

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8082

Thursday 16 February, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

**The Oban Times**  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**bonnie babies**  
competition 2012



Vote for your favourite on page 12

**Spotlight** Lochaber



See our feature on page 10

**Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary**  
annual pass reader offer



Save up to £26!

**SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY**  
see page 8

For all the latest news video and photos log on to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

### North Lorn roadworks brought forward

WORK to resurface the A828 between Benderloch and Oban Airport has been brought forward to start next week.

The £103,000 package of works will commence on Wednesday, February 22 and last until February 29.

#### Convoy system

The road will be reduced to one lane for the peak time work, from 7am and 6pm, from Mondays to Fridays, with a convoy system in place.

The work had originally been scheduled to start on March 5.

Resurfacing work in Benderloch, scheduled to start on March 12, is unaffected by the move.

Expected to last seven days in total, the resurfacing there will take place between the forestry access road, extending to the northbound 60mph signs.

Traffic will again be reduced to a single lane, with a three-way convoy system operating, governing traffic along the A828 and at the Tralee Road junction.

Included within the seven days of work is provision for two evening closures. With no suitable diversion in place, queuing traffic will be escorted safely through the works at two hourly, 15-minute windows. These will be at 8pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am, 4am and 6am.

The dates for the night time closures cannot yet be confirmed. As such, drivers will be notified using fixed and variable message signs closer to the date.

A spokesman for Scotland Transvers said: 'This is the only way the safety of the travelling public and workforce, both of which are of paramount importance, can be ensured.'

'Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times.'

Breedon Aggregates are also warning residents and users of the Bonawe road to expect heavy goods vehicle movements on the B845 between the hours of 7pm and midnight on Thursday, February 23.

Live updates will be provided on Transv's Twitter page at [twitter.com/scottransv](http://twitter.com/scottransv).



Zulu sits astride Sheila MacGregor's quad bike after helping save his master.

## Dog races to rescue of injured island farmer

### Terrier 'Zulu' is hero after island car crash leaves owner badly injured

A RETIRED farmer on Kerrera owes his life to the prompt actions of his dog after a car crash left him seriously injured on a hillside in the pitch darkness.

In true Lassie fashion, Donald MacGregor's black terrier, Zulu, ran the half-mile to his daughter Sheila's house at Slatierich farm, setting in motion a dramatic rescue last Wednesday night, which Sheila described to *The Oban Times*.

'His dog came to the door. I knew it was strange the dog just turning up like that so straight away I thought something must have happened.'

'I went out on the quad bike and heard him shouting. His car had overturned on the track and he'd been thrown out down a steep slope.'

With no mobile phone reception Sheila left her father and took the quad back to her house to ask neighbours for help and to alert the emergency services.

While neighbours Richard and Elaine Pearson stayed with Sheila's young son, she went back to her father's side.

There she learned that the RAF Sea King helicopter was having trouble taking off from Prestwick due to freezing rain.

'They couldn't guarantee me a time when it would arrive so I cancelled the helicopter,' she said.

By that time Sheila's neighbours had managed to get in touch with island-based ferryman Duncan MacEachen, who earlier that night had been at a meeting in Oban. As an ambulance waited at the pier on the Oban side, the

#### EXCLUSIVE REPORT by TONY GARNER

rescue plan now depended on a boat being able to take Donald across the 550-metre Sound of Kerrera.

While Donald lay injured, the tide was dropping rapidly and threatened to prevent the ferry from leaving with a vehicle on board.

Luckily, Sheila's husband Corrie Louw had made it to the scene, along with another neighbour, Ally Nudds.

Corrie carried Donald about 20 or 30 metres up the slope and lifted him onto the quad.

'I knew my husband was the only one strong enough to get him up there,' Sheila said.

'Ally Nudds was sitting in the back propping him up.'

With Donald on the quad Sheila drove to the pier at the south end of the island. They had made it in time, and crucially for his

chances of avoiding permanent paralysis or worse, Donald was able to make the short crossing in the relative comfort of a vehicle.

On landing he was rushed by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. He had sustained a punctured lung, fractured vertebrae, and multiple broken ribs.

After staying in Oban overnight he was transferred to hospital in Glasgow the next day.

'He's still in Glasgow now,' Sheila said on Monday. 'Hopefully he should get back to Oban by this weekend.'

'The accident seems likely to lend weight to the islanders' demands for council help with Kerrera's crumbling infrastructure.'

Sheila herself felt it was both a lucky escape and a warning.

She said: 'The roads are awful and the council doesn't help very much. If I'd been 20 minutes later my dad wouldn't have been able to get off the island.'



Donald MacGregor's overturned car after it came off the track on the island of Kerrera.

### Who else knew as council chief allegedly played 'I spy'?

Independent investigation may reveal covert operations

WHO else within Argyll and Bute Council knew about allegations of spying ahead of last week's suspension of the authority's communications chief?

That was the question being posed by those based at the council's seat of power in Lochgilphead this week following the suspension of Jo Smith.

The action was prompted by a national newspaper article alleging she told fellow professionals at a Glasgow conference in September that she used aliases on social networking websites to find out what people were saying about the authority.

However, council insiders have privately raised concerns that other officers were aware of

the 'spying' allegations and may have acted on information gathered by the covert techniques.

#### Angry response

Others have questioned the timing of the as yet unconfirmed reports, just one week before the council's budget meeting and months prior to council elections.

One said: 'It makes no sense that this is coming out now. Someone at the council must have known about this earlier.'

'We have to wait for the independent investigation to be completed, but if she was doing this and allegedly happy to say something to a conference, then someone else must have known this technique was being used.'

The situation brought an angry response from the county's SNP MSP, education secretary Michael Russell, who in a letter to the council said: 'I cannot remember being as angry.'

'The thought that my constituents have been 'spied on' by a senior member of your staff is truly outrageous.'

Council leader, Dick Walsh, said: 'These are serious allegations into which a thorough investigation has been launched.'

'I would like to categorically state that this organisation has never, and would never, condone the sort of practice around which the allegations centre.'

'I will of course be seeking regular updates on the progress of the investigation and await its outcome with interest.'

### Oban business boost as Highlanders go on show

OBAN received an out of season boost to its tourist trade last weekend when the Highland Cattle Society held its 121st Annual Spring Show and Sale in the town.

Among the breed enthusiasts who came to Argyll to attend the two-day event were representatives from Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Estonia and Ireland, several areas of England, Wales and the northern isles of Shetland and Orkney.

The result was that many hotels in the town were fully booked - restaurants and bars experiencing 'a much busier than expected' weekend.

At Monday's sale the Highland cattle enthusiasts spent almost £170,000 within a four-hour period as bidding peaked at 10,000 guineas for one sought-after animal.

Sunday's show of pedigree Highland cattle produced 'Argyll'



The champion bull at Oban was Bentalla 2nd of Mottistone from the Benderloch-based fold of Michael Poland. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

champions in both the prestigious male and female sections.

The overall male champion came from the Benderloch-based fold of Michael Poland, when judge Jim McConachie from Speyside,

selected Bentalla 2nd of Mottistone from an impressive line-up. The bull later went on to sell for 3,700 guineas to the Highland Cattle Society's newly appointed president Charlie Bruce of Banff.

The selection of the top female award proved a popular one when the judge picked out a stylish, Jura-bred black heifer from the fold of Lady Lithgow, Ormsary Estate, Lochgilphead. This heifer, in-calf to the 2010 champion bull, fetched 3,400 guineas.

Monday's sale saw brisk bidding with Glengorm Estate, Mull, selling their 23-month old bull Eoin Ruadh of Glengorm to Stewart Brown of Wiltshire for 10,000 guineas - the highest price that Glengorm have ever received for one of their renowned Highlanders.

Breed secretary Hazel Baxter was beaming after Monday's event. 'It was a good sale,' she enthused, 'a very good sale.'

'We now look forward to October when the Highland Cattle Society will be back in Oban for another great show and sale weekend.'

**KMF CAR SALES AND MECHANICAL SERVICES**

**STOCK LIST**

- 11 11 Citroen Dispatch 1000 HDI 90 SWB... £9,495 + vat
- 10 60 Volkswagen Polo S 60... £8,795
- 10 10 Nissan Navara Tekna DCI 188 Double Cab... £16,795 + vat
- 09 59 Volkswagen Jetta SE TDI 105... £10,795
- 09 09 Kia Cee'd S... £7,695
- 08 58 Suzuki SX4 GLX... £6,595
- 08 57 Volkswagen Polo Match 80... £6,795
- 05 05 Peugeot 307 Sport HDI... £3,995
- 04 54 Vauxhall Vectra Design... £3,795
- 03 53 Renault Clio Dynamique DCI 65... £2,495
- 03 03 Ford Fiesta Zetec... £2,795

FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL CARS  
Unit 1 Caol Industrial Estate, Fort William  
Tel/Fax: 01397 704624 Mobile: 0786652902  
[www.kmfcars.com](http://www.kmfcars.com)  
Good deals on car and van rentals + valeting  
Mechanical Repairs & Servicing, Tyres, Bosch Diagnostic, Vehicle Rentals & Valeting.

**Lipo-Light**

The latest Body Sculpting Treatment

WHY NOT GIVE IT TRY??

You've done everything to lose those unsightly fat bulges but that stubborn fat just won't budge. Now it will, Lipo-Light is the non-surgical solution for your stubborn fat.

Why not try a taster session with a money back guarantee\*

Available all day every Monday and Tuesday in February  
Trial Sessions from £35

Book 4 sessions and receive a FREE empower programme

\*results may vary depending on metabolic composition

**énergie fitness clubs**

Call us NOW on 01631 565000  
17 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL



**Kodak UVSun Polarised Lens**

Complete from £99  
Including 12 month's insurance against loss or accidental damage worth £29.99

**WALLACE optometrists**  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban  
01631 563 814



**The Oban Times**  
& West Highland Times  
THE REGIONAL  
NEWSPAPER FOR THE  
WEST HIGHLANDS,  
ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate,  
Crannog Lane, Oban,  
PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
Stewart Mackenzie  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



**Northern Editor**  
Stephen Norris  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk



**Chief Reporter**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk



**Senior Reporter**  
Steven Flanagan  
sflanigan@obantimes.co.uk



**Reporter**  
Richard Haddock  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



**Web Co-ordinator**  
Marian Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk



**Newsdesk**  
01631 568060  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Fiona Madnes  
fmadnes@obantimes.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Rhona McKillop  
advtrts@obantimes.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Fiona Bennett  
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Margaret Freytag  
advtrts@obantimes.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Claire Firth  
cfirth@wyvymedia.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Amy Robertson  
arobertson@obantimes.co.uk



**Advertising Sales Person**  
Isobel Brown  
ibrown@obantimes.co.uk



**Branch Offices**

**Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495

**Lochgilphead**  
Tel 01546 602345  
Fax 01546 602661

**Campbeltown**  
Tel 01586 554646  
Fax 01586 553006

**Arran**  
Tel 01770 302142  
Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

Follow us on  
**facebook**  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

# Doctors claim islanders being misled over fate of Islay surgery

RETIRED Islay GPs, Drs David and Susan Latta, say they are being misled by Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) over Bowmore surgery's fate. They are now taking legal action against Derek Leslie, general manager of the CHP, after he claimed they were "unable to agree a lease" to remain at the current Bowmore surgery ahead of their eviction from the building at the end of January. GP services have now been

moved to the island's hospital. Dr David Latta claims a lease in principal had been agreed in 2010, but NHS Highland repeatedly failed to sign it. Furthermore, he alleges he was mistakenly sent an email from Dr Mike Hall, clinical director of the CHP, at the very start of negotiations which he claims shows that NHS Highland never had any intention of taking out a long-term lease of the Bowmore surgery, and questions whether the plan was always to move the practice into the hospital. Dr Latta said: "Before I retired, we got a statement from the district valuer saying the health board was willing to pay a lease of around £11,000 per year, which we were perfectly happy with. "We contacted a lawyer to draw up a lease. However, the health board repeatedly refused to sign it. "It was like trying to pin a blanchmange to a wall." While practicing from the surgery, there was in effect no 'lease' for use of the building,

as the GPs receive compensation within their wage structure to pay for the building. However, when the Lattas retired, there was no lease in place. "The premises had started to deteriorate because there was no maintenance. "For example, a smoke alarm battery needed replaced, but it wasn't because they refused to do so for health and safety reasons - because there was no lease." Dr Latta feels those who were registered with the surgery - approximately 1,200 people - are getting a raw deal. He said: "Moving to the hospital is not a satisfactory alternative. It doesn't have the capacity. Retraction "We're sending a lawyer's letter to Derek Leslie saying we don't want this to continue and we want a retraction of what he's said. "It's not the first time we've had to do that with him." A spokesperson for NHS Highland said: "Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership was given notice to vacate the property by the end of January and it was therefore necessary to identify alternative accommodation within the nearby hospital to provide services to patients from the practice. "It is regrettable that this was the case but the CHP has to comply with national property and statutory guidance which demands we demonstrate that we are achieving best value for public money."



Fiona Middleton helps release a seal back into the wild.

## Isle of Islay seal lovers defend themselves against critics

AN ISLAY couple well-known for protecting seals have defended themselves after coming under investigation from a Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) inspector who has told them they can no longer keep seals on a long-term basis. George Middleton, whose wife Fiona has looked after seals on Islay for the last 20 years and attained national fame for playing violin to the creatures, admitted the inspector's concerns were justified but cited a number of mitigating factors. "While the personal care given by Fiona to the seals she has looked after has been accepted by experts as being an ideal way of rehabilitating young seal pups, I can see where the SSPCA is coming from on this," said George. "Our operation is not exactly state-of-the-art and someone used to working in a fully resourced wildlife hospital

might be surprised at the very basic nature of the facilities we have to work with. Sometimes Fiona has kept seals in our bath because she's had nowhere else to put them." Senior SSPCA Inspector John McAvo, who visited the Middletons' estate just before Christmas and on other occasions since, did not want to comment while he was still completing his report. But he did concede that the premises "is not a suitable environment to keep seals long term". Care "If they do get seals in future they will have to contact us and we'll pick the seals up and take care of them," Mr McAvo said. A source on Islay contacted *The Oban Times* to say the SSPCA had been alerted to problems on the Middletons' estate by a Japanese couple who felt that a seal was not being adequately cared for. Mr Middleton pointed out that

his wife had a long track record of rescuing injured seals and successfully returning them to the wild. He said recent health problems had prevented her from maintaining the operation as it used to be. He said: "Fiona has been ill for some time. Part of her illness stretches back many years when she got 'seal finger' - a very bad viral infection - after being bitten by a newly rescued seal. "That and other health problems caused by lifting heavy seals have reduced her ability to handle any seal casualties that come in. For each of the last three years she has only had one casualty seal brought in. Had there been any more than that she would have had difficulty coping." Mr Middleton said he and his wife would co-operate fully with the investigation and hoped good may come of it in the form of a long-term relationship with the SSPCA.

# Coll crofter aims to tackle Commission from within

COLL crofter Colin Kennedy is to stand for election to the board of the Crofters' Commission after becoming disillusioned with the workings and management of the government's legislative body. The 52-year old native of the Isle of Coll says crofters have been treated 'appalling' by the Commission, accusing the organisation of applying the legislation differently in one part of the country to another. Life-long crofter If elected, the life-long crofter says he will strive to ensure Scotland's crofting reform act will be applied evenly throughout the country. He said: "In my opinion, crofters have been treated appallingly - they [the Crofters' Commission] don't apply the law as they should. "For example, they will apply the same legislation differently in Shetland than they would in Argyll. That, in my opinion, is unfair. "I was recently at a public meeting of the Crofters Commission and they claimed they had done a good job. "I asked how they measured that?" Mr Kennedy claims there is a substantial backlog of crofting cases, some dating back as far as 10 years, that have yet to be dealt with. He says his priority is to attack this list. Mr Kennedy added: "Why is there a backlog of situations that haven't been dealt with? "They say some are more



Colin Kennedy, from Coll, has announced his decision to stand for election to the Crofters' Commission. 15\_0702link1

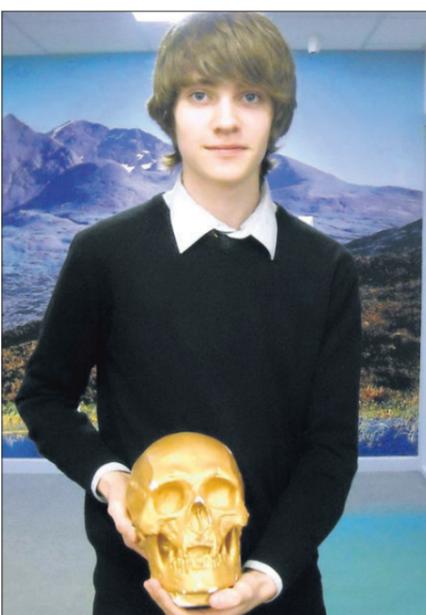
difficult than others. However, there are cases that last for years. While the Commission is making its mind up on how to deal with them the crofters affected find their lives in limbo - often for years. "I feel very, very strongly about

this and should I be elected, it is something I will act on immediately. "I will ensure there are no longer any hiding places for board members who refuse to take decisions simply because they are deemed as 'difficult'."

