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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Shed dispute ends in court

A SOCIAL housing provider told an Oban man they will demolish his shed – because it is 12 inches too big on each side.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is taking legal action against George Aitken to enforce removal of the structure – despite laying a path to it.

According to ACHA's tenancy rules, Mr Aitken's shed just exceeds permitted dimensions. But Mr Aitken, of 1 Croft Avenue, argues his shed simply replaced one in his garden which was significantly larger.

The dispute dates back four years, when Mr Aitken, a steward with CalMac on the MV Isle of Mull, was advised his semi-detached home was to be demolished and rebuilt, requiring him to move into decant housing. He claims he told ACHA he would only move if his existing terms and conditions stayed the same – something he says they agreed to. He was then decanted to Rhuvaal Road for two years – where he built a new shed for



George Aitken: shed complaint. 15.115gaiken1

Draft plan concerns Barra

A DRAFT management plan for the Sound of Barra is being prepared by the Scottish Government – prior to any decision on controversial proposals for new environmental designations there.

Islanders have been campaigning against the proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status for the site, saying not only

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
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his tools. He returned to Croft Avenue with his wife, Anthea, daughter Melissa and sons Josh and Daniel a year ago – and brought his shed with him.

But during an inspection ACHA officers told him the shed would have to go.

He said: 'I think when we moved out they told us what we wanted to hear. Then they tell us the shed is too big.'

'During the same inspection, I pointed out that the grass they had laid in the garden was not taking and asked if they could slab the garden instead. They told me there was no budget for that. But four weeks later, they came back, laid gravel and a nice new path to the shed they want demolished. I can't make sense of it.'

ACHA director of housing and neighbourhood services, Christine Johnston, said exceptions could not be made in any case.

She said: 'Mr Aitken was advised on the kind of provision he was allowed and agreed the dimensions with the association's staff. The association has been left with no alternative other than to take action through court. If the association was to leave things as they are with Mr Aitken then this would make it very difficult to enforce the guidelines with other tenants in the future. With respect to the paving slabs, which were laid after the grass started to die, the association's contractor offered to carry out this work rather than re-turf the area.'



Police slam 'abhorrent' actions of Oban gravestone yobs

Police have slammed the 'abhorrent' actions of yobs who defaced a gravestone at Pennyfuir Cemetery, near Oban, by taping Rangers Football Club pins over a Celtic shamrock inscribed on the stone. The family of Bobby MacCuish, who died in 2006, have appealed to anyone who knows about the incident to contact the police. Pictured by Bobby's grave are his mother and father, Marion and Peter. Inset: The Rangers badges that were taped to the gravestone. For more on this story see page three.

Argyll and Bute MP demands apology over intern claims

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid has been victim of mistaken identity after being falsely accused by a national newspaper of taking on an intern funded by an anti-homosexuality charity. Mr Reid has demanded an apology from the Guardian after

it mixed him up with former Loughborough MP Andrew Reed who had listed in his register of interests for 2009-10 that the Christian Action Research and Education (Care) group had funded an intern for four days a week. The charity had previously

held a conference in London claiming gay people could be 'cured' of homosexuality.

Speaking of the mix-up, Mr Reid said: 'It's just a complete and utter untruth. I've never taken on an intern from an agency. I have emailed the newspaper telling

them its untrue and asking them what they're going to do about it.'

The Guardian has apologised to Mr Reid for the error, has amended its online version of the article and will publish a correction.

Park Bar break in: property stolen

A FAVOURITE pub for Glasgow Gaels has had property worth more than £10,000 stolen during a break in.

Police said entry was forced to the Park Bar, Kelvingrove, between 12.30am and 7am on Monday.

Detective Constable Laura Durnie, of Strathclyde Police, appealed to anyone who was in the general area after 12.30am on Monday morning, and saw or heard any suspicious activity at or near to the pub, to come forward.

Private care home claim sparks angry war of words

Council boss says he would consider privatising care services on Mull

A COUNCIL boss shocked a Mull village hall audience when he said he would consider privatising services – because private companies 'pay their staff less'.

The claim sparked an angry exchange between top table speakers and questioners at an ill-tempered public meeting on Monday night to discuss the future of the proposed Mull Progressive Care Centre (Mull PCC).

The centre is being built as a replacement for Dunaros, the existing care centre in Salen, which provides care for six elderly residents.

Jim Robb, Argyll and Bute head of service for adult care, drew audible gasps from the packed hall when he made the claim, adding: 'The council is not an employment agency, it is a service provider. My job is to make money go further – I am not allowed to spend more than I am given.'

Locals in Craignure Village Hall spoke out vehemently against the removal of 'five star care' from the island when services are switched from Dunaros to the new centre.

Amid fears a poorer service

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
FAITH ORR
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would result, Bert Leitch said a 'sea of white and grey heads' were concerned for their future and that of their family.

Nigel Smith spoke poignantly of his elderly mother, who is currently a resident in Dunaros. His mother, he claimed, was so worried about the level of care in the Mull PCC 'she wants to be dead before it is built'.

Mr Robb also caused uproar when he confirmed the new building would not be 'a residential care centre' therefore could not have residential care staff.

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of Mull PCC developers West Highland Housing Association, backed up Mr Robb. She told the audience: 'We only get government money for building flats. We don't get money for anything else so everything we build must be self contained and have a tenancy attached.'

In response to concerns the flats would be filled with 'outsiders' or those not in need of a high level of care, Mrs

McInnes said: 'I think it would be quite a statement if those flats sat empty.'

The housing boss also confirmed WHHA would lose money if units remained unlet – a situation which could not be sustained in the long term.

However, the chief executive assured locals the housing association would work with the social and health services to allocate the flats based on medical need.

Council representatives also claimed staffing levels in the new facility would be maintained – and even increased if necessary. More concerns emerged as speakers highlighted staff due to work in the Mull PCC are not being kept informed of the level of service to be provided.

Joanne McPhail, practice manager at Tobermory Surgery, went along to the meeting after her medical colleagues asked her to 'find out what is going on'.

And when the main speakers were asked why local health workers were not being told what was happening, silence fell over the top table.

Care workers were also in attendance but were not allowed to participate in the debate.

Whooping cough on the rise in North Argyll

THE HIGHLY infectious whooping cough is on the rise in North Argyll, according to NHS Highland, which has issued a warning to parents.

Over the past few weeks, there have been 24 confirmed cases of the infection but there have been more suspected cases.

Although whooping cough usually affects babies and young children, teenagers and adults can become ill. Babies are most at risk because they have not had the full course of vaccines.

Parents of young children are being advised to keep their children off school if they have early symptoms, which include: runny or blocked nose and sneezing; watering eyes; a dry irritating cough; sore throat; or a raised temperature. Anyone who displays these symptoms can make an appointment with their GP.

Dangerous driving charge against Oban restaurant owner not proven

Sheriff's 'reasonable doubt' speed limit exceeded

AN OBAN restaurant owner accused of dangerous driving will face no punishment after the case against him was found not proven.

Alan McLeod, 69, was accused of colliding with another car, causing it to leave the road and land upside down on the A828, south of Appin, last August.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday that McLeod, of Tigh Bhan, Appin, also 'locked wheels' with a second car during the incident – but claimed his steering had been damaged in the first collision.

McLeod planned to overtake two cars ahead of him as his digital

speedometer showed they were travelling at 38mph.

He claimed during the overtake, the first vehicle, a Vauxhall Meriva, suddenly steered into his Aston Martin, causing the two to collide.

Crashed
The Meriva crashed off the road, and seconds later McLeod's luxury car hit the silver Peugeot 407 which had been in front of the Meriva. Asked what speed he got to during the overtaking manoeuvre he replied: 'I accelerated to the national speed limit.'

The Meriva driver, local man Andy McDowall, previously said

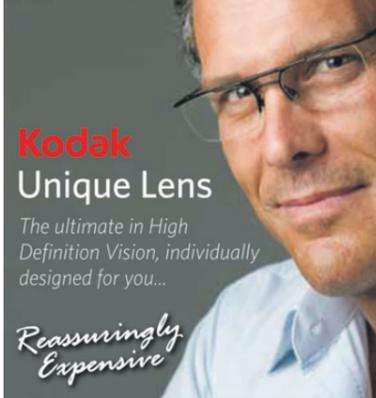
in evidence that McLeod's Aston collided with his car moments after he saw him in his rear view mirror.

Asked by his solicitor Calum Anderson why he thought the accident had happened, McLeod replied: 'I have thought about it every day.'

'Perhaps he didn't see me and it was a shock reaction. I have never been able to figure it out.'

Ruling the case not proven, Sheriff David Hall 'had reasonable doubt' McLeod had exceeded the speed limit and was therefore 'entitled to the benefit of that doubt'.

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I G MacDonald: knowing the past is key to future



Ian George MacDonald from Braes: Crofting Commission's task is to reinvigorate the industry.

Ian George MacDonald, from Braes on Skye, was voted in as commissioner for the West Highlands.

Along with the eight other board members, he met environment minister Stewart Stevenson at their first board meeting in Inverness last week as work begins to rejuvenate the industry.

Here, Ian George explains that in order for crofting to know where it is going, it must understand where it has come from.

LAST month, history was made when crofters elected the majority of commissioners to the new Crofting Commission for the first time.

2011/2012 has again brought the past, present and future of crofting in the Highlands and Islands into sharp focus, with several anniversaries and commemorations calling for our attention.

Much to the shame of those of us who have spent a lifetime in the education profession, our young people, and not so young, are ignorant of the history of crofting and of its important role in retaining population in the Highlands and Islands.

We should therefore welcome the recent teaching programme 'Taking Stock; The Claim of Crofting', instituted on the occasion of the demise of the Crofters Commission, and sponsored by a number of government and non-government bodies.

The associated commemorative evening at Sabhal Mor Ostaig brought together both adults and children to celebrate crofting's claim, and the follow-up teaching pack goes into all Scotland's schools very soon.

On the Braes Estate in Skye, where I have my croft, 2011 saw the bi-centenary of John Blackadder's unveiling of his plans for crofting townships, where deliberately small lots were delineated in order to ensure that

the workers of the land continued to be economically dependent on their feudal superiors.

Closely connected with the consequences of this piece of social engineering, 17th April this year sees the 130th anniversary of the Battle of the Braes, an event which helped to focus the attention of Government on the plight of crofters in the Highlands.

Less than a quarter of a mile from the Commemoration Cairn at the battle site is the old Church of Ollach where the first meeting of Gladstone's Napier Commission took place.

The words of Angus Stewart, the first witness still resonate down the ages: 'I cannot bear evidence to the distress of my people without bearing evidence



Historic land: I G MacDonald's croft lies close to the site of 'The Battle of the Braes'.

to the oppression and high-handedness of the landlord and his factor. What we suffer from is poverty.

'We are huddled together and the best part of the land is devoted to deer forests and big farms. If we had plenty of land there would be no poverty in the Highlands for there is a sufficiency of land and we are willing to work it.'

What an indictment on the cosyness that had developed between the legal system of the time and the landowner!

It was a scathing assessment - and provided the backdrop for the Commission as it went about gathering evidence throughout the North.

On 28th of this month, the Scottish Land Court will celebrate its centenary with the launch of a book detailing its history and work.

Professor Ewen Cameron will give a lecture in Portree High School and inevitably, they will also hold a simple ceremony at the Braes Cairn.

The demise of the Crofters Commission after 57 years and its replacement by the new Crofting Commission, a body partly elected by crofters themselves, is another significant milestone in the story of crofting and we trust that the new body will play its own part in re-invigorating the industry.

Since its inception, crofting has always been fraught with challenges and its health will not be improved by sticking

plasters applied by the Crofting Commission alone. While lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities, precarious transport links and poor agricultural returns continue to infect rural communities we must lobby our councils as well as Brussels, Westminster and Holyrood to take a genuine interest in this particular patient and to strive for a favourable CAP Reform.

Crofters need to help themselves by co-operation, effort and optimism in face of adversity and to inform their member organisations, the Crofting Federation and NFU, of the tonics they require.

We need a boost! Let's hope the new Commission really can give a lead in supplying one.

Police officer honoured for long service and good conduct

A STORNOWAY-based police officer was among five personnel from Central Division recognised for long service and good conduct after serving more than 20 years with the Northern Constabulary.

Sergeant Jane Nicolson was presented with her medal at a ceremony at Force HQ in Inverness by Chief Constable George Graham.

Sergeant Nicolson joined the force in June 1991 and has been stationed in Stornoway since 2005. She has also worked in Inverness, Wick, HQ and Portree during her career so far.

The chief constable thanked each officer individually for their 'significant contribution to policing in the Highlands and Islands'.



Sergeant Jane Nicolson: honoured.

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South Uist firm leading example of co-operative



Hebridean Jewellery staff with managing director Billy Macphee, left, and founder John Hart, right.

SOUTH Uist joined the world in celebrating employee-owned businesses at an island firm's premises on Friday.

Lochdar-based Hebridean Jewellery welcomed representatives from Co-operative Development Scotland (CDS) for the special event, organised as part of the United Nations-led International Year of Co-operatives 2012.

Company founder John Hart, who had built up Hebridean Jewellery since he founded it in 1974, decided in July last year that the best way forward was to switch to employee ownership. The co-operative enterprise and its expert team of craftsmen have reaped the benefits ever since.

The deal secured the future of the company, around 14 jobs and important design and manufacturing skills. The employee-owners now plan to grow the business by significantly increasing internet sales, in particular to the US.

Local MSP Alasdair Allan and Sarah Deas, Co-operative Development Scotland (CDS) chief executive met Hebridean Jewellery employees at Friday's event. Ms Deas said: 'It has been a real delight to hear first-hand how employees can become masters of their own destinies.'

Woman bids to become first person to swim round Tiree

Endurance as Anna tackles extreme charity challenge

AN ENDURANCE swimmer from Hampshire hopes to become the first person to swim around the Isle of Tiree during a Five Island Swim Challenge.

Anna Wardley, 36, from Gosport, will in May embark on a five month campaign to complete some of the most extreme swims around in Europe.

Dragonera, in Mallorca, will be her first port of call, before taking on Portsea in Hampshire and Jersey in the Channel Islands. Tiree will be the next stop, before she takes on the Isle of Wight.

She hopes to raise £50,000 for the Samaritans, Toe in the Water and Sail Africa charities by completing the challenge. Tiree, though, will be her toughest swim,

due to the outlying reefs surrounding the island and strong currents.

She will swim approximately 30 miles in the bitterly cold water without a wetsuit or any other artificial aids as she aims to set a new world record.

Tidal streams She said: 'Although all five swims are challenging in their own right, the swim around Tiree will be particularly tough due to the powerful tidal streams and the extremely low water temperature, which barely rises above 13°C even in the height of summer.'

'Although I've completed a number of long distance swims, including the English Channel and Gibraltar Straits, I'm not

underestimating the magnitude of the challenges that lie ahead. I have a gruelling training programme to make sure I'm prepared mentally and physically for what are set to be the most difficult swims I've ever faced.

'I hope to not only raise a lot of money for my chosen charities, but also to show people what you can achieve when you put the classic cliché 'anything is possible' to the test.'

Anna is currently seeking corporate sponsorship to cover the costs associated with undertaking these challenging swims. To find out more about sponsorship opportunities email info@annawardley.com.



Anna Wardley, front, with the support team that will ensure her safety during her attempt to set a new record for swimming around Tiree.



Members of the Scottish Vintage Austin 7 Club stand by their cars during their stop in Oban.

Motor history comes alive on west coast

MOTOR history enthusiasts could be seen car spotting across the west coast recently as part of the Scottish Vintage Austin 7 Club's latest rally. Staying in Ballachulish, the club made various stops around Lochaber and Argyll as it celebrated Easter with a special trip, which also marked the 90th anniversary of the vehicle's creation.

Stopping in Oban on Saturday April 7, the cars drew quite a crowd to the Co-operative's Soroba Road car park, with the vehicles kept in pristine

condition - despite some dating back as far as 1928.

Age wasn't a barrier though, with two of the cars having been driven up from Rochdale and Isle of Man without difficulty.

The shortest trip for the members was from Glasgow.

And although the cars cruise at around 40mph, the fuel economy is impressive - with even the oldest reaching 40mpg.

Society hears fascinating insight into impact of mink on seabirds

LOCHABER Natural History Society heard at its March meeting from Dr Clive Craik, who gave a fascinating insight on the impacts mink are having on seabirds along the west coast.

For the past 22 years, Dr Craik has been studying populations of breeding seabirds on 155 islands between Mallaig and West Loch Tarbert/Loch Fyne in Argyll, monitoring both the effects of mink upon them and how trapping mink impacts on birds' breeding success.

The latest results from his studies were given in a graphically illustrated talk in Fort William.

The North American mink first escaped from fur farms in western Scotland in the 1960s, and has since colonised the whole seaboard. They have wrought havoc on local wildlife with no previous experience of mink - and therefore with

no natural defence. Breeding populations of nationally rare and uncommon species such as terns and common gull, have all suffered, as have numerous species including herring gull and oystercatcher.

Once a mink accesses breeding colonies it can go on killing sprees, wiping out a whole season's worth of chicks or eggs in a single night. Adult birds that do survive do not tolerate many seasons of this and eventually move off, leaving the islands with no seabirds.

The bad news is that on the islands studied, mink have all but eradicated any ground-nesting birds. In 2010, 76 had lost their breeding seabirds.

The good news is that in 2011, seabirds bred successfully on 21 of 28 islands where mink trapping took place. Mink trapping is both time-consuming and

costly, however. Defences include breeding 'rafts' protected with mink-proof fences.

Dr Craik also explained that islands further out in the sea, greater than 1km from shore, tend to be mink-free. However, displaced herring and greater black-backed gulls, themselves fierce predators, may well prevent other birds from nesting on these remoter islets. Fortunately some of the more distant islands such as Coll and Tiree, have yet to be colonised by mink.

Dr Craik also presented evidence to suggest that discarded fishing gear is also responsible for significant deaths among seabird populations.

Control of mink must be continued and supported if future generations are to enjoy watching seabirds. Care with discarded fishing tackle would also help.

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Petrol and diesel prices are soaring these days, particularly in the west Highlands. So, The Oban Times has decided to give one lucky reader a free tank of fuel* in next week's paper! Don't miss your chance to win!

*Value capped at £100.

WIN FAMILY TICKETS TO THE SINGING KETTLE!

The Singing Kettle is coming to Corran Halls, Oban on May 16 and to celebrate, The Oban Times has two family tickets plus Singing Kettle goodies to giveaway! Only in next week's Oban Times.

Imitation assault rifle found on banks of Loch Earn

AN IMITATION assault rifle has been found on the banks of Loch Earn just six months after fishermen claimed they were being hit with air rifle rounds.

The air rifle was found by a fisherman visiting the area last week and contacted the police, believing it to be an authentic firearm.

Constable Andrew Ward said combating illegal use of air weapons in the area would become a priority as a result of recent loch-side activity.

He said: "There is no legal reason for anybody to have had the air rifle on the loch side, the fact it was left propped against a tree in a lay-by is also worrying as anybody could have found it and started taking pot shots at anything that moved. I have already stated that one of my priorities in the coming months will be to target those people who bring air weapons into the area. Be warned we will ensure that anybody found in possession of any kind of weapon without a reasonable excuse or permission will be reported to the procurator fiscal."

Architect's appeal to put Inveraray forward for world status

INVERARAY could once again become a 'jewel in Scotland's crown' if granted World Heritage Status, according to one of Scotland's foremost authorities on architecture.

The claim was made last Friday at a summit of residents and business people at the Royal Burgh's George Hotel to discuss possible ways of regenerating the area.

Neil Baxter, secretary of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, urged locals to seek the prestigious title to draw more visitors to the area.

He said: "As my wife and I come into Inveraray we both have the same reaction and think; isn't this a wonderful town? Then we ask why Inveraray is not a World Heritage Site. I don't see anything wrong with asking UNESCO why not, as it is not just a jewel in Argyll and Bute's crown, it is a jewel in Scotland's crown."



Malcolm Clark will swap his caman for a music stand when he travels to Glasgow this summer to sing with the National Youth Training Choir of Scotland. 15_t16malcolm1

Malcolm's singing takes him places

HE MAY be one of Oban's brightest shinty prospects, but it's 17-year-old Malcolm Clark's vocal chords that are taking him places.

The Oban High School pupil has been selected for the National Youth Training Choir, a move that could see him selected for the full National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS). It comes after eight years of singing with the National Boys Choir and for Malcolm - who has been singing since he was five and is now breaking into the Oban Camanachd first team - being picked as a massive opportunity.

He will travel to Glasgow for the training choir this July - but that doesn't mean he'll be dropping the shinty anytime soon. He said: "I don't know what my aim is. One thing for sure is I won't stop playing shinty - that's a pretty big thing for me."

"It's funny, I can't get up on a stage and say something to a crowd of people, but I can sing."

It just comes naturally and I feel more at home when I'm singing. "I'll just see where this takes me. If I can though I'd like to make singing a career."

To that, the fluent Gaelic speaker has already made a start with his band, Ceol an Aire - Music Beware. Malcolm is joined by Ewan MacDonald, 19, Murray Willis, 18 and 16-year-old Ruairidh Morrison, gigging all over the west coast at events such as weddings, ceilidhs, parties and other functions.

His inspiration, however, is family, with singer-songwriter uncle Jack Anderson chief among them.

Malcolm said: "He's always been someone I've looked up to. I hope I'm better than him now!"

"My grandmother, Maggie Anderson, has pushed me most though. She's got Irish roots - her mother was Irish - so in a sense she is more pleased about my shinty!"

Family in torment as grave is defaced

Father breaks down on discovering football-related jibe on headstone

A FATHER has told how he broke down at his son's grave after finding the gravestone defaced in a football-related jibe.

Oban man Peter MacCuish visits the grave of his Celtic fan son Bobby every day but last Friday found a trio of Rangers badges taped over the Celtic club badge inscribed on the gravestone at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

The attack on the gravestone has devastated the family, who have supporters of both Old Firm teams among them. Peter said: "Since we buried Bobby in September 2006 there have only been two occasions when I haven't visited his grave and they were for operations."

"When I came down and saw the tape over the shamrock I just started crying. It was just so unbelievable."

Peter and his wife Marion reported the matter to the police and are urging anyone who knows about the crime to

By EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

contact Oban Police. Marion said: "It is hard enough to lose a son but to have his gravestone defaced by someone in that way is heartbreaking. We are devastated to think someone could be so cruel."

Angry and shocked "We are not bigoted; Peter and Bobby were the Celtic fans and Bobby's brothers, Peter and David, are Rangers fans. We are all angry and shocked."

Bobby, who died aged just 48, was a keen Celtic fan and in 2003, after recovering from a brain haemorrhage, met Celtic favourite Henrik Larsson, who presented him with an oil painting of Celtic legend Jimmy Johnstone before a match at Parkhead.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: "Behaviour such as this is abhorrent and totally unacceptable."



Bobby meets Celtic legend Henrik Larsson in 2003.

"I am absolutely committed to the investigation and prosecution of those involved in or promoting sectarianism or religious prejudice offences. I appeal to anyone who has information in

connection with this incident to contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510 500." Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Ferry passengers claim tourist buses present safety hazard

TOURIST buses are causing a safety hazard on an Oban pier, according to angry ferry passengers.

Stewart MacDougall told a meeting of Mull Community Council that 'tourist buses get priority over everything' on the Railway Pier despite having a 'designated drop off' at the end of Shore Street. He said: "When the buses come off the ferry they want to pick up their passengers at the pier. They go to where the cars drive in and it causes a lot of congestion on the pier. You are talking about another 5-10 minutes of a wait and it's the last thing you want when you've been working away all day and just want to go home."

Mr MacDougall says there is a coned off area beside the Harbour Bowl where buses are supposed to drop off and collect their passengers but a spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne claims the way it is done now is the way it has always been done.

He said: "The current means of managing bus passengers has been the method used since the existing marshalling layout was created. We are not aware of any risks relating to this practice nor congestion created but will monitor the situation."

Golden sand returns to Ganavan

MOST of the sand sucked from Ganavan's famous beach has returned naturally, ending any thoughts Argyll and Bute Council had of artificially recharging the beach.

The authority had been inundated with offers of help from well-intentioned locals keen to see the popular beauty spot returned to its golden best after *The Oban Times* front page photograph revealed how 2011's blustery end reduced it to its stony base. Gone was the golden



Argyll and Bute Council's bio-diversity officer Marina Curran-Colthart posts signs informing visitors of the situation with Ganavan's famous sands. 15_t16ganavan1

sand, replaced with pebbles, rocks and the foundations of the old beach huts. However, such action is not only illegal without a licence, but could be harmful to indigenous species. As such, the council decided to adopt a 'wait and see' approach and, less than six months later, the sand has mostly returned. The top end of the beach remains rocky though and some groups have expressed temptation to recharge the beach with imported sand before the tourist season gets in full swing.

In a presentation to the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Argyll and Bute Council's bio-diversity officer, Marina Curran-Colthart, said that would be unwise. She said: "I can understand people's shock seeing the cobble at high tide but it's a natural process, it's happened before and the sand has come back. We've had experience of putting sand on the beach before, but it hasn't worked."

The council is to investigate removing the old beach hut foundations to minimise injury risk.

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Alexander Mack of Dunoon, a BA (Hons) Scottish Cultural Studies student at Argyll College UHI, is passionate about the need to recognise and build upon the varying languages, cultures and dialects within Scotland which are reflected in his choice of study. He was named Argyll College UHI student of the year in 2011 and is the Argyll representative for UHISA, the university's students' association. He has organised band nights in Oban and has served on quality monitoring groups and subject review panels to help ensure that students in Argyll are getting the very best level of support.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI (SAMS UHI), based in Oban, is one of the leading independent marine research centres in the UK. Pete Taylor, a BSc (Hons) Marine Science honours year graduate in 2011, gives his personal view on studying at SAMS UHI:

"Coming to study Marine Science at SAMS UHI was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The teaching staff are friendly and at the forefront of science. Being situated in a small West Highland town has certainly not turned SAMS into a scientific "sleepy hollow"; there is a sense of purpose and drive in the place that sweeps you along with it.

"Even when the essays aren't going well and the work is getting to you, SAMS is great: the café has what must be one of the best views in the world, so a cup of tea and five minutes looking out of the window and all seems good again."

Argyll College UHI - At a Glance

- Argyll College UHI is located throughout the mainland and Islands of Argyll and offers students the flexibility of accessing learning resources at 13 of its well equipped centres
- Each centre is complete with computer and video conferencing facilities, and gives students access to the UHI online library service
- The campus has excellent facilities and, with friendly staff and the opportunity to meet other students across the university, it offers a close network of support
- The number of students undertaking full-time courses at Argyll College UHI has more than doubled over the last three years

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is still welcoming applications from those who wish to study this year but, with many people asking, "where is my local campus?" the answer is "right on your door step". Your local college, Argyll College UHI, is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands and offers access to degrees and other qualifications, with the same independently assessed quality standards as other universities in Scotland.

The university is a partnership of 13 colleges, research centres and learning resource centres across the Highlands and Islands. In response to the needs of a diverse student body, including individuals, businesses and communities of the region, the University of the Highlands and Islands offers flexible study methods, facilitated by technology, to teach more than 7,500 students a year.

This innovative use of technology coupled with the network of campuses spread throughout the Highlands and Islands, allows students to learn when and where it suits them: from traditional lecture theatres in their local college, to their homes, offices or just about anywhere with an internet connection.

The University of the Highlands and Islands offers a range of degrees, many reflecting the industries and culture of the region from Adventure Tourism Management to Archaeology, Health Studies to History, Marine Science to Music. As well as more general vocational courses such as computing and business studies, there is a broad choice on offer to suit anyone considering a course of study.

Whether you are a school leaver considering your options, looking for a new direction, wanting to improve your career prospects or have already got an HNC, HND or degree and are considering further study, the University of the Highlands and Islands has a course to suit you with flexible options to fit around your lifestyle.

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Police files

TWO MEN have been reported to the procurator fiscal, charged with possession of cannabis.

The drugs were found in an Oban property last Friday, after police searched the premises. The men are aged 53 and 30.

POLICE in Oban are to step up patrols in the area around Soroba footbridge following an act of vandalism committed on the bridge between April 5 and 13.

Graffiti of a sectarian nature has been sprayed onto the bridge, which has recently been re-painted.

Anyone who saw anything, or has information relating to the incident, should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

Man remanded in custody

A MAN appeared in private from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, on a petition alleging assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

The 22-year-old made no plea or declaration to the offence allegedly committed on Sunday.

He was remanded in custody and the case was continued for further examination.

Man fined for making threats to ex-girlfriend's new partner

AN OBAN man threatened to murder the new partner of his former girlfriend during a row in the town's main thoroughfare, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Scott MacCallum, 29, had previously pled guilty to uttering threats of violence in George Street last August including 'I'm going to rip your eyes out'.

The builder, of 19H Shuna Terrace, also pled guilty to assaulting his ex's mother by spitting on her face as she sat in her car last November.

Edward Thornton, defending MacCallum, said his client had been provoked into his actions by the couple. The issue in dispute involved a personal family matter.

Sheriff Small accepted that there was 'a background to this case' and imposed fines totalling £790 on MacCallum, describing his position as precarious.

Ardbeg whisky in world-first space experiment

AN ISLAY distillery is taking part in a world-first experiment, maturing whisky at zero gravity on the International Space Station.

The programme took off in October last year when particles of charred oak and compounds of unaged Ardbeg malt were sent to the station in an unmanned spacecraft.

Dr Bill Lumsden, Head of Distilling and Whisky Creation at the Ardbeg distillery said: 'This experiment will throw new light on the effect of gravity on the maturation process. We are all tremendously excited by this experiment, who knows where it will lead.'

The programme, revealed last week, is led by US-based space research company NanoRacks LLC.

Soroba's crumbling walls: probe into cost

SOCIAL housing provider Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has commissioned an independent report to determine the amount of work required to repair Soroba's crumbling roughcasting.

While work to renew the render at two blocks which are owned outright by ACHA - at 19 Shuna Terrace and 9 Colonsay Terrace - is progressing as planned, it is hoped the report will go some way to convincing

private owners to pay a share of the overall costs.

The size of the bill though is proving a barrier too far for owners, who have been told they could face bills of up to £18,800 each. While some say they simply cannot afford the repairs because of economic hardship, others say they never could - as they were too late in their careers to obtain a loan and have no savings.

Christine Johnston, director

of housing and neighbourhood services at ACHA, said: 'The association has commissioned a report on these blocks which we anticipate will assist owners. We have written to the owners in the blocks we felt needed renewal in the near future and explained we had commissioned the report. The report, which will give an independent view of the condition of the render and the remedial measures required, is due by the end of April 2012.'

'When the association has the report it will make a summary of its findings available to neighbouring owners.'

ACHA has set aside £1.1million to redo roughcasting on 10 tenement blocks in the scheme. Of those 88 households, 21 are privately owned and 67 are ACHA properties. Each private tenant would be asked to pay a sum estimated at between £18,200 and £18,800.

While grants are available to

help pay for the work, owners have been told they would have to commit £5,000 before applying - with no guarantee the application would be successful.

ACHA, however, say private owners cannot afford not to pay for the work, with the possibility of more damage if repairs aren't effected now, while insufficient insulation increases the possibility of damp - something that would affect the value of their homes.

Winter festival wins cash backing

FOLLOWING its success last year, when it generated an estimated £1m for the local economy, Oban's Winter Festival has received clear backing from local councillors.

At its April meeting last Wednesday, Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee earmarked £5,000 for next year's event from its Third Sector Grants fund, pending confirmation at the August meeting.

The sum is £1,560 more than the grant recommended by council officers.

Other notable grants included the Scottish Association for Marine Science's Festival of the Sea (£3,500); Clan MacLean gathering on Mull, which was granted £1,100; Development Coll (£1,500); Highlands and Island Music and Dance Festival (£2,000); Development Coll (£1,500); Singing for the Brain (£1,000); Oban Sailing Club (£1,000); Oban Phoenix Cinema (£1,000); Mull Mod (£1,000); Lorn Agricultural Society (£1,000); and £1,000 was earmarked for Mull and Iona Community Trust with conditions.

Grants awarded last Wednesday totalled just over £22,000, leaving just less than £13,000 for the next round of grants on August.



Some of the stars of the Rockfield play, Go For Gold. 15_1140lympic01

Pupils 'Go For Gold' to mark 2012 Olympic Games

TO CELEBRATE the year the Olympic Games come to the UK, P4/5 children at Oban's Rockfield Primary School performed the play 'Go for Gold' for pupils and parents.

The play is set around a young Olympian, Zeus and the Gods, the Spartans and Athenians, Milo and other athletes, and find out the real meaning of the Olympics. The children worked hard learning lines and songs, making props and costumes.

Police target anti-social behaviour in national parks

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will come under police scrutiny as Operation Ironworks gets underway for its sixth year.

Lasting six months, the initiative will target destructive wild camping and littering as it aims to make one of Britain's most spectacular beauty spots a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone who wants to enjoy it, from the keen walker and photographers to the families and dog walkers.

High visibility patrols by officers on foot and in vehicles

will be carried out at key locations to act as a deterrent as well as detecting crimes, while the water and islands on Loch Lomond will be patrolled by officers from Strathclyde Police Marine Unit, Central Scotland Police Underwater Search Unit and National Park Rangers.

Loch Earn will also see boat patrols by Central Scotland Police.

Last year, new bylaws were introduced to improve the environment around East Loch Lomond, prohibiting alcohol consumption on a year round basis and banning wild camping

between March 1 to October 31. Leading the operation, Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater of Central Scotland Police, said: 'These bylaws, combined with significant improvements to infrastructure and the patrols by rangers supported by police officers made a huge difference to the area, with a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour.'

'It was noticeable that many families returned to the area as they felt that it was a safer place to visit and enjoy.'

The operation is headed up by Central Scotland Police in

partnership with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Forestry Commission Scotland, Strathclyde Police and Tayside Police.

Bridget Jones, national park visitor experience manager, said: 'The National Park is already starting to get busy with visitors being brought out by the early burst of sunshine.'

'The combined efforts of our ranger service and the police patrolling will make sure visitors are welcomed and it will also act as a deterrent to the minority that can spoil areas through acts of anti-social behaviour.'

No cash boost for Mull power route

THE LARGEST offshore windfarm in the world could see the power it produces routed through Mull - with little financial benefit to the community.

Scottish Power Renewables is proposing to site its controversial Argyll Array project on the seabed off Tiree with a cable carrying electricity to a National Grid connecting station at Dalnally.

Four possible routes for the cable, to run around 150km along the seabed and underground once ashore, are proposed. Three of these routes cut directly across Mull while one runs south.

Project manager Rick Campbell told a meeting of Mull Community Council the Mull route was best because the cable would be more secure on land.

He said: 'If it is offshore it is at risk of being dredged up and that could mean three months until we fixed it.'

Mr Campbell confirmed that should the subsea route south of Mull be selected for the cable, the community would 'categorically' see no benefits from its installation.

MCC acting chair Steve Willis asked if the community would financially benefit from allowing Mull to be used to transmit the power.

Mr Campbell replied: 'You are putting me in a difficult position, I cannot really say but I will not say no.'

'There is no long term negative effect to having this cable on Mull. We see this as a transmission issue, much like the existing overhead cables.'



Tasty treats on offer at Mod coffee morning

Cakes, pastries, pancakes and treats were gobbled up by hungry locals during Comunn Gàidealach an Obain's coffee morning for the Oban Mod at the Masonic Hall recently. Presenting some of the delicious options on offer are, from left, Anne Mossman, Helen Pearson, Mary MacKenzie and Chrissie Grant. 15_115modfundraiser1

IT IS almost 1,450 years since St Columba arrived on the Isle of Iona and last week a group of international experts descended on the island to prepare for anniversary events.

