

Archaeology society presents prizes to young winning artists

A HALF-TON slab of Fort William-made aluminium housed in the West Highland Museum provided the perfect backdrop for a Lochaber Archaeology Society (LAS) prize presentation last Thursday.

The society has been mapping wartime installations round the British Aluminium Company Lochaber smelter in the town, and as the final stage of their project ran a painting competition for local primary schoolchildren.

Pupils were asked to paint how a decoy factory built at Torlundy three miles from the real one to fool German bombers might have looked.

More than 100 entries were submitted, from which Kenneth Knott of Forestry Commission

Scotland picked three and Jane Patton from West Highland Museum picked three others.

The six shortlisted pictures were sent to Rio Tinto Alcan at the Lochaber Smelter for final judging and after much deliberation Jack MacCallum of Spean Bridge Primary was judged the winner. Jack received £50 and his design will feature in a new LAS pamphlet on the decoy factory and smelter in wartime.

Natasha Findlay of Inverloch was second and won £30, while third placed Morgan Birrell from Upper Achintore won £20.

LAS chairman Robert Cairns thanked the Scottish Community Foundation, Rio Tinto Alcan and Forestry Commission Scotland for their support.

South Uist teenager named 'Young Scot of the year'

A SOUTH Uist teenager was named 'Young Scot of the Year' at the Sunday Mail Young Scot 2011 Awards in Glasgow last Thursday.

And in a double triumph, Megan MacDonald, 14, of Drimisdale, also won the environment award for her work with Oxfam Scotland to erect fences on Uist beaches to combat coastal erosion.

Megan was given a huge ovation as she collected her prizes at the glittering awards ceremony at a packed Hilton Hotel.

Megan told *The Oban Times* from Glasgow on Tuesday: 'I was completely shocked, I wasn't expecting it at all. Oxfam nominated me for the award because I'm the youngest person they've got working with them in this area. I'm not sure why I was given the award - I got it for doing something I love.'



Young Scot of the year, South Uist girl Megan MacDonald. Photo courtesy of Sunday Mail.

Skye swim girl's delight over Marine Harvest's £350 sponsorship boost

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

SHE CAN swim like a fish - now a young Isle of Skye girl has the sponsorship to help her leap to the top.

Skye Dolphins swimmer Ruth Gordon is ranked top in Scotland for her age in the 100m and 200m breaststroke and has won gold at meets across the Highlands.

But competing at the top level is an expensive business for Ruth and dad Peter, who regularly make round trips of 300 miles or more to attend events.

Peter reckoned local businesses might help - and wrote to Marine Harvest in Fort William inviting them to become sponsors.

When the salmon farmers heard of Ruth's dedication and commitment they had no hesitation in taking the plunge - and splashed out £350.

Peter and Ruth, from Kensalryre near Portree, were en route to the Scottish national age group championships at Tollcross in Glasgow last Wednesday when they dropped into the firm's Blar Mhor HQ to collect the cheque.

Business support manager Steve Bracken and PA Jayne MacKay laid on a special buffet for their Skye visitors.

Mr Bracken told *The Oban Times*: 'When we got the letter we were very taken by Ruth's determination and strong work ethic in her training - and I think that goes for Peter as well.'

'Peter made a very compelling case for sponsorship and as far as we were concerned it was something we wanted to lend



Jayne Mackay and Steve Bracken of Marine Harvest present Ruth with the £350 cheque. 10_f15swim01

our support to. In Ruth's case there was an obvious link up to what we do - there's the healthy eating and fitness aspect, then of course there's the water as well. I think what she has done so far is fantastic.'

Peter said the sponsorship deal was a big boost to Ruth's bid to become one of Scotland's top young swimming stars.

'Scottish selectors have already invited the talented youngster to a breaststroke training camp with national coaches at Stirling University on April 24. 'The money will go towards a

new swimming costume for Ruth for this weekend and further development and training costs,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We are over the moon - it is a lot harder to get any kind of financial help as an individual, rather than a team.'

Asked who she would like to emulate, Ruth said: 'Hannah Miley [Scotland's 400m individual medley Commonwealth gold medalist] - I think she is great!'

At the national championships, Ruth took bronze in the 13 years 100m breaststroke and broke the 12 years age group Scottish

record, as she was still two days short of her 13th birthday.

Ruth also took silver in the 200 metres breaststroke to become Scottish champion - the race winner was from England - and helped the Highland Swim Team to bronze in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay.

Skye Dolphins' Rebecca Smith from Broadford also became national champ when she took gold in the 14 age group 1500m freestyle. Rebecca added silver in the 800 free and helped the Highland Swim Team to silver in the 200m butterfly.

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Flood closes Spean mill shop

SPEAN Bridge Woollen Mill was forced to close last Wednesday after floodwater poured into the building from the nearby bridge on the A82.

The popular outlet shut up shop at 9.45am as staff and employees of local builders RE Campbell Joinery Ltd battled to halt the torrent with sandbags.

It is understood drains on the road were overwhelmed by torrential rain, sending water cascading down the slope into the mill, which only reopened last spring after a blaze destroyed the main building.

General manager Stewart MacDonald told *The Oban Times* emergency action by quick thinking staff prevented any stock being damaged, but the restaurant and shop were

under several inches of water. 'The water was coming in so fast - it was just like a flash flood,' he said.

'But the staff were fantastic, as were the local people who rushed to help because they care about the mill. I would just like to say a big 'thank you' to everybody.'

The mill shop reopened on Thursday morning and the restaurant in the afternoon. Assistant general manager Marianne Campbell told the *Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'You would not know that anything had happened.'

'You would never have known we were wading around in water last week.' She added: 'First it was the fire, then the flood - we don't want a third disaster.'

School heating upgrade underway

WORK got underway yesterday on a £3million upgrade which will give Plockton High School a new biomass heating system and better facilities.

Mansell Construction Services Ltd's Elgin Business will aim to complete the contract by early next year.

The new heating aside, works include a new dining hall, better access to classrooms, a new home economics classroom and the conversion of the existing

home economics room into a computer suite. The four local councillors serving Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh - Isabelle Campbell, Richard Greene, Audrey Sinclair, Jean Urquhart - all welcomed news that work is underway.

Benefits Plockton High head teacher Duncan Ferguson anticipated 'huge benefits' for the school from the project. He said: 'Our school community is very pleased

to see this major development going ahead. In particular, for our 305 youngsters and 50 staff, it will mean movement across the campus will not require going outside when walking between the main teaching areas, which will be a great benefit.'

The development was designed and project managed in house by Highland Council's housing and property service on behalf of clients the education, culture and sport service.

Spotlight on historic land struggle

GLENDALE, one of the flashpoints in the Crofters' War, will this weekend host a conference on the land struggle in Skye and Lewis during the 1880s.

The event, to be held tomorrow evening and all day Saturday in Glendale Hall, brings together speakers from both sides of the Minch, including Professor Jim Hunter who will give the keynote address.

Some talks will be in Gaelic with simultaneous translation into English and time will be set aside for discussion.

It is hoped local people and those with family links to the historic events in the 1880s will

be able to contribute. A ceilidh on the Friday evening and a visit to places associated with the Glendale Rising on Saturday afternoon will also feature.

The Islands Book Trust, based on Lewis, is organising the conference in conjunction with the Glendale Trust.

Conference The Book Trust is planning a follow up event in September 2012, a major four day conference in Lewis on the Clearances, land struggle, re-settlement, and community land ownership to mark the 125th anniversary of the Paic Deer Raid.

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Shinty club scores to tune of £30,000

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William Shinty Club is believed to be £30,000 to the good after receiving payments from commercial property firms hoping to turn its An Aird pitch into a supermarket.

Two payments of £20,000 and £10,000 are thought to have been made to the club, the first by a company associated with the now defunct Fort William waterfront project and the second within the past few months by another would-be An Aird developer.

The club leases the pitch and the solum of its pitchside clubhouse from Highland Council.

Local councillor Donald Cameron said he was aware of the payments – and praised club officials for making the most of circumstances as they arise.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Yes, I understand that the club has recently received £10,000 from a developer in return for agreeing to relinquish the remaining years left on the lease of the ground which sites the clubhouse.'

'They have previously received £20,000 from another developer who had similar ambitions to build a supermarket on the shinty pitch.'

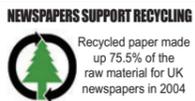
'That plan hit the buffers but it was good bit of business for the shinty club.'

'I attach no blame to the club committee for entering into deals with developers. It has certainly been good business by them and I won't be surprised if I learn that they have sold the sand from the long jump pit to the Arabs.'

Councillor Cameron added there was 'no will lying with any Lochaber councillor' to sell off the sports field at An Aird.

'In planning terms another supermarket being fed by the An Aird roundabout would be a disaster,' he said.

Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall declined to comment.



Sound of Gaelic song: clarsach player Chloe Nash, 11, enjoying classes at Fèis Lochabair. 10_11561091

Fèis Lochabair echoes to sound of Gaelic song

FÈIS Lochabair is hitting the high notes at Lochside Primary School this week with about 140 children aged 4-12 taking part in a range of classes in traditional Gaelic music.

The event, now in its 21st year, started on Monday and runs until tomorrow (Friday). Organisers say they aim to encourage young people to take an active part in enjoying the music, song and dance of the Highlands.

As well as the clarsach, fiddle, piano and button box classes on offer, there are also

lessons in singing, drama, dancing and Gaelic speaking. Tutors will be passing on their skills in Gaelic language and traditional music to the youngsters.

The children move around the school throughout the day getting lessons on each instrument, and everyone takes part in a daily Gaelic speaking lesson. The older pupils are also given one-on-one classes in their preferred instrument. A number of ex-Fèis students who have risen through the ranks are

tutoring at this year's event, including Ewan Henderson, Megan Henderson and Lauren Tait. On Friday afternoon, the youngsters will put their practice to good use when they perform at the Fèis Participant's Ceilidh in Caol Community Centre.

Fèis Lochabair committee member Deirdre MacDonald said: 'They are a fantastic group of children. They are all really enthusiastic and working well together. They are all taking part fully in everything they are doing.'



Daffodil tea brings Easter cheer to Caol school

Caol Primary School pupils and parents raised hundreds of pounds for school funds at a daffodil tea before the Easter holidays. Pupils grew cress to sell at their stall, while outside mums and dads helped plant up the vegetable garden. Fort William firemen boosted funds by washing cars in the playground and the dining hall did a roaring trade in teas and home-baking. f15caol01

Unite now to reap benefits of tidal power

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

WEST Highland coastal communities are being urged to form a united front to claim control of their seabed and reap the benefits from a future tidal power bonanza.

Leading the move is Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council (GACC), which is inviting other community groups to a summit in Glenelg Hall shortly after the Scottish Parliament election on May 6.

Top of the agenda will be how local people can take control of developing tidal power projects, allowing profits to be ploughed back into the local area to create new jobs and infrastructure.

The 'call to arms', as GACC co-chairman John MacLean described it to *The Oban Times*, comes a week after Crown Estate Commissioners gave permission to Marine Current Turbines (MCT) to pursue a tidal power scheme at Kylesha, the narrow straits between Skye and the mainland.

The Crown Estate currently manages Scotland's seabed – a publicly owned asset – and earns income from it for the UK Treasury. Mr MacLean said: 'The development potential of tidal power is huge and this could be our last chance, at least in our lifetime, to restore the economic and social welfare of communities up and down the west coast.'

'Creating skilled jobs out of this must be our number one priority. We want to give our young people an incentive to return here after their education, rather than knowing they will have to stay away to find a good job.'

Mr MacLean proposes the new Scottish Government should set up a £100m pot to allow coastal communities to hire technological expertise to develop tidal power schemes, with profits from electricity sales used to fund local regeneration projects.

'We would hope to present that plan to others at the meeting and outline its potential,' he said. 'It would mean the rights to the seabed would revert to local communities to control these developments. This is a far bigger thing than just Kylesha, and if any other communities want a return from tidal energy then they have to get involved now, otherwise the chance will be lost.'

He added: 'There is not a high enough threshold of economic activity to foster development here. We have had the Clearances, the sheep, the forestry and the hydro. Exactly the same thing is going to happen with tidal

projects unless we do something about it.'

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley said he would be happy to assist in putting the meeting together.

The council, he said, had already identified the Loch Leven Narrows and the Corran Narrows as having tidal power potential and urged communities there to attend. 'The more local people who get involved the better,' he said.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* members would 'certainly go' to the meeting if invited.

He said: 'We want to know why communities are not getting a bigger say and not making some profit from these types of developments. I would be in favour of working with other coastal communities to make sure that happens. If everybody pulls together and speaks with one voice, sooner or later somebody will have to pay attention.'

Nether Lochaber Community Council secretary Anne Marie Cameron said: 'The Crown Estate does not interact with local communities at all, so I'm quite pleased that Glenelg are taking this step. All it takes is somebody to start it and the rest will follow. We will try to get one or two people up there.'

Company reassures council leader communities will benefit

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley is confident local communities will benefit from a planned £40million tidal energy farm after meeting the chief executive of the firm behind the bid.

Marine Current Turbines (MCT) last week secured a Crown Estate lease to progress Scotland's first tidal power project in Kylesha near the Glenelg-Skye ferry crossing.

Councillor Foxley met MCT's Martin Wright in Inverness on Tuesday to press home his view that coastal communities must also gain from offshore developments.

Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Foxley said: 'I have been greatly assured by MCT's commitment to work closely with Highland Council and the local community to ensure this project will bring

tangible economic benefit to the Isle of Skye and the wider region. We see the scheme as a stepping stone towards a larger tidal energy industry that can create a new industry for the Highlands economy as well as being a low carbon source of renewable energy.'

Mr Wright pledged his company would ensure 'every aspect, environmental, social and economic', would be carefully considered.

He said: 'We are wholly committed to working with Highland Council and the wider community on bringing the project to fruition. We appreciated the positive response shown towards our plans from Dr Foxley and his colleagues at today's meeting.'

Subject to planning consent and financing, MCT aims to deploy the four turbine tidal farm by 2014.

Homes get go-ahead - but there's no 'free-for-all'

COUNCILLORS have said there will be no 'free-for-all' for building near a Moidart settlement - despite giving permission for three new houses.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee approved the shoreline homes at Roshven after a site visit on Tuesday, but refused a fourth application on safety grounds.

Councillors debated the applications at a packed Lochailort Inn after the site visit.

Committee member Councillor Donald Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'The general

feeling was that everyone was pretty happy. A few local people expressed their feelings after the meeting that they were glad the councillors had taken the time to come to the area, see the site and listen to their complaints.'

Concerns

'Some people had concerns about density and urban sprawl, but we've sent out a message that there is not a free-for-all for building in Roshven.'

Councillors approved Jon Watt's application to build a house 150m south of Bothan nan Greag, against a recommendation to refuse

on visual amenity grounds. Mr Watt's bid received nine submissions of support from the public and councillors felt his plans fitted in with surrounding dwellings.

Jennifer Veitch's T-shaped holiday home plan east of the bothan was approved, as was Lynn Blair's single house west of West Lodge.

However, councillors refused Dr and Mrs Gartshore's bid for a house 150m south of the lodge because of safety concerns over the access road.

Hopes high for summer yachting business as work finally starts on Morvern pontoons

WORK finally began this week on the pontoon development Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) hopes will boost summer yachting business at Lochaline.

The £320,000 project will provide safe berthing and shore access for up to 24 vessels and will be fully operational by June this year.

Local surveys have shown an average of 19 yachts visit Lochaline each evening between the months of June and September.

Sailwest, HIE, Highland Council and the Morvern community are co-funding the project.

Future plans include shoreside facilities for visiting yachts, incorporating showers and toilets, a chandlery shop and a small office to

complement the pontoons.

MCDC development officer Lilia Dobrkhodova said: 'The community pontoons will provide an important income stream for the company and will help to enable it pursue other projects on which it is working.'

'Ultimately all revenues generated by the development company will be ploughed back into the wider community of Morvern.'



Rev Robert Brookes and some of the Funday School children meet Sammy the Seal.

Church youngsters present towels to Sea Life centre

CHILDREN and teachers from Muckairn Church Funday School, Taynuilt, visited the Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine to hand over old towels which they had been collecting for seal

pups. The collection was organised by Sunday School teacher Kathleen MacFarlane.

During their visit the children

saw the new turtle conservation area, the otters and even had a go at feeding the seals themselves.

Rev Robert Brookes joined the children on their visit and

especially enjoyed meeting Sammy the Seal.

The afternoon finished with an Easter egg hunt in the woods and handover of a large mound of towels.