## Replica of King Robert's skull comes to Portree school

Pictures and statues of 'The Bruce' are only likenesses of the man. Dreadful facial wounds could have made him a terrifying sight

PORTREE High School has become the proud owners of one of only three casts ever made of King Robert the Bruce's skull. The artefact was gifted to the school when sixth year Portree pupil David Smith was visiting his friend Colin Marsh, a colleague of David's mother, who worked on the project to build the replica skulls at Edinburgh Dental Hospital (EDH) 15 years ago. One copy went to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, another to EDH, while the third fell into the possession of Mr Marsh. Leprosy David told *The Oban Times*: "Mr Marsh helped make it and it had been sitting in his office for years - no-one really knew about it. "I showed a lot of interest in it and he asked if I would like to have it for Portree High School. I think it's amazing that we have one of only three in Scotland. Portree's a community school and I'm sure a lot of people will want to come in and see it." Bruce's grave at Dunfermline Abbey was opened in November 1996 to allow researchers to temporarily remove the skull to create a computer image of his facial features and take plaster casts. A skilled team at the EDH, including Mr Marsh, then used the mouldings to re-create three copies of the hero king's skull. David said: "There are several interesting marks on the skull, one of which on the upper part of the left eye socket which extends onto the top part of the skull. This is thought to be a sword or



History in the making: Portree High School pupil David Smith with the copy of King Robert the Bruce's skull.

axe wound. The front teeth are believed to have been knocked out by some sort of a blow to the mouth. "Although these wounds could be fatal neither of these would have killed him. "The most important feature is the feathering of the bone around the nasal area. This tells us that he probably died of leprosy." He added: "Many pictures and statues of 'The Bruce' are only likenesses of the man, and we can tell this because of the wounds on the skull and in my opinion he would be quite a terrifying sight and not the handsome man we see in statues." The skull is expected to go on public display in a secure cabinet at the school.



Members of the award-winning Rudhach committee, village representatives and regular contributors.

## Lewis community publication wins press award

AN ISLE of Lewis publication has been named 'Community Newspaper of the Year' at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards. Rudhach, which covers the Point area of the island, received the honour from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead at the Highlands and Islands Press Ball. The award follows celebrations to mark the Rudhach's tenth anniversary. Judges made reference to the Rudhach's network of village correspondents and a mixture of news and events combined with a look at times gone by. Rudhach chairman George

Ken MacDonald said he was 'delighted' and paid special thanks to the Rudhach's committee, village representatives, contributors and all those who help to make the Rudhach such a success. Along with the trophy, the award included a cheque for £300, which was split between local charities.

## Tobermory public toilets could become ice cream parlour

A PETITION to save the public toilets in Tobermory, Isle of Mull, appears to have failed - despite having more than 500 signatures. The campaign, run by Tobermory resident Nic Davies, aimed to save the toilet block from demolition and maintain a public convenience for locals and visitors. Despite the block being given a reprieve - there is now no plan to demolish the building - the future use of the site includes no provision for public toilets. The sale of the building was agreed in November by Argyll and Bute Council to the highest bidder with Council Leader Dick Walsh commenting: "It is a statutory requirement for the council to secure the best price reasonably obtainable for its assets." "While the assessment of the bids does not require to be wholly monetary, the council would need to have specific and justifiable reasons not to accept the highest offer."

The council's decision came despite 534 people putting their name to a petition to save the toilets. Mr Davies has tried to contact Councillor Walsh on more than one occasion to ask him to explain his reasoning for going against community wishes. At the time of going to print no reply has been received. It is believed the building is in the process of being bought by local resident Kyle Morris, who intends to open an ice cream parlour. No planning application has yet been submitted. A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council refused to confirm the purchaser and said: "The council is currently progressing a sale of the former public toilets in Tobermory with the highest offer. "As is the case with most offers of sale, this offer was made subject to a number of conditions that the council requires to satisfy. These are currently being dealt with between the respective parties but a sale will be concluded in due course."

## Foresters to clear former Mull fish farm cage debris

THE FORESTRY Commission Scotland has been left to pick up the pieces on Mull after a fish farm felled. Tobermory Fish Farm Company had a lease for the lochan near Tobermory. When the company went under they left 10 cages behind. Attempts to find another company to take the cages proved unsuccessful. Now the Forestry Commission is looking to have the cages removed after they broke free from moorings in recent high winds. Tony Garman, from the Commission, said: "They are quite old cages and will break up further. There is a risk of attracting children to play on them, which we don't want so we want them out by Easter."

## Mull marine centre to expand with activity room

THE PLANNED Tobermory Marine Visitor Centre received planning permission earlier this week for an extension to accommodate an activity room. The marine centre will be located in the ground floor of the existing harbour building, Taigh Solais, and will look at the colourful history of the local seas. Project Officer Don Mitchell said: "It will represent the working harbour from the fish farms, leisure boats to divers. "It will also tell the story of support organisations that look after us when we use the sea like the RNLI, the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Coastguard." The centre will have an education section suitable for both children and adults ranging from the scientific to the more fun touch pools and large marine displays. It is hoped the centre will be open at the start of May.

## Gaelic first in this year's Scottish Education Awards

THIS year's Scottish Education Awards will see the inclusion of a Gaelic award for the first time. The Gaelic Language and Culture in Learning Award recognises schools and pre-schools who provide opportunities for all children to develop awareness of Gaelic language and culture. The award is sponsored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, which is encouraging all schools to enter. Nominations for the award are currently open and will close on March 2. The Scottish Education Awards ceremony will take place on June 12 at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.

## Western Isles targeted in computer scam

WESTERN Isles trading standards officers are warning residents against bogus callers claiming to be from Microsoft or other computer firms. The fraudsters tell people their computer has a problem and require details to access it remotely. On no account should any details be given over the phone, the council said.

## Point candidate to go independent after RET row

AN SNP candidate in Lewis has decided not to represent the party in the upcoming council elections in protest over the Scottish Government's decision to axe RET for commercial vehicles. Iain Don Maciver is now likely to stand for the Point seat as an independent in the ballot, which is due to be held on May 3.

## Inverness to host annual national police sports event

INVERNESS is to host the 2012 annual Police Sport UK track and field and tug of war championships, Northern Constabulary has announced. The event, expected to draw around 250 competitors, will be held at Queens Park Stadium, Inverness, on May 30. Northern Constabulary has previously excelled in the competition, finishing second and third in the medals table in recent years. This year the northern team hopes to end the dominance of the Metropolitan Police. Organiser Inspector David Ogilvie said: "With moves currently underway towards a single police service, this is likely to be the last chance to host the event as Northern Constabulary, making it all the more historic."

# Rest and Be Thankful nets another £1 million for contingency plan

A FURTHER £1million is to be invested in developing contingency and mitigation plans to deal with future landslips at Rest and Be Thankful on the A83.

**'Fresh investment'**  
Transport minister Keith Brown last week announced the

fresh investment, which forms part of an £72million package of new transport spending across Scotland.

Mr Brown said: 'The Scottish Government is determined to address the impact severe weather has had in recent months on the A83 at the Rest

and Be Thankful - a lifeline route which serves communities throughout Argyll.

**Netting**  
'That is why we are allocating a significant portion of the extra funding - £1million - to address the problems created by landslips at the Rest and Be

Thankful brought about by severe weather events.

'In addition to the recently commissioned study which is investigating the feasibility of longer term options, today's funding announcement will be used to extend the length of debris flow netting on the hillside.

We are also working closely with Forestry Commission Scotland to explore options for making emergency use of forest roads and using vegetation cover to help reduce the risk of landslips.

'We are acutely aware the effect road closures stemming

from landslips impose on local communities and are determined to do everything we can to address those challenges.

**Group initiative**  
'Today's extra funding will allow work to progress which will help minimise the effect on the local communities and road

users in the area.'

The project proposal came as a result of an Argyll and Bute Timber Transport Group initiative.

The group is a collaboration between Forestry Commission Scotland, Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council.

## Cowan comes to dinner in Oban

COMEDIAN and football fan Tam Cowan will join the popular after-dinner speaker James Stirling as special guests at this year's Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund Sportsman's Dinner.

The event, which is the main annual fundraiser for the Oban charity, will be held on March 24. Tickets are available from the Argyllshire Gathering.

Organiser Amanda MacPhail said she was delighted the event continued to attract top names from the speakers' circuit.

## Police search for car paint vandal

POLICE are looking for information into an incident in Knipoch Place, Oban where a tin of white paint was thrown over a parked car.

The incident happened overnight between Thursday and Friday last week.

Anyone who has information about the incident, or saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area is urged to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

## Germany team assess renewables on Isle of Jura

A RESEARCH team from the University of Flensburg in Northern Germany arrived on Jura this week to assess the island's potential for renewable energy.

The team's co-ordinator, Mr Samuel Oguah, said the group of 12 Masters students and four professors would assess the technical, social, economic and environmental feasibility of different types of alternative energy projects.

After a five week stay the multinational team will present a report of their findings to the Jura Development Trust and Community Energy Scotland.

## Euro 'Highland' show visitor lands in Oban court

AN ESTONIAN visitor to the Highland cattle show and sale in Oban at the weekend parted with more cash than he had accounted for after being fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Cattle buyer Kairo Pilviste appeared on an undertaking at court on Monday and pled guilty to being drunk in charge of a vehicle in George Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Pilviste was in the driver's seat of the parked car and had the engine running when patrolling police officers detected a smell of alcohol from him.

He was found to have 68 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

He was fined £200 and banned from holding a UK driving licence for 12 months.

## Net closes in on Appin hoax caller

OBAN Police say they are following a positive line of enquiry into a hoax 999 call made from the Appin area.

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'This hoax call caused a considerable waste of police time and effort.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000  
01397 700303

## New marina owner looks to develop business potential

LOCAL businessman, Peter Weir, says he hopes to further develop Oban Marina at Kerrera after taking over the successful company last week.

On Wednesday, the owner of the North Ledaig Caravan Park, Benderloch, finalised a deal to buy the 115-berth marina, which was put up for sale last year following the collapse of its former parent company.

Peter will run the marina as chairman and managing director, while wife Katy will take up the position of company secretary and director. Son Tim will be the company's development director.

Sue Deacon, who has managed the marina with a staff of seven for five years will continue as director of operations.

Peter, who owns a Moody sailing yacht with his son, has owned North Ledaig Caravan Park since 1982, developing it into a VisitScotland five-star touring caravan park.

His intention, he says, is to take a similar approach to the marina, which already enjoys a positive reputation.

He said: 'We have developed the North Ledaig Caravan Park into a Visit Scotland five-star touring caravan park, but which runs as a friendly family-run area which is un-commercialised and whose major assets are its first class facilities, superb beachside locations and its sea views over to Mull.'

'With Oban Marina, we intend to follow similar policies.'

'Over the years, we will develop the marina facilities both on the sea and ashore, whilst maintaining the friendly, customer-come-first approach and where the marina's assets of its safe and secure island location and quiet surroundings can be enhanced.'

He said the directors plan to visit the marina on a regular basis and will be happy to meet berth holders and visitors to listen to ideas and share their enjoyment of the marina.

## Community group plans new Islay ferry option

A COMMUNITY group representing Islay and Jura has announced its intention to run an additional ferry between Islay and the mainland.

The Islay and Jura Ferry Company has, for the past two years, been in discussions with various parties regarding a new ferry design.

The designers have already sought tenders with a completion date of mid to late 2014.

The Standard Midwater Ferry is powered by LNG gas which makes it an environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient vessel, which can carry 200 passengers and upwards of 50 cars, or seven HGVs. The intention is to run a shuttle service from Islay to the mainland, subject to the availability of port slots. Discussions are underway with Argyll and Bute Council and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd.

Chairman of the ferry company, Donald Ewen Darroch, said: 'Now that a time line has been set by the designers and ship financiers, we need to move forward with a suitable legal structure which can develop the proposal as required.'

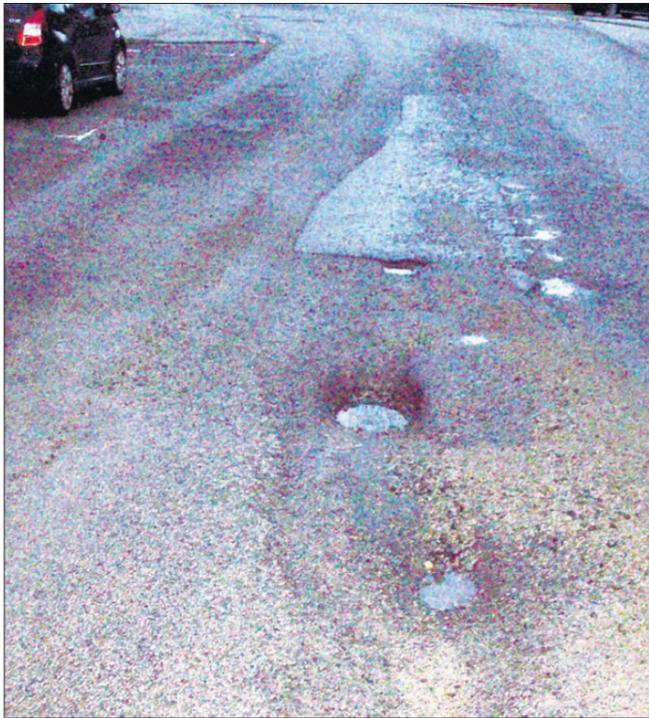
'This is no small task as we have to encourage the participation of new local directors, plus the need to raise a considerable amount of operating capital.'

'It is our consideration that this could be an opportunity for an island based organisation to run an additional supporting ferry service from Islay.'

The vessels would be operated on either a lease basis or bare boat charter and existing directors hope the vessel could be based and crewed on Islay.

## Dunoon ferry change

THE ALI Cat ferry on the Dunoon-Gourock route is to be replaced - a move welcomed by local MP, Alan Reid. He said: 'I am pleased that the SNP have now realised that the 'Ali Cat' is not up to the job of sailing on the Dunoon-Gourock route and are looking to replace it.'



The majority of town centre roads in Oban are dangerously pitted and potholed

## Emergency road repairs start in Oban town centre

Promised upgrade is years behind schedule

EMERGENCY road repairs on Oban's crumbling town centre have been initiated by Scotland Transerv - but Argyll and Bute Council's roads spokesman is calling for more to be done.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre has welcomed the emergency repairs to the short section of road between Argyll Square and Airds Place, due to take place today (Thursday), but is calling for the A85 in Oban's town centre to be upgraded - years after promised improvement works were postponed.

Reconstruction of the A85 in the town centre was approved

to start in October 2005 but was postponed after news that major utility work was to be carried out.

**'Major concern'**  
Councillor MacIntyre, who recently met with Transport Minister Keith Brown to discuss the issue, said: 'If the town centre was in need of total reconstruction in 2005 and approved and authorised, considering the last two winters and this year so far, it is little wonder that the deterioration is a major concern.'

He added: 'It has gone on for too long in my view. At this time

when we are investing in traffic management and improvement we need to be repairing this. It is the responsibility of the Scottish Government.'

But ScotlandTranserv, which is responsible for maintaining the A85, says funding has been confirmed to repair the worst sections of the road, estimating it will cover 80 to 100 metres.

Following consultation with town centre traders, it has been agreed to begin the emergency one-day repair at 9.30am to avoid the morning rush hour and ScotlandTranserv expects to complete the job by 7pm.

## Dispute over 'adoption' leaves Isle of Jura cemetery road without regular maintenance

Community says it has been ignored for 14 years

A CRUMBLING road on the Isle of Jura is causing consternation for islanders, with even funerals affected by its deteriorating condition.

Some 500m of the Keils cemetery road has not been maintained by any local authority since 1996, when Argyll and Bute District Council became Argyll and Bute Council.

**'Adopted' road disputed**  
Since, the disputed section of road has deteriorated rapidly, and is now scattered with craters measuring as much as a foot deep and 1.5m wide.

The island's community council has joined residents in expressing concern about the state of the road since 1998, but say attempts to get the council to accept it as an adopted road have fallen on deaf ears.

Furthermore, they say that patching of the road prior to funerals is proof that the authority has some responsibility for its condition.

On the other hand, the council says the section of road belongs to the residents and add that any maintenance done prior to funerals is out of a moral obligation,



Alex Dunnachie said the condition of the road on Jura has left him 'at the end of my tether'.

rather than any legal requirement, as the cemetery lies at the other end of the un-adopted stretch.

Alex Dunnachie lives next to the road and is a member of the community council.

He said: 'I'm just at the end of my tether.'

'There's virtually no tar left on the road. Every time there is a funeral they just patch it with aggregate but it doesn't last. I

wonder how much they have spent on maintaining that road over the last four years?'

'However, for the last three funerals, they've done nothing.'

Mr Dunnachie says he has had to repair his own car as a result of damage caused on the Keils road, adding that others have faced similar bills.

He has now written to Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, to voice his concerns.

**Mutual maintenance**  
Argyll and Bute Council has said that because it also uses the road for funerals, it was willing to discuss a mutual maintenance scheme with the residents - who it claims own the road.

It added: 'Given the on-going difficulties associated with maintenance and the current condition of the private road, the council will contact the local landowners with a view to establishing a maintenance protocol.'

'Should parties who have a responsibility for the private road wish to fund the construction of a tar surface, then the council would consider what contribution it could make on a share basis.'

# £80 million Tyndrum goldmine to go ahead

50 jobs plus conservation and visitor project package agreed

CONFIRMATION was delivered this week that plans for an £80million gold mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum, will go ahead.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority granted planning permission for the mine in October, but officially green-lighted the project after securing a £2million financial package with developer, Scotgold Resources Ltd.

The deal includes three bonds totalling £1.3million to restore the site to an agreed standard, should Scotgold fail to meet obligations set out in planning approval or abandon the site.

Also included is a contribution of £325,000 towards conservation and visitor projects in the park over the mine's operating period, while Strathfillan Community Development Trust will benefit to the tune of £350,000, £200,000 of which will be used to develop a mining exhibition and interpretative facility to attract tourists to the area.

The mine is expected to be worth at least £80million to the Scottish economy and will generate in excess of 50 jobs for the Strathfillan area.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Gordon Watson, director of planning and rural development for the National Park said: 'I'm extremely proud of the work we have achieved in a relatively short timeframe, which has also met Scotgold's aim to start the development this summer.'

'This is a great example of how business can work with the public sector to facilitate a number of economic and environmental benefits ensuring the park fully capitalises on the opportunities from the mine.'

The news has been welcomed by the local community council, with Monday's meeting greeting the decision as 'great news'.