Iona's globally-important collection of intricately carved stones was up for inspection by the specialists as they discussed the history of the site. Historic Scotland and the Iona Community hosted the research workshop from April 10 to 13 to broaden people's understanding of the religious site and stone collection.

Peter Macdonald, Leader of the Iona Community, said: 'We're pleased to host this conference with Historic Scotland as we seek to learn more about the faith and culture that shaped our nation - insights from the past which may inform us about the values we want to live by in Scotland today.'

The abbey church was restored at the beginning of the 20th century, whilst work on restoring the living accommodation began in 1938, following the foundation of the Iona Community. As well as the historic sites, Iona has a breathtaking landscape, cared for by islanders and the National Trust for Scotland.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop said: 'The anniversary of the arrival in Iona of St Columba gives us an opportunity to celebrate an enduring symbol of Christian art in this Year of Creative Scotland, and identify what new research would help us to understand it better.'

Research carried out during the visit will influence the planning of events in 2013, marking the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival in 563 AD.

Mull Lines

MUILEACHS who want a greater understanding of the Gaelic language will be able to attend weekly classes from the end of the month.

The programme, being run by Argyll and Bute Council, in partnership with Iona Chaluim Chille Ilè, will be taught using the highly successful Ulpan model.

The classes are aimed at beginners and start on Monday April 30 in Fionnphort. Anyone interested should contact info@islay-gaelic.net.

Funding for the classes is available through the ILA scheme.

THOUSANDS of pounds in LEADER funding has been awarded to a project in Tobermory.

The Tobermory Harbour Association received £14,000 from the Marine Education Centre which is being built in the ground floor of the harbour building near Ledaig car park.

The association joins 14 other projects in Argyll and the Islands who have shared £402,532 between them.

FISHFARMS on Mull are coming up against ever increasing opposition as people from all over the UK continue to sign petitions against the proposals.

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) faced a backlash from islanders when they announced their plans to create three new sites on Mull. Roc Sandford, who lives on Gometra, where one of the proposed farms would be located said the tiny community continues to be '100 per cent opposed' to the proposal.

He said: 'We do not believe a salmon farm is right for the island, nor that a salmon farm should be forced on any island which does not want it.'

Mr Sandford has an online petition against the proposed farm. It currently stands at 432 signatures, with people adding their names on a daily basis.

It is understood that the SSC is preparing its Environmental Impact Statement for the possible Gometra site, which is expected to be ready by the end of April.

There are concerns by islanders that scarers would reduce sightings of whales and dolphins, affecting tourism but a spokesman for the SSC said: 'Tourists are interested in the work of fish farms and its role within the local economy. We often see dolphins near our sites and do not believe there will be a negative impact of our plans on the local porpoise population.'

Islanders can contact the SSC directly if they have any concerns, email Penny.Hawdon@scottishsalmon.com.

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds are to be spent improving water pressure to homes in Tobermory.

Scottish Water is about to start a project which will increase the flow of water to 77 properties in the higher part of the village. Murray Drummond, the project manager, said: 'We will make every effort to complete this important project as quickly and efficiently as possible and to minimise any inconvenience to customers and road users in Tobermory during our work.'

To aid the work a new pumping station and an 850 metre-long stretch of new water main will be installed near the Tobermory water treatment works.

Temporary disruption to water supply will be experienced and there may also be low pressure and discoloured water.

Affected customers are advised to turn on the cold water tap in their kitchen until the water runs clear before using their water. Some road closures will also be required along the route from Tobermory water treatment works along Deravaig Road to the junction with Victoria Street and into part of Victoria Street. The scheme is due to start on April 23 and is expected to be completed in three months.



Some of the experts who gathered on Iona.

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Fashion show boosts Legion

STAFF from Tesco, Oban, helped raise funds for heroes and veterans via the town's branch of the Royal British Legion recently - by parading the shop's clothing range.

Sporting the latest designs, the staff drew whoops and cheers as they strutted their stuff on the Argyllshire Gathering Halls' catwalk, supported by manager Neil Armour.

Secretary of Oban's Royal British Legion, Archie MacCulloch, said: 'Could I pass on my thanks for the help and support so generously given by everyone who helped.'

'To Neil Armour, manager of Tesco,

for the use of his stock and the most welcome donation for the raffle. For the fitting and supply of the costumes and all of the logistics of getting the models onto the runway, Debs Jamieson and her staff with their ever present smiles.

'The Argyllshire Gathering Halls staff for their friendliness and continued support.

'Finally, but by no means least, the models, some of whom were pressed into service at very short notice. We thank you all sincerely for your help in what was a most enjoyable and successful evening.'

Melissa Romney was keener to take to the catwalk than brother Conner. 15_115fashion07

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Campaign to keep bikers safe

MOTORCYCLISTS will receive road safety tips at some of their favourite stops near Callander, Crianlarich and Tyndrum in a bid to improve road safety.

Central Scotland Police's six-month initiative Operation Drayton is now under way and will see officers posted at various stops on the A82, A84 and A85 to speak to bikers.

Since 2006, six motorcyclists have died on the roads, while 56 motorcyclists have been involved in collisions there since 2007.

It is hoped Drayton will drastically reduce those figures and prevent needless accidents on what can sometimes be hazardous roads.

Leading the operation, Sergeant Andy Mather said: 'This is not about targeting motorcyclists. It is about keeping them safe on our roads and helping them to understand what steps they can take to ensure they don't

become another collision or fatality statistic. Obviously if we see anybody riding in an anti-social manner they will be dealt with. However, we are keen to promote safe riding and to highlight the BikeSafe classes and Around the Corner initiatives which we fully support.

'We understand why motorcyclists come to our area and ride these roads but we want them to come here and enjoy the area safely. Having one person killed or injured on our roads is one too many.'

He added: 'Motorcyclists are more vulnerable as they don't have the protection a car can offer. We are keen to highlight the work we are doing in order to prevent somebody else being killed or injured.'

Because many of those who are killed or injured on local routes are visiting, it is hoped the initiative will help protect those unfamiliar with the narrow, winding roads.

'Big cat' spotted in Benderloch

BIG CATS have been in drivers' sights lately in the village of Benderloch.

One Oban resident was travelling home late last Thursday night when her headlights picked up what seemed to be a large feline bounding across the carriageway.

She said: 'I was just driving back to Oban and I spotted something running across the road in front of me at the school. At first I thought it was a fox but it was far too big and had the movement of a cat.'

The shaken 25-year-old added: 'The animal's head turned to look at the car and it's eyes glinted in the headlights. But it only paused for a moment before taking off into the car park and I certainly wasn't going to try and chase it!'

Caol man to stand trial

A CAOL man accused of trying to start a fight with passers-by on Fort William High Street before exposing himself is due to stand trial at the town's Sheriff Court on June 19.

Gary Brown, aged 31, of 16 Glendessary Street, also pled not guilty to struggling violently with four police officers by lashing out with his arms and feet during the incident on November 27.

Accused of car theft

AN ACHARACLE man accused of stealing a car from a car hire company in Corpach is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 19.

Craig Cope, aged 31, of Treetops, Moss Road, denies breaking into a portable cabin owned by Slipway Autos, Corpach, and stealing the keys to the car before driving off in the silver Vauxhall Corsa on June 21.

Assault denied

A CAOL man accused of punching and kicking a man on the head and body to his injury is due to stand trial at the town's Sheriff Court on June 19.

Daniel Farrington, aged 21, of 166 Kilmallie Road, denies assaulting the man on Fort William High Street on March 12.

Construction worker avoids prison sentence

A MAN who threatened a mother and her son with a hammer in a Lochaber farmhouse has escaped a prison sentence.

Joseph McAlpine, of flat 4/3, 18 Burness Drive, Glasgow, was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work in the community.

MacAlpine was found guilty of assaulting Fiona Ashburner and robbing her of a mobile phone at a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last November.

The 30-year-old construction worker had also threatened the terrified woman and her teenage son while holding a hammer at Drimnatorran Farm House, Strontian, on March 8 2011.

Sheriff Douglas Small told McAlpine his lack of previous convictions was a factor in his sentencing.

He said: 'It appears to me this was not a planned incident. Because it wasn't planned, I am not going to impose a custodial sentence.'



Billy O'Brien hands over a cheque for £11,200 to Glynis Dewar of Cancer Research UK Oban and District branch at Dalmally Community Centre, as charity supporters look on. 16_116dalmally01

Dalmally stuns charity by raising £11,200 in a night

THE COMMUNITY of Dalmally has stunned volunteers from Cancer Research UK by raising £11,200 from one 'cabaret' event in the village.

A Night to Remember was organised by Dalmally man Billy O'Brien at the new Dalmally Community Centre.

Barbara Bryceland, who has appeared on reality television singing contests The X-Factor and The Voice, was the headline act at the fundraiser in March.

The event was attended by the maximum number of 200 people

and also featured a Dalmally's Got Talent section.

A large raffle organised by Billy's friends throughout Scotland contributed thousands of pounds to the overall total.

Speaking as he handed over the cheque to members of Cancer Research UK Oban and District branch last Thursday, Billy told *The Oban Times*: 'So many people, from far and near, helped out and gave donations. The amount of money is mind-boggling.'

'I thought we were doing well to get to £3,000 but it just snowballed.'

'It was very much a community effort. Old and young came out to support us on the night; the shinty club ran the bar and The Green Welly Stop, the main sponsor, must have sold 1,500 raffle tickets.'

He added: 'The success of the event was just down to people being nice and I don't think many in the hall that night had not been affected by cancer in some way, through family and friends.'

'That's the reason I got involved. There are a lot of people in Dalmally who have been affected.'

Glynis Dewar, of Cancer Research UK Oban and District branch, said: 'We want to thank Billy and the community for this tremendous effort. I have been in the committee for 15 years and this is the first time one individual has come up with such a large sum of money.'

Network Rail, Billy's former employers, contributed £1,200 to the final total.

Plockton CC welcomes end of A890 road blockade

Chairman Charlie MacRae's relief that disruption will soon be over

LOCHALSH community representatives have welcomed news that Highland Council will fully re-open the A890 next Monday - exactly four months since a rockfall closed the vital route between Kyle and the northwest.

Saturday saw work begin on removing barriers and the temporary surface on the adjacent Strathcarron-Kyle railway, which allowed road traffic to use the line from 7am to 7pm between train times.

'Traffic is currently being taken one-way in convoy along the A890 for the same restricted hours, but from April 23 the A890 will be open 24 hours a day.'

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae expressed relief that disruption would soon be over.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This has affected us far more here than people realise. On sport for example, Plockton Football Club have players from Lochcarron and Shieldaig who have not

we will have a straight road through again - but it has taken far longer than anticipated.'

After the road fully opens on Monday, some traffic control measures will still be required during daylight hours for de-vegetation works and removal of the contractor's site compound, the council said.

Neil Gillies, the council's director of transport described the four-month job of stabilising the cliff above the road as 'a most challenging project.'

He said: 'Good progress is being made in making safe the rock face and unless we hit an unforeseen hitch, the road will reopen fully from Monday 23 April. This should come as very welcome news to the local community, to Highland businesses and to people visiting this popular part of the Highlands.'

He also would like to thank the local communities most affected by the closure and partial closure of the road for their understanding and patience.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



New horse Red is put through his paces. 15_114da01

Group's 'try a drive day' success

CARRIAGE driving was on offer for everyone at Upper Soroba Farm recently as part of Argyll Riding for the Disabled Association 'Driving Group's' annual 'try a drive day'.

Jane Isaac, group organiser, said: 'It is a bit of fun for people, both disabled and able bodied and hopefully gives us more volunteers and helpers for the future.'

'We do this every year at the start of the season. It is an opportunity for some of our disabled participants to see if they like it, sometimes they have had experience of horses before and tried riding, sometimes they liked it and sometimes felt unstable.'

The organisations' older horse, Bramble, is 17 and has been a stalwart of the organisation for years.

Bramble's ease of command - responding simply to the tone of someone's voice to walk, trot, slow and stand - makes him a delight for users whose vocal capacity is limited.

The new horse, Red, has recently qualified and is carting the new red carriage - a perfect match. The group also has a Project Bramble which aims to build a veranda and safe car parking at the site to help people to participate in carriage driving. They are trying to raise funds to achieve these targets.

The group are also raising awareness - and thanks to Jane's lobbying there is to be an extra day added to the national carriage driving event in Hopetoun in May - specifically for RDA.

and use for both toddlers and parents.

The new Gaelic team includes Ina MacRae, who has been appointed to support groups in Plockton and Lochcarron.

Important time

A similar support post for West Lochaber 'will soon be filled', the council said. Community learning officer Margaret Mulholland said now was 'an important time' for Gaelic development.

'The council's second generation Gaelic Plan has been recently discussed and approved by the council's Gaelic Committee - and the development of the 0-3 years

New staff appointed to support Gaelic playgroups

FIVE part-time staff are starting work this week to support Gaelic toddler groups across the Highlands.

The new initiative, between Highland Council, the Care and Learning Alliance and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, will aim to develop a Gaelic 0-3 years sector to form a basis for language learning

sector is one of the many action points which requires to be implemented,' she said.

'The workers have a vital role to play in supporting the voluntary Gaelic parent and toddler groups - the toddlers attending could well be the Gaelic teachers and community leaders of the future.'

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'The workers have a vital role to play in supporting the voluntary Gaelic parent and toddler groups - the toddlers attending could well be the Gaelic teachers and community leaders of the future.'

Mum takes the plunge for her girls

A HARDY mother tackled the freezing sea near Oban last Saturday to raise money for Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SIMBA).

Susan Simpson, aged 42, swam across the back beach at Dunstaffnage in memory of two children she lost.

Two previous pregnancies ended with a miscarriage and a still birth. Susan described how leaving the hospital 'with nothing' made her want to help other bereaved parents.

Susan said: 'I'm doing this for all my girls. We want to put a tree of tranquillity in Oban. It will be a memorial tree

and a place for bereaved parents to go. I'm in discussion with the council about it and would love to hear where readers think it should go.'

Susan successfully completed her swim, about half a mile in distance, and now wants to make it an annual event.

So far more than £600 has been raised along with the loan of a wetsuit for the day from Sea Kayak Oban. Late donations are always welcome at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Highland-SIMBA>. SIMBA helps parents through the use of memory boxes and trees of tranquillity.



Susan prepares for her swim with her family. 16_116swim01

Bowmore backs series

BOWMORE Distillery is the latest sponsor to sign up to this year's Brevin Dolphin Scottish series.

Clyde Cruising Club last week unveiled Bowmore as the newest sponsor of the Tarbert-based festival which is due to take place from Friday June 1 to Monday June 4.

Competitors and spectators will be able to exclusively sample key bottlings from Bowmore at an exclusive tasting session on the Saturday in the new marquee complex on the north shore of Tarbert.

Sheriff Court forced to defer sentencing caravan vandal

A MAN who caused £9,000 of damage to static caravan at a Lochaber holiday park has had his sentencing deferred as the Crown Office do not know in which prison he is currently being held.

Michael Gallacher, of 95 Warwick, East Kilbride, is serving an 18 month sentence from Hamilton Sheriff Court for a separate crime, but Fiscal Depute Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court the 22-year-old's defence team had not informed her where he was doing time.

Gallacher previously pled guilty to wilfully

or recklessly damaging the property of another by knocking holes in wall panels and damaging the electrical supply, bending doors, smashing a light fitting, the living room fire and a microwave and smearing blood over other furnishings.

The damage occurred during a fight with another man at Caolasnacon Caravan Park near Kinlochleven on August 15 2010. The second man was admonished for his part in the incident.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing Gallacher until May 9.

Careless driver fined £475

A VAN driver pled guilty to driving carelessly even though he claimed he was the 'innocent party' in the incident, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Robert Murray, 32, had been delivering parcels in Lora View, North Connel, when he got involved with another vehicle after a road rage incident last November.

He had followed the vehicle at an 'unsafe distance' to the junction of the A828 and when the car began to make a right turn Murray drove along their offside, blocking the path then pulled in front and braked.

The court also heard Murray's van had

mounted the pavement on approach to the Connel bridge. But his defence agent said the other party had been sounding their horn and gesticulating at Murray, who had pulled in to let them past. Murray had been so concerned about their driving he had contacted the police himself.

Sheriff Small said: 'I am not minded to disqualify you. I will impose seven penalty points which will allow you to keep your licence and keep your job.'

Murray was also fined £475 and warned 'if you commit any driving offences you are likely to be disqualified.'

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OT

Bumper Mallaig prawn catches boost fish income

A BUMPER year for Mallaig prawn catches helped Scotland record a 10-year high fishing income in 2011.

Scottish Government statistics show catches nationwide reached £500m, with prawns accounting for £83m, the second most valuable species behind mackerel.

Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association chief executive John Hermse told *The Oban Times* the figures show the fishing industry in Scotland, and the west Highlands in particular, is more robust than some have given it credit for.

He said: 'This flies in the face of those who say fishing is finished and that there's no fish left in the sea. Landings in Mallaig have been very good over the past year. We had two poor years, probably the worst in 10 years, followed by the highest in 10 years. It's just natural fluctuations in fishing rather than anything else. We've been lucky in that we've had good catches coupled with very good prices, but if anything there's less boats out there.'

Mr Hermse added: 'Prawn numbers are very good just now and we're more than happy with how things are going.'

The figures show that 358,000 tonnes of fish were landed by Scottish vessels, however the number of active fishing vessels was 2,096 at the end of 2011, a decrease of three per cent on the previous year and the lowest number in the past decade.

The number of people employed on Scottish fishing vessels was 5,005, a drop of four per cent compared to 2010.

Robbery victim offers £500 reward

A £500 REWARD is on offer following the theft of cash and a black leather handbag from a house in the Acharacle area of Lochaber.

The robbery occurred sometime between Sunday April 8 and Thursday April 12. The victim is offering the reward money for which leads to a conviction. Anyone with knowledge of the incident should contact Strontian Police on 01967 402022 or Fort William Police on 01397 702361.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



They're off: the big field sets off from An Aird in Sunday's Lochaber Marathon. 20_116mar02

Hundreds take to the roads in popular Lochaber Marathon

ONE OF the biggest events on Lochaber's sporting calendar drew hundreds of competitors and spectators to Fort William on Sunday.

The Lochaber Marathon traditionally

brings runners from all over Scotland and the rest of the UK - and the 2012 event was no different as 432 athletes took to the road. One of the more colourful characters was 55 year-old

Frankie Barton, who was using the race as a qualifier for the marathon at June's London Olympics.

Frankie is running for the tiny island nation of St Kitts and Nevis at

the London Games - but comes from Craiggellachie in Banffshire. Lochaber Athletic Club's John Binnie was the first local man home in a great time of 2.49.11.

Motorists facing potential traffic chaos as work starts on two more A82 sites

LOCHABER motorists face potential traffic chaos after work started at two more sites on the A82 this week - bringing the total of roadworks to five in less than 25 miles on the lifeline route.

Traffic lights went up on Monday on the Lochybridge roundabout in Fort William as work continues on the new junction.

The same day, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) put further traffic lights in

place a mile north of the Corran Ferry for work to stabilise the rocky hillside ahead of timber harvesting in Glen Righ Forest.

FCS said a single lane closure would be required for periods until June, 24 hours a day Monday to Friday.

The lights will be removed for weekend traffic.

FCS will consult with Transport Scotland and Scotland Transerv to ensure traffic management is suspended for major events such as the Scottish Six Days

Trial from May 7-12. The A82 is already restricted to a single lane at Onich, three miles south of the new bottleneck. Further north, traffic lights remain in place at Lochybridge, Glenloy near Spean Bridge and at Loch Lochy, where floods damaged the road earlier this year.

Unhappy
A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean said he was unhappy the works coincided with the start of a busy time for Lochaber's tourism-related

businesses. He said: 'They should certainly not be putting them on during the tourist season, which is the busiest time of year for the local economy.'

Option
'Anybody viewing traffic websites are going to avoid the A82 and go up the A9 if that's an option for them.'

'Something that has to be pointed out is only one of these works, the one at Lochybridge, is actually improving the road.'

Dickerson said: 'We appreciate that no time is a good time for this sort of operation and we apologize in advance for any disruption that this will cause - but this is a major investment in the long-term safety of the A82 corridor that will benefit communities, businesses and the tourism industry.'

'We appreciate that traffic management can be inconvenient but it is essential for the safety of motorists, other road users and our teams working on site.'

'Yes' to whisky plant

Glenbeg jobs joy

ARDNAMURCHAN is to become the home of Scotland's newest whisky distillery after Highland councillors unanimously backed Adelphi Distillery Ltd's ambitious plans.

A final decision on the proposal for a fine malt plant and visitor centre was made on Tuesday afternoon after a visit to the site at Glenbeg next to the Kilchoan to Salen road.

Some 60 members of the public - supporters and protesters - joined councillors for a tour of the location before attending the planning meeting in Shielbridge Hall afterwards.

Although they were not allowed to participate in the debate, the majority of people in the packed hall showed delight when councillors gave Adelphi the thumbs up.

The seven committee members all voted in favour of the developer, who must spend £20,000 on improving roads in the vicinity and deal with any black mould if it appears within 100 metres of the plant.

Adelphi chairman Keith Falconer told *The Oban Times* planning for construction of the plant would start immediately.

He said: 'We are obviously delighted with the councillors decision and we feel our case for building this distillery has been properly heard by everybody. We are perfectly happy with the conditions the councillors attached.'

'We just can't wait to get started and we want to get on site as soon as possible.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron welcomed the decision on the grounds it would provide a huge jobs boost to an economically fragile area. He told *The Oban Times*: 'This

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

is great news for Ardnamurchan. There will be a big tourism benefit for the area. Hopefully it will join the whisky trail and bring more tourists to the area, and it could help the ferry as well.'

'In an ideal world, if there was another site round the corner it could have gone there. But we can only deal with the applications we have in front of us. It will bring at least four jobs, and in Ardnamurchan, in relative terms, that will be fantastic for the area.'

The plans attracted overwhelming support from local people, not least West Ardnamurchan Community Council. However, Sunart Community Council objected to the distillery on Highland Council's website.

Secretary Alan Thompson, who attended the site visit, expressed disappointment with the ruling.

He said: 'I was not against the idea of the distillery. I think most of the community thought it was a not bad idea. It is just being put in the wrong place.'

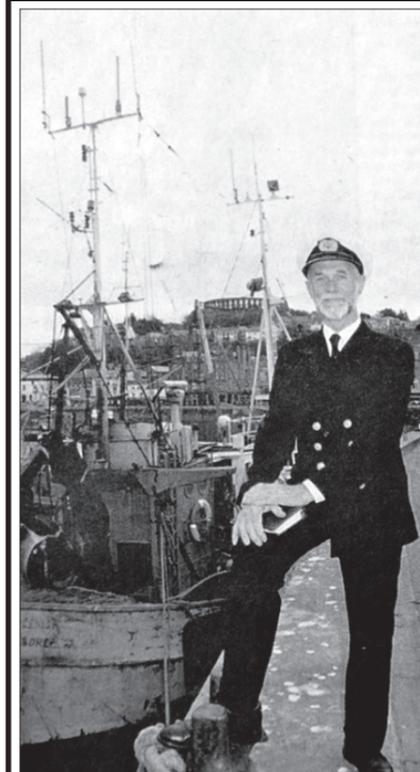
'I don't believe it will bring any jobs to the area and I don't believe it will bring in very many tourists. I've not been happy with what I consider to be bullyboy tactics from the developers. They have isolated and vilified any opposition, whilst claiming to have 100 per cent support from the community.'

Some locals, visitors and people with holiday homes in the area had voiced opposition to the plans. Adelphi announced last week the new malt whisky will be called 'Ardnamurchan'.

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, April 24, 1997



Bill in uniform. t16twtd01

Meet Bill, the man with a mission

THE UNIFORM of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen will once again be seen on a daily basis on Oban's sea front.

After the mission closed its doors in the town, Superintendent for the area Murray Campbell from Mallaig used to visit Oban on a regular basis. Now he has extra help with the appointment of Bill Leech

as Auxiliary Superintendent for Oban. Bill is no stranger to the sea. He has spent a life in maritime work, latterly as a fundraiser for RNLI. His wife Carol is Congregational Minister in Oban.

Commissioning
Bill's commissioning service takes place on Thursday May 15 at the Congregational Church, Oban.

Workers walk out from Oban Waterfront site

WORKERS with M and K MacLeod staged a walk out on Friday, leaving the Oban Waterfront site.

The firm, the largest construction company based in the West Highlands, said it was a dispute over wage deductions, which the company is required to make under the PAYE system.

Before, many of the workforce were treated as self-employed under the Construction Industry Tax Scheme, but a tightening of regulations by the Inland Revenue has seen many reclassified as employees.

This means income tax and national insurance have to be deducted from weekly wages rather than in lump sums later in the year.

In a statement, MacLeod's said it had provided adequate information to all those likely

to be affected, but it appeared that a minority had not fully appreciated the effect of the deductions the company was obliged to make.

Fiona arrives in a hurry

FIONA MacLean's arrival in the big wide world is one her family will not forget in a hurry.

The tiny baby was due on July 29 but arrived on Saturday April 19, weighing in at only 1lb 13-and-a-half ounces.

Mother Marion gave birth at Vale of Leven Hospital, but both she and little Fiona were transferred to Paisley Maternity Unit, where they have more sophisticated equipment to care for such a tiny, early arrival.

Hopes for return of rail freight

IT IS hoped that rail freight will return to the Oban to Crianlarich railway this year.

English, Welsh and Scottish Railways (EWS) confirmed it was undergoing negotiations to freight timber out of Oban on the railway.

The timber would be coming from Mull, via a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry, and then transferred to the rail.

EWS, which bought British Rail's freight division in February last year, is already freighting timber out of Kyle, Fort William and Crianlarich to manufacturers of paper and board in Cumbria and North Wales.

A spokesman for EWS said there was a few details that still needed to be ironed out but it was hoped it would be the start of a regular service.

EWS hopes to triple the amount of freight in Scotland going by rail in the next 10 years and believes it is an area with potential for growth.

This last year has seen the first year-on-year growth in rail freight by the company.



Jim Bowman, local tourist board director, with the American agents at Black Brae Restaurant, Tobermory. t16twtd2

Mull makes its mark on American travel agents on island trip

A PARTY of 10 American travel agents who specialise in selling Scotland made a special trip to Mull and Iona to see for themselves what the islands have to offer.

The SCOTS agents (Specialist Counsellors on Travel to

Scotland) were hosted by Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and Trossachs Tourist Board, in conjunction with the Scottish Tourist Board and assisted by the Highlands and Islands Objective 1 European Funding Programme.

The American agents stayed in the Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory and visited several local attractions including Torosay Castle and Gardens, Mull Railway, Isle of Mull Angora Rabbit Farm and Iona Abbey.

Privatisation plan for Argyll and Bute old people's homes

ARGYLL and Bute councillors have taken the first steps towards privatising the running of five old people's homes, including the Eader Glinn Home in Oban, in a bid to save £500,000.

However, concern has been expressed that a significant part of the saving will come from cutting the wages of workers 'at the coal-face'

according to Campbelltown councillor George McMillan. He was speaking at a meeting of the council's social work committee, which approved arrangements to put the running of the five homes - including Ardfenaig in Ardrishaig, Dunarons on Mull, Tigh a Rhuda on Tiree and Gortonvogie on Islay - out to tender.



These intrepid P5 explorers from Rockfield Primary School in Oban were sampling the Voyage of Discovery last week - one of the many themes which have recently been added to the playground at the school as part of a Parent Teacher Association venture. The mock Galleon was painted by pupils, teachers and parents as part of an ongoing programme to transform the school's play areas. Other designs included a lagoon, a railtrack, a shop and hop scotch. The ideas came from senior pupils who worked with the younger children and form part of an anti-bullying initiative started in the school last year. t16twtd1

Kinlochleven litter pick appeal

KINLOCHLEVEN Angling Club, Kinlochleven Community Council and Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) have teamed up to organise a community litter pick on Saturday.

Volunteers will meet at 10am in front of the former public toilets and the three organisations are looking for as many people as possible to help clean up the village ahead of the tourist season. Anyone who can give some time should contact Moira at the KCT office on 01855 831779 or get in touch with any member of the angling club or community council.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided at the trust office. Moira said: 'Please come along and help tidy our village. Everyone is welcome.'

Festival showcases importance of soil

HIGHLAND residents are to have the chance to take part in a festival designed to highlight the importance of soils for nature and wildlife.

The Highland Soil Biodiversity Festival from May 19 to 27 comprises nine days of illustrated talks, field visits and guided walks to raise awareness of the role soils play in the ecosystem. For more information visit www.highlandbiodiversity.com for a detailed programme or contact Janet Bromham or Jonathan Willet on 01463 702274.

Skye gardening guru in TV spotlight

BBC ALBA's popular gardening show Anns a Ghàrradh: In the Garden is returning for another series - with Isle of Skye co-presenter Calina MacDonald in the spotlight.

Gardening guru Calina and eager sidekick Eilidh MacInnes will show Scottish gardeners some handy tips in this year's series - which is based at Calina's own croft garden at Carbost. The duo will also visit some of Scotland's most interesting gardens and innovative gardeners. Produced by Tern TV for BBC ALBA, Anns a Ghàrradh: In the Garden will start on Tuesday April 24 at 8.30pm and thereafter on each consecutive Tuesday.



Constable Dean Gillies with the haul of alcohol confiscated from youngsters by police in Fort William over the weekend. 20_166dink01

Police seize booze from youngsters

POLICE confiscated 12 bottles of alcohol from teenagers caught drinking underage on the streets of Fort William over the weekend.

The youngsters, mostly aged 14 or 15, were found with a range of booze including bottles of vodka, cider, Buckfast and Smirnoff Ice.

Acting inspector Jenny Fraser told *The Oban Times* none of the children involved required medical treatment - but some were already under the influence by the time police discovered them.

She said: 'Any children found had the alcohol taken from them. Depending on their age, they were taken back to the station and their parents were called, or if they were older they were left to go on their way.'

Most of the underage drinkers were found in the An Aird area on Friday night near the visiting fun fair.

Inspector Fraser said: 'If they weren't down there, they just would have found somewhere else to drink.'

The move was part of Northern Constabulary's ongoing Operation Round-up, which aims to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour in the town.

The youngsters found with the drink were interviewed to find out how they got hold of the alcohol.

Gaelic college welcomes US guest to launch new bursary

SOUTH Skye Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig brought in international support on Tuesday - to launch a new bursary for students.

Bob Currie, president of the Clan Currie Society, travelled from the United States to announce the new bursary for research on the literature, poetry and history of the clan MacMhuirich [Currie].

Clan Currie became hereditary poets to the powerful MacDonald Lords of the Isles and MacMhuirich poets produced many famed works in the bardic tradition. In the 15th century Niall MacMhuirich was the first of several notable bards to Clan Ranald.

Mr Currie said at the launch: 'While much has been written of this great bardic dynasty, it is now recognised that much more remains to be revealed and interpreted through modern scholarship. The Clan Currie Society takes great pride in supporting this research.'

Professor Hugh Cheape, course leader at SMO for the MSc Material Culture and Gàidhealtachd History, said one student per year would be awarded the bursary - the 'Duais Clann MhicMhuirich'. He said: 'We are very proud to be instigating this on behalf of the Clan Currie Society and are looking forward to collaborating with the society to bring knowledge of this great dynasty before the people of Scotland and our cousins and descendants overseas.'

Island's only GP guilty of drink driving

Eigg doctor banned from road for 14 months

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

THE Isle of Eigg's only GP has been banned from driving for 14 months after being caught drunk behind the wheel of her car.

Dr Rachel Weldon, of Griannan, Eigg, was stopped by police in Caol on January 13 and found to be twice the legal drink-drive limit.

An anonymous caller had tipped off officers, who found the 54-year-old driving near along Glenloy Street near Caol shopping centre.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'She took a trip to the mainland and had consumed alcohol on the ferry and driven to Fort William. It was as she was driving back from Fort William the offence came to light.'

Dr Weldon 'very much regrets' the incident, Mr Kennedy said.

He added: 'She is waiting to hear if she can continue to practise. Most of her patients live within one mile of the practice, and her husband will be able to help her travel when he can.'

It is unclear what impact - if any - the conviction will have on Dr Weldon's service to patients, or whether disciplinary proceedings could follow. The GP also provides medical cover for Muck, Rum and Canna.

NHS Highland associate medical director (primary care) Dr Ken Proctor told *The Oban Times* he was aware of the situation but was unable to comment on the implications for Dr Weldon's future.

He said: 'GPs are independent contractors. Any decision on an individual's ability to practice would be a matter for the General Medical Council (GMC).'

'There is currently locum cover in place and there is no disruption to services. As is our standard practice, we will take any necessary steps to ensure patient safety and public confidence. We will also be taking any steps to support Dr Weldon's health and well being.'

A GMC spokesperson told *The Oban Times* Dr Weldon had informed them about the conviction and was still fully registered with a licence to practice.

Weldon, who pled guilty to drink driving, was also fined £400 by Sheriff Douglas Small.

Seafood bosses target £30m export sales

SCOTTISH seafood bosses have targeted £30m export sales at the world's largest seafood show in Brussels next week.

The European Seafood Exposition (ESE) from April 24 to 26 is forecast to attract more than 24,000 visitors from 80 countries. Many will pass through a Scottish Pavilion which promotes the vision of Scotland as a land of food and drink.

Companies exhibiting in the Scottish Pavilion include Caley Fisheries Hebridean Smokehouse, Highland Smoked Salmon, Loch Duart Ltd and The Scottish Salmon Company. Independent exhibitors include Marine Harvest Scotland Ltd, the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation and Scottish Sea Farms.

Renewable energy conference

THE SCOTTISH Highland Renewable Energy Conference is being held in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, next Thursday.

Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism will give the conference keynote address. Representatives from the National Grid, Highlands and Islands Enterprise will also be among the speakers.

Man admits lying in court to protect speeding driver

A MAN has admitted lying in court and to police to protect a woman from a charge of speeding in Glencoe.

Daniel Flaherty pled guilty to perverting the course of justice by falsely pretending he was driving the car which was caught by a speed camera doing 62mph in a 40mph zone on the A82 outside Glencoe Police Station on October 24. The 23-year-old appeared at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court on December 13 and falsely pled guilty to the speeding offence, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Alyson Tomlin, also 23, later admitted she had been driving the car, and also pled guilty to driving without insurance.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing the pair, both of 61 Strathblane Road, Campsie Glen, Glasgow, until May 9 for reports calling the crimes 'serious charges'.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Old Firm fans united in contempt

WHILE the west Highlands is full of football supporters on both sides of the Old Firm divide, fans of both teams would be equally dismayed at the actions of those who defaced Bobby MacCuish's gravestone.

The area is not considered to have a sectarian problem, which is why this action was more likely stupid than malicious.

Regardless, the family and friends of Bobby MacCuish are still reeling from the crime.

Perhaps the fact that Rangers badges were taped over a Celtic crest is not the issue. It would be easy to react to the sectarian aspect of this crime. It could be argued the most upsetting part of this incident was the fact the gravestone was defaced at all. A non-football related item could have been placed over the Celtic badge and caused similar distress.

Let's hope the perpetrator is caught and we, as a community, can send out a message that these actions will not be tolerated.

GLASGOW LETTER

Piping Live 2012

EASTER holiday crowds around Kelvingrove Art Galleries had an extra treat when pipers from around the world provided a taster for Piping Live 2012 which will take place in the city from August 6 to 12 with the World Pipe Band Championships taking place on Saturday August 11 in Glasgow Green.