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, April 4, 1996



Royal National Mòd to be held in Falkirk

THE ROYAL National Mòd will be held in Falkirk in 2008 for the first time. The announcement was made at the Falkirk Wheel, an event that was attended by representatives from Falkirk Council, An Comunn Gaidhealach and some members of Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir.

Calum Iain MacLeod, chief executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach welcomed the decision to bring the Mòd to Falkirk and said: 'The bids from Stirling and Falkirk were both very impressive and while it was a difficult decision for the Board of Directors of the Mòd Company to make, it was felt that Falkirk should be given the opportunity to host the Mòd for the very first time.'

Provost Jim Johnston said: 'With the Mòd coming in 2008, it will give us the opportunity to promote Falkirk as an area with a diverse musical and cultural heritage, on a worldwide scale. As Central Scotland only gets the chance to host this prestigious event every six years, we feel very privileged to be chosen to help celebrate Gaelic language and culture.'

Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir achieved group success at Mòd 2005, which was held in the Western Isles, and they won a variety of trophies for Gaelic and choral singing.

New pitch open on Easter Sunday

A NEW kick-around area will be opening on Easter Sunday in Tyndrum because the ground was in poor condition. Stirling Council donated the money and Strathfillan Community Development Trust applied to a variety of bodies for funding to make it playable.

Youngsters are already anticipating its arrival; pupils from Crianlarich have already been using it for rugby practise. The new pitch will allow youngsters to form new football teams and play a variety of different balls games on one of the few pieces of flat land in the villages.

It is expected to be very popular and Joyce Russell, development officer of Strathfillan Community Development Trust, said: 'There is fencing to keep the balls away from the houses and we also build a barbeque.'

The official opening of the new pitch on Easter Sunday will include the first football matches to be played on the new ground, an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet competition and a barbeque.

There is also some talk of developing a five-a-side all-weather football pitch at Tyndrum Lower Station yard. Grants would be needed, however, and it would involve applying to various funding bodies.

New Medical Surgery for Isle of Mull

THE SCOTTISH Executive has allocated £1.153million to NHS Highland to build a brand new medical surgery on the Isle of Mull. A lot of work has still to be done to establish where the new surgery will be built.

Moirra Newiss, NHS Highland's locality manager in Oban said: 'We put forward our project plan to build a new surgery and the proposal at the moment is for a new build.'

'It is now a case of 'dotting the i's' and crossing t's. The current site is restricted so we are considering other sites.'

According to Ms Newiss, there is still a lot of work to be done and other factors, including planning, have still to be considered.

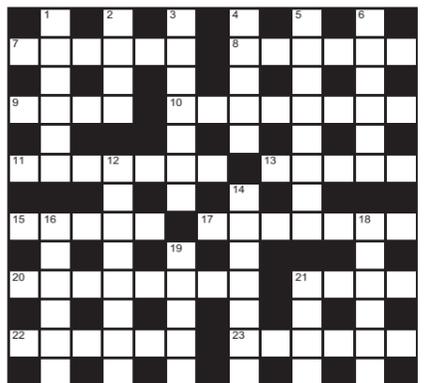
The funding received from the Scottish Executive was the bulk of the money required to create a new building. It will also pay for a new general practitioner, dental surgery and visiting consultants to Bunnassan that will include a joint base for social work staff.

Councillor Dick Walsh, Argyll and Bute Council's health spokesman said: 'The proposed funding will provide modern facilities for a range of health services aimed at improving patient care and the health of the local community.'

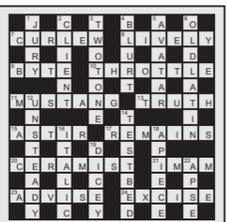
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across
- 7 Curved beak flier (6)
 - 8 Energised (6)
 - 9 Information unit (4)
 - 10 Choke (8)
 - 11 American car, Sally's? (7)
 - 13 Actuality (5)
 - 15 Out of bed (5)
 - 17 Stays behind (7)
 - 20 Maker of falsies! (8)
 - 21 Muslim leader (4)
 - 23 Recommend (6)
 - 24 Cut out (6)

- Down
- 1 Decision makers (4)
 - 2 Patron (6)
 - 3 Bi-coloured (3-4)
 - 4 Speak without thought (5)
 - 5 Image for one on computer (6)
 - 6 Ancient language from before 100 bc (3,5)
 - 12 Wobbly (8)
 - 14 Checking place (4,3)
 - 16 Emphasise written words (6)
 - 18 Each (6)
 - 19 Uncertain (5)
 - 22 Domed recess in a church (4)



Last Week's Solution





The prizewinners' lineup at the 45th South West Ross Piping Society's competition at Plockton.

Entries up as piping society's event proves an outstanding success

SOUTH West Ross Piping Society's 45th annual competition at Plockton on Saturday, April 2, proved an outstanding success, attracting an entry of more than 90 pipers and chanter players - 15 per cent up on last year.

Most competitors were local, although some travelled from Inverness, Ullapool and the Western

Isles to compete. Main prizewinners were 12 year-old Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle, who took the overall title in the under-15 section, and Conal MacDonagh (16) from Poolewe, who won the overall Under-18 section. Alexander Levack from Maryburgh was the overall winner in the 18-22 section. Full results next week.

Spring festival branches out

LOCH Shiel Spring Festival is branching out this year, with flügelhorn magician Tom Arthurs and extraordinary percussionist Thomas Ströner featuring in the opening concert on Saturday May 7.

Both draw on a background from jazz and world music in addition to their work with film directors, classical orchestras and opera companies and promise to be perfect partners for groundbreaking Mr McFall's Chamber in Glenfinnan Church. This will be chamber music as you've never heard it before!

McFall's will then go on to raise the temperature in Acharacle on Sunday, May 8, with their passionate live 'bio-pic' of Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla.

The festival then returns to Glenfinnan on Monday, May 9, to mark the end of an era: After 40 years as the Edinburgh Quartet's viola player, Michael Beeston is retiring this summer and has chosen some of his favourite repertoire for this occasion.

The festival aims to bring together international artists and young local talents - and the audience will see that collaboration in action in Glenig Hall on Tuesday 10 with the production of 'The Soldier's Tale', in which youngsters from Lochaber Youth Theatre and Ballet West team up with actor Patrick Lannigan in Christopher Josey's production of Stravinsky's Faustian fairy tale. Patrick's list of previous collaborators include names such as Pavarotti and Bernstein as well as Madonna and Michael Jackson! The closing concert on Wednesday May 11 brings the festival back to more traditional territory with wonderful Russian soprano Iona Domnich singing some of Mahler's most glorious songs.

Also featured is Strauss' 'Till Eulenspiegel' and the slow movement of Beethoven's 7th. How on earth can all of that fit into Glenfinnan Church? You'll just have to come and find out! More details at www.shielfestival.com or on 01397 722334.



Retiring Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club committee members Ian Campbell, Cathy Boyd, second right, and Edith MacAskill with most improved young musician of the year Callum MacDonald.

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club ends season with great night of music

FORT William Accordion and Fiddle Club enjoyed a tremendous night of music at its final get together of the season in a packed Railway Club at Inverlochly last Tuesday night.

Keith MacKillop presented the

trophy dedicated in memory of his father, the Willie MacKillop Cup, to Callum MacDonald of Stronaba, Spean Bridge, who was judged the most improved young musician of the year under 15.

The gathering of about 100 also saw retiring committee members Ian Campbell, Cathy Boyd and Edith MacAskill presented with gifts and flowers as tokens of thanks for their 30 years service to the club.

Master of ceremonies, Jimmy Smith introduced a wonderful lineup of musicians who together delivered an evening of entertainment sure to live long in the memory.

Artists included Andrew MacDonald accompanied by Simon Andrews and Iain Joseph MacDonald on keyboards; Larry Byrne (button box) with Innes Macintosh and Calum MacDonald (accordion); Alec MacLean, Angus Anderson and Michael MacLeod (button box); Strontrian brother and sister Ewan and Sheila Henderson on accordion and keyboards, respectively,

with Ewen Henderson of Fort William (fiddle), Francis Walker from South Uist (drums) and Jimmy Smith (second box). Guest artists for the night were Graeme Mitchell, from Aberdeen, on accordion, Brian Cruickshanks on bass guitar, Duncan Christie on drums and Gordon Duguid on second box.

Also taking the stage were Dierdre MacDonald on fiddle with Iain Joseph MacDonald on accordion; Donald Cameron of Loch Hourin, on accordion with Heckie Henderson on keyboards; Ross MacPherson from Oban on accordion and Calum MacColl on button box and pipes.

Club stalwart Gladys Johnston, of Spean Bridge, told *The Oban Times*: 'I think the night was absolutely excellent. I have to give praise to the young ones who are so dedicated - what would the club be without them? A big thankyou must also go to their tutors, who have worked so hard with them.'

The club will resume in October at the same venue.

Competitors flock to annual Lochaber Piping Society competition



Fort William's James Rosie won the Evan MacRae Trophy.

LOCHABER Piping Society staged its annual competition at Lochaber High School recently and drew about 45 young entrants from far and near.

Local pipers were joined by competitors from Skye, Kyle, Benderloch, Inverness and Drumadroit for a day which produced playing of high quality.

Organiser Morag Melville said numbers were on a par with previous years for the event, which saw Sandy Cameron of Roy Bridge make a clean sweep of trophies in the under-16 section and Fort William's James Rosie take the Evan MacRae trophy.

'The competitors came from Lochaber and the surrounding area, which made it a nice competition,' Morag told *The Oban Times*.

Full results: MacDougall Cup, chanter march - 10 years and under: 1, Martin MacKinnon, Fort William; 2, Carla Baradelli, Spean Bridge; 3, Ailsa MacDonald, Spean Bridge. Lord Duvlerton Cup, chanter march - 11-13 years: 1, Michelle MacKinnon, FW; 2, Eilidh Anne MacLellan, Lochyside; 3, Romy Melville. Carmichael Quaich, chanter march - 14 years and under: 1, Michelle MacKinnon, FW; 2, Hamish Drennan, Drumadroit; 3, Kayleigh MacMillan, Claggan. Jim Grace Trophy, bagpipes march - novice: 1, Ally Weir, Inverlochly; 2, Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 3, Alistair MacKellar Memorial Quaich, bagpipes slow air - novice: 1, Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Ally Weir, Inverlochly. West Highland Junior Piping Trophy, bagpipes march - 16 years and under: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Ewen MacQueen, Inverlochly; 3, Andrew Hepburn, FW. Allan MacPherson Memorial Trophy, bagpipes slow air - 16 years and under: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Angus

MacColl, Oban; 3, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle. Cameron of Lochiel Challenge Cup, bagpipes march - under 15 years: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle; 3, Kyle Orr, Oban. Robertson Memorial Cup, bagpipes strathspey and reel - under 15 years: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle; 3, James Roxburgh, Kyle. Lochaber District Council Cup, bagpipes piobaireachd - under 15 years - 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle; 3, Kyle Orr, Oban. Bradley Gillanders Challenge Cup, bagpipes march - 18 years and under: 1, Angus MacColl, Oban; 2, James Rosie, FW; 3, Rachael Anne MacDonald, Inverness. Highland Homespun Co. Challenge Cup, bagpipes strathspey and reel - 18 years and under: 1, Angus MacColl, Oban; 2, James Rosie, FW; 3, Rachael Anne MacDonald, Inverness. Wiggins Teape Ltd. Challenge Cup, bagpipes piobaireachd - 18 years and under: 1, Angus MacColl, Oban; 2, Rachael Anne MacDonald,

Inverness; 3, James Rosie, FW. Cool Mor Cup, bagpipes piobaireachd - 18 years and under: 1, Rebecca Shearer, Caol; 2, Ewen MacQueen, Inverlochly. Fort William Railway Social Club Challenge Cup, bagpipes jig - under 15 years: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Kyle Orr, Oban; 3, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle. Eilean an Fraoich Cup, bagpipes jig - 18 years and under: 1, Angus MacColl, Oban; 2, James Rosie, FW; 3, Rachael Anne MacDonald, Inverness. Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Memorial Trophy, bagpipes piobaireachd: 1, Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2, Angus MacColl, Oban; 3, Seamus O'Boaighill, Kyle. Miss MacRae Conchra Cup - Ben Fulford, Spean Bridge. Hugh MacPhee Memorial Quaich: Michelle MacKinnon, FW. Buchanan Sheild: Ally Weir/Finlay Cameron. Fort William Town Council Cup: Rachael Shearer, Caol. John MacLellan Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge. Evan MacRae Trophy: James Rosie, FW. Roddie MacDonald Memorial Quaich: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge.

Easter Holidays

AFTER the long nights of winter, Easter signals the start of the busy tourist season in Oban and along the west coast.

For many families - both north and south of the border - the school holidays offer the chance of a first much-needed break of the year.

And with many choosing to stay at home in such difficult economic times, holiday hotspots in the west coast and the isles will be hoping to reap the benefits.

Many businesses have spent the winter off-season preparing for the annual invasion of tourists, whether it's a complete overhaul or just a new coat of paint.

According to a survey by travel site ebookers.com, almost half of Scots are planning to take at least one locally-based holiday this year.

This is a trend backed up by VisitScotland figures which show the number of Scots holidaying on their own doorstep is on the up.

Those heading to the west will be assured of a traditionally warm welcome.

Easter eggstravaganza in Argyll's woodlands

Forestry Commission Scotland is inviting families to join with them for two fun events this Easter.

The woodland events at Carradale and Achnabreac are free with no booking required - just turn up and join in.

Helen Watt, Forestry Commission Scotland's Recreation Manager in West Argyll said: "Easter woodland events are always really popular and are a fun way to enjoy the great outdoors. The events are free and everyone is welcome."

Both events are on Easter Monday 25th April.

Event held at The Network Centre Carradale
Event Date: Easter Monday 25th April - Time: starts 11am ends 3pm
Warm clothing and outdoor footwear - No booking required. All activities free!
All children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult.
Contact Forestry Commission on 01546 602518 for more info and for other events in the area see local posters or check out our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/whelton

Easter Bunny Hunt: search for clues and find bunnies along the way. Meet at the Carradale Network Centre for this fun event starting at 11am and finishing at 3pm.

Easter Fun Trail: families can meet the magic forest bunny and enjoy chocolate Easter eggs at the same time! Meet at the Commission's Achnabreac car park on the A816 north of Lochgiphead. This event starts at 12 noon.

For more information call Forestry Commission Scotland on 01546 602518. Warm clothing and outdoor footwear is advised.

WAYPOINT BAR & GRILL

Opening Easter Weekend

OBAN MARINA Isle of Kerrera

Enjoy the finest seafood and local produce cooked up in front of you while taking in the views!

A courtesy ferry for customers departs from the North Pier. Please call for opening times and reservations.

www.obanmarina.com
Tel: 07840 650669 or 07840 627173

The Waypoint Bar and Grill opens for the season this Easter weekend. Open from 12pm serving up delicious fresh local produce. Our menu still has the favourites along with some exciting new additions to the specials board. A complementary ferry journey for Waypoint and Marina customers will bring you to Oban Marina on the island of Kerrera in just 10 minutes. The Ferry departs from the North Pier, Oban hourly throughout the day.

Families welcome. Why not make a day out of it. Get out of the town, relax and enjoy the fantastic views and taste some good local food then take in a walk on this beautiful island. It's a day out to remember!

Point Sands Holiday Park, KINTYRE

Children's Easter Egg Hunt - Easter Sunday

Camping, touring, holiday homes to hire. Private beach, woodland walks, cycle path. Children's Egg Hunt - Easter Sunday. Cara Cafe - fish & chips, paninis etc. Park shop, Play area. Showers, Laundry, Plate Wash. WiFi.

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www.pointsands.co.uk

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CORRAN HALLS

Monday 18th April

Scottish Comedy Agency Present

Sean Hughes

"Ducks & Other Mistakes I've Made"

Doors 7.30pm
Tickets Adult £14 Conc £12
Age 16+

BOX OFFICE 01631 567333 RESERVED SEATING

BOOK Review

CAUGHT by Harlan Coben

Harlan Coben's latest offering deals with uncomfortable world of pedophiles, a cauldron of innuendo, accusations and the power of fear mongering. TV reporter Wendy Tynes sets a sting to trap pedophiles - she captures more than she bargained for. But is it as simple and straightforward as it first seems?

What she discovers will lure you in, stop you from turning out the light. Coben's writing is as crisp as ever as he effortlessly introduces dots of detail, a smattering of his regular characters, and then connects them all into a picture you never expected. The novel is ultimately about the difficulty of forgiveness; easy to ask for, harder to deliver. Along the way it reinforces our trepidation of the incredible power of the internet's social networking sites, for good, or bad.

