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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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PURSUITS**
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www.obantimes.co.uk: Connel tackles speeding Bid4Oban 'strip' Scottish Islands Peak Race - Oban start

Princess Royal to help Oban mark 200th anniversary

HRH PRINCESS Anne, The Princess Royal, has agreed to visit Oban as part of the town's bicentennial celebrations.

While Her Royal Highness' full itinerary is not yet formalised she will be part of a major celebration being organised by the Burgh Festival Committee on July 12. Chairman Kenneth MacIntyre said: 'We are fortunate to have the most active member of the royal family coming to Oban. We hope we can put on a good show for her and provide something of interest for her to do. I understand the Princess Royal likes to meet people and I would encourage everyone in the town to make the most of the day by getting out and about to show her how vibrant our town is.'

'It is a great privilege for Oban to have her as part of our celebrations.'

Programmes for the Bicentennial can be picked up at the VisitScotland Visitor Information Centre, which is in the Caledonian MacBryne Terminal Building for the time being.

Lifeboat helps Barra fishing boat

TOBERMORY Lifeboat helped a fishing boat adrift off the Cairns of Coll in heavy seas on Wednesday May 16.

The *Brighter Morn*, from Barra, was adrift north west of the Cairns of Coll in strong winds and four metre seas. Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat brought the vessel to safety in Tobermory harbour during a three-and-a-half hour rescue.

Airport fence error

IN THE Oban Times of May 12 2011 it was stated that a fence at Oban Airport, which was the subject of a dispute involving Argyll and Bute Council, was owned by Total Logistics Concepts (TLC). We would like to correct this statement in that the fence was not the property of TLC and they were in no way connected with the story whatsoever. We are happy to correct the error and apologise for any inconvenience or embarrassment caused.



Beautiful bride Kirsti Emsley with her shinty-playing brothers Willie, left, and Ewan Neilson. 08_120neilson02

Blushing bride's big match dilemma

A SHINTY-fan bride let her usher brothers play in their village team's biggest ever match - in the middle of her wedding day.

Ewan and Willie Neilson were key players for Tainuith Shinty Club's Celtic Cup semi-final against favourites Oban Camanachd - but were also ushers at the wedding of their sister, Kirsti, to Justin Emsley at the same time on the same day.

But after the Oban side agreed to a rescheduling of the match,

the brothers were able to attend the ceremony in Muckairn Parish Church at 2pm, get to Tainuith Sportsfield for the 3.30pm throw-up and be showered and changed in time for the reception in Brander Lodge.

Kirsti, a club committee member and first aid steward on match days, said: 'No-one can believe I let them go but they had to play. It was such a big game.'

'After the photos outside the church I said, 'Go and win

- just don't get injured'. I was getting score updates from the bridesmaids and the staff at Brander Lodge.

'The hotel staff were amazing; they kept everyone going and held the meal back until the boys arrived.'

When it came to giving the ushers their gifts of engraved glasses, Ewan said letting them play was enough of a present.

Although Tainuith lost 5-2, the team put in a spirited display and

Willie was on the scoresheet to make it 2-2 at half-time.

Tainuith Shinty Club coach Fraser Inglis said: 'It was fantastic that the boys played because without them we wouldn't have been able to compete. I would like to thank Oban Camanachd for changing the time of the game and Kirsti for letting the boys play.'

'I'm sure she wouldn't have missed the game for anything other than her wedding day!'

MSP offers talks to all on rural school closures

NEWLY elected MSP Michael Russell has offered to meet every councillor in Argyll and Bute to discuss the proposed closure of rural schools.

An invitation has been sent asking all 36 to attend a meeting on Monday May 23 at council offices.

Councillor Robert MacIntyre, leader of the SNP group, said: 'We believe one of the major messages of the election was that the people of Argyll and Bute have made it clear these proposals are wholly unacceptable - and that the process should be immediately halted.'

'I am hopeful that all councillors who are serious about the future of their schools and their communities will take up the offer.'

One of the points on the agenda may be the assertion that some schools have too few pupils to offer a wide and varied education under the Curriculum for Excellence.

However, Mr Russell, who may be returning to his cabinet post as Education Secretary later this week, is adamant there is no optimum number for providing a good education.

He said: 'Curriculum for Excellence is a methodology and depends on good teaching. Good teaching can bring the best out of any group of children.'

'Certainly groups can be too large in terms of best practice and best interaction, but to assert that there is a bottom number would be much more difficult,' he added.

CHORD in chaos as trio resign from board

THREE members have resigned from town centre regeneration CHORD project, saying it has not 'functioned properly for some time'.

Councillors Donald MacDonald, Donald 'Skye' McIntosh and Roddy McCuish wrote to Argyll and Bute Council to tell them they were stepping down.

They said: 'The Oban CHORD board has not functioned properly for some time and no meetings have been held this year. There are concerns that items may have been discussed and agreed without the involvement of or the proper scrutiny required from all the Oban CHORD Board members.'

Councillors are concerned at £195,000 being allocated for consultants reports.

'We can not afford to continue to pay for report after report without any tangible results to show.'

Councillor MacDonald added: 'It is hoped that by these resignations we can galvanise prompt action to move things forward for our constituents.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of the CHORD project board, said: 'I'm disappointed that these three members have chosen to resign, particularly since they have been involved from the start and endorsed both the proposed way forward and the request for an additional £195,000. Our focus is now on cracking on with the next stage of the process, which will involve engaging with key stakeholders and partners.'

Supermarket plan unveiled for Dunbeg

Store would cater for extra 800 homes to be built in the village

CONTROVERSIAL plans to develop a major supermarket in Dunbeg could be one 'solution' to end congestion in Oban.

However, town centre businesses say any out-of-town retail park will take away customers they may never get back.

Details of the possible supermarket development are contained in an Argyll and Bute Council Main Issues planning report.

The report shows the authority wants to reduce traffic problems in Oban whilst increasing the number of houses in Dunbeg, but to do that it needs to look at congestion and flow through Oban. 'The solution,' planning officer Adrian Jackson-Stark told the council's Local Area Committee Project Group (LACPG), 'is to think big.'

He continued: 'If we could put a supermarket into Dunbeg it would reduce significant amounts

of traffic into Oban and would reduce the need for a development road around the town in the short term. The development at Dunbeg,' of up to 800 houses, 'is too big not to have some retailing presence. There will be upwards of 2,500 people in Dunbeg when the housing is finished. People will need somewhere to shop. Development in Oban is problematic and there are funding issues with the proposed development road.'

Gwyneth Neil, former owner of House and Home and chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said the plans for a supermarket were not beneficial to Dunbeg as a village. Mrs Neil said: 'Any supermarket development is not for the needs of people in Dunbeg - it is being

built for Oban. If people have a supermarket out of town they will not bother going into town at all and that will affect the shops in the town.'

Businessman Graham MacQueen said: 'Any out-of-town supermarket will take business away from Oban. I don't think that is right.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council added: 'We want as many people as possible to get involved in the plans we have brought forward. This is a discussion document with suggestions and ideas for the future. There will be a public meeting in the Corran Halls in Oban between 1pm and 8pm on June 2.' The consultation period has already started and will last nine weeks.

It is understood that a major supermarket already owns a large piece of land at Pennyfuir, but to date has chosen not to develop it.

REPORT

by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

Teaching jobs set to go at high school

OBAN High School pupils could be deprived the chance to take advanced higher next year, with up to seven teaching posts to go because of budget cuts.

The local authority is currently consulting on plans to remove 20 secondary school teaching posts across the county through retirement and voluntary redundancies, with the largest proportion to go from Oban High School and Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh.

As a result, the availability of advanced higher in Oban is likely to be limited to just Maths and English, while class sizes across the school will increase. Furthermore, the budget for supply teachers to cover staff

absences will be significantly reduced, a move that will force management staff into the classroom to cover sicknesses.

Concerned
Wishing to remain anonymous, one parent said of the move: 'I'm seriously concerned for my child's education. Arguably, secondary education is even more important to our children than primary school as it shapes their careers.'

'I don't think the school is in a position whereby it can afford to lose teachers.'

Dougie Mackie is the Argyll and Bute secretary for the Educational Institute in Scotland (EIS) teaching union and a teacher at Oban High School.

He said the teachers voted for the proposals because of the growing budget pressures, but said members were anything but happy about the proposals.

'Of course it will have an impact - it's a five per cent reduction in secondary staffing. What it will mean is a reduction in choice for subjects and larger class sizes.'

'The budget for supply teachers has been reduced too. What happens if there is a flu epidemic?'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said staff who expressed an interest in retiring or taking voluntary redundancy may receive letters regarding their position by the end of the term.

Council not to renew contract with charity which provides care to vulnerable adults

A COUNCIL leaflet told vulnerable adults it would do 'Nothing About You Without You'.

But at a meeting, due to be held in private today, Thursday, councillors will discuss the future of funding for Neighbourhood Networks, the charity which provides support for more than 30 vulnerable adults in Oban and Lochgilphead.

The authority says no decisions will be taken at the meeting.

But Neighbourhood Networks director John Dalrymple told *The Oban Times*: 'The council's motion is unlawful. They cannot propose to withdraw the existing service without consultation.'

'It is alarming there has been a

total failure by the council to consult directly with the local men and women who currently use the services of Neighbourhood Networks, as required in terms of Equalities and Disability Discrimination Legislation.'

'We are urging members to bring appropriate influence to bear on the members of the Budget Working Group when it holds a secret meeting today.'

Service user Lorna MacDonald, from Mid Argyll, said: 'This is very upsetting for me as without Neighbourhood Networks I will have no support.'

Councillor Donald McIntosh said: 'Having in the past met with Neighbourhood Network and done

everything possible to ensure the service would continue, yet again cuts seem to be aimed at the most vulnerable in our society, people who cannot defend themselves.'

'This is a highly important service that has been provided by the Third Sector for a number of years and will be sadly lost if we cannot get this situation reversed.'

'I will continue to lobby my fellow councillors and officers and hope that common sense will prevail.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council has a contract with Neighbourhood Networks which is scheduled to end on May 20.'

'The council has decided not to re-

tender this contract as it will focus on a different type of service provision.'

'It is not the case that there has been no contact with Neighbourhood Networks, and council officers have held a number of meetings with managers from the network over the last year to try to encourage them to change their service model, to improve their performance in relation to service user progression and their cost of service to allow them to compete for new service contracts.'

'We will provide a 90 day notice to the network and commence discussions with service users regarding the levels of support they require and how this is best met,' she added.

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Concern over island bothy development

Proposal 'could set precedent' for other uninhabited isles

PLANS to build a 'bothy' on an uninhabited island off the coast at Duror have caused a flutter among residents amid claims it would disturb colonies of nesting birds - and set a precedent for other undeveloped isles.

The proposal has been submitted by the owner of Balnagowan island, David Brookes, from Alloa.

He states that the bothy would be used for short stays, adding: 'We enjoy the island for fishing and taking our children there.'

'We have been to this island as children ourselves and thought it would be great to have somewhere we could stay for a night.'

However, concern has been raised by Duror residents.

Kim Malcom pointed out that the island has a nesting colony of herring and black-backed gulls.

'It also has nesting shags as well as black guillemots. The shags, as well as the gulls, are affected by the disturbance which the construction as well as the presence a 'bothy' would cause.

'Herring gulls are on an orange list for conservation and damage to the breeding success of these birds should be avoided.'

Mr Malcom added: 'Balnagowan has never been inhabited

REPORT by STUART LAUNDY slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

on a permanent basis. It has been used for camping and picnics and in the 1930s and 40s it had a rough and ready shelter used by the then owner during lambing. The shelter is long gone.'

The application has also been discussed by members of Duror and Kentallan Community Council.

At last week's meeting, member Jean McLeod questioned the nature of the development.

'We were puzzled about the description of the bothy.'

'A bothy is a one-roomed hut or cottage for farm workers. This is a holiday cottage. This doesn't ally people's fear about what it is to be used for.'

She also queried whether public access to the island would be affected by the proposal.

Fellow member Alison Wallace added: 'People in the village believe it is a bird sanctuary.'

The community council has not expressed a view either in favour of or against the development but has written to Highland Council seeking clarification on a number

of points including the building's siting and water supply.

In his application, Mr Brookes states that a biodegradable tank will be used to deal with sewage, the bothy will be built well above the high tide line and power would come from a generator.

Another Duror resident, Joey Gough, questioned whether approving this application could set a precedent for development on other uninhabited islands.

Concern

Mr Gough said: 'This application may in itself be innocuous. If this application were the end of the story, I would have no concern, but it may be just the beginning.'

'If it is approved, then how could Highland Council refuse other applications to build on uninhabited islands?'

'How about the Summer Isles, the Crowlin Isles or the islands in Loch Moidart?'

'The risk is that the nature of the Scottish west coast may be changed, removing the inherent sense of isolation that visitors enjoy.'

'Highland Council should think long and hard and consider the potential consequences. You cannot see it as a one-off.'

Weighty crisis as health officials claim majority of islanders are obese

THE WESTERN Isles is facing up to an obesity crisis after new figures showed the vast majority of islanders aged over 40 are overweight.

The figures, compiled by NHS Western Isles and released to The Oban Times this week, show that 72 per cent of men and 65 per cent of women over 40 have a body mass index (BMI) over 25, making them clinically obese.

Aged 40, 58 per cent of women and 70 per cent of men are rated as fat, but the proportion of obese islanders increases with age.

The biggest danger age is between 55-69 for women, with 69 per cent obese, while 73 per cent of men aged 50-69 have an inflated BMI.

NHS Western Isles say the figures reflect the national trend, with waistlines growing steadily in all age groups among both sexes since 1995.

Battling the bulge has started

in earnest, with the health board committing significant resources to fighting the problem, with one of the first steps being to fund fitness equipment for sport centres as part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's 'Slainte Mhath' sports centre membership scheme.

'This has seen a huge increase in physical activity levels and 28 per cent of the adult population are now members,' a spokeswoman for the health board said.

'The board has also more recently supported local projects to purchase equipment including a mobile ice rink and playpark equipment to ensure that different opportunities to undertake physical activity are available to the population as a whole.'

'In addition to the above, we have schemes for all ages such as Paths for All - a Community Walking Project, the Active Schools campaign, the Mature Movers Dance class for the over

50s, and a 'play@home' project for pre-school kids.

'Specifically for those who have a medical condition that would benefit from an increase in physical activity, we have a 'GP exercise' scheme that provides exercise on prescription.'

NHS Western Isles is also determined to get islanders eating healthily.

The spokeswoman said: 'Clearly, maintaining a healthy weight also includes healthy eating, and our local dietetic team supports people of all ages to develop and maintain a healthy diet.'

'Counterweight is one of the few evidence based weight loss and weight loss maintenance programmes that was introduced in the Western Isles in the past year.'

'Healthy Weighs is also run by the Dietetics Department and focuses on a combination of diet and exercise.'



Senshi Do Kickboxing instructor Willie Rodger breaks through roofing tiles during a demonstration at the Achnacloch Garden Fete. 08_12061001

A smashing time at Achnacloch fete

THE SERENE atmosphere at the Achnacloch Garden Fete on Saturday was briefly broken with an energetic demonstration of Senshi Do Kickboxing.

The watching crowd gasped as instructor Willie Rodger set alight five reinforced roofing tiles before chopping them in half with his hand.

The demonstration was a break from tradition for the biennial event, which also offered horse rides, a barbecue, stalls and traditional music.

The event raised more than

£1,500 for St Oran's and Dunbeg Church.

Organiser Moira Dunlop said: 'I think people were quite taken with the kickboxing demonstration because it was something very different.'

There were also performances from singer Peter Sinclair, Rosie Stevenson (keyboard), Oban High School piper James MacPherson, Ann Barlow (fiddle) and Alasdair MacDonald (accordion), Becky Hill on clarsach and the Isla Sinclair Highland dancers. Dunbeg Primary School pupils

gave a Scottish country dancing display.

Moira added: 'We were fortunate that the heavy rain came at the end of the day as Peter began singing Shepherds of the Eive.'

'I would like to thank everyone who performed and helped out on the day. A special thank you to Mrs J Y Nelson and everyone at Achnacloch for use of the stunning grounds.'

Senshi Do Kickboxing will give a demonstration at Oban Charities Day on June 11.

Cycle pair's dash to Land's End

AN OUTDOOR instructor and his police officer cousin are currently attempting to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End in less than four days.

Adam Richards, a 32-year-old instructor at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre in Oban, and his cousin, Tim Bunt, started the 900-mile route at 12.00am on Tuesday and aim to finish before 23.59pm tomorrow (Friday).

The pair are cycling in relay; one of the men cycling for two hours, whilst the other drives the support vehicle.

Adam and Tim will need to cover 360 miles per day to achieve the feat.

Before setting off, Adam said: 'In training for the event



Tim Bunt and Adam Richards

need to keep our physical fitness up, although our backsides don't share that same line of thought!'

Three charities are set to benefit from the cycle: Macmillan Cancer Relief, Help For Heroes (Tim is an ex-signaller and served in Kosovo); and Canine Partners For Independence.

The pair have a combined fundraising target of £2,000. A raffle and auction at a Sea Kayak symposium ceildh in Tayvallich raised £560 and Adam has a date with the Outside Edge shop window to dress up as a mannequin for the day.

Anyone wanting to support the pair can sponsor the cousins by donating to www.justgiving.com/Tim-Billy.

Single-handed yacht runs aground

THE MV Isle of Eigg was the first on scene when the single-handed yacht lo Contesto ran aground on Rubha Fion-ard, on the mainland opposite Lismore.

The incident involving the 35-foot yacht, which was sailing from Glencoe to Oban, happened just after 6pm last Thursday.

The MV Isle of Eigg spotted the yachtsman in danger and pulled the yacht off the shore until Oban lifeboat arrived.

Deputy coxswain Mark Scott put crew member David Isaac aboard lo Contesto to help the lone yachtsman and the lifeboat towed the casualty to Oban Bay where she was laid alongside the pontoons in Ardrerive Bay, Isle of Kerrera.

Mull beach clean-up success

A BEACH clean was a huge success when a trailer full of rubbish was removed from an idyllic spot on the west coast of the island of Mull.

Jan Dunlop, of the Ranger Service, and members of voluntary group Friends of Calgary Bay led a beach clean-up at Calgary Bay on Sunday May 8, as part of the Wild Isles week.

More than 20 volunteers - young and not so young, islanders and holiday makers - turned up to help with the work which produced a heap of mainly plastic rubbish which had washed up on the beach.

Fences were repaired, turf laid on the campsite and picnic benches repaired during what turned into a glorious sunny afternoon.

Jura whisky an exceptional treat

AN ISLAY whisky is the first spirit in four years to be awarded 'exceptional' status by Michelin and Gault Millau-rated tasters at the Superior Taste Awards 2011.

The Organic from Bruichladdich Distillery was given the maximum three-star rating. The Superior Taste Awards awards are judged by a panel of 120 professionals from the European food and drink industry. Organised by the International Taste and Quality Institute, judges are chosen for their tasting talents as chefs and sommeliers, recognised by Michelin and Gault Millau.

The Organic is a favourite of the Prime Minister, David Cameron, who last year described it as a 'real treat'.

MSP Jamie is quick off the mark

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor was the first MSP to table written parliamentary questions in the new session of the Scottish Parliament.

Mr McGrigor raised a range of issues in transport and housing immediately after he was sworn in as an MSP last Wednesday morning.

Western Isles listeners unable to tune into Gaelic station on DAB

IT IS the Gaelic language's 'heartland', but the Western Isles has been deprived of enjoying Radio nan Gaidheal on DAB digital radio because it is a 'regional' station.

Digital radio arrived in the Western Isles thanks to a new BBC transmitter - but without the Gaelic language service, Radio nan Gaidheal, or Radio Scotland.

Nearly half of all Scotland's Gaelic speakers live in the Western Isles, with a significant percentage of those native to the language.

But it appears an Ofcom ruling has prevented the isles enjoying the BBC's only Gaelic language station through a DAB radio, as both it and Radio Scotland can only be carried on commercial multiplexes as they are 'non-network' stations.

As a result, the stations will only be available on old-fashioned FM or MW radios until a commercial broadcaster stumps up the cash to install the required technology.

MP for the constituency Angus MacNeil has received a number of complaints about the omissions and is to write to the BBC to seek a resolu-

tion. He said: 'I feel it is odd that you can get stations on DAB locally which probably have very few listeners in the islands and not the two stations that listeners in the islands tune into more frequently.'

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Ambassador and Oban Times columnist Allan Campbell said: 'It seems to be a bit absurd.'

'It seems a great pity that part of the Gaelic heartland would be deprived of advances in technology of this kind.'

'It just seems like one of those cock ups rather than an intentional mistake.'

'I regard Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gaidheal as part of our public service broadcasting service and I'm surprised that it would be supplied at the whim of commercial broadcasters.'

'To describe the services as non-network, from a London point of view, you can understand, but from Scotland it's a network station.'

Mr Campbell said he intended to make further enquiries into the exclusion of the stations.

A spokesperson for BBC Scotland said: 'Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gaidheal are not available via the BBC

DAB multiplex recently installed on Lewis.

'The reason for this is that, in agreement with the government office for communications, Ofcom, and as part of a national agreement for non-network radio services - ie those which are available within parts of the UK but not across the whole of the UK - Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gaidheal have to be carried on the commercial multiplexes rather than the public service multiplexes.'

'Such coverage is, consequently, dependent on the commercial operators' development plans and where the commercial multiplexes are sited.'

'It should be noted that Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gaidheal, will remain available across Scotland via analogue radio and, digitally, via Freeview outwith the BBC ALBA broadcast hours, cable, satellite and online.'

'Our technology and distribution team members actively continue to investigate ways to extend access to all of the BBC services, a topic which is a regular focus of discussions with colleagues across the organisation.'

Payments prove Argyll Array scheme is 'misguided' say Tiree campaigners

NO TIREE Array campaigners say payments to six Scottish wind farms totalling nearly £1 million to stop producing energy proves plans for the Argyll Array are misguided.

The chairman of the protest group, Robert Trythall, has once again called on the Scottish Government to review the proposal.

His comments come after the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) revealed that six Scottish wind farms were paid up to £300,000 each by the National Grid to stop producing power for several hours between April 5 and

April 6. The order was made as the network could not absorb all the energy being generated.

The grid told REF that the surplus was due to strong winds and heavy rain that night, however, the options for absorbing the excess power - pumped storage or export to England - were not sufficient.

The REF say the payments cost up to 20 times the value of electricity that would have been generated if the turbines had kept running.

Mr Trythall said: 'This sums up the subsidy junkie madness of wind

farm generation. Scotland, in its over-emphasis on wind for its future energy supply, is in danger of locking itself into long term dependency on the most expensive source of energy supply, thereby in the absence of subsidy, making Scotland's economy uncompetitive.'

He believes the Scottish Government should concentrate on carbon capture technology. He said: 'Scotland is making significant progress in carbon capture technology. This will make a huge impact on the continued use of fossil fuel.'

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Addict admits possessing drugs

A DRUG addict admitted being in possession of diazepam and cannabis when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Hugo Martins, 29, of 29D High Street, admitted an amended charge that on April 21 he had diazepam at Lynn Road.

He also admitted having diazepam and cannabis resin in his possession at his home address.

All three offences were committed while Martins was on bail.

Sheriff Douglas Small released Martins on bail and deferred sentence until June 1.

Real treat for nappy happy tots

BABIES will have the opportunity to get their bottoms into the latest gear at a try before you buy real nappy event in Oban.

During Real Nappy Week, Caroline Askew from The GRAB Trust will be at the Oban Toy Cupboard, in Glencruitten Church Hall, on Friday May 20 from 10am to noon.

There will be samples of real nappies for parents to see and feel and subsidised starter packs for sale.

Woman guilty of punching victim

A WOMAN admitted punching a man at the town's Corran Brae when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Lyndsay MacDougall, 17, of Corsuisk, Corran Brae, admitted punching the man on May 13. Sentence was deferred until September 20.

Evacuated by RNLI

AN ELDERLY Mull man was evacuated by lifeboat from the island in the early hours of Monday morning following an emergency visit from a doctor. Oban Lifeboat left Oban at 3.54am and the patient was transferred to Lorn and Islands Hospital by ambulance.

Business breakfast

BID4Oban is hosting a business breakfast in the Rowantree Hotel next Wednesday, May 25, at 8am. The speaker will be Daniel MacIntyre on promoting your business on Facebook and Twitter.



Angus Purden presents Tracey Black with her £15,000 cheque. 15_120post02

Dalmally families hit Postcode jackpot

THREE households in Dalmally are a combined £30,000 richer after their postcode was chosen as the weekly winner in the People's Postcode Lottery.

Tracey Black from Stronmilchan was the main winner, collecting £15,000.

The village's sub-postmistress Gill Chrystal and retired mother of two June Sutherland shared the remaining £15,000 equally after their postcode PA33 1AS was selected.

Television presenter Angus Purden from People's Postcode Lottery surprised all three women by visiting them on a rainy Monday to tell them the good news.

Tracey was at work in the Dalmally Hotel when Angus arrived.

'I totally didn't expect to win this much,' she said. 'I still can't believe it! I think we'll have a holiday. It's been pouring with rain here for days so somewhere

with a bit of sunshine would be nice.

'It's my daughter Iona's 18th birthday next month. Now I'll be able to get her a nice present.'

June Sutherland said she was 'flabbergasted' when Angus appeared at her home with news of her £7,500 win. She is also planning a holiday.

Gill said: 'When I discovered how much I'd won it was amazing, especially on such a dreich day.'

'Everyone who's popped into the shop seems really pleased for me.'

For every £1 spent on People's Postcode Lottery tickets, 20p goes to charity. Players have raised almost £13 million for good causes to date including CHILDREN 1st and Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres.

Only last month, five neighbours in Castle Road, Dunbeg, shared the weekly £30,000 prize.

Pair deny disturbing rare sea eagles on Mull

BIRD watchers have described the moment they saw two of Mull's giant sea eagles flee from their young chicks after they were allegedly startled by photographers.

Ivaylo Kirilov Takev and Yuli Veselinov Panayotov appeared on trial at Oban Sheriff Court this week, accused of disturbing

the white tailed sea eagles and endangering their young on May 1 last year by erecting a tent no more than 100 meters from the nest and taking pictures.

It is alleged that both, who appeared with translators, were warned in advance not to approach the nest as the birds were protected.

Both 36-year-old Takev, of 47 Paradise Place, Norwich, and 32-year-old Panayotov, from 39 Tooting Beck Gardens, London, have denied the charge.

The court heard that, usually, one bird would always be with the nest when young were being reared as the chicks can't regulate their body temperature.

Witnesses claimed that, shortly after seeing the accused walking in the direction of the nest, both birds could be seen soaring and distress calling. A local tour operator raised the alarm and the accused were later found in the area of the nest by local police officer, Constable Steve Brown. The trial continues.

Church disgust as adult film star plans to hold 'auditions' in Oban

CHURCH leaders in Oban have joined together to voice their disgust at an adult film star's plans to visit the town and 'audition' for people to join the industry.

Tanya Tate will next month begin a tawdry tour of Scotland to find men and women to be filmed with her as part of a lewd plan by production company Macondo.

The company says the tour, which also visits Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness, 'offers locals a chance to have sex with Tate'.

While the churches have got together to say 'no thanks' and express their displeasure, they have decided not to arrange a protest - at least, not yet.

Rev Ken Hunter, minister at Oban Congregational Church, discussed the matter with representatives from churches across the town as soon as he heard about the tour.

He said: 'We all just can't believe



Reverend Ken Hunter of Oban Congregational Church 15_120revken1

it. I mean, Oban of all places. We just cannot understand it.

'We have this on our televisions and on our computers. The last thing we want is it in our face. It is lewd, there's no doubt about it.'

'We're not going round saying you must not do this or that. All we're saying

is we don't think it's right. So we're not angry, we're just disappointed. It's so sad that this woman feels she has to earn a living in this way.

'There are no plans for a protest. We feel the things we should be protesting about is the desperate things, such as hunger and homelessness. We don't think it will make much difference either.'

'But if people want to see some sort of protest then they can make suggestions to us.'

Catholic Bishop Joseph Toal, of the Diocese of Argyll and the Islands, was of a similar opinion.

He said: 'It sounds pretty awful to me. Disgusting.'

'We've no plans to campaign, but if there was a campaign we'd be happy to support it.'

The tour by Macondo comes after a similarly controversial high-profile tour of Ireland in 2009.

Police target under age drinkers in Soroba

A LARGE amount of alcohol has been taken from under age drinkers in Soroba, Oban.

A police campaign cracking down on reports of unruly children during the weekends saw a squad of officers descend on the area of Oban on Friday night.

Marri Malloy, of Soroba Residents Association, said she was 'delighted' the police had taken a lead in ridding the area of underage drinking.

While pointing out that it was not only

children from Soroba who were drinking in areas such as Gillies Rock, she said: 'Soroba resident George Berry recently took the initiative to clear up the area where some of this under age drinking had been going on. It is great the police are also getting this issue sorted out.'