Strathfillan Community Development Trust's Joyce Russell said the cash package was a 'huge boost' to the area. It is also hoped the success of

the visitor centre will extend long after the gold mine is closed.

She said: 'Apart from anything else, Tyndrum has become a one-trick pony. It's very much a 'pee and tea' stop.'

'To have something like this which will be a destination in its own right is absolutely terrific.'

'We see the state-of-the-art visitor centre as being something that will have a life of its own. We've been to see other centres and they are able to attract significant sums to develop the centre after the mine has closed.'

'There is a possibility of visits and trips to the mine after it closes too, which is an exciting prospect.'

'The £150,000 is unrestricted and with funding hard to come by for our projects, I cannot emphasise how important this is.'

Environment Minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'This new investment for Scotland will bring welcome additional revenue to support the National Park, whilst enhancing the sensitive environment in Cononish Glen in the long term.'

## Leading distilleries come to Oban for World Whisky Day event

FIVE of Scotland's leading distilleries will head to Oban next month for a special tasting event arranged as part of the inaugural World Whisky Day.

The tasting session on March 27 has been organised by Tom Hayward, of the Kings Knoll Hotel, who coincidentally will also be celebrating his and wife Kenia's first year at the hotel, having taken over on April Fool's Day, 2011.

While guests will be welcomed by invitation only, he's hoping it could lead to a host of winter events in future.

So far confirmed to appear are the Oban, Isle of Mull, Tobermory, Springbank and Ben Nevis distilleries.

Tom said: 'I've decided to make the event attendance by invitation only because I want everyone to be able to hear the presentations by each distillery.'

'I also hope it will highlight the quality of local whisky. There are a few nice malts out there, but each is different and not for everyone.'

'I think there is a right whisky for everyone though and this will help some people find that.'



Tom Hayward of the Kings Knoll Hotel tries a dram of Oban ahead of next month's tasting session.

## New buses launched

TWO NEW state-of-the-art buses will operate on the Oban to Glasgow route, following a joint venture launched by two companies.

The brand new coaches will run on Service 976 between Glasgow and Oban, a joint venture by Scottish Citylink and West Coast Motors.

The investment was made by West Coast Motors on behalf of Scottish Citylink.

The new vehicles were due to be unveiled at Oban's CalMac Pier yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

## Oban public park damaged

ONE OF Oban's few 'green' public areas has been damaged by large vehicles despite attempts by Argyll and Bute Council to intervene.

Dungallan Park on Glengallan Road, is a popular walking area and leads to pontoons, which are run by Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association. The association looks after 115 moorings, plus 15 visitor moorings, making the pontoon an important part of Oban's yachting sector.

Damage to Dungallan Park, suspected to have been caused by a large vehicle, had been reported to Councillor Roddy McCuish, who arranged for a chain to temporarily seal off the entrance to Dungallan Park last Thursday. However, last weekend the chain and a section of stone wall was broken and more tyre tracks were in evidence on the grassy area.

Councillor McCuish said: 'It is an absolute disgrace. Whoever committed this act of vandalism should be ashamed of themselves.'

Adrian Lauder, secretary of Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association, condemned the vandalism but said the issue of access to the park had to be sorted out.

## ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Free Business Advice Seminar  
Renewable Heat Incentive in Practice  
Dan Gates, Natural Power

With The RHI offering a once in a life time opportunity for a guaranteed income for those who switch from oil to wood or heat pumps, Dan will talk about what financing and then building of efficient renewable heat projects at the lowest cost.

The Studio, Corran Halls, Oban, Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 6:30pm  
Tea/Coffee available from 6pm

Three. Enough blood to save a premature baby's life.

Tuesday 21st February

The Nevis Centre,  
Fort William

2pm - 4.30pm &  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

No appointment necessary

GIVE BLOOD

**American ballet star flies in to assist tour dates**

A STAR ballet dancer from Ballet West's namesake in Utah will be joining the Taynuilt company to support its disrupted Swan Lake tour. Michael Bearden, principal dancer with Ballet West in Utah, has joined Taynuilt's Ballet West, which has had to postpone the opening dates of its tour after male lead Jonathan Barton suffered an injury. Michael and Jonathan will now share the role of the Prince at the company's Oban date, taking place at the Corran Halls today (Thursday).

The tour opened in Stirling on February 4, after the planned opening in Oban in January was postponed. Gillian Barton, principal of Ballet West, Taynuilt, said: 'I am delighted that Michael will be joining us for our Scottish tour. Ballet West will benefit enormously from his skills and experience and we are very keen to develop a close relationship with our namesake in Utah.'

**Argyll captain takes charge**

A NAVAL officer from Argyll has taken command of Royal Navy frigate HMS Sutherland as she undertakes intensive training before deploying later this year.

Commander Al Wilson was born in London and spent his childhood in the west coast of Scotland, attending Dunoon Grammar School.



Commander Al Wilson.

**Soup lunch to boost pipers' fund**

AS PART of Oban Pipe Band's on-going fundraising, a soup lunch will be held in the pipe band hall this Saturday.

The soup lunch will run from noon to 2pm, with a selection of wholesome soups, home baked and tea and coffee on offer.

**Strathfillan Community Council invests in life-saving equipment**

LIFE saving equipment costing approximately £4,500 will be made available in three Strathfillan villages following fundraising by the community council.

defibrillators will be made available at Tyndrum's Green Welly Stop, in the Crianlarich Hotel and at the Drovers' Inn, Inverarnan. The units cost £4,500 after a 50 per cent grant from the British

Heart Foundation (BHF). The majority of funding came from donations of £2,000 from The Green Welly Stop and £2,500 from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). The fundraising campaign has

been co-ordinated by Strathfillan Community Council member Isla Craig.

She said: 'They can be used without training, as they only work when they detect a disrupted heartbeat. They will,

though, only be made available for use after training events in the villages.

'They can help save a life. Where we are, the nearest ambulance station is 20 minutes away at Killin.

'If they're already out on another call, you could be waiting an hour for an ambulance.

'These devices are portable and in the circumstance where someone does have a heart attack they can save lives. Every second

does count in these situations.' Training in use of the automated defibrillators will be held at Inverarnan's Drovers' Inn on February 20, at the Crianlarich Hotel on February 28 and at the Green Welly Stop on March 5.



Calum Bichener was deprived of his favourite sandwich after his mum discovered the sausage inside it, sold by supermarket giant Tesco that day, was out of date. 15\_106polony1

**Mum hits out at supermarket giant which sold her out of date food**

AN OBAN mum was forced to snatch a sandwich from her seven year old son's hand after noticing the sausage she'd been sold by supermarket chain Tesco that day was beyond its 'use by' date.

Val Bichener, of Albert Road, Oban, was furious that the health of son Calum could have been affected by the 54p polony sausage - which was two days beyond Tesco's safe consumption guidelines.

Worse, though, was the response from Tesco's customer helpline, who initially said the Oban store wouldn't be notified of the oversight until the end of month complaint report had been printed off - a month later.

Concerned that other customers could buy the sausage, she was forced to contact the local store

directly herself so the remaining batch could be taken off sale.

The find comes days after Health Protection Scotland (HPS) said e-coli infections increased by 19 per cent in the last year - something Mrs Bichener says Tesco should bear in mind.

She has now called for the supermarket giant to tighten up its procedures before someone tucks into something less than savoury.

She said: 'Local staff have apologised profusely, but it's not good enough.

'What is the point of having a head office complaints' line if they don't contact stores immediately when problems like this arise?'

people died in Lanarkshire from e-coli from infected meat.

'Also, I was told in store that, because it is a long-coded product, it was only checked once a week. However, Tesco head office say they should be checked daily. They really need to tighten up.'

Calum was upset he didn't get to eat his favourite food because of the risky sausage, but it hasn't put him off.

He said: 'I was just about to put it in my mouth when we noticed.

'I really like polony, it's my favourite food. It won't put me off them though.'

James, who turns 65 in July, was just 15 when he started work in his father Ronnie's MacDonald Hairdressers on Station Square in 1963.

With Fraser's on High Street the only competition, the flourishing concern occupied most of the building and employed around 14 people.

But changing trends left James's tiny upstairs salon as the only remaining part of the original business, and will now become a tattoo parlour after he retires.

James, from Alam Road, has mixed feelings about leaving - but reckons he's put in a long enough shift with the clippers. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm looking forward to retiring in one way, but I'm bound to miss it. I've been coming down to the place for 50 years, so it's going to be a wee bit strange. I'll miss the craic the most - we could put the world to rights in here, no bother.'

'One customer told me he's been coming here since my father had the place back in the 1940s. There's been a barber in the building itself since the

**Lochaber barber faces final cut after 50 years**



James MacDonald first picked up his scissors in the early 1960s, when prices were a wee bit lower.

1930s, when my father bought the place before he went away to the war. He started with Willie Swan, who won the Ben Race in 1895.'

He added: 'I like doing a bit of hillwalking and mountain

biking, so I'll pass the time fine. I have three grandchildren, so I'll see more of them too. I'd like to thank all my regulars for their custom and friendship over the years.'

James had one last request to

make through *The Oban Times* - to find a home for the ancient pounds, shillings and pence till he still uses.

He said: 'If the West Highland Museum were to contact me they could have it for nothing.'

**Oban man found guilty of 'dipping the till'**

AN OBAN man who embezzled £150 from his employers must complete 240 hours of unpaid work in addition to paying compensation, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Daniel Coleman, 25, who is now unemployed, pled guilty to stealing the money but claimed he had done it to help

his mother who 'was in difficulty' after his father had passed away.

The court heard Coleman, of 21D McKelvie Road, Oban, had been 'dipping the till' at the Scottish Co-operative store in Soroba Road, Oban, between July 1 and August 12 last year. Coleman, who had been employed as a customer service assistant

has six previous convictions for dishonesty, including burglary in 2006 which saw him sent to a young offenders institution. He has been placed on a Community Payback Order for one year and ordered to return the £150, any discount on sentencing was the fact he 'was not being sent to jail', said Sheriff Douglas Small.

**Territorial Army proves its worth for young trainee chef**

FROM slaloming down the Pyrenees, to guard duty at Edinburgh Castle, or tackling a 30-mile march in the mountains of Argyll: life in the Territorial Army has proven to be just the ticket to help one young Kinlochleven man fulfil his dreams of adventure.

Since joining up with the army reserve a year-and-a-half ago, 19-year old Daniel Higgins has grabbed every opportunity the TA has offered.

The minimum commitment for a TA member is 29 days per year, with no obligation to go on active service. In the past year Daniel has combined studying at college to be a chef with more than 100 days on TA duty, and in April this year he plans to join regular soldiers from the Royal Scots regiment for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Asked what had inspired him to join, he said: 'I love the outdoors. It's the fact of getting paid to be outdoors climbing into the middle of nowhere

- that kind of stuff you wouldn't normally do. It's totally different from being a chef where you're stuck in the kitchen.'

Colour Sergeant Lachie McDowell, who is in charge of recruitment at the Dumbarton TA base, was full of praise for Daniel.

'He's been fantastic,' said Lachie, who is originally from Mull. 'He's seized every opportunity and done really well.'

'The role of the TA has really increased so it's great to have young lads like him joining up. 'We've got a young boy from Mull, Declan Taylor, who's out in Afghanistan at the moment. So Daniel will be following him out there.'

When he goes to Afghanistan, Daniel will serve in 7 Scots, one of two TA units who reinforce the five units of the regular Royal Scots regiment. Each TA unit has around 400 men and women, with around 50 on active service at any one time.



Daniel Higgins - off to Afghanistan with the TA. 15\_107danielhiggins2

**Forestry accident near Callander kills workman**

POLICE and the Health and Safety Executive are investigating after a 59-year-old man was killed while felling trees near Callander last week.

Ewen MacGregor, of Strathrye, was working with colleagues at Brig o' Turk when he was fatally injured by a large vehicle used for the extraction of timber. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The incident occurred at around 4.30pm last Wednesday, February 8.

**Celebrity backs Mary's Meals**

TV AND radio personality Dermot O'Leary has given his backing to a campaign launched by the Dalmailly-based Mary's Meals charity.

The 'Big Blue Mug' campaign invites people to buy a bright blue mug, similar to those used by more than 500,000 children who the charity helps every school day across the world.

**Islanders hear of Isle of Colonsay fish farm plan**

MORE than one quarter of Colonsay's population attended Scalasaig Village Hall on Thursday February 2 to hear about the prospect of a fish farm being created off the north east coast of the island.

Marine Harvest is proposing installing the largest sized farm allowed by SEPA, with capacity for 2,500 tonnes of fish.

**Reid calls for roads' cash from SNP**

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid is calling for more cash to fix the regions' 'crumbling' roads.

Responding to the recent Scottish Budget, he said: 'Once again the SNP Government has only given Argyll and Bute's roads crumbs from the table while pouring many millions of pounds into east of Scotland roads.'

'Our crumbling roads need far more than the money allocated by the SNP.'

**Knoydart filmmaker focusses on herself - same time, same place, every day for a year**

A KNOYDART filmmaker will complete eight months of a gruelling film project next Tuesday when she steps out once more onto the shore at Inverie.

Sam Firth has been filming herself for 10 minutes at exactly the same place and time every day since June 21 2011.

Next week's milestone will mean just four months remain to her final day of filming on this year's summer solstice.

Sam's demanding schedule for the silent work, Stay the Same, means she can't leave home for more than 23 hours at a time.

The unusual project, reported in *The Oban Times* last month, made national headlines last week, earning Sam airtime on Radio 4 and Radio Scotland.

Knoydart is right behind her - although she's had to endure some good-natured ribbing over her dedication to art. And December's storms forced her to tie down the camera, but conditions have eased since then.

Sam told *The Oban Times*: 'When I began the project I had some threats from the locals that they would do a



Sam Firth is filmed on the same beach at Inverie, at the same time, every day for a year. Photograph by Jim Manthorpe.

streak across the beach when I was filming - but it's not happened yet. 'The weather has been better recently, although I did have to blow the ice off the kettle a few times!'

Once filming ends, the mammoth task begins to edit down more than 60 hours of footage to a 15-minute production capturing Knoydart's differing seasons, weather and light conditions. Sam has set a target of

October 2012 for the release. Stay the Same - at www.staythesamefilm.com - is Sam's third short film and follows the success of her one-minute film ID, which won several awards internationally. Creative Scotland and the British Film Institute are backing the £10,000 project. Sam is currently helping Mallaig Primary School pupils make their own film about village life.

Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

**The Nevis Centre Nursery**

An Aird, Fort William • Tel. 01397 700 707  
www.neviscentre.co.uk • info@neviscentre.co.uk

**Opening 12th March 2012**

**Full Childcare and Nursery**

Monday - Friday  
8.30am - 5.30pm

The Nevis Centres prides itself on our commitment to offering affordable and accessible facilities for all within our community.

Our experienced staff will ensure your children are happy and stimulated while within our care.

For more information and to book a show round visit at a time convenient for you please call: 01397770707 or email us: info@neviscentre.co.uk

Supported by The National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council

Scottish Arts Council

Operated by Linnhe Leisure, a company limited by Guarantee.  
Registered Office Gerald McIntyre 38 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT  
Registered in Scotland SC 173320-a Scottish Charity 026074 VAT Registration no 735 3634 31

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

LORN LINES

THERE was a large attendance at the annual Ladies Night of Oban Speakers Club held in Soroba House Hotel last week. As is the custom, some of the ladies had to sing for their supper, so to speak, and they all did an excellent job. In the first half of the programme chairman Willie Melville introduced speakers Roy Wood who spoke on 'Beauty and the beast', Iain Fullarton on 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder', Bill Leech on 'Black Beauty and Maureen Arthur on 'Experiences of teaching in an island school. Their respective critics were Malcolm Black, Tom Clegg, Frank Walton and Martin Wilson. The company then enjoyed a wonderful supper provided by the hotel before returning for the topics session introduced by Jim Fraser. His subjects range from 'One man's junk is another man's treasure' to 'Valentines Day' and the speakers were Martin Wilson, Donald Mackinnon, Ian Crawford, Eamonn Arthur, Carol Leech and Kathryn Wilkie. The timkeeper for the evening was Guido Faccenda and a humorous general evaluation was given by Archie McPhail. In closing the meeting, president John Maclean thanked everyone who had taken part and expressed his hope that all guests would return again next year. The next meeting will be held in Soroba House Hotel on February 23 at 8pm.

THERE was a smaller than usual turnout of members of Oban Photographic Club at its meeting on Monday February 6 due to several members being on holiday; hopefully taking great images for next year!

The presentation was the Scottish Photographic Federation Digital Image Portfolio and the Oban Club had three images accepted for it - two taken by Stephen Lawson and one by Maurice Wilkins. The overall content of the portfolio was very good and the members' comments even better.

The next meeting of the club is on Monday February 20 when judge Frank Walton will give the results of the competition, 'Mellow Yellow'.



Sileas Sinclair, left, was joined by Ryan McGlynn on drums, Sarah Sinclair on guitar and vocals and Deirdre MacDonald on fiddle when they played for Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club held its monthly club night last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, when chairman Michael Garvin welcomed everyone before playing the lead role on accordion accompanied on drums by Archie Cameron, Oban.

The other supporting players welcomed on stage were, on accordion Janet Graham, Cumbernauld, Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore, Iain Angus MacLeod, Isle of Harris, Craig McFadyen, Oban, on drums Kevin McGlynn, Oban, and Angus MacColl, Benderloch.

All the supporting players were excellent and a great variety of music was played and much appreciated by the audience. Michael Garvin introduced the Sileas Sinclair Trio as the guest artistes for the evening. Sileas, from Connell, playing accordion, was joined by Deirdre MacDonald, Roy Bridge, on fiddle and Ryan McGlynn, Lochgilphead, on drums. The trio played many tunes and sets, plus a fiddle solo from Deirdre. In the second half Sileas explained the band was making a CD on which guitar playing Sarah Sinclair, Connell, was a band member and invited her to sing a couple of songs with the trio much to the enjoyment of all.