Now entering its ninth year, Piping Live showcases today's newest talent such as Niteworks and Rura, as well as established musicians from around the world. This year the festival will host bands and musicians from 10 European countries. There will be workshops and masterclasses, ceilidhs, concerts and street performances with almost 150 free and ticketed events taking place across the city.

Piping Live's Festival Director said: 'We have put together a fantastic programme this year that will once again show what an energetic, eclectic and exhilarating instrument the bagpipes are. Whether you are a fan of traditional music, a newcomer to the genre, you want to pick up the bagpipes yourself or you are looking for something to do with the children during the summer holidays, Piping Live has something for everyone.'

Unlike many festivals, Piping Live has many free events with the National Piping Centre and its Street Cafe and George Square being main focal points. Glasgow is the place to be during that week with the wonderful spectacle of the 'Worlds' having something for the whole family with the expected 8,000 pipers and drummers from all over the world taking part.

Concert reminders

THE ERSKINE Charity Concert will be held in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick tomorrow evening (Friday).

The singers will be James Graham, Catriona Fair, Linda MacLeod and Guislaire and Ricky Kennedy with Billy and Iain Macphee providing the instrumentals along with accompanist Kirsteen Grant.

The following evening the Glasgow Skye Association will bring its ceilidh season to a close when the 'Wee Skye' takes place in Crawford Hall at 7.30pm. The singers will be Jennifer Campbell, Eilidh Munro, Alasdair Whyte and Robert Robertson. Robert will also play the accordion and the piper will be John Rennie. With such excellent programmes arranged both of these organisations deserve a good attendance at their concerts.

World Book Night

ALISON Lang will be at the Gaelic Book Shop, 23 Mansfield Street, Partick, on Monday April 23 when she will read from her new book 'San Duthaich Uir' and also discuss Gaelic writing. Everyone interested is

invited to attend at 5.30pm for 6pm when a glass of wine will be available

TradFolk

A RESIDENTIAL fiddle weekend for adults of all abilities will take place at Wiston Lodge, near Biggar from May 11 to 13.

For further details telephone 07905 952789 or 07763 763124. During the same weekend, whistle and flute classes will also take place - telephone 07890 965511.

Scottish music events

THIS spring there is plenty of traditional music entertainment from the students of traditional music at the Royal Conservatoire.

On Wednesday May 2 there will be a concert of New Works in the Guinness Room at the college at 8pm and then the following evening, in the same venue at 7.30pm, there will be an evening of Scottish Music. On Friday May 18, the Phil Cunningham Showcase will take place at St Andrew's in the Square at 7.30pm.

Diary dates

Thursday April 19: Live at the star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Dick Gaughan with support Chloe Matharu.

Friday April 20: Clydebank Highlander's Association Erskine Charity Ceilidh - see above. Na Cambeulaich, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Saturday April 21: Glasgow Skye Association Closing Ceilidh, 'The Wee Skye', - see above. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Paisley Gaelic Day, Reid Kerr College for Performing Arts, 5 New Street, Paisley. For more information telephone 07972 735413. Blaz'n Fiddles, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Sunday April 22: The Kilkennys, Perth Concert Hall, 8pm.

Monday April 23: Book Night - see above.

Thursday April 26: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Andy Irvine.

Friday April 27: Na Cambeulaich, Sgoil Ghadhlig Glaschu, 7.30pm. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am. Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert, Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday April 28: Na Cambeulaich, Paisley Arts Centre, 7.30pm. Ceol's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street, from 6pm, more details next week. Acoustic Affair, Kris Drever, City Halls, 8pm.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend the music will be provided by Black Velvet on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Robert Nairn on Saturday and then on Sunday Nicky McMichan will lead accordion sessions.

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Benbecula August 1954

A Surrey man who holidayed on Benbecula nearly 50 years ago found this photograph during a clearout of his attic. Euan Mackie, now of West Dunbartonshire, took the photograph in August 1954, when he was 18 during a family holiday to South Uist. Taken on a primitive colour film it shows his mother, Juanita and brother Laurin next to one of the island's cottages. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Good luck to Oban's Phoenix Cinema

Sir, I was in Oban over Easter and was delighted to meet Mikey McManus and his team of local volunteers at what will be the refurbished Phoenix Cinema.

I do not believe Transport Scotland to be the proper authority in deciding whether or not the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry service between Morvern, and the Isle of Mull should be retained and perhaps that responsibility should be for the Scottish Executive.

A properly constructed and conducted enquiry should be undertaken into the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry operation between Oban, Morvern and Ardnamurchan on the mainland and the Isle of Mull.

I believe that government organisations such as Transport Scotland be dissolved, especially when the current policy of the Scottish Executive is to support the fragile infrastructure of rural communities of the mainland and islands in the remote parts of Scotland.

It is quite obvious from the publicity recently published and broadcast on behalf of Transport Scotland that there is conflict between Transport Scotland and its parent and other respected departments of the Scottish Executive which at present is causing much concern within the communities of Morvern and the Isle of Mull.

James Byrne, 3 Seaview, Bonavullin, Morvern.

Ferry concerns on Morvern and Isle of Mull

Sir, The absence of actual evidence in media reports, published and broadcast on behalf of Transport Scotland to support the claim by Transport Scotland that only forestry vehicles use the ferry service operated by Caledonian MacBrayne between Lochaline in Morvern, on the mainland, and Fishnish, on the Isle of Mull, which Transport Scotland have claimed, also operates at a financial loss, offers very little reason for the withdrawal of the excellent ferry service currently operating between Morvern, and the Isle of Mull.

I believe it suspicious of Transport Scotland to call for the withdrawal of the ferry route between Lochaline in Morvern, and Fishnish, on the Isle of Mull, in favour of retaining the current Caledonian MacBrayne ferry route currently operating between Kilchoan, on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula of the mainland, and Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, a ferry route which even Caledonian MacBrayne itself has declared has operated at great financial loss since its inauguration about 1985.

I, like many other people in Morvern and on the Isle of Mull,

depended on the ferry service currently operated between Morvern and the Isle of Mull, which has brought prosperity and benefit to both communities.

I do not believe Transport Scotland to be the proper authority in deciding whether or not the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry service between Morvern, and the Isle of Mull should be retained and perhaps that responsibility should be for the Scottish Executive.

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James Byrne, 3 Seaview, Bonavullin, Morvern.

Nuclear power not safe

Sir, I do hope I may be allowed to respond to being called a liar in the press.

I refer to Mr Thomson's own words 'the mendacity of that statement'.

This refers to my comments the previous week that a nuclear disaster such as Fukushima or Chernobyl has resulted in many immediate deaths and the lingering deaths or subsequent ill-health of survivors. I suspect Mr Thomson did not watch the BBC programme

commemorating the catastrophe of Fukushima exactly a year after this event, nor its follow-up a week later.

My point was and is that nuclear power, may or may not be 'free', but is certainly not safe.

Notice he conveniently ignores my reference to Chernobyl and to Dounreay/Sellafield, in our islands. This was renamed in the hope of disguising what had happened and where. I also wanted it to be remembered that it is only quite recently that the 'movement of animals' restriction was lifted for this area.

Nuclear power plants are very expensive and do not last for so many years. When they have outlived their time, we are left with the monstrous building, I am only familiar with the behemoth at Dungeness, in Kent.

Even if we as humans could be infallible with our handling of nuclear power, I wish to emphasise that the forces of nature such as the tsunami that caused the meltdown of Fukushima have always to be taken into account.

I still maintain that hydro, solar and wind power are the answer to our 'renewables' question.

And, yes, I do have solar panels, and no I do not have a wind turbine, but yes, I am looking into this with a view to having a small 6kW one erected.

By the time one takes into account the cost of purchase, clearing the site and putting it in place, plus the maintenance, there is not a noticeable amount of profit to be had for the small punter.

So please, Mr Thomson, do not try to suppress what are patently facts and stop calling people names.

Jill Galbraith, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Oban tourists left confused

Sir, No doubt there were good reasons for moving the Oban Tourist Information Centre from its previous location by the station and ferry terminal (though that seems quite a logical place for it).

But could Argyll and Bute Council not have redirected its signposts at the same time, particularly before the Easter holiday weeks, rather than confusing at least one group of visitors from the Netherlands, New Zealand and California last Saturday into going round in circles for 10 minutes at the wrong end of George Street.

Annette Birkett-Uppenkamp, St Andrews, Fife.

Vital support for Parkinson's sufferers

Sir, This week is Parkinson's Awareness Week, and I'd like to tell your readers about this debilitating, incurable disease which affects around 120,000 people in the UK.

Parkinson's is a progressive disease of the nervous system that inhibits the way the brain controls movements such as walking, talking and writing. It has affected such famous figures as Muhammad Ali, Michael J Fox, Pope John Paul II and Salvador Dali.

People with Parkinson's or other disabilities often find it extremely costly and difficult to organise a break away from their difficult daily routine because of their complex medical and care arrangements. As a result, a huge number of people with disabilities and their carers give up on the possibility of ever getting any respite, due to the enormous physical or financial barriers they face. But there is support out there.

I work for Vitalise, a national charity providing essential respite breaks at accessible centres around the UK. Each year we welcome thousands of people with disabilities and carers to enjoy desperately-needed breaks with us - breaks which often mean the difference between coping and despair.

If your readers would like more information about our breaks or would like to support our vital work, please call us on 0303 303 0145 or visit www.vitalise.org.uk.

Colin Brook, Vitalise.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA CUIMHNE agam air ceist ann an deuchainn feallsanachd mhoralta ann oithligh a bha ag iarraidh orm beachdachadh air na bh'ag an fheallsanach ainmeil, Rousseau, ri ràdh mu 'chòraichean tràilleachd'.

Leis an fhirinn, suarach cho math 's a bha feallsanachd mhoralta a' còrdadh rium agus cha robh mi a' cur cus saothrach ann a bharrachd agus 's ann dìreach aig deireadh na bliadhna, nuair a thàinig am deuchainne, a rinn mi beagan obrach. Dh'fhàg mi cùisean fadalach agus cha robh ùine agam ach airson am beagan deisealachaidh agus a bhith beò an dòchas gun nochdadh ceistean air na cuspairean air an d' rinn mi beagan deasachaidh! An latha ron deuchainn dh'fhaighnich deagh charaid dhomh an robh mi deiseil agus nuair a thuir mi nach robh 's nach biodh ann am, thuir i gum bu chòir dhomh ùrnaigh airson taic. Cha b' e fear eaglaise a bh'annam ach bha fios agam gur e Crìosdaidh a bh'innseas agus gur ann da-rìribh agus le deagh rùn a bha i a'

bruidhinn. Cha robh dad a chuimhne agam air dè thuir Rousseau mu chòraichean tràilleachd ach 's dòcha ri linn na thuir mi mo charaid, thàinig an t-ionnsachadh òg air ais thugam. Fhreachair mi nach robh e gu diofar co-dhù thu nach a' creidsinn gun do thachair mean-fhàs a rèir sgeulachd an t-Seann Tiomnaidh neo a rèir Darwin, thàinig mac an duine bhon aon t-sìol agus mar sin, tha sinn uile co-ionann is chan urrainn còraichean tràilleachd a bhith aig duine air neach eile. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun d' fhuair mi tron deuchainn, dh'farr iad orm leantainn leis a chuspair! Ach cha d' rinn mi sin.

'S e 's còraich mi bhith ag aithris na sgeulachd gum bheil mi cho tàmailteach mun ire gràin-cinnidh a tha fhathast cho follaiseach feadh an t-saoghal. Agus chan eil e fada bhuainn uile! Cuiridh mi geall, ma tha sinn onarach, gum tèid againn uile air duine neo dhà ainmeachadh a tha den bheachd gum bheil craiceann geal a' toirt barantas thar dhathan eile. Nach eil sin uabhasach ann an saoghal a tha air fàs

cho beag agus aig àm far am bheil mac an duine air uimhir a dh'adhartas a dhèanamh le teicneòlas agus ionnsachadh. Thuir cuid gur ann air siostam an fhoghlaim a tha an uallach cur às dhan mhaslach seo, ach saoilidh mise gum bheil cleastanas air a' chinne-daonna gràin-cinnidh a pheanasachadh gu cruaidh chun an cuirear às dha.

ALMOST certainly each of us knows someone who believes that their pale skin makes them superior to those of a different colour.

Eradication of the shame of racism cannot be left to education alone; this is a world responsibility of humankind. Developed nations must lead by example and severely punish those who promote the disgusting philosophy of racial hatred.

Matthew Arnold said that men of culture are the true apostles of equality, but I believe they cannot deliver it on their own.

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

Times Diary

APPROACHING closing time on Monday night, staff at Nories chip shop in Oban could have been forgiven for winding down to the end of their shift.

That wasn't to be this week past when staff from Kilbowie Outdoor Centre decided to treat more than 100 Glasgow youngsters staying at the centre to a bag of chips.

The children all walked in to the town centre and gathered by Oban Bay while the group leaders went in with their order for 120 bags of chips.

'It's nice to see these kids visiting the town,' said chip shop owner Anthony Di Ciacca. 'So I made sure they got a good deal on their chips.'

It's not the first time Nories has had such a large order; last year one group ordered 65 fish suppers at once!

IF AMERICANS are accused of being brash and loud, their Canadian neighbours clearly have more subtlety, especially when it comes to the sensitive issue of losing your spectacles.

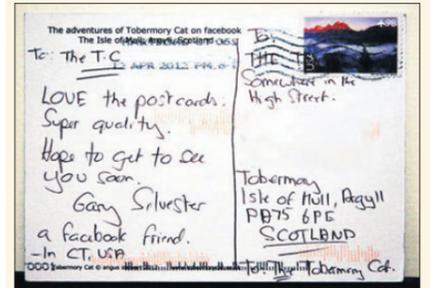
One man who can attest to this is Oban's Christopher Campbell, currently travelling through Canada, who informs us of an announcement in an outdoor store.

It said: 'Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I would like you all to please take a second to check the bridges of your noses for me, please.'

'If you find that there is nothing, where there should be something, could you please report to the front desk to reclaim them please.'

A BENDERLOCH resident has contacted *The Diary*, claiming they heard the first cuckoo of Spring at 6.45am on Monday April 16.

We reckon there's a record to beat that out there, so if you think you heard the first 'cuckoo' this spring, get in touch.

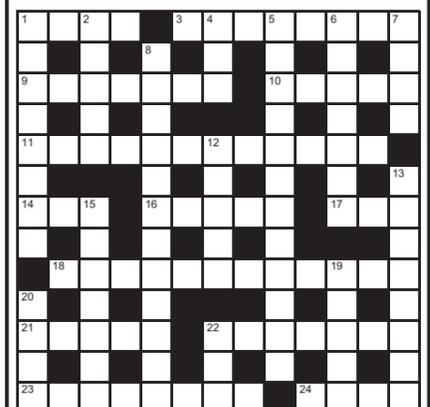


WORD of Tobermory Cat's adventures seems to have spread, with one of the mischievous moggy's own postcards having been sent to him - from Connecticut, USA.

Addressed to The TC, Somewhere in the High Street, Gary Silvester - a Facebook friend - said he hopes to see the island's most charismatic ginger cat soon.

Diary congratulates Mull's diligent posties, who obviously searched the tops of cars and boats for hours on end to track down Tobermory Cat.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



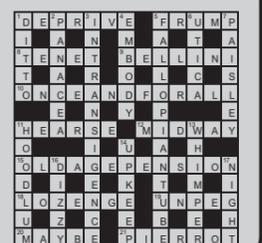
Across

- Stroke when hurling (4)
- Legitimate (4,4)
- In such respect (7)
- Adjust (5)
- Dark overhead (12)
- Short overcoat? (3)
- Her trousers (5)
- Also (3)
- Occuring at different times (12)
- As it were (5)
- Loudly (7)
- Boa (8)
- Lump of earth (4)

Down

- Between lessons (8)
- Large rodent (5)
- Due to (3)
- Cattle disease (12)
- Put into care of another (7)
- Husband of a Countess (4)
- Brazilian seaport (3,2,7)
- A fish or sail (5)
- Cross locks seen by one in charge? (4-4)
- Buckthorn (7)
- Architectural projection (5)
- Blue liquid? (4)
- Affirmative action (3)

Last week's solution



Down Your Way

Crianlarich



STARDOM awaits for several Crianlarich Primary School pupils as they prepare for their show at Stirling's MacRobert Theatre.

The weather themed show will see the children take to the stage on April 23 in an event co-ordinated by Active Stirling. In total, 16 pupils from the school's P4-P7 classes will be taking to the stage, having rehearsed since returning from their Christmas break. Practising their umbrella routine are, back first from left: Paul Macnab, Ruth Palmer, Rebecca Geddes and Cameron Burnett. Front: Weronika Bernatowska, Jordan Farnes and Jayden McAffrey. 15_terschedance1

A GRANT of £8,000 could pave the way for renewed tourist interest in Crianlarich, as part of a £100,000 scheme to develop the local footpath network.

Crianlarich into Action (CIA) received the funding from the Lottery Fund Community Open Spaces Scheme to draw up a plan of action to draw more casual walkers into the area.

While already popular with dedicated hillwalkers, the community has recognised a lack of opportunities for those just looking to go for a casual stroll amongst the spectacular landscape. The grant of £8,000 will allow CIA prepare planning applications by October, while a decision on future funding for the whole project is expected by spring 2013.

If successful, construction could start

immediately. A local architectural firm has been employed to draw up plans for the network.

Isla Craig, of CIA, said: 'There's nothing signed here and that's not ideal for the lay walker. What the signage would do is help people see the sights and get on the hill.'

'What we'd like to do is get some maps up, maybe some hides for bird watching.'

'There are two phases to the funding process and we've made it through the first with the ballpark £100,000 figure, so we're enthusiastic this will progress.'

Meanwhile, CIA hope to improve the eastern end of Lower Station Yard following a successful community clean of the area last month. Wood chips from the path are set to go the school play area and the footpath part of the railway line.



From left, Bryan Craig and wife Isla, a member of the community council, The Green Welly Stop's Fiona Robertson, Lisa Stafford, local fundraising volunteer manager at BHF Scotland, Gwenn Hunter and Murray McEwan of the Scottish Ambulance Service at the delivery of the defibrillator to Crianlarich.

CRIANLARICH now has its own portable defibrillator thanks to a Strathfillan-wide fundraising campaign.

Locally, the life saving equipment will be available at the Crianlarich Hotel, with two other devices also bought by Strathfillan Community Council, one at Tyndrum's Green Welly Stop, and at Inverarnan's Drover's Inn.

Local volunteers have now been trained in their use and it is hoped the defibrillators will help save lives.

The equipment cost £4,500 after a 50 per cent grant from the British Heart Foundation. The majority of funding came from a £2,000 donation from the Green Welly Stop, and £2,500 from Scottish and Southern Energy.

EXIT Youth Group will this month take 17 youngsters to Glencoe as part of a teambuilding weekend.

Three adults will join the group, ranging in age from 8-16 to the Glencoe Outdoor Centre.

Funding for the trip has come from the Cashback for Communities Fund, which reinvests proceeds from criminal activity into community programmes, facilities and activities, largely for young people.

CRIANLARICH will welcome the Olympic torch with a street party when it passes through on June 9.

Locals will gather at the Railway Bridge on the A82 at 11.15am as it makes its way around Scotland from Glasgow. The Crianlarich Hotel will welcome the spirit of the Games with a piper and a host of Scottish-themed treats - including a special Scottish breakfast roll - marking both the arrival of the torch and celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The community will be out in force too, cheering the runners as they head through.

One of three runners will be carrying the torch through the village - Lee Fish from Helensburgh, Martin Cremin from Stirling or Paul Quinn from Edinburgh. It is hoped the arrival of the torch will help put Crianlarich on the map and bring extra interest to the area, with television cameras likely to follow the torch's procession. The torch will then move on to Tyndrum, with Glasgow's Erin Foley the torch-bearer, where locals from the whole Strathfillan area will gather for a day of celebrations. It will then make its way to Fort William.



Buyers packed out Crianlarich Hall for its 25th annual auction, which this year raised £1,100 to keep the hall running.

A QUARTER of a century of fundraising auctions for Crianlarich Village Hall hasn't dampened appetite for a bargain, with this year's raising £1,100 for its upkeep.

More than 430 lots were sold at this year's event in the new hall's 20th anniversary year. The auction, which started when the old hall was still in use, attracted around 80 bidders, with items as diverse as lava lamps to genuine antiques being vied for.

The sum will go towards the running of the hall and goes some way towards the £6,500 the hall committee needs to pay for its upkeep and

ensure fees for use are kept down. Crianlarich Hall Committee's Bryan Craig said: 'We usually have three fundraisers a year. Of that, two are big fundraisers, the auction that has just passed and then in August we have a family fun day. As well as keeping the hall running, we've got repairs and maintenance to do so it is still useful now and in the future. It's an important facility as its used for community events, as a sports hall and the village school uses it as their gym.'

Brian thanked everyone who turned up for the auction and continuing to support the hall.

Next week, Chief Reporter Euan Paterson visits Taynuilt.

BENDERLOCH

A CYCLING double act wearing 1920s costume will pedal through Oban and into Benderloch next month as part of a cross country fundraising challenge.

The 'Owdyado Theatre are cycling from John O' Groats to Lands End to raise money for their Autumn show *Wrongdoings and Wake Up Calls at the Stop-Off Motel*.

The duo are being sponsored on their journey by Emma Law of Benderloch and North Connel Drama Group, who donated a night in the Innis Chomain bed and breakfast to the cyclists, where they will stay the night before heading to Callander the next day.

CONNEL

CONNEL Community Council will hold its AGM at its next meeting, on May 8.

Held at the Village Hall, the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

ISLAY

ISLAY Rowing Club will launch its newly built racing skiff at Portnahaven on Saturday April 21. The new boat will be the third skiff recently on Islay, and will join the other rowing boats, two Port Ellen-based Isis skiffs, in competitions during 2012.

This latest boat has been built by Jack Glover and friends in Portnahaven, to an internationally recognised design, the 'St Ayles Skiff', and Jack is hoping to build another boat to the same specification. The cost of constructing these boats is about £3,000, and many Islay people and those with local connections have contributed 'shares' of £100 towards the project.

A fundraising barbecue will be held in Portnahaven on launch day, to which the island community and visitors are all invited.

THE SCOTTISH Society for Northern Studies held its 2012 Northern Studies Conference in Islay with a series of talks and discussions from April 12 - 15th.

The society was founded in 1968 to explore the relationships between Scandinavian, Celtic and Scottish cultures. This year's theme was 'Islay: From Gall to Gael and Gallowglass'.

While the main focus was on settlements and society in Islay during the Middle Ages, the lectures also covered archaeology, history and folklore in the Hebrides and the surrounding areas ranging from prehistory through to more recent times.

The public introductory evening session was held in the Round Church in Bowmore on Thursday, April 12, when Dr. Malcolm Ogilvie lectured on 'Landscape and Natural History', followed by John Barber on 'Prehistoric Settlement Patterns'; and Dr. Margaret Storie on 'Settlement and Society over the Past 300 Years'.

The conference ceilidh was held in Ballygrant Hall on Saturday, April 14.

Islay's arts enthusiasts have performances by touring companies from major Scottish arts organisations to look forward to later this year, which have been organised by Islay Arts Association.

In autumn, the darkening evenings will be brightened by comedian Mark Steel, and



Colonsay's MacPhee baggers.

A GROUP of walkers on Colonsay raised more than £600 by conquering all 21 'MacPhees' on the island.

The MacPhees - the 21 peaks that stand above 300 feet - were all climbed in just over nine hours on Easter Monday by four intrepid islanders.

Although Colm McNicholl and Kevin Byrne from Colonsay, plus visitors Alasdair Small and Julian Hall, ranging in ages from 30 to 70 years, climbed all the peaks, a total of 16 people

other forthcoming events are in preparation including theatre, classical and traditional music performances. Dates for Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival are confirmed for September 14 - 16.

Scottish Ballet will come to the island in November for a four-day visit which will include public performances and educational work across the island.

Following after their visit, Scottish Opera will arrive to feature a programme of opera highlights in what will be the opera company's 50th anniversary year.

KILCHOAN

THE KILCHOAN Pram Race is being run again this year, on Friday August 3 in aid of Jetty Committee funds. The committee looks after the jetty, the moorings, the shower block and the boath used by the Regatta each year.

STAFFIN

THE SKYE home of the woman who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape following his defeat at Culloden in 1746, has been put up for sale.

Flora MacDonald's Cottage at Flodigarry in Staffin is being sold with the adjacent Flodigarry Country House Hotel and Dun Flodigarry House.

LISMORE

AN APPRECIATIVE audience visited the heritage centre, Ionad Noamh Mòluag, for the launch of *Ted and Elizabeth Odling*, a book about two artists of the west of Scotland, written and produced by their children, Noelle, Christopher and Nicholas Odling. Barbara McDougall opened the launch and the accompanying exhibition of their work in the heritage library, and Noelle spoke about her parents who, to many, were already well known for their great personalities as well as their art, as they had moved to island in 1982 when Ted retired from the Glasgow School of Art. The book covers their creative careers, Ted as a landscape painter whose interest in science and technology

took part in various stages of the climb. The accepted procedure is to start and finish below the high-water mark, and to climb all the peaks in one connected walk, although it can be in the order of your choice. The total distance is in excess of 20 miles, and the route involves some very rough terrain.

The money raised will go towards the primary school's trip to see historic sites in Orkney.

generated many ideas when combined with his artistic talent, and Elizabeth's brilliantly detailed illustrations, drawings and water colours of nature as well as embroidery and quilting. Their combined work is seen in the work they did for the Burns club in Irvine, the Burns Museum at Alloway and Chateherault (near Glasgow). Elizabeth was well known for her exhaustive knowledge and great love of Burns. The book is available at the Museum shop and the exhibition in the library is free.

A CRAFT fair sprang up at Tighful on Lismore and for three days over Easter we were able to buy some of the works produced and hand made on the island by the many talented crafts people.

Following the success of the Christmas fair, now an established event, it was thought that, with so many islanders creating art and crafts all the year round, there could well be room for more such events. Ten people took part this time and many more would have, had the dates suited, and Frances and Caroline Willis said that they were hoping that maybe they

could eventually set up some sort of co-operative, sharing materials and costs as well as ideas, which could make the initial outlay less expensive and open the way for greater creativity.

On offer at this first Lismore Easter fair was a wide range of goods including drift wood art, jewellery, chocolate, cosmetics, cards, and art as well as vintage clothes and china.

RAASAY

RAASAY residents are questioning the cost of bringing Highland Council contractors over on the ferry from Sconser once a fortnight to cut the grass.

It turns out the ferry fare for the truck and trailer is £243 - which means the bill to the council will be a cool £3,000 by October.

BALMACARA

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland's Balmacara Estate in Lochalsh is hoping to set up a butterfly transect in and around Drumbuie and Duirinish this summer.

This involves walking a set

route and recording the different species of butterflies seen on each particular occasion.

If the weather and conditions permit the transect should be walked on a weekly basis between the hours of 11am and 3pm.

The trust is hoping to do this from June through to September and if anyone is interested in taking part in the butterfly survey they can contact Gavin at gskipper@nts.org.uk at the Balmacara Estate Office. Full training and all equipment will be provided.

MORAR

A NEW adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless classic *Kidnapped* is heading for Mallaig and Morar Community Hall.

Cumbernauld Theatre Company will stage the performance - the first of a north of Scotland tour - on May 8. Artistic director Ed Robson said: 'Right now, when there's talk of independence in the air, *Kidnapped* has never been a more important story to tell.'

More information at www.kidnapped.cumbernauldtheatre.co.uk.

FORT AUGUSTUS

RECYCLING good FAIR (Fort Augustus and Invermoriston Recycling) is to hold a number of tidy ups in the villages over the coming weeks.

The spring cleans will aim to clear litter and dog dirt from the streets and grass areas before the summer tourist season starts.

KNAPDALE

FAMILY history enthusiasts, as well as fans of Argyll heritage, have taken to a book written about the Knapdale area.

Stornoway school teacher Jean C Macleod's book *'Stronefield and other Deserted Knapdale Townships'* is published by the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll.

The subject of the book is an old ruined settlement in Knapdale, Argyll. MacLeod asks why it was abandoned. To find answers, she painstakingly searched original records including Gaelic and Canadian sources.

The book is on sale at Kilmartin Museum and the Argyll Book Centre, Lorne Street, Lochgilphead.

ARISAIG



The 76th Arisaig Highland Games and 8th Clan Ranald Gathering will be held on Wednesday July 25. The event will be staged at its traditional venue, the scenic location of Traigh Farm, which boasts sweeping views across towards the Cuillin and the Small Isles of Eigg and Rhum. A ceremonial parade through Arisaig led by the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will precede the games, which will be opened by Ranald, 24th Captain of Clan Ranald.

LOCHEARNHEAD

MORE people speed through Lochearnhead and Strathyre than there are days in a year.

Central Scotland Police is to prioritise driving offences in the villages after new figures showed more than 500 motorists were reported between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

Of that, more than 400 were speeding offences alone.

Constable Andrew Ward is less than satisfied by the figures.

He said: 'Whilst I am bitterly disappointed at the high numbers of offenders, they are similar to the previous year's results.'

'The only difference is that following on from the previous year more time was spent by myself and my colleagues this last year in combating speeding motorists.'

'I want to reassure both residents and visitors alike that, along with my colleagues, I will continue to treat the villages of Lochearnhead and Strathyre as a priority when it comes to road safety.'

KILLIN

KILLIN Youth Group (KYG) have been awarded two grants which will help with their 'Batty about Killin' project, which involves learning about bats, their habitats and how to protect them.

KYG members will also be passing on this information to the wider community through presentations and information stalls throughout the year.

The group says thanks are due to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £3,000 and the North Face Explore Fund for

its £1,600 grant, which will really enhance the project for the young people involved.

They can now buy equipment for camping trips and exploration of habitat further afield, as well as work towards the John Muir Trust Awards and, most importantly, contribute to the protection of the local bat population.

Meanwhile KYG members have been busy breadmaking, creating willow sculptures, ice skating and theatre going, as well as enjoying a residential weekend in Nethy Bridge.

All this activity is thanks to support from Awards for All, Leader and Stirling Council.

KILLIN Golf Club is seeking new corporate sponsors for its tees for the new season.

For £250, businesses will get a colour advertising sign, four complementary rounds each year and link on the club's website.

For more information, contact Sheila Aitken on 01567 820249 or Jim Ronald on 01838 300337.

CALLANDER

ATHLETES will make a dash into Callander this month, for the first ever Callander X 10k.

Sponsored by the Waverley Hotel, the multi-terrain event takes runners through Callander before venturing out into the surrounding forests and then returning into town along the banks of the River Teith.

Organisers say the route, which is 60 per cent trail and 40 per cent tarmac, makes the race one of the most scenic in Britain.

For more information and to register, visit www.entrycentral.com.

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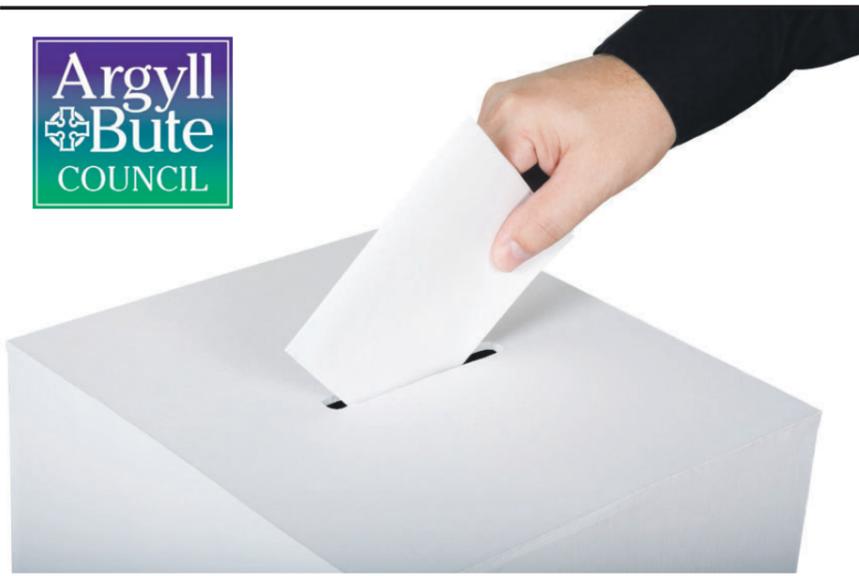
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2012 Argyll and Bute Local Elections - at a glance

QUESTIONS about rural schools, jobs, housing and care for the elderly all need answered - by the people who aim to represent you for the next five years. Many big issues are being raised by candidates and voters in the run up to the local government elections taking place across the country and here we give the candidates - your potential councillors - the opportunity to tell you exactly what their intentions are for Argyll and Bute. The Oban Times contacted all of those standing in wards 1 to 5. However, Ed Tyler, standing for the Scottish Greens in Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands, Charlotte Hanbury, standing for the Scottish Conservatives in Ward 3 - Mid Argyll and

Michael Hawke, standing for the Scottish Conservatives in Ward 4 - Oban South and the Isles did not respond to our request for candidate profiles. The polls will open at 7am and close at 10pm on Thursday May 3. You can find your nearest polling station on the Argyll and Bute Council website. Results are expected the following morning with three councillors being elected for each of wards 1 to 3 and four councillors elected for both wards 4 and 5. Next week's issue will look at candidates in the Highlands and Islands and Western Isles council areas

Anne Baird
SNP
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



Our council has been nursing decline for many years and it's time that stopped. The threat to 26 rural schools was a wake-up call. If we decimate small communities, we'll kill the towns that sustain them. I will work, with an SNP team at all levels of government, to reverse that trend. The experience I've gained as a member of the Commission for the Delivery of Rural Education convinces me that a stable future is attainable and progress, even in difficult times, can be made. Partnership with the talented and committed people of Argyll and Bute is crucial to that.

Rory Colville
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



My family and I have lived and worked in South Kintyre for generations. I understand your priorities and have done and will continue to do all in my power to deliver them. Much has already been achieved: Aqualinium; the all weather pitch; protect the Ring'n'Ride service; funding for a new Grammar School; increased roads spending. My pledge for the future: to protect Council services, especially those delivered to the most vulnerable; to continue the purge on potholes; to deliver a town centre car park; to improve transport links serving Kintyre. I welcome the opportunity to once again represent South Kintyre.

Robert Graham
Independent
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



Born and raised in Campbeltown, the area lies strongly in my heart. Campbeltown is being left behind and we have to do something about it now to secure its future. I want more information to be made available to the public, to make the council aware who it is working for and who it represents. Sort out unfair transport for elderly and disabled for South Kintyre and implement a planning sub-office to speed up the planning process. Just some of the things I hope to implement. If you really care about where you live and work vote Graham, No1 Independent.

Deirdre Henderson
Independent
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



I am standing as an independent candidate to promote unbiased Independent thinking not party politics. I am a freelance Community Development Worker, passionate about using my training and experience to bring people in the community together to meet needs, raise issues and to develop communities into better places to live. I have worked for the Council and charities in Kintyre. I have helped set up community groups, volunteering over 3,000 hours in ten years to help improve the area. I will donate 15 per cent of my salary to charities. Find out about me on Facebook 'Vote for Deirdre Henderson'.

Donald Kelly
Scottish Conservatives
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



I will continue to work with the same commitment and work ethic which I have applied over the past ten years - standing up and fighting for the community at every turn. Some of the important key issues that require to be addressed are:- the continued regeneration of Kintyre; continue with the A83 campaign until there is a firm plan of action in place to address the issues; improve transport links to Kintyre; restore democracy to Argyll and Bute Council and decision making to local councillors. For a positive and steadfast approach to future challenges - VOTE KELLY No 1.