'We have been discussing this matter at the residents association for a long time. It has been an ongoing concern. The police presence is definitely appreciated.'

Oban Police area commander Brian

Auld added: 'Clearly alcohol issues in young people leads to disorder and violence.'

'We are pro-actively targeting licensed premises and individuals who sell alcohol for consumption by young people prior to consumption.'

'Police will continue to patrol the area, any alcohol will be seized and young people returned home to their parents.'

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'If necessary reports will be made to the Scottish Children's Reporter.'

Bridge of Orchy water action plan agreed

THE ARGUMENT and disagreement will continue but by the end of a heated debate on the state of the Bridge of Orchy water supply, a plan of action had at least been formed.

The topic of the village's untreated water was top of the agenda at the Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting, held in Bridge of Orchy's Fleming Memorial Hall, last Wednesday.

Problems with the filtration system last winter meant the water supply had to be diverted and untreated water has been coming into homes in the village.

Businesses such as the Bridge of Orchy Hotel and the West Highland

Way Sleeper have been buying in bottled water in the meantime, as the debate over who is responsible for the water supply rages on.

Jain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council's Environmental Health Manager (West), said the council was not responsible for the repair. He added that the council handed over the responsibility when the primary school closed and the last council house was sold. However, angry residents responded that they were never asked whether they wanted to take on responsibility for the supply and were frustrated that no-one seemed to be responsible. They maintained that while the school building was still

under council ownership, it should be responsible for the supply.

Community council secretary John Burke asked Iain: 'It worries me that Argyll and Bute Council 'own' the supply and we have a village that needs water. The council seems to be impeding things, rather than encouraging things along.'

Mr MacKinnon said he could offer grants to help those who wanted to fit filters in their homes and that he was willing to approach Scottish Water to ask if it will take on the supply. He has been joined by 10 volunteers from the community on a sub-group for this purpose.

Libby scoops £1,200 Spot the Ball prize

SPOT the Shinty Ball jackpot winner Libby MacDonald from Tayvallich revealed that she nearly gave up playing.

The Tayvallich woman, who is £1,200 richer this week, has had eight near misses between *The Oban Times*

competition and Spot the Ball in the Argyllshire Advertiser but had never won the jackpot.

When *The Oban Times* contacted Libby to tell her the good news, she replied: 'Wow. You are pulling my leg. I have been playing for years but

I almost didn't bother this week. I have considered giving up but my late husband always told me to keep playing. 'You'll get it yet,' he would say.' Libby is an active member of North Knappdale Parish and plays bowls in the village.

Raiders target newly opened hi-tech firm

A BREAK-IN at a newly-opened business in Oban is the subject of a full police investigation.

Hi-tech laptop computers, hard drives and pen sticks were taken in the raid at Digital Kangaroo, sometime between midnight on Saturday May 14 and midday on Sunday May 15.

In what many are describing as a 'very unusual crime' for Oban, equipment worth £3,000 was taken from the premises at 7 Combie Street.

Mark Gowdie, graphic designer and shop manager, said: 'It looks like the back door was forced open with a crow bar.'

'I think the burglars have snapped shut the Sony Viao and Mac laptops and removed them - which should mean they are not able to open them back up again

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

without specialist knowledge because they are password protected.

'Other equipment was unplugged but it wasn't removed. There was quite a mess made of the shop, including bins tipped

"Thankfully crimes like this in Oban are very unusual."

Inspector Julie McLeish.

out all over the place and some other vandalism.

'It is a terrible thing to happen. We have lost a few laptops that had personal pictures on them that we will never be able to recover. However, we have already ordered our replacement equipment and we will be back up and running in no time at all.'

Inspector Julie McLeish, of Oban Police, said: 'The matter is being investigated by our CID branch.'

'Anyone with any information about the break in or the whereabouts of the goods stolen should immediately contact the police on 01631 510500 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

'Thankfully crimes like this in Oban are very unusual.'

Safety fears force visitor centre closure

VISITSCOTLAND has closed its Tourist Information Centre in Oban until structural repairs can be carried out.

The office was closed last Saturday amid concerns for the safety of staff and customers after a piece of the ceiling fell onto the shop floor.

A temporary 'shop' has been opened up in the Caledonian MacBrayne Terminal Building.

Signs have been placed outside the visitor centre, which is housed in a former church building, in Argyll Square.

A VisitScotland spokesman said: 'The decision to close Oban VIC was taken after structural

damage to the ceiling was spotted during opening on Friday morning. Engineers are currently working to repair the damage.'

'Our paramount concern is to protect our staff, as well as our visitors, and as such we will wait until the building is completely structurally sound before re-opening the VIC.'

Indebted

'We are indebted to Caledonian MacBrayne, which has been tremendously helpful in agreeing to allow VIC staff to operate out of the Oban Ferry Terminal on a temporary basis.'

'This act of positive partnership working has allowed VisitScot-

land to carry on the important work of providing a first class service for visitors in what are adverse circumstances.'

A CalMac spokesman said 'We are very aware of the importance to visitors to the area of the VIC and were therefore happy to step in and offer the use of the terminal building while repairs are carried out.'

'We enjoy an excellent working relationship with VisitScotland across our network, but especially in Argyll where we share facilities in Mull and Tarbert (Loch Fyne,) so were pleased to further demonstrate that support in such a practical way.'

Laptop triggered airport bomb scare

AN UNSUSPECTING passenger became the cause of a bomb scare at Ilay Airport last Wednesday when his laptop triggered the Explosive Trace Detection during a security check.

The airport was evacuated and secured and an exclusion zone of 50 metres was set around the airport. The A846 between Port Ellen and Bowmore was closed from 9.40am to 3pm. A spokeswoman for

Strathclyde Police said: 'A thorough investigation took place and officers are completely satisfied there is nothing untoward. The incident is being treated as a false alarm with good intent.'

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Parking cash 'should be spent in town'

80 per cent of money raised in Oban is spent elsewhere

ALL THE money collected from parking meters in Oban should remain in the town it was claimed this week after it was revealed more than 80 per cent of the cash is spent elsewhere in Argyll and Bute.

Last year, almost £500,000 was raised in revenue from on and off-street parking and the charges for events such as the continental market, but only £95,000 came back to the local area committee for funding projects.

Commenting on the issue, Campbell Cameron, town centre manager for improvement group BID4Oban, said: 'In the past Oban kept all of the money and we used it to pay for all the road-patching work in the town.'

'Senior councillors at that time fought for all the money to come back to the town.'

'It seems a great pity if this is no longer the case.'

'It was an equitable way of doing things as we have the busiest traffic and it is shame if this is no longer the case.'

'Perhaps it needs to go back to how it was and Oban, Lorn and the Isles gets all the money for dispersal.'

'It is a missed opportunity and it would be good to be able to use the revenue made in the town for the many areas where we may be

REPORT

by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

falling short at the moment.' In the last financial year, £476,605 was raised from parking and associated charges.

Part of the money is taken off at authority level to pay for things such as maintenance of the meters, staffing and administration. Then, *The Oban Times* understands, there is a division of the money at council headquarters to spread it fairly amongst all the four areas. Councillor Donald 'Skye'

"It would be good to be able to use the revenue made in the town for the many areas where we may be falling short at the moment."

Campbell Cameron.

MacIntosh explained the remaining money is called 'the parking fund' and is dispersed annually to upgrade car parks or car-park connected activities.

'Car parks throughout Oban, Lorn and the Isles are in very good condition because of this money.'

'Shopmobility Oban has received money from this fund in the past as they help with the needs of people who would otherwise be unable to use the town centre.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'All four areas in Argyll and Bute have car-parking charges for off-street. Only Oban has on-street charging.'

'The total income in Oban, Lorn and the Isles from off-street car parks, on-street car parks and rentals came to £476,605 in 2010-11.'

'The income from on-street charges in Oban during this time amounted to £216,189 - or less than £5,000 per week.'

'After local and central costs are deducted, the parking surplus is distributed between the four areas in proportion to their contribution to the surplus.'

'This resulted in £95,000 coming to Oban Lorn and the Isles last year.'



The new Oban and Lorn fundraising group with North West Scotland fundraising manager Elma MacKay. 15_120marie01

Blooming big tea pot for a great charity tea party

A CANCER care charity has received a welcome boost in Oban and Lorn with the formation of a fundraising group.

Now the new Marie Curie Oban and Lorn fundraising group will be tasked with generating local support for the charity's annual national fundraiser, the Blooming Great Tea Party.

The charity's North West Scotland fundraising manager Elma MacKay was in Oban

last Wednesday to meet up with the new fundraising group and launch the campaign, which will run from June 12 to July 12.

One such party will be held in St John's Cathedral, Oban, on Saturday June 25, from 2pm - 4pm.

Elma said: 'We're asking everyone in the community to host their own Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie Cancer Care this summer.'

'It's such an easy way to get together with friends or family. The money raised by simply popping the kettle on will help more Marie Curie Nurses to provide free care to patients with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes,' she added.

For more information on the charity or to register for a Blooming Great Tea Party visit www.mariecurie.org.uk or phone 01463 238328.

New-look North Connel Hall unveiled

THE DAUGHTER of Lt Col Campbell Preston, who opened North Connel Village Hall in November 1987, has marked the re-opening of the hall following an extensive refurbishment.

Sarah Troughton was the special guest at a cheese and wine evening last Friday, which celebrated the completion of the £30,000 refit.

Improvements have been made to the lighting, heating and bathrooms and kitchen. The flooring has been replaced and insulation added to the loft. Outside, improvements have been made to the car park and a fresh coat of paint added.

Rev Jeff McCormick, who was part of the committee when the hall was first built, welcomed a number of guests from the community and asked Mrs Troughton to declare the hall re-opened.

Rev McCormick said the hall, which is used most days of the week, had lasted well over the years. Eleven-year-old Laura Campbell presented flowers to Mrs



The North Connel Village Hall committee with Sarah Troughton. 08_120hall01

Troughton. The hall is used regularly by Scouts, Guides, country dancers, bowlers, the kayak club and Lorn Christian Fellowship. It is also

used for functions at weekends. Grants for the refurbishment have come from the Scottish Rural Development Programme (£19,802); Awards for All

(£7,350); and The Robertson Trust (£2,500).

Mrs Troughton hosted the Ardchattan Priory Fete, which also donated money to the cause.

Police keep abreast of charity bikers' efforts to raise cash for Macmillan

OBAN police officers are to decorate their motorbikes with bras before riding through the town - as part of a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Breast Way Round tour will see 100 female motorcyclists, complete with pink mohicans and high-vis jackets, arrive in Oban on May 27, before heading off to Fort William the following day.

Their convoy will require a police escort along Soroba Road and a number of officers have agreed to take part in the spirit of the day to help raise funds for the charity.

Andy Barron, Ronnie Stevenson and Niall Barber have all confirmed their participation, with three more hoping to pull on a pink high-vis jacket to take part.

The annual convoy sees the riders travel for 100 miles a day, starting at Kilmarnock's Rugby Park, before heading to Inveraray via the Dunoon ferry, Oban, Fort William, Fort Augustus and Inverness.

From there, they travel back to Fort William before heading on to Glencoe and Tyndrum, before finishing in Glasgow's

George Square. The event is the brainchild of Kilmarnock woman Shirley-Ann Barnes.

She said: 'Most of the women taking part are riding with the knowledge that someone they know has battled the disease, some unsuccessfully.'

'Indeed, some of the girls taking part are cancer survivors themselves.'

To sponsor the riders and to find out more, log on to www.justgiving.com/BWR2011Scotland.

Donations can also be handed in to Oban Police Office on Albany Street.

Train driver swaps railways for pedal power

TRAIN driver David Turnbull will be swapping the railway for a bicycle when he tackles a 300-mile marathon charity ride from London to Paris this summer.

It will be the second time David, 40, has taken part in the event to raise money for Kidney Research UK.

Last year, he raised £4,500 taking part in what he described as 'a great experience'.

He said he hadn't planned on lining up again this year, but he had been invited to take his place as part of Kidney Research UK's 50th anniversary.

David, who rides with North Argyll Cycle Club, said his training was well underway as the June 30 start date for the ride approaches.

He decided to take part in last year's cycle ride after his wife, Eilidh, received a kidney transplant two years ago.

Eilidh's family has a history of kidney troubles - her father Ian Fraser underwent a transplant operation 32 years ago, while her brother Donald received a new kidney four-and-a-half years ago.

'Everybody in the cycle ride has some connection with the kidney research group, whether they are doctors, patients, supporters or



Enjoying a cuppa at the Kidney Research coffee morning are, from left, Chrissie Fraser, Karina Turnbull, Eilidh and David Turnbull, Jessie Campbell and Carol Turnbull. 07_119kidney01

those who have had transplants,' said David. A fundraising coffee morning in aid of Kidney Research UK was organised by David, Eilidh, her mum Chrissie and other members of the family and fellow supporters at St John's Cathedral

hall, in Oban, on Saturday. Chrissie explained this was the first event they had organised for Kidney Research. She said it was hoped more would be held in the future. Anyone wishing to sponsor

David in this summer's London to Paris bike ride can contact him by emailing david.turnbull2@btinternet.com.

More details of Kidney Research UK are available at www.kidneyresearchuk.org.

Loving home sought for special companion

AN OLD dog needs a new home after his faithful owner has sadly passed away.

Jack, a Staffordshire Bull and Alsatian cross, who is nearly 12, eats like a horse, is the size of a small cow and has arthritis in his tail, may need quite a lot of loving.

The loveable pooch has been in the Jameson family since he was a puppy.

Stuart, the son of Jack's former owners and who is shortly moving to America, describes him as having bags of personality and says: 'everyone who meets him loves him'.

Stuart said: 'Jack's not on his feet as much as he once was, and has a spot of arthritis in his tail, which he takes pills for.'

'He still has a bounce to him - especially if you mention food.'

'Our parents Myra and Peter Jameson moved to Barcaldine eight years ago.'

'They grew deep roots with mum working at the Sea Life Centre and



Pet pooch Jack needs a new home.

becoming a favourite due to her love of animals.

'Dad became part of the local preaching circuit, and was chair of the Barcaldine Community Association.'

'He was a church elder at St Oran's in Connel and involved with The Toy Cupboard.'

'He had to give all this up due to

poor health, and he passed away in March last year after suffering with prostate cancer.

'Mum discovered she had Hodgkin's shortly after, and while she battled through the chemo and was on the mend, she suddenly passed,' added Stuart.

'We wish Jack could stay with us but it's just not possible. We both strongly feel he deserves a loving home to live out his remaining days happily. He is a hero in every sense of the word.'

'Not only has he gone through a lot himself, he's been there for every member of our family and helped us cope through some difficult times.'

'He is a very special dog. We would be eager to keep in contact with a new owner if someone were to come forward, and to send him a bone or two and see how he's doing.'

'Any wonderful dog loving people can contact me on 01631 720464 or email stucrow@hotmail.com'.

Glasgow's highest honour for Mary's Meals

ARGYLL charity Mary's Meals has picked up a top award from Glasgow's Lord Provost Bob Winter.

The Loving Cup, which is the city's highest honour, was presented to Mary's Meals for its school feeding projects in communities where poverty and hunger stop children from gaining an education.

Established in 2002, the Dalmally-based charity, which also has a Glasgow office, now feeds more than 526,000 impoverished children every day in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive, said: 'It never ceases to amaze me how Mary's Meals continues to gain support throughout the world.'

Digital TV switchover continues

THE BIGGEST change to television in a generation in Argyll and Bute got underway last week, as analogue signals were turned off.

The start of television switchover means that 50,000 viewers in digital blackspots such as Port Ellen, Campbeltown and Bowmore can get Freeview for the first time, while picture quality will improve for many existing viewers.

The change requires every Freeview viewer to return their TVs and boxes to regain BBC channels.

The process will be completed on May 25 when the remaining analogue channels will be switched off. Further Freeview channels from STV, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 will then be available from local transmitters for the first time.

The Switchover Help Scheme is still welcoming applications from eligible older and disabled people to get help to convert one television, including a choice of equipment, installation and aftercare.

For those who have already signed up, the Help Scheme call centre is available to help with any problems and can be contacted on 0800 40 85 900.

Strathclyde buses' £2million subsidy

STRATHCLYDE Partnership for Transport (SPT) has agreed to continue to subsidise vital bus routes to the tune of £2,029,513.

Committee members heard that SPT has been able to achieve a total saving of £288,329 on current contract costs.

A total of 11 contracts were approved to maintain key public transport links across seven council areas in Strathclyde.

Chairman of the operations committee Councillor Denis McKenna said: 'Funds are growing increasingly limited and at the same time, the commercial market is contracting. As a result, our budgets are under relentless pressure.'

'I am extremely pleased that we've been able to maintain these vital services by working closely with bus operators as well as making savings along the way.'

Palestinian talk

PALESTINIAN Christian Daoud Nassar will give a public talk in Oban's Corran Esplanade Church today (Thursday).

On his farm south west of Bethlehem, Mr Nassar has created the 'Tent of Nations', a place where Christians, Muslims and Jews can come together in peace. Mr Nassar is in Scotland, primarily to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The talk starts at 7.30pm and admission is free.

Nervous Jamie is sworn in

SCOTLAND'S MSPs were sworn in to Government last week, but one representative for the Highlands and Islands let nerves get the better of him.

Jamie McGrigor, who also stood in the Argyll and Bute constituency, had to re-state his name during the ceremony after stumbling over his lines.

However, he laughed it off and successfully completed the rest of the process without a hitch.

Scotland's National Nature Reserves

Glasdrum National Nature Reserve

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Saturday 28th MAY 2011 - 10.30am

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Join Scott Donaldson from Butterfly Conservation on a gentle stroll around Scotland's premier butterfly reserve.

The special chequered skipper is a star attraction at this time of year. The guided tour will last a couple of hours and you will be free to explore the Reserve in the afternoon.

Event is weather dependent. If conditions unsuitable on Saturday 28th the event will be re-scheduled for Sunday 29th May if weather conditions allow.

For confirmation contact:

Scott Donaldson 07768 156542

or email: scottedonaldson@hotmail.co.uk

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Invasive plants 'are threatening native species'

ALIENS are invading Argyll and Bute - but it's not the inter-stellar kind, rather new species of plants.

Argyll and Bute Council officials are asking people to think about what they are planting.

A spokeswoman said: 'Many of our gardens have been greatly enriched by the introduction of plants from abroad, but a small number like rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed, Skunk Cabbage, Gold Deadnettle, Himalayan or Indian balsam and Parrot Feather are highly invasive.'

'They are a big problem in the wider environment, threatening our habitats and native species and they can be an issue in the garden too.'

'It's difficult and expensive to control these species but many are widely available with little indication of the damage they can do if they are allowed to escape into the countryside or are disposed of carelessly.'

'The threat to our biodiversity, native species and habitats from these plants is very serious.'

Glaswegian forced entry into home

A GLASGOW man subjected an Oban woman to a terrifying ordeal by forcing entry into her home and deliberately cutting his own arms.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Mark Edgar pled guilty to a charge that, on April 18 this year, he acted in a threatening manner, repeatedly striking the front door of a property on Scalpay Terrace and demanding entry, before forcing his way into the home.

He then shouted and swore before inflicting the cuts.

The court heard that this was the third in a series of similar incidents involving the woman, but that 48-year-old Edgar, of 3-1 Batson Street, Glasgow, had now taken steps to end his relationship with the woman.

Sheriff Douglas Small said that, because Edgar had previously been placed on an 18-month community payback order for a similar offence, he would defer sentence until September 15 for him to be of good behaviour.

Civil engineer banned from roads

A CIVIL engineer was banned from driving for 20 months at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after admitting driving while nearly twice the legal limit.

Peter Carmichael, 32, of 20 Brideswell Gardens, Gaudry, Newport on Tay, was also fined £300 after driving a car in Stevenson Street on March 31 this year.

Clean-up helps spruce up Ganavan Sands. . .



A small army of 10 volunteers bagged all sorts of rubbish after a clean up at Ganavan Sands. However, after combing the beach and the surrounding area, the group, led by Caroline Askew of the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB), were frustrated at the amount of dog mess and broken glass on the beach and public paths. The clean up will help towards Ganavan's bid to win a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award. 08_120ganavan01

. . . as shifting sand helps transform town beach

TOWN centre improvement group BID4Oban staged a beach clean on Sunday.

The spring clean of the little bay on George Street helped clear up litter and marine debris as well as the usual weeds that grow up in springtime. It was replaced with 150 tonnes of fresh sand.

Oban in Bloom stalwart Andy MacDowell gave advice to the many volunteers as he oversaw half the beach cleaned up and seaweed redistributed.

BID4Oban town centre manager Campbell Cameron was delighted with the support from the steering group and businesses in the town: 'This is the way Oban works best - when we all work together for the sake of the town.'

Chairman of BID4Oban Graham MacQueen added: 'The beach looks great now and



Town centre improvement group BID4Oban makes a start on improving the beach. local folk and visitors have been congratulating us all day for our initiative. We got a huge amount done in a day.' BID4Oban thanked the many volunteers who helped out on the day.



THE AWARD-winning Cruachan Visitor Centre has continued its success into 2011 by winning three national prizes for tourism. The team at the centre has retained a Gold Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme. The award coincides with the centre's five-star rating from VisitScotland, as well as winning the Visitor Centre category from the Loo of the Year Awards. Visitor centre manager Sarah Cameron said: 'These awards highlight the continuous hard work done at the centre and the improvements made by staff.' The Green Tourism Business Scheme award highlighted the centre's commitment to energy monitoring, recycling and information for visitors on renewable energy. Pictured with Cruachan Visitor Centre's awards are, from left, Manager Sarah Cameron and tour guides David Paterson and Ian Steel. 15_120cruachan01

Three of the best for top visitor centre

THE AWARD-winning Cruachan Visitor Centre has continued its success into 2011 by winning three national prizes for tourism.

The team at the centre has retained a Gold Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme. The award coincides with the centre's five-star rating from VisitScotland, as well as winning the Visitor Centre category from the Loo of the Year Awards.

Visitor centre manager Sarah Cameron said: 'These awards highlight the continuous hard work done at the centre and the improvements made by staff.'

The Green Tourism Business Scheme award highlighted the centre's commitment to energy monitoring, recycling and information for visitors on renewable energy.

Pictured with Cruachan Visitor Centre's awards are, from left, Manager Sarah Cameron and tour guides David Paterson and Ian Steel. 15_120cruachan01

Ship exploded during repairs at Glensanda

Company violated its own procedures, says MAIB report

REPORT

By EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

RADIOACTIVE particles could have been spread to the surrounding area by a devastating fire on board the Glensanda-based Yeoman Bontrup, a marine accident investigation report has stated.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) findings, published last week, said the most likely cause of the fire was regular running repairs to the cargo discharge hopper.

Fire ripped through the ship on July 2 last year at the quarry, resulting in significant damage to the vessel but only minor injuries to crew members, who had to evacuate the ship after they became overwhelmed by the scale of the blaze.

The report also describes a 'violent explosion', which tore the poop deck from the ship.

Hotwork repairs to the hopper on board the 55,695-tonne bulk carrier, which the report says violated company procedures, had been undertaken upon arrival at Glensanda on July 2 and had ignited part of the vertical conveyor belt.

The report states that elements of the conveyor belt were also highly flammable.

A major concern, however, highlighted by the report was the damage to the ship's silometer devices, containing radioactive Cobalt 60 isotopes, which were fitted to the cargo hopper to



The Yeoman Bontrup ablaze at Glensanda during last year's major incident.

detect excessive build up of cargo in the self-unloading system. The report highlighted the silometers had not been used for 10 years, and the outer shells of the source containers were in an extremely poor condition.

However, the radioactive isotopes inside them were still active.

During the fire, the lead shielding around one of the radioactive source containers melted, exposing the radioactive source container itself.

Fortunately, the source containers were not breached; had this occurred the fire could have spread radioactive particles throughout the surrounding area, generating a severe risk to health.

The report stated: 'The

silometers had not been included on the ship's list of hazardous materials on board, had not been identified during risk assessments and were not subject to any control procedures.'

As a result of the findings the MAIB has recommended improvements for fire detection and to standards for conveyor belt systems. It has also recommended addressing 'compacency' with respect to hotwork procedures.

Damage to the ship included the explosion on the poop deck and fire damage and severe distortion to the self-loading system, engine room, accommodation areas and steering gear equipment.

Vessel operator Aggregate Industries UK Ltd did not respond to *The Oban Times* request for a comment.

Complete unpaid work or face jail, says sheriff

OBAN Sheriff Douglas Small has warned a man that he will end up in jail if he appears before the court again after an incident at North Connel.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Iain MacColl, of 5G Colonsay Terrace, was ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work within nine months after admitting causing a disturbance in the village on April 6, during which he repeatedly demanded entry to a property, striking the door and scaring the occupant.

MacColl was on probation at the time for a similar offence. Defending, agent Eddie

Thornton said his 46-year-old client was unable to return to employment as a heavy plant fitter as he was recovering from a broken leg suffered on December 8, but would be able to undertake unpaid work.

Sick line

Sheriff Small said: 'It wouldn't be the first time someone has said they are fit to do community service then get a sick line.'

Making no orders for the breach of probation, he warned MacColl: 'If you're before me again on a similar incident I will have no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence.'

Countdown on for Charities Day

THE COUNTDOWN is on for the Charities Day carnival and street fair in Oban.

With just three weeks to go, organisers Oban and Lorn Lions Club says any club, school or other organisation wishing to take part in the June 11 event should get in touch with secretary John Lloyd on 01631 562762.

John said the day was a great way for groups to raise awareness and funds and attract new members.

Meanwhile, the club has announced it is to stage a raft race in early August. For details, email brian@powergeneration.uk.com.

Homeless man's rampage through town

A HOMELESS man has been remanded in custody after going on a rampage in Oban, during which he assaulted a man, resisted arrest and attacked two police officers.

George Richardson pled guilty to six of nine charges against him when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week, all

carried out on May 12. He admitted shouting and swearing at a premises on Oban's South Pier, refusing to leave and urinating on the facade of the premises, before assaulting a man at the same location.

Richardson accepted that he resisted arrest at Queen's Park Place, struggling violently with two police

officers, before shouting, swearing and uttering sectarian comments while in the back of a police vehicle on the way to the Albany Street Police Station.

The 41-year-old also admitted assaulting the two officers and spitting at them.

The Crown accepted pleas of not

guilty to charges that he attempted to enter a premises on Oban's South Pier while drunk, that he assaulted a man and that he indecently exposed himself.

Sentence was deferred until June 1 for preparation of a psychiatric report.

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Boffins bid to unlock ancient fossil's secrets

A FOSSIL found in Benderloch more than 40 years ago could hold the key to life as we know it after modern techniques revealed it was at least 650 million years old.

Discovered by now retired geologist Martin Litherland in 1967 in the cutting along the old Connel to Ballachulish railway under the bridge to Port Selma, the Dalradian rock, known as Easdale slate, contains the fossilised remains of what could be the world's first ever animal.

While Dr Litherland initially thought the fossil was around 500 million years old, new techniques have shown the rock it was found in to be significantly older - at least 630-650 million years old.

The paper was published in the latest edition of the Edinburgh Geological Society's, the Edinburgh Geologist.

At just 0.2mms across, the tiny

life-form can only be seen under a microscope, but the implications of being the earliest known animal make it potentially one of the largest discoveries for decades.

Search
He said: 'I think it may be the dawn of animal life and us.'

'Geologists and all scientists simply search for the truth, and I spent most of my active career in the Kalahari, the Amazon and the Andes looking for this. What I found in Benderloch is just one more piece of the universal truth.'

Dr Litherland, who found the fossil while studying for a PhD, said the discovery could lead to a flurry of activity in the area as scientists look for more fossils.

He said: 'I think there should be a serious investigation and this should provoke more interest.'

'I would hope that there would be a full excavation of the area to dig in and really get to the fresh rock, break it up and find more samples until we get a complete picture.'

Despite making the initial find half a lifetime ago, Dr Litherland remembers only too clearly the moment he took a closer look at the fossil.

He said: 'Within a black slate, I saw these small pebbles, which were not the usual hard quartz, but a softer calcite which fizzed with acid.'

'So I sectioned one or two of them out of curiosity and what I saw made my hair stand up.'

'Even though I wasn't a palaeontologist, I remember shouting "animal!" to my fellow students.'

'But, as always, the eureka moment went more or less unnoticed. Science is like that.'

Tip-offs lead to rise in Crimestoppers arrests

ANONYMOUS tip-offs via Strathclyde Crimestoppers saw the number of people arrested and charged double to 313 in the last year.

Chairman of the charity's Strathclyde committee Alan Fraser said the figures for April 2010 to March 2011 were cause for celebration.

'I am delighted that the people across the region have used the charity to pass on information about crime,' he said.

'We're extremely proud that Crimestoppers continues to play such a vital role in helping to make our local communities a safer place to live.'

'I'd like to reassure the public that our

service is completely anonymous and in the 23 years the charity has been running no one has ever been identified.

'We're not part of the police or government, we're an independent charity, so by contacting us you'll never have to give a statement to the police or go to court.'