Paperback, £7.99

SOLOMONI Times and Tales from Solomon Islands by Roger Webber

Roger Webber now lives near Lochgiphead but for 10 years he was a doctor in this myriad of small islands in an often unseen world. The Solomon Islands progressed through being a British Protectorate, to self-government and finally gained independence. This book is a story of these years. It records a way of life that has all but disappeared, and segues with Roger's personal story; a tragic air crash that left him bringing up two young children. Webber's words make for light reading of what could be a weighty subject.

Paperback, £11

ROOM by Emma Donoghue

Told from the point of view of five year old Jack, he and his mother live in 'Room'. He has never known anything else. He doesn't know that he and his mother are prisoners and his world is about to be turned upside down. The relationship between a mother and child who ultimately only have each other is told such in a moving way despite sinister plot twists, while being a bit predictable, are very well portrayed. Emma Donoghue's storyline is compelling, the characters skilfully developed and believable. If you don't buy another book this year, buy this one.

Paperback, £7.99

BIRDWATCHING ON IONA AND MULL

This guide to the twitchers' paradise that is Mull and its outlying islands is put together by guide David Sexton, with illustrations by Phil Snow. It offers visitors, and locals, the knowledge of where, when and what to look for in the wide and wonderful world of birdlife on islands that are becoming the UK's most rapidly rising wildlife destination of choice. Not a book for everyone, but a good one of its kind.

Paperback, £4.99



Lochgilthead Fusion senior dance group. 15_113dance03

Stepping out in style at festival

OBAN High School hosted its annual Argyll and Bute Dance Festival with the prizes being shared throughout the county.

Twenty three teams from Oban, Hermitage, Lochgilthead, Campbeltown and Islay high schools competed with the junior team from Oban and the Hermitage seniors picking up the main awards.

In the junior competition Oban High's 'Robotics' was voted best overall routine and most entertaining, while runners-up, 'Kick', also represented from Oban High.

Hermitage 1 and M Style from Campbeltown Grammar were joint third, while Islay High School's Dizzy Dancers won best presentation.

In the senior section, Hermitage 4 were overall winners, while the prizes for second place and best presentation was won by 'Foothigh' from Campbeltown.

Third place and most entertaining went to Oban High School's 'Frankk'.

Jonathan Barton, vice principal of Ballet West, dance graduate Nicola McKie and former PE teacher Moira Barbour were the judges throughout

the day. Organiser Denise Gemmell said: 'Dance styles in the competition were varied, which made for a fantastic day of entertainment and some difficult decisions for the judging panel.'

'All dances in the competition were choreographed by the pupils themselves and the time and effort all groups put into their performances was evident.'

Contemporary

Before the results were announced in the afternoon, Nicola McKie performed a contemporary dance to Adele's 'Someone like you' and third year Ballet West students also entertained the pupils with Lady Gaga's 'Just Dance'.

Denise added: 'The amazing performances were well appreciated by all competitors and it rounded off what was an excellent showcase for dance in the Argyll and Bute area.'

Trophies were donated by Active Schools and Jonathan Barton gave complimentary tickets to the Best Overall winners of each competition to the Ballet West production, which is taking place in the Corran Halls on April 15.

In next week's Oban Times!

Win a two night break at the Isle of Mull Hotel. Plus, other prizes to be won courtesy of Mull & Iona Wildlife Week!

ScottishBallet

Love to Dance? Then audition for Scottish Ballet's Associate Programme!

Junior, Mid and Senior Associate classes provide a classically based training for boys and girls. Children can apply for Juniors (P6-7), Mids (S1+2) or Seniors (S3-5) starting in September 2011. Auditions will be held in May 2011.

Closing Dates
 Junior Associates: Monday 2 May
 Mid Associates: Monday 16 May
 Senior Associates: Monday 16 May

For an application form call 0141 331 2931, email anne.stephen@scottishballet.co.uk or visit www.scottishballet.co.uk

Classical concert raises £5,000

A CONCERT, performed by one of Scotland's finest classical musicians, has raised £5,000 for Argyll arts charity Crear.

Critically acclaimed Steven Osborne gave a fundraising recital in a bid to help the charity retain one of the finest pianos in Britain - a 9ft 6" Steinway D concert grand - in Mid Argyll.

The charity, which has had the piano on loan for the last six years, has been asked to buy the piano outright or lose it forever.

Faced with a bill of £36,000, Mr Osborne offered to perform his 1000th concert at Crear's studio, near Kilberry, where he performed Schubert's last three piano sonatas.

People travelled from Glasgow, Paisley, Edinburgh and further afield to hear the young virtuoso play the piano the charity holds so dear.

Steven received rapturous praise from his audience with music critic John Stewart calling him 'one of the greatest concert pianists Scotland has produced'.

'Schubert had a worthy champion in Steven Osborne at this concert,' Mr Stewart said. 'I am glad I was there.'

Mr Osborne follows a host of distinguished pianists that have played the Steinway piano including Dmitri Alexeev and the late great Yonty Solomon.

Lewis-based artist unveils fruits of winter's labour

AN ARTIST based on the Isle of Lewis unveiled her first solo exhibition in Oban's Kranenburg Fine Art Gallery last week.

Vega's art consists mainly of seascape, landscape and animal paintings and the paintings on show - all oils - are the results of her efforts during the winter months.

Vega said: 'I always wanted

to be a painter; nothing else has ever appealed to me.'

Inspiration

'The inspiration for my artwork comes from beautiful Lewis. As an artist, things can become very distracting and I try not to answer my house phone when I'm working but distractions do occur - and some of my paintings end up in the bin.'

Vega added: 'Sometimes I get an idea for a painting and I start it but, eventually, it changes over time.'

'There's always pressure on myself to do a painting but no pressure from anyone to do one.'

The selling exhibition, titled Beneath Hebridean Skies, continues until the beginning of May.



Lewis-based artist Vega. 15_115vega01

Music marathon in Skipperish

OBAN Pipe Band continues its Cash for Kilts fundraising initiative with its Sponsored Marathon Play in the Skipperish Ceilidh House this Saturday.

Pipers will be playing from 10am to 8pm and anyone who wishes to sponsor the players or make a donation can do so on the day.

The band's Pipe Major Euan Dewar said: 'Anyone who has a set of pipes will be made most welcome if they come along and give a tune or two.'

'Members of the public are also welcome to pop in and enjoy excellent piping and drumming and they might even get a cup of tea.'

Screen Machine rolls back into town

THE SCREEN Machine is rolling back into town to show some of the latest blockbusters.

On Monday April 18 until Thursday April 21 the mobile cinema will be in Atlantis Leisure car park, Oban.

There will be cinema to suit all tastes and every member of the family.

It's all the fun of the Feis in Oban

FIVE days, 14 tutors and a band of willing volunteers raised the bar yet further for Feis in Oban.

Feis Lathrana saw 121 children take part in instruments as diverse as fiddle, clarsach, accordion, tin whistle alongside other adventures with charity Stramash.

Euan MacPherson, treasurer of Feis Lathrana, said: 'It was a great week.'

Activities

'All the children seemed to love being involved with the activities we had planned for them,' he added. The group will continue with

weekly lessons for children in many of the instruments taught in the Feis.

The lessons take place on a Saturday morning from 10am until lunchtime.

For more details look at the organisations website www.feislathrana.org



On the fiddle with Innes Watson. 16_115feis3



Fiona Blakely and Kevin Baker put the finishing touches to the art exhibition space in Oban Library. 16_114library1

Library makes an exhibition of itself!

VISITORS to Oban Library are now able to take in much more than literature and computers as it now also offers a visual arts hanging space.

In the first few weeks the library will be showing off a collection of photographs from Nigeria.

The exhibition Still Life was taken on disposable cameras in the AIDS torn country. The images are very hopeful and make a wonderful

glimpse into a world that many may never see. Kevin Baker, of Oban Library, said: 'I have been thinking about an exhibition space for some time and it is great to see it finally come into fruition.'

'The next exhibition will be part of the fabulous Argyll Collection.'

'We are looking forward to showing off some of the wonderful pieces in the council's collection of art from late May to early June.'

Stramash voted top for outdoor activities

CHARITY Stramash is number one on the online consumer site Tripadvisor.com.

The social media site has the newly formulated social enterprise at the top of the pile for providing outdoor activities in Oban. With a fully booked programme for teenagers this Easter, the group is about to launch its summer programme for children aged between five and 17.

Newsdesk:
01631 568000

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Alex du Toit
 Saturday 16 April
 Port Appin Hall 2.30pm
 All welcome!
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
 Scottish Charity No. SC029411

FIDDLER'S RALLY CONCERT
SATURDAY 23rd April, 2011
CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
 At 7.00 pm
 Guest Artists:
 Riona Whyte & Fiona Jappy (Duets)
 Paul Anderson (champion fiddler)
 Tickets £8 and £6.50 concessions
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Doric Quartet & Kathryn Stott (piano)
 7.30pm Wednesday 4 May 2011
Karen Matheson & guests
 7.30pm Wednesday 18 May 2011
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 Advance tickets only: £22
 Under 18's free
 Buffet supper: £15
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 E: concerts@crear.co.uk
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 Saturday 16th April
 12.00 - 2.30
 In the Church Hall,
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 Entry £3.00 - All welcome
 In aid of Church funds

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 Please ask for details

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gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Thursday > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Night 9pm-11pm
Every Thursday > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Club Night 11pm-2am
Every Saturday > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Club Night with DJs 11pm-2am
FRI 15th April > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Live Music with TNT
SAT 16th April > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Live Music with Jon MacKenzie
FRI 22nd April > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Live Music with Chris Suckle
SAT 23rd April > Skipperish Ceilidh House	Live Music with Crooked Reel

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Estate agent Jackie in running for national award

OBAN estate agent Jackie Moore, of Bell Ingram, has been shortlisted for a national award for her individual excellence in client care.

A residential lettings manager, Jackie manages a range of properties across the west coast from the Oban office.

Her attitude, friendly manner and dedication to good quality service has won her plenty of praise, not least from the clients who nominated her as one of the UK's finest.

Currently in a list of 27, Jackie could be judged as one of just five individuals to receive the Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards' Highly Commended Award.

The final of the competition, sponsored by zoopla.co.uk, will be held at a ceremony in London this Friday.

This is the first time the competition has recognised individual excellence as opposed to just firms, by shortlisting 27 members of staff from more than 400 UK agencies.

The agency itself has also been shortlisted as a top 10 estate agent in Scotland.

Director of Bell Ingram in Oban Paul Nicoll said: 'We take our levels of customer service very seriously because we know clients have a choice.'

'We have always been very proud of the personal service we provide, so this is a great way to demonstrate how good we really are.'

Competition manager Simon Brown said: 'The ESTAS has always been, and will continue to be, a team competition, but we also believe staff who have been integral to the customer service experience should be recognised.'

'We are therefore highlighting individuals based on the comments we have received from the thousands of customers who have completed questionnaires.'

Strategy group will act as catalyst for tourism industry

A TOURISM strategy group will be taking forward a number of suggestions from a top level visitor summit held in Oban.

Argyll and Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership is a collaboration of experts working with visitors throughout the area. The group, which led a well-attended event in Oban's Corran Halls, will act as a catalyst for the development of the tourism industry.

Deputy chairman Mike Story, of Mull, said: 'The tourism strategy group will be the main driver for developing the field in Argyll and the Isles.'

'There is a fantastic opportunity for new potential and we are delighted so many industry leaders are helping us move the group forward.'

Island B&B reaches gold standard

TOBERMORY bed and breakfast Cuidhe Leathain has won the Scottish Tourist Board's Gold Award.

The gold star is a recent addition to the VisitScotland quality ratings and has been brought in to highlight establishments within its Quality Assurance Scheme that strive to exceed customer expectations.

VisitScotland has said that the stars will only be given to a few select establishments.

Owners Alan and Jeannette Hodson are overjoyed at their latest accolade. Alan said: 'To us, Mull is the most wonderful place in the world and we try to ensure all our guests have the opportunity to appreciate the island as much as we do.'

Specially built Mull factory promises freshest scallops on menu

From the sea to plate in just six hours

A SPECIALLY built factory is the key to serving up some of the freshest scallops in Scotland.

Tobermory's Isle of Mull Scallops say it is really making all the difference when it comes to reducing the time from sea to plate.

Calum MacLachlainn and Alan 'Winker' MacLean started the business in late 2010 and already they have built up a client list of the great and good in local Scottish restaurants.

The unique selling point of Isle of Mull Scallops is that the men not only run a factory but they also own the two boats collecting the shellfish and have a distribution area as close to the Balliscate premises as possible.

Allan said: 'In days past it would

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

have been eight hours steaming to Oban before the scallops were opened and distributed.

'What we have now is a product that is brought from the fishing grounds close to the factory.'

Fresh
Calum added: 'Our product is sustainable, fresh and Scottish. People have been farming these waters for at least the last 80 years, when the Irish came all the way to the waters around Mull to farm them, and there is no noticeable drop in numbers of scallops that we are able to farm. 'This is not intensive fishing.

We have reduced our carbon footprint by not steaming all the way to Oban every day.

'We are able to employ local men and women. In fact we have two young men who have just left school who have come to work with us in the factory.'

'The Isle of Mull Scallops brand guarantees freshness.'

The scallops are served in a number of local restaurants including the Waterfront in Oban and Mull.

Calum continues: 'We want to keep the scallops as close to Mull as possible. They are, after all, best eaten as soon as they can be. 'Some scallops will be sea to plate within six hours. No one can compete with that. We are very proud of our product.'



Workers at Isle of Mull Scallops with a batch fresh from the sea. 16_t15scallop1

Reuben's a real one-off when it comes to furniture



CRAFTSMANSHIP has always been on the agenda for Reuben O'Connell as he studied boat building before moving into designing his own furniture.

An opportunity to move premises and have a workshop on his doorstep was too much of a pull not to set up business in furniture making full-time.

Reuben said: 'Since my partner and I came to Mull we have managed holiday cottages. It is a great job but it also gives plenty of time to work on my real passion which is making furniture.'

For Reuben, being traditional is not only about making the furniture by hand - it is about ensuring he has the finest traditional tools as well. Much of his equipment looks out-of-fashion but with the angles and finishes on his work, they are certainly not out of date.

Reuben is influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, which can be seen in his chairs, tables, benches and cabinets. He trained with master craftsman

Reuben O'Connell craftsman and fine furniture maker from Mull. 16_t15crafts1

David Savage, a renowned chair maker.

Reuben counts Savage as one of his influences. This can be seen from his dining room chair - a wide shape on the nape is countered by a sharp soft angle on the legs.

'I hope I give clients exactly what they want. My work is in making one-offs. People want something extra special but I also believe they should be practical.'

'I want to know where every bit of wood I am using comes from.'

'I get ideas for design from all over the place - maybe it will be a recycled piece of ebony as a finishing for a jewellery box or the grain in the wood influencing the shape.'

'I would go as far as to say I have an obsession with trees and my favourites are old Scottish hardwoods. There is something quite special about using an old tree that has fallen down in the winds and turning it into a piece of furniture that will last a life time.'

Reuben's website can be viewed at www.reubenfinefurniture.com.

Enterprising Craig picks up Young Scot business award

MULL'S Craig Rutherford has been named as one of the country's most enterprising youngsters by picking up Young Scot Enterprise award.

Craig, 20, of Fionnphort, received the award in recognition of his achievements for establishing his own successful plant firm, Rutherford Plant, despite operating in the teeth of the recession.

He received his Sunday Mail-sponsored award at a star-studded awards ceremony in Glasgow's Hilton Hotel at the weekend, where he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Alesha Dixon, and X-Factor favourites Olly Murs and Shayne Ward.

In the last year he has strengthened the construction sector in Mull and supported many farmers and local residents, who would otherwise have had to look off-island for plant operators.

Judges were won over by his friendly disposition and phenomenal application to work, which has won him many long-term clients on Mull.

Craig, who spends his spare time competing in the Scottish Junior Rally classes, said he was surprised by overjoyed to win the award, and said he intends to steadily grow his business by providing a full range of plant operations in his locality.



Craig Rutherford, who received a Young Scot Enterprise award after establishing his own firm on Mull.

Jobs boost as old Soroba Lane community centre begins life as contemporary café

EXTENSIVE repairs, careful redecorating and thorough attention to detail has transformed one of Oban's most well-known buildings into a stylish, contemporary café.

Creating four new jobs, The Bridge opened at the weekend in the old community centre in Soroba Lane, and is soon to expand with the addition of a new, separate, family fun zone, Go Bananas, featuring a soft play area, a toddler's play zone and miniature bumper cars.

The business is the brainchild of Sara and John MacPherson,

directors of Soft Play Café Ltd, better known for their days operating Midgie Bites catering van.

However, even they didn't foresee how big a challenge it would be to transform the building, that suffered substantial water damage because of a leaky roof.