Michael Garvin thanked both the local and guest artistes, Sileas, Deirdre, Ryan and Sarah for another great night of excellent musical entertainment which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Next month's club night is on Thursday March 1 when the guests will be the Marion Anderson Scottish Dance Band.



OBAN Tesco staff and customers had a chance to try out one of the state-of-the-art seats that will fill the new Phoenix Cinema when it opens later this year.

The Phoenix Cinema campaign had taken the showcase aqua-plastic neoprene chair to the store on Saturday in another successful fund-raising push.

Phoenix project manager Mike McManus was delighted with the £488.43 donated by customers as volunteers helped them with packing their bags.

As well as being 'Coca Cola proof' the seats boast a three tilt back system and full disabled access. Pictured with Mike McManus, right, are, from left to right, Tesco staff Niall McLaren, Alyson Kennedy, Lisa Romney, David Don and, enjoying the comforts of the chair, Anne Winter. 15\_107phoenix01

HAVING made multiple complaints since October, a woman only found the drains outside her house unblocked by Scotland Transerv after she contacted The Oban Times.

Kathryn Spence had reached the end of her tether after waiting for months to have the drains on the A85 at the Bealach an Righ cleared of sand and decided to contact the paper via our Facebook page in a plea for help. Only days later, the drains were cleared.

Ms Spence said she was disappointed that it took contacting the press to have the problem dealt with. She said: 'What a shame that so much fuss had to be created to get a result. Thanks to The Oban Times for its support.'

A spokesperson for Scotland Transerv said: 'Further investigation identified a blockage in the manhole as the source of the problem and the pipe was cleared by jet cleaning.'

New community enterprise centre opens on Mull

A NEW Community Enterprise Centre was officially opened on the Isle of Mull last Friday. The £1m An Roth Community Enterprise Centre was opened by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell. It will be Mull and Iona Community Trust's (MICT) first permanent home in 14 years of operation. Based in Craignure, the centre is to be used for community events, business meetings and

will have facilities for visitors waiting for the ferry. More than 120 people attended the opening with entertainment provided by the Junior Schools' Pipes and the Gaelic Choir, both supported by the trust. Sandy Brunton, Convenor of MICT, said: 'This is a very exciting day for our islands and a very proud day for the trust. We have been planning this for many years and now have a fantastic building to help

sustain our islands' future. The name An Roth was suggested by a Gaelic conversation group on the island and means 'The Hub' which really fitted with our plans, as well as being not too difficult to say! During the opening, Mr Reid congratulated the local community on the tremendous effort they had made to build such a fantastic building. He said: 'The building will be a great asset to the community

and will be the envy of other islands.' Designed by Benderloch-based architect Shauna Cameron, the building has sheep's wool insulation, ground source heating and LED lighting. Funding for An Roth was contributed towards by the Big Lottery Fund Scotland. Chair, Maureen McGinn, said: 'The Big Lottery Fund invested in this community as we could see it had the enthusiasm, drive

and determination to succeed. We are delighted that this new enterprise centre is opening so that local people, many of whom have been actively involved in its development, can now benefit.' She added: 'Our Growing Community Assets fund has allowed us to support this island community to take more control and influence over its own future. 'We are proud to have been able to help.'

Distillery backs family support charity



Carol Bennett from Oban Distillery presents the cheque to Home-start's Aileen Binner 15\_107homestart01

OBAN distillery continued its well-established relationship with family support charity Home-start by donating a cheque for £450 last Friday.

Pictured are Distillery Brand Home Manager Carol Bennett (left) and Home-start co-ordinator Aileen Binner, who was delighted to receive the money from the distillery's community fund.

'It's for a new computer and to replace the office chairs which at the moment are falling to bits,' Aileen said.

Home-start works by training volunteers to give counselling and advice to parents who may be having problems coping on their own. All Home-start volunteers are parents themselves.

The charity has been in Oban for 23 years and supports about 30 or 40 families each year. They are also starting to support families on Mull.

Mull care centre ready in August

A NEW state of the art care centre based on Mull is nearing completion, with work expected to finish in August.

The £8m Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre and Community Hospital, based in Craignure, will include three beds for in-patients, a two-bay community casualty unit and outpatient facilities.

The new centre will replace the existing Dunaros Residential Care Centre and Community Hospital in Salen. Residents there will be transferred to supported accommodation in the new facility.

Bill Thompson, chairman of the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Company, said: 'We have been working for this for 16 years with a committee of islanders and are delighted to see such good progress. We are very grateful for all the local support over the years in raising half a million pounds.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631568000  
01397 703003



From left: Stewart Findlay of the Forestry Commission, Anne May from The Friends of Oban Hospice, Rachel Allen and James MacDonald at the handover of the cheque. 15\_105allanchequet

Memorial rally raises more than £4,500 for Oban Hospice

LAST summer's fundraising John Allan Memorial Barcaldine Rally has helped raise more than £4,500 for Oban Hospice.

A cheque for £4438.50 was handed over recently, but more money has since come in to top up the final total.

The cash will go towards the general running costs of the hospice, and the new Hospice at Home co-ordinator.

Motoring enthusiasts from across the area converged at

Barcaldine for the fifth anniversary of popular event last July, taking turns to sit next to a professional driver as they sped through the exciting Barcaldine Forest tracks.

Organiser James MacDonald said: 'It was a great success and we are hoping to hold it again this year.'

'This will be our sixth year so we hope the 2012 event will be even busier.'

Rachel Allan, the widow of

well-known rally driver and enthusiast John Allan, is delighted at the sum raised.

She said: 'I would like to thank everyone that took part and helped out on the day.'

The Forestry Commission's Stewart Findlay confirmed that there is an appetite to hold the Barcaldine Forest fundraiser again this year.

He said: 'We are really pleased we are able to continue to support the rally.'

Dunbeg mother's bid to set up support group for bereaved parents

A DUNBEG mother whose baby was stillborn is hoping to start a support group in Oban to reach out to other parents who have suffered a similar loss.

When Susan Simpson lost her daughter Eilidh Beth in September 2010, she decided she wanted to do something to help others who had gone through what she had.

Susan said: 'Instead of leaving Raigmore Hospital with our third daughter, we left with empty arms.'

Susan, currently based in Inverness, is now Highland Co-ordinator of the Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SiMBA).

The charity was set up in 2005 to provide support for parents who have either lost a child during pregnancy or close to birth.

SiMBA already has a number of support groups in operation which normally meet around once a month and Susan spoke of the help that such meetings provide for the bereaved.

She said: 'Some people just don't want to talk, but it helps with the healing to come and talk about it.'

SiMBA also issues other assistance to parents, such as providing 'memory boxes,' a collection of mementos including a 'blanket of love,' a birth acknowledgement certificate, hand and foot prints and other items.

Susan said: 'For some parents, there's absolutely nothing left of the baby and they have no memories except when they carry it and give birth to it.'

Another way for parents to remember their lost child is through a 'Tree of Tranquillity', a life-sized metal tree sculpture. Upon request SiMBA will provide a family with a leaf which can then be engraved and added to the tree. SiMBA's goal is to have a Tree of Tranquillity in every maternity district.

Susan is now about to do a sponsored swim to raise funds for the charity, which will take place at the Back Beach in Dunstaffnage on March 24.

She said: 'We've already raised £200 and we're hoping to raise more.'

Anyone wishing to get in touch with SiMBA can call them on: 01368 860 141. Alternatively, email the charity at team@simbacharity.org.uk.

Residents urged to vote on hydro project

RESIDENTS of Mull and Iona are being urged to make their opinions heard about a proposed hydro electric scheme on the islands.

The Garmoy Hydro Project, run by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), seeks to build a hydroelectric turbine on the burn near Garmoy. To secure the land from the Forestry Commission, MICT must demonstrate support from the community for the project.

Ballot papers were expected to land

on doormats throughout the islands yesterday, February 15, and locals are encouraged to complete and return these. For the vote to be valid a 50 per cent turnout is required.

It is hoped the project, if it goes ahead, will generate the equivalent electricity needs of 230 homes and will produce an estimated surplus of £30,000 in the first year rising to £150,000 once loans have been repaid. Moray Finch, General Manager of MICT, said: 'It is important

that all residents of Mull and Iona use their vote. We need 50 per cent or more of the residents to cast their vote otherwise Forestry Commission Scotland may not accept the ballot. This would be a shame as there are many island projects and groups who will benefit from the surpluses we expect to make from this project.'

Completed ballot papers must be received by Thursday March 8 at 5pm. Results will be available mid-March.

Community group set to harvest first timber

HARVESTING time is here at last for the North West Mull Community Woodland Company.

The group, formed in 2006, own 700 hectares of woodland around Dervaig and expect to produce a minimum of 75,000 tonnes of timber over the next two and a half years.

Colin Morrison, chairman of NWMWC Ltd, said: 'The start of harvesting is central to our forest management and the long-term viability of North West Mull Community Woodland Company. With the road complete, harvesting underway and a contract for haulage in place, we are now in a position to move forward with our other projects.'

The harvesting will allow the company to pay the costs of constructing the 16.5 kilometres of timber haul route required to gain access to the public road network. A number of other projects will be brought forward. These include affordable housing, a micro hydro scheme and a forest school. Nine new forest crofts have already been delivered.

**CRUACHAN CREATIVE**  
TAYNUILT, ARGYLL  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

ANNOUNCING A NEW QUALITY GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICE TO PRINT AND PROMOTION

RECENT WORK FOR:

- Booze & Bubbles Scotland
- The Wide Mouthed Frog
- Oban

0784 9012419  
www.duncanlamontdesignandpix.com  
e-mail: duncan.lamont@stetopenwork.com

**carbon LOGIX**  
energy efficient buildings.

**New building technology creates houses with no bills**

Insulated concrete frameworks (ICF) is the intelligent solution to low carbon construction.

- Revolutionary new concrete wall and block system
- Air tight, robust structure boasts excellent thermal efficiencies
- Eliminates practically all heat loss
- Cheaper to build to Code 5 than using conventional materials
- Turnkey or watertight 'shell' solutions available
- Highly effective alternative for commercial development especially nursing homes, schools etc

Call 07711 742272 for more details

“The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record.”

\*(Source: Iqigey data January - June 2009)

**The Oban Times** & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Tel: 01631 568000  
email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**auchrannie resort**

Win a family weekend break at Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran In next week's Oban Times

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

**Cailean MacUlarig.**  
Do ghuth ann an croiteireachd.

**Colin Kennedy your voice in crofting.**  
New Crofting Commission  
Vote Colin Kennedy and watch the crofting community change for the better. Do you want a genuine crofter who will make real representations on your behalf Do you want your vote to be counted then 'Vote Colin Niall Kennedy' before March 16.  
Look out for your voting paper from Monday 27th February and return immediately to have your vote heard.

OT

**Road remains closed at Stromeferry**

THE A890 at Stromeferry will not be partially re-opened until at least February 27, a busy public meeting on Monday night heard. Specialist contractors TRAC Engineering Ltd, which has 40 workers sharing 24-hour shifts to stabilise the rock face, told the meeting at Achmore it needs extra time to install safety netting and clear rocks, soil and vegetation from the hillside. The road had been due to re-open tomorrow (Friday) but TRAC operations manager Angus MacGregor said: 'Our detailed examination of the site has revealed the need for much more rock scaling and additional stabilisation work than was originally envisaged. The health and safety of our workforce and the travelling public is paramount.'

When the road re-opens, a 10mph traffic convoy system will be in place between 7am and 7pm, with delays of around 30 minutes expected. The road will be closed overnight.

A landslide caused the closure of the road on December 22. A six-car ferry, the *Glenachulish*, has been transporting traffic between 7am and 6pm Monday to Saturday since then.

TRAC hosted a second public meeting in Lochcarron Village Hall on Tuesday night.

**Stòras Uibhist holds Mallaig ferry public meeting**

UIST community landowners Stòras Uibhist has set up another public meeting to demonstrate local support for re-introducing the Lochboisdale-Mallaig ferry service.

The event, being organised in conjunction with four community councils, will be held in Daliburgh South End Hall on February 24 at 7.30pm. Constituency and regional MSPs will attend the meeting. Stòras is also seeking face-to-face talks with infrastructure and capital investment secretary Alex Neil on the issue.

**MoD announces March Isle of Mull 'invasion'**

THE MINISTRY of Defence (MoD) will be conducting an exercise involving helicopters and ground troops on the Isle of Mull between March 11 and 30.

The exercise is just one of those taking place across rural areas of Scotland and will focus on the Ardmeanach area.

The MoD says out-of-hours flying had been authorised and noise disturbance may be experienced in some locations. Personnel will carry weapons and blank ammunition. A spokesman added: 'All personnel involved with the exercise will be briefed on the requirement to avoid disturbance to livestock and damage to property, together with the procedures for reporting incidents and complaints.'

**Loganair deny Islay airport complaint**

AIRLINE Loganair has denied making an official complaint to the company running Islay Airport about 'over-zealous' security checks on islanders.

Responding to reports that an official complaint had been lodged with Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), David Harrison, Loganair's chief executive said: 'We have a strong working relationship with HIAL, and have spoken to them about security arrangements at all of their airports. This has been portrayed as an official complaint, but that's not the case. It is an ongoing dialogue.'

'Our customers have told us that, whilst safety and security is of paramount importance, they would like a security regime which is as unobtrusive as possible.'

**Mull councillor questions high fuel prices**

A PROMINENT member of Mull Community Council has criticised the high price of fuel on the island.

Vice chairman Steve Willis warned that vehicles were a necessity on an island that was 'not blessed with public transport'.

He said: 'It does seem grossly unfair we have to pay extra for petrol and diesel. We're paying 20 pence a litre more than everyone else.'

Mr Willis's comments come as Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid urged the Office of Fair Trading to look into high fuel prices and delivery charges in remote areas.



**National finals here we come!**

Lochaber shinty players celebrate after winning the Primary 5 and under regional play offs at the Nevis Centre on Saturday. The team, captained by Ryan Andrews of Spean Bridge Primary and coached by Lochaber player Martin Porter, will now represent the area in the RBS national finals at Lochaber High School on February 25. Banavie won the Primary 6/7 playoffs. Full report and pictures, back page. 20. 073shinty01

**Police arrest man after Torlundy gun theft**

LOCHABER police have arrested one man and detained another in connection with the recent break-ins in Caol, Corpach and Fort William.

The breakthrough came after two firearms were stolen from the Forestry Commission offices at Torlundy on Monday. Two men were subsequently detained 'following extensive inquiries'.

Inspector Donald Campbell of Fort William police told *The Oban Times* at the peak of op-

erations on Monday, 20 officers, including local police and crime management personnel, trained specialists from HQ and officers from Dingwall were involved in the hunt for the thieves and the two weapons.

He said: 'One male has subsequently been arrested and is to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court tomorrow (Wednesday) in connection with these incidents.'

'Quite clearly there was a grave concern when weapons like

these are in the wrong hands. These weapons should be in the hands of people that know how to handle them.'

'We have recovered the two firearms and it's a weight off a lot of shoulders. I can tell you. We are relieved to have them back under safe control.'

'We would like to thank the public for their support and response to the request for information throughout the sustained period of these break-ins.'

**Tiree haulier claims government has misread RET signals**

Transport minister announces additional £2.5m funding

A TIREE haulier has accused the SNP Scottish Government of neglecting the islands because it is 'too busy thinking about its independence referendum'.

The comments by Catriona MacLennan, of Tiree company MacLennan Motors, comes after transport minister Keith Brown announced the government was investing £2.5million to make it easier for hauliers to move to the new fare structure following the modifications to RET, saying: 'No haulier will see fare rises of more than 50 per cent in any year.'

There will also be a six month study into the effect of the new fare structure on the islands' economy.

'Disastrous' While welcoming news that RET will apply to commercial vehicles up to six metres in length, a one metre increase on previous rules, she said a 50 per cent increase on fares would be 'disastrous' for island economies.

She said: 'We would be going up by 55 per cent, so it won't make much of a difference. It will be disastrous for the local economy. A 50 per cent increase is huge. The price of a 10m lorry will go up from £250 to £375 - before 20 per cent VAT is added on.'

'The islands' economy is fragile enough. For example, petrol is sitting at £1.60ish a litre at the moment. That will probably go up a couple of pence as a result - before the 5p derogation.

'Island life is already very expensive and this will just make it worse.'

'The Scottish Government is so busy thinking about its independence referendum and they can't get things like this right as a result.'

'Misread She feels that the Scottish Government has misread its studies into the effects of RET on island economies when it says some communities felt the savings created by the pilot were not passed on by some hauliers.'

She pointed out that islanders on Coll received their goods by van, prices for which never changed under the proposals.

She added that spending on promoting tourism to the isles was pointless when there wasn't the infrastructure to cope.

Announcing the measures, Mr Brown told *The Oban Times* that 'Nowhere will have more than a 50 per cent increase this year.'

'It brings parity to all hauliers - that didn't happen before as some benefited more than others. Some will benefit, some won't.'

'What we have agreed is a study of the impact of the measures.'

The results of the study will be analysed closely, he said.

As part of the announcement, the Scottish Government pledged to work with hauliers and communities to lobby Westminster and other organisations outside its control, on matters like VAT and insurance costs.

**Islanders 'encouraged' after talks in Edinburgh on Isle of Barra's protected status proposals**

CONTINUED opposition to imposing environmental designations for waters off Barra found solid footing at Holyrood last week.

Islanders travelled to Edinburgh last week to protest at the Scottish Parliament and a delegation watched as Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands list MSP, raised Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)'s plan to impose protected status on the Sound of Barra.

They say they have been 'encouraged' by a subsequent discussion with the minister for environment and climate change, Stewart Stevenson MSP.