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TIREE

SCOTTISH Power Renewables (SPR) hope to present their own photo-montages of the proposed Argyll Array when it holds a public meeting on Tiree next month.

The event, at An Talla, on June 28 between 2pm-6.30pm, will give locals a chance to chat with SPR staff and exchange views on the proposal.

A spokesperson for SPR said: 'The event offers a chance for people to come along and speak to us about the project.'

'We are hoping that visualisations from various points on the island will be available by then.'

TIREE Piping Society is organising a bring your own bottle concert and dance on May 21, with Mod gold medallist, Kenneth Nicholson leading the charge of talented performers. Starting at 7.30pm at An Talla, the programme will feature Tiree Association Piper Donald Campbell, Bernard Smith, Tiree Pipe Band, Ian Smith, the Coraigh Ceilidh Band and much more.

Dancing will start at 10am and last til 2am, with various musicians on hand to get you on to the floor, including Ian Smith from Trail West and the Coraigh Ceilidh Band.

LOCHEARNHEAD

THE GOLDEN Larches Restaurant has been put up for sale as owners, Loraine and James Telfer, head for retirement after owning the business for nearly 34 years.

The couple bought the Lochearnhead business in 1978 when it was still a shop and spent the next four years attempting to turn it into a café.

But things snowballed and by the time the Golden Larches did open, it became a fully-fledged restaurant, specialising in home-baking and locally sourced, traditional meals.

For Loraine, retiring is a big step, having run the business and worked in the kitchen for the duration - with not one summer holiday taken in that time.

The former nursing sister said: 'We've built it up over all these years and I love working here, I love the area.'

'But my husband worked as a joiner until two years ago when he retired and now I'm thinking; age has caught up with me! If I



Chief Constable George Graham, left, and central divisional commander Superintendent John Macdonald, second left, with the officers after the presentation.

New Chief Constable presents police officers with long service and good conduct medals

NORTHERN Constabulary's new Chief Constable George Graham has presented officers on Lewis with long service and good conduct medals - his first such duty since taking the helm last month.

First in the roll call at a ceremony at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway last Monday was Western Isles area commander, Chief Inspector Gordon MacLeod.

Chief Inspector MacLeod, 41, has more than 21 years in Inverness, Portree, Kyle, Lochcarron, Broadford, Tarbert, Stornoway, Aviemore, Nairn, and headquarters.

Both he and his wife have family ties in the islands and Gordon has served at all ranks in Lewis and Harris at various times. He has

been the area commander for the last two years.

Detective Constable Murdo Smith also received his long service and good conduct medal. Murdo, 46, has 22 years service with spells at Aviemore, a lengthy tenure in Lochinver and Stornoway, where he is currently detective constable in the crime management unit.

Murdo is a native of Lewis, having been brought up in the Ness district.

The next award went to Sergeant Donald Smith. With 21 years service, Donnie, 41, has been stationed at Nairn, Glencoe, Portree, Mallaig, and now Stornoway, where he has been since 2006. Another native islander,

he is originally from the island of Scalpay, off Harris. Also honoured was Stornoway Sergeant Roderick MacKay. Roddy, 45, has served 23 in Dingwall, Ullapool, Lochcarron/Kishorn, Fort William, Strontian, and Mallaig. For the last few years he has worked in Lewis, firstly as the village officer in Balallan and latterly as community safety sergeant for the Western Isles.

Constable Alasdair MacRae, 44, was awarded his medal after serving 24 years. Prior to Stornoway, he served in Lerwick, headquarters, Scalloway, Brae, Alesness and Dornoch. He was a detective officer for many years and has worked both in uniform and CID in Stornoway.

available throughout the day. The annual Islay Mod Prizewinners' Concert will also be held in Islay High School at 7.30pm that evening.

DUROR

A MEETING of Duror and Kentallan Community Council was held in the village hall on Wednesday May 11. The following issues were discussed:

All drivers caught speeding through the village in a recent police campaign were from outside the area, members were told.

The community council had been in touch with police asking for an update on what action was being taken to tackle speeding motorists after receiving a number of complaints from residents.

PC Lewis Macdonald explained that Northern Constabulary was currently involved in a road safety campaign.

As part of that, police had been establishing where best to tackle speeding hotspots.

These included Kentallan and the roundabout at Ballachulish bridge.

PC Macdonald said as well as checking speeds, motorists were being stopped and their vehicles checked for defects.

As far as Duror and Kentallan were concerned, two people had been reported to the procurator fiscal for alleged speeding offences. Another four had been stopped and warned but not reported to the fiscal.

PC Macdonald said another two people had been reported to the fiscal over alleged vehicle defects, while one vehicle, which had been stopped for speeding, was searched and drugs found.

He confirmed those stopped had been from outside the area. 'Most local people welcome the speed checks,' he said.

He said the campaign appeared to be working as fewer speeding tickets are being issued.

Police would continue to tackle speeding - and this could involve the use of an unmarked car, added PC Macdonald.

COMMUNITY councillors want a speed warning sign set so that it flashes at every motorist approaching a semi-hidden junction.

Safety concerns have previously been voiced about the Achindarroch/A828 junction.

A warning sign currently flashes drivers go quicker than the 40mph limit.

Member Dave Shepton said: 'At the moment is only comes on when people are going more than 40mph. The whole point of having any sign was to warn of the junction.'

DUROR and Kentallan Community Council has officially objected to any proposals which could see the closure of the coastguard station on Stornoway.

Chairman, Jonathan Baxter, said he had signed the e-petition against closure on behalf of all members.

CANNA



Eva's special birthday on island

Little Eva from Portobello, Edinburgh, became one on the Isle of Canna's youngest visitors so far this year when she arrived with mum Becky and dad Pete to celebrate her first birthday. The couple wanted their daughter to spend her special day on an equally special place and reckoned Canna ticked all the boxes. Eva reached another milestone during her time on Canna - she took her first steps unaided. Certainly will be one to remember when she gets older!

don't make the decision to retire now, when will I?

'I've made friends all over the world from here and I'm in no rush to retire, but there comes a time when you have to.'

Lorraine has seen a lot of changes in the industry over the past 28 years, but some things always remain the same.

She said: 'I suppose there have been a lot of changes. People's

tastes have become slightly more adventurous, but we are a traditional Scottish restaurant and use local produce.'

'People love that we get our venison locally for example, and the home baking is popular as nobody really does that any more.'

'The atmosphere here is popular and we've got wonderful views and that's always a draw.'

The Telfers are hoping for a young family to take on the business, in the same way that they did all those years ago. Their eldest, 39 year old James, is a chef in the Larches restaurant, while 34 year old Fraser works as a joiner locally.

'I live here at the moment so I'll be moving when the business is sold,' she said. 'I'll really miss it.'

'We brought up two children here and it's a wonderful place to bring children up, so we'd love a young family to move here.'

ISLAY

IT WAS another overseas adventure when Islay Boys FC Under 14s travelled to Sollen-tuna, 10 miles outside Stockholm in Sweden.

At the training complex of Sollen-tuna United the boys played their first game against one of their U14s teams, rescuing a 3-3 draw after going 3-0 down.

The following day they had two games in four hours and narrowly lost both against older boys in both teams.

Coach Graham Brown said: 'Overall it was a fantastic trip, a new experience for all the kids and team coaches, travelling to a new country and taking in the different culture. We hope this is the start of an affiliation between our two clubs that will continue for many years to come.'

The club has been invited back to the Swedish town for a tournament with 300 teams.

BOWMORE'S Mactaggart Leisure Centre will reduce its pool times in the wake up council funding cutbacks.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises has a service level

agreement with Argyll and Bute Council to deliver a sport and recreation service for the local community through the operation of the Mactaggart Leisure Centre.

However, pro rata funding has been cut this year by 5 per cent for the year 2011-12. This means the community enterprise will receive £3,500 less core funding this year.

To address this situation, the Board of Directors have approved a proposal to reduce swimming pool opening hours.

On Wednesdays the pool will not open to the public until 3pm and on Fridays from 5pm. The remainder of the building, such as the gym and launderette, will be open for business as normal.

SCOTT Kinloch, a P5 pupil at Port Ellen Primary School, has won a Special Merit in the Under 12s category of the National Galleries Scotland poetry competition.

Scott's poem, which was submitted to the National Galleries' 'Inspired? Get Writing!' competition, was called Spirals and inspired by a woodcut by artist Victor Pasmore. Students around Scotland were invited to enter the creative writing competition, where the written work was to be influenced by a painting in Edinburgh's National Galleries collection.

ISLAND customers received new outdoor dishes and indoor terminals through the Avanti Broadband scheme.

However, while the service's speed has generally improved since the transfer, some customers have experienced erratic access to broadband service from the new satellite.

Avanti Customer Services advise that when engineers return to the island in June to complete the remaining upgrades, they will visit customers to check installations and alignments, and sort out any problems arising from the recent upgrade.

THIS year's WalkIslay week was again well attended, with many visitors returning to take part as

well a number of Islay folk who led or just enjoyed the outings.

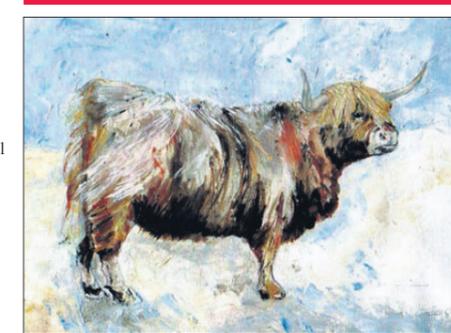
This year the walks took in five islands; Islay, Colonsay, Oronsay, Jura and Texa were visited. Some of the locals remembered going over to Texa from Port Ellen or Laphroaig in fishing boats, in their young days.

Ian Brooke, walk organiser, reckoned that during the week the distances walked during the week amounted to 4,200km.

MAY 6 was the closing date for offers for the MacRie Hotel. It is believed that there were five offers made and it is hoped locally that there will be a successful purchaser, prepared to re-open the hotel as soon as possible.

ISLAY Local Mod will be held on Saturday, June 4 in Islay High School, Bowmore from 9.30am until competitions are finished. Testing for Gaelic cards will be

COLL



Highland Cow on Coll, by Eileen Strange.

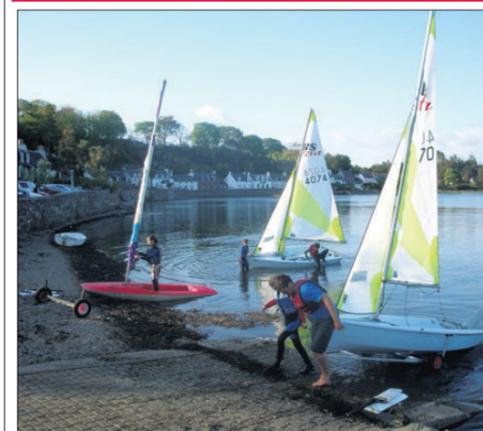
A COLL artist has been chosen by the Elderly Accommodation Council to exhibit one of her works displayed in a prominent Birmingham exhibition.

Eileen (Isobel) Strange's painting, *Highland Cow on Coll*, will feature for 11 days at The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' RBSA Gallery in Birmingham from May 10, alongside 120 other works from amateur artists aged over 60.

MARINE Harvest this week held a series of fact-finding sessions on proposals to establish a new fish farm on Coll.

Held at Arinagour Village Hall, three drop ins were held on Wednesday, with another held today (Thursday) between 10am-1pm.

PLOCKTON



A topper and two feva dinghies come ashore after the two-hour training sail.

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club began the new season with their training night on May 3. Some 16 youngsters took part and enjoyed sailing in the club's new fevas, which the club recently bought with a lottery grant and donations.

Local arts network Lochan presented Laura Cortese in Plockton Hall the on same night. Her fiddling and singing was enjoyed by all who attended.

On May 4, Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society had Fiona Wilson from Huntly Herbs as their guest speaker in Plockton Hall. Fiona talk was entitled 'growing herbs' and she also brought along some of her award winning organic jams, jellies and chutneys.

Plockton Drama Club travelled to Eden Court Theatre on May 6 to compete in the Scottish drama finals with their play *Billy's Coming Home*, written by local woman Ann MacLaren and produced by Gill James. Although not placed, they enjoyed the experience.

A DISTINCTIVE red BT telephone kiosk could end up down on the farm!

Members were told BT had been in touch asking if the community council wanted to adopt the kiosk.

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said: 'There are three options - do nothing, adopt it or sponsor it. If we were to adopt it, BT give us it as an empty box.'

Member Jean MacLeod asked whether the kiosk could be moved should the council adopt it.

Mr Baxter said he would look into the issue further.

Meanwhile, member and farmer Alison Wallace said if the council didn't want it, she would be happy to have the box.

'I will take it down to the farm and put it to use. It has been in the village as long as I have been here.'

Members will decide what to do with the kiosk at their next meeting.

THE surfaces of tracks in Forestry Commission land at Glen Duror is to be improved.

The meeting was told the roads within the forest had been resurfaced. However, the loose material used meant walkers and cyclists struggled to use the routes.

The Forestry Commission had been contacted and had agreed to improve the surface.

Members agreed to monitor the issue.

ABERFELDY

RESIDENTS of Aberfeldy could be hit by two months of traffic misery - thanks to necessary repairs to a small wall on the B846 road to Tummel Bridge.

Perth and Kinross Council are intending to initiate repairs on the retaining wall in either August or September, and there is concern that the closure could impact on the late tourist season.

The structure was damaged last summer during a land-slip. Traffic would be diverted along

the A827, A9 and B9019 during the closure.

A spokesman for the council said: 'To carry out this work, it will be necessary to close the road to vehicles for at least two months.'

'It is proposed that a narrow access route would be maintained past the works for pedestrians and cyclists during the construction period.'

DUNVEGAN

NINE P7 pupils from Dunvegan Primary School joined their counterparts from schools across the Isle of Skye on an educational trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh last week.

Trips to Edinburgh Castle and Dynamic Earth were among visits arranged in the capital, while trips to the cinema and the swimming pool at Almondvale in Livingston also featured.

Dunvegan clerical assistant Esther Swanson told The Oban Times.

Meanwhile, Dunvegan pupils recently spent a day working towards winning their Eco-schools green flag.

Broadford-based Highland Council countryside ranger Sandy MacPhee came down to assist children on a range of activities and games with an environmental theme.

DRUMNADROCHIT

DRUMNADROCHIT will play host to one of Scotland's newest independent film events, the Loch Ness Film Festival, on May 26-29.

Run by a small community of indie filmmakers, film fans and enthusiasts, organisers hope to raise the profile of the festival this year after testing the water with the inaugural event in 2010.

Films from Scotland around the world to be screened at the Craigmone Centre include *Dog Soldiers*, *One Day Removals* and the Falkirk gangster flick *The Cowboy Court*.

Mull Lines

THE Isle of Mull pony club held its Easter fun day at Garmony. Sis MacDougall reports: 'The day itself turned out to be the only wet day we had in April but fun was had by all. The rain cleared and a BBQ was the order of the day.'

'The Easter pool drop raffle was drawn with the aid of Diane the Shetland pony. Number seven was the winning ticket and was won by Lynne Miller from Dundee.'

'The prize is VIP tickets for two and a three course meal at Hamilton racetrack and £100 cash.'

'The raffle raised £810 which goes towards paying for instructors to come over from the mainland to teach our children. Many thanks to all who bought tickets it is very much appreciated.'

'The Isle of Mull Pony Club had decided to put a team forward to represent Mull at the Scottish Horse and pony care quiz which is held annually. This year it was held at Winchburgh and hosted by Linlithgow and Stirling pony club.'

'The team chosen headed off on the 8.30am ferry from Craignure stopping at Dobbies for a quick bite to eat and to get changed into the pony club outfits as the turn out of the children was getting judged as well.'

'This being a first for the Isle of Mull pony club we arrived at our destination not quite knowing what was required. We were delighted that our team did such a great job they came first and made us very proud.'

'In doing so well we have now qualified for the British Horse and Pony club quiz that is held down at Draycott House, Derby. It's great to see that such a small club can do so well when some of the mainland pony clubs have 180 members.'

ISLE of Mull Gardening Club held its annual flower show on the May Bank Holiday.

Cath Mayo writes: 'The traditional day for the annual flower show is the May Bank Holiday, which this year was at the end of the long holiday weekend, which also coincided with the music festival. It was also sunny and warm and these factors perhaps explain why the numbers attending the show were not as high as in previous years.'

'However, those who came enjoyed the excellent teas and home baking, and went away with a large number of plants. Despite the cold weather at the start of the season, there were lots of plants for sale - including some very impressive pot plants. There was also the usual display of pot plants grown by members - always a popular feature of the show.'

'The various competitions were judged by local photographer Ewan Baxter. The competition started last year of an Arrangement of Flowers incorporating Flotsam was won by Elma Tyson. In the member's photographic competition, Mull through the Seasons was won by Cliff Moisey who also was first in Unusual Garden Features. Pam White was first in the Art in the Garden category and Cath Mayo with a photograph of the visit to the Ben More Botanic Garden which was also the overall winner.'

'The Garden Club is also indebted to the children of Lochdon School whose collages of Dragonflies and Flowers brightened up the 'tea' end of the room.'

The total raised this year was down on previous years but still we raised over £300, which will be divided this year between the Club and Oban Hospice.

Places are available on the trip to Branklyn Gardens on June 8, non members are welcome. Please contact Andrew Reid 01688 301240 to book a place.

AN OPEN meeting was held at Ulva Primary School on Saturday, May 14, to talk about events the newly formed school association is holding in the summer.

Ulva School Community Association (USCA) was formed in the wake of a potential school closure and is going from strength to strength. The group was formed to look at potential opportunities for the area.

In the few months since USCA has been formed, a number of successful grant applications have been made. USCA received £3,200 grant funding from Scotland's Islands and a £500 donation has been received from the Highland Cattle Society.

The group will run a Community Connections project over the summer. This will include a Summer Fete and Ceilidh on August 7. The group are also hoping to run a series of Summer Holiday Family Workshops based at Ulva School.

These events are aimed at supporting the school via extra-curricular activities, raising some money for USCA and last but not least providing some great fun experiences for local and visitors to liven up the summer break.

THE Hebridean Whale And Dolphin Trust will be running a series of educational activities this summer, thanks to an award of £6,200 from The Big Lottery.

The charity, which enhances knowledge and understanding of the local marine environment, will use its award to arrange beach cleaning events, wildlife walks and whale watching events. The group will also arrange an educational trip for young people aboard its yacht to teach about them about marine wildlife.

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CRIANLARICH

CRIANLARICH pub and restaurant, The Rod and Reel Inn, has been put up for sale, with offers over £375,000 invited.

Marketed through agents Bruce and Co, the Main Street business comes complete with three chalets, car park and beer garden.

MORVERN

MORVERN Community Council held its April meeting in Lochaline Village Hall.

Abridged minutes:
 Drimmin-Tobermory Ferry: A member of the public from Drimmin questioned Councillor Foxley closely on the subject of the Drimmin-Tobermory ferry service, in particular the tendering process and what financial support Highland Council intended giving to keep the service running as Argyll and Bute Council were unwilling to make any contribution until Highland Council come forward with a figure.

Councillor Foxley stated HC were waiting to see if anyone was interested in tendering and noted that the Sound of Mull Transport Group had already submitted a bid.

Councillor Foxley questioned the need for a 52 week service frequency. A complaint was raised by the same Drimmin resident that HC had used incorrect figures in considering grant aid and asked for an apology. Councillor Foxley agreed and said he would push for a public apology from HC to be made to the residents of Drimmin.

Both Councillors Foxley and Gormley said they would go on supporting the service but asked that the ferry users group continue to make representations to Argyll and Bute. Reference was made to the bus service to and from Lochaline which, as far as Drimmin was concerned, was deemed inadequate for shopping in Lochaline. Community councillor Sarah Jones said that there was no need for anyone in Drimmin to struggle for provisions as the Lochaline Stores has always delivered to that end of the parish. Councillor Foxley introduced a note of caution in respect of HC being able to continue to grant aid both the bus and the ferry link.

Children attending Tobermory High School from Morvern: David Robertson questioned the number of children crossing to the Tobermory High School and asked, firstly, if this was allowed and secondly, would it affect the current local transport arrangements between Lochaline and Strontian.



Fort Augustus Guides enjoy all-action trip to Perthshire

A grant from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company enabled 1st Fort Augustus Guides to attend a guiding weekend at Dalguise in Perthshire, where they participated in many different activities including fencing, zip wire, giant swing to name but a few.

Concern was expressed that the Ardnamurchan High School was not being as well supported from Lochaline as it should be and the question was asked who was paying for the Lochaline children to be transported to Mull. Councillor Gormley explained that regardless of how many children travelled from Lochaline to Strontian the Highland Council would always provide and fund the transport.

Condition of Public Roads: The chairman brought up the subject of the extremely poor state of the road from Lochaline Stores to the hotel via the war memorial and Torr na Faire, various sections of the A884 (Lochaline to Carnoch Bridge) and from Mungosdale Bridge to the end of the public road at Drimmin Jetty on the B849, parts of which were subsiding. These deficiencies had been reported to Highland Council many times and in the strongest possible manner but little or nothing had been done since Jim Tolmie of the roads department had retired. The chairman pressed both Councillors Gormley and Foxley for their help which they both agreed to give. Iain Bruce-Low of Highland Council would visit the area soon and consider what could be done given HC's already over-stretched road budget.

Skip and Recycling Arrangements: A discussion took place with a view towards

establishing some form of secure holding point near Lochaline Village for the collection and onward transmission of waste to the recycling unit in Claggan, Fort William. Councillor Foxley will contact local landowners for further investigation and implementation.

The chairman raised the matter of public conveniences at Lochaline/Fishnish ferry terminal. Discussions are ongoing about finding someone locally to take them on given HC's determination to close many rural WCs.

The chairman reported that the new 'Marie Curie Field of Hope' opposite the Memorial Cottage had been a great success. Many favourable comments had been received and he again thanked all those who had been involved in planting the daffodils and for supporting the project. Next meeting: June 2, Lochaline Village Hall, 7.30pm.

KYLEAKIN

KYLEAKIN Connections has expressed thanks for volunteer work given by Scottish and Southern Energy and Craik and MacRae Contractors' employees.

The workers, through the companies' 'Community @ heart' scheme, gave up a day's work to help regenerate the charity's wildlife garden with materials, shrubs and trees

KYLE

KYLE Primary School held its annual swimming gala at Lochalsh Leisure Centre in Kyle on Monday.

All 57 pupils took part in some form of activity in the water and competed for points for the three school houses of Roy, Wallace and Bruce.

P3-5 teacher Mary Logan kept the scores and trophies were awarded at the end of an enjoyable day.

LAGGAN

PREPARATIONS are well underway for this year's Laggan 10km Highland road race and one-mile fun run on Saturday May 28.

The route will take runners from Laggan Village Hall along the scenic road to the Corrieairack Pass and back again.

Trophies will be given to the quickest runners on the day, and everyone who takes part will be given a memento to remember the day.

KILLIN

NEARLY 1,100 people visited Killin's Moirlanich Longhouse last year, and it is hoped this year's renovations will help attract even more visitors.

The pre-season meeting at Lynedoch for volunteers heard from Jill Harden, an archaeologist and historic environment specialist with the National Trust for Scotland, who talked about the history of the building and upcoming work to replace the old tin roof.

The building will also be re-pointed and painted and it is hoped that the ability to see conservation in action will prove a draw.

New signs have been erected, complete with an interpretation board with an illustration of the house as it looked when it was inhabited.

The trust also used on the event to call for more volunteers to help show visitors around.

STIRLING Council is looking for council tenants who are interested in local housing

issues and who would like to have an impact on future housing issues and contribute to improving housing services.

Tenant Participation is the answer. There are many ways to get involved from setting up at tenants group to becoming a Tenants Voice for the area.

Tenant Participation is the key if Stirling Council is to meet specific housing needs. As the landlords they need to hear from the tenants who are at the centre of the community. All tenants have the right to influence housing services to ensure that, with their input, decisions can be reached that are effective, fair and reasonable. Tenant Participation is a continuous and evolving process but needs support from tenants and landlords. If interested call or e-mail to melmudrum@stirling.gov.uk or 01786-443129

IN JANUARY, after 18 months of fundraising, St Fillan's Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was passed and work started.

The work had been competitively tendered to four local and one Glasgow-based company. Stitt Bros won the tender and was awarded the contract.

Local surveyor Kenneth Lang of Surveying Solutions Ltd, is acting clerk of works providing advice and inspection. Repair projects to historic buildings always carry unknown areas which are difficult to investigate.

At St Fillan's the first task was to investigate the condition and location of the external ground drainage.

This had completely failed with the original clay pipes broken beyond repair. These have all now been replaced. Next the protective canopy was erected. This will protect it from the weather during repairs including removal of the tin wall and roof cladding and will allow the contractor to work more effectively.

Underneath the protective coat the church is a timber frame construction with timber wall linings and flooring.

There is now damp proof course and extensive wet rot was found in the base rail of the wall frame around the whole building and in the floor joists. The base plate has now been replaced with a damp proof course.

During the inspection the extent of the original church was discovered. It would have been three bays long with a small entrance porch on the Main Street.

In 1885 a further bay and the crossing section was added. Progress has been slow due to wind and snow but it is hoped now that better weather has come progress will be faster.

MORE than 50 people attended the Killin and Ardenaig Trust (KAT) community event in the Killin Hotel.

Down Your Way

This week - Lismore

A BBC Landward team visited Lismore on Wednesday April 27 to record an insert for a Landward programme to be transmitted on May 20 on BBC2 Scotland at 7pm.

Twenty-five years ago, Lismore Primary School took part in the BBC managed Domesday Project.

The late Mrs Doranne Willis, then the head teacher, and her pupils were invited to produce a record of life on the island which would become part of a record of life throughout the UK. Originally stored on laser disc, then the most advanced storage and retrieval system, the records were to be made available to anyone with access to such technology.

Rapid advances in technology soon made the laser disc redundant and, at the present time, the records are being re-stored on a database that will become available on the web.

On a day of perfect sunshine, Laura Cook, who, as the young Laura MacDougall was one of the school pupils involved in 1986, arrived at the school with her three children to be interviewed by presenter Sarah Mack. Back in 1986 Laura sang a Gaelic song which was used as part of the original soundtrack of a documentary about the Domesday Project. On Wednesday 27th she sang again.

Later, farmer Archie MacColl, who in 1986 was seen explaining to the pupils the art of silage making, took time off lambing to talk about how the island has changed in the last 25 years and retired skipper Duncan Black, who worked for Yeoman Glensanda in 1986 and took the school pupils on a boat trip to view the quarry, was asked for his views on present day Lismore. PD



LISMORE primary children have been taking part in a 'Change Challenge' for Mary's Meals.

They have been collecting small change in return for doing jobs at home. On the day of the election when the school was closed the children met at the Comann Eachdraidh to raise more money by helping to clean and tidy.

The children were kept busy sweeping, dusting and wiping in the cafe, the library and the museum and it all looked sparkling when they had finished.

After lunch at the cafe, the children moved on to the church and the wee manse where they cleaned and polished until everything was gleaming.

They received many generous donations as they worked and eventually raised a grand total of £120.

This will pay for 14 children to have a good meal each day for a year. Many thanks to all those who helped and donated and to Hazel McCormick for organising the event.

The children are now hoping to continue their support for Mary's Meals by taking part in their Backpack Project where they will collect useful items such as pencils, notepads and sharpeners for children to take to school. PD



AS PART of the 'Keep Scotland Tidy - National Spring Clean' campaign, the Lismore Primary School children had their own Beach Clean Day.

Dressed in yellow tabards and protective gloves, they set to work on the shores around Port Moluag picking up plastic bottles, used cartons, plastic bags and old shoes.

The strangest finds were a large boot and a bottle of strawberry sauce (still containing the sauce).

Thinking about where all this rubbish might have come from, they agreed that most of it had probably been thrown from passing boats. They also discussed which items were biodegradable and how long the various objects would take to decay naturally. Back at school, they created works of art using what they had found. Not only is the shore around Port Moluag much tidier but the children are now ready to apply for their first Green Flag from the Eco Schools project. PD



THE LISMORE Heritage Museum has opened its doors once more for the summer season.

Now considered by many to be a local landmark, the museum and cafe is run entirely by volunteers, however it has advertised for a part time archival assistant.

Museum general manager David Gloag said: 'We are always making improvements to the museum, although they are seldom dramatic. Instead, we are constantly adding to our collection of artefacts and work hard to ensure every piece of information is entirely accurate.'

The museum was built to display the island's history and the history of its people and has a rich archive of information in both English and Gaelic.

On the same site is an award-winning 19th century Cottar's Cottage, which has been restored.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Helensburgh with Senior Reporter Louise Lee.



Bright new vests for nursery children

Kinlochleven pre-school children will be more visible going to and from Kinlochleven Nursery after Scotland Transerv presented them with reflective waistcoats. The donation came after local Transerv employee Duncan Crilly, right, who has a grandchild at the nursery, suggested the children should have the same protection as their big brothers and sisters in the primary school. Also pictured with the children are nursery assistant Val Heskey and Transerv area manager John Harness.