John said: 'It took us six months to renovate the building. It was a significant feat.'

'We have to say a big thank you to our family and friends who helped us through this and without whom we'd be nowhere.'

Among those the couple said they owed a debt of gratitude to are Robert MacPherson of Robert's Floor Coverings, Sharon Pirie at Expressions and Rob Russell at McNiven Electronics.

Local produce
The Bridge will concentrate on local produce, among other things becoming the first business in Argyll to use grated Mull Cheese, and will use only FairTrade produce wherever possible.

Art will be on the tables - literally - thanks to local artist Alice Strange and The Bridge could soon be a venue for local

musicians, with relaxed gigs being considered for the future.

Upstairs, Go Bananas will offer arts and crafts, fun games and a safe environment, and will offer a drop-off facility for parents looking to do their shopping safe in the knowledge that the kids are having fun in a safe and friendly environment.

Sara, who is leaving nursing after 20 years to run the business, said: 'Lots of people are saying how great it will be that we're doing this in the old community centre, as they have fond memories of it.'

Independent operator to trial Tobermory timetable

AN INDEPENDENT Oban ferry operator is to trial a new timetable for the coming three weeks to take people to and from Tobermory.

The trial service from Coastal Connection started this week will complement the operator's existing day trips to the island, but is aimed at offering more convenience for locals and visitors alike.

One of the key selling points

will be a 6.30am departure from Mull on Saturday mornings, arriving in Oban by 7.30a, giving people the opportunity to catch the train to Glasgow.

Interest

Struan Smith, who runs the ferry with his brother Cameron, said: 'We decided to do a trial because there was quite a bit of interest from locals.'

'We've been running the ferry since 2008.'

'In that time we've talked a lot with the people in Tobermory, so that's why we thought we'd see if there's enough demand,' he added.

The trial will run until Saturday, April 30, but if it is successful, Struan said they'll simply keep on offering the service.

For more information, check the website at www.coastal-connection.co.uk or phone 01631 565833.

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www.macphee.co.uk

Ultimate in corporate sailing adventure sets sail from Oban

MOTOR dealer and Scottish businessman Sir Arnold Clark is bringing the ultimate in corporate hospitality to the west coast of Scotland this month.

For the first time in the yacht's history, Arnold Clark Drum will be chartering out of Oban.

The Maxi racing yacht, formerly owned by Simon Le Bon of Duran Duran, was designed by Ron Holland to compete in the Whitbread

Round the World Yacht Race. But it will be available to the general public to treat guests to an exciting and invigorating trip on board.

Magnificent
A well-known sight in the magnificent sailing waters of the Firth of Clyde in Scotland, Arnold Clark Drum will be chartering out of Oban by popular demand from those who have chartered her in the past from her home port of Rhu.

Jenna voted employee of the year

JENNA Shaw from Ardrihaig has received Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) first Employee of the Year award.

Working from ACHA's Mid Argyll office at Dalriada House in Lochgilphead as an administration officer, Jenna's award came as a result of nominations from her colleagues and members of the public.

A panel of her peers deemed her the association's hardest working employee.

Chief executive of ACHA Alastair MacGregor said: 'I have known Jenna as a colleague for six years and she is an incredibly hard working and conscientious member of staff.'

'This award is fully merited and reflects the enormous respect that Jenna has from her colleagues and members of the public.'

Jenna receives the first ACHA Employee of the Year award from Chief Executive Alastair MacGregor.



COASTAL CONNECTION TOBERMORY FAST FERRY

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Please see our website or give us a call for more information and the timetable.



Frances Woodhead of Tiree Glass says Business Gateway helped her enterprising efforts find focus.

Helping hand appreciated by businesses

FOLLOWING the launch of Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway service across the whole of the area two years ago, entrepreneurs have been able to benefit from free practical advice and support to help their business develop.

The range of support includes experienced business advisers, business skills workshops, a national helpline and a website providing comprehensive information.

'Business Gateway has helped an increasing number of new and existing businesses in its second year,' explained councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for enterprise.

'The feedback from those who have received support shows that businesses appreciate the help on offer. I would urge any business owner looking for help to start, grow or survive to get in touch.'

Research shows that 86 per cent of those receiving Business Gateway support locally are satisfied with the service they received.

'Business Gateway helped me to focus my ideas for the marketing and overall vision for my new glass business,' explained Frances Woodhead, who recently started Tiree Glass, creating a range of unusual handmade products on the Isle of Tiree.

'They were able to help with finding funding towards marketing costs and got me thinking more widely about how my business would operate.'

'Since its launch in 2009, the Business Gateway team has supported more than 275 start-up businesses across Argyll and Bute, delivered more than 150 workshops and assisted more than 500 existing businesses. In the Oban, Lorn and the Isles

area this year, local business adviser Nicky Archibald has supported 26 new start-ups and 124 existing businesses. To find out more, ring Business Gateway on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com

Lochaber-based businesses can also benefit from support via Business Gateway.

'We would encourage anyone thinking about self employment to pop in and discuss the support available,' said Simon Purdon, Regional Development Officer based in Fort William.

Local client Megan MacNeill of Highland Functions said: 'Business Gateway was enthusiastic and supportive, giving me the confidence to go ahead.'

'I attended a networking conference and a number of workshops which gave me skills and information that I use in the everyday running of the business.'

The Fort William office can be contacted on 07787 283 216.

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cfirth@wyvexmedia.co.uk
01631 568013



ADVERTORIAL



Building your own home has never made more sense

By Peter Hall, Scotframe Timber Frame Homes

AGAINST today's backdrop of falling house prices and restricted mortgage funding, there has never been a better time to build your own home.

The majority of self-builders will also avoid paying Stamp Duty as the tax is only levied on the cost of the land and not the value of the completed property. As such, a great many plots will fall under the £125,000 threshold.

Another tax which those building their own home will avoid is VAT.

All of the VAT charged on the self build project can be claimed back and when refunded could run to many thousands of pounds.

Timber frame construction is by far and away the most popular choice for self-builders in Scotland. Companies such as

Scotframe, which specialises in providing a complete timber frame package, can support the customer with a 'one stop shop' allowing them to individually tailor the design and 'feel' of their new home.

Also taking in to account the healthy savings which can currently be negotiated on land and build costs at present, together with highly sophisticated services offered by timber frame package companies such as Scotframe, there has never been a better time for people to build their own home.

Self build roadshow

If you would like to find out more about self build, or have a project planned, Scotframe is holding a Self Build Roadshow at the Caledonian Hotel in Oban on Wednesday April 20 and Thursday April 21 from 10am to 7pm on both days. Feel free to go along and meet the team.

For further information contact Peter Hall at Scotframe on 01467 626843.

Discard rules, says fishing federation

'EMERGENCY' fishing regulations introduced for the west coast of Scotland in 2009 must be scrapped now, says the chief executive of the Scottish Fisherman's Federation.

Bertie Armstrong says the measures have done nothing but cause unnecessary discards and has called on the European Parliament to walk away from its intent to leave things as they are until the Common Fisheries Policy reform in 2013.

Greater regional control, he says, will not only help reduce discards, but help manage stocks in a sustainable fashion.

His call comes after a proposal to amend the rules fell at the last hurdle last Friday.

Mr Armstrong said: 'The objective of the 'emergency' management measures that have been in place since 2009 were stock conservation, but in practice, they are actually the source of discarding.'

'These totally unwarranted measures unfairly preclude our

fishermen from diversifying into the sustainable harvesting of other species such as squid and queen scallops and inevitably result in the discarding of valuable fish.

'In spite of the odds, we decided that we had to chase the matter, on behalf of the industry, right to the end.'

Realistic goal

'Lobbying visits to the European Parliament were made in March to help our campaign. Since a more complex amendment had previously failed and was certain to do so again, we decided that the only realistic goal was to take haddock from the catch composition rule and transfer it into the Long Term Management Plan.'

'Unfortunately, although the amendment made it through to the voting process, it failed at the last hurdle with the Parliament failing to support it.'

'It was particularly unfortunate that we didn't receive the full support of the Scottish Government in our campaign.'

'This sorry episode only serves

to underline the urgent need for greater regional control of our fisheries where sensible measures can be introduced to ensure sustainable fishing.

'The current situation is only going to result in continuing hardship for our west coast fleet and the discarding of good quality haddock for which quota is held.'

The background to the measures can be traced back to 2008 when a European Commission proposal to rewrite the existing technical conservation measures was made. Voluminous and complex, the proposal failed to achieve agreement before the arrival of the new legislative procedure of co-decision with the European Parliament.

As a result, emergency management measures were introduced for the west coast, which included the 30 per cent cod/haddock/whiting catch composition rule, as well as closing down the queen scallop and squid fisheries by default.

A sporting chance for new venture



Sports fanatic Billy Thomson opened the doors on his latest venture on Saturday, The Sports Shop, in Oban's Argyle Square. The shop, located in part of the former Jean Shop building, is set to fill the retail gap left by Intersport. Billy said: 'I am excited but a bit nervous about it too. I've heard some horror stories about starting a new business in a recession and I know I am risking a lot but I've had great feedback from people about the prospect of a new sports shop. That gives me more confidence.' Billy, right, is pictured with Jonathan MacMillan and Malcolm Croarkin. 15_115sportsshop01

Approval for Dunoon dive academy

THE PROFESSIONAL Diving Academy (PDA) in Dunoon has received British Accreditation Council approval at its first attempt.

The new status demonstrates that PDA demonstrates standards of management, training and student welfare to standards that meet or exceed those set out by the body.

PDA's training manager Neil MacMillan said: 'Our direct

interface with the diving industry ensures that our training remains entirely in tune with modern industry demands and furnishes our graduates with important working skills - reinforcing their present reputation of being a beneficial asset for any recipient employer.'

PDA is owned by entrepreneurs Tom Brannan and Alastair Baird, who began training divers to commercial standard in late 2004

in direct response to an apparent lack of basic working skills of many new divers entering the industry in preceding years.

It has since gone on to establish an international reputation for developing and implementing highly advanced diver training courses, with independently audited sub-sea construction and inspection modules complementing the HSE training syllabus.



Craig Connor, left, is joined by Dennis Chamberlain and centre-favourite Selkie for a picture in the turtle room at the Scottish Sea Life Centre. 16_114selkie01

Craig dives in to take top role at Barcaldine's Sea Life Centre

THE SEA LIFE Centre's new manager has gone from the 'Best Job in the World' to what he describes as a 'real privilege'.

One time winner of a year-long holiday job for lastminute.com, Craig Connor has now taken up the top post in Oban.

After only a few weeks in the job he has already starting bringing in aquatic rarities thanks to a new team of senior staff.

Craig said: 'It is a real privilege to come to Barcaldine and join one of the happiest, most diligent teams I have worked with.'

Craig studied tourism in Manchester before applying for the lastminute.com job titled 'The Best Job in the World'.

'There were lots of people in for it and eventually there were three of us appointed. I travelled all over the world writing about my experiences. Amongst many countries I visited were Spain, New York, Gambia, Luxor and I travelled all over the British Isles.'

'It was after spending three days at Alton Towers that I got a job with Merlin, the

parent company for The Scottish Sea Life Centre.'

Craig was a manager in Weymouth before coming to Oban. He says: 'I want the community to come back to see all the new exhibits we have in Oban.'

'For people who have not been for a few months they will be surprised at all we do have to offer.'

'We have everything for the weird and wonderful to the positively see through.'

Otters
'We also have Brendan the seal, who simply keeps coming back every time we release him into the wild and two amazing otters.'

Over the last year the centre has employed two senior members of staff. Dennis Chamberlain has joined the team as a display supervisor and Pete Coombes who is a senior aquarist looking after the health of the many rescued animals in the centre's care.

Many of the fish and species at the centre are rescued from all over the country.

Search begins for best young entrepreneurs

YOUNG entrepreneurs from Argyll and Bute, Lochaber and the Western Isles are being offered the chance to win up to £11,000 in a nationwide competition.

Shell LiveWIRE's Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards are now in their 29th year and it is hoped more young businessmen and women will enter this year's competition than ever before.

The 2011 competition has changed its rules for qualification to the final - which carries a £10,000 top prize - as applicants must now enter and win a monthly Shell LiveWIRE Grand Ideas award, which in itself offers a £1,000

prize. The competition is open to young entrepreneurs from 16-30.

Tiree firm Roots Design Consultancy reached last year's final, but were pipped at the post by Birmingham's Jessica Grosvenor, 25, whose freelance training and consultancy business scooped the top prize.

Since winning the award five months ago, Jessica has opened two new offices, including one in London, and taken on 15 extra staff.

She said: 'It's been a whirlwind experience since winning the Shell LiveWIRE award.'

'It raised our profile amongst potential customers whilst the money that I won is going to be invested into our learning centres in London and Wolverhampton to help people boost their skills and get back to work.'

James Smith, chairman of Shell UK, said: 'Entrepreneurs can breathe new life into our economy.'

'The Shell LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards provides a vital boost to entrepreneurs across the country.'

For more information, or to apply, log on to www.shell-livewire.org.

Priorities for economic recovery

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has announced the four priorities it will pursue over the coming years to support Scotland's economic recovery.

Over the next three years, HIE will aim to support businesses and social enterprises to shape and realise their growth aspirations; strengthen communities and fragile areas; develop key sectors, particularly distinctive

regional opportunities and create the conditions for a competitive and low carbon region.

Plan
The 2011-14 Operating Plan comes into effect this month and is the organisation's first since Alex Paterson became chief executive last August.

Mr Paterson said: 'The opportunities and prospects for the Highlands and

Islands over this decade are exciting and significant.'

Potential
'In particular, I want the Highlands and Islands to fulfil its potential as an internationally-significant hub for renewable energy and to use superfast broadband to become one of the most digitally-connected regions in Europe,' he added.

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CARER
 Required to help family of 67 year old disabled man who is mentally alert but in a wheelchair with limited speech.
 Remote Glen 18 miles South of Oban
£150 per week net Part Time plus tied small cottage
 Contact 01866 844212
 Email: maolachy@firenet.uk.net

Lanterns@10 are seeking to appoint a **Workshop Manager** to assist with the running of the Lantern Parade. This is a part time temporary post running from May to December 2011. For more details please contact Ailsa Raeburn araeburn@tiscali.co.uk 01546 850 335. The closing date for applications is 2nd May 2011.

shanks. waste solutions.
 Shanks Group plc is one of the UK's largest waste management companies and, with its operations in Belgium and the Netherlands, is also a leading independent player in the European market. Employing over 3500 people and based at 100 sites, the group offers a wide and innovative range of waste management solutions within its various collection, transport, recovery, recycling, treatment, disposal, remediation and local authority contracts.
Lead Driver Argyll & Bute
 Based at Lingerton Landfill Site, Lochgilphead and reporting to the area manager, your main duties will include:
 • Servicing of containers on civic amenity sites, transfer stations and recycling banks from various recycling sites throughout Argyll & Bute.
 • Communicating with drivers regarding customer service information.
 • Addressing day to day issues within the depot.
 • Processing and filing of drivers records.
 • Liaising with vehicle service provider (servicing, inspections etc.)
 • Any other duties as reasonably requested.
 Candidates must hold a class C+E LGV licence, be physically fit and active and have a flexible approach to work. Knowledge of all transport legislation and working time regulations is required and previous experience of RoRo work would be preferred. In addition, you will have previous experience of scheduling vehicles combined with good communication skills, both verbally and written and the ability to work well both individually and as part of a team. The ability to follow written and verbal instructions accurately is essential.
 To apply please send a CV and covering letter quoting reference number 576S to Sue Purchase, Shanks Waste Management, Human Resources Department, Pontyfein Industrial Estate, New Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 0SH.
 Closing date for applications is 29 April 2011.
 No agencies
 We are an equal opportunities employer.

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MEARS
 Making People Smile
CARE WORKERS required to provide a quality care at home service to Service Users living in their own homes in Oban and surrounding area. **SENIOR CARE WORKERS** also required. Full time and Part time hours available. Also weekend workers. Experience preferred but not essential as a comprehensive training programme is provided. The use of a car is essential. We offer competitive rates of pay and a PVG Scheme record will be requested. We are an equal opportunities employer.
 If you are interested in either of the above posts please call 01631 566506 Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 17.00 p.m.

Immediate starts for **General Operatives/Roller Drivers/Site Dumper Drivers** with relevant CSCS/CPCS cards please contact MCR on 0044-2030269162.