Chairman of the South

Hebrides Against Marine Environmental Designation (SHAMED) campaign group, Angus MacLeod, has now vowed to fight on until such time as the proposed designation is removed.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Wildlife Trust last week re-affirmed its support for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)'s position that the Sound of Barra is a site of European importance, despite SHAMED' claiming the evidence was, in effect, fabricated.

Mr MacLeod said: 'Firstly, I would wish to express the gratitude of the people of Barra to Jamie McGrigor for his thorough and persuasive presentation to his fellow MSPs.'

Secondly we'd like to express our relief that so many MSPs listening to the motion appeared knowledgeable and well-briefed as to our cause and showed their widespread support in opposing this proposed designation.'

'We were further encouraged during our discussions with Mr Stevenson.'

'Neither did Mr Stevenson dispute the validity of SHAMED's scientific evidence in support of our case against SNH's proposal, nor oppose our assertions of abuse of 'due process' by SNH in contravention of European environmental directives.'

'We will fight on to protect the legitimate and consensual

interests of the people of Barra by highlighting the deeply flawed marine science held as 'evidence' within SNH's proposal and SNH's flouting of established European and Scottish environmental directives in pursuing what is increasingly being seen as their own self-serving interests in this entire woeful matter.'

'We call upon the minister for the environment to apply sound judgement when considering SHAMED's case and dismiss SNH's ill advised proposed SAC designation forthwith.'

Mr Stevenson was contacted for comment but was unable to respond at the time of going to press.

**Young army cadets from Argyll train in the disciplines of traditional Scottish music**



Left to right Shaun, Chloe and Millie practice in the open air.

Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, has played all over Europe.

'This year I've played in the Berlin Tattoo and in Sweden and

last year I played for HM The Queen at Balmoral and marched down The Mall, piping for thousands of people,' he said.

Chloe Marr, 16, is at Dunoon Grammar. She's a drummer who is making a name for herself in the art of flourishing her drum sticks.

Major Jim Stout, is the officer in charge of ensuring that the pipers and drummers get the best possible tuition.

He said: 'We have designed our training to give our cadets a good grounding in traditional Scottish music.'

'Additionally we have had our training expanded so that it meets not only the official piping qualifications, but also gives them a BTEC which counts towards college or university places.'

'I am very proud of our cadet musicians. They are enthusiastic, dedicated and a great advertisement for young people in Scotland.'

FORT William Shinty Club is facing a potential crisis with no agreement yet reached on where the team will play its home games this year - despite the new season starting in just over two weeks.

The club's home park at An Aird is currently undergoing renovation work and is not expected to be available until August, meaning Fort face a race to find a temporary home before facing Scottish Hydro Premier Division newcomers Bute on Saturday March 3.

Talks have been held between club officials and Highland Council to secure a new venue, with Black Parks in Inverlochy

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

the most likely destination - a site Fort manager Peter MacIntyre told *The Oban Times* was far from ideal.

He said: 'In my opinion the pitch is not fit for premier league shinty. There's only a single-track road down there; it would be a bottleneck for traffic and there might be problems trying to get an ambulance down there if a player gets injured.'

'It's a worry. We've got our first game against Bute in a few

weeks and I don't know where we're going to be playing.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron, who regularly attends Fort William matches, told *The Oban Times* the Inverlochy pitch might be the only alternative left.

'It's looking increasingly like Black Parks is the only option,' he said. 'They were looking at the football pitch at Canal Park but there was an issue with the size of the pitch and it being used for youth football, and there's already a lack of football pitches in the area. And unfortunately the pitch at [Lochaber] High School is not ready yet.'

'It's certainly not an ideal scenario, but you can't create

a first-class shinty pitch from nowhere, you have to go with what you've got.'

He added: 'They're breaking eggs to make an omelette; it's not permanent and we're going to have a far better surface at An Aird after this.'

Councillor Cameron said he hoped Black Parks would be ready for Fort's first home game of the season, weather permitting.

Camanachd Association operations manager Astie Cameron said all Fort's fixtures would be played away from home if they cannot secure a pitch.

He said: 'It's the club's job to tell us where they are playing, it's not up to us to provide that.'

**Manford hits out at RET critics as government limits fares increase**

WESTERN Isles Council transport convener Donald Manford has blamed 'politically motivated' elements for precipitating the government's decision to withdraw the commercial RET ferry fares scheme.

Speaking ahead of yesterday afternoon's meeting between the comhairle and Outer Hebrides Transport Group (OHTG) representatives in Stornoway, Councillor Manford welcomed transport minister Keith Brown's announcement on Monday of £2.5million over 12 months to limit hauliers' fare increases and a six-month study into how ferry fares impact on island life.

But in a thinly-veiled attack on RET's erstwhile critics, he told *The Oban Times*: 'The impact study is essential to repair the damage done by previous ill-considered responses during the assessment on the benefits of RET for commercial vehicles.'

'Criticism from some people responding back for the Western

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Isles was very often politically motivated and disparaging of the commercial elements of the scheme - certain elements of the political establishment did not want it to be a success. We are now facing the consequences of that.'

'There were many occasions in the comhairle when concerns were raised that there was little benefit to the public and customers from RET on commercial fares because there was no obvious reduction in prices.'

'This was in ill-judged and inaccurate assessment. Consequently, the concern of the assessment was that commercial RET was not value for money and did not pass on benefits to the people. I believe that was always not the case and I said so at the time.'

disappointment to me that is only after the damage has been done that some people have woken up to the consequences [of withdrawing RET] and we are therefore fighting to correct the errors of the past. I am confident that if we use common sense and reasoned argument, then we might see further movement over the coming months.'

In his announcement, Mr Brown pledged the extra £2.5m for lorries on Western Isles, Coll and Tiree routes would mean no haulier would see fares rise by more than 50 per cent in any year. Vehicles under six metres still qualify for RET, which pegs ferry fares to equivalent road costs.

He said: 'Before RET was introduced some large hauliers were able to claim rebates of a maximum of just 15 per cent on their fares. We believe this new transitional arrangement will better support all hauliers with significant discounts available. The study into ferry fares, he

added, would 'bring additional clarity' for all affected communities.

OHTG, which is campaigning for RET for lorries to be retained until the study is complete, gave a muted response.

Co-ordinator Gail Robertson, of Benbecula hauliers DJ Buchanan, said: 'By stating that no fare will increase by more than 50 per cent - is the minister saying that he is content with fare increases of 49.9 per cent?'

'The level of support available for commercial traffic for islands is being greatly reduced. Mr Brown keeps referring to hauliers and the prices they will pay - this is not a tax on hauliers but a tax imposed by the SNP Government on island households and island communities.'

'We are pleased that the Government is taking up our idea of having a proper impact study. In the meantime they should leave the current support in place.'

**Rail group call for more trains**

A RAIL services pressure group has called for more frequent trains on key routes linking the West Highlands to central Scotland.

The call came as a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the re-franchising of Scotland's rail network in 2014.

Reducing services to cut costs would lead to 'a spiral of decline', warned the group, Friends of the West Highland Lines, who instead recommended more services and better marketing to make the lines generate more revenue to cover costs.

The group's criticisms were echoed by Oban Community Council, which said the West Highland service operators 'had assumed that users were all tourists, and had no interest in journey times or frequency.'

Franchise holder ScotRail currently runs three services per day from Glasgow to Oban and Fort William.

Dr John McCormick from Friends of the West Highland Lines called on the regulator, Transport Scotland, to 'specify a higher frequency of at least four trains per day, with a minimum gap of four hours between trains'.

Both Friends of the West Highland Lines and Oban Community Council attacked the consultation for viewing West Highland trains as a social service with little potential for economic benefit.

Fears were also expressed about an alcohol ban across the board on Scottish trains, an idea the consultation had indicated it would consider as a response to aggressive and anti-social behaviour.

'In most circumstances this would be an unpopular and unnecessary measure,' Dr McCormick said.

**Invasive Japanese weeds cause problems for Oban developer and neighbours**

OBAN homeowners say they have come up against brick walls when trying to report insufficient control of Japanese Knotweed on a neighbouring building plot.

Sue Bell's Albert Road home sits opposite that of friend Aisling Clark on George Street - sandwiching a building plot owned by Shaun Bate which is covered with the invasive plant.

Legislation They are concerned that the species, which can undermine foundations and grow through

concrete, could spread onto their property and have been in correspondence with him in an effort to get the weed removed.

However, they say he has failed to take proper steps to eradicate the weed.

Subsequent conversations with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Argyll and Bute Council have proved similarly fruitless, with each telling the neighbours that the other is responsible.

Mr Bate, on the other hand, insists that the weed has

been sprayed and some plant matter removed in line with legislation.

Eradication difficult Because Japanese Knotweed grows from rhizomes, continued chemical treatment, repeated cutting or deep excavation is required to ensure its removal. Full eradication can take up to five years.

Sue and Aisling have now called on the Scottish Government to legislate for such circumstances and remove all doubt when it comes to dealing

with the spread of Japanese Knotweed on neighbouring ground.

Sue said: 'We're worried that, unchecked, it will start growing on our property. The problem is there seems to be no single point of contact to report problems to.'

'The council don't want to know and the one organisation you think would be able to deal with it, SEPA, also don't want to know.'

'This isn't a problem that just affects us. It's a growing

problem across Scotland.'

Mr Bate said there had been a breakdown in communications between himself and the plot's neighbours, adding he feels he has done nothing wrong.

He said: 'Japanese Knotweed is everywhere and it is a problem. There's no doubt someone has to do something about it.'

'SEPA actually praised me for the way I dealt with the knotweed. It has been dealt with and is being dealt with. I can't do any

more than tell them what I've done and they refuse to believe me.' He is now considering taking the plot off the market until such time as the weed is fully eradicated.

A SEPA spokesperson said: 'SEPA did not consider there to be a need for any regulatory intervention in the case of the Albert Road site and our intention throughout has been to provide appropriate guidance and advice with a view to minimising any environmental risks involved, in accordance

with relevant legislation and guidance.' Argyll and Bute Council said all it could do with complaints about Japanese Knotweed was urge neighbours to speak to each other, while the Scottish Government confirmed there is currently no legislation dealing with Japanese Knotweed, nor any plans to introduce legislation.

However, it said it would: 'continue to support local and regional efforts to control non-natives, where it is cost effective.'

**Portree garden fence damaged**

POLICE are investigating vandalism to wooden fencing around a garden at the junction of Stormyhill Road with Windsor Crescent in Portree. The damage was caused in the early hours of Sunday, police say.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Busy agenda at ward forums**

THE LOCHABER south ward forum will be held in the Council Chambers, Lochaber House, Fort William, next Monday at 6.30pm.

Scottish and Southern Energy representatives will be on hand to answer questions on the loss of power and water during December's storms. Other items on the agenda include Fort William High Street and an update from November's youth issues meeting.

The north ward (Caol and Mallaig) forum will be held in Kilmallie Hall the following evening at 7.30pm.

The agenda will be similar, but a discussion on the ferries review will replace the Fort William High Street item. Both meetings are open to the public.

**Cleaning service wins award**

HIGHLAND Council's education, culture and sport cleaning service has received a performance network award as 'most improved performer' in the Association of Public Services 2011 Excellence Awards.

The cleaning service, which employs 850 people, provides a daily building cleaning service to 367 council establishments including nurseries, schools, offices, libraries, community centres and museums.

Lochaber cleaning officer Catriona McAllister, a member of the winning team, was presented with the national certificate and trophy by Councillor Bill Fernie.

**Fort FC jackpot rises to £200**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday.

Numbers were 11-15-20. The jackpot goes up to £200 this week.

**Police files**

AN ATTEMPT was made to break into the West Water Treatment Works, Eracht Drive, Caol, sometime between 4.30pm and 10.10pm on Thursday February 9.

DAMAGE was caused to a bedroom window in Camanachd Crescent, Fort William, sometime between Friday February 3 and 1pm on Monday February 6.

TWO VEHICLES were scratched while parked next to each other in a public car park on Lochaber Road, Fort William, sometime between 12pm on Saturday February 4 and 11.30am on Monday February 6. Another vehicle parked in a driveway on Lochaber Road was scratched between 7.45pm on Friday February 3 and 8.30am on Saturday February 4.

A CAR parked on Castle Drive, Lochside, was scratched overnight on Friday February 3 and Saturday February 4.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Newsdesk  
01397 703003

# Marooned fishing boat: an accident waiting to happen



Danger: the decommissioned fishing boat stranded on the shore at Caol. 20\_107ship01

LOCAL people are being warned to keep away from a 75-foot decommissioned fishing vessel marooned on the shoreline at Caol.

The boat broke its moorings at Tresaig during the December 8 storm and was driven across Loch Linnhe high up onto the shingle at Canal Parks.

Sometime on Saturday February 4, a 12-man liferaft from the vessel was inflated, prompting a team from Fort William coastguard to remove it to a place of safety.

The liferaft had been inflated by pulling a lanyard to a CO2 cylinder, described by Coastguard Lochaber sector manager Phil Wren as 'extremely rusty and dangerous'. Twelve rocket

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

flares were also found and taken away for safe disposal.

Mr Wren told *The Oban Times* the vessel had become a local landmark, but was proving to be 'dangerous'.

He said: 'Luckily the out of date flares have all been accounted for. In the wrong hands these explosives are lethal.'

'Inside the liferaft is a large canister containing items you would need if you abandoned ship - everything from drinking water and fishing tackle to first aid equipment. From the manifest only two items appear to be missing.'

He added: 'It's a hulk of a thing

and it's becoming a bit of a pain. It has gone so far up the beach it would take another storm to move it.'

'It's an accident waiting to happen. If somebody tried to climb up the hull it's a 30-foot drop on to the beach. There are also objects on board that could cause injury such as net drums and jagged metal.'

'We must point out that it is both illegal and dangerous to board any shipwreck.'

The coastguard has been in touch with the owner of the vessel, believed to be a Dutchman currently working abroad. If the vessel becomes a hazard to navigation, it could be towed away or taken apart, Mr Wren said.

**'Mr Cairngorms' wins mountain festival award**

FORT William Mountain Festival's Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture has been given to mountaineer expert Dr Adam Watson.

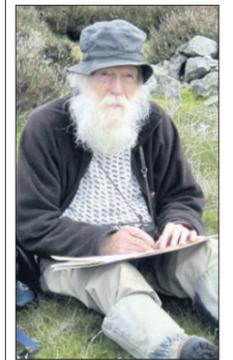
The award, sponsored by Rio Tinto Alcan, will be presented to Dr Watson at the Nevis Centre on Saturday, preceded by a short film of his lifetime achievements and testimonials from friends and admirers.

The Aberdeenshire man, nicknamed 'Mr Cairngorms' for his expert knowledge of the range, has published 23 books and many hundreds of scientific and other publications around the world.

Dr Watson previously received the John Muir Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Highland Mountain Culture Association chairman Mike Pescod said: 'Few people, if anyone, can have a better understanding and knowledge of the Scottish mountains than Dr Adam Watson. He is a great ambassador for mountain culture.'

Last year the award was given to Nevisport founder Ian Skyes.



'Mr Cairngorms': Dr Adam Watson.

## Crowds flock to Glencoe to commemorate anniversary

CROWDS of locals and visitors flocked to Glencoe on Monday lunchtime to commemorate the 320th anniversary of the infamous massacre.

On a bright, dry day more than 70 people joined members of Clan Donald for the annual short march from the Bridge of Coe to the Celtic cross memorial led by piper John MacCallum. The march followed a service in St Mary's Church in the village at 11am.

Reverend Adrian Fallows led the ceremony and explained the history behind the massacre of February 13 1692 when 38 members of the Clan MacDonald were murdered by King William's troops.

Rev Fallows said: 'Many events should never be forgotten. We are gathered here to remember one of those events.'

Gaelic singer Griogair Labhruidh sang a traditional song about the massacre before Glengarry's Lois MacDonnell, patron of Clan Donald Ottago, South Island, laid a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald New Zealand. Flowers were also laid by the Glencoe Heritage Trust and the National Trust for Scotland Glencoe.

Colin Baker, of Carmarthen in Wales, left a bouquet of flowers at the memorial on behalf of his family. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There's no family connection, but we have been here on holiday for the last few years and we wanted to see what the ceremony was like.'

The event, which has been held for the last 80 years, was jointly organised by the Glencoe Heritage Trust, the Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and St. Mary's Church.



The procession to the Celtic cross memorial at Upper Carnoch drew more than 70 people. 20\_107glencoe02



Lois MacDonnell lays a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald New Zealand. 20\_107glencoe01



Kilmallie Shinty Club award winners with club stalwarts Hugh MacIntyre, Alastair MacIntyre and Isabel Campbell. Absent from the picture is second team player of the year, Jamie Morrison. 20\_107k101

## Kilmallie Shinty Club holds first awards dinner in 50 years

KILMALLIE Shinty Club held its first awards dinner dance in more than 50 years in Caol Community Centre on Saturday night.

After securing its place in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division, the occasion provided a chance for everyone associated with Kilmallie to enjoy a social get together ahead of the new season.

And event organiser, player Martin Stewart, had his efforts rewarded as around 80 people enjoyed a hugely successful evening of fine food, laughter and music.

Kevin Toye won player of the year for his heroic efforts in goal, second team player of the year was Jamie Morrison, Craig McIsaac was voted most

improved player, while Frankie Innes took the juvenile player of the year.

Other awards handed out by compere and coach Johnnie Morrison were somewhat less distinguished - and had the audience in stitches.

'Best move of the season' went to Peter MacIntyre - following his 'move' to Glasgow, announced Johnnie.

'Worst trainer' John Stewart rightly won 'best trainer', but Michael Rodger had to fight off strong competition for his 'worst trainer' award.

'I took the worst trainer, but I have the most ability,' a straightfaced Michael told *The Oban Times*.

Sebbie MacMillan was judged 'worst dressed player', Liam

Cameron claimed the 'best dressed' title and Martin Stewart was 'fastest and fittest player of the season'.