GLENORCHY AND INNISHAIL

TRAFFIC Scotland is to begin a review of roads through the village following a number of accidents.

At the Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting in the Fleming Memorial Hall last week, the community council told residents the roads organisation would report back with their findings.



PRESIDENT Sandra Boardman retired at the annual dinner of Glenorchy WRI at Glenorchy Lodge Hotel on April 28.

June Taylor presented Sandra with a beautiful bouquet. The three members with the most points for the monthly competitions were all within one point of each other, as competition throughout the year had been extremely close.

Patricia Villani won the Croggan Bowl and Helen Gibson won the MacIntyre Salver. June Taylor was third.



GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council has agreed to buy a seat at the new Oban Phoenix Cinema for £200.

The community council unanimously agreed to the donation at its meeting last Wednesday. The cinema group has to raise sufficient funds to buy the property by July 1.



Primary seven pupils at Barcaldine Primary School organised a 'Hats for Headway' day to support a brain injury patient from the village. Everyone was encouraged to wear a hat and bring in toys for recycling by selling on to classmates. Through this activity awareness was raised of brain injuries and their devastating effects. They raised £150, which will go to support the Brain Injury Unit where local man Allan Milne is now in rehabilitation.

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Play your part in Oban's celebrations

THE hard working organising committee behind this summer's Oban bicentennial celebrations has pulled off a real coup in securing the visit of the Princess Royal.

Princess Anne is well known as one of the hardest working members of the Royal family and her visit, on July 12, should ensure due prominence for the town's celebrations.

A full programme of events, to be held over 10 days, has been published and is now available.

This is a chance for Oban to show what a vibrant place it can be and it is important that everyone with an ounce of civic pride plays their part to the full.

To build or not?

AN interesting story cropped up this week which throws up an equally interesting question about our uninhabited islands.

Should they remain undeveloped and unspoilt? Or should buildings be allowed?

On the face of it, plans by the owner of Balnagowan, an island less than a mile off Cuil Bay, Duror, to build what is described as a bothy for his family's use may seem innocuous enough. But as one view points out, will this set a precedent for other uninhabited islands around the Highland coast?

Hitting the jackpot

CONGRATULATIONS to those who have hit the jackpot this week - both on the Postcode Lottery and our own Spot the Ball competition. In these straitened times, an extra pound or two comes in very handy!

GLASGOW LETTER

Duncan Chisholm and Friends

THE DUNCAN Chisholm concert in St Andrew's in the Square lived up to all its promise.

Duncan, who on this occasion was accompanied by Allan Henderson from Mallaig on fiddle and keyboard and Tony Byrne, from Dublin, on guitar, has played this venue several times and again delighted those present in the near capacity audience.

To date he has released four solo albums and the material for this concert was mainly taken from *Farrar*, released in 2008, and *Canaich*, released in 2010. This meant there was great variety with some newer tunes as well as the old favourites and in addition the international influence, particularly Duncan's love of the music of northern Spain. Where else would they compose a lullaby on the bagpipes but when played on this occasion the crowd were entranced and there would have been no problem in getting the baby to sleep!

Duncan Chisholm is the master of playing slow airs and somehow seems to produce a sound from the fiddle that very few can achieve. In Allan and Tony he had excellent accompanists, playing with extreme sensitivity, and between himself and Allan there was the usual banter which contributes so much to the fun and enjoyment of the evening.

As I have focussed on frequently in this column, there is more to performance than playing instruments. It is extremely important the audience becomes engaged in the proceedings and Duncan and Allan made sure that an informal fun mood was created from the outset.

This was the fourth concert of a 10-concert tour and so, with Inverness already sold out, the only west coast opportunity to savour this extravaganza of fiddle music is in Arisaig Hall on May 22. The good news, however, is that it is hoped the St Andrew's in the Square concert will become an annual event.

Scottish Pipe Band Championships

THE SCOTTISH Pipe Band Championships will take place at Leven Grove Park, Dumbarton, this coming Saturday, May 21, when all grades of bands will take part,

a total of more than 140 bands.

The park has proved to be an ideal setting for these championships and is an excellent location for those who live both north and south of the River Clyde to enjoy listening to some of the world's best pipe bands. Just note that it is this coming Saturday and do not make the same mistake as I did when I travelled there a week early! Old age! That's what happens when you don't pay attention to the Diary Dates.

Glasgow Skye Association

THE FIRST week in June will be a busy one for supporters of the Glasgow Skye Association. On Wednesday June 1 their AGM will take place in Partick Burgh Halls at 7.30pm and on Friday June 3 they are holding a social evening in the Redhurst Hotel, Eastwoodmains Road, Giffnock, at 7.30pm. This social replaces the bus run of previous years but it will have the same format with high tea followed by an informal ceilidh. The only difference is that you make your own way there.

Places, cost £12, must be reserved by contacting the secretary, Karen Campbell, on 01786 832278 by Monday May 30.

Diary dates

Thursday May 19: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Saturday May 21: Scottish Pipe Band Championships - see above. Highlander's Club, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm.

Sunday May 22: Finty Music Festival - Michael Marra.

Wednesday May 25: Paisley and District Highlander's Association AGM, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday May 26: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Rory MacLeod, Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes Secondary School, 7.30pm.

Saturday May 28: Edinburgh Argyle Association ceildh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

PNEUMATIC Drills will play in the Park Bar on Friday, Eriskay Lift on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn this weekend it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Telephone: 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.

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

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



Taynuilt memories from days gone by

Margo Macdonald of Oban submitted this week's flashback photo which shows Peter Campbell and his sisters at Taynuilt in days gone by. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Oban High School uniform

Sir, We totally disagree with the letter published in last week's *Oban Times* regarding school uniform.

School uniform has been in place in Oban High School for years, however, it is only in the past few years that a shirt and tie, black trousers or black skirt uniform has been enforced. It is only occasionally that a very small minority do not wear their uniform every day.

There are girls who adapt their uniform and this can often be done inappropriately. However, to say the school does nothing about it is unfair.

We see senior members of staff dealing with this issue by talking to pupils regularly about how they interpret the school dress code.

If a tie is missing, they are lent one until they get their own and the support base has spare shirts.

How much can we expect the school to do? Oban High School has such a huge catchment area, it would be insane to send children home to Dalmlally or Easdale, for example, to put on a longer skirt. They would miss a whole day of school.

On top of this, a girl can easily undo her shirt or lift her skirt higher as soon as a teacher has turned their back, especially when they leave the school grounds for lunch or after school.

We know plenty of girls who may wear a skirt that is slightly too short but they also have exceptionally good grades or excel in music or sport and are credits to themselves and the school.

Just because they wear a short skirt does not mean they don't focus on their education. It's a shame to waste time moaning about something so shallow, which is in fact dealt with daily, when these pupils contribute so much to the school.

Oban High School Senior Pupil Leadership Team.

Rubbish concern just the tip of the iceberg

Sir, Your reports concerning litter and rubbish disposal in last week's *Oban Times* are the tip of the iceberg.

The problems encountered by the council are self-inflicted. If rubbish is collected once a week it is absurd to assume the bins provided for weekly emptying will be able to hold enough for fortnightly collections.

A large bin was installed several years ago at Cuil Bay. This was accidentally destroyed by fire last summer. Frequent requests by the community council for a replacement were met by assurances that a new one would be provided. Eventually the council decided a new bin would not be provided but notices requesting visitors take their litter home and outlining the penalties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 should be erected instead.

Monitoring would be carried out by periodic inspections under the Local Environmental Audit Management System (LEAMS). These LEAMS assessments involve both self-evaluation by councils and independent audits by partner authorities and Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) which also consider complaints about litter through the council's

Customer Relations Management (CRM) system. Additional inspections would be made by the council's Education and Enforcement officer.

Litter will be dropped or be washed up by the sea in spite of notices. I would like to know what the LEAMS, KSB, CRM and other inspectors, if and when they come, will do with anything they see lying about. What use is a notice without a bin?

One problem facing the council is the nature of the litter. It seems they cannot dispose of certain types. So the Cuil Bay bin cannot be replaced because this type of litter might be in the Cuil Bay bin. The same type of litter, whatever it is, could just as easily go into the many small bins around the High Street and other places in Fort William. What happens to that? They must put it somewhere.

I feel a convincing case for not replacing the litter bin at Cuil Bay has not been made.

Kim Malcolm, Duror.

CHORD Project

I note with some concern, but no great surprise, the costs incurred and likely to be incurred on the CHORD project, as outlined in your article in last week's paper.

Since the original concept, a number of business cases, action plans and dossiers have been prepared for consideration by the project board, all of which appear to have concentrated on fantasies and pipe dreams, which sit comfortably along side other disastrous projects such as the Holyrood Building, Edinburgh Trams and another Forth Bridge crossing.

It is surely time for a pragmatic approach to embark on projects, which are sensible and achievable, and to abandon grand schemes which never get off the drawing board.

Argyll and Bute Council may well argue that the huge costs of these feasibility studies will not be funded by the council, but it is their responsibility to ensure that monies from whatever source are wisely spent and represent value for money.

This would appear not to be the situation to date.

P K Monteith, Ganavan Road, Oban.

On what planet does McCaig reside?

Sir, I normally treat McCaig's ridiculous assertions and puerile scribbling with a pinch of salt, although if memory serves me I did once write to you agreeing with him, and often enjoy laughing out loud at his view of this world that I always assumed we shared.

However I must question on what planet does he reside? Only a member of another world, or someone under the influence of mind altering substances which I seriously doubt he is, could state, as he did in this week's edition, that Nick Clegg 'has caused Scotland to lose one of its most competent politicians, Tavish Scott'.

Aye right, and Peter Pan was the best First Minister we never had! This is not Never Never Land, but Scotland which has been ill-served for decades by balloons, voted in by 'give a wheelie bin a Labour Rosette and we'll vote for it' numpties in the central belt, and their partners in crime 'We'll do anything for a ministerial car' Lib-Dems.

To suggest Tavish Scott is anything other than a mediocre

rosette carrier who has been the most inept leader ever for the Scottish Lib-Dems is truly unbelievable.

People throughout the whole of Scotland have at last woken up and have spoken at the ballot box. Surely it behoves the McCaigs of this world to put their gas at a peep for a wee while and see what supporting a national government voted in by the majority can achieve.

Jimmy Waugh, The Pits, 18 West Laroach, Ballachulish.

Keep up the pressure

Sir, We now have an unprecedented majority government in the Scottish Parliament.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) will continue to work hard to influence the Scottish Government to press the case of small businesses.

With a majority of constituency MSPs in Scotland belonging to one party, will the work of the regional list MSPs in opposition become increasingly important? Will debates at Holyrood just be for show, or will they shape government decisions and re-focus government plans?

With a parliamentary majority, the government should be on a sound footing to grapple with the challenges facing the Scottish economy. Top of the list should be allowing Scotland's small businesses to create the employment and economic growth the country so badly needs.

As with all of the main parties, the SNP was influenced by many aspects of the FSB's Scottish Election Manifesto. We will be pushing to ensure our main points aren't forgotten.

The government will retain the Small Business Bonus Rates Relief Scheme but, in a move that would benefit the local tourism economy, we ask them to develop it to give discounts to higher rated properties such as hotels.

We asked for support for one-man-bands and sole traders to take on their first employee, and the government has pledged £7.5 million of employment assistance to help our smallest businesses to do this.

We pressed for action on faster broadband and the SNP manifesto gives a commitment that next generation broadband will be available to everyone by 2020 with an early roll-out of super-fast broadband to rural communities a priority.

It's up to all of us to keep the pressure on the government to ensure its promises become a reality. The FSB will be doing what we can to ensure this happens.

Alan Parker, FSB branch vice chairman, Argyll and Islands.

Uplifted by campaign

Sir, I write to thank all readers who voted for me in the recent election and set Scotland on a new path.

I am proud and humble that so many have put their faith in me and I will strive to do my very best for everyone in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, including Dingwall, the Black Isle, Aird and Loch Ness, over the next five years.

We have many challenges to overcome in these difficult economic times but there is much we can do and I will ensure our voice is heard where it matters.

I enjoyed the campaign and was uplifted by the spirit of hope and optimism I met wherever I went.

We knocked on around 13,000 doors, which is only a third of the total in our huge and wonderful constituency, so I apologise if you did not get the chance to speak to me personally.

Please do get in touch if there is anything you think I can do to help with individual, community or national issues by phoning me at 01349 864701 or emailing dave.thompson.msp@scottish.government.tuk.

Dave Thompson MSP (SNP), Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch Constituency Office, Thorfin House, Bridgend Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9SL.

Election thanks

Sir, I would like to take the opportunity to thank people all over the Highlands who placed their trust in me in the Scottish Parliament elections last week. It means a lot to me, on what was a very tough night for the Scottish Liberal Democrats, that almost 10,000 people gave me their support - the largest Lib Dem vote in the country.

We didn't win this time, but I hugely enjoyed the chance to meet and speak to so many people right across our area about the future of the Highlands. Ours is surely the most beautiful constituency in the country, as well as the largest. Whatever their politics, people everywhere gave me a warm welcome. It remains a privilege to have had the chance to seek to represent them.

As a party, Lib Dems need to listen carefully to what people have told us. I don't believe we should walk away from the huge challenges of government at Westminster, but there are things we must do better to make the Liberal voice heard in the cabinet and in the country. The Highland mainland and Skye are without a Liberal voice in the Scottish Parliament for the first time, but the flame of Highland liberalism is not so easily extinguished. It is not carried mainly by MPs, MSPs or by candidates, but by thousands of Highlanders who share our values and our belief in the freedom and dignity of every individual.

Russell Johnston said that, when standing at the foot of a mountain shrouded in mist, the only way to discover the rewards of the summit is to begin to climb. That is what we will do - today and in the months to come.

Alan MacRae.

Pledge to stand again

Sir, I would like to say thank you to those who voted for me in the election on May 5. I polled twice as many votes as the last time which gives me encouragement to stand again at the next opportunity.

No McCaig, it is not an ego trip; I leave that to others who join a party to get themselves on a list for the buy one get one free vote.

I will be standing on the same premise as last time, that members of parliament are servants of the people and swear, and owe, allegiance to the people above all else. I would also like to say to the media that by deciding that only the four main parties should be heard, they were denying the very democracy that they claim we in this country have. Five hundred and forty two votes without the benefit of hustings or air time gives the lie to claims that what I and others have to say is irrelevant.

George Doyle, Easdale, by Oban.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THUG AN SLUAGH BREITH agus tha Riaghaltas ùr againn ann an Alba.

Ach leis a h-uile spèis dha Partaidh Naiseanta na h-Alba, cha do nochd ach beagan is leth de mhòr-shluagh na dùthcha airson bhòtadh anns an taghadh. Dè idir a chuireas impidh air daoine uallach a ghabhail airson cor na dùthcha gu ìre 's gun cleachd iad an còir a th' aca taghadh a dhèanamh airson riaghaltas.

Tha cuid a chanas gum b' fheàrr leotha gun bhòtadh idir seach taic a chur ri partaidh poilitigeach eile, ach 's e an duilgheadas le sin nach eil iad a' foillseachadh beachd ach dhaibh fhèin. Tha iad a' gabhail seòrsa de stiùir mar a dhèanadh paiste is chan eil iad a' "bruidhinn" ri luchd-poilitigs agus ri linn sin, chan eil an cuid bheachdan a' faotainn buaidh sam bith. Aig an aon àm, tha daoine le beachdan tur eadar-dhealichte a' nochdadh na tha iadsan a' creidsinn agus ge b' e dè cho annasach 's a dh' fhaodadh sin a bhith, tha an t-sàmhair air càch a' toirt cothrom foillseachaidh dha beachd na beag-chuid.

Nach bu mhath cinnt a bhith againn gur e beachd na beag-chuid a tha anns a' ghràin-thruabhail a tha a' nochdadh cho mòr an luib luchd-taice ball-coise ann an Alba an ceartuair. Gun teagamh, 's e masladh naiseanta a tha an seo dhan dùthaich agus ged a tha caochladh iomairtean air tòiseachadh thar nam bliadhnaichean agus cur às dha, tha e follaiseach nach eil sin air soirbheachadh. Theagamh ma-thà, gun toir na croin as ùire a th' air thachair spionnadh às ùr air luchd-cumhachd air gach taobh agus nach trèigear a' chùis chun an tèid cur às dhan aineolas seo gu tur. Bheir seo ùine agus ged a thèid a cheannsachadh agus fùt 's a chur à sealladh bidh cuid a leanas leis na beachdan fhad 's a bhios iad beò. Ach 's e a' chiad cheum toirt air daoine tuigsinn gur e cron mi-chneasta a th' ann agus gun tig e gu bhith na adhbhar nàire a bhith ris. Gabhaidh sin deanamh a cheart cho cinnteach 's a chaidh casg a chur air gràin-cinnidh follaiseach agus fùt 's smocadh, chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil cho beag ris an-diugh.

Ach buinidh an trìblaid dha Alba gu lèir agus feumaidh mòr-shluagh na dùthcha an t-uallach a ghabhail ma tha sinn dol a dh' fhaotainn smachd air!

DESPITE the resounding election result for the SNP only slightly more than half the electorate turned out for the Scottish Parliamentary Election. It is depressing evidence of apathy about the management of our country and all the policies that govern it, and a continuing challenge for political parties to motivate all the people to take sufficient interest to use their vote.

Eradication of the shame of sectarianism is another major challenge for all of the people of Scotland, and it will only be defeated if the majority publicly condemn it as the anti-social disgrace which it is!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Independence - not really wanted?

NOW THAT the SNP has come back down to earth, the realities of moving possibly from a devolved government to a fully autonomous one have begun to concentrate the party leaders' minds.

It is interesting to note Alex Salmond is claiming he knew that even with its own parliament and tax-raising powers and all the trimmings of being to all intents and purposes an independent state, there would have to be agreements and alliances with other sovereign states as there are between members of the European Union and NATO.

The membership of the latter, according to SNP current policy, would not be wanted but could well be advantageous when fully considered.

What has brought about Mr Salmond's easing of the fundamentals of the party policy is that all the sudden converts to 'Home Rule' are not really full independence seekers but are those fed up with the British (or Unionist) parties and a desire to give their leaders of right 'good kick' to their collective posteriors.

While there is a blind rage at Messrs Cameron, Clegg in particular, and Ed Miliband for various reasons as well as at their Scottish equivalent, there seems to be general acceptance that the SNP minority government has done a reasonable job and should be allowed another term with a clear majority to see how they get on, unfettered by constantly looking over their shoulders to ensure that they have support for their motion from at least one of the minor parties.

This has been especially true of their budgets which were rescued on one or more occasions by the Tories who did extract substantial concessions in return. That option is not now necessary as the new government has an overall majority and will plough their own furrow.

However, both Alex Salmond and John Swinney have said they won't be intransigent to all ideas put up by the opposition. After all, when the referendum does take place they will want to borrow a goodly number of Labour, Tory and Liberal Democrat votes to show there is a genuine desire for whatever type of 'independence' is on offer. Bearing that in mind, the Government cannot go for full independence and risk chasing away what might be described as 'floating voters' - the type who votes for whichever party will, they hope, do the best for them and devil take the good of the country as a whole!

Spend more money on roads

SOMETHING needs to be done urgently to help both drivers and pedestrians: fill in the gulleys that lie between the edge of the road surface and the embankment proper.

While it will be expensive to do, it is a necessity as hitting the hard edge and the verge, especially if it is muddy, is highly dangerous and cause the car to lose control and injure - often fatally - the pedestrian walking in the gully, yet nothing seems to be done.

Where are the leaders of the future?

GIVEN what I've just said, one essential drives that all the

McCaig

Head teachers welcome £40m school cash

FORT William head teachers have welcomed Highland Council's decision to agree a £40million funding package to complete refurbishment work at Lochaber High School (LHS) and build four new primary schools.

The new capital programme, agreed at a meeting in Inverness last Thursday, includes £11million to carry out Phase 3 of works to bring LHS, built in 1960, into the 21st century.

LHS head teacher Jim Sutherland described confirmation that the project's final stage would soon be underway as 'great news'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are delighted Phase 3 will be going ahead. It's a project that had to be done as part of the whole refurbishment of the school. We're still waiting for details of

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

how and when it will happen, but we're already working on designs for it.

'Phase 3 will tie the whole thing together, with the central block, the new library and the offices. And it will be good to have the much-needed refurbishment of the three-storey classroom block. We're really pleased it's all going ahead.'

A kitchen, dining area, a pupils' social area, staff rooms and disabled access are also pencilled in part of the Phase 3 works.

Contractors Morrison Construction completed Phase 2B of the 'Lochaber 21' project last month. Design work on Phase 3 is due to start later this year, with construction programmed to begin in 2012.

The multi-million pound package will see Lochside RC and Fort William RC primaries merged in a new building in Caol on a shared campus with a new Caol Primary School. A new £5million Gaelic medium primary school at Blar Mhor and an amalgamated Fort William/Upper Achintore school on Lundavra Road also form part of the school estate revamp.

Fort William Primary School head teacher Sue Commander told *The Oban Times* she feels the new arrangement will better serve the pupils but said she will be sad to see the old school go.

'In a way it's the end of an era,' she said. 'We're a happy wee school and people have a lot of feeling for this school. But basically, it's a very good thing.'

'I think with the state of the buildings and the falling rolls its bound to be a good thing. It's very hard to deliver a curriculum in a building that wasn't built for it. A bigger school with playing field will be better for everyone - it will be lovely to have a bit of grass around the place and a playing area for the children.'

Council leader Dr Michael Foxley said he plans to meet the Scottish minister for education as soon as possible to ask for an additional £2million grant towards the cost of the Gaelic school.



Stunning setting: Glenfinnan provides the perfect backdrop for Russian soprano Ilona Domnich on the Loch Shiel Festival's final night. 20. f20ilona01

Sweet sound of star Russian soprano fills church on festival's final night

RUSSIAN star soprano Ilona Domnich lit up Glenfinnan Church with a spellbinding rendition of classical songs to the music of Rachmaninov and Mahler on the final night of the Loch Shiel Spring Festival last Wednesday.

The 70-strong audience was captivated by the St Petersburg-born singer - who was equally blown away by Glenfinnan's stunning surroundings as she took in the evening air during the interval.

Ilona would be delighted to make a return to Lochaber after her first visit to this part of Scotland, she told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'Glenfinnan is wonderful. I went on a

cruise on Loch Shiel today and it was fabulous, very beautiful. Even the water I drank from a spring tasted wonderful!

'As I always do in Scotland, I found the audience very, very warm and at Glenfinnan they were particularly lovely.'

'I would love to come back again to the Loch Shiel Festival to sing. Throughout my life I have been to all different places around the world and I'm sure I will be back in Scotland.'

Ilona returned by train to London, where she is based, on the overnight sleeper last Thursday night.

Way ahead clears for major A82 road work

OBJECTIONS to vital improvements scheduled for the West Highlands' most important trunk road look set to be dropped, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Following a high level meeting at Bridge of Orchy, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority indicated its willingness to withdraw opposition to Transport Scotland's plans to widen the A82 at Pulpit Rock to two lanes - provided design improvements are made.

The notorious single-lane bottleneck near Ardlui, which has been controlled by traffic lights for almost 30 years, will see a new 400-metre section built by blasting into the rock and creating a parapetted viaduct along the loch shore.

The authority had condemned the original project as insensitive and urban, and demanded it be redesigned to minimise impacts on the scenic surroundings under a masterplan governing all planned improvements between Crianlarich and Tarbet.

The move prompted fears - especially from the Lochaber-based A82 Partnership - that the road would lose its place in the queue for government funding.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

But the Bridge of Orchy summit appears to have allayed the authority's concerns, raising hopes of a united front in the fight for A82 upgrades.

According to LLTNP director of planning Gordon Watson, the Pulpit Rock design engineers indicated a more sympathetic redesign was likely.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a very constructive meeting. There was a willingness to look at things in a more sensitive way. We were very encouraged and I suppose that's the reason for a more positive feeling about things moving forward.'

'The issue that we have had is that Transport Scotland look at specific projects, rather than looking at the entire corridor as a fantastic tourist route with stop offs and view points.'

'At the end of the day it is about realising the value of the route for tourism in Scotland and as a vital link to the Highlands.'

'We are waiting for [the engineers] to come back with revisions and once we have those

we will be in a position to formally withdraw our objections if they are what we are expecting.'

The meeting also agreed the urgent need to commission a £200,000 road alignment study to guide design work on projects to strengthen and widen the 10-mile Loch Lomondside section.

A82 Partnership chairman and Highland Council transport committee vice convener, Councillor Brian Murphy, welcomed the Pulpit Rock breakthrough.

He said: 'Reaching agreement on the priority for upgrading this road is an important step forward. Hopefully we can make early progress in awarding a design contract.'

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley added: 'This is a major breakthrough after two years of pressure on Transport Scotland for it to take place.'

'I was delighted that the National Park Authority said they intend to withdraw their objection to the proposed improvements at Pulpit Rock if we take on board the environmental sensitivities involved in the design of the upgrade, including lay-bys, cycle tracks and structures.'



New trust officer

Arisaig Community Trust has appointed local woman Alison Stewart, above, as its development officer. Ms Stewart's first task will be to organise a community consultation on what projects residents feel should be included in a development plan for the village. It is hoped the plan, as a declaration of community intent, will be capable of attracting major funders.

Fire service counts the cost of wildfires

HIGHLANDS and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (HIFRS) say the recent spate of wildfires may have cost the area £26million after 9,100 hectares of vegetation cover, including 3,200 hectares of forestry, was destroyed.

As well as the cost to the fire service, the estimate includes the environmental impact, the cultural and heritage costs and the impact on business, including tourism. HIFRS chief fire officer Trevor Johnson praised the work his men had carried out during the period from April 29 to May 5.

He said: 'The fires we have experienced presented a significant threat to firefighters who often had to work in very difficult terrain. To maintain firefighting operations, almost 1,800 firefighters had to be deployed.'

'I hope planning to more effectively fight future fires will be improved.'



Narrow escape for Lochaber cyclists at death crash corner

A GROUP of Lochaber cyclists were almost thrown from their bikes on Saturday at the same corner which claimed the lives of two Lochaber youngsters.

The 10 West Highland Wheelers were returning to Fort William on their 82-mile circuit via Strontian and Acharacle when they hit a sheet of mud and stones on the A830 near Lochailort.

Their narrow escape was at Rannachan bend, a notorious accident blackspot where local youngsters Kirsty Bryden and Roddy MacInnes skidded into Loch Eilt last September.

One of the cyclists, Fort William man Peter Berry, told *The Oban Times* the roadside looked like it had been churned up by the wheels of a passing lorry, and the road was almost too dangerous to pass.

He said: 'We were coming back

from Acharacle, and as we came round the corner we saw that a lorry had obviously gone off the road slightly and thrown up lots of mud.'

'It had thrown mud and big stones right across the left hand carriageway and onto the other side, and the bikes started to wobble.'

'We were sliding just on our bikes so I don't know what the cars would have been doing.'

Kirsty's father John predicted in *The Oban Times* in March that the bend would remain dangerous - despite new crash barriers.

Lorries meeting on the narrow road, he said, would be forced onto the verge to avoid a collision, churning slippy mud onto the roadway.

'The barrier will stop people dying in the water, but it will not stop them dying until this road is improved,' he said.



Will Month charity cash boost

More than £5,000 has been raised during Will Month, when solicitors in the town helped to make wills in exchange for a donation to charity. The charity to benefit this year was Friends of Oban Hospice and Mary Black and Catherine Carswell were on hand to collect the cheque. Organised by MacPhee and Partners, Will Month was also supported by law firms DM MacKinnon and Stevenson Kennedy throughout March. All the solicitors thanked their clients for their kind donations.

08_120cheque01

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, May 16, 1991



Resource centre running at less than half capacity

COMMUNITY groups in Oban are being shut out of a new resource centre because of a lack of money to appoint staff.

The Lorne Resource Centre, on Soroba Road, has been locked up from 5pm since September because a caretaker has yet to be appointed to operate the security system.

And a caretaker cannot be appointed until a new manager is installed.

Only two instructors are employed at the centre instead of seven and acting manager, Joan Scott, is doing the jobs of three people.

The building, which cost more than £1m, is running to half its capacity with 23 clients when it can cater for 60. It is equipped with the latest brain and sensory stimulating equipment in an optokinetic room for profoundly disabled clients.

The latest woodwork equipment cannot be utilised until a teacher is put into the post, although Mrs Scott ensures clients use kits.

Mrs Scott came to the centre as senior instructor for special needs in October, but had to take over in November, when manager Jim Hulme retired. Until a new manager is in post other appointments have been put on hold.

4,000-year-old skeleton found at hospital site

THE crooked skeleton of a 4,000-year-old human being was discovered in a small stone grave at a new hospital site in Campbeltown.

Thought to be of the early Bronze Age, the skeleton was accompanied in the grave at Limecraigs, by a food vessel which could contain traces of food or drink.