Farm Workers Required to assist with **Livestock / tractor work plus general estate maintenance.**
01586 830352

Temporary BT Phone Book Distributors Wanted
0800 0182500 or jobs@linkdirect.co.uk

ACHA
 Argyll Community Housing Association
Component Accountant
 Lochgilphead
 Salary : £35,875 - £42,206 per annum
 35 hours per week
 Argyll Community Housing Association Limited wishes to procure component accounting project delivery support for an initial fixed term contracted period of six months. The contract is open to submissions from both individuals and/or firms with suitable skills sets. To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk ; Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 28th April 2011
 Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead in May 2011.

STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE
 Strathclyde Fire and Rescue are recruiting for **Firefighters Retained Duty System (RDS)** for Oban station. Interested in helping to provide an invaluable emergency service for your local community? available to respond to emergency calls day or night within 5 minutes, aged 18 or over, physically fit and in good health, unaided vision and colour perception? Applications are processed only through the On-Line Recruitment Portal at: www.myjobscotland.gov.uk
 Closing date 08/05/11

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
 It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.
 Regional Press

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 Please also visit our website: www.arguscare.co.uk.

Argyll Voluntary Action
 We **urgently** require a **Temporary Volunteer Outreach Worker.**
 This is a 6 month full time (neg) post @ £11.00 per hour to develop and promote volunteering, supporting volunteers and volunteer involving organisations and volunteer hubs to thrive and grow.
 Contact: email office.ava@btconnect.com or telephone 01631 564839 for an application form, closing date is 21st April 2011
 Reg Charity No. SC029947
 Company No. 277345
<http://www.argyllcommunities.org.uk>

Graphic Design
 Short Term Contract
OBAN
 The Oban Times requires a graphic designer to work on a variety of print related products and publications. It is envisaged that the requirement will commence late May/early June for a period of 3-4 weeks. Ideally candidates will have the following:
 Knowledge of working on PC's, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.
 A good eye for design, typography, colour sense and a keen eye for detail.
 The ability to produce print ready artwork.
 Please apply with a CV and any examples of work to: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE
 Bealach An Righ, Oban
Care Home For the Elderly
 A vacancy has arisen for a part time **Domestic/Laundry Assistant**
 £7.03 per hour
 For an application form contact Manager Morag Telfer. 01631 562168
 Closing date 2nd May

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 Require
A Community Living Worker
 Who lives and will work in the Oban and Lorn area
 Salary: £14,470 per annum, pro-rata (£7.42 per hour) for a flexible 16 hour week
 Full induction and good development opportunities will be provided
 If you would like to find out more about this exciting post, please phone 0141 314 0027 for an Application Pack.
 Closing date: Thursday 21st April
 Interviews: Thursday 28th April (provisionally)
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 Web: www.neighbourhoodnetworks.org
 Email: info@neighbourhoodnetworks.org

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 Contact as soon as possible. Call: 07880 891 851 or E: info@sandaislanddreams.com

NORTH WEST MARINE DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
Assistant Administrator
 The post holder will be assisting with the day to day administrative activities supporting the operation of a busy Oban based marine/diving company. Duties will include answering customer and supplier calls, day to day communication with work teams, basic stock administration & general office admin. Applicants will need to be computer literate and will also require a clean driving licence. Hours are 8.00am till 5.00pm. Salary commensurate with experience.
 Please contact The Business Services Manager on 01631 565740 or email your CV to enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk or send to 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, PA34 4HG

CROSSROADS (NORTH ARGYLL)
 We are looking for an administrator with knowledge in Word and Excel and the capacity of working independently.
 The post is 12 hours weekly with a starting hourly rate of £8.90.
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 For an application pack please contact Bette Hunter on tel:01631562277

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 SCV safety cat2 for 14 persons
 All equipment in date and included
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£47,000.00 including VAT.

PRELUDE 4 BERTH YACHT

 Designed by Ian Proctor. Built by Ridgeway Marine.
 Red hull, Fixed bilge keels, Launching road trailer.
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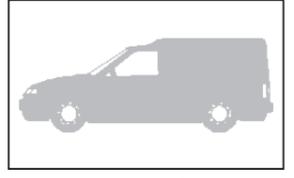


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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Table with 4 columns: Reference Number, Development Address, Proposal Description, Alternative locations where application may be inspected. Includes entries for 11/00929/FUL, 11/01147/PIP, and 11/01152/FUL.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984
THE A828 TRUNK ROAD (CONNEL TO SALACHAN GLEN CYCLE TRACK)
(REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE)
ORDER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on 28 March 2011 the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 2(1) and 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 made the above-mentioned Order. Copies of the Order as made and accompanying plans have been deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Reception, 9th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT; Munro's Supermarket, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QP; Connel Post Office, Connel Village Store, Connel, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PA; Port Appin Community Co-op, Port Appin, Argyll, Argyll PA38 4DE; and Argyll and Bute Council, Kilbowie House, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4PF and may be inspected there free of charge from Tuesday 12 April 2011 to Tuesday 10 May 2011 during normal business hours.

A C MCLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Buchanan House, Glasgow
28 March 2011



Argyll Bute Council logo and website information: To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 05/05/2011

- List of planning applications with details: Ref No: 11/00328/PP, Ref No: 11/00429/PP, Ref No: 11/00452/PP, Ref No: 11/00465/PP, Ref No: 11/00478/PP, Ref No: 11/00497/PP, Ref No: 11/00504/PPP, Ref No: 11/00505/PP, Ref No: 11/00510/PP, Ref No: 11/00513/PP, Ref No: 11/00473/PP, Ref No: 11/00474/PP, Ref No: 11/00476/PP, Ref No: 11/00482/PP, Ref No: 11/00524/PP, Ref No: 11/00464/PP.

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardsheigh PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardsheigh PA30 8DX by the 05/05/2011

- List of planning applications with details: Ref No: 11/00473/PP, Ref No: 11/00474/PP, Ref No: 11/00476/PP, Ref No: 11/00482/PP, Ref No: 11/00524/PP, Ref No: 11/00464/PP.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

- SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS
Ref No: 11/00464/PP
Applicant: Bossards Patisserie
Proposal: Change of use of footpath to outside seating area
Site Address: Bossard's Patisserie Gibraltar Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4AY
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

CROFTERS COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Table with 2 columns: Applicant, Croft, Case number, Extent & Purpose. Includes entries for John F MacDonald and Mrs Helen M A Ferguson.

Within 14 days of the date of this newspaper - Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land.

Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Table with 2 columns: Name, Croft, Case Number, Extent approved, conditions. Includes entry for Angus M Bell.

Conditions
(2) complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction.
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Within 42 days of the date of this newspaper any member of the crofting community in the locality of the land may appeal a decrofting decision (excluding croft house site and garden ground) to the Scottish Land Court

Oban Times Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Family Transfer by Executor of a Croft

Miss Joan Fiona Tester, Executrix of the late Mrs Mairi Ann MacDonald Tester is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the croft at 7 Balemartine, Isle of Tiree to Alasdair Campbell of 7 Balemartine, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6US.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 12 May 2011.

Please note that any comments received by the Crofters Commission are part of an open process and will be made available to myself and any interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Scottish Gamekeepers Association

OPEN MEETING
Victory Hall, Benderloch
Thursday 21st April 7pm

Speakers: SGA Chairman Alex Hogg
Colin Lavin FCS
Andrew Campbell SNH
All welcome Refreshments

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
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Notice for Expressions of Interest to provide Catering Services at the Scottish Marine Institute

SAMS seeks an experienced caterer with their own off-site cooking and preparation facilities to provide hot and cold food and beverages to its staff students and visitors and its purpose built teaching facility situated at the Scottish Marine Institute campus at Dunstaffnage just outside Oban.

Full details of how to apply can be found on the SAMS website www.sams.ac.uk

Please send your completed PQQ to tenders@sams.ac.uk by 29th of April at 15:00pm to register your interest.

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Mallaig Harbour Authority Harbours Act 1964

Notice is hereby given that The Mallaig Harbour Authority has applied to the Scottish Ministers to make a Harbour Revision Order under Section 14 of the harbours Act 1964.

The object of the proposed Order is to revise the constitution of the Authority in accordance with the guidelines outlined in The Government publication 'Modernising Trust Ports - A Guide to Good Governance' (DETR and The Scottish Executive, 2000). A copy of the draft Order may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Messrs MacLeods WS, Solicitors, 13 Lombard Street, Inverness and at the Harbour Office, Mallaig, Inverness-shire.

Any person who wishes to object to the application should do so in writing (stating the grounds of objection) to Scottish Ministers, c/o Transport Scotland, Ports and Harbours Branch, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or by email to Harbourorders@scotland.gsi.gov.uk within forty two days from the date at the foot of the page. Any objector or person making representations should note that all responses will be treated as public documents.

MacLeods WS, Solicitors, 13 Lombard Street, Inverness Agents for the Mallaig Harbour Authority 12 April 2011

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CORNER CABINET genuine antique, top section, 2 shelves and base shelf, Tudor glass front, enclosed section below, original locks and keys, vg condition, £250 Telephone 07990 671534

CARVED OAK BEDROOM SUITE dressing table, double wardrobe, tallboy, twin single beds, all matching, £300 ono Telephone 01838 200398

CHEST OF DRAWERS Edwardian inlaid mahogany, good condition, £150 ono Telephone 01838 200398

DRESSING TABLE Edwardian inlaid mahogany, £150 ono Telephone 01838 200398

KEN ALLWAY WATERCOLOUR No 31 Sleep. Girl sleeping on blue water, owl above, size 29" x 36", £45 Telephone 01631 730557

POT CUPBOARD Edwardian inlaid mahogany, good condition, £1000no Telephone 01838 200398

BABY EQUIPMENT 2 TRAVEL COTS complete with carry holdalls, can double up as a safe playpen, hardly used, £20 each Telephone 01631 565252

BABY BOYS CLOTHING newborn/6 months, 170+ items outfits, sleepsuits, vests, jumpers, towels and more, all in great condition. Please text if no reply, £30 Telephone 07810 876042

BABY BOYS CLOTHING 6/12 months, 150+ items, outfits, jackets, vests, sleepsuits, trousers and more, all in great condition. Please text if no reply, £30 Telephone 07810 876042

BABY BOYS CLOTHING 1/2 yrs clothing, 150+ items, sets, trousers, jeans, jackets, jumpers and more 15 items brand new without tags. Please text if no reply, £30 Telephone 07810 876042

BABY CHANGING UNIT/DRESSER solid wooden changing unit with 3 drawers and shelves/2 doors. 113 x 90 x 55cm, white. Must pick up, £49.99 Telephone 07880 876634

BABY MONITOR & CAMERA SYSTEM big clear TV screen to watch baby when in another room, £30 Telephone 07880 876634

BATH SEAT yellow. Baby bath seat, from approx 6 months/or when baby can sit unaided - 12 months, £5 Telephone 01631 720305

BUMBO red baby support seat, suitable from approx 3 months-18 months, £10 Telephone 01631 720305

CHANGING MAT brand new, blue and red-boyish, £6 Telephone 07880 876634

COT TOP CHANGER wooden cot changer, fits most cots, £10 Telephone 01631 720305

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EMMALUNGA PRAM beautiful black/silver pram and pushchair base, too many accessories to list. Cosytots alone cost £60. Great condition, £80 Telephone 01631 710007

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NAPPIES 20 real nappies, some cotton, cream, pink and lilac. Great condition. Can be sold individually, £200 Telephone 01631 712001

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CYCLING SHOES with cleats, size 7 as new worn once, £10 Telephone 01631 565241

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE Dawes, blue, in good condition, £48 Telephone 01631 710846

SPIDERMAN BICYCLE HELMET good condition, would suit 4-8 years, £5 Telephone 01631 564364

BOOKS "TRIALS OF LIFE" by David Attenborough signed by author, slight flyleaf damp damage otherwise good condition (Kerrera), £12 Telephone 07840 753751

KEYBOARD TUTOR electric keyboard tutor & CD rom teaches you everything you need to know, Oban, cost £20, will sell for, £30 Telephone 07747 492780

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IKEA FLOATING SHELF long light oak veneer shelf, attachments inc, £20 Telephone 01631 720369

MARLEY MENDIP ROOF TILES over 300 Marley Mendip concrete roof tiles in good condition. Free to uplift, £ Telephone 01631 562711

MYFORD SUPER 7 LATHE 3 & 4 Jaws, chucks, face plate, collets, change speed wheels, dividing head with 1 & 2 plates, £1200 Telephone 01838 200398

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ROOF BARS pair of Paddt Hopkirk Roof Bars, hardly used, £20 Telephone 01586 554256

ROOF BARS VW PASSAT 2005 ON Cruz roof bars for VW Passat 2005 - 2011. Hardly Used, £40 Telephone 01880 820011

ROOF BOX Karrite Contour 320, silver top, black base, approx 130cm length x 80cm width. Max load 50kg, ex cond with free roof bars, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562274

CHEST OF DRAWERS 420 litres, very good condition, fit any roof bars, £49 Telephone 01880 820011

WHEEL TRIMS two Astra wheel trim, £10 Telephone 01586 554256

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CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

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PERSONALS

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Happy 21st Fraser

Love from Mum and Dad xx

"...he made himself the Son of God."

Do you see Jesus Christ as a false professor and only a man, or The Lord who died for your sins as your substitute, what think you of Him?

MISCELLANEOUS

BRASS ITEMS large assortment of brass ornaments, candlesticks, ornaments boxes, birds, plates etc, bargain, £30 Telephone 01631 720369

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PERSONALS

Happy 21st Fraser Love from Mum and Dad xx

"...he made himself the Son of God." Do you see Jesus Christ as a false professor and only a man, or The Lord who died for your sins as your substitute, what think you of Him?

MISCELLANEOUS BRASS ITEMS large assortment of brass ornaments, candlesticks, ornaments boxes, birds, plates etc, bargain, £30 Telephone 01631 720369

MOBILITY DISABLED STAIRLIFT Free to uplift, good condition. Telephone 01631 750179

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In Memoriam: Minimum charge £9.45 (+ VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+ VAT) Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classifieds Page for Rates

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Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

BIRTHS



BULLEN - MORRISON

To Glyn and Jenna, a beautiful baby daughter, Sofi, born in Edinburgh on March 15, 2011. Fourth grandchild for Johnnie and Meg Bullen, Penicuik. First grandchild for Elliot and Tricia Morrison, Oban, and a great-granddaughter for Ruth Morrison, Aberdeen.

CAMPBELL - Paul and Emma (née Broad), are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah, on Friday, March 25. A wee sister for Scott. Hannah's proud grandparents are Alan and Linda Campbell, Balerno and Margaret and Denis Broad, Tobermory.



MACINNES - Peter and Lorna (née Paterson) are delighted to announce the birth of their handsome baby son Donald James at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on April 1, 2011. Donald's proud grandparents are Bruce and Jan Paterson, Giffnock and John and Annabel MacInnes, Isle of Iona.

RUBY WEDDING

MACLEAN - MACLEAN - On April 16, 1971, at Torosay Parish Church, Isle of Mull, by the late Rev James MacRurie, Jimmy to Rena. Present address 27 Pulpit Drive, Oban, Argyll

DEATHS

BOYD - Neil Murray, son of the late Neil and Jane Boyd, 18 Lochaber Road, Kinlochleven. Beloved husband of Kathleen Walker (Kitty) passed away peacefully aged 90 on April 7, 2011 in Milton, Ontario, Canada. Dearly loved father of Janet, Jean, Margaret and Neil, a much loved father-in-law and grandfather. Sorely missed by all.

CADDENS - Margaret (née MacLeod), formerly of Nevis Terrace, Fort William. Peacefully at Abbotsford House Care Home, Glasgow, on April 6, 2011, aged 102, beloved wife of the late Thomas, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service was held at Glasgow Crematorium on April 9. A special thanks to the staff at Abbotsford Care Home for their care and attention.

DAWSON - Bill of Crunachy Farm, in his 74th year. Peacefully on April 6, 2011 in the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness. Husband of Alison, father to Candy, William and Julie. Grandpa to Hans and Anna. He will be sadly missed by all.

HUME - Suddenly on April 8, 2011, at the Lorn and Isles Hospital, James Hume, Dundale, Breadbane Street, Oban, much loved husband of Elizabeth (Eala) Hume and devoted father to Jim, Brian, Caroline, Morvern and Fiona and treasured granpa. Sorely missed, family flowers only please.

McKEOWN - Suddenly at home, on Saturday April 9, 2011, Patrick, dearly loved husband of Cynthia and much loved father of Margaret.

McNEIL - Suddenly after a short illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Saturday April 9, 2011, Marjory Brownie Alexander McNeil, loving mother of Ian, Aileen, George and the late Gordon, mother-in-law of Jill, Andrew and Elizabeth and a devoted gran and very chuffed great gran. Funeral will take place from St Moden's Church, Benderloch on Monday April 18 at 1.30pm. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Cancer Research and Marie Curie Cancer care.