George Rahman
Independent
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



The decision to stand as an independent councillor for South Kintyre was an easy one as change is needed. I cannot promise to sort out the problems with the roads in Kintyre. I cannot promise a new ferry service from Campbeltown to Ayrshire. Too many promises have been made in the past but never fulfilled. What I can promise is to devote 100 per cent of my time and effort in addressing any issues that I am given by the voters of South Kintyre. This IS the time for change. Vote George Rahman No.1 so we CAN make changes together.

John Semple
SNP
Ward 1 - South Kintyre

WARD 1



It has been my privilege to represent the people of South Kintyre for the last five years. During this time I have listened carefully to you and done everything within my powers to champion your concerns and interests. The most important lesson I have learned is, to be effective, a councillor must be able to work co-operatively with fellow councillors and the Scottish Government. Teamwork is vital. I believe that our team can demonstrate professionalism and integrity in every walk of life and I have no doubt that together we can lead a new refreshed council to deliver for you.

Bob Chicken
Scottish Labour
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



Johann Lamont has challenged the Scottish Labour Party to be worthy of the people of Scotland by sticking with our principles and finding innovative solutions to the problems of these tough times. This is particularly important here in Argyll and Bute where open, accountable governance, progressive policies and sound, strategic thinking seem as rare as hen's teeth. We need forward thinking councillors with new ideas - councillors prepared to work with others to improve the lives of the people of Argyll and Bute. My backgrounds in business and as a community campaigner give me the skills to fit that job description.

Robin Currie
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



Being a councillor for Kintyre and the Islands for the past five years has been a great privilege. During this time I have worked closely with individuals, communities and voluntary groups to try and get the best for our communities. I have a proud record of action and I am well known for being a strong voice for Kintyre and the Islands and I promise more of that for the future. It is my intention that the priorities of the different communities in Ward 2 will be my priorities for the coming years. Working together we can make a difference.

Anne Horn
SNP
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



Regeneration of Argyll and Bute depends on agencies working together to provide jobs and housing in communities for young people. We must work to make local schools sustainable and an integral part of their community. Efficient transport systems and reliable ferry links are essential for providing a lifeline service for residents and encouraging tourists to visit the fabulous area of Kintyre and the Islands. If I am elected on May 3 I will continue to work full time as a Councillor committed to representing the people of Kintyre and the Islands with respect.

John McAlpine
Independent
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



I am passionate about rural services, in particular schools; maintaining rural schools is essential in retaining young families in the area. We desperately need more rented accommodation, especially three-bedroom homes and housing associations must be given finance to provide such facilities. Care for the elderly has always been a priority of mine and if changes are made to the service they must be in the best interest of families and carers. Local councillors should be more involved in the planning process, which is not currently the case. The current administration needs change; hopefully with your help this can be achieved.

Arthur McFarlane
Independent
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



I consider that the council has, through incompetence and unethical practices, squandered the resources and blighted the lives of Argyll people for a hundred years. I am standing for election to play a part in replacing the council with something we can actually take pride in. My priorities will be to limit the council's activities to what it can do well, to set up a 'jury of residents' empowered to investigate any aspect of the council which causes concern, open up the council's relationship with the police and freemasonry and squeeze every penny's-worth of value out of the taxpayer's pound.

Alastair Redman
Scottish Conservatives
Ward 2 - Kintyre and the Islands

WARD 2



I am a local resident on Islay, having attended Islay High School and am now the Post Master and storeowner in Portnahaven. I want to work for my community, as Argyll & Bute is a vast area that needs strong voices to stand up for local residents. I feel I have the skills necessary to stand up for the people in Kintyre and the Islands on the council. There is much to do in this area and I hope you will put your trust in me on May 3, by giving me your first preference vote.

Alison Hay
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 3 - Mid Argyll

WARD 3



Alison Hay represents the Mid-Argyll ward and would like the opportunity to do so for another term. The last five years have been difficult. Young people are struggling to find jobs and with high fuel, food and energy costs, the cost of living has soared. No-one has escaped. If re-elected Alison would like to continue pressing to find a solution to the A83, helping the communities and businesses who rely on this life line road. Tourism, vital to Argyll and Bute's economy needs a higher profile and proper support. Attractions like Kilmartin and Auchindrain Museums need to thrive.

Donnie MacMillan
Independent
Ward 3 - Mid Argyll

WARD 3



I am seeking re-election to Argyll and Bute Council as an independent candidate in Mid Argyll. I have many years experience as a councillor and look forward to your continued support, allowing me to carry on representing you all which has been a pleasure to do. Being independent I am answerable to the community wholly and not to any political party but suggestions that come forward which would benefit ward three or Argyll and Bute I would be happy to support. Being retired I am fully dedicated, I hope you will consider me as your No1 candidate on May 3.

Douglas Philand
Independent
Ward 3 - Mid Argyll

WARD 3



Serving the Mid Argyll ward three over the past five years has been a great honour. I have been committed to rural schooling, advocating for vulnerable people, raising the profile of the A83 and its associated difficulties to as high as the Scottish Parliament and highlighting the democratic deficits currently associated with the executive committee of the council which does not allow all elected members to have an equal say. I will continue to act on behalf of my constituents representing your views. To ensure you have positive representation vote Philand 1.

Wendy Reynolds
Scottish Labour
Ward 3 – Mid Argyll



WARD 3

We need to wake up the council. The communities of Argyll deserve a democratic, open and accountable council. Not one where decisions are made by a clique of councillors and officers. I will campaign for full, fair and honest consultations when major changes in services are planned, so that the school closure fiasco does not happen again. As a carer, single parent and former health professional I understand the difficulties of juggling work and family and will stand up for families and the vulnerable. I will listen and respect all views and take any appropriate action to represent your concerns.

Sandy Taylor
SNP
Ward 3 – Mid Argyll



WARD 3

Our Council is an important part of all our lives, more so in these times of financial austerity. Using the knowledge and experience gained over 19 years as a senior manager with this council, I will work with colleagues in an SNP administration to deliver our ambition for an administration which is closer to the communities it serves, listens and delivers change for the better. I will ensure that the people of Mid Argyll have a voice in the council, a voice which will be heard; a voice for Mid Argyll, a place to be proud of.

Gordon Chalmers
Independent
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

I will continue to represent you as before giving priority to preserving ferry services in Oban and the Isles, protecting education for our children and care for our elderly, and improving the accountability of councillors and council employees to you, the public. I am as committed to looking out for Oban as I am to Mull and the Isles, having fully grasped the need to work with Oban colleagues that the new voting system made essential after the last election. I will be delighted to carry on the privilege of representing you for the next 5 years.

Mary-Jean Devon
SNP
Ward 4 Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

I will continue to be committed and work hard to ensure:
A) Our young people will have the choice of staying in their local area with the offer of affordable housing, employment and security of education for their children.
B) Our elderly are assured of care in their own home or if required residential care in their own area.
C) The concerns regarding RET not being applied to Mull until 2015 are addressed and that no further adverse economic impact is experienced in this area.
D) The road infrastructure of the whole area is brought up to an acceptable level.

Fred Hall
SNP
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

My Freedom of Information act request revealed that the current council spent £4.7m in the last five years on private consultants for various projects, whilst at the same time proposing the closure of many rural schools. This is an appalling situation. I am standing in this election as I believe I have the skills to fight for peoples' priorities from the inside ie: opportunity for our children, care for our elderly and protection of vital public sector jobs and services. On May 3 vote for Fred Hall SNP.

Graham Kanes
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

Graham Kanes is standing as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the Oban South Ward. Prior to moving to Oban Graham was a councillor in Trafford, Manchester, in one of the poorest areas. He is very experienced at helping people with their personal issues. In Oban he is campaigning for a resolution to the Mull Ferry Passenger Access debacle, for a local Dialysis facility at Oban Hospital and a proper Hospice. Also, for joined up tourism and regeneration in Oban, for affordable housing and for education facilities to be the best possible. He promises to do his very best if elected.

Alistair MacDougall
Independent
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

Alistair MacDougall, independent candidate for Ward four. I am not affiliated to political groups. Prior to 2007 I was the councillor for Mull and Iona and chairman of the area committee where I supported/proposed projects provided by the council. I will press to retain lifeline ferry services to the islands as these also provide a lot of work in the Oban area. Ensuring elderly folks always get fair treatment. Supporting the communities in tackling substance abuse, that claims so many lives. I will not support tolls on Argyll's road. I look forward to you voting No. 1 against my name.

Neil MacIntyre
Independent
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

Having given 30 years public service with A&BC and Historic Scotland, I am focused on improving our area for the benefit of everyone. My focus is on serving our entire community, from the young to the elderly, but the sustainability of our communities is reliant on improving conditions for people to live, work and visit our town. It will be a big job and I won't give promises that I cannot deliver. To see improvements to accessibility, connectivity, housing and business development VOTE 1 - Neil MacIntyre.

Sean MacIntyre
Independent
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

SEAN MACINTYRE: independent candidate for ward four, Oban South and the Isles. I have lived in Oban all my life, I have a window cleaning business and have worked in the building trade and for the local council. I speak to people on a daily basis on my window round and get an understanding of what the working man and woman are looking for in an elected council. My views are to make more opportunities for the young, more care for our elderly, more investment on rural roads and to push for more affordable housing. VOTE 1 SEAN MACINTYRE!

Roddy McCuish
SNP
Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles



WARD 4

I hope that the elections will bring a much more open and engaged council than the presently existing secretive administration. Housing and rural schools are priorities and will continue to be so. I am pleased that the Scottish Government has pledged that all council workers will be paid the minimum wage level. The diversity of the larger wards is a challenge but we have to properly consider island, rural and urban areas. My first spell has taught me a lot but I am anxious to go further and ask to be given that opportunity on May 3.

George Doyle
Independent
Ward 5 – Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

If elected I will not take sides with any party, group or individual where they are seeking to advance their cause to the detriment of the people. The rigid ideologies of parties serve only to hold back any recovery Argyll might make. It is, I think, not too much to ask that the flag waving and team scarves are put aside after the election to allow all 36 councillors to make decisions freely and without pressure. Decisions which will benefit all and not just a favoured few. A united council can achieve far more than one in permanent disarray.

Louise Glen-Lee
SNP
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

I'm committed to making life better in Oban North and Lorn. I will continue to listen and respond quickly to concerns on issues big and small. I will make sure the council works in partnership with the Scottish Parliament, Westminster and Europe to bring the best opportunities to Argyll and Bute. With little progress in our area for years it's time to move forward. The SNP knows where it is going and has produced a manifesto for building recovery. We deserve better, it's time for lasting change. Vote Louise Glen-Lee SNP on May 3, thank you. Join me on Facebook.

Iain MacDonald
Independent
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

The council has become disconnected from the community; there is much resentment and anger over how decisions are reached in an unaccountable manner, where mistakes are ignored, and a blame culture prevails. There is much work to be done to re-engage the council with the community; to re-establish proper customer focused quality service; and through collective responsibility regain community control. There is now a willingness to make this happen, and with my experience as an architect, and my considerable experience with community council, I feel I could make a significant contribution to the team elected to serve our community.

Duncan MacIntyre
Independent
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

I am an Independent (having no party affiliation, but a resolute supporter of the United Kingdom – stronger together) and as such appreciate good sound proposals from whatever source, rather than a party political dictat from an uncaring ideology dominated from the centre. My diversity and independence is a strength, leaving me free to collaborate without constraint for the good of Argyll & Bute and YOU. As an independent councillor of 13 years standing, representing the council and my constituents at LOCAL, Regional and National levels gained much experience and knowledge together with a sense of fair play and strategic outlook.

Neil Mackay
Independent
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

Next month is a local election not national - for our area at this crucial time we need an experienced and deep rooted West Coast understanding of family values - health - housing - education and employment coupled with modern and enterprising ideas for all trades. My successful campaign in tourism and continuous dedication as an independent councillor for almost five years has made me believe in people before politics - no dancing to any far off party policies. My tune is Oban North and Lorn where I live.

Wilma McIntosh
Independent
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

Standing in ward five as an independent candidate, I am Wilma McIntosh. I am mother to three grown-up children and when I am not working in the community as a support worker for the elderly, I help to look after my four grandchildren. I became involved with local politics through my late husband, Donald 'Skye' McIntosh. Having been born and raised in Oban, I am passionate about the town and her residents. I believe that we should not be subjected to sub-standard services, especially with regards to the healthcare provision available locally, simply because of our geographical location.

Donald Melville
SNP
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

I believe it is time for a change in Argyll and Bute Council and I think the SNP has a manifesto to make people proud. We need your vote to make it happen. Argyll and Bute is a great place to live and work and we can create a council that supports every citizen, helps to achieve our individual and collective potential and puts progress and positivity at the heart of this area. Winning the council elections on May 3 will allow me and an effective team of SNP councillors to reverse years of slow decline.

Gwyneth Neal
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 5 – Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

Gwyneth Neal is standing as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the Oban north ward. Gwyneth came to Oban over 40 years ago, and is currently convenor of Dunbeg Community Council. She has been a business person in Oban and after retiring is involved with many charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support. Gwyneth is campaigning for local dialysis facilities at Oban Hospital and a proper hospice. She would like joined up Tourism and Regeneration in Oban. Being vice chair of West Highland Housing Association, she wants to see more affordable housing. She supports schools and wants education to be the best possible.

Elaine Robertson
Independent
Ward 5 - Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

For nine years now I have been privileged to be a councillor for this area. From this experience I have learned:-
1) That listening to people is the most important aspect of my work.
2) That if I say I will do something, I keep my word.
3) That in dealing with public bodies, patience and persistence get things done. Should you, my constituents, feel willing to re-elect me, I believe that I have the energy and the commitment to give you an effective service as your councillor for another five years.

Roy Rutherford
Scottish Conservatives
Ward 5 – Oban North and Lorn



WARD 5

I have worked and lived in Oban for the last 25 years and know Oban and Lorn well. I value the lasting friendships made over the years and am committed to helping make Oban and Lorn a better place for everyone. Argyll has huge potential and huge natural resources. We need a council with vision and an action plan; a council which seizes opportunities to support progress, not one which is a drag on development. Councillors that are open, friendly, co-operative and effective. If elected, I promise to put 100 per cent effort into making the council work for you.

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GRAND FINALE

VOTE FOR YOUR WINNER!

Congratulations to the top eight finalists in The Oban Times' Bonnie Babies Competition, 2012. Your top eight finalists each received the most votes in the weeks they appeared.

This is your last chance to vote for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times' 'Bonniest Baby' and £500 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at The Co-operative!

Votes must be registered by 12noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012

001

Jayden McQueen
27 months Isle of Mull

002

Willow Elizabeth Ann Livingstone
10 months Isle of Mull

003

Abbey Prosser
10 months Oban

004

Ethan Douglas
9 months Isle of Mull

005

Mia Travers
5 months Oban

006

Tilly MacFadyen
8 months Oban

007

Ruaraidh Maclean
20 months Isle of Mull

008

Ruairidh Charlie MacDonald
8 months Benderloch

Vote for the Bonniest Baby!

How to vote
Readers can vote for their winning baby by text or by post, using the Grand Finale coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like until 12 noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting.

By text (UK & Northern Ireland only):
To vote by text, text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the child's photograph to **88010**.
Text messages cost **£1** plus one message at standard network rate. Votes must be registered by 12 noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012.

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Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Finale, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Votes must be registered by 12 noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012.



GRAND FINALE VOTING COUPON

I would like to vote for:
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Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Finale,
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 You can post multiple coupons in one envelope.
 Votes must be registered by 12 noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012.



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. Votes must be registered by 12 noon, Thursday, April 26, 2012. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies

women in business

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D M MacKinnon, Solicitors is well represented when it comes to women in business, with Karen MacAllister as a partner of the business and Louise Fraser and Laura Russell employed by the firm as solicitors.

Originally from Durban, South Africa where she qualified as a lawyer, Karen joined the firm in 1989 as a legal assistant and re-qualified to practice in Scots law, becoming a partner in 2006. She deals mainly with Wills, Trusts and executries, elderly client advice, commercial and private leases and general private client business.

Louise is a native of Oban and specialises

in employment law and conveyancing. Having studied law at Glasgow University, Louise trained and worked in a commercial city firm before returning to Oban in 2010. She advises both employers and employees on all aspects of employment law and has extensive experience of representing clients in the Employment Tribunal and often designs and delivers training to employer clients. Louise also joined the firm's strong conveyancing team.

Laura Russell is a Court solicitor, specialising in criminal defence. She studied law at Edinburgh University and trained in a busy criminal Court practice in Livingston. In 2010, she moved to Oban to take up

employment at D M MacKinnon, Solicitors.

"I couldn't believe my luck to find a job doing what I enjoy in such a beautiful part of Scotland." She finds that D M MacKinnon provides a very positive working environment, and now finds that she has time to get to know her clients and provide the best possible service to them.

Louise and Laura are both involved with the Oban Phoenix Cinema project. For Louise, this was a way to give something back to her home town and Laura, as a newcomer, welcomed the chance to get involved with the community and get to know people.

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Having returned to her home in Oban after achieving an HND in Applicable Mathematics at Napier Polytechnic Jacquie Hoey commenced employment with Simmers & Co in 1990. Shortly thereafter she achieved the AAT qualification (Association of Accounting Technicians) and became a member of the AAT. Using this qualification as a basis, she then started her

CA training and became one of the first students to become a qualified CA through this route in 2000. Jacquie became a partner in the firm in 2003. Her time with Simmers & Co has given her a great breadth of experience in all matters in a general rural accountancy practice, covering clients in many areas of commerce such as agriculture, hospitality, retail, construction

and service industries.

Over the past few years Jacquie has become more involved with the Charity sector and acts for a number of charity clients, both in audit and accounts, and ensure that they comply with the various changes to charity legislation that have taken place over the past few years. Outwith the firm she is on the board of two local charities.

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Kath McMahon joined the firm as a Partner in their Oban office in April 2010, after moving from another local firm where she had been a partner for many years.

Kath has practised continuously in Oban since 1984 following her apprenticeship and work in Inverness and Dingwall. She was asked to return to her home town in that year to develop the family side of law as until then all Divorces had all to be dealt with in the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Her main area of work is Family law and general civil court work and she regularly prepares Bar reports in cases involving children and also acts as Curator and Safeguarder in the Children's Panel System throughout Argyll.

She is a member of the Family Law Association; is an Accredited Family Law Mediator and is also a Director of Family Mediation (Argyll and Bute)

Kath is an Honorary Sheriff and is currently the Vice Dean of the Oban Faculty of Solicitors.

Outwith the office she enjoys singing in local choirs, walking locally and further afield and generally considers herself to be extremely fortunate to be able to combine such a challenging and rewarding career with living by the sea on the beautiful West Coast of Scotland.

Rosanne Ogden is one of the senior solicitors at MacPhee and Partners and specialises in all corporate and commercial property matters. Rosanne has recently moved back to her home town of Oban after working for a number of years at Brodies LLP, a large Scottish firm of solicitors. She studied and trained as a solicitor in Aberdeen. Rosanne has experience in all rural property matters including forestry, crofting and renewable energy agreements. She acts for a number of developers throughout Scotland in commercial land transactions, in addition to buy and selling commercial premises. In her spare time Rosanne is a keen sailor with a Yachtmaster Certificate, she is also an avid horsewoman and instructs for Riding for the Disabled. She sits on a number of committees both locally and throughout Scotland and is currently the Treasurer of the Scottish Young Lawyers' Association.

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Deirdre Sharkey will be celebrating 4 years in business with her womenswear and lingerie shop, Precious Things, in May. This has been no mean feat in an increasingly difficult economic climate. From the beginning, Deirdre recognised the need for the women of Oban and beyond to have access to good quality lingerie, and just as importantly, a good quality fitting service. Deirdre has found that women have tried her service, and have seen the benefits of investing

in better quality underwear. "I am delighted that my customers have shown such confidence in the service and products that I supply" says Deirdre. "When I first moved to Oban, I felt that women should not be deprived of good service in this area, just because we do not live near a large city. I began my business with the aim of changing this." Over time, Precious Things has gradually expanded its range to include new styles and brands. This expansion has now moved into womenswear,

which Deirdre hopes will provide the women of Oban with another choice when shopping for that special outfit. "Many of my customers come to me to buy a bra to go under a specific dress, maybe for a night out, or a wedding, so it felt like a natural progression for me to provide the outfit as well as the underwear!" Precious Things now stocks clothing by brands such as Lipsy, Jolie Moi, Adini and Mina UK. For any other information please contact Deirdre on 01631 562510.

Bell Ingram

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Experts in Property Lettings



Jackie Moore, 36, from Oban is Residential Lettings Manager for multi disciplined land and estates firm Bell Ingram. Based at the firm's Oban office, Jackie over-see's all residential lettings for the company and currently manages a portfolio of over 100 long standing clients.

Her role involves working with both existing and new clients on a daily basis, providing advice on letting, legislation, tenant vetting, arranging property view-

ings and ensuring the eventual long term let of the properties.

Jackie has always worked in the property and lettings industry, cutting her teeth with D M MacKinnon, where she started at the age of sixteen as an office junior. Showing a keen eye for business and customer service, she quickly worked her way up to estate agency property consultant and latterly assumed responsibility for lettings. Bell Ingram took the company over in 2008 and her role has continued

and her client base grown.

Thanks to her dedication to customer service and her friendly and personal approach to lettings, Jackie has been shortlisted in this year's ESTAS awards for the second year running in both the Individual Excellence Towards Clients and Lettings categories – which will be announced later this month. When she is not busy working hard for her clients, Jackie is busy at home with her two young children.

Lochaber Women's Aid

offer sensitive support and advice to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse

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Lochaber Women's Aid believe that women have the right to live without fear of violence and abuse. We aim to relieve the suffering and distress of women, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse and to improve their lives, allowing them to regain their self-respect and rebuild their lives.

Our experienced staff are able to offer sensitive support to clients that are experiencing abuse. This could be physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or emotional abuse. Clients that feel isolated and threatened can contact us to arrange support.

Young people can be affected by domestic abuse and dating abuse. Through our children's and young

people service we provide 1:1 support and group work sessions.

Through our women's service we can offer clients confidential advice and support so that they are able to decide what is best for them. We can meet clients at their home, at our offices on Belford Road or at any convenient place which suits the client. As well as helping through one-to-one support, we also offer our clients the chance to join in with our group work. This allows clients to talk through issues with others experiencing similar situations. We help our clients to rebuild their self-esteem and confidence at a pace that suits them. We provide support on a variety of practical issues such as benefits, housing and legal issues and are able to help arrange appointments

for clients. We also work in partnership with other local agencies such as the Police, Social Work and Health and Housing professionals.

Lochaber Women's Aid is managed by a board of trustee volunteers. The role of a trustee includes providing strategic direction, setting policies, managing resources, finance and staff, ensuring accountability and promoting the service.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee for Lochaber Women's Aid please contact us for a pack and a chat with an existing trustee. If you think you or anyone you know might benefit from our services please contact Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 705734; or e-mail lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org

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"The only thing frozen are our fishermen"

Rated "UK Fish Restaurant of the Year 2012" by The Good Food Guide.



Café Fish first opened its doors back in 2004. It's a family concern owned and managed by cousins Jane McDonald and award winning chef Liz McGougan. Fast forward to 2012 and this small inauspicious venue is gaining nationwide recognition as one of the best and most exciting places to eat on the West coast of Scotland.

With its superb location on the upper terrace of the Calmac building on Torbermory pier offering stunning sea views over the Sound of Mull, there is no better place to enjoy your locally

caught seafood.

Their own fishing boat, The Highlander, lands lobster, langoustines and squat lobsters every afternoon, and local fisherman supplement this with whatever treasures the sea throws up, making for a packed menu and bursting specials board to suit all. Their fish and shellfish can be served either simply seasoned and grilled with a lemon wedge or more adventurously in one of Café Fish's inspired seafood creations. In addition you will find innovative vegetarian dishes, local corn-fed chicken and prime scotch

beef options, with homemade granary bread, desserts and scones adding to the charm of the small family run restaurant. Your expectations won't simply be met, they will be exceeded - Café Fish offers more of a seafood experience than simply a meal. Don't expect frills or finesse, just plenty of atmosphere, friendly service and outstandingly fresh fish packed with flavours which speak for themselves. It is no wonder Jane and Liz have been rated "UK Fish Restaurant of the Year 2012" by The Good Food Guide.

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Since Jane Blanchard returned to her native Scotland in 1989 -having spent seven years in London "learning the trade" - she has built up a solid reputation for good design, attention to detail and a friendly and personal service. During this time, she has developed excellent relations with international suppliers and local tradesmen, always on the look-out for new products, but loyal to the craftspeople she works with.

Jane has designed, decorated and furnished several private houses, castles, lodges, hotels and holiday houses throughout the Highlands, many of which have been featured in magazines. She believes her success lies in creating individual and stylish interiors which sit comfortably in their beautiful natural surroundings, whilst providing homeowners and their guests with warmth and relaxation.

Jane Blanchard Design offers a complete

interior design service, from the layout of rooms to the sourcing and supply of furniture, soft furnishings, lighting and flooring.

A trip to Jane's website is like a leisurely wander round a design showroom, complete with friendly, knowledgeable and attentive service! She is currently sourcing an exciting yet affordable range of cushions and beautifully made sofas and chairs – soon to be available from her website.

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Kerrie MacPhail is a breath of fresh air in the male dominated world of motoring – and she is not afraid of hard work or getting stuck in herself.

Kerrie set up Kerrie's Tyre Service in 2005 but has over 18 years of experience in the trade. She went to work in National Tyres in Argyll Street as a receptionist after doing secretarial and Office studies at college, but got

bored and started fitting tyres. They put her through qualifications and Kerrie went on to be a workshop manager for a haulage company for 4 years.

Kerrie has now been trading for 8 years and has three great employees, Brian Todd, Neil O'Hara, Nicole Carson. Her father Jim Hastings is always there to lend a hand when needed.

She is proud to be providing a service which is not often fronted by a woman, having found herself that it can be intimidating as a female going in to an all male garage.

Kerrie is also a Retained Fire-fighter, another job that she loves doing. Being self employed and working with a great team she can rely on allows her to drop everything when necessary.

Bentley gets you there in style - with pulse racing

The Oban Times gets behind the wheel to test new models

'SLOW it down.' Probably among the last words you'd expect to come from an engineer when putting together a new £120,000 luxury grand tourer.

'Faster', yes. Maybe even 'more practical'. Slow it down? When I tell you the comment was made about the speed at which the new Bentley Continental GTC's roof folds down, you get an idea of what this brand is really all about.

The story goes that Bentley's top brass felt a 15-second fold down time was just too showy; it resembled the tardy, the late to arrive. Hurried, panicked - without class.

Take 25 seconds, however, and the image completely changes. 'We can do it faster, we just don't need to.' It is the definition of composure; reserved and classy.

These words stuck with me as The Oban Times was invited to Loch Lomond's picturesque Cameron House Hotel by Bentley to test the W12 model of the GTC and Bentley's flagship model, the £220,000 Mulsanne.

It's an ethos that defines each and every one of Bentley's models; get there in style, but don't rub it in people's faces.

Don't worry though, that doesn't mean the new GTC is dull. Your pulse will still race when you're flying from 0-60 in

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

4.4 seconds, backed by the joyous throaty chorus delivered by the amply capable W12 engine. It will tip its hat at 200mph. Two and a half tonnes of car shouldn't move this fast, this effortlessly. Bentley makes sure the GTC exudes composure in everything it does.

Taking it down the twisty roads that snake around Loch Lomond, the first thing you notice is just how simple it is to drive. Steering is smooth and accurate, belying the huge frame of this elegant behemoth. You can see every corner of the car, helping you guide its impressive frame through bends without any drama.

The single-clutch automatic gearbox is remarkable too; all eight forward speeds engage without giving you a jolt to let you know. Put the foot down to overtake and the gearbox will drop two or three gears to propel you forward faster. Any delay is almost imperceptible as you reach impressive speeds in just the blink of an eye. You could rack up points on your licence all too quickly if you're not careful - especially when it's this much fun.



The Bentley Continental GTC effortlessly grips the road, even in wet conditions.

Take things into your own hands, via the flappy paddles, and the fun continues. You can pop up and down gears as quickly as your fingers will let you - but importantly the car will stop you selecting a gear that will harm your enjoyment. So if you're cruising along in eighth gear, and decide to shift into second to give the car a

quick burst of speed, the car will say 'no,' and you'll be kept to a healthy fourth.

That way, the revs remain and your gearbox doesn't turn into the most expensive lump of scrap metal since Rowan Atkinson ploughed his McLaren F1 into a tree while saying the word 'Bob' into his rear view mirror to keep himself amused.

Then you remember this is a convertible. You almost forget because this car is ridiculously steady and assured. There's not a hint of chassis wobble or weakness, not a clue that the roof can be folded away. This smoothest rides you'll ever experience. Returning the car to its showground, it almost slithers over speed bumps, your spine untroubled. The west coast's innumerable pot-holes simply melt away under the masterful suspension.

If this is a bit too mushy, it's meant to be, there's little out there in competition with a ride that compares.

As I guided the car back into its home spot via the intuitive reversing camera, my attention became drawn to the trim. Like all Bentley models, every aspect of the car can be customised, so passing comment on it could be seen as a little superfluous.

However, the quality of workmanship, the attention to detail, is beyond question.

"There can be little doubt that, when it comes to driving in style, Bentley continues to offer the best possible experience."

Only leather from bulls is used - because cows get pregnant and therefore have stretchmarks - to adorn the seating and steering wheel, while the dash is sensibly laid out, attractive and useful.

My only quibble with the interior is the design of the paddles, which seemed to juxtapose the rest of the interior. That could just be personal opinion, but fear not, they can be tailored to suit - along with almost every aspect of the car.

It's all very grown up, but you'll still have hours of fun driving it. The Mulsanne is a very different beast. Bigger, even more opulent - if possible - and, surprisingly, just as easy to drive.

Unashamedly British - this is not a 6.75 litre engine, it is a six and three quarter litre engine - it retains all the hallmarks of Bentley's rich history. Huge headlamps, four acres of bonnet, and more legroom in the back than in a London bus, this is a car designed purely for comfort and style.

It's no surprise it weighs 190kg more than its younger sibling. The trim is even more luxurious than the GTC, everything is either wood, steel, glass or leather. No plastic here. There are considerable weight savings compared to the previous Mulsanne, but this just allows for more gadgets.

Gadgetry
As you would expect, it's flooded with gadgetry. A built in 60gb hard drive means your satnav will always be up to date, with 20gb set aside purely to store your music collection. The rear seats have individual adjustment settings, while a remote lets you control the entertainment without annoying the driver.

Even weighing so much more than the GTC, the Mulsanne still gets from 0-60 in just over five seconds, with an unlimited top speed of 184mph. It's never going to speed its way around Silverstone, but then it isn't supposed to. This is pure style and comfort. Gas filled suspension and an ultra-stiff frame means the ride is among the best available in any class.

There can be little doubt that, when it comes to driving in style, Bentley continues to offer the best possible experience. It's not Ferrari, it's not Lamborghini. It's not even Aston Martin. It's Bentley - they know what their customers want and continue to offer it.

Other manufacturers should take note.



Margaret Callan: won praise for her new book on North Uist's Gaelic oral tradition.

New North Uist book celebrated

THE PUBLICATION of Margaret Callan's book 'Air Bileanan t-Sluaigh: Sealladh air Leantalachd Beul-Aithris Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Tuath', which won the prestigious Donald Meek Literary Award in August 2011, has been celebrated at events in both Glasgow and Uist.

On March 31, The Gaelic Books Council and Clo Ollscoil na Banriona jointly hosted an evening of discussion and song at Glasgow's CCA.

The book was then formally launched at the Claddach Kirkibost Centre in North Uist on April 4 before an informal ceilidh in Carinish Hall.

In considering the transmission of North Uist's oral tradition, 'Air Bileanan t-Sluaigh' studies the social and cultural contexts of the tradition, the function of various aspects of the tradition within the community and the reasons for its decline.

Oral tradition
It also considers the relationship between the transmission of oral tradition and society, the role of women in the transmission process and the extent to which the Gaelic language was at the heart of the culture and the traditions it embodied.

Professor Donald Meek said the 'landmark Gaelic publication' would be 'very, very warmly received' by the people of Uist.

He said: 'It is a great present to them - and by many others from the Hebrides and farther afield. The book will be ideal in universities, not only as an important study of modes of transmission, but also in

teaching students how to present complex subjects through the medium of Gaelic. This is a truly outstanding achievement.

'Maighread Challan [Margaret Callan] intrepidly takes on the current orthodoxy of Folklore research in Gaelic Studies and differs from some of the most eminent authorities published in the field to date. That she does so successfully, with respect and verve, and in a limpid prose style, only adds to the distinction of her work. Her Gaelic achieves the highest academic standards without once yielding to the difficulty of expressing concepts in elegant Gaelic that were originally formulated and discussed in a well-developed English language academic register. A signal achievement and an outstanding contribution to Gaelic Studies.'

Singer
Margaret Callan was raised in North Uist and is known as a traditional Gaelic singer. A traditional song Gold Medal winner at the Royal National Mod in 1994, she now lives with her husband and three children in North Lanarkshire where she is employed as a solicitor in private practice.

She is also a guest lecturer on the subject of the Gaelic Song Tradition within the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

She is currently editing a CD of Gaelic songs from North Uist from the archive of the School of Scottish Studies which will be released on the Greentrax label as one of the Scottish Tradition Series later in the year.



Bentley's flagship, the £220,000 Mulsanne, and the sporty Continental GTC drew plenty admiring looks when The Oban Times took them round Loch Lomond.

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Big Mac, the greatest adventurer of them all

To mark the clan's centenary celebrations on the Isle of Mull, *Scottish Field* magazine takes a look back at the life of perhaps the greatest Maclean of them all - Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel

By Trevor Royle

What's the best backdrop for interviewing an adventurer whom Winston Churchill once described as 'the mildest mannered man that ever scuttled ship or cut a throat' - a Highland mountainside for a stalk in grey weather or a walled flower garden on a gentle May morning in Argyll?

The great outdoors should win hands down at any time but to get the measure of a rounded character with a treasure-trove of stories, then give me the latter location.

Opportunity
So, in the late 1980s I took that opportunity when the BBC World Service sent me to interview Sir Fitzroy Hew Royle Maclean of Dunconnel, a man who encompassed so many kinds of lives that to label him with only one of the following job descriptions would be to do him an injustice - diplomat, soldier, politician, author and Highland gentleman.

The timing was exactly right. The internecine carnage in the Balkans had not yet begun when Yugoslavia imploded in the following decade and memories of the Second World War were still fresh - both important considerations for a man whose name will always be associated with the evolution of that troublesome and endlessly complicated region. It was still possible to discuss the intricacies of Britain's wartime policies in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. In the middle of watching a Mickey Mouse cartoon after dinner - Churchill was an inveterate movie buff - Maclean's moment came in July 1943 when he was sum-



Sir Fitzroy Hew Royle Maclean of Dunconnel. Photograph courtesy of Alan Macdonald.

moned to Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat, after a period 'living dangerously' (his words) in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. In the middle of watching a Mickey Mouse cartoon after dinner - Churchill was an inveterate movie buff - the news arrived of the death of the Italian dictator Benito Mus-

solini. Immediately Churchill saw opportunities for loosening German power in Italy and turning to Maclean told him 'We must now put all the pressure we can on them on the other side of the Adriatic. You must go in without delay.'

Maclean's mission was to enter Yugoslavia to try to understand what was happening under German occupation and to discover the identity of the mysterious partisan leader known only as Tito. Some thought it might be an acronym, there were rumours that it could also be a beautiful young woman but Churchill came closest when he told Maclean that he had 'to find out who was killing the most Germans and suggest means by which we could help them to kill more.'