The dry soil had preserved the bones in remarkably good condition.

The bones of the arms, legs and ribs are discernible and the skull, though in pieces, shows clearly the sutures, an ear orifice and cheekbone.

The grave was discovered by Edward Brodie, of McFadyen's Contractors while using a JCB to clear the new hospital site.

When the digger struck stone, he was immediately suspicious but not quick enough to stop one of the side slabs caving in on top of the remains.

With help, he dragged off the top slab and carefully lifted out all the bones and pieces of pottery, reserving the soil for closer examination by archaeologists.

Dr Alison Sheridan and Teo Skinner, from the National Museums of Scotland, set off for Campbeltown on hearing of the discovery.

Oban Coastguard Station is given a new look

OBAN'S Coastguard station is undergoing a major £250,000 overhaul.

Old radio equipment at Boswell House is being thrown in a skip and replaced with modern computer networks.

Information can now be gleaned at the touch of a button instead of using a cumbersome switchboard.

Rescue search plans, which normally take an hour-and-a-half, now only take a few minutes.

The equipment allows for further expansion unlike the old system and with an increasing amount of sea traffic every year, the overhaul was crucial.

'Every year we get more and more yachts, fishing boats from the east and west and every few years a new marina opens up,' said district controller Spike Hayward.

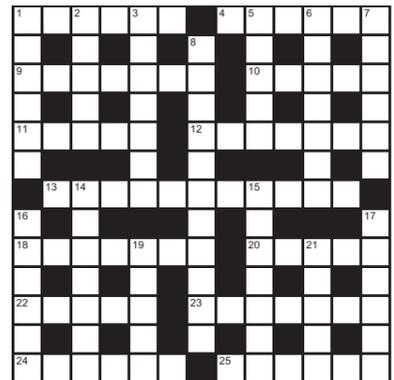
In fact, the changeover is only the first of many. Data retrieval computers will be installed in February, which means everything will be totally computerised.

The new system means senior coastguard officer Bill Smith is directly connected to the police and coastguard HQ in Clyde.

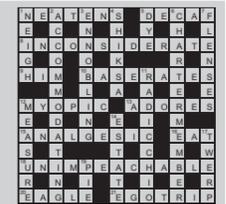
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across
- Fill up (6)
 - Did before (4,2)
 - Grassland (7)
 - Small amount united in teamwork (5)
 - Parting word (5)
 - Descriptive name (7)
 - All ignorant of treatment used in testing... (6,5)
 - ...where to purchase treatments (7)
 - Before middle age (5)
 - Instrument of self assurance? (5)
 - Unending (7)
 - Dirty (6)
 - One who can be a puzzle (6)

- Down
- Child without parents. (6)
 - American animal similar to a raccoon (5)
 - Worry (7)
 - Fish dish (5)
 - French prince (7)
 - Strange item (6)
 - Worshipful (11)
 - Mint family member (7)
 - Place (3,4)
 - Cooler (3,3)
 - Kampala is its' capital (6)
 - Small picture within a larger one (5)
 - Employing (5)



Last week's solution



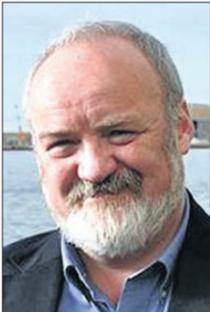
Skye and Lochaber volunteers to be honoured

CHEST Heart and Stroke Scotland is to mark National Volunteers Week from June 1-7 by presenting certificates to its volunteer team in Skye and Lochaber.

The charity's volunteer stroke service helps local people left with communication difficulties following a stroke.

Local co-ordinator Irene Kay, who runs weekly groups in Broadford and Portree, said the volunteers were 'a very special band of people'.

Her counterpart in Lochaber, Judy O'Rourke, who runs similar groups in Mallaig and Fort William, said: 'We couldn't do it without them.'



Calum Davidson: new post at HIE.

New senior natural energy post at HIE

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has created a new senior post to spearhead its efforts to capitalise on the region's natural energy resources.

Calum Davidson, HIE's former head of key sectors, has been appointed director of energy and low carbon.

Mr Davidson, from Cromarty, is tasked with ensuring the region can derive the maximum economic and community benefits from its huge renewable energy potential.

He said: 'The Highlands and Islands has some of the best renewable energy resources in Europe. However, these resources on their own won't deliver economic growth, the energy sources are here, we want the jobs to be here too.'



Tanya and Allan Ross receiving a cheque for £4,555 for the Harris Ross Fund. Also pictured are sponsor Ian Johnston, left, 'Jambo' Duncan and Harris's granddad Jimmy Ross. 10_12090101

Golfers tee up thousands for Harris Ross Fund

THE SECOND annual Harris Ross Memorial charity golf competition again attracted large numbers to Fort William Golf Club on Sunday, and matched last year's fundraising total of around £4,500 for the STAR (Supporting Treatment and Awareness Raising) for Harris Ross Fund.

The Texas Scramble competition attracted 171 golfers from as far afield as Aberdeen, Glasgow and Oban, as well as a number of

locals. Out of the 57 teams taking part, it was Fort William men Kevin Hickman, Billy MacInnes and Stuart Steel who won the tournament.

Corpach baby Harris lost his long battle with a brain tumour last year, aged just 15 months. His parents Tanya and Allan set up the fund to try and raise awareness of the early symptoms of childhood and teenage cancer. Tanya told *The Oban Times* the day had been

'a great success' and thanked everyone who took part. She said: 'We are delighted at how the local community continues to support Harris in helping his legacy make a difference, as obviously without the donations and publicity, we'd make much less of an impact in highlighting the need for childhood cancer awareness and helping with the current treatment for the many children battling this gruelling and cruel disease.'



Jasper and Lucas Calum Gillespie pictured with the quad lambs they helped feed on their uncle Donald MacDonald's croft at Staffin.

Young Skye holidaymakers help uncle feed quad lambs

IT WAS a busy holiday in north Skye recently for Jasper and Lucas Calum Gillespie.

Staying in Glas Pheighinn - one of 23 townships in Staffin - they witnessed lambs being delivered on their uncle Donald MacDonald and auntie Sine Ghillebuig's croft at Glais a Lochain.

The children were willing helpers when it came to bottle-feeding - which was just as well when, for the first time ever, one of Donald's Cheviot crosses delivered quad lambs!

The ewe is a diligent mother with plenty of milk.' Sine told *The Oban Times*. 'Only one of the quads now takes a bottle.'

New Fort FC manager takes charge

FORT William FC played their last game of the season last night against Nairn County at Claggan Park with new manager Danny Conlon in charge for the first time.

Outgoing boss Calum MacLean bowed out with a 3-1 win over Turriff on May 7 as Conlon watched from the sidelines. A victory would see Fort leapfrog fellow Highland League strugglers Strathspey Thistle, who play Nairn in their final fixture on Saturday.

Lochyside man's sword attack trial abandoned

Key witness fails to show up

THE TRIAL of a Lochyside man accused of attacking another man with two Samurai swords was abandoned after a key witness failed to show up.

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

Fourteen jurors were sent home on the third day of the trial of Edward Richardson, after prosecution witness David MacLeod failed to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court for the second day in a row. Sheriff Douglas Small gave Procurator Fiscal Simon Crabb six months to re-schedule the trial.

Sheriff Small had issued an arrest warrant for the 37-year-old MacLeod, but police were unable to trace him.

The case was originally to be held in March but 40 potential jurors were sent home when two other key witnesses - Michael Judge, the victim of the attack, and John Murphy - did not appear.

Giving evidence on day one of the trial, MacLeod claimed not to remember the alleged sword incident and said he had never met Mr Richardson.

Sheriff Small warned the witness he could face prison for contempt of court if he continued to avoid answering the fiscal's questions.

He said: 'It seems clear to me you are deliberately avoiding giving answers to questions when you perfectly well know what the answers are.'

The trial was adjourned and MacLeod told to come back the following day, but when the court reconvened there was no sign of him.

Before Mr MacLeod's evidence, the jury heard from Mr Judge. After initially claiming to have no memory of the night, he admitted he had gone to Mr Richardson's house with four friends and knocked on the door.

He said: 'He had two Samurai swords and he was standing in front of me. As Eddie

[Richardson] lifted his arm, my friend picked up a bit of wood and he tried to hit him with it as Eddie hit me with the sword.'

'He swung it at me and I put my hand up to protect myself. The sword went right through my jacket and jumper and into my elbow.'

Mr Judge described the swords as being 75cms long with black handles. He and his friends ran back to their car then heard the roof being struck with one of the swords.

Mr Richardson denies assaulting Mr Judge by striking on the arm with a sword to his injury in the garden of 49 Castle Drive on February 11 last year.

The 37-year-old also denied conducting himself in a disorderly manner by brandishing two swords and striking a car, placing the occupants of the car in a state of fear and alarm, causing a breach of the peace. He also pled not guilty to having an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

Township welcomes Gaelic learners

A TOWNSHIP in the north end of Skye is to open its doors to Gaelic learners this summer as part of an outreach project with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

From June 13-17, people wishing to improve their spoken Gaelic will have the chance to converse with local Gaelic speakers from Flodigarry in a five-day programme of cultural and community based activities.

Daily tours of the scenic area, visits to sights of special historical interest and a look at the traditions and current practices of the local crofting community will also feature.

Gaelic poet and writer Maolios Campbell will lead workshops in creative writing, poetry and the short story, along with a study of the local dialect.

Locals with specialist knowledge in palaeontology and the place names of North Skye will also lead discussions.

Short course leader at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Alasdair MacKay said: 'This course is ideal for anyone wishing to reach fluency in Gaelic who may have, for one reason or another, reached a plateau and would like the chance to speak Gaelic in a natural, day to day, manner.'

Dentures on your doorstep

A Denture designer came back to his roots when he opened a Denture studio in Oban last year.

John McIntosh has been hand crafting high quality cosmetic dentures for more than 40 years when the call of the west coast brought him back to Oban.

John's Ancestors were originally from Kilniver/Kilmelford and were employed in the Gun Powder factory there which blew up in 1867. The family then moved to Furnace on Loch Fyne to work in the Gun Powder factory there. That factory also blew up in 1883 and the family moved again to Kames/Tighnabruich where his Great Grandfather worked in the Gun Powder factory at Millhouse which blew up in 1921. His Grandfather left Tighnabruich in 1896 to settle in Glasgow. One of his ances-

tors Duncan McIntosh wrote a haunting poem after returning to see the grave yard at Angel Hill, Kilniver.

"Green Angel hill, of lovely pose, Near where dark euchar swiftly flows, Amongst Kilniver's bonnie knowes, Towards loch Feochan's peaceful shores"

an extract from Angel Hill by Duncan McIntosh

A full copy of Angel Hill can be read in John's shop Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Dentures in Combie Street.

'The shop is busy - we had a good first winter in the town.' John has a reputa-



tion for producing exceptional work as hundreds of his clients will testify. In an emergency situation he can make new dentures in the same day and is also able to do Denture repairs in 30 minutes. The Denture studio also designs Chrome/Co-balt Denture bases which are virtually unbreakable. They can also design Dentures using porcelain teeth which are

the nearest to natural teeth as possible. He was indeed the top student at Langside college in Glasgow when he qualified as a Dental Technician in 1976. As oral cancer is a problem in the West of Scotland John is keen to point out the benefits of good dental care. He said: 'I would encourage everyone to visit a dental surgeon at least once a year. There

is no substitute for having a good oral check to rule out any problems.' However, he continued: 'There is no need to visit a dental surgeon for Dentures to be made as Dentist's don't actually make the Dentures. It makes all the difference for the person who is making the teeth to meet the person who is needing them done.'

Motor rally team helps spread the word on new Mallaig marina

A MOTOR rally team with Mallaig connections is helping spread the word about the fishing port's development as a yachting marina.

Iain and Calum MacLeod, of MacLeod Rally Sport, who spent their formative years in the Lochaber port, have offered to publicise the new marina on the company rally cars.

The brothers' Lewis-born father Alick was in charge of Mallaig's freezing factory in the 1960s and '70s, when herring and mackerel landings were plentiful supply. Iain, 54, who runs his own Snap On Tools business in Paisley, and Germany-based Calum, 53, who is chief executive officer of the Royal Aero Group, still keep an eye and ear out for the place they grew up in.

So when they heard Mallaig was seeking to build a marina to counter a sharp decline in the fishing industry, the brothers offered to publicise the development for free.

Last weekend their Ford Fiesta ST, adorned with the words Mallaig Marina, made its first appearance when Calum's son Ruary, a final year student in Glasgow, competed in the Pirelli International Rally at Carlisle.

Calum said: 'Having grown up in Mallaig it is still very close to our hearts with great memories in the MacLeod family, so we were proud to have Mallaig Marina adorning my son Ruary's rally car competing in the British Rally Championship.'

'It was also nice to educate people in England where Mallaig was and put it on their map. We all wish the new marina success.'

Mallaig Harbour Authority manager Robert MacMillan said he was 'delighted' the MacLeod team was revving up the port's advertising drive.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's great that they are willing to give something back to the village by publicising our new marina. It's a great gesture.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Ruary MacLeod in action in the Pirelli International Rally in his Ford Fiesta ST - complete with its Mallaig Marina livery.

Music school announces tour dates

THE NATIONAL Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton has announced dates for its 2011 whole school tour.

Venues include the Scottish Music Centre and St Andrew's in The Square in Glasgow, and the Tolbooth in Stirling. It is hoped one other date will be added before the students perform their final concert at Plockton High School.

The concerts will feature all 24 students in six bands, who will also play together as an ensemble in a powerful finale at each venue.

NCETM director Dougie Pincock said: 'The centre teaches accordion, clarsach, fiddle, pipes, piano, guitar, whistle, flute, and Scots and Gaelic song, and all of these will feature strongly on the programme. There are a few other instruments involved as well, though. All of the youngsters are multi-talented and are not restricted to playing purely traditional instruments, so there really is something for everybody in the show.'

Many students are already well known amongst their peers and have performed at Celtic Connections, The Ironworks, and in support to such acts as the Donnie Munro Band and Andy Irvine. The players will also do schools workshops as part of the tour.

Performance details are: Monday June 20, 7pm - Scottish Music Centre; Tuesday June 21, 7pm - St Andrew's in The Square; Wednesday June 22, 7.30pm - The Tolbooth; Saturday June 25, 7.30pm - Plockton High School.

Shores of Loch Sunart rock to festival sounds of traditional Scottish music

THE SHORES of Loch Sunart were rocking last weekend to the sounds of traditional Scottish music as bands from across the country converged on Strontian for WestFest 2011.

Big name bands such as Wolfstone and Skerryvore played on a covered stage next to the Strontian Hotel before hundreds of enthusiastic fans. Local band RSN Workforce got the festival underway on Friday night.

Festival organiser Michelle Rundle said the three-day event had been a great success - despite less than ideal weather conditions. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a

huge family event, with kids of all ages and the music was fantastic.'

'The weather put a bit of a dampener on things, and I think it might have put off some of the campers. But everybody was really impressed with the whole festival and the bands were all saying they would like to come back and play again next year.'

'More than 600 people attended, not including large numbers of children who were allowed in for free.'

'It was a real family event,' Michelle told *The Oban Times*. 'There were lots of under 18s about all weekend, and it was nice to see wee kids

dancing round the pub when the bands were playing.'

Michelle said the two performances of Kinlochleven band The Shine provided some memorable highlights.

'They didn't have a great slot on Saturday at 1pm when people were still arriving,' she said.

'But when they played on Sunday, the pub was packed and they rocked the place. We've started calling them the 'Highland Beatles'. They've got a huge range of covers, from Kings of Leon, to Oasis, to the Cranberries, and they knew just how to pitch their music to suit the mood.'

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Strong demand for all classes of cattle at sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 727 store cattle, 61 OTM cattle and two adult head of breeding cattle at last week's Dingwall sale, with all classes of cattle meeting an excellent demand similar to the previous sale, with grazing and quality types selling particularly well.

Bullocks averaged 193.1p and sold to 239.3p per kilo for a 305kg Limousin cross from Dowally Farm, Ballinluig, and £1,050 for a pen of 551kg Charolais crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Heifers averaged 181.5p and sold to 241.0p per kilo for a pen of 390kg Simmental crosses from Tullochgribban Mains, Dulnain Bridge, and £970 for a 590kg Charolais cross from Croft Na Creich, North Kessock.

Young bulls sold to 178.3p

per kilo and £445 gross for a 325kg Simmental cross from 17 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew.

Breeding Bulls sold to £930 for a Beef Shorthorn bull from 83 Torbreck, Lairg.

OTM cows averaged 133.1p and sold to 161.5p per kilo for a 715kg Limousin cross from Torgorm and £1,305 for a 915kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Braelangwell, Balblair.

OTM clean bullocks and heifers averaged 145.2p and sold to 166.9p per kilo for a 680kg Charolais cross heifer from Torgorm, and £1,135 for a 680kg Charolais cross heifer also from Torgorm.

OTM bulls averaged 119.1p and sold to 134.6p per kilo for a 1,185kg Limousin from Milldam, Meikle Ussie, and £1,595 gross for a 1185kg Limousin, also from Milldam.

Well bred ewes with lambs prove popular

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,115 store, breeding and feeding sheep at its Dingwall sale last week, where all classes of sheep met a strong enquiry, with well bred ewes with lambs selling extremely well.

Lambs averaged £70.35 and sold to £103.00 for Crosses from Tullochgribban, Dulnain Bridge, while ewes averaged £78.95 and sold to £129 twice for Texel crosses from Wester Moy, Urray

and Little Kildrummie, Nairn.

Feeding sheep averaged £83.87 and sold to £126 for Suffolk ram from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall.

Ewes with lambs at foot averaged £117.38 and sold to £160 twice for a Mule ewe with twin lambs at foot from 5 Tomich, Beauly and

Cheviot ewes with cheviot lambs at foot from 13 Diabeg, Torridon.

Scotland is the best for farmed salmon

SCOTTISH salmon has been named 'best farmed salmon in the world' in a poll of international seafood buyers from leading retail and food service companies.

One of the world's leading seafood publications, Seafood International, asked 20 buyers from 10 countries to pick the best farmed salmon producing country based on superior taste, quality and appearance.

Scottish salmon topped the poll with seven votes, Norway was second with six and Canada was third with two.

The results of the survey were announced at the European Seafood Exposition, the world's largest seafood show.

Scott Landsburgh, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation, said: 'It has been a great week for Scottish farmed salmon.'



Scott Landsburgh, the chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation.

'It was served to 350 guests in Buckingham Palace at the Royal Wedding, export demand is up 20 per cent to a record level and, now, our farmed salmon has been voted

the best in the world.'

Jain Sutherland, senior key industries manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'We are delighted that Scottish salmon,

farmed in the waters of the Highlands and Islands, has again received international acclaim.

'The buyers' vote of confidence at ESE and Loch Duart's much coveted Special Award for Best Seafood Product Line are hugely valuable.'

Quality

'Scotland is already the largest producer of farmed salmon in the EU and the private and public sector are working together to ensure we take best advantage of the growing market demand for our high quality products.'

Held in Brussels, ESE attracted over 24,000 visitors from 140 countries. Nineteen seafood companies exhibited on a Scottish Pavilion, promoting the vision of Scotland as 'The Land of Food and Drink'. Several other salmon companies exhibited at the show independently.

Third spring sale of cattle at Islay mart

UNITED Auctions held their third spring sale of all classes' cattle at Islay Auction Mart. Some 238 head were sold, with the entry of grazing cattle consisting more of younger ages and sold at rates

comparing favourably to current mainland values.

The sale included the dispersal of the Ardfin, Isle of Jura, Breeding Cows which sold readily.

Bullocks sold to £730 for

Charolais crosses from Aoradh Farm and to 217pence per kilo, also Charolais crosses from 9 Mansfield (McArthur). Heifers from Ardfin Estate sold to £800 for Simmental crosses and to

195pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Aoradh Farm.

Heifers with calf at foot from Ardfin Estate sold to £1700 and Cows with Calf at foot from the same home sold to £1600.

STIRLING

United Auctions

Bullocks
Up to 250kg - Catslackburn £470, Carlenrig 213p; 251-300kgs - West Auchencroft £630, 217.4p; 301-350kgs - Nethererton £745, 230.7p; 351-400kgs - Nethererton £850, Caberston 221.8p; 401-450kgs - Braendam £865, greenyards 206.5p; 451-500kgs - Ardgate £950, Braendam 199.8p; 501-550kgs - Breconhill £1020, 190.5p; 551-600kgs - Breconhill £1130, 189p; 601-650kgs - Castle £1110, 172.9p.

Heifers
Up to 250kgs - Anston £450, 186.7p; 251-300kgs - Nethererton £570, 220.9p; 301-350kgs - Caberston £710, 215.2p; 351-400kgs - Udstonhead £775, Nethererton 212.3p; 401-450kgs - Nethererton £800, 184.1p; 451-500kgs - Wester Aldie £890,

188.2p; 501-550kgs - Catslackburn £930, 181.6p; 551-600kgs - Knockallan £955, Gateside 165p.

Young Bulls
Up to 250kgs - Brownmuir £470, 193.3p; 251-300kgs - Coalheughglen £560, 197.7p; 301-350kgs - Braendam £650, Naemoor 200p; 351-400kgs - Stockholm £770, Coalheughglen 211p; 401-450kgs - Mains of Beath £860, 203.8p; 451-500kgs - Mains of Beath £880, 188p; 551-600kgs - Craigmaddie Muir £860, 155.8p; 601-650kgs - Airthrey Kerse £1180, 183.2p.

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland

Marts
Bullocks
201-250kg - Drumgask, Laggan,

£555, 225.6p; 251-300kg - Calrossie, Nigg, £640 - Morvich, Rogart 225.0p; 301-350kg - Wester Lochend, Inverness, £790, 225.7p; 351-400kg - Clashinglash, Ardgay, £900, Achavraat, Nairn, 235.1p; 401-450kg - Wester Tomloan, £940, 229.3p; 451-500kg - Wester Tomloan, £945, 207.7p; 501-550kg - Torgorm, £975, 191.2p; 551-600kg - Easter Craggach, Kirkhill, £980, 34 Midtown, Inverasdale, 223.1p; over 601kg - Dowally Farm, £960, 158.7p.

Heifers
251-300kg - Dunain Mains, Inverness, £640, 216.2p; 301-350kg - Chapelark Farm, Kingussie, £700, Eilburn, Conon Bridge, 229.5p; 351-400kg - Tullochgribban Mains, £940, Torgormack, 224.4p; 401-450kg - Torgorm, £860, Wester Tomloan, Ardclach, 197.7p; 451-500kg - Tullochgribban Mains, £930, 199.1p; 501-550kg - Dowally Farm, £900, 169.8p;

551-600kg - Achlain Estates, Glenmoriston, £890, Croft Na Creich, 164.4p.

ISLAY

United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £675 & £585(10) - Craigfad; CharolaisX: £730 - Aoradh Farm; GallowayX: £575 - Dunlossit Estate; LimousinX: £650 - Aoradh Farm; £645(2) - Glenegeedale Lotts (I Bell); £590 - Craigfad.

Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: £590 - Aoradh Farm; £585(2) - Craighens; CharolaisX: £755 - Craigfad; £745 - Aoradh Farm; £600 - Craigfad; LimousinX: £765 - Gartacharra; £700, £685 & £630(2) - Sunderland Farm; £590(2) - Aoradh

Farm; SimmentalX: £800, £775, £770(3), £685(3) & £665(2) - Ardfin Estate; £640 - Crackaig, Jura; £635(2) & £615 - Ardfin Estate.

Breeding Cattle
Heifers with calves at foot: £1700, £1600, £1550, £1500(2), £1300 & £1150 - Ardfin Estate; Cows with Calves at foot: £1600, £1500, £1450, £1400(2), £1250, £1200(2), £1150, £1100(2) & £1050 - Ardfin Estate, Jura.

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 215p - Greanan. CharolaisX: 217p - 9 Mansfield; 196p - 14 Mansfield. LimousinX: 193p - Aoradh Farm.

Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: 186p - Aoradh Farm. LimousinX: 195p - Aoradh Farm; 188p - 14 Mansfield SimmentalX: 188p - 14 Mansfield.

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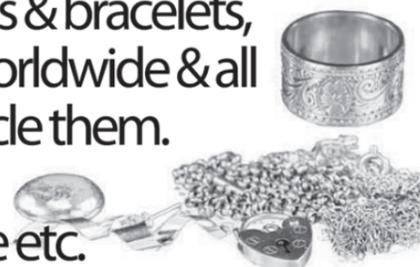


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CD review

Fiddlers' Bid - All Dressed In Yellow
Fiddlers' Bid are internationally respected as leading exponents of their rich fiddle tradition, and are global ambassadors for Shetland. Since forming in 1991, they have established an identity as a unique band with a harmonious and almost symphonic sound developed through many years of playing together. This 'musical tornado' have connected with audiences worldwide. Energetic and passionate yet precise - let it uplift and transport you to the rugged Shetland Islands. Andrew Gifford, Chris Stout, Maurice Henderson, Kevin Henderson (fiddles), Catriona McKay (harp, piano), Jonathan Ritch (bass) and Fionan De Barra (guitar). Recorded at British Grove in London, with Calum Malcolm as engineer and co-producer with the band.



Old Songs And Bothy Ballads - Hurrah Boys Hurrah
Recordings from the Fife Traditional Singing Festival in May 2010, held near Colleslie in the rural heart of the ancient kingdom of Fife. Songs from Jeff Warner, Phyllis Martin, Geordie Murison, Sheila Stewart, Terry Conway, Chris Coe and Annie Dearman, Jimmy Hutchison, Jill Pidd, Joe Aitken, Peter Shephard, Danny Couper and Carol Anderson.



Annlug - November
Annlug's music is a mixture of Norwegian Folk Music and her own compositions, all within an influence of folk/roots and pop/rock. Her great fascination of music from the British Isles has taken her on frequent journeys across the North Sea to explore, learn and take part in the music from Scotland and the northern isles. This is her debut album, recorded in Scotland. Her musical versatility is evident in the diversity of styles. Rock, Americana, folk and traditional flavours are married beautifully in this album. The songs are in the native tongue of her picturesque home village of Ulvik, on a fjord inland from Bergen, but she has provided a lyric booklet translated into English.



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Taynuilt ballet group embarks on tour of China

A group of 60 dancers from the Taynuilt-based Ballet West company has arrived in China for a six-week tour during which they will perform Romeo and Juliet. The group, led by the company's principal Gillian Barton, includes students of Ballet West's BA course in ballet and dance.



Large crowds expected at SAMS open day

Something for all to see and do

THE SCOTTISH Association for Marine Science (SAMS) open days have become a real crowd pleaser over the past few years, attracting between 500 and 800 people to the impressive research and teaching centre next to Dunstaffnage Castle. This year's open day - on Saturday May 28 from 11am to 4pm - will be a day to explore the marine environment and is aimed at all the family with science and technology displays, talks, games, competitions, art activities, a visit to research vessel Calanus and

face-painting among other things. As there is no Festival of the Sea in Oban until next year, visitors will be able to try their hands at canoeing with Stramash - for booking info see www.sams.ac.uk. Visitors can step aboard Oban lifeboat, or watch local theatre group the Three Wee Crows perform a new drama called Cauldron of the Speckled Seas - tales and legends from the lochs and seas of Lorn. The open day will be the first public opportunity to visit SAMS' new education building. Entry is free but donations are very welcome.

Other stands will be provided by Glensanda, the GRAB Trust, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, BioMara, local biotech companies Glycomar and AquaPharm, Lochawe boat safety group and Waterstones. Lorn Food and Crafts Market will be setting up stall with Celtic art, jewellery and scarves and local food on sale.

Oban bicentennial brochure unveiled

AMBITIOUS plans to celebrate Oban's Bicentennial are under way with the launch of a brochure outlining a host of events.

More than 50 activities are planned over 10 days in July during which the town will welcome some of the biggest bands in Scotland, play host to a Royal Visit and attempt the biggest Highland Dance.

Businesses and charities from all over the town have got together to put on a display for town's folk and visitors.

Argyll and Bute's provost, William Petrie, of Argyll and Bute, said: 'It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Oban on its bicentenary.'

'For me, Oban represents so much.'

'It is a centre for business, the first mainland port of call for many of our island communities and known as the Gateway to the Isles and an important tourist hub for many thousands of people every year from both home and further afield.'

'It's easy to see why people

come to Oban and in this, your bicentenary year, what better reason can you have to visit!

'When I think of Oban, my first thought goes to McCaig's tower, dominating the skyline, for me the true hallmark of the town. But Oban is so much more.'

'It is traditional fused with modern.'

'I hope that everyone living in or visiting Oban enjoys the bicentenary celebrations and on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council I wish the town all the best for the next 200 years.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved in this historic event and support the bicentenary celebrations happening between July 9-18.'

'Over the 10 days there will be a series of wonderful moments appealing to all ages including the rededicating ceremony on July 12.'