'Injury of the season' went to Robbie MacFadzean for heroically stopping the ball with the tenderest part of his anatomy, while Liam 'Goof' MacDonald earned the 'goal of the season' title for his wonder strike in the 5-2 win over Inveraray.

Summing up the evening, club secretary Linda Campbell said: 'I think it's fantastic to get everybody together for the social night. It's been really worthwhile.'

Linda also thanked the sponsors, Caol Community Centre staff and all those who had helped make the occasion such a success.

## Wind turbine appeal rejected

AN ARISAIG woman has lost a second appeal against a decision to reject her bid to build three wind turbines to provide her croft with green energy.

Julie Ann Bryce asked a Scottish Government reporter to intervene after Highland Council blocked the turbine plan at Sunnyside Croft, Bunacaimbe, on visual amenity and noise pollution grounds.

But in his findings the reporter ruled that Ms Bryce's appeal papers lacked sufficient detail on noise emissions to allow him to overturn the decision. A similar bid had also been turned down on appeal previously. However, he hinted that with better supporting information a different outcome was possible in future.

He stated: 'The second failure at appeal of a scheme for the site does not preclude possible success with a further submission supported adequately by relevant information enabling a robust assessment.'

He added: 'There is no compelling indication that important wildlife would be significantly at risk from the turbine blades or deterred from using local habitats.'

To opponents of the scheme's possible negative visual impact, the reporter had a different message - that litter on the shoreline was likely to be a far more serious deterrent to tourists than three 21-metre turbines.

'A shocking amount of rubbish, mostly plastic, on the shoreline,' he said, should be the subject of 'systematic clear-up campaigns during the summer season'.

## Developers to start work on mini-roundabout

DEVELOPERS behind a multi-million retail, community facilities, business, and leisure project on the Blar Mhor estate near Fort William plan to start work on restructuring the Lochybridge mini-roundabout by the end of the month.

Miller Developments are creating a new two-lane roundabout at the junction of the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles under a planning deal to secure infrastructure improvements for the community.

Once the three-month job is complete,

construction work will begin on a new roundabout on the A830 to create an access route to the site and a new entrance to Caol Industrial Estate.

**Store**

Supermarket giant Tesco recently received planning permission from Highland Council to create a 70,000 square-foot store.

A spokesman for Miller Developments told *The Oban Times* he hoped preparatory work, including peat extraction, would be completed by the end of the year, paving

the way for Tesco to open the new outlet in 2013.

Plans for the 105-acre site also include a new Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch, a combined police-ambulance headquarters and a relocated Belford Hospital with helicopter landing facility, if and when sufficient finance becomes available.

Miller Developments said 'detailed discussions' had been held with Northern Constabulary about plans for the new police station.

## Shopmobility Lochaber delighted as grants boost funds by £5,000

A LOCHABER charity has a double reason to celebrate after receiving two grants totalling more than £5,000.

Fort William-based Shopmobility Lochaber was awarded £4,980 from Comic Relief through the Scottish Community Foundation to help buy new equipment including two scooters, an electric 'powerchair' wheelchair and a large wheelchair.

The group, which provides free use of wheelchairs, powerchairs and electric scooters for people with mobility problems, was also given £200 by the Rotary Club of Lochaber. The

money will go towards creating a new website.

Group co-ordinator Billy Ward described the grants as 'an absolute godsend'. He said: 'These grants will make such a difference. We have been getting busier every year and our long-term goal is to be able to satisfy demand for our equipment. We have in the past had to turn clients away as we did not have enough equipment.'

'We cannot thank these two organisations enough for their tremendous gesture in awarding us this money. Every penny will be put to good use.'

## Sea-kayaking film wins top prize

LOCHABER specialist film and video makers Sunart Media has won a top prize at a Canadian international film festival with its latest sea kayak production.

'Rescues - Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown', filmed off St Kilda and at various locations round Skye and the Outer Hebrides, won Best Sea Kayaking Film 2012 at the Reel Paddling Awards in Toronto. The film will now tour venues around the USA and Canada.

The accolade was the second Sunart Media has claimed at overseas film festivals.

Sunart Media's Simon Willis, a former BBC producer/director, said: 'Sea kayaking is a fast growing sport and, as double award-winners, we are now the market leader for instructional DVDs. We're helped hugely by the locations in which we film, because for paddlers, Scotland's west coast is a world-class destination.'

## Council tax frozen for fifth year

HIGHLAND Council agreed to freeze Council Tax for a fifth successive year at its meeting in Inverness last Thursday.

Tax for the year from April 5 will be £775.33 for Band A; B - £904.56; C - £1,033.78; D - £1,163; E - £1,421.44; F - £1,679.89; G - £1,938.33 and H - £2,326.

Councillors also confirmed a revenue budget of £602 million for 2012-13, including £232,870,000 for education, culture and sport and £130,556,000 for health and social care.

The council also agreed to contribute £39,457,000 to police services and £14,787,000 to fire and rescue services.

**Sgoil Chitil**  
The Highland College  
University of the Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

**\*NEW\* NC Traditional Music & Short Courses**

**FREE TASTER WEEKENDS in Plockton**

<p><b>25th/26th Feb - NC Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Time 1 year course</li> <li>• Meet the tutors &amp; find out more</li> <li>• Workshops in: Sound Engineering, Practical Harmony &amp; Groupwork</li> </ul>	<p><b>10th/11th Mar - Short Courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Music &amp; Song</li> <li>• Improve your playing skills and learn some great new tunes</li> <li>• Explore Scots &amp; Gaelic Singing</li> </ul>
---	--

Tutors: Gordon Gunn • Jack Evans • Wilma Kennedy • Mick West  
www.whc.uhi.ac.uk • 01599 544706 • jackie.maclennan@whc.uhi.ac.uk

**hwenergy**  
the biomass heat specialists

**Making Biomass heat work for Argyll**  
Wednesday 22nd February, Hunters Quay Dunoon, 11.30am-2pm

HWenergy invites you to a free Biomass Heat Demonstration Day:  
See first hand how a large local business has cut heating costs and carbon emissions by using automated wood fuel heating

With the recent OFGEM announcement that the RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) has been launched now is the time to assess the benefits that biomass heating can bring to your organisation. You are therefore invited to a demonstration event to see it working in practice.

The purpose of the day is to allow you to see biomass heating first hand, learn about the Renewable Heat Incentive & discuss how you can save on your heating costs.

**theGHPshop** This day is aimed at those with large heating demands for large private and public buildings (not for single domestic dwellings)

If you would like to attend this event please contact Louise McMillan on 01397 706412 or email louise.mcmillan@hwenergy.co.uk

**ISLAY**

DESPITE major redevelopment works currently taking place at Port Ellen pier, a recently published Scottish Government paper has set out proposals to run fewer ferry sailings to Port Ellen and more sailings to Port Askaig in future.

This proposal is outlined in the 'Scottish Ferry Services Draft Plan for Consultation' published in December 2011.

The community has been asked to give its views on this draft proposal. Once the document is finalised, it will not be reviewed again for the next 10 years. To read the proposal in full, please see <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/draft-ferry-services-plan-consultation> (page 34).

This proposal has the potential to have a considerable impact on the economic and social growth of the Isle of Islay, and particularly on the Kildalton and Oa area.

On February 2, an online petition was opened by South Islay Development organisation.

To comment directly, visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZ25CFT>.

South Islay Development is interested in hearing views and receiving any relevant information from members of the public, particularly from those who would be directly affected if these proposed changes go ahead, in order to inform the South Islay Development organisation's official response to the proposal. Contact Kirsten on [kirsten-ldo@btconnect.com](mailto:kirsten-ldo@btconnect.com) or phone 01496 302505.

**CÒISIR** Ghàidhlig Ìle has started 2012 with a trail-blazing project featuring the epic historical poem, *Blàr Thraigh Ghruineart* by Islay Bard William Livingstone, which depicts the famous Battle of Gruinart of 1598.

The poem vividly describes scenes from when the Macdonalds and the Macleans fought over the Rhinns of Islay.

The success of last year's Rogha Bàrdachd Ìle project, in which the talented Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Traditional Music graduate Clare Jordan composed original music to Islay Bards' poems, inspired the senior choir to commission Clare to create a *Blàr Thraigh Ghruineart* suite of three original choral arrangements which can be sung alone or sung in sequence, following the narrative sweep of the original Livingstone poem.

The choir welcomes new members as it undertakes this inspiring project with Clare.

Joining the choir is a commitment, but one that is enjoyable and rewarding. Members are not required to speak Gaelic or read music, as friendly support in both is given. The choir meets for rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.30pm in Bowmore Hall.

**MÒD Ìle 2012** syllabus and entry forms are now available and can be provided via email from [alisongray@aol.co.uk](mailto:alisongray@aol.co.uk) or by contacting the entries secretary on 01496 301546.

Closing date for Mòd Ìle entries is April 20.

Islay's local Mòd will be held on Saturday June 2 in Islay High School, Bowmore.

**TOMORROW** (Friday), participants in this year's Fèis Oigridh Ìle is Dhiùra will perform at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, Bowmore, at 7pm, concluding their lessons in traditional music and dance.

**STRACHUR**

STRATHLACHLAN Community Centre will host its first whist drive of the year tomorrow (Friday) at 8pm. The following evening, February 18, will see a piping concert by Strachur and District Piping Association, starting at 7.30pm with tickets costing £5.

**PLOCKTON**

JAMES Greer, who recently retired to live in Plockton, was guest speaker for the SWRI in Plockton Hall on January 12.

James talked on his experiences as a firefighter and training officer in Glasgow. Around 20 people enjoyed the evening.

On January 18, Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held a social evening in Plockton Hall with a quiz and pot luck supper.

A Burns Supper was held in Plockton Hall on January 28. Organised by Robert Kennedy, 60 people attended and were welcomed by young pipers Cameron and Alastair Sharp.

While Cameron played, Alastair brought in the haggis and also said Grace. Peter Mackenna addressed the Haggis after a lovely meal of soup, haggis, turnips and tatties, along with coffee and shortbread.

Peter MacAllister gave an interesting musical Immortal Memory by singing Burns songs. Robert Kennedy proposed the toast to the lassies and his wife Meryl replied. Various other artists took part with James Gillespie reciting Holy Willie's Prayer and Norman Craig reciting Tam O' Shanter with no notes the highlights.

**BARCALDINE**



Barcaldine Primary School pupils show off the new outdoor equipment.

**Pupil wins new play equipment**

BARCALDINE Primary School has been given new outdoor equipment after one of its pupils won a prize in a Food Standards Agency poster competition – for

the third year in a row. Shona McKenzie's design came highly recommended by the agency in its annual calendar competition. Shona received a £50 Amazon

voucher and the school won £250. The primary seven pupils spent this prize money on a wide range of outdoor toys for the school.

Meryl Kennedy organised fundraising in Plockton for the Neuroblastoma Alliance Vanessa Riddle Appeal. An auction at the Burns Supper for dinner for two at the Plockton Inn raised £112 and a coffee morning on February 4 in the Plockton Hotel along with donations took the total raised to £850.

Lochan, the local arts network group, presented virtuoso guitarist Simon Thacker, one of the UK's most exciting classical performers, in Plockton Hall on February 1.

A BBC news presenter with Hebridean roots is to visit Stornoway to discuss her recent book 'The Life of Pe'.

Reporting Scotland's Sally Magnusson, who visited Stornoway in 2008 to speak about her links to the area, will deliver the talk at the arts venue An Lanntair on Tuesday evening.

**STORNOWAY**

The proposal has so far won support from five people, with none against.

When asked why Burns Night was celebrated this year on February 3 in Dalavich, Gregory Lowrey, accordionist, explained that he had been entertaining the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh on Robbie's anniversary.

Chairman and vocalist DAVID Watson, resident of Dalavich, said he had heard from a West Coast Motors bus driver that the bus service timetable from Dalavich to Oban had been severely cut.

He said there would be only one bus a day taking pupils to and from Oban High School and during the school holidays the bus would be only three times a week.

He asked if there was any further information about this. Iain Alexander, chairman, said

**DALAVICH**

THE RECENT well attended Big Breakfast, held in Kilchrenan village hall, was a great success thanks to the work of Maria Seep and Margaret Anne Nicolson.

A total of £500 was raised for Mary's Meals. It only takes £9.40 to feed and educate a child for a year. A big thank you for the generosity of those who helped reach this sum.

CHILDREN in the 0-3 room at Killin and Crianlarich Nursery have been learning about water.

They visited the water wheel to discover how the water moves the wheel and have looked at the Falls of Dochart in spate.

Children in the 3-5 room have been learning about camping including where to camp and how to cook.

They visited the Outdoor Shop to find out about the equipment they needed for camping. They sent a letter to Killin Mountain Rescue to ask if they will visit the nursery to talk on safety when walking and camping outdoors.

There was also a Big Toddle in Killin in aid of Barnardos which raised £149. The children from Crianlarich Nursery raised £661 on the Welly Waddle for the Cot Death Trust. Thanks go to everyone who supported the event.

CAOL Primary pupils had money on their minds last week as the school took part in its annual 'money week'.

Youngsters form nursery to P7 learned about all aspects of money, from different coins and notes, to credit, budgets and debts for the older children and they visited local shops and charities.

Staff from the local Co-op store came round to the school to teach them about fair trade, and the pupils set up their own shop where they took turns selling toys to their classmates.

Pictured, left, in the school 'shop' are, from left, Arwen MacMaster, Lennon MacKenzie, Gillies, Innes MacDonald and Vaughn Hart.

**COLL**

AN AS yet unnamed special guest will join folk music legends Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain in visiting Coll this summer to open the island's £1.6million hall – An Cridhe.

The mystery guest will open proceedings on Wednesday July 11 before Phil and Aly take to the island's new stage the following day for a concert.

A variety of activities are planned, designed to appeal to all guests, both islanders and visitors.

A spokesperson for Development Coll said: 'There will be activities for all ages across the four days. Activities include puppetry, music, sports and film making. There will be photographic and art exhibits celebrating the wide range of talent Coll has to offer.'

Sponsorship is being sought for the opening celebrations. Meanwhile, tickets are still on sale for this month's fundraising ceilidh with Trail West in Glasgow's Oran Mor.

For more information on any of the above, contact Emma Grant on 01879 230000 or email [emma@developmentcoll.co.uk](mailto:emma@developmentcoll.co.uk).

**TAYNUILT**

BRIGADIER John MacFarlane is to speak at the annual Scottish Heritage Symposium in Laurinburg, North Carolina, in the 20th anniversary year of the town's twinning with Oban.

The Taynuilt man will speak about life in 18th Century Argyll and on Gaelic place names, folktales and folk sayings of Upper Lorn. The 24th annual symposium will take place between March 16-18. The exchange between Oban High School and Scotland High School, Laurinburg, will be getting recognition at the event. Laurinburg's Beacham McDougald will receive the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for his tireless work on the school exchange over the past 20 years.

**INVERARAY**

RESIDENTS of Chalmers Court in Inveraray have had their houses fitted out with new kitchens and bathrooms by Argyll Community Housing Association.

Around 17 households were upgraded in the project which one resident described as 'excellent'.

**TORLUNDY**

THE RURAL Education Centre in Torlundy was packed out for a slide show presentation from local crofter Neil MacBride.

Mr MacBride, of Muirshearlich, showed those present photos from all around the west Highlands, including Fort Augustus, Kinlochleven, Mallaig and Fort William, dating back to the First World War. Centre trustee Isabel Campbell said the evening had been 'extremely interesting'. A ladies night focussing on jewellery making will be held next Monday night, while Tuesday will see men learning how to make cloutie dumplings and beer. To book a place at either event, call 01397 703810.

that he had written to Douglas Blades, Transport Manager, but he had had no reply. Councillors Elaine Robertson and Louise Glen-Lee said any proposed changes would be on the agenda at the next area committee meeting where they would do their best to make sure rural areas were adequately supplied with public transport.

THE RECENT well attended Big Breakfast, held in Kilchrenan village hall, was a great success thanks to the work of Maria Seep and Margaret Anne Nicolson.

A total of £500 was raised for Mary's Meals. It only takes £9.40 to feed and educate a child for a year. A big thank you for the generosity of those who helped reach this sum.

**KILLIN**

CHILDREN in the 0-3 room at Killin and Crianlarich Nursery have been learning about water.

They visited the water wheel to discover how the water moves the wheel and have looked at the Falls of Dochart in spate.

Children in the 3-5 room have been learning about camping including where to camp and how to cook.

They visited the Outdoor Shop to find out about the equipment they needed for camping. They sent a letter to Killin Mountain Rescue to ask if they will visit the nursery to talk on safety when walking and camping outdoors.

There was also a Big Toddle in Killin in aid of Barnardos which raised £149. The children from Crianlarich Nursery raised £661 on the Welly Waddle for the Cot Death Trust. Thanks go to everyone who supported the event.

CAOL Primary pupils had money on their minds last week as the school took part in its annual 'money week'.

Youngsters form nursery to P7 learned about all aspects of money, from different coins and notes, to credit, budgets and debts for the older children and they visited local shops and charities.

Staff from the local Co-op store came round to the school to teach them about fair trade, and the pupils set up their own shop where they took turns selling toys to their classmates.

Pictured, left, in the school 'shop' are, from left, Arwen MacMaster, Lennon MacKenzie, Gillies, Innes MacDonald and Vaughn Hart.

PRO-ACTIVE volunteers on Luinig look set to be given the funding they need to upgrade Luinig Adventure Playpark.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee had been advised to approve a third sector grant from the council to the tune of £181.65, when it met yesterday (Wednesday).

Islanders have already raised a similar amount of money to refresh the playpark and have plans to repair the broken suspension bridge, paint the picnic table with preservative and replace worn out drive belts in the lawnmower.

The playpark has been maintained by volunteers since it was built in 1995 and any repair work will be undertaken by locals.