In the aftermath of the Second World War Maclean devoted his life to politics having been elected Conservative MP for Lancaster in a by-election in 1941. Although he was never a political animal and was a poor performer in the House of Commons he was immensely influential in the fields of defence and diplomacy and was made Under-Secretary of War in Churchill's government in 1954.

It came as little surprise to his friends that in 1957 he bought the Strachur estate in Argyll on the eastern shore of Loch Fyne; with it came a fine mansion house built in 1780 and possession of the Creggan's Inn.

James Bond
Maclean was supposed to have been one of the models for the character James Bond who was created by his friend Ian Fleming. There are certainly many similarities - from the obvious personal courage to Maclean's less obvious hedonism.

As I discovered while sitting outside Strachur House in the warmth of that west coast morning Sir Fitzroy Maclean was very much his own creation, a man of strengths as well as weaknesses, who had forged his own place in history at the point where extremes meet.

Maclean died in 1996 aged 85.

For the full interview see the May 2012 edition of *Scottish Field* magazine

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Hand-built boat sets sail in Oban Bay

Family pride as three generations launch skiff

A SMALL boat that is part of Oban's heritage took to the water recently when three generations of the Currie family launched it from Port Beag slip in Oban Bay.

Colin Currie built the double ended skiff of larch on pitch pine and she was launched in the traditional manner to the sound of pipes from Oban High School Pipe Band.

It may be the last traditional boat to be built at Currie's boat yard. Colin's father Donnie Currie started building boats at Port Beag in the 1950s, taking over from the MacDonald family whose boatbuilding business started in 1875. Currie's Boatyard was to continue a part of Oban's heritage with their fame for quality and craftsmanship spreading far and

wide. The sheds were the original boathouse for the Manor House Hotel and the Curries looked after the Manor House boat as well as starting to build dinghies to their own design.

Colin served his apprenticeship with his father and came into the business for a while but then moved to commercial fishing and now operates a sea angling business. Although Donnie Currie retired from boat building in the early 1990s the family retained one work shed at Port Beag and Colin always hankered after building one last boat.

The result is the beautiful skiff named 'Seonaid', after his wife Janet. Colin hopes she will become a familiar sight in Oban Bay now she is in the water.

Colin sourced larch from Acharacle, as well as a batch of

locally re-claimed pitch pine, oak and elm to build the skiff, which is to no particular design and is truly an original. 'All from a chalk design on the wall,' he said. At 17'2ins with a beam of 8'2ins the building process has taken over 18 months to complete almost single-handed. Colin undertook the laborious plank steaming himself and over the course of the build his son, Colin Jnr and father Donnie helped in small measure.

Colin filmed the building process and is now seeking interest in the recording which could form a useful educational tool. It is a first hand account of traditional boat building skills with Colin explaining each stage of the process. Anyone interested in the film should contact Colin on 01631 562301.



The Currie family, from left: Donnie, his grandson Colin junior and son Colin.



Iain Spiers receives his trophy from Pipe Major Donald MacLeod's daughter Susan



Stuart Liddell of Inveraray on his way to winning two trophies.



Overall winner Willie MacCallum from Campbeltown, Jack Lee, from Canada - co-founder of the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band - and Angus MacColl.

Annual Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition

THE ANNUAL Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition in Stornoway on March 30 again attracted a good entry of top class pipers from across Scotland.

Nine musicians of the highest standard took part, with Iain Spiers from Edinburgh taking the piobaireachd title.

Winner of both the march, strathspey and reel, and the hornpipe and jig competitions was Stuart Liddell from Inveraray. Overall winner was Willie MacCallum from Campbeltown - his eighth success.

Judges on the day were John Wilson, Rona Lightfoot, Iain Morrison and Jimmy Banks.

Something for everyone at Festival of the Sea

WITH approximately 100 events planned across Oban, Lorn and the Isles and Bute, this year's Festival of the Sea is bigger and more ambitious than ever.

Held between May 18 and 28, the second bi-annual festival promises to offer something for everyone, regardless of whether your interest is in the animals and plants that populate the sea, the scientific research being pioneered locally or the art, crafts, food, watersports and history of the area's waterways.

All ages will be catered for, making the 10-day event ideal for families as well as interested individuals and groups keen to find out more about what is one of the west coast's most important assets.

While the focus of activity will be in Oban and Dunbeg - home of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) that runs the festival - the islands will play a big part in this year's event.

Among the most active islands will be North Uist, with Comann Mara, the Society of the Sea, holding a three-day mini-festival, while Mull hosts several different events. These include locals getting a hands on look at how sea-bed mapping is done on board the SAMS' Calanus research ves-

sel and a Hebridean photography masterclass, run by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, with photographer Sam Jones.

Other islands participating in this year's festival include Canna, with Canna House opening to the public on May 19. Lismore, Luing, Colonsay, Bute and Seil will also host their own events.

Oban and Lorn will host the greatest number of events, though, with the molecule hunt sure to be a big attraction for youngsters, with participants urged to spot the molecule matching some of the products sold in Oban's retailers.

A number of talks and presenta-

tions will be held in the town, while the CalMac ferry terminal will host the work of local artists in its Impressions of Life In and Around the Seas exhibition. Artist Alice Strange will also host the Ocean exhibition at Claremont Villa on Craighard Road.

SAMS will throw the doors of its Dunbeg institute open to the public on May 26 to give locals a glimpse behind the researchers' curtains. Further adding to the mix is the host of fringe events to be held alongside the main festival.

For more information and a complete programme, visit www.obanseafestival.org.



Dancers at this year's competition in Oban High School.

Teams turn on the style at dance festival

TWENTY-ONE teams competed in this year's Argyll and Bute Dance Festival at Oban High School.

The high school choreography competition took entries from Oban High School, Hermitage Academy, Campbeltown Grammar and Lochgilphead High School.

The judging panel consisted of Jonathan Barton, vice principal of Ballet West, Moira Barbour, former Oban High School PE teacher and Nicola McKie former Oban High School pupil and dance graduate.

In what was one of the closest competitions ever held, Hermitage Academy pupil Sara MacKellar won best dancer in the junior section and the senior prize was awarded to Meroula

Hondrou and Lauren Angus from Oban High School. Active schools donated trophies for best overall dance groups and best presentation in both junior and senior competitions. Ballet West students performed two dances and judge Nicola McKie also performed a solo.

Jonathan Barton presented tickets to the Ballet West Showcase on April 13 to 1st place groups and to the best dancer in the junior and senior sections he presented an award to attend the Ballet West Summer School for half price.

Organiser of the Festival, Oban High School PE teacher Denise Gemmill, said: 'We are very grateful to our three judges who gave up their day to take part in the festival. I know the pupils really valued the expertise and the feedback

from the judges on their performances. Also a special thank you to Ballet West for bringing their students in to perform and for providing such excellent additional prizes - it really topped off what was a fantastic day of dance.'

Results: Junior Section: 1 Hermitage 2 2 Mixed Up - Oban High School (Carys Rimmer and Katherine Tamplin); 3 Hermitage 4 Best Presentation - Lochgilphead; Most Entertaining - Hermitage 4. Senior section: 1 Meroula Hondrou and Maeve Hannigan - Oban High School; 2 The Black Parade, Oban High School; 3 Footing - Campbeltown. Best Presentation - The Black Parade, Oban High School. Most Entertaining - The Sports Leaders, Oban High School.

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Friday 20th April >	Disco with DJ Stevo
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Saturday 21st April >	Gunna Sounds
Markie Dans	9.30pm

what's on lochaber

Friday 20th April >	The Duplets in Concert
FW Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Scottish Harp and Song
Friday 20th April >	Nightclub with DJ Irish Al
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Beat the Clock
Saturday 21st April >	Nightclub 10pm till 2am
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For More Information Call 01688302930 or 01313969319 enquiries@park-lodge-tobermory.co.uk

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Entries Telephone Kenny Carmichael 07934 026127

Meur Lochabair Present a **UIST NIGHT** West End Hotel, Fort William Saturday, April 21st at 7.30pm Paul MacCallum, Gilebride and Mairi MacMillan
Linda MacLeod, "Seasidh Lexie" Piper: Brighde Campbell Music: Alec MacLean's Highland Ceilidh Band Admission £8 Supported by Caley Builders

AlEnergy **FREE EVENT** "The Science of Energy" Craignish Village Hall **Thursday 26th April** Community Workshops 5-7pm Information stalls 1-7pm Suitable for all the family with children's activities 1-7pm

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Comunn Gàidhealach An Obain **Ceilidh** Masonic Hall Oban **Saturday April 21, 7.30pm** Artists: Kenna Campbell, Calum Ross, F. Ann MacLean, Duncan MacDonald, Piper P.M Ian Hurst, Accordion Robert Robertson, Chairman Dr Roddy MacLeod Admission £5

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY **COASTAL SURVEY OF NORTH ARGYLL:** Dr Paula Martin **Saturday 21 April 2.30pm** Port Appin Village Hall ALL WELCOME!
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Oban & Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society **Fiddlers' Rally Concert** **Saturday 21 April 2012, 7pm** Corran Halls, Oban Guest Artistes Mary Catherine MacNeil: Mod Gold Medallist Maurice Duncan: Champion Fiddler James MacPherson & Aaron Hossain: Pipers Conductor: Helen Jordan Chairman: Peter MacLeod Tickets: £8 Concessions £6.50 Seats can be reserved, available from Corran Halls only Tel: 01631 567333

DUNOLLIE the 1745 House Kitchen Ceilidh An evening of small pipes, Gaelic song and folklore with James MacDonald Reid **Thursday 26th April 7.30pm** £10 including wine Booking essential as limited seating. 01631 570550 or info@dunollie.org

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain **Oban & District Provincial Mod** Please note: **Final Date for Entries 30th April, 2012** secoganobain@aol.com

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Farming



Alastair Mackenzie milking at The Knowe.

Fresh Arran milk comes from local family farms

Fresh Arran milk comes from cows on just three family farms.
At Clachlands in Lamlash, father and son team Alex and Stuart Reid milk 225 Holsteins.
At The Knowe on the Heights between Lamlash and Whiting Bay, Alastair Mackenzie and son Colin milk 45 cows and at Tigheanfraoch in Blackwaterfoot, John Murchie and son Finlay are currently milking 60 Holstein Friesians. Between them, these three farms produce all the liquid Arran milk and cream and all the milk to make Arran cheese.
For more than 30 years, milk from these farms has been pasteurised and bottled by Arran Dairies in Brodick. For a long time it was sold in one-pint plastic bags, but now comes in one-pint and one-litre cartons and two-litre plastic bottles.
Arran Dairies owner Alastair Dobson said: 'We only use milk produced locally at Arran's three remaining dairy farms.
'We like to keep our milk as natural as possible; nothing added, nothing taken away. This is why we sell unhomogenised milk.
'With Arran milk, you will notice that the cream floats to the top, just like it used to - all you have to do is give it a shake.'

Islay annual sale of grazing cattle

ISLAY SALE - SATURDAY APRIL 14 2012

United Auctions held their Annual April Sale of Grazing Cattle at Islay Auction Mart when they had a catalogued entry of 1290 head. A good attendance of mainland buyers including several new customers ensured a steady trade for all classes prevailed. The Bulls sold to £1185 for Aberdeen Angus Crosses from Rockside and to 355pence per kilo for Limousin Crosses from Balacava. Limousin Cross Heifers from Lossit lead the top in this section at £1260 whilst the same home lead the top priced heifers per kilo at 341pence, also Limousin Crosses. The Bulls sold to average £793 per head and 227pence per kilo against £706 or 189pence last year. Heifers levelled out at £692 per head and 212pence against £599 or 176pence at the corresponding sale last year.

PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES

TOP PRICES PER HEAD

BULLOCKS

AAX: £1185(2), £995, £970(12)

- Rockside: £935(6), £930(10), £895(10) - Craignis: £885(14)

- Rockside: £865(8) - Craignis: £855(5) - Rockside: £820 - Octomore(18) & Craignis(10).

CHARX:

£1090 - Gartacharra: £1045

- Carrabus: £1035(2) & £925(7)

- Craignis: £910 - Gartacharra: £905 - Carrabus(6) & Craignis(7)

: £895(8) - Ballimartin: £880(3) - Gartacharra: £860(2) - Craignis: £845(2) - Tallant.

LIMX:

£1165 - Kilchiaran: £1145(2) & £1135 - Lossit: £1125 - Uiskentuie: £1100 - Balacava: £1085(8)

- Lossit: £1055 - Mulindry: £1045 - Ballychattrigan & Balacava: £1035(5) - Lossit: £1005

- Uiskentuie, Kilchiaran & Lossit(3): £985(3) - Lossit: £945(6)

- Kilbride: £940 - Ballychattrigan(2) & Gartacharra: £915

- Kilchiaran(6) & Kilbride(5): £910(2) - Gartacharra: £905 & £900 - Craignis: £895

- Kilchiaran(2), Cladville & Balacava(3): £890 - Sunderland: £885 - Tallant(4) & Balacava(2): £875(2) - Balacava: £860(6)

- Craignis: £855 - Kilbride(11) & Craignis(4): £850(2) - Ballychattrigan: £845(3) - Balacava.

LUINGX: £780(11) - Duich.

SHX: £875(2) & £865 - Kilchiaran.

SIMX: £990(2) - Coillabus: £965(7)

- Corry: £915(3) - Island: £900 - Corry: £895 & £875(3)

- Cladville: £850 - Coillabus.

HEIFERS

AAX: £950(2) - Craignis: £935

- Rockside: £825(4) - Craignis.

CHARX: £1125 - Ballimartin: £955

- Carrabus: £865(3) - Tallant: £845 - Uiskentuie: £840(8)

- Ballimartin: £830(6) - Craignis: £810(9) - Craignis.

LIMX: £1260 - Lossit: £1075 - Ballimartin: £1045 & £1025(7)

- Lossit: £945 - Kilchiaran: £930 - 9 Mansefield Rd: £925(2)

& £885 - Uiskentuie: £865(4) - Kilchiaran: £845(3) - Uiskentuie: £840(2) - Sunderland: £835

- Ballychattrigan: £825 - Tallant(2) & Uiskentuie(2): £810 - Craignis: £800(2) - Sunderland.

LUINGX: £755(11) - Duich.

SIMX: £925 - Coillabus: £890(5)

- Corry: £865 - Uiskentuie: £860 - Coillabus: £835(2) - Corry: £800(2) - Coillabus.

TOP PRICES PER KILO

BULLOCKS

AAX: 257p(14) & 245p(9) - Rockside

: 234p - Ardmenish: 233p - Ardalla Estate: 231p(18) - Octomore: 230p(2) - Rockside: 229p

- Octomore(3) & Craignis(10): 228p(10) - Craignis: 227p(13)

- Keppols: 225p - Rockside(12) & Craignis(10).

CHARX:

270p - Gartacharra: 269p(5)

- Ballinaby: 264p - Carrabus: 262p(2) - Ardalla: 259p(2)

- Carrabus: 247p - 14 Mansefield(2) & Craignis(3): 244p

- Ballimartin(3) & Ballinaby(4): 243p - Carrabus: 240p(2)

- Brybrugh: 239p(7) - Craignis: 237p(5) - Gartacharra: 236p(2)

- Tallant: 235p(8) - Ballimartin: 234p - Ballinaby: 232p - Gartacharra: 230p - Craignis(2) & Craignis(9): 226p(3) - Gartacharra: 220p - Carrabus.

HIGH

229p - RSPB Kinnabus.

LIMX: 355p - Balacava: 275p(3)

- Lossit: 274p - Balacava:

270p(2) - Gartacharra: 268p

- Carrabus: 266p - RSPB Kinnabus: 259p(3) - Ballimartin: 256p

- Mulindry: 256p(2) & 255p(12) - Tallant: 254p

- Lower Cragabus (J Porter): 254p(8) - Lossit: 253p(2) - Balacava: 250p(4) - Lossit: 248p(5)

- Duich: 247p(5) - Ballimartin: 246p - Lossit: 245p - Uiskentuie & Balacava(5): 244p - Bayview: 243p(7) - Carrabus: 242p(6)

- Tallant: 240p - Carrabus(3) & Lossit: 239p - Craignis: 237p

- Kilchiaran & Gartacharra(2): 236p(4) - Carrabus: 235p

- Island(4) & Duich(15): 233p - Ballychattrigan(5), Tallant(4), Sunderland & Ardalla Estate: 232p

- Mulindry(8) & Tallant(11): 231p - Ballychattrigan, Uiskentuie, Ballimartin(5) & Lossit(3): 230p - Tallant(9), Island(3) & Craignis(6): 229p

- Mulindry(2), Carrabus(5), Tallant(3), Island(5) & Kilbride(6): 228p - Carrabus(8), Craignis & Balacava(3): 227p(3) - Balacava: 226p - Cladville(4) & Kilbride(11): 225p - Island(5) & Lossit.

LUINGX: 225p(12) - Duich.

SHX: 231p(2) - Octomore.

SIMX: 251p(5) - Corry: 242p

- RSPB Kinnabus(3) & Corry(7): 231p - Tormisdale Croft: 230p - Island.

HEIFERS

AAX: 227p(6) - Ardmenish.

CHARX: 279p - Carrabus: 247p(3)

- Tallant: 231p(2) - Ardalla Estate: 222p(9) - Craignis: 221p(3) - Ballinaby.

LIMX: 341p - Lossit: 302p - Lower Cragabus (J Porter): 270p(7) & 252p - Lossit: 251p(7) & 247p

- Tallant: 246p - Lower Cragabus (J Porter): 242p - Bayview: 240p(4) - Duich: 238p - 9 Mansefield Rd: 237p(4) - Island: 234p - Uiskentuie(6) & Ballimartin: 233p - Sunderland: 230p(3) - Carrabus: 229p(8)

- Duich: 228p(7) & 223p(12) - Tallant: 222p - Carrabus(2), Tallant(4), Ballimartin(3), Lossit(6), Balacava & Craignis.

LUINGX: 243p(3) - Duich

SIMX: 260p(5) - Corry: 222p(2) - Uiskentuie.

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CS09/10/11/12

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The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

MARINE OPERATIVES
(REF MO/03/12)
(SALARY £16,284 TO £19,961 PER ANNUM DEPENDANT ON EXPERIENCE)

We are recruiting for Three Marine Operatives for two of our Marine sites located on Loch Fyne. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including Fish Welfare, Sampling, Grading and Moving, Site Maintenance, Net Changing and Boat Handling. Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills and ideally have Marine Experience. Previous Aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as training can be provided. A Full Clean Driving Licence is essential for these posts.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme after the qualifying period.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 435 / 415
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 27th April 2012
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Advertising Sales Executive

A great opportunity to work for the well established publishing group, The Oban Times, with products ranging from award winning newspapers to popular seasonal products.

Working in a friendly team environment from our modern office in Oban, our sales teams are encouraged to build on existing business relationships and forge new ones - over the phone and "out and about."

We want to work with eager, focused individuals whilst developing their skills to give them the confidence to succeed. Sales experience isn't essential - the right "can do" attitude is.

Full driving licence essential.

We offer:

- An excellent salary with opportunity to earn bonus
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Please apply by email with C.V and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk



Communications Officer
£26,753 - £30,129 Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Ref: CXH00114
35 hrs per week
01546 604048

Closing date: 4th May 2012.
 To apply visit our website

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Forestry Commission

Apprentice Forest Craftsperson
Variou - £14,749 - £15,977 plus benefits

Fixed term for 2 years. Extension of the contract or conversion to permanency is possible although there is no guarantee.

To apply, please visit our website www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

0131 314 6520 or
 Jillian.Chapman@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Please quote ref 0019-10.
 Closing date: Sunday 29 April 2012.
 No recruitment agencies please.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

Electronics Technician

£19,376 - £22,944
 Fixed term appointment for 2 years

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Oban is seeking to appoint an Electronics Technician to join our Physics, Sea Ice and Technology Department. The post is within the Technology Development Group which is an engineering team with considerable experience and success in developing, implementing and deploying instrumentation for science programmes and particularly for polar region research.

The role will primarily involve electronic equipment manufacturing for use in SAMS research programmes as well as for commercial sales. There will also be other duties to assist with the daily requirements of the department.

The successful candidate must have an awareness of basic electronic construction techniques and be able to build equipment to high standard. The ability to fault-find electronic systems is also important. The post holder will also have to organise the supply and construction of equipment as orders arrive. This requires effective communication with suppliers, customers and colleagues.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.smi.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Electronics Technician (Job Ref. D02/12.KJ), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Thursday 26th April 2012

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Use your catering experience and business flair to develop and run one of Britain's most spectacular restaurants in a remote and scenic setting.

High up on Rannoch Moor, deep in the West Highlands, Corrou Station House is a breathtaking location for a restaurant. Wild and remote, beautiful and romantic, this is one of Britain's most remarkable catering facilities.

The Restaurant needs someone with unusual skills and motivation to run it. We are looking for a dedicated, enthusiastic couple with the tenacity, imagination and ability to take the business forward. This is not for the faint hearted! Hard work will be required, but the rewards are yours for the taking.

Lying at the heart of a large private estate, the restaurant was built in 1999 adjacent to the famous West Highland railway from Glasgow to Fort William and Mallaig (scene of both Trainspotting and Harry Potter). It now forms a cornerstone of the social fabric of the Estate, serving its visitors, guests and staff.

The Station House has been run successfully for almost ten years, serving good quality, wholesome food, and has built up a strong client base amongst hill walkers, adventurers, holiday makers and locals alike. This is the perfect springboard to develop your career and make a name for yourself.

If you have catering experience and are ready to face the challenges of running your own business deep in the wilderness, then we would like to hear from you!

In the first instance, please email station@corrou.co.uk for more details

Single handed Stalker Required

With DMQ level 1 and Argo maintenance experience.

Prepared to help with Estate maintenance 45 stags, 60 hinds and 50 brace of grouse over pointers.

Excellent accommodation.

Apply in writing with references to **Rannock Barracks, Rannock Station, Perthshire, PH17 2QE**

COWAL DESIGN CONSULTANTS
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER/TECHNICIAN

Cowal Design Consultants provide engineering consultancy services throughout Argyll, The Highlands and Islands and Central Scotland from their offices in Dunoon and Oban. There is currently a vacancy for an Engineer or Technician in the Oban office. The right candidate will have the opportunity to grow the business, develop new client relationships and become a key member of the design team.

Interested applicants should send their CV and covering letter to: info@cowaldesign.co.uk

Grove House, Connel
MANAGER/MANAGERESS
REQUIRED FOR
BUSY LOCAL B & B

We would like to thank all the many applicants. The response was fantastic and the position has now been filled.

Thank you to all those who applied.

EUROFOREST LIMITED

PART-TIME (20 Hours)
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED - Cairnbaan

A vacancy has arisen for an enthusiastic, organised individual to assist with administration in a busy Forestry office in Cairnbaan. Working for the Area Manager the post requires a good level of IT skills, Excel, Word and Data Processing, ability to work in an organised manner and able to work flexibly and meet deadlines. To apply, please complete an application form.

Application Forms can be obtained by contacting:
Arlene Dawson on 014466 794938 or e-mail: headoffice@euroforest.co.uk
 This is an Equal Opportunities Post

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA REQUIRES:-
• GENERAL MANAGER
• PROJECTIONIST/CINEMA SUPERVISOR
• 2 FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANTS

CVs AND COVERING LETTER TO THE DIRECTORS, OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA, C/O D M MACKINNON, SOLICITORS, OBAN. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 2 MAY 2012.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Celtic Sea

Celtic Sea Ltd, one of Scotland's leading mussel producer, is looking for a

Mussel Farm Assistant

Applicants should be reliable, physically fit and hold a full clean driving licence. Practical experience in fork-lift, crane and boat handling is preferred but not essential as training will be given. Level of pay is relative to experience and skills. Place of work is Loch Melfort.

Please send comprehensive CV to:
 Celtic Sea Ltd, Loch Melfort, Arduaine, Argyll, PA34 4XQ,
 Phone 01852 200 576

West Coast Tool and Plant Hire
OBAN

Require an enthusiastic and highly motivated individual with knowledge and experience in mechanical engineering and small tools. A driving license is essential.

The successful candidate will have excellent inter personal skills and be required to work from our new busy Oban depot.

They will be responsible for assisting customers from this rapidly expanding outlet whilst representing the business in a highly professional manner.

Remuneration package based upon experience.

Applicants should e mail their CV to barry@westcoastplanthire.co.uk

Closing date 27/4/12

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Glenshellach Road, Oban

HGV Mechanic required

Able to work on own initiative and be compliant with all aspects of VOSA legislation and standards

Initially day shift position but would be required to go onto backshift (1800 - 0200hrs) from October.

Apply in person or phone 01631 564099



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- A full driving licence is essential. Remuneration and employment conditions offered will reflect our leading position and with over 50 centres across the country the opportunities for career development are excellent. If you believe you have the experience and ability to meet our standards contact:

John Johnson
McConechy's Tyre Services Ltd,
21 Lochside Street,
Oban, PA34 4HP
 with full details of background.

McCONECHY'S
 TYRE & EXHAUST CENTRES

Scottish Sea Farms

Freshwater Technician
Isle of Mull

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are currently seeking to employ Freshwater Technicians at Knock Hatchery on the Isle of Mull.

Applications are invited from individuals who have an interest in aquaculture and feel that they could play a key part in strengthening an already skilled team responsible for producing Atlantic Salmon Fry, Parr and Smolt. Previous experience in the industry would be an advantage, but is not essential, as training will be supplied. A full clean driving license is essential for this position.

The successful applicant would be required to carry out a variety of tasks including:

- Routine stock husbandry
- Environmental monitoring
- Stock health & welfare monitoring
- Site and equipment maintenance
- Weekend working and alarm cover on a Rota basis

An attractive salary is on offer to the right person along with assistance with accommodation, if required. To apply, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 11th May 2012

Admin and Finance Assistant
£17,610 - £18,723 Campbeltown Ref: DVE00075
35 hrs per week (Temporary)
01546 604048

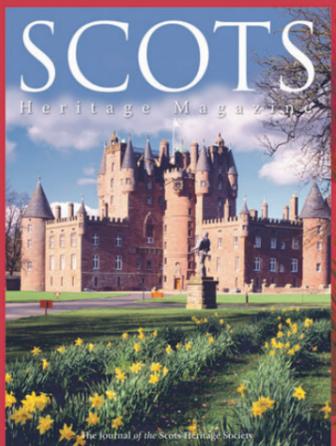
Closing date: 4 May 2012.
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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

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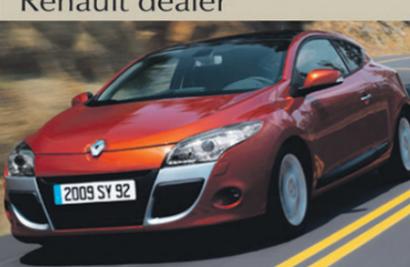
1 year MOT, VGC, One owner from new, leather interior, 6 CD Autochanger, 2 new front tyres, FSH, 115,000 miles fantastic runner, price reduced for quick sale
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2004, Reflex Silver, 85,000 miles. Full Leather Interior, Rear Parking Sensors, E/W, E/M, Taxed June, MOT March 2013, Waxoiled, FSH, Timing Belt replaced, New rear discs and pads.
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2003 Mot May, Tax May, 96,600 miles, 46 MPG, Cruise Control, Good condition for age
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£1500ono

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11 Skoda Fabia 1.6 SE TD11, 5Dr, Grey, 10,650 miles.....	£10,250
11 Renault Megane EXP 1.6, 5Dr, Ruby Red, 14,750 miles.....	£9,950
11 Renault Clio Extreme 1.2, 3dr, Grey, 1,500 miles.....	£9,695
10 Renault Clio i-music DCI, 5dr, Silver, 9,800 miles.....	£9,450
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 14,000 miles.....	£9,650
59 Citroen Berlingo VTR 90, 1.6, Beige, 26,700 miles.....	£7,650
09 Peugeot 107 Urban 3 door, Silver, 15,000 miles.....	£5,250
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07 Renault Megane Exp. Sport Tourer DCI 106, Beige, 33,000 miles.....	£5,450
07 Renault Clio Exp., 1.4, 3Dr, Red 47,000 miles.....	£4,795
56 Renault Clio Exp. 1.2, 5dr, Silver, 27,800 miles.....	£4,450
56 Renault Megane Dyn 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, silver.....	£4,250
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 miles.....	£4,750
05 Renault Kangoo Venture DCi 80, Blue, 29,000 miles.....	£4,250
03 Peugeot 206 Style 3 door, Green, 63,000 miles.....	£1,950

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new car index

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* XV class consists of four wheel drive, 2.0 diesel equivalent versions of Audi Q3 (177hp), BMW X1 (143hp), Ford Focus (140hp), Hyundai ix35 (133hp), Kia Sportage (136hp), Mitsubishi ASX (150hp), Nissan Qashqai (150hp), Skoda Yeti (140hp) and VW Tiguan (140hp). Please note the preceding differences in maximum power (hp). Figures correct at time of going to press and have been based on our competitors' published figures.
** In its 2011 Euro NCAP test, the Subaru XV scored 86% for adult protection, 90% for child protection, 94% for pedestrian protection and 86% for safety assistance generating a combined score of 33.6%. Euro NCAP data taken from www.euroncap.com - 13th December 2011.
Subaru XV range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 32.1 (8.8) to 41.5 (6.8). Extra urban from 47.9 (5.9) to 56.5 (5.0). Combined from 40.9 (6.9) to 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions from 160 to 146 (g/km).

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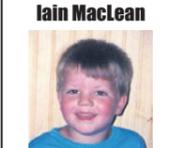
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BIRTHS

BRESLIN - Craig and Karen are proud to announce the birth of their son, Callum John, on April 15, 2012, Clachan Seil. A wee brother for Mara. Very special thanks to midwives Gillian, Ronnie and Fiona.

CROOKS - Derek and Polly are delighted to announce the safe but early arrival of their beautiful daughter Persphone Eve born April 3, 2012. Extra special thanks to Oban Maternity Unit especially Gillian, RAH Midwives and Oban Ambulance drivers for all their help and care.



MACLENNAN - CLARK

The family of Pauline and the late Gary welcome the birth of their daughter Lauren on April 10, 2012. First grandchild to Neil and Anne MacLennan and Stephen and Jacqui Woods. With thanks to all midwife and ambulance staff involved.

MARRIAGES

CLARK - McILROY - At Corran Esplanade Church, Oban, on Saturday, April 14, 2012, by Rev Dugald Cameron, Murray, only son of Alex and Sandra, Ganavan, Oban, to Catherine, only daughter of Bill and Margaret, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow. A very happy and memorable day.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Tragically on April 10, 2012, Robert, husband of Carol, father of Caroline and Robert, dear son of Isabel and the late Hugh and dear brother of Margaret. Sorely missed. Requiem mass at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Friday 20 April at 10 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Oban Lifeboat Station.

CLARK - Suddenly at home on April 13, 2012, Robert Clark (Bobba) in his 92nd year, beloved of Annie Boyd, father of Robert and Alec and a loving grandfather. Funeral service in Oban Free High Church, Rockfield Road on Thursday April 19 at 1.30 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Oban War & Peace Museum.

CORSAR - Charles H.K. - LVO, OBE, TD, DL, MA. After a gallant fight, Chay died peacefully on April 9, 2012. Dearly loved husband of Mary and father of Geordie, David, Katie and Mollie, a very special grandfather of nine. He has donated his body to the University of Edinburgh. A thanksgiving service will be held in the Kirk of the Canongate, Edinburgh on Tuesday, April 24, at 11.30am. Donations to Help for Heroes (Tel: 01725 514 130) are welcomed.

DENISON - Peacefully, in her sleep after a short illness, on Saturday, April 14, 2012, Evelyn Denison of 'AlltFearn', Laga Bay, Glenborrodale. Beloved wife of the late Keith Denison, mother of Ian and Nick, grandmother of Anna and Christopher, Andrew and Rory. Funeral service from Acharacle Church of Scotland, on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 12 noon, all family and friends respectfully invited.

MACKAY - Duncan. Peacefully at Accord Hospice on Saturday, April 14, 2012, aged 69 years. Duncan, beloved husband of Nancy, devoted dad of Alasdair, much adored and proud pa of Alana, Naim and Tori, a dear father-in-law to Aileen, also brother of Malcolm and John. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, April 20, 2012 at 10.30am, thereafter to the George Hotel, Inveraray. Family flowers only, donations to Accord Hospice.

MACPHERSON - Peacefully at home in Mallaig on Easter Eve April 7, 2012, Peter Anthony aged 41 years beloved son of Isa and the late Donald Alasdair. Irreplaceable brother of Margaret Ann, Christina and Florence and dear nephew of Chrissie. Funeral was held at St Patrick's, Mallaig on April 13, 2012. RIP

McCOLL - The funeral of the late Flora McColl will take place at Tarbert Free Church, on Wednesday, April 25, at 12 noon, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, retiring collection if desired, for Tarbert

Parish Church Restoration Fund and Tarbert Senior Citizen's Annual Dinner.

McKERRELL - Suddenly at home in Dunnaonhaig, Lagavulin, Islay on April 5, 2012, Mary Gray (May) nee Campbell aged 71 years. Beloved wife of the late Dugald, much loved mother of late Dugald, and dearly loved granny of Daniele, Dugald and Dionne. Interred in Kilnaughton, Islay. So loved so mourned.

MALOY - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on April 12, 2012, Mary Maloy (nee Brooks), aged 87 years, of 7 Tigh-Na-Creige, West Bank Road, Ardrishaig, beloved wife of the late David Robertson Maloy, and loving mother of Ann, Margaret, Andrew and Stephen. Much loved mother-in-law, gran and great gran. A dear neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, followed by a memorial service in Ardrishaig Parish Church. Sadly missed.

WORMELL - At the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on April 17, 2012, in his 82nd year, Peter, much loved husband to Jessie, best loved dad, granddad and great granddad. The funeral will take place from Ardchattan Kirk, Ardchattan on Tuesday April 24, at 11 am. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TOMISON - Mamie. A Thanksgiving Service will take place for Mamie in Kilmelford Church on Tuesday, April 24, at 2pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORSYTH - The family of the late Willie would like to thank sincerely all who attended the Service. Also thanks to Hoey's, Donald MacKinnon and donations made to Macmillan nurses.

MACDONALD - Jane and family would like to thank everyone for cards, flowers and messages of sympathy. Thanks to Rev Robert for a comforting service and friends in Kilchrean who did all the catering, thanks to the whole team of medics from Lorn and Islands Hospital, a sincere thank you to the community for their support, thank you to D & A Munn Ltd for their professional and sensitive arrangements and also to all who attended the service. The sum of £536.94 was donated to Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation.

MACEACHERN - Morag's family would like to thank everyone for the kindness and support they have received since their sad loss. Thank you to all who attended at Glenfield in their professional capacity. Grateful thanks to all who sent cards, the lovely floral tributes, all who made phone calls and who attended the funeral service on March 29. Thank you for your donations which raised £228 for St. Kiarans Church. Grateful thanks to Jean and Craig MacAffer for their care and guidance in all the funeral arrangements. Our gratitude to the Rev. Rob Barlow for his support and work in preparing and delivering the funeral service. Thank you to Mrs. Jean Campbell for playing the organ, thank you to Miss Cathie Thomson for reading at the Church and we really very much appreciated Mr. Iain MacPherson singing An Ataireachd ard. Thank you also to Lorna and Staff at Bridgend Hotel for making us so welcome.

MEMORIAMS

BANNATYNE - In loving memory of Caroline who died April 30, 1968. - John

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Willie, my precious 'Morar Boy', who died suddenly on April 23, 2011 at home in Connel, a devoted husband, father, brother and son to Molly. Missed, remembered and loved every day. - Ann, Mary, Katy and Hugh.