'I would appeal to Obanites far and wide to participate in this wonderful celebration.'

Singing Kettle promises farmyard fun during Oban performance

THE SINGING Kettle is coming to Oban and promising plenty of farmyard fun.

The popular family theatre group will be calling at the Corran Halls on Saturday May 21 at 2pm with their show, Funny Farm.

The Singing Kettle's Cilla Fisher said: 'We are glad we were able to bring the show to Oban for what is now an annual visit.'

'We always get a great welcome at the Corran Halls. We're encouraging the audience to dress as a farmyard animal, so there may be a few cows, sheep and pigs

roaming in the town this week!'

The show has a host of new songs like Little Red Tractor and Yummy Vegetables as well as all time favourite songs like One Man Went to Mow and Five Fat Sausages, all making for a superb singalong, action packed escapade.

Cilla added: 'There's lots of surprises at the Funny Farm with the wackiest collection of farmyard friends you'll ever meet.'

Tickets are available from the Corran Halls on 01631 567333 or at the door before the show, subject to availability.

Visit www.singingkettle.com for more information.

Well done to Tina Wilson who won our Singing Kettle competition. Tina, of Oban, won a family ticket to the show, a Singing Kettle DVD and a fun pack.

Beauty, Health and Well-being



Skye club tunes up for festival weekend

THE ISLE of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club held its penultimate meeting of the 2010/2011 season in the usual venue of the Royal Hotel, Portree, on the first Thursday in May.

Club chairman and MC Jim Campbell welcomed an audience of local enthusiasts and visitors from far and near.

A smaller than usual turnout of musicians entertained the audience to a fine selection of lively sets, starting on stage with a trio of Portree players, namely Aly 'K' MacPherson on piano accordion, John Cameron on keyboards and Donald MacRae on drums.

Other local musicians taking part were Wendy Riva of Kilmuir on fiddle, John MacGilvary of Borve on piano accordion and Sandy Ross of Lochcarron on button box.

The versatile Aly 'K' also took a turn on drums while John Cameron gave selections on piano accordion.



The Iain Cathcart Trio, from left to right, Fraser MacInnes on drums, Iain Cathcart leading on accordion and Iain Anderson on piano.

The final local performance came from the very talented young musician Seumas O'Boaighill of

Sleat who delighted the audience firstly with a fine set on the Highland bagpipe and then some

great music on the fiddle. The second half of the evening was devoted to entertainment from the guest band, the eagerly awaited Iain Cathcart Trio who more than lived up to expectations.

This fine trio, comprising of Iain Cathcart leading on accordion, Iain Anderson on piano and Fraser MacInnes on drums wowed the appreciative audience with a great selection of music played to the highest standard bringing an evening of fine music to a close.

The grand finale of the club season is the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival weekend which kicks off on Thursday May 26 at 7.30pm in the Royal Hotel, Portree, with a club night of musicians from far and near featuring the Susan MacFadyen Scottish Dance Band.

Full details of the festival are on the club website at www.skyemusic.co.uk.

John Grundy.

Convention seeks women's views on government cuts

A SERIES of meetings is being held in Oban and Mull to offer women in the area the chance to have their say on the effect Government cuts are having on them, their families and the community in general.

The Scottish Women's Convention (SWC) is holding consultation events on Tuesday June 7 at Craignure Village Hall, Craignure, Mull,

from 11.30am until 2.30pm and on Wednesday June 8 at the Corran Halls, Oban, also from 11.30am until 2.30pm.

In addition, a further meeting has been organised at the Corran Halls on Wednesday June 8 between 5.30pm and 8pm.

Agnes Tolmie, SWC chairwoman, said: 'It is vital that, during this time

of austerity and budget cuts, the concerns of women are listened to by politicians.'

'Women are losing their jobs, local services are being cut or withdrawn and women are being asked to contribute more by filling gaps through volunteering.'

'Women account for 50 per cent of Scotland's adult population, yet

decision makers forget the gender impact when drafting policy. The Scottish Women's Convention provides a vital role in ensuring local women have a voice and a link with political discussion.'

To find out more or to register for the event, contact Deborah.Ruddy@scottishwomensconvention.org.uk or phone 0141 2488186.

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

North Connel & District Horticultural Show
Saturday 28th May, Victoria Hall, Benderloch, 2.00pm
Admission, Adults £1.50, Children £1.00

Lochaber Art Club Annual Exhibition
Starting Saturday 21 May until Saturday 4th June
Excluding Sundays
10am to 6pm
Ben Nevis Distillery, Fort William

Homebase Oban Are organising a Charity Quiz Night
Friday 27th May
Argyllshire Gathering Halls
7.30pm till late
In aid of Teenage Cancer Trust Raffle and small auction on the night with some great prizes on offer. Auctioneers for the night are Roddy McCush and Nelly MacKay.
Come along for a fun night and support a good cause.

A Night of Music In the Corran Halls
Studio Theatre
Saturday 28th May
Doors open at 7.00pm
Local Artists
Tickets £7.00 Adults £5.00 Concession
Proceeds in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Oban.

Crarae Gardens
Saturday 21st May 2011
2pm - 4.30pm
Strawberries & Cream
All Welcome

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society
Rhododendron Show
Glencruitten Road, Church Centre
Saturday 21st May 2011
Open to public from 12 noon
Teas, coffees and home baking available
Plants for sale
Proceeds in aid of charity

Crear Concert
Alessandro Taverna (piano)
award winner at the Leeds Piano Competition
first performance in Scotland
7.30pm Wednesday 15 June 2011
Advance tickets only: £22
Friends of Crear season ticket: £25
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Oban Diecast Model Association Annual Show
At the Regent Hotel, Oban
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Ian MacInnes and John Sweeney are stars after receiving awards of the same name. 16_t20fire1

Firefighters honoured for community work

A STAR award for Working Together was presented to Ian MacInnes and John Sweeney from Oban Community Fire Station.

The two men were given the award for organising one of the most successful recruitment days for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Brian Sweeney, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue chief officer, said: 'The Star scheme gives staff the opportunity to nominate colleagues who they feel have gone above and beyond the call of duty and, as such, merit special recognition.'

A spokesman continued: 'Over four months in 2010 the two men organised

a recruitment drive for volunteers to support the delivery of a weekend full of events and worked closely with local community groups - such as the Oban based Friends of the Anthony Nolan Trust Group and *The Oban Times* newspaper to ensure the event received maximum publicity.

'They both spent a lot of their own time going to local businesses and community groups promoting the event and raising an awareness of the work carried out by Anthony Nolan.'

'In the true spirit of working together Ian and John worked closely with their colleagues involving them in the

weekend's events. The weekend itself was a massive success as they added another 233 potential lifesavers to the Anthony Nolan register as well as raising a massive £5,387.'

Ian and John were 'delighted' with their award but said the success of the event would have been impossible without the help of their fire service colleagues and the many people of Oban, Lorn and the Isles who came forward to support them.

Two people who went on the register in Oban have been called to hospitals in the UK to assess their compatibility with people waiting for a transplant.

Oban club wins top industry prize



Energie Fitness co-owner Andrew Johnston with two 'cheeky chappies' at the National Awards for Health and Fitness. 120cheeky1

NATIONAL awards for the Scottish health and beauty industry saw Oban's Energie Fitness walk away with a national award.

Club owner Andrew Johnston picked up the award at a glittering ceremony at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in Glasgow.

More than 35,000 votes were cast by the public with Energie Fitness Club, being judged the winner from the north of Scotland.

Andrew said: 'Absolutely delighted to win the award. It means an awful lot to everyone involved in the club to be recognised in this way.'

'It was completely out of the blue for us - one of our members must have put us forward.'

Charles Shaw, chairman of award ceremony hosts 5pm.co.uk said: 'Scotland has a quality, thriving health and beauty sector and we wanted to celebrate and reward the hard work that goes into making a salon or a spa truly great.'

'We are delighted that our winners come from right across Scotland - from Oban to Dumfries - and we hope that the public will try some of these places out for themselves.'

RSPB launches new preservation award

A NEW award for people who preserve the natural heritage, habitats and species in Scotland is to be made.

RSPB are looking for exceptional individuals who go out of their way to protect and nurture Scotland's birds and natural habitat.

Entries can be submitted under six different categories, including: the Marine Conservation Award; the Sustainable Development Award; the Politician of the Year Award; the Innovation Award; the Outstanding Contribution Award and the Species

Champion Award. Stuart Housden, of RSPB Scotland, said: 'The challenges involved in protecting and nurturing Scotland's special places and iconic species are ever more pressing.'

'So many individuals, businesses and the public sector make a hugely valuable contribution to looking after our incredible natural heritage, and we feel the time is right to start celebrating such efforts.'

After the awards close on August 26, teams of internal and external experts specific to the category will compare the

entries and in October submit a shortlist to the judging panel.

The judging panel will include Stuart Housden OBE, BBC TV and radio presenter and wildlife expert Euan McIlwraith, respected naturalist, conservationist and author Sir John Lister-Kaye OBE and Dr Ian Jardine, chief executive officer of Scottish Natural Heritage.

Nominations can be made at www.rspb.org.uk/natureofscotland where more information is available and entry forms can be downloaded.

gig argyll

your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday night >	Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	9pm - 11pm
Saturday night >	Club Night with DJ's
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm - 2am
Thursday 19 May >	TIM O'CONNOR
Markie Dans	@ 9.30PM
Friday 20 May >	WALLACE
Markie Dans	@ 9.30PM
Saturday 21 May >	CROOKED REEL
Markie Dans	@ 9.30PM
Saturday 21 May >	The Democrats + DJ's
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Thursday 26 May >	PETER JAGGER
Markie Dans	@ 9.30PM
Saturday 11 June >	Chunks + DJ's
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm-2am, £6 entry

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MONDAY, 23 MAY ~ 2:30 pm

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The Chancel Choir Ensemble is a small group from within the larger choir whose members have a passion for travel and sharing God's Word through song all over the world.

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OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Benmore Botanic Garden, just seven miles north of Dunoon, in a magnificent mountainside setting is home to a world-famous collection of plants from regions ranging from the Orient and Himalaya to North and South America.

Its elegant restored Victorian Fernery, popular with visitors, is playing an important role in the conservation and study of ferns.

On Sunday, 22 May the Garden will hold its annual Open Day between 12 noon and 5pm. Entry to the Garden is free all day and there will be a host of stalls and activities for all ages. Garden tours will also be available.

Visitors will get the chance to see the exhibition James Duncan of Benmore - An Enlightened Victorian.

From 27 May to 5 June, the Benmore Courtyard Gallery will be the venue for an exhibition entitled Six West Coast Artists, celebrating jewellery, woodturning, sculpture/glass, basket making, weaving and pottery. Exhibits will be offered for sale. The exhibition will be open from 11am to 5pm daily. Garden admission applies.

For details of all events visit www.rbge.org.uk/benmore

If you really want to get out and about and experience the fantastic scenery and wildlife around Oban and the Inner Hebrides, then why not book a sea tour on board 39ft 'Wildcat' catamaran Highland Tiger? Based in Oban at Dunstaffnage Marina, where there's easy pontoon access and free parking, Highland Tiger runs cruises lasting from 2 hours to all-day. There's ample space on board, with a large aft deck and seating inside the heated cabin too. With toilet and galley facilities on board you're ensured a comfortable journey.

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Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series 2011

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Friday 27th May 2011		
Music - The Vagabonds	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	9.00pm to 1.00am
Saturday 28th May 2011		
Stramash - kids sailing	The Harbour	10.00am to 4.00pm
Funky Chicken - face painting	The Fish Quay	12.00am to 4.00pm
Mid Argyll Pipe Band - pipes and drums	The Front Street	4.00pm
Prize giving - CCC	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	7.00pm to 8.00pm
Music - 50/50	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	9.00pm to 1.00am
Fireworks - TEC	Bruce's Castle	10.00pm
Sunday 29th May 2011		
Stramash - kids sailing	The Harbour	10.00am to 4.00pm
Funky Chicken - face painting	The Fish Quay	12.00am to 4.00pm
Aerobatic display	Above Tarbert	4.00pm
Mid Argyll Pipe Band - pipes and drums	The Front Street	6.00pm
Prize giving - CCC	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	7.00pm to 8.00pm
Music - The Keelies	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	9.00pm to 1.00am
Monday 30th May 2010		
Prize giving - CCC	Tarbert Village Hall (TVH)	to be arranged

TARBERT is set to welcome The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series 2011 that takes place over the bank holiday weekend from Friday 27 May to Monday 30 May.

Investment managers Brewin Dolphin are Title Sponsors for the twelfth year with Clyde Cruising Club hosting the event since 1975.

It is Scotland's largest annual sailing regatta offering three race areas on Loch Fyne with IRC, One Design and CYCA classes both with and without spinnakers.

Nearby Portavadie Marina also offers berthing and a fast RIB ferry service to and from Tarbert throughout the series.

Adding a new element this year is the introduction of the Round the Island Race for CYCA handicap yachts on Sunday May 29 for those who cannot compete for the whole series to join in the fun over the holiday weekend.

Johnnie Readman, event organiser, said 'It's set to be a great event with a good number of yachts lined up already. What's more, being in Tarbert on Saturday and Sunday nights means everyone can take part in the shoreside festivities Tarbert is renowned for.'

Also new this year is the introduction of the Laird of the Loch competition. Previous class winners from 2010 are invited to compete in Sonars supplied by Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club on Thursday 26 May, preceding the start of the event. The winner will be crowned Scottish Series 'Laird of the Loch'.

Clyde Cruising Club has embraced the world of social media by widening the Scottish Series online

communication channels to include Facebook and Twitter on the Facebook Group 'Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series'. Follow the profile on Twitter@ScottishSeries. Meanwhile more info can be found on www.brewindolphinsscottishseries.com

With an abundance of activities on offer the weekend is set to be fun for all the family with an array of live music planned including the popular Mid Argyll Pipe Band. There will be face painting, magic shows and games and children can try dinghy sailing courtesy of Stramash.

After a day on the water everyone can relax and enjoy the best of local hospitality. Saturday night sees an impressive fireworks display from Bruce's Castle to celebrate the event and on Sunday there will be a spectacular aerial display over Tarbert. Don't miss this year's Scottish Series!



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Offers over £350,000

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M C & D Mactaggart Solicitors KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

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Delightful bungalow situated in the popular village of Carradale with lovely views over the Kilbrannan Sound towards Arran.

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01665 721 241

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/01367/PIP	Site At Craif 165 Kentra Acharade	Erection of house	Acharade Service Point (14 days)
11/01432/FUL	Taransay Seafield Gardens Achintara Fort William	Change of use to bed and breakfast	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01504/FUL	Land to South East of Tolsta 71 Carnaghaol Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01565/PIP	50m South East of Willow Cottage Achindarroch Duror	Erection of dwelling house - Plot 1	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01566/PIP	50m East of Willow Cottage Achindarroch Duror	Erection of dwelling house - Plot 2	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01567/PIP	60m South East of Willow Cottage Achindarroch Duror	Erection of dwelling house - Plot 3	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01568/PIP	50m East of Ghoradail Duror	Erection of dwelling house - Plot 4	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01569/PIP	50m South East of Ghoradail Duror	Erection of dwelling house - Plot 5	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01519/PIP	60 Metres North of Keepers Cottage Inverair Tulloch Roy Bridge	Proposed House with integral Holiday Letting Annex	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01550/FUL	Land 60m to South of Ach Na Criche Lodge Drimmin	Amended access and parking area (amendment to 09/00496/FULLD)	Acharade Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

Argyll and Bute Council propose to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The Order, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 0600 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 11th June 2011.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD

TO LET

Bell Ingram 01631 566 122
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA34 4AY
bellingram.co.uk

TO LET

Saorphin Farmhouse and Farm Business, Isle of Mull, Argyll

An Exciting Business Opportunity

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The subjects comprise farmhouse, farm, management of 3 self catering cottages and large portal framed general purpose building

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Available in 3 lots

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Thursday 2nd June 10.00am - 2.00pm
Thursday 9th June 10.00am - 2.00pm

Two bedroom fully furnished flat, central Oban, well equipped and decorated, £490 pcm + council tax and electricity, one month deposit and one month in advance.

Apply to Box No 70 Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

TO LET

Bright, Spacious 4 bedroom flat in Oban

Close to town centre

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Garden with drying green

Price negotiable

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Email obanflat@live.co.uk

To Let Fort William Luxury 4 bedroom country house, immaculate accommodation, private study, large private garden, private drive with ample parking, quiet and safe area, immediate entry available, £700 pcm.

Telephone 07789464442

TO LET

Two bedroom furnished flat in Oban town centre, £535pcm.

Telephone 07723058487

THREE BEDROOM FURNISHED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE IN QUIET AREA OF CAMPBELTOWN FOR RENT

£400 + council tax and utility bills per month (+ £400 deposit). No DSS

Tel: 07584 016289 (leave message).

HOUSE TO RENT NEAR KILCHRENAN, 4 bedrooms, two bathrooms, one en-suite, large sitting room with dining area overlooking Lochawe, separate kitchen, garden, car parking, £650pcm.

Telephone 07831 264806.

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Source: Consumers' Choice V. The Newspaper Society

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Spotlight Musical Theatre Group AGM

Will take place on Friday 10th June at 7.30pm

Soroba House

All welcome

Loch Awe Safety Company (LASC)

will hold its first Annual General Meeting in Kilchrenan Village hall 7.30pm, Tuesday 14th June 2011.

All LASC and LochWatch Loch Awe members, and members of the public, will be welcome.

For more info call 01866 833455 or see www.lapb.org.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Applicant, Croft, Case number	Extent & Purpose
Balure Croft, Killean & Kilkennie Mrs Katherine McKinlay, 4.86.30443	0.429 ha

Within 14 days of the date of this newspaper - Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land.

Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW
info@crofterscommission.org.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00603/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Land North/North-West Of Airds Cottage Airds Tainuit Argyll And Bute PA35 1JW	Sub Post Office Tainuit
11/00627/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land South East Of Tigh Shee Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
11/00650/PP	Application for development in accordance with approval 10/00682/PP - variation of conditions 2 and 4 regarding timing from prior to development commencing to prior to occupation of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Lagganmore Kinlinver Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
11/00652/PP	Application for development in accordance with approval 10/01592/PP - variation of conditions 2, 3 and 5 regarding timing of construction from prior to development commencing to prior to occupancy of first dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Lagganmore Kinlinver Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UU	Oban Area Office
11/00696/PP	Temporary erection of 70 metre high Aeronauter Mast for period of 2 years.	Land North Of Lochan Choinneachain Glen Loran Tainuit Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuit
11/00743/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Craig Rowan Pennyghael Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA70 6HB	Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull
11/00648/PP	Application for development in accordance with approval 09/00525/DET - variation of conditions 4, 6 and 7 regarding timing from prior to development commencing to prior to occupancy of first dwellinghouse	Lagganmore, Kinlinver, Oban PA34 4UU	Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardriahga PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00515/PP	Alterations to existing single storey former garage building, for use as new Engineering and Maintenance Workshop, together with office space and parts store.	Caolila Distillery Caol Ila Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RL	Bowmore Area Office
11/00643/PP	Erection of single storey extension to dwellinghouse	Drumbaic Uragsig Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YT	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, at the locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00597/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new access (amendment to planning permission 06/00497/DET)	Land West Of Inshaig Park House Ellenbeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvair
11/00616/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank and fuel tank	The Coal Ree Ellenbeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvair
11/00618/PP	Reinstatement of derelict cottage	Land Adjacent To 31 Ellenbeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvair
11/00619/LIB	Reinstatement of derelict cottage	Land Adjacent To 31 Ellenbeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvair
11/00726/LIB	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse	Knock House Gruline Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA71 6HT	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter or representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Unpaid Work Officer (Permanent)
 £21,096
 35 hrs per week
 Unpaid Work (Community Services) Officer
 Mid Argyll Ref: CMF00241

Admin Support Worker (Temporary)
 £15,639
 35 hrs per week
 Admin Assistant for generic Social Work Team
 Bowmore, Islay Ref: CMF00073
 01546 604742

Closing date: 3 June 2011.
 To apply visit our website
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



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.

We are currently recruiting for the following located at our Marine Site on the Island of Mull:

Marine Operatives - 3 Posts (Ref MO/SM/11/05-A)
 (Salary £15,965 to £19,570 per annum dependant on experience)

The ideal candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have good communication skills and be able to demonstrate prior experience of working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Previous aquaculture and boat handling experience is desirable but not essential as the company will also offer further development opportunities through its in-house training and also through external providers.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for these positions.

Any previous applicants need not apply.

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, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
 Tel. No. 01499 600 435
 Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
 Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 27th May, 2011
 Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

Visitor Services Manager
 Rum, Kinloch Castle
 37 hours per week - Fixed Term until 31 October 2012 (with possibility of extension)
 £23,839 Ref: 044-302

You will manage the provision of an efficient and customer-focused visitor service at Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum. You will oversee day-to-day management of the listed building and help deliver a co-ordinated visitor management plan for the island.

An Enhanced Disclosure check is required.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date: Monday 30 May 2011.

get closer snhjobs.co.uk




Loch Duart Ltd
 the Sustainable Salmon Company

Loch Duart Ltd takes a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to its fish farming activities which defines a long term role for aquaculture as an essential and viable part of the food supply chain for the future. We operate unique rearing and fallowing systems that produce fish of an exceptional quality and taste.

We are about to commission a new 25m freight/workboat for our fish farming operations in the Uists. This state of the art vessel will transport harvested fish, from our sea-sites in the Uists to the Isle of Skye. It will also transport other related freight and carry out support duties, such as towing of fish farm equipment and the installation and removal of moorings.

We now require the following personnel for the vessel:

Skipper
 The successful candidate must

- have a valid Coastal Skipper's ticket, or an equivalent qualification
- demonstrate sufficient and relevant career history in operating such a vessel and managing its crew and operations
- be able to maintain and operate the vessel to a very high standard
- be able to work in a very demanding environment
- be able to work to a high standard, both, as part of a team and using own initiative

Engineer/Deckhand
 The successful candidate must

- demonstrate sufficient and relative qualifications and career history in maintaining and operating ships engines and equipment
- be able to maintain and operate the vessel to a very high standard
- be able to work in a very demanding environment
- be able to work to a high standard, both as part of a team and using own initiative

Deckhand
 The successful candidate must

- demonstrate sufficient and relative experience in crewing such a vessel
- be able to work to a high standard, both as part of a team and using own initiative
- be able to work in a very demanding environment

Salaries for the above positions will be attractive and negotiable, relative to experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in any of the above posts, please apply in writing with your CV to:
 Alan Anderson, Loch Duart Ltd, Hebrides Office, Pierhead, Lochmaddy, Isle of North Uist, HS6 5AA Or email alan.anderson@lochduart.com

Caledonian MacBrayne
 Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Nightwatchman
 (Fixed Term Contract)
 £6.35 per hour Ref 382-SB
 12 hour shifts on a week on/week off basis
 Mallaig Ferry Terminal

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Nightwatchman based at the Mallaig Ferry Terminal.

Reporting to the Port Manager you will be responsible for the security of the pier buildings and vessels connected to the port, for the call-out of crew in the event of an emergency or bad weather, overseeing a telephone watch in case of emergency call-outs by Fire, Police and Ambulance, monitoring and adjusting the gangway as necessary to maintain a safe access to the vessels.

You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as the shift pattern will be variable and dependant on local circumstances.

You must be able to commute to the Mallaig Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 382-SB no later than 27th May 2011 to:

Email where possible: vacancies@dauidmacbraynehr.co.uk
 or
 Address: David MacBrayne HR (UK) Ltd,
 Ferry Terminal, Gourack, PA19 1QP.
 t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

The Scottish Salmon Company
 Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

MARINE SITE MANAGER
 West Loch Roag, Uig, Isle of Lewis £35,020 - £38,110

Marine Site Managers are responsible for managing and developing their salmon sites to the highest standards and must therefore be experienced and enthusiastic salmon farmers with excellent fish husbandry skills, strong management and leadership qualities and proven organisational skills.

We currently have a vacancy at West Loch Roag to continue with the development of the Vuia Mor and Gousam sites.

Applicants must have proven experience of automated feed systems, fish health, growth curves and feed management. The successful candidates must be able to demonstrate commitment to the safety and welfare of the staff for whom they are responsible, to the livestock within their control and to the environment in the local community and beyond. Current clean driving licence essential.

SENIOR MARINE OPERATIVE
 East Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis £22,660-£25,750 (plus overtime)

Senior Marine Operative required for our Eughlam site in East Loch Roag. Under the direction of the Site Manager, the SMO will lead a small team in all the day to day operations of the site and will assume responsibility for staff, vessels and equipment. Applicants must have proven leadership, fish husbandry and organisational abilities and good numeric and IT skills. Weekend working required on a rota basis. Current, clean driving licence is essential.

The successful applicants for both posts must be committed to high standards of health and safety of staff and understand the importance of environmental issues. Hours are 40 per week Monday to Friday. We operate a generous company pension scheme and annual leave entitlement is 31 days.

Closing date Friday 27th May 2011

Job descriptions and application forms available from
 Dina Mackenzie, HR Assistant, The Scottish Salmon Company, Marybank, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0DB
 Tel: 01499 600601/600622 e-mail: dina.mackenzie@scottishsalmon.com

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE - OBAN
 Salary £16,000 - £20,000 + commission + bonus + benefits

An excellent career opportunity has arisen within the sales team of The Oban Times. The successful applicant will be selling for a range of interesting and attractive products to a wide variety of organisations and businesses. The position includes repeat selling to our established customer base as well as generating new business. A driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

Excellent communication skills, the desire to be successful, imagination and a professional approach are imperative.

Sales experience would be preferred but not essential. Induction and training will be provided as required.

In addition to a basic salary of £16,000 - £20,000 (dependent on previous sales experience), we offer attractive commissions, bonus potential, group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

If you think this job is for you - please email personnel@obantimes.co.uk a letter of application and full C.V. including contact telephone number.



A Brighter Future
BUILDBASE
BRANCH MANAGER

Buildbase, National Builders Merchant of the Year 2010, require a Branch Manager for our branch in Argyll (Campbelltown). The successful applicant will have a good knowledge of builders merchants products and procedures and will be a highly motivated and organised individual with the ability to drive the business forward. A successful track record of trading in the Argyll area would be a distinct advantage. Future career prospects are excellent. This is a full time position and offers a competitive salary and all the benefits you would expect from a large, successful company.

Please apply in writing to:
 Colin Peacock, Regional Director
 email: colin.peacock@buildbase.co.uk

BUILDBASE
 Snipefield Industrial Estate, Tarbert Road,
 Campbelltown, Argyll, PA28 6SY
www.buildbase.co.uk
 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

MIDTON ACRYLICS
 Midton Acrylics Ltd
 Lochgilphead

Customer Account Supervisor (2 positions)

We are looking for two people to assist with the account management of our expanding customer base. The successful applicants should possess excellent communication skills and be comfortable with multi-tasking in a fast moving environment. A degree qualification (ideally in marketing or another business discipline) is preferred but not essential. Full training will be given.

Applications (covering letter and CV) should be submitted to
neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk
 For more information contact Neil on 01546 602182 or email neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk

BOATMASTER

Clyde Marine Services is a leading provider of marine services, and are committed to the highest standards of quality, safety and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for 2 Boatmasters to be located at Glasgow and Greenock from June to November 2011.

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working onboard day passenger vessels within the tourism and public transport sector, and have a safety conscious attitude to their work. Day to day duties will include operation and management of passenger vessels, vessel maintenance, issuing and collection of tickets and ensuring compliance with Safety Management System. Candidates should be in possession of a Boatmasters Licence or equivalent. Ex MFV skippers who already have safety and navigation qualifications will be given assistance to obtaining the relevant MCA Boatmaster Licence.

To apply, please forward your CV to:
 Clyde Marine Services Ltd
 Victoria Harbour, Greenock, Renfrewshire, PA15 1HW
 Closing date for applications is 1200, Friday 27th May 2011

The Oban Times
 Oban Office, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin

Cleaner required for open plan modern office. Flexible hours to be discussed at interview. Minimum 6 hours over four evenings Monday to Thursday and approx 3 hours over the weekend.

Plus some home ironing.
 Rate £8.00 per hour.

References essential. For further details, please apply to:
 Christine MacBryde,
 Personnel Officer,
 The Oban Times Ltd,
 P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Tel: 01631 568000

D J CAMPBELL AND SON
 Achnashelloch Farm
Van Driver required
 Lochgilphead area
 Night work
 Telephone
 01546 605273

Property Maintenance Worker
 Glencoe & Dalness the National Trust for Scotland
 Lochaber a place for everyone
 Starting Salary £12,365 + accommodation may be available
 Permanent, 40 hours per week

As Property Maintenance Worker you will undertake general routine maintenance tasks around the Visitor Centre, Camping and Caravan park, Leishman Centre, and farm/estate buildings and houses across the property, ensuring that the buildings, services and environment are conducive to the smooth running of the overall property.