AFTER much negotiation with Stirling Council and other partners plans for the first 3G full size synthetic pitch at McLaren High School are making progress.

It will enable hockey, athletics, football and non-contact rugby practice to be played in all weathers. There will also be a grass pitch suitable for school rugby and football.

The total cost is in the region of £500,000 - £550,000. There is a shortfall of approximately £80,000.

The Working Group is working on other funding applications and is launching a series of community fundraisers, including Lucky Sods. Any help in this fundraising would be very much appreciated.

**LUING**

PRO-ACTIVE volunteers on Luinig look set to be given the funding they need to upgrade Luinig Adventure Playpark.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee had been advised to approve a third sector grant from the council to the tune of £181.65, when it met yesterday (Wednesday).

Islanders have already raised a similar amount of money to refresh the playpark and have plans to repair the broken suspension bridge, paint the picnic table with preservative and replace worn out drive belts in the lawnmower.

The playpark has been maintained by volunteers since it was built in 1995 and any repair work will be undertaken by locals.

RAASAY crofter Paul Camilli is celebrating the arrival of new Tamworth piglets at his South Arish croft late on Monday night.

First job for Paul, above, was to clean away mucus from the litter as they were born. Out of 11 piglets, one, the runt, died straight away then Bracken the sow rolled over on one overnight, leaving nine.

Paul, motorman on the Sconser ferryboat, the *Loch Striven*, told *The Oban Times* on Wednesday Bracken had managed to squish another two piglets overnight on Tuesday, reducing the ranks to seven. 'I hope that's the last,' he said.

RAASAY crofter Paul Camilli is celebrating the arrival of new Tamworth piglets at his South Arish croft late on Monday night.

First job for Paul, above, was to clean away mucus from the litter as they were born. Out of 11 piglets, one, the runt, died straight away then Bracken the sow rolled over on one overnight, leaving nine.

Paul, motorman on the Sconser ferryboat, the *Loch Striven*, told *The Oban Times* on Wednesday Bracken had managed to squish another two piglets overnight on Tuesday, reducing the ranks to seven. 'I hope that's the last,' he said.

Generous pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula have collected old school bags filled with basic school equipment such as stationery and notebooks, as well as items of clothing to send to children in developing countries. The items were gathered during the school's recent backpack appeal and given to the Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals. The packs will be sent to deprived schools in Africa and Asia. The pupils raised around £800 for the charity last year with four days of events, including a talent show and a giant Strip the Willow involving the whole school.

Primary pupils back Mary's Meals

Generous pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula have collected old school bags filled with basic school equipment such as stationery and notebooks, as well as items of clothing to send to children in developing countries. The items were gathered during the school's recent backpack appeal and given to the Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals. The packs will be sent to deprived schools in Africa and Asia. The pupils raised around £800 for the charity last year with four days of events, including a talent show and a giant Strip the Willow involving the whole school.

**BENBECULA**

Primary pupils back Mary's Meals

Generous pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula have collected old school bags filled with basic school equipment such as stationery and notebooks, as well as items of clothing to send to children in developing countries. The items were gathered during the school's recent backpack appeal and given to the Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals. The packs will be sent to deprived schools in Africa and Asia. The pupils raised around £800 for the charity last year with four days of events, including a talent show and a giant Strip the Willow involving the whole school.

William Cameron welcomed the guests from as far afield as Canada, Perth and England, as well as neighbouring Kilchrenan.

The haggis was carried in by John Fleming, with Duncan Leitch piping. Also taking part were Agnes Fleming, Selkirk Grace, Jeanette Connor, Recitation; David Booth, Song - Caledonia; Gregor Lowrey, The Immortal Memory; Robert Connor, Toast to the Lassies, and, of course, William Cameron with 'Tam O' Shanter' and all the actions.

During the supper, Gregor Lowrey gave a recital, with feeling, of the tale of 'The Crow', which was composed by Lionel McClelland.

Thanks go to all the participants at the Burns Supper for an excellent evening.

**KILCHRENAN**

CHRISTINE Metcalfe, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council member, requested support from other members, for continuing her work relating to the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route and associated problems.

The vote was unanimous that she should continue.

DAVID Watson, resident of Dalavich, said he had heard from a West Coast Motors bus driver that the bus service timetable from Dalavich to Oban had been severely cut.

He said there would be only one bus a day taking pupils to and from Oban High School and during the school holidays the bus would be only three times a week.

He asked if there was any further information about this. Iain Alexander, chairman, said

CAOL Primary pupils had money on their minds last week as the school took part in its annual 'money week'.

Youngsters form nursery to P7 learned about all aspects of money, from different coins and notes, to credit, budgets and debts for the older children and they visited local shops and charities.

Staff from the local Co-op store came round to the school to teach them about fair trade, and the pupils set up their own shop where they took turns selling toys to their classmates.

Pictured, left, in the school 'shop' are, from left, Arwen MacMaster, Lennon MacKenzie, Gillies, Innes MacDonald and Vaughn Hart.

Competition results: 3 snowballs – 1 Helen Gibson. Winter picture – 1 June Taylor; 2 Judith Witts; 3 Helen Gibson.

Liz Gibson closed the evening with thanks to Elizabeth, her friends and all visitors.

MORAR EIGHT ladies attended the February meeting of Morar SWRI when the theme for the evening was 'green issues'.

After the usual business was concluded, guest speaker Tiina MacVarish gave members a detailed talk about the careless disposal of plastics and how people are polluting the oceans.

Thanks go to Tiina for her interesting talk. Competitions: Quiche - 1 Isobel Morton; 2 Linda MacLean; 3 Christine Haynes; 4 Rita MacDonald. Recycled Pen Holder - 1 Isobel Morton; 2 Flora Lawrie; 3 Christine Haynes; 4 June Foxwell.

The raffle was won by Tiina MacVarish. Hostesses - Linda MacLean and Heather Simpson.

On January 28, 10 members attended the Christmas Dinner in the Clachan Inn. Thanks go to all the staff for helping to make it an enjoyable evening. The raffle was won by Flora Lawrie.

Kilbrandon PRESIDENT Linda Brown welcomed an excellent turnout of 24 members and visitors to the February meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held in Seil Island Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Charles Struthers, owner of Ardmaddy Castle, who gave an entertaining and informative talk on the running of a Highland Estate. Although steeped in history, it was fascinating to learn how the estate has adapted and evolved over the centuries as economic and social conditions have changed.

Ann Reid gave the vote of thanks.

Around the Rurals

Lochawe THE FEBRUARY meeting of Lochawe SWRI was held in Lochawe Village Hall.

Demonstrator for the evening was Mrs Shirley Leneman, Milliner, who gave an interesting talk on making various hats and fascinators.

Mrs Leneman brought a variety of finished hats and explained the methods used in producing individual designs for special occasions.

Competition, Orange curd: Gold - P McLeod, silver - J Ogden. An excellent tea was provided by hostesses for the evening P McLeod and M MacKenzie. The next meeting of Lochawe Institute will take place on March 7 at 7.30pm in Lochawe Village Hall.

The institute held a Burns Social Evening and was delighted to have the company of the Dalmally Institute. In all, there were 24 ladies present and a traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties was enjoyed by everyone.

A Scottish quiz was well received.

Glenorchy GLENORCHY SWRI held its first meeting of the new year on January 25.

This was an open night with members from Lochawe and Taynuilt invited along.

Glenorchy president Liz Gibson warmly welcomed the visitors and introduced the speaker Elizabeth Little and her friends from the Oban branch of 'Singing for the Brain'.

This is a group which started up in England about nine years ago and has been found to be very good in helping people who have had brain injuries, a stroke or memory loss. The joy of singing together helps to stimulate the brain.

Everyone joined in the singing and felt the joy of it all. There are several groups in Scotland. A sales table proved successful and the usual raffle took place.

**Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary annual pass reader offer**

**Save up to £26!**

**SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY**

Every Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary visit is a fascinating journey beneath the waves. Now you can see it all when you claim your 12 month Residents Sea Life Annual Pass.

Claim your pass, using The Oban Times' application form, and pay just £10 instead of £36. A child's annual pass will cost just £8 instead of £24. Children under three go free of charge. Your annual pass will also entitle you to 12 months unlimited free admission to another nine UK Sea Life centres and Sanctuaries including Loch Lomond Aquarium (Balloch), 20% discount in Sea Life Sanctuary gift shops, 20% off hot drinks at the centre, a half price official guide book, free entrance to the Sea Life Sanctuary Winter Wonderland Fun Day and £5 off admission to Edinburgh Dungeons.

To claim this offer, complete the below application form and, along with an up to date passport sized photograph, take it along to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, any time in February, 2012. You can also post your application, photo and a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to Merlin Entertainments, to Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SE.

**2012 APPLICATION FORM**

Name: ..... Email: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

I am applying for (please tick the appropriate box, only one pass per application):

An adult pass for £10  A child pass for £8 Child's date of birth: .....

I have attached my passport sized photograph to this application form

Tick here to receive information from Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary

Complete this application form and, along with your photograph, take it to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban or to apply by post, see above for details. Applications must be received by February 28, 2012. Terms & conditions apply.

Photocopied application forms will not be accepted. Only one annual pass per application form can be claimed.

**SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY**

**OBAN**

**THE OBAN TIMES**  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY**

**OBAN**

**THE OBAN TIMES**  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Island fare scheme needs to work for islanders

DESPITE efforts to resolve, or at least reduce, the row over ferry fare discounts for haulage companies which operate throughout the islands of Scotland's west coast, it would appear that it is an issue that will rumble on for several months - with the islanders counting the ultimate cost.

Meetings this week are unlikely to find a compromise that can be readily agreed on, with at least one local councillor claiming that elements of the political establishment simply don't want the scheme to succeed.

The fragile nature of the economy of these islands is much more sensitive to action and reaction than that of their mainland counterparts and an expectation that fare increases limited to 'not more than 50 per cent', would be readily welcomed or passively accepted is nothing short of naivety.

If the road equivalent tariff (RET) scheme was introduced to generate visitor income for the islands then there can be little argument that the ideal could generate a welcome boost to the tourist industry within the island network, however, most islands do not currently have the infrastructure to support an increase in traffic volume nor the capacity to accommodate additional visitors during peak periods. And until these basic issues are first addressed, the maximum opportunities of the RET system, as it is perceived in its current form, will not bear fruition.

Haulage costs remain the largest single factor in the complex balance sheet of island life and if visitors on arrival find that their island destination is more expensive than they had anticipated, they will simply not return.

While the Scottish government instigate an impact study to gauge the effects on island haulage companies, perhaps politicians should leave the current workable support scheme in place until their judgement is based on fact.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Mull and Iona Gathering

THE 146TH annual concert of the Mull and Iona Gathering was held recently in Glasgow University Union with Jim Corbett in the chair.

Singers for the evening were Jennifer Campbell, Stuart Jackson and Alasdair White so the evening had a Mull/Ardnamurchan flavour, a characteristic further emphasised by Mull and Iona Ceilidh Band which comprised president Charlie Kirkpatrick, his son Niall and his fiddle playing nephew Alasdair Whyte, together with keyboard player Ross Wilson.

Alasdair, who is soon to tour in Australia with the Battlefield Band, played solo and the association pipers also performed. Young Eilidh Graham, granddaughter of assistant secretary Elizabeth Graham, presented the chairman and his wife, Patience, with mementoes of the occasion. Music for the dance which followed the concert was provided by Camus.

### Ceolas in Glasgow

SINCE it first started in 1996, Ceolas, the summer school in South Uist which promotes the Gaelic language and its traditional music, song and dance, has gained world-wide fame.

This was evident at the recent concert in the Strathclyde Suite, one of the many sell-out Celtic Connections concerts this year. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine there could be anyone with southern Hebrides connections and living in the Greater Glasgow area not in attendance. Certainly, it must have been the 2012 concert with most Gaelic speakers in the audience.

The concert, with Rona Lightfoot and Kathleen MacInnes sharing the duties of compere, had plenty variety with many of the artists the tutors who have participated in the festival over the years and while, individually, they performed well it was the second half before the concert came to life and the audience became involved.

By then it was time for Angus MacKenzie with Fin Moore and Angus Nicolson, with whom he plays in Seudan, and then with his brothers Kenneth and Calum, over from Nova Scotia for the occasion, to play lively sets of tunes. Add in Alan Henderson and Iain MacFarlane of Blazin' Fiddles, Allan MacDonald, Seonaidh MacIntyre and Dawn Beaton, also from Nova Scotia, and the house band was complete. With such an array of talent, the audience was treated to some excellent music.

Michelle McManus made an appearance to confirm her continuing affection for the language and for the Outer Isles.

### Choir concerts

ON FRIDAY February 23, the Glasgow Islay Gaelic

Choirs, senior and junior, will get the choir concert season underway at Bearsden Burgh Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from choir members or at the door. Archie Robertson, president of the Camanachd Association, will be in the chair.

In Partick Burgh Hall on Friday March 9, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association will hold its concert and then it will be the turn of Govan Gaelic Choir in Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu on Wednesday March 21.

### Oban High School FPs

THE ANNUAL dinner dance will take place in the Crown Plaza Hotel on Saturday March 10 at 7.30pm.

This year's speaker will be Maureen McMillan, nee Hoey. Tickets are available from Ruth Oliver, 0141 423 0591.

### Lex Keith

IT WAS with great sadness that I learned of the sudden death of Lex Keith after a short illness.

Lex was a popular accordionist for many years and our sympathy at this time is extended to Jean Anne and the immediate family.

### Diary dates

**Thursday February 16:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jim King.

**Friday February 17:** Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle.

**Saturday February 18:** Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, James Coutts Trio.

**Thursday February 23:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Steve Turner.

**Friday February 24:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs Annual Concert, Bearsden Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm. Scottish Music Competition for Juniors, Royal Conservatoire for Scotland, 6pm.

**Saturday February 25:** Ceol's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street, from 2.15pm. Details next week. Glasgow Skye Association Buntata's Sgadan, Crawford Hall, Partick, 7.30pm. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Buffet Ceilidh Dance, Partick Bowling Club, 7.45pm. Annual Junior Piping Competition, National Piping Centre, 9am. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Annual Dinner Dance, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 5pm-11pm.

### Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend it will be Parting Glass on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday, while in the Park Bar it will be Gunna Sound on Friday, Eriskay Lilt on Saturday and Scott Harvey on Sunday.

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



## Oban WRVS long-service awards - 1986

Mrs K Boyd of Ardconnel Road, Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows 15-year long-service medals being presented to members of the Oban area branch of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service in 1986. Mrs Elma Bomphray, organiser for Strathclyde Region, centre back, presented awards to, left to right: Annie Innes; Helen Oatey; Katie Boyd and Norma Wright. 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

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Give up your free time councillors

Sir, I read with irritation your report on the recent community council meeting, in particular the comments of Councillor Roddy McCuish.

He and some of his colleague councillors seem to regard themselves as a class apart from the ordinary residents of Oban whom he criticises for inaction. They must all remember the Third Sector - it used to be properly described as 'voluntary' - have to find considerable time and energy from their own lives to devote to a project, without any personal benefit. I speak from direct experience as a founder member of the Atlantis Board, my successors on which I hold in the highest regard for their continuing effort.

Oban Youth and Community Association (OYCA) was keen to take on the former Rockfield school building, but he seems to forget the purpose of the meeting to which he refers was to seek the backing - not financial - of Argyll and Bute Council to make it happen. While he indicated he would be in favour of what we would do, further support was not forthcoming. The council would not even hold up the marketing to pursue community possibilities. When it didn't sell, the council made no approach to the Third Sector to explore community possibilities.

It was put back on the open market and, despite an option which would have included a mixture of commercial and community use, it remains unsold. For some reason the council expected those involved in OYCA to spend their time generating a development plan and putting funding in place without any certainty their efforts would be supported by the council.

I would urge the councillors to give up some of their free time to help make these things work and also encourage council staff to help community projects in a tangible and practical way, rather than just 'providing support' by agreeing it would be a good idea and sending people away to get on with it.

David M Preston, chairman, OYCA.

### Assurance sought on Argyll policing

Sir, I have been informed pursuing targets for road traffic fixed penalty tickets is the current policy in Oban Police Office and that some officers had their shifts changed on one occasion from night shift to day shift with the instruction to issue fixed penalty tickets to meet numeric targets.

I was aware such targets existed in Strathclyde Police, however I never thought a policing style that is so alien to the Argyll method of community-based policing would arrive in Oban.

A police officer's primary task, as defined in the Police Scotland Act 1967, is to guard, watch and patrol so as to prevent crime. They should police their area taking into account the needs of their community; it should not be about dishing out fixed penalty tickets based on force headquarter targets. Officers

should certainly not have their shift changed from preventative patrols to be put on a day shift purely to issue tickets.

In previous times, police chiefs from the chief constable down to the sergeant measured an officer's value by the time they spent on patrol preventing crime and engaging with the public. Success was measured by zero return for crimes such as house-breaking on their patch. This, along with community engagement, was how I measured my officers' effectiveness when I was in charge of Oban, Lorn and the Isles. This is the traditional way of policing in Strathclyde.

In my experience officers and police staff in Oban, Lorn and the Isles want to deliver traditional, high visibility, community and people centred policing based on crime prevention and not an alien target driven culture.

I am sure your readers, like me, would welcome a reassurance from the officer in charge of Oban, Lorn and the Isles that the traditional preventative community engagement style of policing in Argyll has not been replaced by performance driven targets.

### Fred Hall, SNP Council Candidate, Ward 4, Oban South & Isles, Oban.

**Council concerns**  
Sir, Regards councillor Macintyre's letter to the editor 'Dedicated Argyll road team', this man sums up the problem with our council and government's.

I am sure Mr Macintyre would feel totally at home sitting in Brussels dictating to the serfs of Europe. Isn't it amazing how these people within undemocratic organisations like common good, common purpose or executive committees always cry they don't have the money or they're hit with cut backs by the big bad central government, at the same time they stifle any real progress or community action by their enforcement of EU dictated rules and regulations.