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.

LIVINGSTON - In memory of our dad Hugh, died April 16, 1982. When a loved one becomes a memory That memory becomes a treasure. - All the Livingston family, home and away.

MACDONALD - In memory of Chrissie Macdonald, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg, who passed away April 15, 1998.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my loving husband Archie, who died April 22, 2001, dearly loved dad of Keith and the late Sharon, who died December 19, 2008, a loving grandpa.

Gone from our lives But never from our hearts. - Frances and families, Dalmally, Lochawe and South Laggan.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Archie died April 11, 1998. Always in our thoughts. - Donald, Ina, Anne and Peter, May and family, Canada.

PHILLIPS - 1st Anniversary. Treasured memories of Mary Kate (MacKay), darling wife of Ronnie, a loving mum and adored granny, a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt who died in Perth, Australia on April 19, 2011. R.I.P. Forever loved, sorely missed. Mary Kate, memories of you are proudly kept You were too special to ever forget.

- Your loving family in Australia, Skipton, Fort William, Benbecula and South Uist.

PURDEN - Precious memories of our son Angus, who left us April 22, 1998 aged 25. We do not need a special day To bring you to our minds The days we do not think of you Are really hard to find In life we loved you dearly And beyond we love you still

In our hearts forever son. - Love Mum and Dad xxx

PURDEN - In loving memory of our dear brother and Uncle Angus. Time may pass and fade away But precious thoughts and memories stay. - Frances and Andrew and Katie and William.xx

STEELE - Precious memories of our sister Morven who died April 20 1984. - Morag and Alan.

SWAINSON - My dearest wife, Rachel, who died April 18, 1997. If love could have saved you You would not have died If tears could bring you back You'd be here by my side I will always love and miss you. - Tony.

SWAINSON - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled in heaven she rests God bless you mother You were the best. You will always be our hero Thank God you are wind beneath our wings We miss you so much. - Marie and Jacqueline.

TIMMS - Loving memories of a dear dad and granddad Arthur, who passed away April 17, 1984. Also remembering all other loved ones. Treasured memories keep you near As time unfolds another year. - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 22 April 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

The Guild of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven raised £300 for Erskine Hospital at an Easter Monday coffee morning.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 22 April 2012
3rd of Easter
St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School & Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.15



Reader captures stunning aerial view of Oban

An aerial view of Oban taken from a light aircraft a couple of years ago by former Connel resident Ronnie Child. He said it 'was a thrill to fly there' and wanted us to print this photo for the enjoyment of The Oban Times readers.

New Pheonix cinema seats arrive

NEW SEATS emblazoned with the Oban Phoenix Cinema's logo have arrived at the George Street picture house as refurbishments continue apace.

Work is now progressing to install new flooring in the George Street cinema's two auditoriums to allow the 150 seats to be fitted. Meanwhile, the not-for-profit group working to revamp the facility - which has received strong community backing - is this week advertising for a new general manager, projectionist and two front of house assistants to staff the cinema for its projected summer opening (see page 19).

One of the directors of the group, Isla McColl, said: 'The seats arrived on Wednesday and work started on fitting the new flooring on Monday night. The seats will be one of the last things to go in. 'We're also advertising for four new members of staff and are building a bank of volunteers to help run the cinema. We'd be delighted if people want to come forward.'

Tobermory car park users warned

WARNINGS have been issued to car park users in Tobermory to remove their vehicles - some with trailers and boats - or face having them destroyed.

Last Friday Argyll and Bute Council put notices on seven vehicles in Ledaig car park, six of which contain vessels. The document states owners have 24 hours to move their vehicles or face a bill of £300 for its 'removal and disposal'.

Local residents have expressed their concern that this time frame is too short notice for

some owners but a spokeswoman for the council defended the actions.

She said: 'This is a busy car park especially within the tourist season and is not for the long term storage of vehicles although some have been there for some time. The legislation prescribes the notification timescale of 24 hours but in practice and from experience in previous years when notices have been issued at this car park, we give up to seven days from serving the notice to allow the owners to make themselves known and remove their vehicle.'

She added: 'All seven notices comply with legislation and before issuing the notices the authorised officer visited the surrounding businesses to make them aware of what was happening and to find out if they had any knowledge as to the vehicle owners.'

If owners can't be identified the council will remove the vehicles to a secure area for a set time period before disposing of them.

Oban Sheriff Court fines Ardfern men for shouting and swearing at bar manager

TWO ARDFERN men pled guilty to shouting and swearing at a bar manager when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Douglas McLauchlan, 41, and Oliver Gladstone, 28, had been outside The Galley of Lorne Inn in Ardfern in July last year when the incident took place.

The pair, who both have one previous conviction, also admitted committing a breach of the peace and placing their victim and those accompanying him in a state of fear and alarm.

Sheriff Small fined McLauchlan, of 1 Ardlarach Drive, £330 while Gladstone, of West Barravullin, was made to pay £380.

Fort cops in witness appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an alleged road rage incident in a Fort William housing scheme.

A Stagecoach Bus was travelling from Corpach to Upper Achintore at around 7.10am on Friday April 13 when an altercation took place at Inverlochy between the bus driver and a male.

It is believed the man stepped out of a white transit van to remonstrate with the bus driver.

A Fort William police spokesperson said: 'Were you on the bus and witness the incident? Did you witness an altercation of any kind? If so please contact Police at Fort William on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.'

Mining exploration survey in Oban

MINING exploration could start in Oban soon after a global company commissioned aerial survey work.

A helicopter with what appeared to be a large net caused concern - and curiosity - among locals last week but *The Oban Times* can reveal it was electro magnetic equipment to detect minerals.

Girone Vidal, who works for French company Geotech, was involved in the surveying work, carried out on behalf of Eurasian Minerals.

He said: 'It was a survey for mining exploration work. The electro magnetic equipment receives a signal from the ground which is mapped.'

The finished map of the area is given to a geology team who examine it before starting exploratory drilling operations.

But Mr Vidal added: 'I think there will be some areas of great interest to them.'

Oban town centre roadworks

LONG awaited roadworks for Oban's town centre have been given the green light for later this year.

Transport Scotland will split up the original A85 Oban Phase 1 scheme (Argyll Square to Corran Hall) into a number of reduced schemes, which have been reapproved by Transport Scotland in its programme for the next three years.

Two of the schemes (A85 Oban Esplanade and East of George Street) are now programmed to be carried out in November 2012, with completion by the first week in December 2012.

Connel Bridge to close for streetlight repairs

CONNEL Bridge will have to close temporarily to allow broken streetlights to be repaired, it has been confirmed.

The lights have been out for nearly two months and site engineers from Scotland Transerv have repeatedly tried, and failed, to repair the lights without causing disruption. Pedestrians have repeatedly complained about the lack of lights, with some bumping into a ramp sign at the Connel side of the bridge during twilight hours.

A spokesman for Transerv said: 'Several attempts have been made to carry out a permanent repair but it is not possible to do so without a partial closure of the road.'

'The community are in the process of being consulted on the most appropriate arrangements to manage this very short term closure as we are keen to carry out a permanent repair as soon as possible.'



Shanks pledge to clean up Oban skips

Recycling group Shanks has vowed to increase the frequency of waste collection at its skips in Oban's Tesco car park. The move comes after The Oban Times sent this photograph to the company, which has a remit to increase recycling and reduce waste. A spokesman for Shanks told The Oban Times: 'This is the first time that we have become aware of an issue with this recycling point and we have now reviewed the collection frequency to make sure that there is always capacity available. The unseasonably warm weather at the time did lead to a dramatic increase in recycling which was great to see.'

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

Oban Hospice

CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

WEDDINGS



BLACK - WATSON
Julie Black and Chris Watson were married at Crear on February 29, 2012. Julie and Chris currently live in Hereford, but Julie's parents live in Kilmichael, and her sister on the Isle of Gigha.
Flowers by Gill Stewart of Crear Flowers,
Photography by Katrina Lithgow of Crear Photography.

MEMORIALS

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New Fort project celebrates creative people and business

A NEW initiative, 'My Creative Fort William', is being launched this weekend, with the key aim of celebrating and promoting the creative nature, people and business in Fort William and Lochaber.

The initiative, conceived and developed by Billy Lamont and Liz Graham of lamontdesign and Margaret Boyd, will officially launch at an open event in the Ben Nevis Distillery on Saturday, starting at 10am.

Ms Boyd said: 'Fort William and Lochaber enjoys a wealth of talented creatives;

designing, making, singing, playing, painting and writing unique and wonderful things.

'We can't always see them, but they are here.

'Our aim is to promote and celebrate all things creative by bringing them together into one place www.mycreativefortwilliam.co.uk - so we can all find out what they're doing.'

The project also aims to support the town's High Street businesses still trading and thriving there.

'Sparking' an interest in history

KILMARTIN House Museum hopes to 'spark' an interest in history when it demonstrates prehistoric fire-starting techniques during next month's Festival of Museums.

As well as showing how flint produced flames, the museum's Fire and Flint event, on May 19-20, will demonstrate a number of prehistoric techniques, including flint knapping, cordage making and tool creation, thanks to internationally renowned prehistoric technology experts, John and Val Lord.

Meanwhile, the Auchindrain Trust will host a Food Festival at its Furnace home on May 20, offering a taste of the past and ancient food-crafting techniques such as butter churning - as well as filling the bellies of visitors with a host of more familiar fare.

Leanne Muldowney, events co-ordinator for Auchindrain Museum, said: 'The event will give a fascinating and evocative glimpse into the history and culture of the last and most complete example of a Highland farm township.'

Lismore Heritage Centre gets in on the act too, across all three days of the Festival of Museums, May 18-20.

The Best of Scotland in One Place will see a ceilidh on the Friday, while Saturday night children can attend and see the museum by torchlight.

Sunday evening will see a 'knit and natter' session in the cafe. Full details of this year's Festival of Museums events programme are available online at www.festivalofmuseums.com.



MacTavish and Celtic Cup ties take centre stage

Results

Saturday 14 April

Orion Group Premiership
Bute 0 - 2 Kingussie
Fort William 2 - 4 Glenurquhart
Kilmallie 2 - 3 Kyles Athletic
Lovat 3 - 3 Kinlochshiel
Newtonmore 4 - 0 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass 2 - 1 Beaulay

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni 1 - 6 New'more
Glenurquhart 2 - 1 Skye
Glenurquhart 2 - 2 Lovat
Kingussie 3 - 3 Lochaber

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Beaulay 8 - 0 Strathglass
Strathspey 6 - 6 Lewis Cam
Boleskine 7 - 3 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 4 - 2 Lochbroom
Lochcarron 6 - 0 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glasgow MA 1 - 2 Ballachulish
Inveraray 1 - 1 Col Glen
Ardnamurchan 2 - 6 Kyles Ath
Lochside Rvrs 10 - 0 Aberdeen
Tayforth 3 - 1 Bute

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Replay
Glenorchy 1 - 2 Oban Cam

Ballicore Cup
Taynuilt 2 - 4 Strachur
Inverness 6 - 1 Oban Celtic
Lochaber 3 - 2 Caberfeidh
Aberdour 0 - 4 Glasgow MA

Fixtures

Saturday 21 April

(Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Orion Group Premiership
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
Graham Irving

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass v Caberfeidh
Robert Morrison
Lochcarron v Inverness
John Angus Gillies - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen Uni
Ronnie Campbell Stats
Glenurquhart v Kingussie
John Matheson
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel
Callum Duff
Lovat v Fort William
Duncan Kelly

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Kilmallie v Lochbroom
Al Hunter - 12 noon
Lochcarron v Lewis Cam Graeme
MacMillan - 1pm
Boleskine v Beaulay
John Sloggie
Inverness v Strathspey
Kevin Cheeseman

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy v Glasgow MA
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Inveraray
Euan Pearson - 12 noon
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic
Ewen MacDonald - 12 noon
Aberdour v Ballachulish
Daniel MacRae
Col Glen v Ardnamurchan
Lachie Wood
Lochside v Glasgow MA
Jim Innes

The Co-operative MacTavish Cup
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Deek Cameron
Beaulay v Glenurquhart
Innes Wood
Fort William v Newtonmore
Billy Witherspoon
Skye v Lochaber
Evan MacRae - 3pm

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup
Kilmory v Aberdeen
Dunkie Kerr
Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
Colin MacDonald
Bute v Oban Camanachd
David Mitchell
Taynuilt v Oban Celtic
Graham Cameron Stats

Sutherland Cup
The Scots v Caberfeidh
George O'Rourke Stats

Strathdearn Cup
Skye v Newtonmore
Willie MacRae - 12 noon

KILMALLIE switch to Co-operative MacTavish Cup duty looking to make up for a disappointing start to their league campaign – but face a tough task in Saturday's quarter-final tie at Canal Parks against Kingussie.

The Blues lie bottom of the Orion Group Premiership with just one point from six games – but their lowly position does not tell the true story. Kilmallie have lost three league matches by a single goal – so although Kings must be considered favourites the hosts are well capable of springing a surprise.

According to Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre, the squad could be strengthened by the return of Allan MacDonald, who has been struggling with a leg injury for some weeks.

Liam MacDonald, who made a difference to the forward line against Kyles when he came on in the second half, should also make a full return to the team.

MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'We are hoping Allan will be fit – he really tightens the defence. Kingussie are a strong team, but I think we can do reasonably well.'

Saturday's match saw Kyles dominate early on, but it was Kilmallie who took the lead when a Peter MacIntyre cross shot deceived Kyles keeper Kenny MacDonald.

Thomas Whyte levelled for the visitors, who went 3-1 up courtesy of a Roddy MacDonald second half double.

John Stewart cut the deficit to one with six minutes left, then MacDonald pulled off a great stop to deny Liam MacDonald a last gasp equaliser.

KINLOCHSHIEL will close the gap on Newtonmore at the top of the Orion Group Premiership to a single point on Saturday – if they can beat Lovat at Kirktown.

The teams fought out a feisty 3-3 draw in the league at Balgate Park just five days ago and 'Shiel want to go one better this weekend.

They will, however, be with John Don MacKenzie, whose rush of blood to the head against Lovat earned him a red card and a two-game suspension.

'Shiel will also be missing Fraser MacVicar (work commitments) and Gordy MacDonald (knee injury), so coach Johnston Gill is likely to promote several young players to the first team squad.

Four young talents, all aged 16 or 17, are pressing their claims for a place in the starting line-up



Kyles' Calum Miller moves in to snuff out the threat from Kilmallie's Ryan Stewart.

SHINTY

– Oliver 'Ach' MacRae, Donald Nixon, Connel Fraser and Jordan Fraser.

Gill told the Oban Times: 'We are down to 11 men of the squad that we had last year. Two or three of the young boys who want to step up now have a chance to show what they can do. One of those four will definitely be playing.'

'When we are thin on the ground like this, that's when these young players can make their claim for a regular first team place.'

Asked to single out one aspect of 'Shiel's game in need of improvement, Gill said: 'We seem to be losing a few goals from set pieces – and we have to address that situation. We really have to tighten up.'

KYLES ATHLETIC face old rivals Inveraray at Winterton Park, desperate to retain the Celtic Cup.

Although playing away from home, a resurgent Kyles have shown enough quality in recent weeks to make them slight favourites to progress to the semi-final stage.

Last weekend's good away win at Kilmallie saw hotshot Roddy MacDonald return to form, scoring two goals following Thomas Whyte's opener.

FORT WILLIAM should be back to almost full strength for the visit of premier league champions Newtonmore in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup quarter-final at Black Parks on Saturday.

The Fort were without brothers Stevie and Daniel Stewart, Gordy MacKinnon and Alex Duncan last weekend against Glenurquhart in the league, and the loss was keenly felt as Peter MacIntyre's men slipped to a 4-2 home defeat.

MacIntyre will have his work cut out to shoot down high-flying 'More – but he is drawing inspiration from last year's cup form.

He told The Oban Times: 'Hopefully we will have those four guys back, although Bryan Simpson is a doubt because of work commitments.'

'If we have our full squad we will be in a much better position to handle Newtonmore. We beat them in the semi-final of the MacTavish last year and we will take heart from that.'

'Out league games were very close and we feel that if we can contain their attack we have a chance. Our defence will be the key.'

Against Glenurquhart, Fort

were level 2-2 at the break thanks to strikes from Gary Innes and Ryan Campbell. Dominant early in the second half, Fort could not capitalise and were suckered by two late goals in two minutes from Smart and Reid.

'If we had scored during that second half spell I think we would have won it,' MacIntyre said.

BUTE'S Kevin Queen and James Craig were given their marching orders as the islanders slumped to a 2-0 home defeat by Kingussie.

Goalkeeper Queen was sent off for swearing at the referee after Kings' second goal, while defender James Craig also saw red for a bad tackle in the final minute of the game.

Although hard to beat, Bute have been struggling to score this season but will hope to bag a few goals against South Division One outfit Oban Camanachd this Saturday in the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup.

GLENURQUHART will travel to face Beaulay in the MacTavish Cup this weekend full of confidence after defeating Fort William 4-2 last weekend.

Glen co-manager Fraser MacKenzie told The Oban Times he was expecting a 'tough, tough game' against the North Division One side.

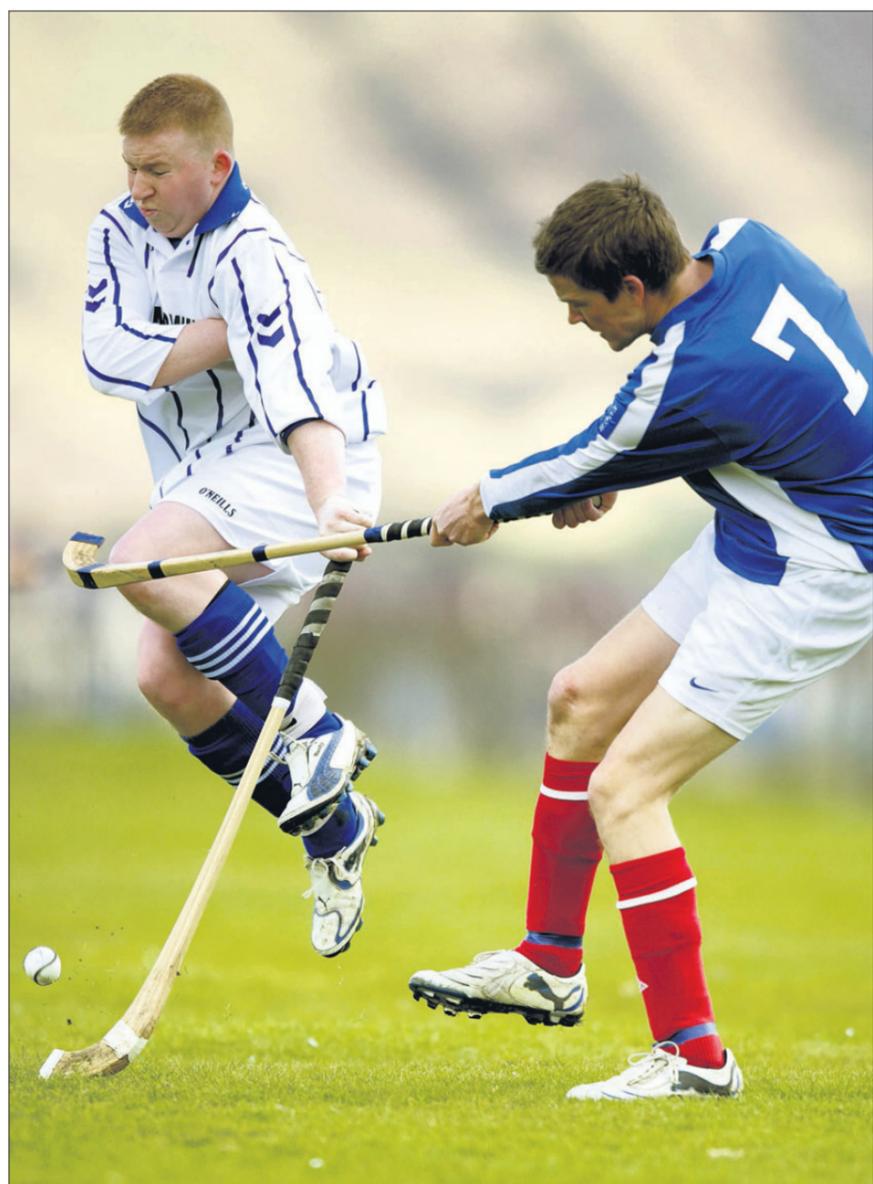
He said: 'We want to keep the winning mentality. This is a potential banana skin tie for us. They had a bad result at the weekend and I'm sure they will be looking to make up for that.'

'We always try to gather as much information as possible about our opponents. They are a strong, physical side. The boy MacDonald looks a really good player and Innes Simpson is quite a presence for them in the centre.'

Glen found themselves 2-1 in the first half at Black Parks last weekend, but equalised on the stroke of half time through David Smart. Smart grabbed his second of the game in the 75th minute before Neale Reid made sure of the win a minute later.

MacKenzie said: 'It was a good confidence booster. In some of our games so far we have played pretty well but not in the final third so it was good to fulfil our potential. We could have scored more.'

KINGUSSIE travel to Fort William to take on Kilmallie at Canal Parks in the MacTavish Cup second round this Saturday,



Kilmallie's Michael Rodger, left, takes a sore one as Kyles' Donald Irvine clears. Photo: John MacTavish

weather permitting. Kings manager Steven Borthwick told The Oban Times he expected star forward Ronald Ross to be available for the game after recovering from an ankle injury he picked up against Lovat.

Borthwick said he was confident but wary of Kilmallie's quality, despite their poor start. He said: 'They've had a bad start to the season by their standards and they will be desperate to prove a point. Canal Parks is always a hard place to go.'

Kings defeated Bute 2-0 away from home in an eventful match last weekend. Borthwick's men had to do without Ronald Ross, but Martin and Barry Dallas stepped up and scored the goals to give their side the two points.

Borthwick said: 'I don't think Bute's two sendings off made much of a difference. It was a match we were pretty much in control of and Bute didn't really look like scoring at any point.'

Orion Group Premiership leaders **NEWTONMORE** will look to take their sparkling form into their MacTavish Cup tie away to Fort William this weekend.

The game could provide an answer to the old riddle 'what happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object?' when 'More's free-scoring forwards come up against Fort's mean defence.

'More have hit the back of the net 29 times in just seven league games so far, but Fort have put together a stubborn defence which has conceded just six times in the league so far.

'More continued their fine start to the 2012 season with a comfortable 4-0 win over Inveraray last weekend, with Danny MacRae and Chris Sellar both scoring goals in each half.

It was only the second time this year Newtonmore have picked up a clean sheet – something manager Norman MacArthur had pinpointed as an area he wished to improve.

LOVAT will square up to Kinlochshiel for the second time in as many weeks in the Orion Group Premiership on Saturday – this time on their league rivals' home territory.

Last weekend's hot-tempered encounter at Balgate Park ended 3-3, which was probably a fair reflection of a game which swung first in 'Shiel's favour, then Lovat's.

Coach Allan MacRae reckons his squad came through largely unscathed – barring the usual minor wounds.

He told the Oban Times: 'Greg Matheson got a knock but I think he should be alright, and Craig Mainland got hit on the ribs but he should be OK as well.'

'We expect it will be the same type of match – it will be a hard

game again. We will definitely be hoping to take something from them on Saturday.'

On league form, it is difficult to pick a winner. Second placed 'Shiel are two points ahead of Lovat, who have a game in hand.

The teams were difficult to separate last Saturday as both fought for superiority. Matheson gave the hosts the lead, but Keith MacRae levelled then Finlay MacRae fired 'Shiel ahead just on half time.

Owen Ferguson squared matters once more, only for Finlay MacRae to restore 'Shiel's slender advantage. After John Don MacKenzie's dismissal for retaliation, Lovat piled on the pressure and found a last gasp equaliser through Martin Bell.

After last weekend's 3-2 win over Caberfeidh in the Ballicore Cup, **LOCHABER** will be looking to continue their winning streak when they travel to Portree to take on Skye Camanachd in the MacTavish Cup this Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side won 7-1 when the side met in March, and manager Michael Delaney said he wanted to keep his side's flying start to the season going.

He said: 'We'd prefer to carry on in the league but the cups are important as well. Skye have been playing well apart from when they played us, but I'd like to think that was more about us playing well than them playing badly.'

'It's always a tough place to go. They're a good outfit and they showed enough against us for us to know its going to be a hard game.'

Lochaber found themselves 2-0 down after 28 minutes against Caberfeidh, but fought back to take their place in the next round through goals from Ryan Toal, Zands Ferguson and Ben Delaney.

Michael Delaney told The Oban Times the hard fought victory had shown him a fighting spirit exists in his squad.

'We learnt more about the squad on Saturday than we did in the games we were winning 5-0 and 6-0. To come back from two goals down shows great character.'

SKYE CAMANACHD welcome North League Division One rivals Lochaber to Paic nan Laoch on Saturday for what promises to be a firecracker of a Co-operative MacTavish Cup quarter final.

Although both teams are in a fine run of form, the Skymen will be out to avenge a humbling 7-1 reverse when the teams last met, a one-sided league encounter at Spean Bridge.

Skye have arguably the best training regime in the division under coach Willie MacRae – and they will need every ounce of their stamina against a powerful Lochaber outfit, not least because they have not had a competitive match for three weeks.

MacRae told The Oban Times: 'We would like to have had a game last week, but it wasn't to be. The boys are still working hard in training and we'll just have to get on with it.'

'We never got going at Spean Bridge, but on our own pitch we will be looking to put in a much better performance.'

'We will be missing full forward Iain Nicolson, though – he's a policeman in the Black Isle and can't get off his work. Apart from that, we should have a full squad available.'

'We really have to try and contain their forward line of Ben Delaney, Shaun Nicolson and Zander Ferguson. Hopefully the boys will have their shooting eye in.'

LOCHCARRON will be looking to take advantage of their fellow north division one sides' involvement in the MacTavish Cup when they take on Inverness in a league game at Battery Park.

Andrew MacKenzie's men had a weekend off to recharge their

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	7	5	1	1	29	12	11
Kinlochshiel	6	3	2	1	17	12	8
Kyles Athletic	6	3	2	1	18	15	7
Fort William	5	2	2	1	9	6	6
Lovat	5	2	2	1	9	7	6
Kingussie	6	3	0	3	12	15	6
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	10	13	6
Inveraray	5	2	0	3	5	12	4
Bute	6	0	3	3	3	10	3
Kilmallie	6	0	1	5	9	19	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	4	3	1	0	18	3	7
Beaulay	6	3	1	2	14	7	6
Skye	4	3	0	1	11	11	6
Lochcarron	5	1	2	2	8	13	4
Strathglass	5	1	1	3	3	10	3
Inverness	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Caberfeidh	2	0	1	1	4	5	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Glasgow MA	5	3	0	2	12	7	6
Glenorchy	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
Kilmory	5	1	2	2	10	11	4
Aberdour	5	2	0	3	6	14	4
Oban Celtic	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
Strachur	5	1	1	3	5	8	3
Taynuilt	5	0	2	3	4	14	2

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	6	6	0	0	30	5	12
Glenurquhart	6	4	0	2	13	8	8
Skye	5	3	1	1	13	6	7
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	12	12	6
Kinlochshiel	5	2	2	1	9	10	6
Aberdeen Uni	6	2	1	3	7	13	5
Kingussie	6	1	2	3	11	13	4
Lovat	6	1	1	4	9	21	3
Lochaber	6	1	1	4	11	24	3
Fort William	4	1	0	3	3	6	2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	6	6	0	0	32	10	12
Kyles Athletic	5	4	0	1	21	7	8
Tayforth	6	4	0	2	17	9	8
Col Glen	6	3	1	2	17	12	7
Ballachulish	5	3	0	2	7	6	6
Inveraray	6	1	3	2	11	19	5
Bute	5	2	0	3	14	12	4
Ardnamurchan	5	1	1	3	13	12	3
Glasgow MA	6	1	0	5	5	31	2
Aberdour	6	0	1	5	2	21	1

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulay	6	6	0	0	35	3	12
Boleskine	6	5	1	0	28	8	11
Lochbroom	6	4	0	2	16	9	8
Kilmallie	6	4	0	2	21	15	8
Caberfeidh	6	3	0	3	13	15	6
Lochcarron	6	2	1	3	16	15	5
Lewis Camanachd	6	1	2	3	11	18	4
Strathglass	6	1	1	4	6	26	3
Strathspey	6	0	2	4	12	27	2
Inverness	6	0	1	5	2	24	1



Taynuilt's Marc Beaton, right, fends off a challenge during the game with Strachur.

batteries after they picked up their first win of the season with a 3-1 victory over Strathglass. A second win in a row would move Lochcarron within a point of leaders Lochaber, albeit having played two games more. MacKenzie told The Oban Times: 'We've played them already up there, they are always a sticky side and they had a good result last week as well. We should have a pretty full squad for the game. 'We're not that fussed about the league this year, its more about building a squad up. It's nice to pick up points, but so long as we finish fairly high up the league we'll be happy.'

OBAN CAMANACHD'S young guns are looking to prove they could cut it in the premier league by taking the scalp of a top-flight club this weekend in the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup.

Camanachd travel to Bute on Saturday on the back of yet another unconvincing performance against neighbours Glenorchy but co-manager Andrew Pearson insists his players have a point to prove against premier opponents.

'The boys are all really keen to get back up to the premier league and they want the cup games to come round, to prove they can compete against the bigger teams,' he said.

'This game will give everyone an idea about the premier league standard and will tell us if we are moving forward as a team.'

It was a fresh-faced Oban Camanachd who defeated Glenorchy in Dalmlally after extra time, thanks to two goals from Iain 'Scally' MacMillan, now one of the older members of the squad.

Andrew added: 'Youngsters such as Malcolm Clark and Ally Gunn have come into the team and are doing really well but we may bring in David MacMillan to add some more experience. However, the advantage of the rolling substitutions is we can give the young lads crucial game experience.'

In light of their indifferent recent form, Camanachd have adjusted their training schedule, and will focus more on tactical work in coming weeks.

The trophy cabinet at OBAN



L to R - Garry MacPherson, Inveraray; Ackie McRae, Newtonmore and Douglas Dando, Inveraray during last Saturday's Orion Premiership match at the Eilan which Newtonmore won 4-0.

Photo: Stephen Tunstall

CELTIC could do with a new addition some time soon and this season's team reckon their namesake competition may be their best chance for some time.

With one half of the Celtic Cup draw compiled only of South Division One teams, it is shaping up to be a David versus Goliath final and the winners of Taynuilt versus Oban Celtic will fancy playing a part.

'We are definitely up for this game and we should have close to a full team.

'It will be a tough match against Taynuilt it always is.'

Alan Duffy, who was injured in Inverness, may miss the fixture.

Last weekend Celtic were knocked out of the Balliemore Cup by Inverness, with only a 44th minute Calum Fox goal in reply to the north team's six scores.

TAYNUILT manager Davy Thomson has issued an ultimatum to his under-performing first team to shape up, or ship out, as he prepares to bring in reserve team players.

The warning comes ahead of Taynuilt's Celtic Cup home tie against Oban Celtic this weekend, with both sides eyeing a place in the final of the competition.

The manner of last weekend's

4-2 home defeat against Strachur in the Balliemore Cup, in which Stuart Scott added two goals to his own respectable tally, angered the supporters and the manager, with the latter promising changes if form does not pick up.

The tangerines will be buoyed by the return of captain Willie Gillies from suspension and Stephen Parr is due to rejoin the team after recovering from a hand injury.

Davy told The Oban Times: 'We were two goals down in the first four minutes on Saturday and we were terrible for the whole first half. Our defence have been pretty strong all season but they were just AWOL and our goalkeeper, Andrew Servant, kept us in it.'

'We had a good talk after the game and a few home truths were told because some of the boys are just not performing to the level I know they can.'

'If we don't do something on Saturday we need to rethink and try some different players.'

GLENORCHY will take confidence from an unpredictable formbook so far this season in South Division One when they take on Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday.

The Glasgow side has lost to

Aberdour twice this year but also thumped Taynuilt on their own patch.

Glenorchy's injury list is already alarmingly long for this stage of the season with Keiran McKay, John Sartain, Scott MacKillop and Duncan Smith among the casualties.

Glenorchy manager Allan MacKechnie said: 'There have been some funny results this season, so I'm not sure how it will go on Saturday.'

'Hopefully we will get some forwards back but I may have to re-jig the side to get a bit more bite up front.'

Allan conceded the Camanachd Cup first round replay defeat to Oban Camanachd last weekend may not have been necessary had his team made more of a one-man advantage the weekend before at Mossfield.

An Alex MacPherson goal, cancelled out an Iain 'Scally' MacMillan strike but in extra time, Scally struck once more to put the Oban side into the Camanachd Cup proper.

Allan said: 'Camanachd were the better team on Saturday and we didn't have enough on the day to compete in the middle of the park.'

'Saying that, to draw with Camanachd over two 90-minute matches is a good effort.'

Susie joins Williams F1 team as a development driver

MOTOR RACING

OBAN racing driver Susie Wolff (nee Stoddart) has taken a huge step towards achieving her goal of competing in Formula One after joining F1 team Williams as a development driver.

Susie has had the classic racing career, beginning in karting and then moving to junior single-seater series and was twice nominated for the prestigious Young Driver of the Year Award before moving up to DTM. In 2012, Susie will contest her seventh season in DTM.

Susie said: 'I would like to

thank Sir Frank for giving me this opportunity both on and off the track. I must also thank Mercedes Benz AMG and HWA for supporting me to take up this new experience with Williams.

Formula One is the ultimate challenge for any racing driver and it offers me the chance both to apply and to improve the skills I have developed racing in DTM.

'In return I shall be offering some of my own technical insight and experience - coming from a different discipline

- and helping the team engage with its partners. I hope also to demonstrate that women can play a role at the highest levels of motorsport.'

Professional

Frank Williams, Team Principal of the Williams F1 Team, said: 'Susie is a talented, successful and highly professional racing driver who competes in one of the world's most fiercely-contested racing series.'

Susie recently married Toto Wolff, a Director of Williams, but Williams F1 has stressed

her appointment was approved by the board, with Toto recusing himself from the process.

Bernie Ecclestone, chief executive of Formula One, welcomed the announcement, adding: 'If Susie is as quick in a car as she looks good out of a car then she will be a massive asset to any team and on top of that she is very intelligent. I am really looking forward to having her in Formula One.'



The new-look Williams F1 Team, from left: Pastor Maldonado, Susie Wolff (nee Stoddart), Bruno Senna and Valtteri Bottas.

Taynuilt's wafer thin squad take a share of the points

Record entry for pool competition

POOL

Central Scottish Welfare League Kirkcubrecht 1 Taynuilt 1

LEARNING about their opponents ahead of a possible three cup encounters was perhaps more useful than the point Taynuilt took from this game.

Opponents last Saturday, Kirkcubrecht, will be the opposition in the quarter-final of the CDL Cup, the semi-final of the Wilson Cup and the first round of the Unico Cup.

Taynuilt travelled to Helensburgh on Saturday with a wafer thin squad.

Two trialists, Elliot Dougal and Eddie Swift, were named for the visitors.

Initially seen as a fairly meaningless end-of-season fixture,

the game came to life in the second half.

It was Taynuilt who took the lead, Stephen Kelly drove down the left hand side and swung a low cross which trialist Dougal toe-poked into the net at the near post, which silenced the big home support.

Frustrate

This seemed to frustrate Kirkcubrecht who began to play with more aggression. On 60 minutes it was 1-1 when a corner wasn't cleared properly and a Kirkcubrecht player hit a shot through a number of bodies into the bottom left corner.