WILLIAMSON - Peacefully and with family around him on April 6, 2011, in Glenaray Ward, George (Geordie) Williamson, in his 89th year, of 24 High Bank Park, Lochgilphead. Dear husband of the late Allie and a loving and much loved father of Alexis, Sylvia, Gladys, George and Mavine and adored grandfather, great grandfather and uncle. A good neighbour and a dear friend to many. Funeral Service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DANSKIN - The family of the late Jim Danskin would like to thank everyone for their support and sympathy at this sad time. Special thanks are due to all who visited Jim and cheered him up; to Brian and Janice for their constant help and support, to the staff at the Easdale Medical Practice for their care and kindness; to Donald MacKinnon for his help, comfort and guidance, to Ken, Graham and Donnie for their musical contributions and to the Hoey family for their sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements. £653.80 was collected for the British Heart Foundation.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a wonderful wife and mum, Linda, who died April 14, 2007. Always in our thoughts.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our mum and granny Linda. In our hearts everyday

CAMPBELL - Linda, died April 14, 2007. Forever in our thoughts.

CAMPBELL - John (Ian) We thought of you with love today but that is nothing new

We think of you in silence, we often speak your name All we have are memories and your picture in a frame Your memory is our keepsake which will never part

God has you in his keeping but we have you in our heart.

With love Your girls xxx

JOHNSTON - Treasured memories of Ruth, a much loved wife, mother and nana who passed away on April 16, 2010. "Unforgettable". The place you rest we visit And place each flower with care

But only we know the heartache As we turn and leave you there

- Inserted by Donnie, Fiona, Peter, Iain and their families.

JOHNSTONE - In loving memory of Jimmy, dearly loved dad and papa, passed away April 13, 2009. Lovingly remembered.

- Scott, Linda, and Rachel, Gregor, Marion, Scott and James.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Chrissie MacDonald, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg, who died April 15, 1998 and her husband George who died November 9, 1985.

MACEWAN

Remembering today and every day, Callum, who died suddenly on April 12, 2007.

Those we love don't go away They walk beside us everyday.

- Joan and all the family.xx

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa Alastair, who died April 13, 1994, also remembering our dear mum and gran Jean, who died June 23, 2001.

Dad no words no verse could ever say How much we miss you everyday

A loving thought, a silent tear Forever wishing you were here

We miss you Dad, we always will.

- Alastair, Donnie, Lorna, John and families

MACINNES 50th ANNIVERSARY In loving memory of our uncle Farquhar, whose life was tragically and recklessly ended in a motor accident near Dunblane on April 13, 1961, aged 20 years.

A little corner of our hearts is set aside for you As long as life and memories last

We will remember you Inserted by Margaret and Elizabeth

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Agnes (née MacDonald, Tree), who died April 19, 2009.

Lovingly remembered every day.

- Anne, Isabel, Campbell, Kirsty, Campbell, Katie, Lawrence and Thomson.

MACKENZIE - Cherished memories of our lovely mum, gran and great gran, Betty, died April 15, 2002. Love and miss you lots.

- Donald, Alex, Betty, Gina and families xxxx.

PROSSER MAXWELL - In memory of Yvonne, darling daughter of Richard.

Remembering you is easy I do it everyday Missing you is heartache That never goes away.

- Dad x

STEELE - Precious memories of our sister Morven who died on April 20, 1984.

- Morag and Alan.

WILLIAMSON - Treasured memories of a much loved father, James Stewart Williamson (Jimmy), Scrap Metal Merchant, Fort William, who died April 12, 1997.

Whatever else in life I do I never fail to think of you Sadly missed.

- Linda, Richard and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Oban High School Main Hall 10:30am All Welcome www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church Sunday 17 April 2011 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 17 April 2011 Palm Sunday St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15 Loop System

Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.00

Advance Notice Thursday 21 April 2011 Maundy Thursday St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Eucharist.....19.30 St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Eucharist.....11.00 Friday 22 April 2011 Good Friday St John's Cathedral, Oban

Children's Service.....10.00 The Good Friday Watch.....12.00 - 15.00

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Mattins, Litany, and Ante-Communion.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Quiet Service.....14.00

Saturday 23 April 2011 Holy Saturday St John's Cathedral, Oban

The Easter Vigil.....20.00 (Candlelit Service in preparation for Easter Day)

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mod fundraisers enjoy a cuppa and cake



A FUNDRAISING coffee morning on Saturday, held in the Masonic Lodge was organised to help raise funds for the Commun Gaidhealach an Obain (Royal National Mod in Oban) at the end of September. Agnes MacLean, one of the organisers said: 'We are expecting a good turnout which will help raise more money for the Mod. Some people have been working extremely hard to raise funds, especially through the winter months.' 15_115coffe01

OBITUARIES

Good Friday will not be the same without Canon Roy

THE Good Friday reflection in Christ Church, Lochgilphead, has become an ecumenical tradition in Mid Argyll.

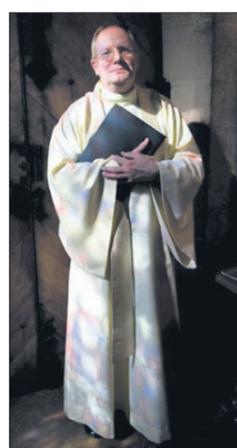
Hosted - there can be no other word - by Rev Canon Roy Flatt, it attracted not only members of his own Scottish Episcopal congregation, but Catholics, Baptists, Quakers, and Presbyterians of all denominations.

Although Roy always 'led from the back' - a technique he admired in American jazz musician Rob Carter - his absence this Good Friday will be sorely felt.

That absence will also be felt in the many fields of activity in which he was so actively engaged - within his own church, as a tireless promoter of ecumenism, as a champion of the rights of people of disability, and within the arts.

Born in Bury St Edmonds and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, he moved to Scotland to study at the University of Strathclyde Library School.

By the age of 19 he was branch librarian at the Taylor Trust Library in Crieff and it was there that he met and married Andrina Ferguson, a fellow librarian. His two sons, Andrew and Alexander, were born in 1980 and



Rev Canon Roy Flatt, who is survived by wife Andrina and sons Andrew and Alexander.

1985. He was ordained as a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, in 1981.

In 1983, Roy was appointed rector at Christ Church, Lochgilphead and St Columba's Poltalloch.

He was priest-in-charge of All Saints Inveraray from 1983 and diocesan secretary of Argyll and the Isles from 1983-1987. He was diocesan dean from 1999-2005 and honorary canon at St John's Cathedral, Oban, from 2006.

Roy was respected for his ecumenical work, hosting and organising ecumenical events throughout Mid Argyll.

He didn't only represent the Scottish Episcopal Diocese but unusually was also ecumenical relations officer for the Presbytery of Argyll from 2004.

He became president of the Rotary Club of Lochgilphead in 1991 and in the run-up to the millennium he led the Lottery Funding for the Mid Argyll Local Heroes Project.

This spawned many continuing activities, including the now widely admired annual fund-raising Lantern Festival in Lochgilphead.

Roy wasn't just a form-filler, however. He took an active role in fund-raising and competed keenly in a Lochgilphead bed race, pushing an

occupied bestead down the main street.

Internationally known and respected for his work with people of disability, he believed that everyone is entitled to inclusion. Deaf from childhood, he took to wearing a red hearing aid not only to signify his refusal to be defined or confined by deafness but to underscore the 'born in' mantra that he spread to others.

He was an active member of many NHS and care committees, including the Scottish Churches Disability Agenda Group, and was a regular at Lochgilphead Resource Centre, indulging his sense of fun in the dance and drama groups for people with mental health issues he'd helped establish.

His passion for art, history and music was reflected in all that he did, whether it was campaigning to restore the medieval Kilmichael Cross, or leading a group to create stained glass windows for Christchurch.

Quirky, imaginative and compassionate (he was treasurer of the M.A.L.L., a Mid Argyll charity providing education for vulnerable youngsters in Zambia), he leaves a void in the Mid Argyll community.

Marian Pallister

Royal British Legion stalwart will be sadly missed

THE DEATH of Mr Jock Healy at Broadford Hospital on 23rd March cast a gloom over the area. He was 78 years old.

Jock, who lived at Northside, Drumbuie, Kyle, was born in Glasgow but sadly his mother died when he was a baby. His father found it impossible to cope with a family of five on his own so Jock and his two brothers and two sisters were taken into care by the social services.

At the age of four Jock and his brothers were fostered out to a brother and sister Alick and Annie Grant who ran a hill farm in the braes of Glenlivet.

Jock attended the primary school in Chapelton and then later at Tomintoul junior secondary school.

After leaving school he worked for a few months at the local sawmill and then in June 1949 he began work as a part time postman while also helping out on the farm.

He did his national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1952-54 and was stationed at BMH on the Suez Canal.

After demob he resumed his work as a postman in Aviemore before becoming a postal and telegraph officer at Kyle where he worked at the counter for the next 33 years and retired in 1997.

He married Margaret Finlayson in 1961 and this year was their 50th year together. They had a daughter Heather and a son David and later two grandchildren, Freya and Duncan.

Jock had a very active life being a vital member of many organisations over the years. He was very active in

the work of the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland being a member of nearly 50 years and an office-bearer for 32 of those years and he was presently branch president.

Without a club it is difficult to retain membership of the legion but thanks mainly to Jock the Lochalsh branch still has over 80 members.

Jock loved music and was a member of the SW Ross piping society for over 30 years. He loved singing, being a member firstly of the Lochalsh Gaelic choir and then the Strath Gaelic choir for over 30 years. He also sang at many ceilidhs and won a trophy at the National Mod in Stornoway in 1979.

Jock loved football and was a referee for over 25 years. He was also a keen crofter.

Jock was a key member of the fellowship of local alcoholics anonymous for over 40 years and he brought much help and encouragement to countless people during that time.

Jock's health had been failing over the last couple of years but he faced it with his usual courage and fortitude and was well looked after by Margaret and his family.

With Jock's passing the community has lost a valued and respected and much loved member who will be deeply missed.

A very large crowd attended the funeral service in Kyle Church of Scotland conducted by Rev John Murdo Macdonald. The collection of the Lochalsh Gaelic choir and then the Strath Gaelic choir for over 30 years. He also sang at many ceilidhs and won a trophy at the National Mod in Stornoway in 1979.

Jock loved football and was a referee for over 25 years. He was also a keen crofter.

Jock was a key member of the fellowship of local alcoholics anonymous for over 40 years and he brought much help and encouragement to countless people during that time.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

SEE! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.' (Song of Songs Ch.2 v 11 - 12)

Struggling through snow and ice just a few weeks ago it seemed that spring would never come.

But it has arrived, at it always does. In a world where so much is uncertain - jobs, health, relationships - the predictable rhythm of the seasons gives us a sense of stability.

And yet - what of Japan, and those other disaster areas which were once headline news?

The world, quite literally, is not as stable as we would like to believe. Global warming? Maybe. The wrath of God? Surely not.

That image does not sit comfortably with the loving God we meet in Jesus.

Geologists tell us that if the world stopped shifting and heaving and erupting and shuddering it would die.

We live on a relatively young planet, which is still evolving, and these tectonic movements are to be expected and will continue to happen.

To scream 'WHY?' and look for someone, or some power, to blame is no help.

A more constructive response, from those of us fortunate enough to live in a relatively stable part of the planet, is to respond with compassion, in offering whatever practical help we can, along with our prayers, and perhaps we should remember to count our blessings and stop whining about the relatively minor inconveniences which nature throws our way!

Rev Joyce Watson, Isle of Iona

Guest speaker outlines church social care scheme

A GROUP of members of Muckairn Church Guild met on Monday, April 4. Convener Stella Huntingford led the meeting and prayers before secretary Marlene Stanners gave a reading from Matthew 25, where visiting a prisoner is one of the acts included in the quotation: 'Whenever you did this for one of the least important...you did it for me.'

The hymns sung were 'Amazing Grace' and 'Christ is the World in which we move.'

Concluding the session's topic, 'Called to Love Mercy' Iain Russell came from 'Cross Reach', Edinburgh, to speak on the project: 'On the Other Side' which we are supporting with a coffee morning on May 7.

He said the Church of Scotland's organisation 'Cross Reach' is the largest provider of social care in Scotland, helping a variety of vulnerable people by providing drop-in centres, re-hab centres, respite care and other support.

The project 'On the Other Side' is for a visitor centre for the prison in Perth and as yet is the only one of its kind.

Eleanor MacBain gave a vote of thanks.

Tea and discussion was followed by the annual general meeting. The committee remains the same with the addition of Ivy Smart.

Mid Argyll festival funding cut

FESTIVALS throughout Mid Argyll have had their funding slashed by Argyll and Bute Council for the next 10 years.

Festival committees, which applied for third sector funding for their 2011 events, have been told their funding will be cut by 50 per cent between 2010 and 2022, as the local authority struggles to support 28 voluntary groups with a reduced budget.

The Mid Argyll Area committee voted to apply a blanket policy to grant applications for third sector funding, which sees events and festivals that have received funding for two years or more have their grant cut by 50 per cent.

The Mull of Kintyre Music Festival was the only event exempt from the cut, receiving £3,500.

The Mid Argyll Music Festival, Tarbert Festivals Committee and Lanterns@10,

which organises Lochgilphead's annual Lantern Parade, have collectively lost almost £3,000 this year.

Chair of the Mid Argyll Music Festival, Jane Macleod, said: 'The Mid Argyll Music Festival, along with the Festival in Tarbert and the Lantern Parade in Lochgilphead add to the richness and variety of life in Mid Argyll.'

'The festival goes a long way to help support local businesses.

'It is the duty of our politicians to promote business and trade in Argyll and Bute and to ensure that the area has a strong community life with excellent leisure facilities,' she added.

'Cutting small grants to music festivals will not help Argyll and Bute Council achieve its ambitions.'

GRADUATIONS



Catherine Cameron graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Paediatric Nursing from Glasgow Caledonian University in November 2010. Former pupil of St Columba's Primary and Oban High School. Catherine is the daughter of Patricia Cameron and the late Stewart Cameron, 19 Lunga Road, Soroba, Oban.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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WEDDINGS



Roy McLuckie and Gillian Campbell, both of Oban, were married at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on October 2, 2010. Their reception was held at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.



Mhairi MacLachlan, Kilmonivaig and Tim Grimisditch, London, were married at Keil Church, Lochaline, on March 19, 2011. Their reception was held at Ardtornish House, Morvern. The couple now live and work in London.

Five out of five for Kyles as they dump the Fort at An Aird

Tighnabruaich outfit 'starting to believe' they can compete with teams at the highest level

DEFENDING Scottish Hydro Premier Division champions Newtonmore will meet the young pretenders to their throne on Saturday as camans clash with Kyles Athletic.

The Tighnabruaich outfit have been the pace-setters so far this season with five wins out of five, including away victories at Inveraray and, last weekend, Fort William.

Touted as a team with potential for the past few seasons, a new focus and change of mindset has been the difference, according to trainer James Perlich.

'In the past, if we had beaten Inveraray or Fort William away from home the boys would come off the pitch thinking luck had been on their side but now they are starting to believe that they have deserved these results.'

'We are starting to believe we can compete with these teams and there will be a belief this weekend at Newtonmore that we can go there and achieve something.'

'We have made a perfect start to the season but Saturday will be a real test and there is no point in getting carried away.'

The Badenoch derby is one of shinty's most eagerly awaited fixtures - and Newtonmore and Kingussie didn't disappoint with an action packed 2-2 draw on Saturday.

Craig Dawson opened the scoring for Kingussie in an even game after 22 minutes, but the home side drew level just after the break through Glen MacIntosh. He grabbed his second of the game 20 minutes later, but Kingussie grabbed a late equaliser when Dawson scored again with six minutes left to play.

There was a black mark for The 'More when Paul MacArthur was sent off for violent conduct in the second half.

Kingussie club president Ali Brown told *The Oban Times* the draw was probably the right result.

He said: 'We had the better of the first half, but the second half was pretty even. Neither keeper really had a lot of saves to make.'

Kings expect to put out the same side when they travel to take on Fort William on Saturday, although Martin Dallas may be available. Ronald Ross' recovery from injury continues and he will turn out for the second team this weekend to build up his fitness.

'It will be a tough game,' Ali said. 'But our boys are playing

well and we are hopeful of winning the game.'

'Fort William are bringing in some younger boys as well. I've not seen them so far this season so it will be interesting to see how they line up.'

Inveraray coach John Smylie fears a forwardline crisis on Saturday after revealing all four of his preferred strikers are a doubt for the game against Kilmallie.