To be successful in the role, you will have demonstrable experience across a wide range of maintenance/DIY tasks including: grounds-work, painting, joinery, plumbing and electrical work. You will also have current Strimmer/Brushcutter certification; have a valid driving licence; and be competent in off-road and winter driving and use of trailers and ATVs. Previous experience of being a key-holder and confidence in dealing with a wide range of staff and visitors are also important, along with an ability to use your initiative and to live and work in a relatively remote rural outdoor environment.

For full job details and information about how to apply, go to www.nts.org.uk and click on the "Vacancies" tab. Closing date 2 June 2011. Interviews are likely to be held at Glencoe during the week commencing 13 June. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410

OFFICE MANAGER

This is a real opportunity for somebody to run our busy office in Tarbert. Are you self-motivated, reliable and accurate with excellent organisational skills? Would you like to be well rewarded, enjoy private health care and a real sense of responsibility?

Please send your CV and any relevant information to:
Robin Dixon & Son Ltd
 Barfad Farm Office, School Road, TARBERT
 PA29 6UL
enquiries@jobindixon.co.uk

MUSSEL FARM ASSISTANT
 required

FASSFERN MUSSELS have a vacancy based at Garvan, Loch Eil. 40 hour week with some weekend work. Full time temporary with the possibility of becoming permanent.

To apply send C.V. to Shona McCauley at Fassfern Mussels Ltd, Garvan Glen, Garvan, Fort William PH33 7AW or info@fassfernmussels.co.uk

ACHA
 argyll community housing association

Customer Services Assistant OBAN
 26 hours per week Fixed Term Contract for 1 year
 Salary Grade 10 (£15,646 to £17,385) per annum (pro rata)
 Interviews for this post will be held 9th June 2011.

Casual Workers / Student Placements
 £4.06 to £7.11 per hour (dependant on age)
 Further information can be obtained from our website.
 To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk;
 Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
 Closing Date for both posts:
 12 noon on Thursday 26th May 2011

Self-employed Agent
Canvassers required
 in your area.

Mobile and access to a vehicle essential.
 Typical commission generated equivalent to £6-£10 per hour.
 Call Brian Docherty on 07739592978.
 Alternatively visit www.homecreditagents.com

port bàn
 Holiday Park

Part-time coffee shop assistants/ caravan cleaners required
 for Port Ban Holiday Park, Kilberry.
 Hours negotiable.
 Call for application form 01880 770 388/224, or email enquiry to portban@aol.com

Part-Time Administrator
 30 hours per week

Marine Harvest is currently seeking to identify an enthusiastic and experienced Administrator.

Working closely with the Production Manager and Health Manager, you will support a range of administrative activities including proactive diary management and preparation & distribution of minutes.

The successful candidate will need proven administrative experience, including good IT, communication and interpersonal skills. In addition they will need to be able to demonstrate good organisational skills, the ability to use their own initiative, and the willingness to be flexible in this busy role.

Hours of work will be approx. 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday. If you feel you have the necessary skills to fulfil this role, please apply in writing to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.
 The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 3rd June.



Farm Technician
 Laga Bay
 Salary £15,973 - £20,265 plus overtime

We currently have a vacancy for a Farm Technician at our seawater site at Laga Bay. The position is offered on a full time, permanent basis.

The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who feel comfortable working over water. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided. A driving licence is desirable.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of Friday 10th June to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



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Halfords, fully automatic, 12 volt unused, BFH-1275 AM, £20 Telephone 01631 565241.

BATTERY CHARGER C-TEK

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BATTERY CHARGER C-TEK

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Ford Focus black rear lights, £30 Telephone 01631 569678.

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factory rebuilt VSA info-line 1500lbs, 12 volt. Can fit onto car tow ball (never used since purchased), £30 Telephone 01631 563229 Oban.

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Halfords, capacity 1.8 tonnes, lift 5" to 14.75", £10 Telephone 01546 886300.

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MOBILITY SCOOTER 4 wheeled mobility scooter + extras. Fits car boot, £350 Telephone 01546 600171 Lochgilphead.

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It was for our sins. It is God's one and only sacrifice for sins forever. He loves you, He died for you, He alone lives to save sinners. Come now to Him. www.WordsbytheWaySide.co.uk

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH

Can you still pull a face? Love Mum, Dad, Janice and Andrew xx

Happy 21st James

Lots of Love From all the family xx

Happy 18th Birthday Craig

Love from all the family

Happy 40th Mum

Love from Cameron and Alasdair xx

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

Dear Sirs, We have just sold the Rayburn 2 door oil fired Cooker which was located at Mac Queens Storage. Well done and many thanks. Regards Richard Campbell-Walter

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three-wheeled pedal go-kart. Needs new front tube. Suitable for 8+, £20 Telephone 01852 200542.

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ROCKING HORSE

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DRUM SET 5 piece, by Cabria (Premier), + 3 Stands, Seat, CD, etc, £220 Telephone 01852 500346 or 07780 993432.

ELECTRIC GUITAR SET BNIB

8 piece electric guitar set including guitar with tremolo, amplifier, music book, karaoke CD, belt, bag, plectrums, cable, £49.99 Telephone 01852 500556.

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PERSONALS

"Jesus Christ and him crucified."

It was for our sins. It is God's one and only sacrifice for sins forever. He loves you, He died for you, He alone lives to save sinners. Come now to Him. www.WordsbytheWaySide.co.uk

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Can you still pull a face? Love Mum, Dad, Janice and Andrew xx

Happy 21st James

Jean penned 130 novels for Mills and Boon

JEAN MacLeod, who died on April 20 aged 103, was Britain's oldest romantic novelist and claimed to have written no fewer than 130 novels for Mills and Boon; in 2009 she celebrated turning 101 by starting work on the 131st.

Jean lived with her husband, who predeceased her, in Kilmelford.

Jean MacLeod's heyday ran from the 1930s to the 1970s. Most of her stories were set in Scotland and usually featured a laird—strong and silent, kilted, slightly older than the heroine, and perhaps embittered from a previous romance—waiting for the right girl to rekindle the flame within.

An instinctive, fluent writer, her first novel, *Life For Two*, was published in 1938, making her one of Mills and Boon's first Scottish authors.

She specialised in the allure of the Highlands and was said to be the only author on Mills and Boon's list who succeeded in making red-headed men sexy.

As an author for the international Mills and Boon imprint, Harlequin Romance, Jean MacLeod's books won

a global readership among Scots living abroad— notably in the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Later in her writing career she also published under the name Catherine Airlie.

But despite the shifts in name, tone and style that inevitably accompanied such a long career, her books were consistent in at least one regard.

'All my stories had a happy ending,' she said.

Jean Sutherland MacLeod was born in Glasgow on January 20 1908. Her father, an engineer, moved with jobs, and her education, which began at Bearsden Academy, continued in Swansea and ended in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Jean began by writing stories for the magazine *The People's Friend*.

One of the Boons at Mills and Boon spotted her work and offered her the chance to join their expanding list of authors.

She travelled frequently and, wherever she went, would use the location as the basis of another book.

Her writing routine once honed was

well-regulated, and she rattled out her stories on a manual typewriter, writing each morning from nine until noon, 'so that I never burned dinner or the midnight oil.'

Her historical novel *The Dark Fortune*, set in the time of Mary, Queen of Scots, won the Romantic Novelists' Association historical award for 1962. Despite such accolades, her work was not always appreciated.

She enjoyed, for example, a brittle friendship with the doyenne of the bodice-ripper, Barbara Cartland.

'Mills and Boon always had a champagne tent on Ladies' Day at Ascot for their authors,' she remembered.

'One year Barbara sauntered over and dismissively asked: "Wearing the same outfit twice, Jean? Are things really that hard?" I didn't dignify it with a response—she was known for her sharp remarks.'

Jean MacLeod married, in 1935, Lionel Walton, an electricity board executive who died in 1995. Two years ago their son, David, also predeceased her.

Renowned writer will be long remembered

IT WAS London of the swinging 60s, teddy boys, mini skirts, rock and roll and advertisements for situations on the front page of *The Times*.

Amongst them was one from John Keay, a young journalist, who, computers being not yet in common use, needed a secretary to help with pressing work.

Three people replied. Amongst them was a tall, slim, dark-haired girl whose presence was immediately noticeable by her deep voice and the colour of unforgettable gentian blue eyes. Unsurprisingly she got the job! It was the beginning of a partnership which was to last for over 40 years.

Julia Margaret Atkins was born on September 16, 1946, in Leslie House in Fife, the home of her maternal grandparents, the Spencers-Nairns.

Her parents, Humphrey and Margaret Atkins, moved to London when she was about six.

The second of their three daughters, she grew up in a political background, her father, later to become Lord Colonsay, was Secretary for Northern Ireland in the Conservative Government headed by Margaret Thatcher. Educated in Britain and Switzerland, Julia then spent a year in France at the university of Tours.

John went out to India with a commission to revise Murray's Handbook to India and Pakistan. With him went Julia and they were married under a tester tree in the Himalayas.

Returning to Britain they began searching for a house. John had been at Oxford with Christine Noble and while staying in one of the holiday cottages at Ardkinglass, on Loch Fyne, they heard that over the ridge in Glen Lochy, a farm house called Succoth was for sale.

They found it eventually three miles up a forestry road. The former tenanted sheep farm on the Earl of Breadalbane's estate, had been bought by the Forestry Commission in the 1960s.

The house, bought in 1972, with its original stone floors, needed much renovation. Julia made all the curtains



in the course of making it a home. She and John then created a garden, a not inconsiderable feat at an altitude of 600 feet where snow often falls as early as October.

Then came the children. Alexander, born in 1973, Anna in 1974, Nell in 1977 and Sam in 1979. Julia was a wonderful mother as all her family insist.

But with four young children under six, a house, a large garden, numerous animals and at one time a flock of geese, one wonders how she ever found time to write.

'I start at ten o'clock at night,' she once told me, making no mention of the extraordinary amount of energy needed to keep working for such exhausting hours.

Her first published book was *Mata Hari*, a biography of the famous woman spy. Her second, *With Passport and Parasol*, was about lady travellers.

In 1981 she took part in the Highland Cattle drive from Skye to Crieff, her special task being to look after the pack ponies, lent by Janet and Russel Buchanan, while researching John's book on the Highland Drovers.

Then, together with John, she launched into the enormous project of

Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland on which they both worked for five years before it was published in 1994.

They worked in the same study—once the gunroom—for 40 years, read every word each other wrote, and combined, not only on the Encyclopaedia of Scotland but later on the 3rd edition of the London Encyclopaedia, published in 2008.

Together they made many journeys, most notably travelling up the Mekong River from Vietnam to China, researching *Mad about the Mekong*, as John's book was to be called.

Julia, a self-taught cartographer, designed the maps for this and others of his books. Their daughter Anna, by now working with English Heritage, suggested the idea of a biography of Alexander Cruden, Alexander the Corrector, the demented genius who choreographed every word in the Bible, used as a source for sermons to the present day. Julia's last book, a biography of the Begum Samru, should be published next year.

Then, in addition to all this, Julia became a farmer, helping her friends and neighbours Sybil and George MacPherson, with the lambing every year. She soon knew every inch of the hill at Brackley as she rode a four-wheeled bike. Elected on to the committee of Dalmally Show, she and John became familiar figures manning the gate.

Describing herself once as 'the fittest person she ever knew' she was nonetheless diagnosed with cancer in 1999. After ten years in remission the disease reappeared and she died at Succoth, surrounded by her family, 3.30pm on March 3, 2011.

Her funeral, in Glenorchy Parish Church, was a tribute to a beautiful and talented woman, who, while internationally renowned as a writer, was loved and admired and will be long remembered by the people in the Highlands of Argyll, where, nearly forty years ago, she made her home.

BIRTHS

GILLESPIE-MOORE - At Campbelltown CMU on May 11, 2011 to Alasdair and Jade a son, Callum John. First grandchild for Kirsteen and the late John Callum Gillespie and third grandson for Isobel and the late Johnny Moore.

PRENTICE - James and Iona are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter born on May 11, 2011 at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Riam Alexandra (called in memory of her late Seanor Iain Alexander M Smith, West Loch, Tarbert, died April 5, 2011). A wee sister for Kady and Brooke. Special thanks to midwives at the Mid Argyll Hospital.

DEATHS

HARRIS - Mary Catherine, aged 74, died peacefully on May 17, 2011 in Belford Hospital. Wife of the late Thomas George Harris and mother of Neil and Ewen. Sadly missed.

MACCRIMMON - Died peacefully after a short illness on Friday 13, May 2011 at the Cornhill Macmillan Centre, Perth, Jean I. MacCrimmon (nee Mackay), aged 64, of Inverloch, Fort William, beloved wife of Donald and a dearly loved mum of Rachel, Martin and John. At Jean's behest a service has taken place at Perth Crematorium attended by close family. Special thanks to all friends and family for their kind thoughts and gifts received during Jean's recent illness. Grateful thanks to all the staff at the Cornhill Macmillan Centre, Perth.

MACDOUGALL - (Golspie). Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on Sunday, May 16, 2011, after a short illness borne as ever with great courage and dignity, William (Bill) MacDougall, aged 85 years, dearly beloved husband of the late Helen, much loved father of Alasdair and the late Iona, father-in-law of Dawn and Cameron and a dear grandfather of Craig and Catriona. Greatly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Fountain Road Church Hall, Golspie, on Saturday, May 21 at 11.30am.

MACKENZIE - Peacefully in the care of Highview House Care Home, Inverness, on May 13, 2011, William George Mackenzie, aged 93 years, (ex Seaford Highlanders, 51st Highland Division and Hydro Electric), late of Copach and Achiltibuie, loving father of Ann, also a much loved brother and uncle. Funeral Service on Friday May 20, at 1.30pm in Inverness Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to the Highland Hospice / S.S.P.C.A. may be given at the service or forwarded to D. Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

PROUDLOCK - On May 10, 2011, suddenly at Dumfries Infirmary, Annabella Proudlock, nee Sinclair, of Shawhead, Dumfries, beloved wife of the late Bert, loving mother of Robert and Donald and a dear mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt and friend. A funeral service was held at Irongray Church, Dumfries on Monday, May 16, 2011.

STEWART - On May 16, 2011, peacefully at the Beatson Unit, Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow, Robert Morrison Stewart, of Inverary, in his 64th year, beloved husband of the late Helen Blyth, much loved father of Andrew, dearly loved stepfather of Laura, Karen and David, dear brother of Hamish and Catherine and a loved papa of Eilidh, Emma and Archie. Funeral service at Inverary Parish Church, on Friday May 20, at 12noon, interment thereafter at Glen Shira Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Flowers or collection if desired for Beatson Institute for Cancer Research.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - Gregor. In memory of Gregor, died May 19, 1996.

-Henriette.

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of our dear dad / grandad Alistair who passed away on May 18, 1988. To us you were so special, what more is there to say. Loved always. Lorne, Kathie and Alistair - Christine. Remembered with love, Kirsteen - Harry DELANEY - It is with much love that we remember our mum and gran, Agnes, who died so suddenly on May 20, 2010. Always Loved Never forgotten.

- Rosie, Libby, Anne and families.

DEVINE - In loving memory of Jessie Agnes Devine (nee MacNeil), died May 22, 2004, a loving mother, mother-in-law and granny.

- Kevin, Margaret and the girls.

MEMORIALS

REID - The Family of the late Wilfred Reid (Willie) would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support at this sad time. A special thank you to everyone at the Lynn of Lorne for their excellent care for Willie over the years. Also a big thank you to Catriona and staff at Hoesys for all their help and excellent service. Also a big thank you to the Rev. Duigan Cameron. Lastly a big thank you to all the staff at the Rowan Tree Hotel.

MEMORIALS

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Margaret and (Mena) who died on May 17, 1989. Your life was unselfish, forever you lived, not to receive but always to give.

- Inserted by your loving daughter Morag and Family, Oban.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of a dear father and father in law, Donald John, who died at Ormsaig, Lochport, May 21, 1989, also remembering a dear mum and mother in law, Agnes, who died December 14, 2008 and cousin Simon, who died May 21, 2010. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Inserted by their loving daughter Ann and son in law Cameron, Erskine.

MCGUNIGAL - In loving memory of our beloved son, Sandy McGunigal who died May 23, 2010. Remembering you is easy We do it everyday It's the heartache of losing you That never goes away. Love always.

- Mam, dad, sisters, nieces and nephews.

MCQUEEN - In loving memory of my darling Fraser who passed away on May 18, 2010, a loving dad and grandpa.

So dearly loved so sorely missed by all of us.

- Frances, Gael, Kenneth, Helen, Fraser, Irene and all the grandchildren.

MEMORIALS

FAIRWEATHER - The family of the late Janet Fairweather, wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for letters, cards and flowers received in their sad loss of their mum. Many thanks to Rev Robert Simpson for his visits and most comforting services and to all who paid their last respects in church and at graveside.

GEMMELL - Ian. Born 1919 - Died 2011. Aged 92 Perhaps you sent a lovely card Or sat quietly in a chair Perhaps you sent a funeral spray If so we saw it there Perhaps you spoke the kindest words As any friend could say Perhaps you were not there at all Just thought of us that day Whatever you did to console our hearts We thank you so very much whatever the part.

- Gemmell Family.

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Clubs set out in search of Macaulay Cup success

OBAN CAMANACHD travel to a South Division One team for the second week in a row when they take on Kilmory in the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

The Oban side will be without experienced full back Andrew Pearson, through injury, and goalkeeper Gavin Stobbart, who is on holiday. Robert Dunning is deputising in goal.

Camanachd manager Diarmid MacMillan said: 'We are looking to take a win from this game, as we really would like to get far in the cup. When you meet a team in a lower division you will always be favourites but we know anything can happen in shinty.'

'Our boys have been training hard and playing well so far this season and we have the right attitude to go far. We will miss Andrew at the back as he has been a rock this year and we hope to have him back playing as soon as possible.'

Oban Camanachd knew they were in for a tough game at Taynuilt in the Celtic Cup semi-final last weekend and that's what they got for the first 45 minutes.

A David Campbell rocket from distance opened the scoring for Taynuilt after only a few minutes but this was cancelled out by Iain MacMillan, and when Aidan MacIntyre scored another for the visitors on 22 minutes, the home fans feared the worst. However, a direct hit from Willie Neilson levelled the tie at 2-2 at half time.

In the second half a tiring but determined Taynuilt tried to stem the flow of red and black on their goal, as further goals from Aidan MacIntyre and Scott MacMillan (2) finished the scoring.

Diarmid said: 'Going into the match we new Taynuilt would be right up for it. They took us by surprise when they opened the scoring and from there on in we were evenly matched. In the second half we started the better team with a quick goal to settle the forward line, who were to go on and play some lovely passing shinty.'

'I think it was a great game and it's reassuring to see such a good local team on the up, as Taynuilt are.'

KILMORY player Alistair MacArthur said his team simply didn't recover after an onslaught by Oban Celtic in the first 10 minutes of last weekend's match.

The Mid Argyll side were hoping to kick-start their season with a long-awaited home game but after losing the toss and having to play against the wind,

they were caught napping from the throw-up.

Alistair said: 'We just weren't at the races last weekend and Celtic just ran riot for the first 10 minutes. We were chasing the game after that and couldn't pull it back.'

'It was really disappointing because that was a game we were hoping to get something out of.'

Kilmory have injury worries ahead of this weekend's visit of Oban Camanachd.

'Bruce Johnston and John MacMillan are missing the game and Ewan Carmichael may still be out with an ankle injury,' said Alistair.

'Our top scorer, Hal Jones, will not play for the rest of the season after picking up two facial injuries in two matches, so we will miss his goals.'

INVERARAY talisman Garry MacPherson will be missing for the Royal Burgh's home match against Bute in the Artemis Macaulay Cup following his sending off in a physical Celtic Cup semi-final against KYLES ATHLETIC last weekend.

MacPherson and Kyles' Andrew King were both dismissed after exchanging blows during Inveraray's 4-1 defeat.

MacPherson joins Scott Robertson on the suspended list and Andrew McMurdo, who is going to a wedding, will also miss the Bute match.

Inveraray manager John Smylie said: 'It is always a tough game against Bute but the fact it is at home should give us an advantage.'

Inveraray got off to the perfect start last Saturday, taking the lead through Russell McKinlay.

However, this only served to snap the visitors into action and Kyles hit four without reply.

John said: 'It did get a wee bit nasty when the boys were sent off but for the most part it was just hard fought match.'

'Sometimes you just have to hold your hands up and admit you were beaten by the better team.'

'There were some words said amongst the lads at full time because they were so disappointed. The final is being played in Inveraray and they really wanted to be there.'

Twice OBAN CELTIC have led Glasgow Mid Argyll this season and twice they have lost - so the team knows what they have to do this time round in the Artemis Macaulay Cup match.

The Oban side travel to Glasgow with close to a full squad and are

buoyed by last weekend's league victory against Kilmory.

Davie Hamilton, of Oban Celtic, said: 'We have got to start well again but if we get a lead we need to hang on to it.'

Last weekend's 2-0 win away to Kilmory was a welcome one, according to Davie, who saw his makeshift team build a two-goal lead after only 10 minutes; David Duffy and David Hill were on the mark for the away team.

'We could have scored before the first goal, we were so dominant at the start of the match,' said Davie.

GLENORCHY manager Allan MacKechnie says his team are beginning to believe they belong in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division after they almost held Glenurquhart away from home.

A debatable penalty award to Glenurquhart in the 50th minute, despatched by Neale Reid, proved to be the difference in the match and Allan believes a run of forthcoming home games could help his bottom-of-the-table side get some points.

Allan said: 'The boys were always in the game, which gave them the extra energy needed to make challenges late in the game and they were disappointed to have lost.'

'We took the game to them for the first 15 minutes and I think they got a shock.'

'The defence and midfield were strong and I thought the penalty was soft.'

However, Glenorchy's new-found confidence will be tested this weekend with the visit of Kyles Athletic, who have knocked 15 goals past the Dalmally men in two previous matches this season.

'We now know what to expect but we are going to have to deal with it,' said Allan.

'Kyles are a class up from Glenurquhart at the moment but I will be looking for a vastly improved scoreline this weekend.'

'The young boys who have come into the team are getting up to the pace of the game and are learning what is expected of them.'

GLENURQUHART manager Jim Barr will be telling his players to pay close attention to Kingussie's star forward Ronald Ross when the teams clash in the Macaulay Cup at Battery Park on Saturday.

Just one point separates the teams in the league, but Ross has scored 11 goals in his last three games since returning from injury.

Barr said: 'It's never easy against Kingussie, and with Ronald Ross back in the side they are a completely different team. We'll have to put out our strongest defence and try and keep it as compact as possible.'

'Ross is particularly dangerous from set pieces so we'll have to make sure we mark him properly.'

The Drumadrochit men managed a narrow win over bottom-side Glenorchy last weekend, with Neale Reid's 50th minute penalty the only thing separating the sides.

'Glenorchy put up a hard fight,' he said.

KINGUSSIE have two players doubtful for Saturday's game away to Glenurquhart, but manager Steven Borthwick feels his side are playing well enough to get the win.

Ian Borthwick and Louis Munro both picked up injuries at the weekend, but Ian may recover in time.

Steven told *The Oban Times* he is anticipating a good game in the Macaulay Cup game at Drumadrochit.

He said: 'We normally do quite well up there but it'll be a difficult game. Glenurquhart are a very physical side, but our form is getting better.'

Kings edged a close game with Kilmallie at The Dell last weekend, winning 4-3 thanks to a Ronald Ross hat trick. The home side seemed to be comfortably winning the MacTavish Cup tie, and were 4-1 up with 20 minutes left, with Thomas Borthwick scoring the fourth. Kilmallie fought back with two late goals from Michael Rodger and John Stewart but Kingussie held out for the win.

'It was a tough game,' Borthwick said.

'We were winning well up until the last 20 minutes. Them coming back into it coincided with me having to take off three guys with injuries. As soon as they came off we lost our shape.'

FORT WILLIAM travel to Lovat for their first round Artemis Macaulay Cup clash with Lovat in good spirits after beating Newtonmore 3-1 at The Eilan to march into the MacTavish Cup final on June 18 at Bught Park.

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre was delighted with his side's performance after a string of mediocre outings - but knows Lovat will be no pushovers.

'We played against the wind in the first half and got to half time

at 0-0 - and I felt that with the wind we would have great chance of winning.'

'Jimmy Clark was outstanding, as was our keeper Paul MacKay and Stevie Stewart at wing back, who are both only 19.'

'We have not got a good record in the Macaulay and we really want to change that.'

It's next to the Camanachd in terms of importance and there's a north-south final spot up for grabs. We are desperate to be involved, but Lovat will give us a really hard game as they always do.

'We will be missing Gary Innes through work commitments, but if we play as well as we did on Saturday and take our chances we should be okay.'

LOVAT could have full centre dynamo Ewan Ferguson back in the squad for their Macaulay Cup first round tie at Balgate Park on Saturday.

However, the Kiltarlity men will be without long term absentees half forward Lorne MacKay and defender Drew Howie, who are yet to recover from injury.

Coach John MacRitchie's men go into the game relieved of the pressure of league duties and could adopt a more expansive style to counter Fort's physical approach.

'Last time we played it was 0-0 in the league, so that gives us hope,' MacRitchie said.

'It is a cup game so that gives us an incentive to maybe relax a bit in our play. I think we might cause their defence some problems as our forwards are pretty mobile and we are starting to score goals as well.'

'They seem to be coming on to a bit of form with John MacDonald back and we will do our best to hold them. It is a one-off game and you never know.'

KINLOCHSHIEL welcome premier division champs Newtonmore to Kirrton on Saturday looking to post a top-notch performance.

'Shiel have not been at their best in recent weeks and that trend continued last weekend when the North Division 1 title favourites were dumped out of the Balliemore Cup 3-2 by Caberfeidh.'

Goals from John MacRae and Keith MacRae sandwiched Kevin Bartlett's counter for Caberfeidh to give 'Shiel a 2-1 lead, but strikes from Ruairidh MacLennan and Martin MacDonald proved enough to give Caberfeidh victory.



Taynuilt's Alan MacGregor and Oban Camanachd's Aidan MacIntyre tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Celtic Cup semi final. Photo John MacTavish

Disappointed 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'We are just not performing at the moment and are not firing on all cylinders.'

'We are missing Finlay MacRae - we are not a one-man team by any means but he has a big influence on the park. Caberfeidh seemed to want it more than we did - our hitting was poor and our tackling was poor. I could not put a finger on it - it was just one of those days.'

'Maybe Newtonmore is the kind of game we need at the moment. We definitely raised our game against Kingussie and we need to do the same on Saturday. If we play the way I know we can play we will give them a good game.'

NEWTONMORE, meanwhile, will be looking to make up for last weekend's home defeat to Fort William.

Kinlochshiel have made a flying start to the season and have a strong home record, so the Premier Division side are unlikely to have things all their own way.

'More forward Paul MacArthur netted 10 minutes into the second half to cancel out John MacLeod's opener.'

But Fort fought back and

stunned The Eilan crowd with two late goals to put themselves into the MacTavish Cup final. Bryan Simpson scored with 12 minutes left before John MacDonald made sure of the win in the 85th minute.

KILMALLIE travel to Spean Bridge to take on local rivals Lochaber in the cup on Saturday after losing out to Kingussie by the odd goal in seven in the MacTavish Cup semi-final last weekend.

As Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre predicted, Ronald Ross was a menace all afternoon and his hat-trick proved the telling factor.

'We did not hold Ross, that was our main trouble,' Hugh told *The Oban Times*. 'We had plenty of chances in the first half, hit the post a couple of times and their keeper made a great save from our penalty after ten minutes.'

'Kingussie had more of the game in the second half and at the end of the day the better team won.'

Now Kilmallie must regroup for a difficult test at ever-improving Lochaber, who MacIntyre knows will present a stern test.

'We will have a full team, although Peter MacIntyre is still

a doubt after pulling his muscle,' he said. 'We will have to play our best to beat them. They are a good strong outfit, but we have beaten them already this year. The boys are fairly confident, but Lochaber are playing well and we can take no chances with them.'

LOCHABER host their local rivals high on confidence after scoring 13 goals in their last two matches.

The two teams met last month, with the Premier Division side winning a tight match 2-1 at Canal Park, but Lochaber manager Michael Delaney will be hoping having home advantage this time out can help propel his side to victory.

The Spean Bridge side took on Lochcarron in the Balliemore Cup last weekend, and defied expectations of a close game by comfortably winning 7-1.

Ben Delaney was the star of the show, notching a hat trick in the first half. Scott Paterson added a well taken fifth from a tight angle five minutes into the second half, and Delaney got his fourth goal of the game four minutes later.

Daniel MacRae restored some pride for Lochcarron, before Shaun Nicholson and Lachlan Campbell completed the scoring.

Sixes titles go to Kyles and St Columba's

TAYNUILT hosted the South of Scotland Primary Schools Six-a-Side Shinty Championship on Sunday and the tournament organisers welcomed 29 teams to the event.

The full geographical area of the south was well represented in the latter stages of both the primary five and under competition and the primary seven and under section.