As frustration grew, the game exploded with 10 minutes to go. Stephen Kelly beat a series of players in midfield and, after

being maliciously chopped down, he reacted, getting up and grabbing a player by the throat.

The referee flashed red for both players. The game fizzled out with Taynuilt taking great encouragement into the coming cup fixtures against the Helensburgh side.

Manager Stuart Reid said: 'To come away with a 1-1 draw with no fewer than seven first team regulars missing was a good result.'

This Saturday Taynuilt are away to Knightswood in the quarter final of the CDL Cup. There is one league game remaining against Yoker at home.

FOOTBALL

OBAN hosted its second major pool tournament under the newly formed Scottish Eightball Pool Federation Region 5 and welcomed a record number of entries.

The competition was held in the Balmoral Hotel on Saturday with Jim Muir winning his second tour event in succession.

The semi finals saw some of the best pool matches to be played in Oban, with John Horne narrowly missing out to a place in the final to Jim, who snatched the win on the last frame, winning 5-4.

Geo Adam saw off competition from Scottish international Laura Ann Sneddon by winning 5-2.

The final saw a repeat of the first tour event with Jim and Geo battling it out once again.

The match started out very close with the players taking turns winning the frames but at three frames a-piece Jim stepped up a gear and took the next three frames, winning with the same score as last time the pair met - 6-3.

Laura Ann thanked everyone who helped organise the event, with a special thanks extended to Donald Black for hosting the event and Hazelbank Motors, who were the sponsors for the event.



Fort William's Duncan Rodger, left, moves in to challenge for possession during the game with Glenurquhart.

'Mighty Mouse' to watch youth exhibition games at Glencruitten

RUGBY

THE FIRST team's fixture calendar may be over but Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club will welcome the Scottish Rugby Union president this weekend by playing an exhibition youth match.

This Saturday Ian McLauchlan will be the guest at the clubhouse as a match between Sharks v Bulls, (Under 14) and a match between the High-

landers v Crusaders (under 17) headlines a day of youth rugby. The youth games will be on from noon until 3pm, followed by Mid Argyll seniors in league action. The clubhouse and bar will be open.

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If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. 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.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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.

WIN £750

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Spot the SHINTY BALL

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Royce rolled over as Saints net five

'If we can keep up this good form we must be in with a shout of winning the league'

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 5
Rolls Royce EK 1

LEAGUE leaders Rolls Royce were the visitors to Glencruitten for this premier division match but the East Kilbride side were unlucky to find Saints in sparkling form in a match that boosted Saints' title credentials.

The home side came flying out of the blocks and could have scored three goals in the first five minutes of the game with Craig MacEwan being the unlucky Saints forward who missed three very good opportunities.

The visitors were caught like rabbits in car headlights at the start of the game as they had no answer to the fast flowing football being played by the home side and it was no surprise when Donald Campbell was sent clear in the 6th minute.

He raced goalwards, danced round Rolly keeper Calum McSporrin before stroking the ball into the net to open the scoring.

Three minutes later the home side doubled their advantage after good work from Willie Gemmell and Craig MacEwan

set up Donald Campbell and the Saints top scorer picked his spot to fire home a well taken goal.

The East Kilbride team were stung by this early onslaught, but to their credit they battled back into the game.

The visitors were taking the game to Saints playing some good football in the process and they pulled a goal back when a good cross to the far post was met by Scott MacEwan who outjumped the defence to head the ball home past a helpless Graham Douglas to make the score 2-1.

Great save

After a blistering start the home side fell out of the game somewhat, but Donald Campbell came close with a fine effort that sailed inches over the bar and Rolls Royce keeper Calum McSporrin made a great save with his legs from a Myles McAuley header.

The home side created another good chance when Donald Campbell set up Craig MacEwan, but Craig was having no luck in front of goals as his effort slipped past the post.

However, a minute before

half time Craig made amends when he picked up a pass from Donald Campbell before squaring the ball across the face of the goals for Lewis Cameron who squeezed the ball home to give Saints a 3-1 interval lead.

This was a vital goal as it gave the home side a bit of breathing space and it also gave the manager a chance to get the players in at the break and get them focused again for the second half as they had lost a bit of composure.

The second 45 minutes saw the homesters take control again and they increased their lead in the 61st minute and what a cracker of a goal it was with defender Marc MacCallum striding forward and unleashing a superb 30 yarder which flew into the top corner of the net leaving the visiting keeper rooted to the spot.

This was the killer goal and although the visitors tried hard enough they never looked like getting back into the game and the icing was put on the cake in the 77th minute when Donald Campbell was fouled at the edge of the box. Willie Gemmell stepped up and curled a great

free kick over the Rolly wall and into the net to give Saints a well deserved 5-1 win.

The game was well handled by referee Peter McCallum from Campbeltown.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We started well and should have been three or four up in the opening few minutes.'

'In saying that Rolls Royce came right back into the game after we had taken a 2-0 lead. The goal we scored just before half time was important. We managed to get our shape back in the second half and apart from a couple of dodgy moments we were in control.'

'There's still a long way to go yet, but if we can keep up this good form we must be in with a shout of winning the league.'

This Saturday Saints travel away to take on Castlemilk in a league game.

The teams met earlier in the season at Glencruitten with the Oban lads edging a close game 3-2 so a tough match is in the cards for Saints this weekend.

FOOTBALL



Saints defender Marc MacCallum strides past Rolls Royce midfielder Paul Hughes during Saints' 5-1 win at Glencruitten. Marc got on the scoresheet in the second half with a spectacular 30 yard drive.

Glencruitten Golf Club gears up for the new season

GOLF

THE BRITANNIA Qualifier was on the cards in Oban this week, as Glencruitten Golf Club geared up for the season.

John Gibb finished top with 70 less 10 for 60 (BIH), he was closely followed by John MacKinnon Jr at 66 less 6 for 60 and in third place was Martin Tait on 66 less 5 for 61.

The MacKay Cup was also up for grabs at the club last week, John Plunkett, the winner by ten shots with net scores of 58 and 60.

Mark wins captain's prize at Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF

CAPTAIN'S Prize, April 15: 1 Mark Henriksen, 125 (R1:65 R2:60) (8); 2 Donald Cattnach, 127 (R1:63 R2:64) (7); 3 Rob Graham, 127 (R1:62 R2:65) (12).

Ladies Coronation Foursomes, April 10: 1 Jill Stewart / Jane MacIntyre, 29pts (24); 2 Lesley Dawson / Mairead Sim, 26pts (18); 3 Carol MacLarty / Fiona McGlynn, 25pts (19).

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 6, Blair Thistle 3. Saints goalscorers were Ben Coates, Liam Higgins, Jay Cooper, Hector MacDonald and Patrick MacIntyre.

Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game.

Under 16s 3, Argyll Athletic 4. Ryan MacDougall netted a hat-trick for the Oban side.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Ardencape; Under 14s v Kilmpatrick; Renton v Under 15s; Under 16s v Port Glasgow.

Tobermory Golf Club results

GOLF

Bolton 2&1; Oliver Armour bt Sean Dunstaffnage 3&2; Ian McGougan bt Kenny McCallum 19th; Stephen Renfrew bt Stuart Campbell 3&2; George Reynolds bt Gordon Tyre 4&3.

Qtr finals: Graham bt Thomson 3&2; MacIntyre bt McLean 5&4; Armour bt McGougan 1 hole; Renfrew bt Reynolds 6&5.

Semi finals: Graham bt MacIntyre 2&1; Renfrew bt Armour 7&6.

Final: Renfrew bt Graham 2&1.

MEN'S Section: The Marie Curie Shield: 1 Donald (Dods) Maclean, 36points; 2 Peter Maclean, 36 points; 3 John Weir, 34 points.

The ladies' event was won by Catherine Anne MacCrae on 28 points.

Coasters win three-team tournament

FOOTBALL

OBAN'S Coasters Bar won a three-team football tournament held at Glencruitten last Sunday.

The other teams taking part were Ormond Saints from Perth and Queens Park from Glasgow.

Results: Coasters 2, Ormond Saints 0; Queens Park 1, Ormond Saints 2; Coasters 2, Queens Park 1.

Keyline Cup date

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Football Club have announced the date of this summer's Keyline Cup Tournament.

The competition will take place on Saturday 14 July at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park.

Successful fortnight for young Oban golfer

GOLF

TEENAGER Robert MacIntyre has put his stamp on the adult game by reaching the semi-finals of the Argyll and Bute 2012 Matchplay Championship.

The 15-year-old narrowly lost 2&1 to Isle of Eriska greenkeeper David Graham in their semi-final tie.

Major

Stephen Renfrew became the first Port Bannatyne member to win a major Argyll and Bute area championship beating David in the final.

Stephen had a tough route to the final, overcoming former winners Stuart Campbell and

George Reynolds in the early rounds.

On Sunday morning he thrashed another local member Oliver Armour 7&6 in the semi-final before facing David Graham in the afternoon.

It was fitting that Stephen has managed this win during his club's centenary year and this will be a boost to the club's centenary celebrations.

But many of the senior members were impressed with young Robert, who has had an action-packed fortnight after representing a development Scotland Boys squad in Northern Ireland

last week followed by a last 32 berth in the Scottish Boys Championship.

Boost

The emergence of Renfrew, Graham and MacIntyre will be a boost to Argyll and Bute team manager Callum Mckirdy when he comes to selecting his six-man team for the Scottish Area Team Championship, to be held at Blairgowrie in four weeks' time.

Results: 1st round: Reeve Thomson bt Allan McKie 4&3; David Graham bt John Jack 2&1; Robert MacIntyre bt Ross Currie 5&4; Alister McLean bt Graham

GOLF

Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game.

Under 16s 3, Argyll Athletic 4. Ryan MacDougall netted a hat-trick for the Oban side.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Ardencape; Under 14s v Kilmpatrick; Renton v Under 15s; Under 16s v Port Glasgow.



Kenny Drummond stretches to reach a ground shot on his way to beating Willie Gemmell in the men's final. Picture by Bob McCulloch

New season gets underway at Oban Tennis Club

KENNY Drummond and Tara Pollock were the main winners in the first Oban Tennis Club Superset Monthly Series event at Atlantis Leisure last Sunday.

Kenny beat Willie Gemmell in a closely contested men's final 6-5. Both had match points before Kenny prevailed in the tiebreak 8-6. In the women's final, Tara beat Denise Gemmell 6-3.

Willie made up for his earlier disappointment,

teaming up with Stuart Fraser to win the doubles.

The pair held off a spirited challenge from teenagers Roheel Arshad and Gregor Brydon, winning 6-5 (7-2).

Ranking points

All competitors earned ranking points towards qualification for the Superset Finals in September. The next event will be held on Sunday, May 19.

Strong Argyll drives in Granite City Rally

RALLYING

BROTHERS Kevin and Stephen Lockhart had a strong finish in last weekend's Granite City Rally in Aberdeen.

In what was the third round of the Scottish Rally Championship the Oban boys took sixth place overall and first in class 10.

It was a welcome result for the duo, who had to retire from last month's Border Counties due to gearbox failure.

Their father, Freddy, said: 'We had a new gearbox fitted for this event and the car went like a dream.'

'Sadly stage one was cancelled due to a bad accident but the organisers decided to go ahead and run the other four stages.'

Stephen and Kevin were seeded 10th for the event but finished the last stage fifth fastest.

The boys praised the work of their service team, comprising

of Fred MacLean from Mull and G&M from Perth. Dawson Energy Limited was thanked for its continued support.

Meanwhile, Isle of Mull youngster Craig Rutherford continued his impressive start to 2012 with a fine drive at the same rally.

The 21 year-old took his second consecutive win in the top class of the Brick and Steel Ecosse Challenge, building his speed in the Honda Civic Type-R in the process.

Rutherford and co-driver Martin MacCabe finished the Aberdeen-based rally 28th out of more than 100 starters.

The result keeps up Craig's scorching start to 2012; in the first four months of the current Scottish rally season, the company director has sealed two wins in the Civic Type-R Ecosse Challenge, taken two top-three

2WD finishes, and bagged one of this year's RSAC Scholarships.

'All in all it was a pretty good day's work, we got through and set a solid pace,' said Craig.

Gerry qualifies for regional final

GOLF

CLUB Champion Gerry Davies will represent Dalmlilly Golf Club at the Scottish Hydro National Competition Regional Final, to be held at Westerwood Golf Club in May.

In testing conditions, Gerry won the Orchy Club's Scottish Hydro qualifying event on Sunday, shooting a net 68 to pip Stephen Ross on countback.

Distillery signs up for Brewin Dolphin Series

YACHTING

BOWMORE Distillery is the latest sponsor to sign up to this year's Brewin Dolphin Scottish series. Clyde Cruising Club last week unveiled Bowmore, Islay's first Single Malt distillery, as the newest sponsor to sign up to support the Tarbert-based festival.

This year's Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series is due to take place during the Queen's Jubilee weekend, from Friday, June 1, to Monday, June 4.

Competitors and spectators will be able to exclusively sample key bottlings from Bowmore at a tasting session on the Saturday in the new marquee complex on the north shore of Tarbert.

Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C

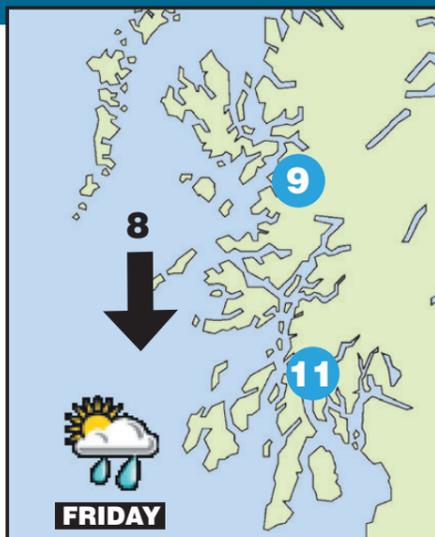
Friday Thundery showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 11°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers

Outlook Winds moderate north, north easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 19, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.30 3.6 10.53 1.1 16.45 3.5 23.13 0.9	
Fri	05.04 3.7 11.24 1.0 17.16 3.7 23.47 0.9	
Sat	05.37 3.8 11.56 0.9 17.47 3.8 *** **	
Sun	00.19 0.9 06.09 3.8 12.29 0.9 18.16 3.8	
Mon	00.51 1.0 06.41 3.8 13.01 1.0 18.47 3.8	
Tues	01.22 1.2 07.12 3.7 13.34 1.1 19.18 3.7	
Wed	01.52 1.3 07.43 3.5 14.05 1.2 19.49 3.6	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Bumper Mallaig prawn catches boost fish income

A BUMPER year for Mallaig prawn catches helped Scotland record a 10-year high fishing income in 2011.

Scottish Government statistics show catches nationwide reached £500m, with prawns accounting for £83m, the second most valuable species behind mackerel.

Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association chief executive John Hermse told *The Oban Times* the figures show the fishing industry in Scotland, and the west Highlands in particular, is more robust than some have given it credit for.

He said: 'This flies in the face of those who say fishing is finished and that there's no fish left in the sea. Landings in Mallaig have been very good over the past year. We had two poor years, probably the worst in 10 years, followed by the highest in 10 years. It's just natural fluctuations in fishing rather than anything else. We've been lucky in that we've had good catches coupled with very good prices, but if anything there's less boats out there.'

Mr Hermse added: 'Prawn numbers are very good just now and we're more than happy with how things are going.'

The figures show that 358,000 tonnes of fish were landed by Scottish vessels, however the number of active fishing vessels was 2,096 at the end of 2011, a decrease of three per cent on the previous year and the lowest number in the past decade.

The number of people employed on Scottish fishing vessels was 5,005, a drop of four per cent compared to 2010.

Robbery victim offers £500 reward

A £500 REWARD is on offer following the theft of cash and a black leather handbag from a house in the Acharacle area of Lochaber.

The robbery occurred sometime between Sunday April 8 and Thursday April 12. The victim is offering the reward money for which leads to a conviction. Anyone with knowledge of the incident should contact Strontian Police on 01967 402022 or Fort William Police on 01397 702361.



They're off: the big field sets off from An Aird in Sunday's Lochaber Marathon. 20_116mar02

Hundreds take to the roads in popular Lochaber Marathon

ONE OF the biggest events on Lochaber's sporting calendar drew hundreds of competitors and spectators to Fort William on Sunday.

The Lochaber Marathon traditionally

brings runners from all over Scotland and the rest of the UK – and the 2012 event was no different as 432 athletes took to the road. One of the more colourful characters was 55 year-old

Frankie Barton, who was using the race as a qualifier for the marathon at June's London Olympics.

Frankie is running for the tiny island nation of St Kitts and Nevis at the London

Games – but comes from Craigellachie in Banffshire. Lochaber Athletic Club's John Binnie was the first local man home in a great time of 2.49.11. See full report and photos from the event, back page.

Motorists facing potential traffic chaos as work starts on two more A82 sites

LOCHABER motorists face potential traffic chaos after work started at two more sites on the A82 this week – bringing the total of roadworks to five in less than 25 miles on the lifeline route.

Traffic lights went up on Monday on the Lochybridge roundabout in Fort William as work continues on the new junction.

The same day, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) put further traffic lights in

place a mile north of the Corran Ferry for work to stabilise the rocky hillside ahead of timber harvesting in Glen Righ Forest.

FCS said a single lane closure would be required for periods until June, 24 hours a day Monday to Friday.

The lights will be removed for weekend traffic.

FCS will consult with Transport Scotland and Scotland Transerv to ensure traffic management is suspended for major events such as the Scottish Six Days

Trial from May 7-12. The A82 is already restricted to a single lane at Onich, three miles south of the new bottleneck. Further north, traffic lights remain in place at Lochybridge, Glenloy near Spear Bridge and at Loch Lochy, where floods damaged the road earlier this year.

Unhappy
A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean said he was unhappy the works coincided with the start of a busy time for Lochaber's tourism-related

businesses. He said: 'They should certainly not be putting them on during the tourist season, which is the busiest time of year for the local economy.'

Option
'Anybody viewing traffic websites are going to avoid the A82 and go up the A9 if that's an option for them.'

'Something that has to be pointed out is only one of these works, the one at Lochybridge, is actually improving the road.'

FCS project manager Alan Dickerson said: 'We appreciate that no time is a good time for this sort of operation and we apologize in advance for any disruption that this will cause - but this is a major investment in the long-term safety of the A82 corridor that will benefit communities, businesses and the tourism industry.'

'We appreciate that traffic management can be inconvenient but it is essential for the safety of motorists, other road users and our teams working on site.'

'Yes' to whisky plant

Glenbeg jobs joy

ARDNAMURCHAN is to become the home of Scotland's newest whisky distillery

after Highland councillors unanimously backed Adelphi Distillery Ltd's ambitious plans.

A final decision on the proposal for a fine malt plant and visitor centre was made on Tuesday afternoon after a visit to the site at Glenbeg next to the Kilchoan to Salen road.

Some 60 members of the public – supporters and protesters – joined councillors for a tour of the location before attending the planning meeting in Shielbridge Hall afterwards.

Although they were not allowed to participate in the debate, the majority of people in the packed hall showed delight when councillors 'gave Adelphi the thumbs up.'

The seven committee members all voted in favour of the developer, who must spend £20,000 on improving roads in the vicinity and deal with any black mould if it appears within 100 metres of the plant.

Adelphi chairman Keith Falconer told *The Oban Times* planning for construction of the plant would start immediately.

He said: 'We are obviously delighted with the councillors decision and we feel our case for building this distillery has been properly heard by everybody. We are perfectly happy with the conditions the councillors attached.'

'We just can't wait to get started and we want to get on site as soon as possible.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron welcomed the decision on the grounds it would provide a huge jobs boost to an economically fragile area.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This

By RICHARD HADDOCK
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is great news for Ardnamurchan. There will be a big tourism benefit for the area. Hopefully it will join the whisky trail and bring more tourists to the area, and it could help the ferry as well.'

'In an ideal world, if there was another site round the corner it could have gone there. But we can only deal with the applications we have in front of us. It will bring at least four jobs, and in Ardnamurchan, in relative terms, that will be fantastic for the area.'

The plans attracted overwhelming support from local people, not least West Ardnamurchan Community Council. However, Sunart Community Council objected to the distillery on Highland Council's website.

Secretary Alan Thompson, who attended the site visit, expressed disappointment with the ruling.

He said: 'I was not against the idea of the distillery. I think most of the community thought it was a not bad idea. It is just being put in the wrong place.'

'I don't believe it will bring any jobs to the area and I don't believe it will bring in very many tourists. I've not been happy with what I consider to be bullyboy tactics from the developers. They have isolated and vilified any opposition, whilst claiming to have 100 per cent support from the community.'

Some locals, visitors and people with holiday homes in the area had voiced opposition to the plans. Adelphi announced last week the new malt whisky will be called 'Ardnamurchan'.

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Tight timescale for Crofting Commission's new plan

THE NEWLY-formed Crofting Commission has started work on a new plan to guide its work until March 2017.

And its nine commissioners, six elected by crofters in last month's elections and three appointed by government, are working to a tight timescale.

Under The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, the board must produce the blueprint within six months from being officially constituted.

Commissioners met for the first time in Inverness on April 3 - and intend handing over the plan to environment minister Stewart Stevenson on September 16.

A public consultation, likely to be around 12 weeks, will provide valuable feedback to commissioners as they draw up the document.

Consultees will include Highland Council, Western Isles Council, Orkney and Shetlands islands councils, the National Farmers Union of Scotland and other bodies.

To allow the fullest possible public comment, the draft document could be published online, West of Scotland commissioner Ian George MacDonald told *The Oban Times*.

'This plan must be in place within six months from the Crofting Commission starting,' Mr MacDonald said.

'Anything the Crofting Commission does in future must have regard to the plan. The Land Court in its considerations will also have regard to it.'

See I G MacDonald on crofting's historic role, page 2.

Fire chiefs urge land owners to be more responsible

FIRE chiefs are urging land owners to be more responsible when carrying out muirburning after a major wildfire in Ardnamurchan.

Ten fire engines attended last weekend's fire between Portuairk and Achosnich near Sanna Bay, which at its height was burning along a one-mile front.

Two properties had to be evacuated as a precautionary measure and firefighters were on scene for over 24 hours.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service head of operations Billy Wilson said landowners should notify HIFRS of any planned burning and have contingency plans in place.

He said: 'Fires of this nature can rapidly spread to vast areas of moorland, forestry plantations and in some cases property, they are not only damaging to the natural environment, they cause a considerable drain on fire and rescue service resources as well as putting firefighters' safety at risk.'

Lochaber firefighters did 'a magnificent job' in stopping the fire, Mr Wilson said.

See wildfire report, page 4.

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Kinlochleven litter pick appeal

KINLOCHLEVEN Angling Club, Kinlochleven Community Council and Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) have teamed up to organise a community litter pick on Saturday.

Volunteers will meet at 10am in front of the former public toilets and the three organisations are looking for as many people as possible to help clean up the village ahead of the tourist season. Anyone who can give some time should contact Moira at the KCT office on 01855 831779 or get in touch with any member of the angling club or community council.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided at the trust office. Moira said: 'Please come along and help tidy our village. Everyone is welcome.'

Festival showcases importance of soil

HIGHLAND residents are to have the chance to take part in a festival designed to highlight the importance of soils for nature and wildlife.

The Highland Soil Biodiversity Festival from May 19 to 27 comprises nine days of illustrated talks, field visits and guided walks to raise awareness of the role soils play in the ecosystem. For more information visit www.highlandbiodiversity.com for a detailed programme or contact Janet Bromham or Jonathan Willet on 01463 702274.

Skye gardening guru in TV spotlight

BBC ALBA's popular gardening show *Annas a Ghàrradh*: In the Garden is returning for another series - with Isle of Skye co-presenter Calina MacDonald in the spotlight.

Gardening guru Calina and eager sidekick Eilidh MacInnes will show Scottish gardeners some handy tips in this year's series - which is based at Calina's own croft garden at Carbost. The duo will also visit some of Scotland's most interesting gardens and innovative gardeners. Produced by Tern TV for BBC ALBA, *Annas a Ghàrradh*: In the Garden will start on Tuesday April 24 at 8.30pm and thereafter on each consecutive Tuesday.



Constable Dean Gillies with the haul of alcohol confiscated from youngsters by police in Fort William over the weekend. 20_166dink01

Police seize booze from youngsters

POLICE confiscated 12 bottles of alcohol from teenagers caught drinking underage on the streets of Fort William over the weekend.

The youngsters, mostly aged 14 or 15, were found with a range of booze including bottles of vodka, cider, Buckfast and Smirnoff Ice.

Acting inspector Jenny Fraser told *The Oban Times* none of the children involved required medical treatment - but some were already under the influence by the time police discovered them.

She said: 'Any children found had the alcohol taken from them. Depending on their age, they were taken back to the station and their parents were called, or if they were older they were left to go on their way.'

Most of the underage drinkers were found in the An Aird area on Friday night near the visiting fun fair.

Inspector Fraser said: 'If they weren't down there, they just would have found somewhere else to drink.'

The move was part of Northern Constabulary's ongoing Operation Round-up, which aims to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour in the town.

The youngsters found with the drink were interviewed to find out how they got hold of the alcohol.

Gaelic college welcomes US guest to launch new bursary

SOUTH Skye Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig brought in international support on Tuesday - to launch a new bursary for students.

Bob Currie, president of the Clan Currie Society, travelled from the United States to announce the new bursary for research on the literature, poetry and history of the clan MacMhuirich [Currie].

Clan Currie became hereditary poets to the powerful MacDonald Lords of the Isles and MacMhuirich poets produced many famed works in the bardic tradition. In the 15th century Niall MacMhuirich was the first of several notable bards to Clan Ranald.

Mr Currie said at the launch: 'While much has been written of this great bardic dynasty, it is now recognised that much more remains to be revealed and interpreted through modern scholarship. The Clan Currie Society takes great pride in supporting this research.'

Professor Hugh Cheape, course leader at SMO for the MSc Material Culture and Gàidhealtachd History, said one student per year would be awarded the bursary - the 'Duais Clann MhicMhuirich'. He said: 'We are very proud to be instigating this on behalf of the Clan Currie Society and are looking forward to collaborating with the society to bring knowledge of this great dynasty before the people of Scotland and our cousins and descendants overseas.'

Island's only GP guilty of drink driving

Eigg doctor banned from road for 14 months

THE Isle of Eigg's only GP has been banned from driving for 14 months after being caught drunk behind the wheel of her car.

Dr Rachel Weldon, of Griannan, Eigg, was stopped by police in Caol on January 13 and found to be twice the legal drink-drive limit.

An anonymous caller had tipped off officers, who found the 54-year-old driving near along Glenloy Street near Caol shopping centre.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'She took a trip to the mainland and had consumed alcohol on the ferry and driven to Fort William. It was as she was driving back from Fort William the offence came to light.'

Dr Weldon 'very much regrets' the incident, Mr Kennedy said.

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
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He added: 'She is waiting to hear if she can continue to practise. Most of her patients live within one mile of the practice, and her husband will be able to help her travel when he can.'

ment on the implications for Dr Weldon's future.

He said: 'GPs are independent contractors. Any decision on an individual's ability to practice would be a matter for the General Medical Council (GMC).'

'There is currently locum cover in place and there is no disruption to services. As is our standard practice, we will take any necessary steps to ensure patient safety and public confidence. We will also be taking any steps to support Dr Weldon's health and well being.'

A GMC spokesman told *The Oban Times* Dr Weldon had informed them about the conviction and was still fully registered with a licence to practice.

Weldon, who pled guilty to drink driving, was also fined £400 by Sheriff Douglas Small.

Seafood bosses target £30m export sales

SCOTTISH seafood bosses have targeted £30m export sales at the world's largest seafood show in Brussels next week.

The European Seafood Exposition (ESE) from April 24 to 26 is forecast to attract more than 24,000 visitors from 80 countries. Many will pass through a Scottish Pavilion which promotes the vision of Scotland as a land of food and drink.

Companies exhibiting in the Scottish Pavilion include Caley Fisheries Hebridean Smokehouse, Highland Smoked Salmon, Loch Duart Ltd and The Scottish Salmon Company. Independent exhibitors include Marine Harvest Scotland Ltd, the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation and Scottish Sea Farms.

Renewable energy conference

THE SCOTTISH Highland Renewable Energy Conference is being held in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, next Thursday.

Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism will give the conference keynote address. Representatives from the National Grid, Highlands and Islands Enterprise will also be among the speakers.

Man admits lying in court to protect speeding driver

A MAN has admitted lying in court and to police to protect a woman from a charge of speeding in Glencoe.

Daniel Flaherty pled guilty to perverting the course of justice by falsely pretending he was driving the car which was caught by a speed camera doing 62mph in a 40mph zone on the A82 outside Glencoe Police Station on October 24. The 23-year-old appeared at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court on December 13 and falsely pled guilty to the speeding offence, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Alyson Tomlin, also 23, later admitted she had been driving the car, and also pled guilty to driving without insurance.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing the pair, both of 61 Strathblane Road, Campsie Glen, Glasgow, until May 9 for reports calling the crimes 'serious charges'.

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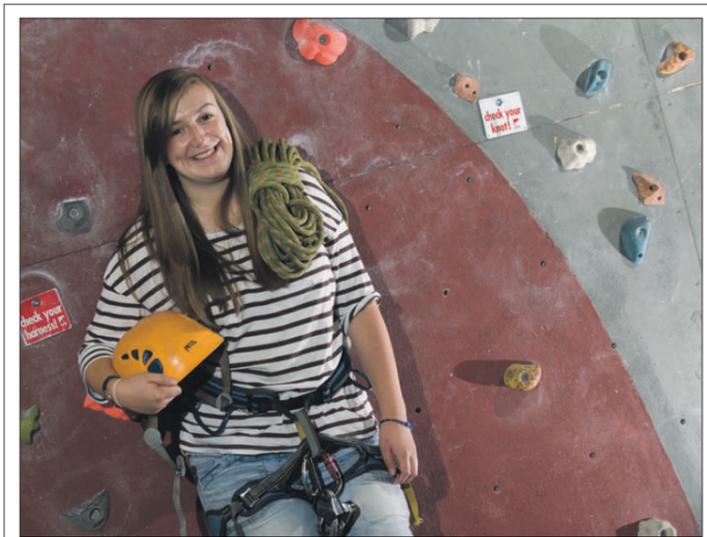
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Advertising Feature

Places Still Available at Your Local University



Sian Carlin is based at the Fort William campus of West Highland College studying for a BA (Hons) in Adventure Tourism Management. She offers advice to potential students at open days about life in Fort William, activities and adventure tourism. Sian also uses the college's social networking to answer questions and discuss issues about student life in the area. Sian's view on studying at West Highland College is: 'It's absolutely brilliant - everything I wanted and more.'

The Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI (SAMS UHI), based in Oban, is one of the leading independent marine research centres in the UK. Pete Taylor, a BSc (Hons) Marine Science honours year graduate in 2011, gives his personal view on studying at SAMS UHI:

"Coming to study Marine Science at SAMS UHI was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The teaching staff are friendly and at the forefront of science. Being situated in a small West Highland town has certainly not turned SAMS into a scientific "sleepy hollow"; there is a sense of purpose and drive in the place that sweeps you along with it.

"Even when the essays aren't going well and the work is getting to you, SAMS is great: the café has what must be one of the best views in the world, so a cup of tea and five minutes looking out of the window and all seems good again."

West Highland College UHI - At a Glance

- West Highland College UHI gives you the opportunity to participate in learning right up to degree and postgraduate level
- West Highland College UHI also offers the flagship Adventure Tourism Management Degree
- The Fort William campus has fantastic study facilities and is also a great place to make friends and socialise
- Other learning centres include Auchtertyre, Broadford, Kilchoan, Kinlochleven, Mallaig, Portree and Strontian

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is still welcoming applications from those who wish to study this year but, with many people asking, "where is my local campus?" the answer is "right on your door step". Your local college, West Highland College UHI, is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands and offers access to degrees and other qualifications, with the same independently assessed quality standards as other universities in Scotland.

The university is a partnership of 13 colleges, research centres and learning resource centres across the Highlands and Islands. In response to the needs of a diverse student body, including individuals, businesses and communities of the region, the University of the Highlands and Islands offers flexible study methods, facilitated by technology, to teach more than 7,500 students a year.

This innovative use of technology coupled with the network of campuses spread throughout the Highlands and Islands, allows students to learn when and where it suits them: from traditional lecture theatres in their local college, to their homes, offices or just about anywhere with an internet connection.

The University of the Highlands and Islands offers a range of degrees, many reflecting the industries and culture of the region from Adventure Tourism Management to Archaeology, Health Studies to History, Marine Science to Music. As well as more general vocational courses such as computing and business studies, there is a broad choice on offer to suit anyone considering a course of study.

Whether you are a school leaver considering your options, looking for a new direction, wanting to improve your career prospects or have already got a degree and are considering further study, the University of the Highlands and Islands has a course to suit you with flexible options to fit around your lifestyle.

Visit the website to find out more:
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FW

Teenager denies shooting 11-year-old with air gun pellet

A FORT William teenager has denied shooting an 11-year-old with a BB gun.

David Alexander, of 1 Banff Crescent, pled not guilty to striking the youngster on the body with the air gun pellet, injuring him, at Lochaber Road play park in the town on February 16.

The 16-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 18.

Caol woman fined £375 for police assault

A CAOL woman who kicked a police officer on the leg and spat at her has been fined £375.

Carol Lawrie, of 20 Camaghael Road, pled guilty to assaulting the police constable during an incident outside Spice Tandoori on Fort William High Street on February 1.

Sentencing the 25-year-old at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small called the attack a 'quite unpleasant assault'.

Man ordered to appear in court for sentencing

A FORT William man jumped on the bonnet of a car and challenged the driver to a fight.

John MacGillivray, of 24 Banff Crescent, pled guilty by letter to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing, slamming a car door and acting in an aggressive way towards the driver. The incident occurred at the junction of Connachie Road and Lundavra Road on February 1.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing the 21-year-old until May 9 for MacGillivray to make a personal appearance at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Charity staff in climb appeal

CHILDREN'S cancer charity CLIC Sargent is looking for supporters in the West Highlands to tackle Ben Nevis to raise much-needed funds.

Charity staff are hoping more than 100 people will join them for the climb on Saturday June 23. For more information or to sign up call 0141 572 5700.

Ban for young motorcyclist clocked at 101mph

A TEENAGER who was caught driving his motorbike at more than 100mph through Rannoch Moor has been banned from driving for four months and fined £400.

Peter McCulloch, of 8 Birnock Avenue, Renfrew, pled guilty to speeding on the A82 at White Corries on February 15.

The 19-year-old student was caught by a speed camera doing 101mph in a 60mph zone.



Ballachulish: forest trails around the Lochaber village are among those upgraded. 10_f16balla01

Forest trails get facelift for summer

FOREST trails in South Lochaber are in great shape for the summer season thanks to newly-completed upgrading works, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has announced.

The Coffin Route in Glencoe, which runs from the Glencoe Lochan and is one of the trails used to access the Pap of Glencoe, the trail starting from Glen Duror forest, the public right of way in Glenhurich and the path at St John's at Ballachulish have all had a facelift.

Hill walkers and mountaineers will also find the going a bit easier along the Achriabhach Trail through Glen Nevis Forest, which accesses Munros in the south of the glen.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The FCS Lochaber team has just completed improvement works to the popular trails, which cross the national forest estate in the area.

Using traditional hand-build methods contractors have set down new stone steps, stone water bars, resurfaced some small sections and re-routed others.

Kirsty Mann of the local Lochaber team said: 'These are important access routes that take visitors to some of the best walking and climbing in the country - and they were in need of a bit of a makeover.'

'They were a little the worse

for wear having been eroded by weather or damaged in places by harvesting work going on in the forest.