Gary MacPherson, Euan McMurdo, Russell MacKinlay and Grant Griffin are all doubts for the away tie but there is some consolation for Inveraray in that young Neil Campbell seems to have found an eye for goal in recent weeks; he scored two of the Royal Burgh's three goals last Saturday in a 3-1 win at Mossfield against Oban Camanachd.

John said: 'Gary, Euan, Russell and Grant are the four I would have started with, were they available, so I am expecting a tough game against Kilmallie.'

'Neil Campbell has been in and around the first team set up for a couple of years now and seems to be taking his chance just at the right time.'

Last week's match against Oban Camanachd began well for the home team when Lewis Cameron turned two defenders before hitting his shot at the keeper; Daniel MacKinnon was on hand, however, to slip the ball into the net.

However, an immediate response from Neil Campbell levelled the tie and further goals from Campbell and a second half Russell MacKinlay strike ensured the points went back to Lochfyneside.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan hopes his side can start picking up more points at home, starting this Saturday against bottom-of-the-table Glenorchy.

In what is traditionally a hard-fought match, Camanachd will be clear favourites.

Diarmid said: 'We are determined to start picking up points at home as we have about seven home fixtures coming up.'

'We will still be missing Ian Campbell due to an injury in the opening game of the season.'

'We have all the makings of a good squad, we just need to start clicking to start a good run off and I'm sure we will get it together for this weekend's match.'

Kilmallie are looking to get their league campaign back on

track on Saturday but visitors Inveraray will prove a handful.

The Blues were on the wrong end of a 5-1 beating at Glenurquhart last weekend and are desperate for a win against one of the middle ranking teams to pull away from the foot of the table.

Against Glen, yet again Kilmallie failed to turn pressure into goals and only had a Liam MacDonald strike to show for their labours.

Their cause was not helped by injuries to Michael Rodger, Marlyn Stewart and Peter Carmichael who all had to leave the field.

However, Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre says all three should be fit for Saturday, while John Stewart will also be available after he missed last Saturday's game because he was fagged at Stornoway airport.

'It will be a hard game for us, but there will be no major changes. This is a vital home game and it is up to us to start scoring goals. Our centre line and defence are playing reasonably well but we really have to start taking our chances,' he said.

Lovat got the confidence booster they wanted in their 6-0 demolition of Glenorchy last Saturday.

Four goals from Greg Matheson and strikes from Lewis Tawse and Craig Mainland ensured they got into this weekend's game in fine scoring form - but coach John MacRitchie knows local rivals Glenurquhart will be a different proposition to Glenorchy at Balmage Park.

'Last Saturday's game gave us quite a bit of confidence, but Glenurquhart are a big strong physical team and they did well against Kilmallie last Saturday.'

'We played them three times last season and drew 1-1, lost 2-1, then 2-1 in extra time in the cup so it has always been tight between us - and I don't think it will be any different on Saturday.'

Lovat are likely to be without Drew Howie (knee ligaments) and James Grieve (back injury) but will have Lorne Mackay available again after suspension.

Iain Nicolson will also make a return to the squad after returning from work commitments in Manchester.

The floodgates finally opened for goal-shy Glenurquhart when they put five past Kilmallie at the weekend.

After netting just once in their first three league games, the

Drumadrochit side opened the scoring with a goal from Rhuaridh Cameron after just three minutes.

Calum MacAuley got his first of the game 10 minutes before halftime to put the home side two up.

Liam MacDonald pulled one back for Kilmallie just after the break, but three goals in nine minutes from Cameron, MacAuley and Neale Reid secured a comfortable victory.

Manager Jim Barr said he was encouraged by his new-look front line.

'That was the first time Rhuaridh and Calum have played together, and they formed a good combination.'

The Blairbeg Park men face a local derby away to Lovat on Saturday and will be looking to build on what has been an encouraging start to the season.

'They are always close games,' Jim said. 'Last year you could hardly split us. I hope to be able to put out the same squad. It's nice to get a bit of consistency.'

Glenorchy's uphill battle to stay in the Premier League has been made that bit steeper with the loss of key players and coach Allan MacKeechne hopes his makeshift team can make a game of it against the inconsistent Oban Camanachd at Mossfield on Saturday.

Alex MacPherson (broken jaw) is the latest long-term casualty and he was one of eight first team players missing from last weekend's defeat at Lovat, when four goals from Greg Matheson put the Dalmlaty team to the sword.

Allan said: 'Things have got to change because it doesn't look good for the club to have these scores every week.'

'Until we get something resembling our strongest 12, however, we are not going to do ourselves justice.'

'We will be short of experienced players again on Saturday, so it won't be the real Glenorchy, but the boys that come in to the team have the opportunity to show what they can do.'

Fort William will look to bounce back from their home defeat to high-flying Kyles by turning over Kingussie on Saturday as they look to get their premier league title bid back on track.

Fort were somewhat unlucky to lose out in last Saturday's thriller when a wonder strike by Kyles' Grant Irvine for 3-1 right on half time proved crucial.

John MacLeod had cancelled out Dunkie Kerr's 20th minute opener only for Thomas Whyte to restore Kyles' lead - then came Irvine's rocket to stun Fort at the break.

A solitary Gary Innes goal seemed scant reward for Fort's second half pressure as Kyles held out to extend their league lead to four points.

Fort's defeat gives added significance to the Kings game and coach Peter MacIntyre will almost certainly will be without Gordie MacKinnon, whose broken finger is still healing. John MacDonald suffered bruised ribs against Kyles, but should be fit.

'We missed Gordie on Saturday, he is so good at picking up the scraps and moving the ball on,' MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*.

'Kingussie, through their draw at Newtonmore, showed they are hitting a bit of form.'

'We won the corresponding fixture last year 6-0, but we are not expecting that score on Saturday, that's for sure.'



Fort William's John MacLeod goes in to block this clearance from Kyles defender Peter Currie during the clash at An Aird. Photo: John MacFavish

Back to league action after cup ties

LOCHCARRON president Henry Dalgety was far pleased with his side's performance on Saturday - despite a 2-0 win against Taynuilt in the Balliemore Cup first round.

'We weren't anywhere near our best,' he said. 'We have a long way to go before we can get back to where we were last season.'

The match was a low-key affair at Taynuilt Sportsfield, with Criostadain Finlayson scoring both goals for the North Division One side.

They return to league action this weekend, welcoming league leaders Kinlochshiel to Battery Park. It will be Lochcarron's first league game since March 5, something Dalgety feels has affected their form.

He said: 'We haven't had games on consecutive Saturdays yet. Once we get some games under our belt, we will improve. Everybody knows their position and what they need to do.'

Kinlochshiel handed out a 7-1 thrashing to Kilmory in the Balliemore Cup and coach Johnston Gill is expecting a tough match against their local rivals.

'Lochcarron, I promise you,

will be difficult - they will be hard and they won't yield to us in any sense. It is a local derby and they will be up for it - as we will be.'

'It is a game we want to win to keep our momentum going, but for some reason or other it is always very close. They will pull out all the stops, but fortunately we still have a full pool of players available.'

Lochaber cruised through the second round of the Balliemore Cup with an 8-0 crushing of Inverness at Bught Park.

Manager Michael Delaney said: 'The game was over as a contest after about 15 minutes.'

'They boys kept a high tempo throughout the first half, and we played some lovely shinty. We were moving the ball around well, it was a really good display.'

Michael will have Neil MacDonald available for this weekend's trip to Skye.

He said he was wary of this game after suffering a heavy defeat there last season.

'They hammered us right across the park last year,' he said. 'But we're a different side this year.'

Sutherland has urged his team to continue the form they showed last weekend when they welcome Kilmory to Jubilee Park.

Despite the absence of injured captain Darren Sutherland, Ballachulish defeated a strong Glasgow Mid Argyll side in the Balliemore Cup.

Willie said: 'Kilmory always give us a tough game but if we can play like we did last Saturday I am confident of taking full points at home.'

'We were brilliant last Saturday. David MacPhee made a few important saves and at the end of the park we took our chances.'

'GMA are just down from the premier league and they really hammered us twice last season, so this result should give us the confidence to get back on track.'

Skye Camanachd make the switch back to North Division 1 duties against Lochaber after grinding out a hard fought Balliemore Cup win at Strathglass.

The Skyemen men had to dig deep to earn their cup victory, edging a penalty shootout 3-2 after Alan Palmer and Robbie MacDougall's goals had cancelled out Geddes' double for Strath in

open play. Free-scoring Lochaber will be a tough proposition for Nui MacDonald's side, whose cause remains handicapped by the absence of several key players because of long term injuries.

Shockie MacLennan, (ankle), Kerr Gibb (ankle) and Martin Bruce (broken hand) are unlikely to return on Saturday, but on the plus side all three could be available within two weeks. Jamie MacDonald, however, remains out with knee damage.

'Lochaber will be one of our more difficult games, but we have done quite well against them in the past two seasons,' MacDonald said.

Oban Celtic coach Davy Hamilton said he couldn't remember the last time he had 12 players unavailable to him.

But that was exactly what happened before last Saturday's trip to Caberfeidh, which resulted in Celtic conceding the Balliemore Cup first round tie.

This Saturday, however, is a different proposition, as the Oban derby against Lochside Rovers is one all his players will have noted in their diaries.

'The first Lochside Rovers game is the one the boys all look out for when the fixtures are announced,' said Davy.

'Hopefully we'll have players back from injury for the Lochside game.'

Lochside, meanwhile, warmed up for the local derby with a win in the Sutherland Cup.

'The game against Celtic is our biggest of the season so far and I expect to have a full squad, although David Devine may be struggling to make it,' said co-manager David MacInnes.

'There will be no excuses on that front.'

David admitted the recent league defeat to Taynuilt was deserved but has proven to be a shot in the arm for his young charges.

They easily beat Kilmallie on their own turf, with Matt Rippon, playing his first match of the season, scoring two of their goals. Matt was one of the stand-out performers, along with his brother Josh and Chris Munro.

Brian MacCallum and David Lafferty also scored for the visitors before David Devine knocked in the fifth with the goal of the game.



Jump to it: Taynuilt's Steven Parr takes evasive action from this clearance by Lochcarron's Mark Sproule. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Inveraray's Davy MacPherson and Oban Camanachd's Andrew McCuish tussle for the ball during last Saturday match at Mossfield. 07_115shinty03

Shinty results, fixtures and league tables

Results: Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup First Round
Glenurquhart 4, Newtonmore 3; Kilmallie 1, Lochside Rovers 5; Lochcarron 4, Beaulie 5; Inverness 1, Lochaber 7; Kingussie 5, Strachur 3; Aberdeen University v Lochbroom - postponed; Glengarry 9, Bute 0; Col Glen 1, Inveraray 3; Taynuilt 0, Tayforth 2; Skye 5, Fort William 3; Boleskine 0, Caberfeidh 3.

Balliemore Cup First Round
Caberfeidh v Oban Celtic - postponed; Ballachulish 3, Glasgow MA 1;

Taynuilt 0, Lochcarron 2; Strathglass 2, Skye 2; Kilmory 1, Kinlochshiel 7; Inverness 0, Lochaber 8.

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Preliminary Round
Fort William 2, Kyles Athletic 3; Lovat 6, Glenorchy 0; Glenurquhart 5, Kilmallie 1; Newtonmore 2, Kingussie 2; Oban Camanachd 1, Inveraray 3.

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Bute 9, Aberdeen 0.

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kinlochshiel 7, Lovat 1.

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Strathglass 4, Ardnamurchan 3.

Fixtures: Saturday April 16
All throw-ups 2.30pm unless otherwise stated

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round
Aberdour v Strathglass
Ted MacDonald

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Fort William v Kingussie
David Mitchell
Kilmallie v Inveraray
Charles Young
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Donald MacRae
Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic
Deek Cameron
Oban Camanachd v Glenorchy
Billy Wotherspoon

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulie v Caberfeidh

John MacLeod
Lochcarron v Kinlochshiel - 3pm
Evan MacRae
Skye v Lochaber
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Dougie Cameron
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Taynuilt
Jim Innes
Kyles Athletic v Bute
Colin MacDonald
Oban Celtic v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart v Skye
Graeme MacMillan
Lochaber v Lovat
Daniel MacRae
Kingussie v Fort William
Jock Matheson
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore

John Angus Gillies
Lochaber v Kilmallie
John Sloggie

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour v Ballachulish
Ewan MacDonald
Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Gus Campbell
Strachur v Bute
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen University v Beaulie
Graeme Irvine
Ardnamurchan v Boleskine
Kevin Cheeseman
Caberfeidh v Lewis - 12.30pm
Willie MacRae
Lochcarron v Lochbroom - 12pm
throw up
Iain Kennedy
Strathglass v Inverness
Innes Wood

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles	5	5	0	0	10
Kingussie	5	2	2	1	6
Newtonmore	4	2	1	1	5
Fort William	4	2	1	1	5
Glenurquhart	4	2	1	1	5
Inveraray	4	2	0	2	4
Oban Camanachd	5	2	0	3	4
Lovat	4	1	1	2	3
Kilmallie	4	1	0	3	2
Glenorchy	5	0	0	5	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	2	2	0	0	4
Lochaber	2	1	0	1	2
Caberfeidh	2	1	0	1	2
Beaulie	2	1	0	1	2
Strathglass	2	1	0	1	2
Lochcarron	1	0	1	0	1
Inverness	2	0	1	1	1
Skye	1	0	0	1	0

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	3	3	0	3	6
Lochside Rvrs	4	3	0	1	6
Taynuilt	4	2	0	2	4
GMA	2	2	0	4	4
Kyles	3	2	0	1	4
Ballachulish	3	2	0	2	2
Kilmory	3	1	0	2	2
Aberdour	3	0	0	3	0
Oban Celtic	3	0	0	3	0

Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Glengarry	3	3	0	0	6
Newtonmore	4	3	0	1	6
Kingussie	4	3	0	1	6
Fort William	2	2	0	4	4
Kinlochshiel	5	2	0	3	4
Skye	5	2	0	3	4
Lochaber	5	2	0	3	4
Glenurquhart	4	1	0	3	2
Lovat	3	1	0	2	0
Kilmallie	3	0	0	3	0

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tayforth	4	3	1	1	7
Strachur	4	3	0	1	6
ColGlen	4	3	0	1	6
Bute	3	2	1	0	5
GMA	3	1	0	2	2
Inveraray	4	1	0	3	2
Ballachulish	3	1	0	2	2
Aberdour	4	0	0	4	0

Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	5	5	0	0	10
Boleskine	5	4	0	1	8
Lochcarron	4	3	0	1	4
Beaulie	4	3	0	1	6
Caberfeidh	4	2	0	2	4
Lochbroom	4	2	0	2	4
Strathglass	5	1	1	3	3
Ardnamurchan	6	1	0	5	2
Lewis	4	0	1	3	1
Inverness	3	0	0	3	

Big field for Lochaber Marathon



They're off! The Lochaber Marathon gets underway. 10_f15maratnon01

Outstanding performances as over 400 runners brave the warm conditions

THE 27TH LOCHABER Marathon attracted another big field on Sunday, with 404 athletes lining up at the start-finish line for the annual event. The sunshine provided ideal weather for spectators, if not for those tackling the 26.2-mile course. Crowds gathered at An Aird for the 11am start to cheer the runners off round the scenic route out from Fort William along Loch Eilside. Despite the heat, there were some outstanding performances from Lochaber Athletic Club members. John Binnie was first local home, improving on his time from last year by a massive 15 minutes with a time of 2h 50m 31s. First local lady was Aileen Duncan, who had the race of her life, crossing the

line in 3h 48m 16s, taking eight minutes off her personal best. Aileen's run was made all the more impressive by the fact that she spent much of her pre-race time organising the event. Ellen Morrison, in her fourth marathon, was again outstanding with a fantastic time of 4h 3m 40s. Lochaber runners Andrew Cameron, Laura Barbour and Bruce Davie, running their first marathons, came home in 3h 52m 47s, 3h 55m 39s and 3h 58m respectively. Two Ronhill Cambuslang Harriers dominated the race almost from start to finish. Robert Gilroy broke the tape in 2h 35m 44s, with clubmate Kerry-Liam Wilson not far behind with a time of 2h 37m 56s. The ladies' race was won by

Sarah Jarvis of Bingley Harriers and AC, finishing her first marathon in 2h 51m 33s and only one minute outside the ladies' course record. Organisers would like to thank the volunteers and marshals who assisted throughout the day, time keepers and recorders Stuart and Sylvia, the Nevis Centre and Northern Constabulary for keeping the runners safe out on the course. A big thanks also goes to all motorists for their patience and safe driving during the marathon.

MARATHON

Referee's decisions changed the game

REPORT
by RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Highland League
Fort William 0,
Fraserburgh 3

FORT WILLIAM slipped to another defeat at Claggan Park on Saturday - but they were unhappy with the referee after two controversial decisions changed the game.