In the primary five and under final, one of the most southerly teams, Kyles Athletic,

played Oban's Lochside Rovers. And while the adult Kyles team dominates the senior competitions, the Tighnabraich youngsters showed there is more success to come in the future by winning the tournament.

Player of the tournament Kyles' Murdo Macrae was named player of the tournament.

In the primary seven and under competition, St Columba's won the Oban derby with Park

in their semi-final before squaring up to a talented Ballachulish in the final, the most northerly team present.

With the match tied at full time, St Columba's scored a golden goal in extra time to win the trophy.

Park's Alexander Kilmurray was player of the tournament. There were also far travelled teams from Glasgow, Ardnamurchan and Aberdeen.



St Columba's were P7 champions. 08_1205ixes03



Kyles Athletic were P5 champions. 08_1205ixes01

TAYNUILT coach Fraser Inglis has reminded his side that it's 'back to reality' when they travel to Ballachulish in South Division One this weekend.

In the past two weeks Taynuilt have notched up an away win at Inverness in the Camanachd Cup and been rewarded with a home game against Kingussie in the next round. They also played a Celtic Cup semi-final last weekend in what has been an exciting fortnight for the club.

However, Fraser warned: 'We are not safe in the league and we need two points against Ballachulish. They beat us at Taynuilt, so we need to show we can get our feet back on the ground and perform again. As much as the Camanachd game was a test of how far we have come, this game is a test of our ability to pick up away points.'

Fraser said the coaching team was delighted with the players last weekend and described their first half display as 'exceptional'.

He added: 'Everyone played to their potential and kept their discipline, so we can take a lot from the game.'

BALLACHULISH have more injury worries ahead of their critical encounter with Taynuilt. With captain Darren Sutherland

still not fully fit, manager Willie Sutherland is now without the injured Grant MacKenzie (fingers) and Scott Henderson (ankle).

'One saving grace has been the timely signing of ex-Fort William centre Mark Lawrie, who made his debut last weekend in the 3-0 defeat at Bute.'

Willie said: 'Darren has got his plaster off and he had to play at the end of the Bute game because we were short but I'm not going to play him this weekend.'

'Injuries are a concern for us just now but we will go to Taynuilt looking to win.'

'We beat them by one goal last time so we are expecting another close game.'

Elsewhere, SKYE CAMANACHD'S early season woes continued on Saturday when they were handed an 8-0 beating by Beaulieu in the Balliemore Cup.

The Skymen have been plagued by call-offs and injuries all season - factors compounded by the island's perennial problem of young men leaving at 17 or 18 for work or university commitments.

Chairman Ross Cowie was in rueful mood after the defeat, but is confident the team can bounce back as they return to league duties at Inverness this weekend.

He said: 'Hopefully the boys will be able to pick themselves up - no disrespect to Inverness, but we probably need this kind of fixture to get the train back on the tracks. One problem we have is that we have a commitment to bringing in a lot of younger players into the second team, so we don't have the back up when we are short. Sometimes in shinty you have to take a step backwards to go forwards. We have been playing shinty for 120 years and we are not going to stop now.'

LOCHSIDE ROVERS manager David McInnes admits this weekend's Bullough Cup match against Kilmory reserves will be a step into the unknown.

As they only represent the club in cup matches, the reserves will be an unknown quantity for the Oban team. Brian MacCallum is still struggling with an injury but Lochside have welcomed back Craig MacMillan into the fold after recovering from a broken ankle.

Last Saturday, Lochside played 55 minutes against 11 men from Kyles after a Sandy MacKenzie sending off but it took a last-gasp Daniel MacKinnon strike to seal two points.

Lochside opened the scoring after one minute; David Devine

dribbling past a handful of defenders before despatching the ball into the net. Roddy MacColl equalised for Kyles soon after.

Malcolm Clark of Lochside and Kyles' Innes MacDonald then both hit goals to make the half-time score 2-2.

However, despite constant pressure in the second half, Lochside hit the winner in the 90th minute.

LOCHCARRON chairman Henry Dalgety said the better team won after his team were beaten 7-1 by Lochaber in the Balliemore Cup quarter final at Spean Bridge.

The away side had a number of first team regulars missing for the game, which started an hour later than scheduled following a car crash on the A82 holding up some players.

Dalgety said: 'We were just outplayed, unfortunately. Their forward line was very strong and they just cut through us.'

'We had a few players missing for the game, but we still took down a strong side.'

Lochcarron have a free weekend because of cup games and they plan to hold a training session for the first team to prepare for their next game, another trip to face Lochaber.

Shinty results, fixtures and league tables

Results 14th May 2011

Co-operative MacTavish Cup Semi Final
Newtonmore 1, Fort William 3.
Kingussie 4, Kilmallie 3.

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Semi Final
Taynuilt 2, Oban Camanachd 5.
Inveraray 1, Kyles Athletic 4.

Balliemore Cup Quarter Final
Beaulieu 8, Skye 0.
Caberfeidh 3, Kinlochshiel 2.
Bute 3, Ballachulish 0.
Lochaber 7, Lochbroom 1

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenurquhart 1, Glenorchy 0.

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour 2, Glasgow MA 3.

Lochside Rvrs 3, Kyles Ath 2.
Kilmory 0, Oban Celtic 2.

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William 1, Newtonmore 3
Glenurquhart 3, Glengarry 2
Kilmallie 3, Kinlochshiel 4
Lochaber 2, Kingussie 5
Lovat 3, Skye 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 1, Glasgow MA 5
Inveraray v Col Glen postponed
Strachur 6, Ballachulish 0.
Tayforth v Bute postponed

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni 6, Inverness 0.
Strathglass 1, Beaulieu 3.
Boleskine v Lochcarron postponed

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Lewis 1, Lochbroom 7

Saturday's Fixtures

(All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated otherwise)

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round
Lochaber v Kilmallie,
Billy Wotherspoon;
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore,
Graham Cameron;
Glenurquhart v Kingussie, Deek Cameron (3pm throw up);
Lovat v Fort William,
Graham Irving;
Inveraray v Bute,
Colin MacDonald;
Glasgow MA v Oban Celtic,
Robert Baxter;
Kilmory v Oban Camanachd,
David Mitchell;
Glenorchy v Kyles Athletic,
Ted McDonald.

Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round
Fort William v Kinlochshiel,

Ronnie Campbell;
Lovat v Lochcarron,
Robert Morrison (noon);
Newtonmore v Inverness,
John Sloggie;
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh,
Willie MacRae;
Boleskine v Skye Camanachd,
Jock Matheson;
Glengarry v Beaulieu,
Ron Kennedy;
Lochbroom v Kingussie,
Kevin Chessman;
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen University,
Daniel MacRae, (noon throw up).

Bullough Cup 1st Round
The Scots v Ballachulish,
George O'Rourke
(at Musselburgh);
Bute v Strachur,
Dunkie Kerr;
Aberdour v Glasgow Mid Argyll,
Euan Pearson;

Lochside Rovers v Kilmory,
Iain Kennedy;
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray,
Dougie Cameron.

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness v Skye,
Donald MacRae;
Strathglass v Beaulieu,
Graham MacMillan.

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Taynuilt,
Innes Wood.

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen v Tayforth,
Gus Campbell.

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lewis v Ardnamurchan, Charles Young.

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles	8	7	1	0	15
Kingussie	8	4	2	2	10
Newtonmore	7	3	1	9	9
Glenurquhart	8	4	1	3	9
Fort William	7	3	1	7	7
Oban Camanachd	8	3	1	7	7
Lovat	8	3	1	7	7
Inveraray	7	3	0	4	6
Kilmallie	7	3	0	4	6
Glenorchy	8	0	0	8	0

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	6	6	0	12	12
Glasgow MA	5	4	1	9	9
Lochside Rvrs	8	4	1	3	9
Taynuilt	6	3	1	7	7
Ballachulish	6	3	0	6	6
Kyles Athletic	7	3	0	4	6
Oban Celtic	6	1	1	3	3
Kilmory	5	1	0	4	2
Aberdour	7	1	0	6	2

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	8	7	0	1	14
Tayforth	6	4	1	9	9
Bute	7	3	2	8	8
ColGlen	6	4	0	2	8
Glasgow MA	8	3	1	7	7
Ballachulish	7	3	0	6	6

Boxing club hopes for a sell out show

The event will be like a mini Scotland v England international

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club has sold 300 tickets so far for its much-anticipated boxing show at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on June 4 – raising hopes the event will be a sellout.

A big Polish contingent is expected to make up a substantial part of the vocal Lochaber crowd, after the club confirmed this week that LPBC's Polish boxers Dawid Jarzab and Igor Sliwinski will feature on the bill.

The club hopes June 4 will be their best show yet with a North of Scotland select versus a North of England select and also some highly anticipated bouts between Scottish boxers.

Club spokesperson Niall Clark said the Shinty boys are proving a big draw as the big night draws closer.

'They seem to have built up a quite a fan base – and sold a lot of tickets,' he told The Oban Times. 'The local Polish people have really taken to the event to their hearts. The event will be like a mini Scotland v England international.'

Amir Khan's Bolton stable Gloves ABC has pencilled in

REPORT
by **STEPHEN NORRIS**
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

several of their fighters for the event, while Khan's first trainer Tommy Battel also confirmed boxers from his Bolton Elite ABC would step into the ring against Lochaber opponents.

Fantastic Night
Lochaber Phoenix Scottish champions Chris Bradley and James Aitchison will also show local fans the high level of boxing they are now competing at after winning promotion to the Scottish national squad.

'It promises to be a fantastic night,' Niall said.

Meanwhile, Lochaber Phoenix boxers Mark Curtis and Dawid Jarzab competed in their first senior bouts last weekend after moving up from the youth age group, against opponents from Linwood ABC. Mark faced Brian Fitzpatrick in a lightweight bout, the latter coming out to a rapturous reception whilst Curtis faced a chorus of boos from the boisterous capacity crowd.

BOXING

Mark set such a strong pace that Fitzpatrick was clearly breathing heavily by the end of the first – and had clawed back the deficit by the end of round two.

The final round was quite simply 'Curtis time' as the Lochaber man went on the rampage, his fitness a telling factor as he convinced the judges to award him a unanimous decision.

Polish star Dawid Jarzab took on Gary Sproat, who was urged on by the partisan crowd. But he fared no better than Fitzpatrick as the powerful Fort William man outboxed him.

With a virtually insurmountable lead in the last, Jarzab showed great boxing skills to meet Sproat's last ditch efforts and claimed a fine victory to provide his backers with further evidence of the improvement every boxer looks for in each outing. For ticket information on the Nevis Centre show contact Niall Clark (07887711457) or Vince Lopez (07979321025).



Lochaber's Ryan Toal battles for the ball with Lochcarron's Ian Jeck on a muddy pitch at Spean Bridge. Lochaber ran out comfortable winners 7-1 in Saturday's Balliemore Cup quarter final clash. See shinty page inside for more details. 10_120shinty01

Kingussie secure sponsorship

SHINTY

KINGUSSIE Shinty Club are looking forward to another successful year on and off the pitch after they secured a second year sponsorship deal with RWE npower renewables.

The agreement includes sole shirt sponsorship and pitch side advertising at home games for the duration of the 2011 season.

As well as assisting in the club's running costs, the sponsorship deal has also helped the club to buy their own home ground The Dell.

Ali Brown of Kingussie Shinty Club said: 'We are delighted to have secured a second year of sponsorship. We appreciate the support of RWE npower renewables who have shown a real commitment and enthusiasm for the game and the local community, who benefit from the club facilities.'

John Duncan from RWE npower renewables, said: 'We view this as a great opportunity to show our commitment to the area by supporting one of the leading clubs in the ancient sport of shinty.'

Last year Kingussie won the MacFavish Cup and MacAulay Cup, and were narrowly defeated in the Camanachd Cup final.

May Medal at the Dragon's Tooth

GOLF

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club at Ballachulish held its May monthly medal last weekend with wet and windy conditions limiting entries to six.

Results: 1st Scott McCombie 97 - 25 = 72; 2nd David Mathieson 94 - 21 = 73; 3rd Matt Allen 101 - 28 = 73.

Both cricket games rained off

CRICKET

WET WEATHER weather meant no cricket for Fort William CC's first and second teams last weekend.

The senior cup match against Keith will be re-arranged for this Sunday. The washed-out reserves' game against Skye was tied and the teams were awarded one point each.

Running club travel to Perth

ATHLETICS

SKYE AND Lochalsh Running club are preparing for to travel to Perthshire next month to take part in the Orchill Road Race on June 19.

This year's race, held at the Gleneagles Hotel, has been reduced from 10 miles to 10km. There is also a shorter race of seven km.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club held the Rusty Nail competition on Saturday, with Joe Sweeney emerging the winner after shooting a round of 69.

1. Joe Sweeney 90-21=69; 2. Willie MacDonald 80-10=70 (BIH); 3. Ronald MacDonald 84-14=70.

Tony and Pam lead scratch divisions

AFTER seven weeks of play, Tony Whitelocke continues to lead the men's scratch division with 152 points, while Pam Weller leads the ladies scratch with 54 points.

John Weller has moved into second place on 138 points while Tim Attack is now third, a further point behind.

Tony Whitelocke also continues to lead the handicap division with 130 points. Derek Fraser stays in second place on 120 with Graeme Robertson now third on 119 points.

In the ladies competition, Laura Brown is eight points back in second place on 46 points and Hazel White remains in third with 40. Pam Weller is also the leader in the handicap division with 44 points.

TEN PIN BOWLING

with Hazel White moving into second on 37 points followed by a tie for third place between Jacqui Hill and Rossamy Waring, just one point behind.

The men's week seven maximum scratch points were gained by Tony Whitelocke who rolled 325. The top handicap score came from Jim Bell with 432. For the ladies, Pam Weller had the best scratch and handicap scores of the week with 315 and 391.

The best individual games came from Tony Whitelocke with 205 Pam Weller with 162.

New strips bring luck

BANAVIE Primary's shinty team show off their new strips and kit before taking on St Columba's Primary, from Oban, in a MacKay Cup qualifier at Canal Parks on Friday. Despite the rain, Banavie turned in an excellent display to win 7-0.

New shirt sponsor BSW Timber supplied the new tops, and the team also have new sticks and

SHINTY

helmets thanks to a grant from Sportsmatch Scotland.

BSW mill manager Andy Rodger said: 'We got a letter from Zoe Smith (ex-Banavie pupil) asking us to help out, and we are really pleased to be able to help. They look really smart in their new strips.' 20_120strip01



Bowling club trophy winners

Pictured above are the trophy winners of Lochaber Bowling Club after receiving their awards as they got the new season underway.

Black and White Shield competition at Skye Golf Club

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club held its two-category Black and White Shield Competition last midweek and with the greens in excellent shape Alasdair Grant and Alastair 'Starsky' Campbell dominated their respective categories.

In Category 1 (Handicap 1-12),

Grant scored gross 67 net 61 some six shots ahead of his nearest challenger John Alan MacLeod net 67.

In Category 2 (Handicap 13-28), Campbell's outstanding net 60 score comfortably held off Angus Beaton's net 65.

Black and White Shield Results: Category 1 - 1st A Grant net 61; 2nd JA MacLeod net 67; 3rd M Gordon net 71. Category 2 - 1st Al Campbell net 60; 2nd A Beaton net 65; 3rd G Wilson net 66.

Also with many members away,

last weekend saw the fun five club competition take place. A number of heavy showers and swirling winds caused some problems for the golfers, however the ever consistent Sandy Ross showed the way home and won with a respectable 74 score. Ian

GOLF

Lewis managed a good back nine score to finish runner up with a score of 77.

Five Club Competition: 1st S Ross net 74; 2nd I Lewis net 77; 3rd E Forrest net 78.

Ballachulish win shinty festival

BALLACHULISH came out on top at the Kinlochleven junior shinty festival held at the all-weather pitch in the village last Sunday.

Second Ardnarmurchan were placed second after the round of matches, while Kinlochleven were third and Upper Achintore fourth. Player of the tournament was

SHINTY

Frederick Ewers of Ardnarmurchan.

Kinlochleven received an extra bonus on the day when they were presented with strips by their new sponsors, Leven Homes. The event was organised by Active Schools co-ordinator Roz Newman.



Kinlochleven junior shinty players with their new strips, donated by sponsors Leven Homes. Company boss Martin and wife Sheri are pictured with the team.

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Competition



WIN
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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



Congratulations to Libby MacDonald from Tayvallich, Lochgilphead who won last week's jackpot of £1200

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

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Summer coaching programme

FOOTBALL

ARGYLL and Bute Council Football service is looking to provide an active Summer Programme to offer children the opportunity to hone their football skills in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The introduction of new venues across Argyll and Bute offers the beautiful game to as many children as possible from North Connell, Taynuilt, Dalmailly to name just a few, while the brand new Summer Residential Camp gives players the opportunity to experience the life of a full time youth footballer.

If you would like further information please contact Football Development Officer Martin Rae at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk or football@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Golf at Tobermory

GOLF

ON Saturday, May 14, Tobermory played hosts to Taynuilt in their annual fixture, but the home club's hospitality extended only as far as supplying food and drink for the visitors as the golf ended with a 5-1 victory for the islanders. Four of the six matches went to the last green, but home advantage proved to be decisive.

Full results, Tobermory team first.

M Campbell and J Wishart bt M Crin-gent and K Mills 2up

P MacKinnon and R Inglis bt A Diggorr and E MacGillivray 6&5

G Chalmers and J Cowe bt D Howie and C Stanners 2&1

J Weir and P Langhorn bt M Grant and M Wardrop 2up

G Davidson and A Cowe halved match with D Cattnach and M Hendriksen

D & D MacLean halved match with A Stewart and R McLarty

The Shell Cup was contested on Sunday, May 15, with Dods MacLean lifting the gents trophy and Margaret Ingram winning the ladies tournament.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

JOHN Letters Trophy: 1 Robert Quail 86 less 13 net 73; 2 Charles Holyoake 81 less 5 net 76; 3 Keith Macdonald 82 less 6 net 76.

Three Peaks record broken

Teams came from as far away as Cheshire, West Sussex and the USA

YACHTING

AS THE fleet set off from a windy Oban for this year's Scottish Three Peaks Race there was talk of a record being broken and this proved to be the case when *Obedient* pulled into Troon 20 minutes inside the previous record time.

The catamaran, skipped by Wigtonshire's Dr Gordon Baird, finished ahead of trimaran *Blue Chip*, with Steve Garrett at the helm. The two boats had been leading the race from start to finish.

Less than three minutes separated the first and second youth teams, Lomond School in *Snowbird of Rhu* just pipping Fettes and Loreto in *Matata*.

Another major talking point was the entry of the yacht *Sceptre*, crewed by boys from Glenalmond College, which competed in the Americas Cup in 1958.

The race set out from Oban last

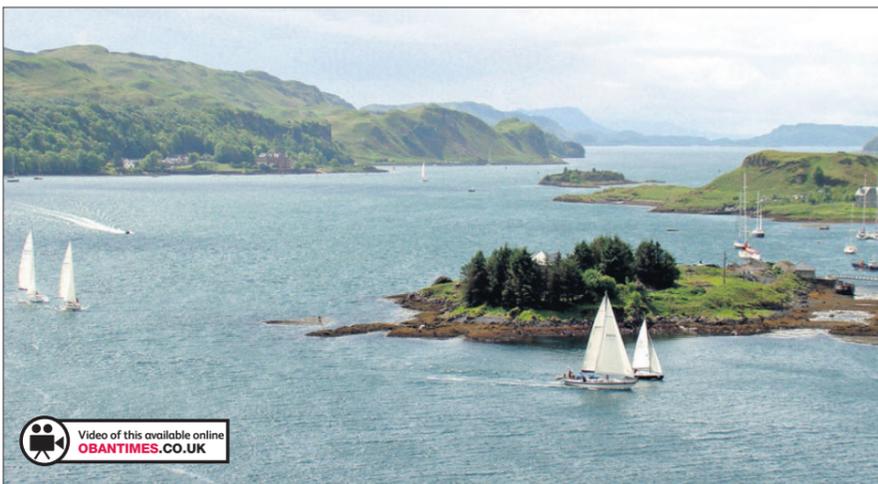
Friday to Salen on Mull, where fell runners tackled Ben More, then onto Craighouse on Jura and a climb of the Paps, before the yachts headed off to Arran and an ascent of Goatfell.

A few boats had to retire after meeting strong winds off the Mull of Kintyre.

Two local boats were competing in the race: *Sandpiper of Lorne*, skipped by Donald MacKenzie from Clachan Seil and *Hecla*, sailed by John Peden from Oban.

Other teams came from as far afield as the USA, Cheshire and West Sussex.

Other results: Fast Cruiser/Racer Class - Richard Roberts in *Dorothea*; Cruising Class - Matt Sims in *Quay Marinas*; All Rounders - Alan Rankin in the trimaran *Spray*.



The yachts sail from Oban en route to Mull.

John gets wild card entry to Spanish Grand Prix

MOTOR CYCLING

CONNEL motorcyclist John McPhee has been handed a wild card entry to compete in round five of the Spanish Moto GP 125cc World Championship at Catalunya next month.

The 16-year-old, who races for KRP in the CEV Buckler Championship with team mate Fraser Rogers, is one of three riders to be awarded an entry.

John, who missed out on a last minute entry to round two of the championship at Jerez in April, is also in the running for a wild card entry to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone the following week.

He already has experience of riding in a world championship event after winning a wild card entry to last year's Grand Prix at Valencia.

'Clearly, with the experience of last year's GP under his belt, he's entering with realistic expectations,' said KRP team boss Mark Keen.

Keith wins McLure Cup in challenging conditions

GOLF

KEITH MacIntyre overcame challenging weather conditions and a late charge from Kevin Roy to win the prestigious McLure Cup at Dalmailly Golf Club on Sunday. Protecting a three shot lead going into the third and final round, he all but secured victory at the short 12th hole by holing with his lob wedge from a treacherous lie behind a bunker.

Meanwhile Roy and third placed Dale Robertson equalled the season's lowest round over the Orchy

course, both shooting gross 71.

The Ladies section held their popular Coronation Foursomes on the same day, and again the driving rain played its part by keeping scores in check. Triumphant through adversity, however, was the pairing of Lily McKay and Heather Clement, who returned 27 stableford points, two points ahead of Eive Brown and Sheila Tollan.

Lorne Ladies win Majorca tournament

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne Ladies were brilliant on the beach as they won the recent Majorca Beach Rugby tournament in Magaluf.

In amongst theme nights and parties there was some serious rugby action with the 'Green Army' winning three out of four games on the first day of play. The victories came against Bracknell

Ladies from England and the Majorcan team, Scorpions. A draw in the following match set up a final encounter with Scorpions in front of a crowd of 1,000.

The Oban Ladies managed a 6-4 victory to win the trophy. This year the Green Army comprised seven returning tourists and six new players, some of whom

had only played in one or two matches.

Captain Dee Bradbury was delighted with the win. She said: 'We've worked hard all season and I'm very proud of all of the girls.'



THE Campus A netball team from the Oban Primary Campus reigned supreme at the Active Schools interschool championship in Atlantis Leisure last week. A 3-1 victory in the final against Park Primary secured the trophy. The event was supported by Community Learning and Development Oban. 15_22netball1

Late Campbell goal keeps Saints' championship hopes alive

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division **Aikenhead Thistle 2 Oban Saints 2**

SAINTS travelled down to Temple Recreation in Glasgow to take on Aikenhead Thistle in their final premier division game of the season and the league leaders had to be content with a share of the points in a thrilling match which was a great advert for amateur football.

The Oban side were flying in the early stages and created two good chances through Donald Campbell and Asen Gaydardzhiev.

Saints deservedly opened the scoring in the 14th minute when Jamie Graham pinged a great pass inside the full back for Craig MacEwan who had a 'fresh air shot' with his first attempt, but he wasn't closed down quickly enough so had time to have another go and this time the Saints striker buried a low shot past Jags keeper John Mullen.

The visitors were well on top in the early exchanges and should have increased their lead when Donald Campbell set up Dene

Cassells, who had made a great run forward from midfield, but Dene tried to dink the ball round the keeper when putting his foot through it might have been the better option.

Saints had what looked like a stonewall penalty turned down in the 20th minute when Donald Campbell was sent sprawling in the box, but much to the disbelief of the Oban contingent referee Michael Auld failed to point to the spot.

The home side got themselves back in the game equalising five minutes before the interval when Saints gave away a corner. The first cross was cleared but the ball went back out to David Fallis who sent a great ball across the face of the Saints goals with Kevin Mooney first to react, blasting the ball home from close range.

It was a despondent Saints squad who left the field at half time, no doubt ruing the good chances they had missed in the early part of the game.

Craig MacEwan had a good opportunity in the 57th minute when he was sent through on

goals but he will be disappointed that he failed to hit the target with his shot, when perhaps he should have lobbed the keeper.



Donald Campbell

Saints were dealt a cruel blow when the home side took the lead in the 64th minute in rather fortunate circumstances. Kevin Mooney raced forward and had a pot shot on goals. Saints keeper Graham Douglas was perfectly positioned to save the shot until

the ball took a wicked deflection off Dene Cassells and ended up in the back of the net.

In pushing forward to try to get an equaliser the Oban side got caught at the back, but Graham Douglas made a tremendous double save to keep his side's title hopes alive.

The Oban side could see their chances of retaining the league championship slipping away as the clock ran down, but there is a resilience about this squad of players and with seven minutes remaining they netted the equaliser when a deep cross into the box found Asen Gaydardzhiev who fired the ball back across the face of the goals for Donald Campbell to hammer the ball high into the net.

The visitors could, and probably should have won the game in the last minute, when a deep cross caught the Aikenhead defence napping. Asen, Donald Campbell and Ross Maitland all tried their luck but the ball would not sit properly for them and a great opportunity was missed so in the end they had to settle for a share

Football

of the points in a 2-2 draw.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with his team's performance although a bit disappointed that they didn't pick up all three points. He said: 'It was a great game against a very good side. We created two or three excellent chances in the first half and had a stonewall penalty turned down. We can still win the league, but it's out of our hands now, it all depends on how Kilpatrick and Aikenhead get on in their remaining fixtures.'

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	18	9	6	3	38	22	33
Kilpatrick	16	9	2	5	27	24	29
Greenock HSFP	18	8	4	6	31	30	28
Thorn Athletic	16	7	3	5	29	29	24
Castlemilk	18	7	2	9	34	35	23
St Joseph's	17	7	2	8	29	37	23
Cambria	17	6	2	9	21	23	20
Inverclyde	16	4	5	7	24	30	17
Aikenhead Thistle	11	4	3	4	20	16	15
Arkleston	15	4	3	8	22	29	15

Golf at Glenruitten

GOLF

LEADING scores from the Stokes Qualifying, Lifeboat and Monthly Medal held at Glenruitten on Saturday.

Andrew McHardy 70 - 10 = 60, Hugh McIvor 79 - 19 = 60, Gerry Cairney 73 - 12 = 61, Neil Fraser 80 - 19 = 61, Lee Askew 70 - 8 = 62, Aiden MacIntyre 74 - 12 = 62, Alistair MacLean Jnr 69 - 6 = 63, Neil Carmichael 68 - 5 = 63, Kevin Mackie 67 - 3 = 64, John MacCallum 67 - 3 = 64, Charles MacIntyre 71 - 7 = 64, Ian McCuish 70 - 6 = 64, Graham MacColl 68 - 4 = 64.

This Saturday the Pickfords Qualifying and Stableford takes place.

Weather

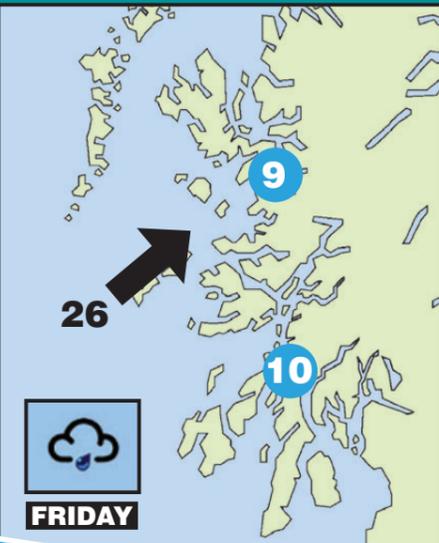
Thursday Cloudy.
Winds moderate south westerly.
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Friday Heavy rain shower.
Winds moderate, south westerly,
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Weekend Light rain.

Outlook Winds moderate, southerly.
Temperatures 10°C to 11°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, May 19, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	am	pm			
Thur	00.41	0.5	06.34	13.01	0.6	18.56	4.0
Fri	01.28	0.7	07.14	13.44	0.8	19.38	3.8
Sat	02.14	0.9	07.55	14.28	0.9	20.21	3.7
Sun	03.00	1.1	08.36	15.13	1.1	21.06	3.4
Mon	03.49	1.4	09.20	16.02	1.3	21.56	3.2
Tues	04.42	1.6	10.13	16.55	1.5	22.57	3.1
Wed	05.40	1.7	11.26	17.54	1.6	**	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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