'We've made the paths clearer to follow, resurfaced them and generally given them a bit of an upgrade to make the hill walkers' day out that bit more enjoyable.'

'Taking on the hills in this area can be challenging enough without having to worry about whether or not you'll be able to see the path through the forest when you're setting off in the early morning or returning, tired and hungry in the late evening.'

For more information and a downloadable map of the routes visit www.forestry.gov.uk/lochaberhillpaths.



The flames took hold and burned much of the hillside at Achosnich, near the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse. Photograph by Stewart Pote.

Relief as heavy rain dampens fears of more wildfires

ARDNAMURCHAN residents breathed a huge sigh of relief this week after heavy rain dampened fears of more destructive wildfires.

The peninsula was left scarred by wildfires for the third time in two months last Saturday after a fierce blaze on Saturday afternoon at Achosnich forced nearby holidaymakers to evacuate their premises.

Firefighters from Acharacle, Strontian, Lochaline, Fort William and Kinlochleven helped the Kilchoan crew tackle the flames. By Sunday afternoon the fire had been extinguished without any casualties or damage to buildings.

The winter may have been notable for being extremely wet - but the recent high temperatures and dry spell have led to tinderbox conditions.

According to Kilchoan retained firefighter Hughie MacLachlan,

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

this week's rain has helped eliminate the risk of further fires for the time being.

He told The Oban Times: 'The ground is pretty dry, any little thing can spark it off. The rain should help with that. This was probably the worst fire we've had for a while.'

Flames were visible from several miles away from the Achosnich blaze, which damaged a number of phone lines.

Local resident Jon Haylett said seeing the flames and smoke on the hills had been a 'frightening' experience.

He said: 'If it had got across the road, which thankfully it didn't, it not only would have would have got to the houses [Hotel] but also to the Sonachan there and down to the south coast.'

Golfers tee off in memory of Harris

THE THIRD annual Harris Ross Memorial charity golf competition is to be held at Fort William Golf Club on Sunday April 29.

Last year's Texas scramble fundraising event attracted 171 golfers from as far afield as Aberdeen, Glasgow and Oban, as well as a number of locals.

The event raised more than £4,500 for the STAR (Supporting Treatment and Awareness Raising) for Harris Ross Fund.

The charity day is being held in memory of baby Harris, from Corpach, who lost his long battle with a brain tumour aged just 16 months in 2010. His parents Tanya and Allan set up STAR to try and raise awareness of the early symptoms of childhood and teenage cancer.

First tee off time is 7.30am and prizes will be awarded at the end of the day. Non-members are welcome.



Golfers will tee off a week on Sunday in memory of brave toddler Harris Ross, pictured here with mum Tanya on one of his last trips before cancer claimed his life.



Last year's Lochaber Together 5k proved a big hit with local people. 20_f16run01

Lochaber Together off and running

MONTHS of planning will soon bear fruit when Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK stages its second annual 5k event at the BA Club next Saturday, April 28.

Organisers report a few places are still available for anyone wanting to take part - but spaces are limited and people are urged to return their completed registration forms either to the Cancer Research shop in Fort William High Street or to the Shopmobility Lochaber office behind the railway station.

For anyone with mobility issues wishing to take part, Shopmobility Lochaber can provide wheelchairs and scooters for those

who need them. Call the office on 01397 7000512 to book.

The fun run apart, the day itself promises to be a cracker with a car boot sale, a Ben Nevis Cheerleaders demonstration and a strong man show including a truck pull.

Fun activities include a kids zone with face painting, kids tattoos, bouncy castle, pets corner with the Rural Complex team, beat the goalie and giant games.

Scientists with unique activities matching chromosomes and making viruses, a Zumba warm-up and a balloon launch in memory of loved ones will also feature on the day.

The event gets underway 12

noon, with the run/jog/walk starting at 1pm prompt. Live music with local bands will be on throughout the day.

Car parking for the event will be at Lochaber High School and Fort William Medical Centre.

An after run party with free entry at the BA Club will follow in the evening. Donation buckets will be placed inside the club for anyone wishing to contribute.

Organiser Adam Ramsey said: 'All in all, it will be loads of fun for everyone, no matter their age or physical ability.'

'And at the same time together we will raise awareness of cancer and vital funds for Cancer Research UK.'

Successful bid boosts teenagers' job hopes

WEST Highland College UHI has been successful in bidding for new places under a Scottish Government initiative to help teenagers find a job.

Young people in Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross are being recruited through the Get Ready for Work programme for 16 and 17 year olds with no job or place in full-time education.

Seventeen year-old Nadia

Stoddart from Skye did a work placement under the scheme with local hair dressing salon Scizzors in Broadford - and has landed a job there.

She told The Oban Times: 'Get Ready for Work has helped me develop my employability skills and I would recommend it to my friends. It has been great working in Scizzors learning new skills.'

Fort woman takes the plunge for fair funds

A FORT William woman is to swim 2,400 lengths of a pool in the town - the equivalent of crossing the English Channel - to raise funds for the town's Christmas fair.

Rotary Club president-in-waiting Sheana Fraser will undertake the challenge hoping to raise some of the £1,200 needed for the event.

She will swim up to 500 lengths of the Lochaber Leisure Centre pool every week for seven weeks.



Marathon swimmer: Sheana Fraser.

Mallaig man accused of threatening police

A MALLAIG man accused of shouting, swearing and threatening police on two separate occasions is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 19.

Donald Simpson, of 19 Cameron Avenue, pled not guilty struggling violently with two police officers, making offensive comments and threatening the officers and their families on Fort William High Street on October 30.

The 37-year-old also denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting and swearing at police and challenging members of the public to fight on the High Street on Boxing Day.

Roxanne Simpson, aged 24, of 22 Young Place, Fort William, is also accused of assaulting officers by attempting to headbutt them in the same incident on Boxing Day, as well as resisting two officers by lashing out with her arms and legs and struggling violently.

Reducing the stigma of mental health problems

THE HIGHLANDS could reduce the stigma associated with mental health problems - by following a rural area of Canada, according to a new report.

'Mental Health Services and Social Inclusion in Remote and Rural Areas' found 'the vast majority' of participants in rural

Alberta felt the local community was generally accepting of people with mental illness.

Patients
But the study by Clare Daly, a PhD student based at the Centre for Rural Health in Inverness, noted most rural patients in Highland felt this was not the

case for them. Ms Daly, who visited Canada last year, met focus groups at various locations in rural Alberta and in the Highlands.

She also interviewed a number of rural mental health professionals involved in mental health service provision.

Rescue team finds teenager safe after three-hour search

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team found a 15-year-old boy safe and well after a three-hour search on Ben Nevis in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The teenager had been missing for a number of hours after getting spilt up from his father on the mountain before the rescue team were called out at around 1am.

The pair, who are not local, were reunited at 4am when the boy was found with only minor injuries near to the bottom of the Ben by the rescue

helicopter. Team leader John Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'He had a slight bump on his head and a few cuts on his face, I think he might have had a wee fall or something.'

'He had gone to sleep but he woke up when he heard us and the helicopter arriving.'

Meanwhile, the Rescue Team helicopter was also called out on Saturday afternoon after a man fell from the path and injured his ankle. He was taken to the Belford Hospital for treatment.

Airport passenger numbers up in city

PASSENGER numbers at Inverness Airport jumped 11.5 per cent last month - thanks to increased demand for services to Amsterdam and London Gatwick.

Three recorded the largest increase of the month, up 34.7 per cent against March 2011, when the airport suffered a number of scheduled cancellations.

Numbers rose slightly at Stornoway (+0.4 per cent) and at Islay (+3.6 per cent). Barra, Benbecula and Campbelltown recorded a drop in passenger numbers.

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Plantation residents get say in plans to develop former golf club site

A COMMUNITY open day to give local people the chance to have a say in future plans for a five-acre area of moorland in Fort William saw around 90 local people take part.

Plantation Community Association (PCA) wants to develop the rough ground behind Pine Grove, formerly the site of Fort William Golf Club, and is looking at the possibility of turning it into a recreation site.

The golf club moved to Torlundy in the early 1970s and since then the site has been allowed to retreat into wild moorland.

Locals dropped into Young Place Hall

to share their opinions on what the site could become, and 83 questionnaires were returned. Ideas for the area included an improved playpark, footpaths and benches, a mini mountain bike trail for youngsters and a biodiversity garden to show off the local wildlife.

PCA chairperson Helen MacKenzie said she was delighted at the huge turnout. She said: 'We are grateful to the locals for taking time to call in and give us their ideas. We really must make this happen and we will be taking the project forward as quickly as possible.'

FW

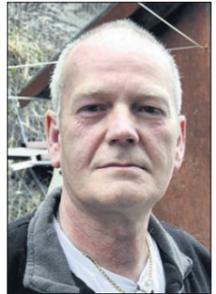
Shed dispute ends in court

A SOCIAL housing provider told an Oban man they will demolish his shed – because it is 12 inches too big on each side.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is taking legal action against George Aitken to enforce removal of the structure – despite laying a path to it.

According to ACHA's tenancy rules, Mr Aitken's shed just exceeds permitted dimensions. But Mr Aitken, of 1 Croft Avenue, argues his shed simply replaced one in his garden which was significantly larger.

The dispute dates back four years, when Mr Aitken, a steward with CalMac on the MV Isle of Mull, was advised his semi-detached home was to be demolished and rebuilt, requiring him to move into decant housing. He claims he told ACHA he would only move if his existing terms and conditions stayed the same – something he says they agreed to. He was then decanted to Rhuvaal Road for two years – where he built a new shed for



George Aitken: shed complaint. 15_t15gaiken1

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

his tools. He returned to Croft Avenue with his wife, Anthea, daughter Melissa and sons Josh and Daniel a year ago – and brought his shed with him.

But during an inspection ACHA officers told him the shed would have to go.

He said: 'I think when we moved out they told us what we wanted to hear. Then they tell us the shed is too big.'

'During the same inspection, I pointed out that the grass they had laid in the garden was not taking and asked if they could slab the garden instead. They told me there was no budget for that. But four weeks later, they came back, laid gravel and a nice new path to the shed they want demolished. I can't make sense of it.'

ACHA director of housing and neighbourhood services, Christine Johnston, said exceptions could not be made in any case.

She said: 'Mr Aitken was advised on the kind of provision he was allowed and agreed the dimensions with the association's staff. The association has been left with no alternative other than to take action through court. If the association was to leave things as they are with Mr Aitken then this would make it very difficult to enforce the guidelines with other tenants in the future. With respect to the paving slabs, which were laid after the grass started to die, the association's contractor offered to carry out this work rather than re-turf the area.'



Police slam 'abhorrent' actions of Oban gravestone jobs

Police have slammed the 'abhorrent' actions of jobs who defaced a gravestone at Pennyfuir Cemetery, near Oban, by taping Rangers Football Club pins over a Celtic shamrock inscribed on the stone. The family of Bobby MacCuish, who died in 2006, have appealed to anyone who knows about the incident to contact the police. Pictured by Bobby's grave are his mother and father, Marion and Peter. Inset: The Rangers badges that were taped to the gravestone. For more on this story see page seven.

Argyll and Bute MP demands apology over intern claims

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid has been victim of mistaken identity after being falsely accused by a national newspaper of taking on an intern funded by an anti-homosexuality charity. Mr Reid has demanded an apology from the Guardian after

it mixed him up with former Loughborough MP Andrew Reed who had listed in his register of interests for 2009-10 that the Christian Action Research and Education (Care) group had funded an intern for four days a week. The charity had previously

held a conference in London claiming gay people could be 'cured' of homosexuality. Speaking of the mix-up, Mr Reid said: 'It's just a complete and utter untruth. I've never taken on an intern from an agency. I have emailed the newspaper telling

them its untrue and asking them what they're going to do about it.' The Guardian has apologised to Mr Reid for the error, has amended its online version of the article and will publish a correction.

Park Bar break in: property stolen

A FAVOURITE pub for Glasgow Gaels has had property worth more than £10,000 stolen during a break in. Police said entry was forced to the Park Bar, Kelvingrove, between 12.30am and 7am on Monday.

Detective Constable Laura Durnie, of Strathclyde Police, appealed to anyone who was in the general area after 12.30am on Monday morning, and saw or heard any suspicious activity at or near to the pub, to come forward.

Draft plan concerns Barra

A DRAFT management plan for the Sound of Barra is being prepared by the Scottish Government – prior to any decision on controversial proposals for new environmental designations there.

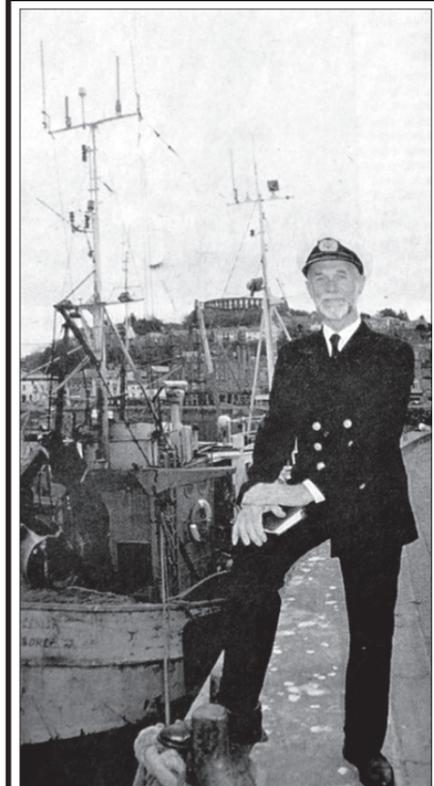
Islanders have been campaigning against the proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status for the site, saying not only

is scientific evidence flawed, but that the proposals are politically, rather than scientifically, motivated. However, news that the Scottish Government is pressing ahead with drawing up a management plan will reinforce fears on the island – whose crofting community is partly reliant on fishing in the sound – that the decision is a fait accompli.

The Scottish Government says no date has been set to make a decision on the proposed SAC, but say they aim to complete the process by the end of the summer.

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15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times



Bill in uniform. t16wtdd01

Meet Bill, the man with a mission

THE UNIFORM of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen will once again be seen on a daily basis on Oban's sea front.

After the mission closed its doors in the town, Superintendent for the area Murray Campbell from Mallaig used to visit Oban on a regular basis. Now he has extra help with the appointment of Bill Leech

as Auxiliary Superintendent for Oban. Bill is no stranger to the sea. He has spent a life in maritime work, latterly as a fundraiser for RNLI. His wife Carol is Congregational Minister in Oban.

Commissioning Bill's commissioning service takes place on Thursday May 15 at the Congregational Church, Oban.

Workers walk out from Oban Waterfront site

WORKERS with M and K MacLeod staged a walk out on Friday, leaving the Oban Waterfront site.

The firm, the largest construction company based in the West Highlands, said it was a dispute over wage deductions, which the company is required to make under the PAYE system.

Before, many of the workforce were treated as self-employed under the Construction Industry Tax Scheme, but a tightening of regulations by the Inland Revenue has seen many reclassified as employees.

This means income tax and national insurance have to be deducted from weekly wages rather than in lump sums later in the year.

In a statement, MacLeod's said it had provided adequate information to all those likely

to be affected, but it appeared that a minority had not fully appreciated the effect of the deductions the company was obliged to make.

Fiona arrives in a hurry

FIONA MacLean's arrival in the big wide world is one her family will not forget in a hurry.

The tiny baby was due on July 29 but arrived on Saturday April 19, weighing in at only 1lb 13-and-a-half ounces.

Mother Marion gave birth at Vale of Leven Hospital, but both she and little Fiona were transferred to Paisley Maternity Unit, where they have more sophisticated equipment to care for such a tiny, early arrival.

Hopes for return of rail freight

IT IS hoped that rail freight will return to the Oban to Crianlarich railway this year.

English, Welsh and Scottish Railways (EWS) confirmed it was undergoing negotiations to freight timber out of Oban on the railway.

The timber would be coming from Mull, via a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry, and then transferred to the rail.

EWS, which bought British Rail's freight division in February last year, is already freighting timber out of Kyle, Fort William and Crianlarich to manufacturers of paper and board in Cumbria and North Wales.

A spokesman for EWS said there was a few details that still needed to be ironed out but it was hoped it would be the start of a regular service.

EWS hopes to triple the amount of freight in Scotland going by rail in the next 10 years and believes it is an area with potential for growth.

This last year has seen the first year-on-year growth in rail freight by the company.



These intrepid P5 explorers from Rockfield Primary School in Oban were sampling the Voyage of Discovery last week – one of the many themes which have recently been added to the playground at the school as part of a Parent Teacher Association venture. The mock Galleon was painted by pupils, teachers and parents as part of an ongoing programme to transform the school's play areas. Other designs included a lagoon, a rail track, a shop and hop scotch. The ideas came from senior pupils who worked with the younger children and form part of an anti-bullying initiative started in the school last year. t16wtdd1



Jim Bowman, local tourist board director, with the American agents at Black Brae Restaurant, Tobermory. t16wtdd2

Mull makes its mark on American travel agents on island trip

A PARTY of 10 American travel agents who specialise in selling Scotland made a special trip to Mull and Iona to see for themselves what the islands have to offer.

The SCOTTS agents (Specialist Counsellors on Travel to

Scotland) were hosted by Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and Trossachs Tourist Board, in conjunction with the Scottish Tourist Board and assisted by the Highlands and Islands Objective 1 European Funding Programme.

The American agents stayed in the Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory and visited several local attractions including Torosay Castle and Gardens, Mull Railway, Isle of Mull Angora Rabbit Farm and Iona Abbey.

Privatisation plan for Argyll and Bute old people's homes

ARGYLL and Bute councillors have taken the first steps towards privatising the running of five old people's homes, including the Eader Glinn Home in Oban, in a bid to save £500,000.

However, concern has been expressed that a significant part of the saving will come from cutting the wages of workers 'at the coal-face'

according to Campbelltown councillor George McMillan. He was speaking at a meeting of the council's social work committee, which approved arrangements to put the running of the five homes – including Ardfenaig in Ardrishaig, Dunarons on Mull, Tigh a Rhuada on Tiree and Gortonvogie on Islay – out to tender.

McInnes said: 'I think it would be quite a statement if those flats sat empty.' The housing boss also confirmed WHHA would lose money if units remained unlet – a situation which could not be sustained in the long term. However, the chief executive assured locals the housing association would work with the social and health services to allocate the flats based on medical need. Council representatives also claimed staffing levels in the new facility would be maintained – and even increased if necessary. More concerns emerged as speakers highlighted staff due to work in the Mull PCC are not being kept informed of the level of service to be provided. Joanne McPhail, practice manager at Tobermory Surgery, went along to the meeting after her medical colleagues asked her to 'find out what is going on'. And when the main speakers were asked why local health workers were not being told what was happening, silence fell over the top table. Care workers were also not allowed to participate in the debate.

Imitation assault rifle found on banks of Loch Earn

AN IMITATION assault rifle has been found on the banks of Loch Earn just six months after fishermen claimed they were being hit with air rifle rounds.

The air rifle was found by a fisherman visiting the area last week and contacted the police, believing it to be an authentic firearm.

Constable Andrew Ward said combating illegal use of air weapons in the area would become a priority as a result of recent loch-side activity.

He said: "There is no legal reason for anybody to have had the air rifle on the loch side, the fact it was left propped against a tree in a lay-by is also worrying as anybody could have found it and started taking pot shots at anything that moved. I have already stated that one of my priorities in the coming months will be to target those people who bring air weapons into the area. Be warned we will ensure that anybody in possession of any kind of weapon without a reasonable excuse or permission will be reported to the procurator fiscal."

Architect's appeal to put Inveraray forward for world status

INVERARAY could once again become a 'jewel in Scotland's crown' if granted World Heritage Status, according to one of Scotland's foremost authorities on architecture.

The claim was made last Friday at a summit of residents and business people at the Royal Burgh's George Hotel to discuss possible ways of regenerating the area.

Neil Baxter, secretary of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, urged locals to seek the prestigious title to draw more visitors to the area.

He said: "As my wife and I come into Inveraray we both have the same reaction and think; isn't this a wonderful town? Then we ask why Inveraray is not a World Heritage Site. I don't see anything wrong with asking UNESCO why not, as it is not just a jewel in Argyll and Bute's crown, it is a jewel in Scotland's crown."



Malcolm Clark will swap his caman for a music stand when he travels to Glasgow this summer to sing with the National Youth Training Choir of Scotland. 15_t16malcolm1

Malcolm's singing takes him places

HE MAY be one of Oban's brightest shinty prospects, but it's 17-year-old Malcolm Clark's vocal chords that are taking him places.

The Oban High School pupil has been selected for the National Youth Training Choir, a move that could see him selected for the full National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS). It comes after eight years of singing with the National Boys Choir and for Malcolm - who has been singing since he was five and is now breaking into the Oban Camanachd first team - being picked is a massive opportunity.

He will travel to Glasgow for the training choir this July - but that doesn't mean he'll be dropping the shinty anytime soon.

He said: "I don't know what my aim is. One thing for sure is I won't stop playing shinty - that's a pretty big thing for me."

"It's funny, I can't get up on a stage and say something to a crowd of people, but I can sing.

It just comes naturally and I feel more at home when I'm singing. 'I'll just see where this takes me. If I can though I'd like to make singing a career.'

To that, the fluent Gaelic speaker has already made a start with his band, Ceol an Aire - Music Beware. Malcolm is joined by Ewan MacDonald, 19, Murray Willis, 18 and 16-year-old Ruairidh Morrison, gigging all over the west coast at events such as weddings, ceilidhs, parties and other functions.

His inspiration, however, is family, with singer-songwriter uncle Jack Anderson chief among them.

Malcolm said: "He's always been someone I've looked up to. I hope I'm better than him now!"

"My grandmother, Maggie Anderson, has pushed me most though. She's always encouraged me. She's got Irish roots - her mother was Irish - so in a sense she is more pleased about my shinty!"

Family in torment as grave is defaced

Father breaks down on discovering football-related jibe on headstone

A FATHER has told how he broke down at his son's grave after finding the gravestone defaced in a football-related jibe.

Oban man Peter MacCuish visits the grave of his Celtic fan son Bobby every day but last Friday found a trio of Rangers badges taped over the Celtic club badge inscribed on the gravestone at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

The attack on the gravestone has devastated the family, who have supporters of both Old Firm teams among them. Peter said: "Since we buried Bobby in September 2006 there have only been two occasions when I haven't visited his grave and they were for operations."

"When I came down and saw the tape over the shamrock I just started crying. It was just so unbelievable."

Peter and his wife Marion reported the matter to the police and are urging anyone who knows about the crime to

By EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

contact Oban Police. Marion said: "It is hard enough to lose a son but to have his gravestone defaced by someone in that way is heartbreaking. We are devastated to think someone could be so cruel."

Angry and shocked "We are not bigoted; Peter and Bobby were the Celtic fans and Bobby's brothers, Peter and David, are Rangers fans. We are all angry and shocked."

Bobby, who died aged just 48, was a keen Celtic fan and in 2003, after recovering from a brain haemorrhage, met Celtic favourite Henrik Larsson, who presented him an oil painting of Celtic legend Jimmy Johnstone before a match at Parkhead.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: "Behaviour such as this is abhorrent and totally unacceptable."



Bobby meets Celtic legend Henrik Larsson in 2003.

"I am absolutely committed to the investigation and prosecution of those involved in or promoting sectarianism or religious prejudice offences. I appeal to anyone who has information in

connection with this incident to contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510 500. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Ferry passengers claim tourist buses present safety hazard

TOURIST buses are causing a safety hazard on an Oban pier, according to angry ferry passengers.

Stewart MacDougall told a meeting of Mull Community Council that 'tourist buses get priority over everything' on the Railway Pier despite having a 'designated drop off' at the end of Shore Street. He said: "When the buses come off the ferry they want to pick up their passengers up at the pier. They go to where the cars drive in and it causes a lot of congestion on the pier. You are talking about another 5-10 minutes of a wait and it's the last thing you want when you've been working away all day and just want to go home."

Mr MacDougall says there is a coned off area beside the Harbour Bowl where buses are supposed to drop off and collect their passengers but a spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne claims the way it is done now is the way it has always been done.

He said: "The current means of managing bus passengers has been the method used since the existing marshalling layout was created. We are not aware of any risks relating to this practice nor congestion created but will monitor the situation."

Golden sand returns to Ganavan

MOST of the sand sucked from Ganavan's famous beach has returned naturally, ending any thoughts Argyll and Bute Council had of artificially recharging the beach.

The authority had been inundated with offers of help from well-intentioned locals keen to see the popular beauty spot returned to its golden best after *The Oban Times* front page photograph revealed how 2011's blustery end reduced it to its stony base. Gone was the golden



Argyll and Bute Council's biodiversity officer Marina Curran-Colthart posts signs informing visitors of the situation with Ganavan's famous sands. 15_t16ganavan1

sand, replaced with pebbles, rocks and the foundations of the old beach huts. However, such action is not only illegal without a licence, but could be harmful to indigenous species. As such, the council decided to adopt a 'wait and see' approach and, less than six months later, the sand has mostly returned. The top end of the beach remains rocky though and some groups have expressed temptation to recharge the beach with imported sand before the tourist season gets in full swing.

In a presentation to the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Argyll and Bute Council's bio-diversity officer, Marina Curran-Colthart, said that would be unwise. She said: "I can understand people's shock seeing the cobble at high tide but it's a natural process, it's happened before and the sand has come back. We've had experience of putting sand on the beach before, but it hasn't worked."

The council is to investigate removing the old beach hut foundations to minimise injury risk.

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Lochaber AC's John Binnie posted a fine 13th place overall to be the first local runner home. 20_116mar04

Lochaber marathon draws the crowds

£1,000 prize for breaking the race record remains intact

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A BIG field of 432 runners enjoyed perfect cool conditions for the 29th Lochaber Marathon—but the £1,000 prize for breaking the race record remains intact.

Simon Pride strode home in 2004 in a time of 2hrs 21mins 21secs – a mark never seriously under threat in Sunday's spectacular.

With the usual start point at Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird ground still under repair the athletes were piped down from the Nevis Centre to the start line at the entrance to Camanachd Crescent.

The air of anticipation was palpable ahead of the 11am start – then they were off, cheered on by hundreds of spectators lining the pavements.

The 26-mile route out past Loch Eil and back was at its scenic best in the sunshine, with snow-covered Ben Nevis greeting runners on the return journey.

From the start, six men set the pace and were still together through half way until about the 18 mile mark.

Among the group was St Kitts



Dan Gay breaks the tape to win Sunday's Lochaber Marathon to the delight of race organiser Aileen Duncan. 20_116mar05

and Nevis Olympic marathon hopeful and Ronhill Cambuslang runner Frankie Barton from Craigellachie, who was looking for a quick time to boost his qualifying hopes.

Frankie faded a little, and the group was cut to three as the race entered its final stages, with Dan Gay of Hunters Bog Trotters, Stuart Kerr of Kirkintilloch Olympians and Rodger Van Gompel of Dundee Hawkhill battling it out for the honours.

In the end, it was Gay – brother

of Lochaber Athletic Club member John – who edged away to win in 2.38.22, with Kerr, a previous winner, second in 2.38.51 and Van Gompel third a few seconds further back.

Frankie, a 55 year-old veteran, had the consolation of winning his category with a time of 2.48.32.

Winning lady was Megan Wright (Hunters Bog Trotters) in a personal best time of 2.57.33. Rhona Anderson was second in 3.09.50 and Gail Murdoch of Carnegie Harriers in 3.11.35.

First local runner home was John Binnie of Lochaber Athletic Club, who finished 13th overall in 2.49.11. Andrew Cameron

had an excellent run, taking 18 minutes off his previous time in 3.38.31 to win the Tarradale shield for the most improved local.

Third was Jim Hamilton in 4.07.21, with Ian Adams close behind in 4.07.30. John Grant finished in 4.18.45.

In the ladies' race, Amanda Blackhall also had an excellent run to set a new personal best of 3.38.38 and Margaret Rose MacPhee finished in 5.03.05.

The Oban Times team prize went to Inverness Harriers, with Kirkintilloch Olympians second and Greenock Glen Park third. Carnegie Harriers won the ladies' team event, Hunters

MARATHON

Bog trotters were second and Kirkintilloch Olympians third.

Lochaber Athletic Club would like to thank everyone who helped ensure the event ran smoothly. Over 100 volunteers, the police, Nevis Centre, Ben Nevis Distillery and Strontian Stores all contributed to making the day a huge success.

Race organiser Aileen Duncan told the Oban Times: 'We had 575 entries, but you always lose 100 or so by race day. We get people coming here from all over the world. If they don't make it into the London Marathon, they come to Lochaber instead.'



St Kitts and Nevis Olympic hopeful Frankie Barton poses with supporters after crossing the finish line. 20_116mar03

Fort William GC GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's versus par stableford competition last Sunday saw three players shoot the same score, with the winner decided by the better inward halves.

Dave MacGillivray won the competition from John Martin and Neil Wordsall after all three finished with a score of four up.

The previous day Neil was on the winning side in the Nevis Radio three-person Texas scramble with Murdo Murray and Graham Wordsall.

The club will hold the qualifier for its Hall of Fame tournament this Saturday, with the senior qualifier due to be held on Sunday.

Results: Saturday – Nevis Radio three person Texas scramble: 1, Graham Wordsall, Neil Wordsall, Murdo Murray – 64-8=56; 2, Neil Feggins, Brian Gillespie, John Martin – 66-9=57(bih); 3, William Duncan, Ronald McDonald, Ian Robertson 63-6=57.

Sunday – Versus par stableford – 1, Dave MacGillivray 4up (bih); 2, John Martin 4up (bih); 3, Neil Wordsall 4up (bih).

Spean Bridge GC

SPEAN Bridge Golf Club will hold its first competition of 2012, the May Medal, on Saturday May 6.

The club is opening a month later than usual this year in an effort to avoid winter weather and to take advantage of the good green conditions later in the year.

Fort William travel to take on the Broch at Bellslea

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
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FORT William tackles another of the Highland League's top sides when they take on Fraserburgh at Bellslea Park on Saturday.



Cove defender Steven Jeffrey climbs above Iain McLellan to win this aerial battle. 20_116foot02

FOOTBALL

Fraserburgh beat the Lochaber side 6-1 at Claggan Park at the start of April – a scoreline manager Danny Conlon hopes won't be repeated.

He told The Oban Times: 'We'll be trying to contain them as long as we can. We feel if we can stay in the game we have a chance of getting something out of it. We're just going to try and keep them focussed and keep them working hard.'

'It's been a really difficult run for us against teams at the top of the league. One thing we've noticed this season is if we stay in the game our confidence grows, but once we lose a goal our heads go down. You can actually see it happening – people are scared of getting the ball and when they do get it they just want to get rid of it.'

He continued: 'The midweek games have definitely been taking their toll, especially on the younger boys. We're asking them to play against a really good side and then another just a few days later.'

Fort suffered another heavy defeat last weekend, going down 8-0 to title contenders Cove Rangers at Claggan.

The home side were 3-0 down at half time, but Cove's pace and movement proved too much for them in the second half with Danny Milne and Martin Johnston both grabbing hat tricks.

The defeat was especially hard to take for Conlon coming just four days after his team got a morale-boosting 1-1 draw with Keith. Logan Barker scored for Fort in stoppage time at the end of the game to grab a deserved point.

He said: 'We had five players missing from the 16 that got the good result against Keith. I had to change my whole midfield, and we were playing a really good side with two class strikers. We have really struggled this season playing against the good footballing sides – Wick, Nairn - and Cove.'

Depleted Lochaber put up creditable performance

RUGBY

RBS Caledonia Regional League Division Two

Lochaber 10
Aberdeenshire 2nd XV 43
LOCHABER'S depleted side put up a creditable performance at Banavie on Saturday in their RBS Caledonia Regional League Division 2 North encounter with a strong Aberdeenshire second XV.

The visitors' game was boosted by the presence of several first team players, but for 20 minutes the local men held their own – much to the consternation of the vocal Aberdeenshire management team on the sidelines.

Gradually though, Lochaber were pinned back and the away side made the breakthrough on 24 minutes with a try, then forward Benni-Coulson scored a second on the half hour mark despite stand-off Kenny Turnbull's tackle.

Only 12-0 down at the break, Lochaber were in with a chance – but their powerful opponents quickly worked out how to unlock the home side's defence and were dominant for long spells, running in four more tries.

However, to their credit Lochaber responded to adversity and scored two fine tries of their own, with Connor Taylor – switched through necessity to centre from his usual back row position – grabbing both.

Lochaber coach Charlie Donaldson told The Oban Times after the game: 'All in all it was not too bad a performance against what was superior opposition on the day.'

Concentrating
'We had a few young fellows playing who let the Aberdeenshire guys get under their skin instead of concentrating on their game – but that will come.'

'We will get this season out of

the way and put it behind us – it has not been the best.'

Donaldson singled out veteran Gary Hendrie and Connor Taylor for their contribution. Hendrie especially was in the wars. The 50 year-old required treatment in the first half then had to leave the field in the second, his eye closed after a collision with a Lochaber player.



Lochaber's Craig MacPherson and Ally Donaldson can't stop Aberdeenshire's Ross Benni-Coulson getting his pass away. 20_116rugby04

West Coast Cup win for Fort William

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club got the perfect boost before their league season starts this Saturday with a 33 run win over Oban in the West Coast Cup at the BA Club.

Fort scored 153-9 from 40 overs, with Colin Jennings top scoring with 70 runs and Derek Spencer adding 29 runs. Oban were all out for 140 runs, with Fort bowler Lindsay Gordon scoring 4-30 in game played in occasional hail showers.

Fort William cricket captain Kevin O'Meara was delighted to get his hands on the West Coast Cup for the first time.

He told The Oban Times: 'Winning a trophy for a pre-season friendly may seem a little odd, but owing to the competitive nature of matches with our local rivals Oban, it's a perfect match.'

'We were pleased with the amount of runs we scored, and then we took six early Oban wickets for 25 runs to try to put the game to bed before the weather worsened.'

'But Oban has a special player in Taj Islam that we've not seen before, and he turned the game on its head with a mightily impressive 70 runs.'

Fort will welcome Northern Counties to Lochaber at 1pm this Saturday in their first league game of 2012, while the reserves travel to Northern Counties on Sunday.

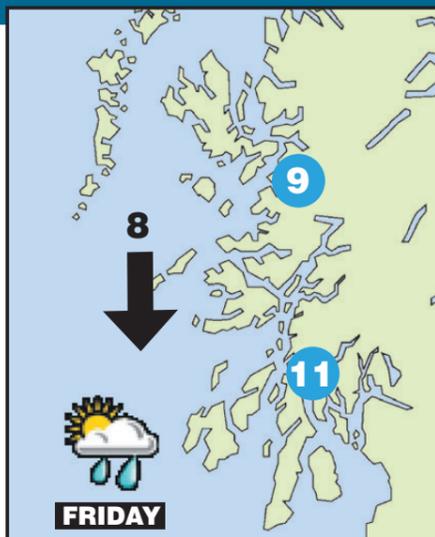
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C

Friday Thundery showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 11°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Outlook Winds moderate north, north easterly
Temperatures 5°C 10 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 19, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 04.30	3.6 10.53 1.1	16.45 3.5 23.13 0.9
Fri 05.04	3.7 11.24 1.0	17.16 3.7 23.47 0.9
Sat 05.37	3.8 11.56 0.9	17.47 3.8 ** ** **
Sun 00.19	0.9 06.09 3.8	12.29 0.9 18.16 3.8
Mon 00.51	1.0 06.41 3.8	13.01 1.0 18.47 3.8
Tues 01.22	1.2 07.12 3.7	13.34 1.1 19.18 3.7
Wed 01.52	1.3 07.43 3.5	14.05 1.2 19.49 3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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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