Within 60 seconds of losing the lead in the second half the home side were screaming for a penalty when Sean Grant's goal bound effort appeared to be blocked by a defender's raised arm, but referee Graham Fraser waved play on.

And the man in black further angered the noisy home support when he awarded a soft penalty to Fraserburgh for handball just six minutes later.

Fort had held their own in the first 45 minutes with the defence surviving sizeable Fraserburgh pressure to get to the break at 0-0.



Fort's Mark Gillespie heads clear from Lossie's William West. 10_f15fort03

The Lochaber side did manage to carve out the odd opportunity in the first half and Sean Ellis was denied shortly before the break when keeper Paul Leaks turned his powerful shot round the post. The second half started at breakneck speed with both sides going close. Iain Maclean and Grant both had good efforts before the deadlock was finally broken in the 68th minute, when Jonathan Garden's shot hit the back of the net following a goal mouth scramble.

After turning away Fort's penalty appeals shortly afterwards, the referee gave Fraserburgh the chance to double their lead when judged a Broch shot had grazed the arm of Mark Gillespie.

Allan Hale gave the home side a mountain to climb when he sent John Campbell the wrong way with his penalty kick.

Calum Maclean's men didn't give up, and had a succession of late corners as they pushed to pull a goal back. Mark Gillespie's header forced a great save from Leask before Dane Ballard added a third for Fraserburgh in injury time.

The match ended on a sour note for Fort, with Mark Gillespie getting a second yellow card for arguing with the referee after the final whistle.

Fort assistant manager James Annette told *The Oban Times* he was happy with the improved effort from the team. 'We played pretty well,' he said. 'We were just unlucky with a few refereeing decisions.'

The Claggan Park men were away to fourth-placed Forres Mechanics last night (Wednesday) and face a trip to Formartine United this Saturday.



Skye Dolphins' winning team: front row from the left, Calum Harper, Isla Campbell, Ruth Gordon, Natalie Harper and Katie MacKenzie. Back Row from left, Rebecca Smith, Marion Docherty, Stephanie Harper and Hazel MacLeod. f15dolphins15

Skye Dolphins show impressive form in north swimming meet

SKYE Dolphins have maintained their impressive form in the pool after scoring well at recent North of Scotland swimming meets.

Eight swimmers from the Portree-based club - Jack Scriven, Ruth Gordon, Hazel MacLeod, Stephanie Harper, Calum Harper, Natalie Harper, Katie MacKenzie and Isla Campbell - competed in a two-day meet at Forres and returned home with an impressive medal haul. In the girls 8-10 age group, Katie MacKenzie won 50m golds in freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly, gold in the 100m individual medley (IM) and silver in the 50m backstroke.

Isla Campbell won 50m bronzes in the freestyle and backstroke, came fourth in the 50m breast-

stroke and fifth in the 100m IM and butterfly. In the 12 years age group, Ruth Gordon took 100m golds in the breaststroke, butterfly and IM, and 100m silvers in the backstroke and freestyle.

In the boys' 13 years group, Jack Scriven won 100m bronzes in the butterfly and backstroke and came fifth in the 100m freestyle, while the girls 8-10 relay team of Ruth Gordon, Hazel MacLeod, Katie MacKenzie and Isla scored silver and bronze in the IM and freestyle, respectively.

Coach Peter Gordon said: 'Whilst not getting amongst the medals, the remaining swimmers all achieved new personal bests in various different swims. Special mention must go to Natalie Harper, who was competing in

SWIMMING

her first swimming competition and did absolutely fantastically.' More success came at the Deveron Sprints at Banff Swimming Pool where Rebecca Smith, Marion Docherty and Katie MacKenzie were among the honours. In the girls' 10 and under group, Katie MacKenzie won 50m golds in the freestyle, backstroke and butterfly, gold in the 100m IM and silver in the 50m breaststroke. In the girls' 13-14 group Rebecca Smith won gold in the 50m backstroke, silver in the 50m freestyle, silver in the 100 metre IM, bronze in the 50m butterfly and was fourth in the 50m breaststroke. Marion, meanwhile, again recorded some fantastic PBs.

Phoenix boxers are back in action

LOCHABER Phoenix boxers were back in action at Kincorth ABC in Aberdeen last weekend following James Aitchison and Chris Bradley's sensational Scottish championships wins the week before.

Fourteen year-old Igor Sliwinski and hard-hitting Aidan Donnelly took to the ring at either end of the bill - and did not disappoint as they notched two fine victories.

Igor was first up against David Fairweather of Lochee ABC and gave a glimpse of just why his coaches believe he is a fantastic talent.

The Lochee boxer likes to control opponents with his left lead, but found himself outjabbed by the confident Lochaber youngster.

Sliwinski won all three rounds on the judges' scorecards and looks a real hot prospect for the future.

It was after midnight when Aidan Donnelly's bill topping

BOXING

four-round contest against Greig Patterson from Peterhead ABC got underway.

Behind going into the third, Donnelly lit the fuse and drove Patterson back only to take some hurtful looking combinations himself as the contest evened up.

Workaholic
The fourth round saw a pumped up Donnelly tear into Patterson, who found the greater strength of the Lochaber workaholic a little too much - and when the final bell sounded Donnelly gained a well-deserved majority verdict.

Meanwhile, James Aitchison and Chris Bradley have completed their first training sessions with the Scotland squad in Motherwell ahead of their appearances at the GB championships at Manchester this weekend.

The Lochaber boys won't know whom they face until after the weigh-in tomorrow morning.

New season at Fort William Golf Club

GOLF

THE NEW golf season is underway, and Saturday saw the Wolverton Cup held at Fort William Golf Club. Neil Feggans won a close competition.

1, Neil Feggans 75-12=63; 2, David MacDonald 81-17=64(BH); 3, Henry MacDonald 77-13=64

The 1912 Cup was held on Sunday, with Joe Sweeney winning with a score of 66.

1, Joe Sweeney 88-22=66; 2, Rusty Duncan 79-12=67(BH); 3, Dougie Duncan 81-14=67.

Graeme wins final leg of winter series

DUATHLON

THE FINAL leg of No Fuss Events' Winter Feast series saw 63 athletes from across Scotland - the biggest field so far - take on trails around Nevis Range on Saturday by foot and on bike in the 'Big Puddin' duathlon.

And it was Roy Bridge man Graeme 'Pele' Munro - now based in Glasgow - who came out on top in a time of 1hr 36m 11s in the sunshine.



Graeme Munro. 10_f15racc01

Fort William's Steve Martin was the next local home, battling through the heat to finish in 1hr 41m 38s.

The event, comprising a 25k mountain bike ride sandwiched between two 5k runs, saw Graeme and Steve as the only riders to break the 50-minute mark on the cycle stage.

First lady home was Hannah Barnes, who managed to run and cycle the route through Leanachan Forest in 1hr 43m 13s.

The next No Fuss event is '10 Under the Ben' in May, which they hope will attract up to 1,000 riders.

Ferguson family make the arrows fly and hit gold

FIELD ARCHERY

ON THE weekend of April 2 and 3 local archers David and Holly Ferguson hit gold at the Scottish Field Archery Championships.

The event was hosted by Argyll Field Archers who are based in Inverawe. 65 archers in total from all over the UK attended the competition.



David Ferguson with his daughter Holly.

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
Mrs C Jamieson, Taynuilt and Mrs E Gilchrist, Invergarry

Lorenzo fast tracked for the Olympics

TEENAGE sailor Lorenzo Chiavarini has been fast tracked as a future British Olympian.

The Mid Argyll boy has been handpicked to join the Bank of Scotland Local Heroes initiative, which offers financial support to future Olympic hopefuls.

The 17-year-old Italian-born sailor, who attends Lomond School, will receive a cash injection of £1,000 towards training and competing.

Lorenzo, who has set his sights on a top-ten finish at this summer's World and European Laser Standard Junior

Championship, said being selected for the scheme has given him more confidence heading into the 2011 racing season.

Lorenzo said: 'It is really nice to be selected on the scheme and it is a great opportunity for me to gain lots of experience.'

'I will use the grant a lot for travelling because I have to go down to Weymouth twice a month and it takes 10 hours to get there. There is lots of mileage on the car, so it will help pay for that.'

Scottish rower Katherine Grainger, a five-time world champion, believes Lorenzo's selection on the scheme will see him deliver on his impressive potential.

'The concept of the scheme is fantastic because it's helping people out at a really crucial stage of their athletic career when there is not a lot of funding or support,' she said. 'You get the financial help which is crucial but there is also the practical side and

SAILING

hearing about the reality of what a lifetime in sport can be like.'

Bank of Scotland Local Heroes, in partnership with SportsAid, provides support and funding to 82 emerging Scottish athletes on their journey to London 2012 and beyond.

Mackay Cup played at Glencruitten

GOLF

THE MacKay Cup was played for at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday 9 April and Sunday 10 April.

The winner was Graham MacColl with a score of 119 (57, 62). Second place went to Jamie Fraser with a score of 124 (63, 61), and third place was shared with Sean Dunstaffnage and Martin Tait with scores of 128. Fifth place was shared by Neil Carmichael and Willie McAdam with scores of 129.

This Saturday the Britannia Cup qualifying takes place.



Vice-president Garry Flannagan, President Donald Maclean look on as Helen MacLean, wife of the president bowls the first jack of the season at Oban Bowling Club last Saturday. 07_11_bowling01

Crunch match for Oban Saints

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team get back in league action this Saturday when they travel to play second placed Kilpatrick.

The game will be played at Temple Recreation with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Gallagher from East Kilbride.

This is a vital game for the Oban side as Kilpatrick look to be favourites to win the league this season, but if Saints can get a victory over their rivals on Saturday then the league title could still be on its way to Oban.

The following Saturday (April 23) Saints are at home to Aikenshead Thistle.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	15	8	5	2	34	18	29
Kilpatrick	10	7	1	2	20	13	22
St Joseph's	13	7	1	5	22	26	22
Greenock HSFP	13	5	3	5	19	21	18
Castlemilk	11	4	1	6	19	22	13
Arkleston	8	3	3	2	15	14	12
Cambria	11	2	2	7	9	13	8
Inverclyde	9	2	2	5	16	21	8
Thorn Athletic	9	2	2	5	12	21	8
Aikenshead	4	1	2	1	8	5	5

Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results: The games involving the Under 13s, 14s and 15s were all postponed due to the school holidays.

Large Colts 1, Under 16s 3. Saints goalscorers were Niall MacFarlane, Colin Davron and Daniel Carson.

This Saturday's fixtures: Under 14s no game; Under 16s v Largs Colts. Sunday: Under 13s v Dumbarton North; Westerton United v Under 15s.

Oban Sailing Club results

SAILING

RACE 9, Icelite Series 5, F Dinghy, three competitors - 1. Pay Back, James Hoey; 2. Krabby Patty, Tim Bleazard; 3. Meer Magic, Tierney Carter.

Race 10, Icelite Series 5, S Dinghy, two competitors - Wavelength, Jamie Sinclair; 2. Owen Sails, Fergus McGowan.

Race 11, Icelite Series 6, F Dinghy, four competitors - 1. Krabby Patty, Tim Bleazard; 2. Pay Back, James Hoey; 3. Meer Magic, Tierney Carter.

Race 12, Icelite Series 6, S Dinghy, two competitors - 1. Wavelength, Jamie Sinclair; 2. Owen Sails, Fergus McGowan.

Tobermory golf

GOLF

MARCH medal 1. Graham Davidson 73 - 7 Net 66; 2. Jamie Cowe 79 - 9 net 70; 3. Ewan MacCrone 81 - 10 net 71. Captain v Vice Captain held on Sunday 10 April. Team GB (captain) 2 Team IW (VC) 1



Lorenzo Chiavarini.

Islay lose out to Melrose in sudden death

ISLAY'S rugby veterans returned from the borders with heads held high after taking part in the Vets tournament at Melrose - the curtain raiser to the main sevens event.

This year the event comprised Melrose, Orkney, the Cayman Harlequins, Tynedale (Northumberland), Islay, Glasgow Legends (Glasgow Hawks), Hamilton (South Africa), Morgan Academy and the Auld Reekies (Edinburgh clubs).

Islay arrived short of players and, offering anyone who turned out for them a bottle of whisky, found volunteers from Gala.

In their first match against the Hawks Legends, the veterans of the Glasgow Hawks, Islay were two points adrift at half time. However, this only seemed to buoy up the islanders against a team who had clearly found the trip along the M8 more tiring - with Islay running out eventual winners 31-19.

It was more of the same in the second round, with Islay coming up against Tynedale. Once again, Islay struggled to put points on the board in the first half, with a foot in touch and a forward pass denying them try-scoring opportunities. The interval saw both

teams with seven points apiece.

As against the Glasgow Legends, it was the second half that saw Islay step up a gear, with side-to-side rugby and lovely looped passes, with the club eventually winning by a comfortable 26-7.

This set up the thriller of the afternoon, a real duel in the sun against Melrose, the holders of the Davidson Chalmers Trophy, and a team bristling with the talents of yesteryear, including the ever-youthful ex-Scotland and British Lion international, Doddie Weir.

Islay raced into a 21-7 lead at the

RUGBY

interval. In the second half, Islay had chances to close out the game but the hosts, bolstered by a large squad clawed the match back to 21-21 in the closing seconds.

This set up the afternoon's only period of sudden death and in the end it was Melrose who scored to bring proceedings to a close - leaving Islay to rue what might have been as a team which - in regular time - had not lost any of their three fixtures.

Melrose went through to the cup final, but lost out to Hamilton Dynamiters 17-12.

Argyll and Bute matchplay championship this weekend

THE curtain raiser for the 2011 Argyll & Bute Golf Union takes place this weekend with the matchplay championship being contested at Machrihanish.

The top 16 from last year's strokeplay will battle it out over the world famous links. Players are reminded that distance measuring devices are permitted this season for all Argyll & Bute golf union events, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only.

If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (eg gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

The draw for the first round is: Graham Bolton v Kevin Maples (8.50am); Reeve Thomson v Gordon Lundie (8.58am); Allan O'Neill v Kenneth McCallum (9.07am); Ies Pirie v Steve Ellis

GOLF

(9.15am); John Jack v Callum Mckirdy (9.23am); George Reynolds v Craig Pirie (9.31am); Gordon Tyre v George MacMillan (9.40am); Alan Finlayson v Allan McKie (9.48am).

Laphroaig Trophy

ISLAY Golf Club staged the Laphroaig trophy played on Sunday, April 10, and the result was: 1. Gordon Ross 43pts; 2. Charles Holyoake 43pts; 3. Duncan Livingstone 41pts. C.Ss 70.



BUDDING Beckhams and would-be Wayne Rooneys were sharpening their skills at a week-long football training camp in Oban. The event, at the high school's all weather pitch, was organised by Argyll and Bute Football development officer Martin Rae. Community coach, Thomas Sharp, said more than 50 youngsters



had been put through their paces during the week. There had been a 'mini-kickers' class for three and four-year-olds as well as sessions for those aged five to 14. More football coaching sessions are planned during the summer and October school holidays.

Open 7 Days

THE SPORTS SHOP

MEMBERS OF THE INTERSPORT BUYING GROUP

We would like to thank the following for helping us to get THE SPORTS SHOP set up and open for last Saturday

The Jean Shop (Guisse Clothing) • Ellis Carmichael • Andrew Farmer • Kevin MacInnes
 Colin MacNiven • Hugh Carmichael • Mary MacEachen • MacQueens Removals
 Gordon MacNab • R A Clements • And CGL Print Shop
 (especially Glynis Alcorn for sorting our last minute emergency out of working hours)

We had a great opening day and evening on Saturday and look forward to serving the communities sporting needs.

Billy, Jonathan & Malcolm

LOCALLY OWNED, INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED
 Argyll Square, Oban • 01631 562050 email: thesportsshopoban@btconnect.com

Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals. Winds moderate, south westerly. Temperatures 8°C to 11°C

Friday Cloudy. Winds moderate south, south westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy. Winds moderate south westerly. Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

FRIDAY

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 14, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	09.01	1.3	15.22	3.2	20.50	1.1
Thur	02.28	3.3	09.53	1.0	16.02	3.5	21.47 0
Fri	03.22	3.6	10.38	0.7	16.38	3.8	22.37 0.5
Sat	04.07	4.1	11.19	0.5	17.14	4.0	23.24 0.3
Sun	05.30	4.2	11.58	0.4	17.51	4.1	** ** *
Mon	00.10	0.2	06.09	4.1	12.38	0.4	18.30 4.1
Tues	00.55	0.2	06.48	4.0	13.19	0.5	19.09 4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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