Perhaps we need more common 'elected' members. As for the roads department, I am sure the staff on the shop floor are dedicated. I would be almost certain they would have ideas to improve their efficiency and conditions, but the question is, are the bureaucrats and pen pushers helping or hindering these people?

Has anyone seen the full detailed and audited accounts for the roads department? Has anyone seen the actual costs for the administration and red tape of this department? What about a detailed business plan for the next five years, even two years?

I wonder how much extra we could pay our shop floor staff or what new technology we could buy for them if we cancelled out the red tape and private contractor costs?

Perhaps the people of Oban and Argyll should be asking the question, do we want to continue with this corporate-run council contaminated with EU rules, regulations and unelected bureaucrats or should we go back to being a locally-run county council.

Mr Macintyre, you work for the people of Argyll, we are not your staff or serfs.  
Keith Mcmillan, by email.

### Take a look at bad state of roads

Sir, I note the comments from Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, the council's Transport and Infrastructure Spokesperson, on road improvements across Argyll and Bute in his letter to *The Oban Times* recently and cannot allow his comments to go unchallenged.

If we were to believe all that Councillor MacIntyre tells us, then everything in the garden would be rosy as far as the condition of our roads is concerned. Unfortunately the motorists across Argyll and Bute know better.

It may be the roads in Councillor MacIntyre's own Oban and Lorn Area are in good condition but I can assure him this is not the case in other parts of Argyll and Bute. Given that his own area receives 35 per cent of the available funding for roads, which is much more than any other area, is it any wonder that the Oban and Lorn roads are in good condition?

Although the funding for the Mid Argyll area may be reasonable at 31 per cent, I believe the funding for the Bute and Cowal Area and the Helensburgh and Lomond Area at only 20 per cent and 14 per cent respectively, is totally inadequate.

I don't think Councillor MacIntyre manages to get out of Oban and into other areas of Argyll and Bute very often in his role so he is unlikely to have seen just how bad the roads in Helensburgh and our surrounding communities are.

Maybe it is time Councillor MacIntyre took a look. I know staff on the ground do their best but it is an impossible task if they are not given the appropriate level of resources.

Councillor MacIntyre highlights that 'Argyll and Bute Council's Roads Department is shortlisted for a COSLA award for the most innovative in the country'. Having looked at the thesaurus, Councillor MacIntyre could have replaced 'innovative' with 'ground-breaking' which may have been more appropriate.

George Freeman, The Argyll and Bute Independent Councillors Group.

### Let Kinloch Castle die quietly

Sir, As a staunch devotee of the best interests and traditions of North West Scotland, I write with respect but in strenuous contention with the views of your correspondent Ian Thornber, *The Oban Times*, letters, January 26, Kinloch Castle 'a national icon'.

I doubt it. Any comparison with the Cullins, the Glenfinnan

Monument and the Caledonian Canal is, with respect, utter nonsense.

A Lancastrian loom maker is perfectly entitled to spend what he likes on a holiday home even if he did employ only a few builders from Eigg and the majority from Lancashire with 25,000 tons of soil from Ayrshire and red sand stone from Arran, 170 miles away.

Such local unskilled labour was, of course, employed for a limited time. What then? Evacuate from the island?

Kinloch Castle was simply a family summer holiday home. The entire island was bought for £35,000 in 1888. Building and furnishing costs, supposing they were ever considered, are not recorded. The furnishings remain in situ and are as one would imagine as age and decay prevail.

A castle conceived in Lancashire should have lived there. To spend vast sums on restoration, even supposing they were available, would be insane though I greatly admire the efforts of volunteers who strive to curb the decay.

Let Kinloch Castle die quietly and crumble as so many castles have done on the north west coast of Scotland. Funds from the public purse? I hope not.

Richard Marples, Cumbria.

### Misleading slogan on working 'together'

Sir, Can someone tell me how the Argyll and Bute Council slogan 'realising our potential together' works?

Sixty two Oban town centre businesses, who between them employ more than 500 people, contributed £1,200 each to kick start a new marina in Oban Bay. Sixty two businesses who saw a new marina as a huge attraction for visitors to the town, not to mention a great facility for sailors.

So does Argyll and Bute Council throw its weight behind this proposal? No. They run off to yet another consultancy.

I don't really know why I'm complaining. I should have realised by now that politicians know what's best for us all.

Alan Macleod, Appin.

### Helpful driver

Sir, Congratulations to the bus driver who was so helpful on the 45 or 46 bus around 1pm from Middle Street, Fort William, to the Ben Nevis Hotel.

He not only carried a heavy go-chair for a young mother with twins but he stopped outside our hotel to let us off. Well done.

Moir M Lang, Albany Street, Oban.

## 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.



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

DÈ AN seòrsa beachd a th'agad fhèin mun Ghàidhlig is tu a' leughadh seo? Bheil thu a' faireachadh gum bheil i lag agus a' seargadh às neo am bheil thu miseachail agus a' creidsinn gum bheil na h-iomairtean às a leth dol a dh'adhbharachadh ath-nuadhachadh agus neart ùr dhì? Bhiodh e doirbh creidsinn gum biodh duine sam bith aig am bheil ùidh innte gu tur socrach ma deidhinn oir bidh iad uile glè mhothachail nach eil i cho bitheanta air bhean an t-sluaigh 's a bha.

Agus gun teagamh, 's e lèirsinneachd air mar a bha an crionadh sin a' tachairt mean air mhean a thug air adhart na h-iomairtean gu taice ionmhais agus poilteasaidhean leasachaidh a stèidheachadh airson na Gàidhlig agus a cultar ath-bheothachadh.

Thàinig adhartas nach bu bheag thairis air còig bliadhna fichead agus tha inbheach cosnadh an lùb na Gàidhlig an-diugh a' fhuair mòr-phàirt den cuid foghlam foirmeil tro mheadhan a' chàinain. Ach a dh'aindeoin an adhartais foghlaim sin agus Achd Gàidhlig, seirbheis craolaidh didseatach agus a h-uile buannachd eile a th'againn a-nise seach mar a bha còig bliadhna fichead air ais, tha amharas gum bheil sinn fhathast a' call an t-sabaid agus Gàidhlig a' ghleidheadh. Tha mi ag ràdh sin air sgàth 's gur e blàr a tha an seo a tha 'g iarraidh làn-cho-obrachadh ma tha dòchas gu bhith air buaidh.

Bha, agus tha, feum air a h-uile sochair a bhuninn sinn agus gu dearbh tha tuilleadh a dhìth, ach 's e rud a th'ann an cànan a bhuineas do dhaoine agus nach mair beò às an aonais! Gu dearbh, 's e firinn na cùise nach eil fù 's fàs ann an àireamh luchd-labhairt dol a riarachadh an t-uisdeachaidh mura bheil àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh gu bhith a' dol am meud!

Ma smaointicheas tu air, tha a h-uile goireas agus a h-uile sgillinn a th'air a thasgadh dhan Ghàidhlig air a bhonntachadh air argamaid chòirichean dlùgheach sluaigh a thaobh seirbheisean nan cuid cànan màthaireil. Mura cleachd na daoine an cànan, cumaidh i a' seargadh is chan fhada chum am bi am beagan taic a chaidh a bhunneo cho cruaidh ga thoirt air falbh 's gun dearbhadh ann air piseach neo feumalachd.

Tha nàimhdean gu leòr aig a' Ghàidhlig gun na Gàidhlig fhèin a bhith ga dòchan cuideachd agus 's e neart a' chàinain fhàs às ùr am prìomh amas dhan a h-uile neach aig am bheil taobh rihte!

DIALECTAL variations in a language are interesting but for Gaelic in Scotland now the key priority is to halt the decline in users of the language and to dramatically grow its audibility and visibility.

There are thousands of lapsed users who have the power to help by enabling others, and particularly learners, to build fluency and confidence in the use of the language. The status of Gaelic has grown significantly over the past quarter century but its ultimate survival demands practical action by its own people NOW!

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

## Times Diary

LITTLE Lily Robinson, aged 3, wrote a letter to supermarket chain Sainsbury's telling bosses their 'Tiger' bread patterned loaf should be renamed 'Giraffe' bread.

The letter, sent in May 2011, was received by Sainsbury's customer manager Chris King, who loved Lily's ideas.

He replied: 'Renaming tiger bread giraffe bread is a brilliant idea - it looks much more like the blotches on a giraffe than the stripes on a tiger, doesn't it?'

He went on to explain the origins of the bread's name, saying: 'It is called tiger bread because the first baker who made it a long time ago thought it looked stripey like a tiger. Maybe they were a bit silly.'

Mr King also enclosed a £3 voucher 'to buy some tiger bread - and maybe if mum and dad say it is ok you can get some sweeties too!', signing his letter 'Chris King, age 27 & 1/3'.

The letter has now hit a number of social networks and Sainsbury's have been bombarded with messages from customers telling them how much they liked Lily's idea.

The supermarket chain decided to trial the name change, implementing it in stores across the country.

A spokesman for the store said: 'In response to overwhelming customer feedback that our tiger bread has more resemblance to a giraffe, we will be changing our tiger bread to giraffe bread and seeing how that goes.'

GOOD TO see Kilmalee Shinty Club associates enjoy their first awards night and dinner dance for decades in Caol Community Centre on Saturday.

The player of the year winners earned well-deserved applause - but Johnnie Morrison's handing out of somewhat less worthy honours proved a masterstroke.

The audience was in stitches, not least when forward Michael Rodgers - never a shrinking violet at the best of times - stepped up to collect his 'worst trainer of the year' certificate. Was it deserved? We could not possibly comment.



Davy Paterson from Taynuilt won this bottle of wine at a recent raffle and, after reading the label of the bottle, wondered if it may be a cry for help from Ibrox Stadium.

PINE Martens around Inchree near the Corran Ferry, Bunree, are notorious for claiming local poultry on a regular basis.

But the furry predators faced a different challenge recently after a Brazilian parrot escaped from a local house.

The colourful bird took up residence in nearby Scots pines lining the A82 for three days - out of reach of the pine martens and would be rescuers.

Frostbite and hunger, we understand, eventually forced the escapee to realise a cage and a warm house wasn't so bad after all.

Share your humorous gems, comments on life or amusing tales with the *Diary*. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to *Diary*, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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

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

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

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

## PRESS POLICY

# Spotlight Lochaber

While the scenery that tourists flock to see remains as spectacular as ever, Lochaber has changed a lot over the years and no town more so than Fort William. 2012 is not going to see a slow down in this pace, if anything things are looking up.

Local residents are in for a treat with a new development planned for the Blar Mhor site at Caol. Included in the plans are a large Tesco store, a retail park and food and drink outlets.

There is also plans to upgrade the infrastructure in the area and housing will also get a boost with permission granted for around 300 new homes on the nearby Lochyside site.

Construction is expected to start on Blar Mhor before summer and land will also be given to the Council to build an all-weather sports pitch and new primary school. A new police station and hospital will also be built on the site.

It is believed the town centre will not suffer as it contains very few 'high street' retailers and is also undergoing regeneration with a new hotel and shops to be created.

It is hoped the new development will save residents from having to travel farther afield or shop online to get the goods they need. And for visitors and locals alike it will be an exciting year for the whole of Lochaber. The area has many wonderful events held annually. These include five different Highland Games, the Ben Nevis Race and the Scottish Six Day Trials, which almost 400 keen bikers have entered this year. Little surprise since it is billed as 'unarguably the greatest motorcycle trial in the world'.

And with over seven per cent of the area's population able to speak Gaelic there is little left to say than 'Is fearr feuchainn na bhith san duil'.

## D.M.G. HAIR STUDIO

tel: 01397 706 459

Professional Creative Hairdressing for Ladies and Gentlemen

**DONNA**  
Wednesday & Thursday 11am - 8pm  
Friday & Saturday 9am - 5pm

Mamore House | Parade Road  
High Street | Fort William  
PH336BA

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1997

## EILIDH CAMERON HAIRSTYLIST

Innovative styling with flair and expertise. Cut, Colour, Sets, Hair up's, Blow Dry.

Tel: 01397 706459

Open Tue, Wed, Fri 9am - 6pm  
Thur 10am to 8pm Sat 9am - 5pm

DMG Hair Studio, Mamore House, Parade Road, Fort William, PH33 6BA

## Lochaber Game Services Ltd

Quality Local Family Butchers

Wholesale/Retail Suppliers of Venison, Beef, Poultry and Fish

Open to the public

Selection of family packs made to your specifications

Free local delivery

Unit 10 Annat Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NA  
Tel: 01397 772042 Fax: 01397 772043  
E-mail: lochabergame@msn.com

## TOGS FABRICS

at Caol Shopping Centre, Ft William, PH33 7DR  
Tel: 01397 705402 or E: jennimark@hotmail.com

from Sparklies & Satins to Fake Fur & Tartans

SEWING supplies- Reels & Ribbons to Polka Dot Buttons

KNITTING Vast range of Yarns from 2ply to Superchunky

## basics

basically the best value bikes, parts, equipment & clothing that we can find.

ridgback MX3 Men's Also available in women's **£250**

ridgback Motion Women's Also available in men's **£250**

alpinebikes

Fort William 117 High St, Fort William, PH33 6DG t: 01397 704 008 e: fort\_william@alpinebikes.co.uk

## CAMPBELL homes

Quality Designed Homes

R E Campbell (Joinery) Ltd  
Station Road, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EP  
Tel: 01397 712561  
Fax: 01397 712650  
www.campbell-homes.com

Designing residential homes and commercial properties as well as all aspects of construction i.e. conservatories etc.

## NHBC REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDER

# John MacKinnon

Building Contractor

• Windows • Doors • Conservatories

Torlundy, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 704802  
e-mail: j.m.joiner@btconnect.com

## THE DESK TIDY

Looking for some extra, short-term secretarial or admin support? Don't want the expense of agency staff, then why not consider a virtual assistant who can provide secretarial and admin support when you need it.

Typing/Admin Service: Letters, CV's, Reports, Contracts, Minutes, Planes, Mail Merges. Proof Reading. Document Formatting and Layout. Risk Assessments. Internet Research. Travel Arrangements.

For further details contact Joan on  
Tel 01397 712693 Mobile: 07799490430 Website: www.thedesktidy.co.uk

## COMPUTERS

PC Repairs & Clean Up's

Data Recovery Specialist  
Very competitive rates  
Fast, friendly and reliable service  
Call John on 07747 892661/01397 700968

Free no obligation quote for all repairs

## Scrub-a-dub Dogs

- Dog Grooming
- Hand Stripping
- Clipping
- Nail Trimming
- Ear Cleaning
- Bathing
- DIY Dog Wash
- Friendly Professional Service

Tel: 01397 700 100

7 Lochy Crescent, Inverlochry  
Fort William, PH33 6NG

## LHAPS

01397 709245

101 HIGH ST.  
FORT WILLIAM  
PH33 6DG  
info@lhaps.org.uk

ALL-TRADES LOCAL TEAM  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  
KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS FITTED  
CALL TODAY

## SNIPS HAIR SALON

All aspects of Hair Styling and Colouring.  
Private Treatment Room.  
Fakebake. Spray Tan  
Loyalty Scheme  
Free Consultation  
Free Parking with Disabled Access

Albert Road, Ballachulish, 01855 811990. Established since 2000  
www.snipshairandbeauty.co.uk

## leven garden services

All aspects of garden maintenance

Contact Calum on  
01855 821081  
Mob 07841487088

## Bill Scott Architect

- Feasibility Studies
- Sustainable House Design
- Planning Applications
- Building Warrant Applications
- Certificates of Energy Design
- Free Initial Consultation

Tel 01397 704665  
Email - bscottarchitect@btinternet.com  
Tulach Blarmacfoldach, Fort William PH33 6SZ

## westcoast podiatry

THE FOOTCARE PEOPLE

Podiatry and Chiropody Care  
At the Dolphin Pool in Fort William & SNIPS in Ballachulish

routine foot care and nail cutting  
foot and heel pain  
biomechanics  
insoles and orthotics  
children's foot

health and development  
nail surgery  
deep corn removal  
acupuncture  
verrucae treatment  
diabetic care

To make an appointment contact:  
Linda Nadin BSc RN MChS 07792 265085  
Linda Johnstone BSc MChS 07947 492158  
enquiries@westcoastpodiatry.co.uk

## Autocraft

If you want to be in control of your ground Contact **AUTOCRAFT** today

- ARGO CATS new and second hand
- All leading makes of ATV's new and second hand, full manufactures warranty.
- MOT preparation
- Vehicle servicing and repair
- Mowers
- Strimmers, etc.

Tel 01397 722261 KINLOCHEIL, BY FORT WILLIAM

## Bryden Enterprises SHOCKBLAST

Cleaning the Nation

Specialist restorative cleaning

Grit blast and soda blast cleaning, rusty vessels or contaminated buildings

Tel: 01687 470 404  
Mob: 07717 183 159  
www.brydenenterprises.co.uk

## THE HIRE CENTRE (FORT WILLIAM) LTD

Dehumidifiers, Wallpaper strippers, Carpet and upholstery cleaners, Pressure washers (hot and cold), Woodworking tools, Drills and grinders. All sizes of breakers, Cement mixers, Disc cutters, Vibrating plates, Floor sanders, Industrial hoovers, Generators, Strimmers, Hedge Cutters, Water pumps, Power carriers, Dumpers, Mini diggers, Trailers, Alloy tower scaffolding, Ladders

- Small plant service and repairs
- New machinery supplied
- Delivery service available
- Local company

Open 07.30-5pm Monday-Friday  
• Weekend rates available

Established in Lochaber for over 10 years  
Tel 01397 700077 Fax 01397 701664 info@hirecentreltd.com  
Unit 32, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR

## KEN OLIVER

Forestry and Garden Contractor Est 1978

All aspects of:  
Tree Care Fencing  
Ground Care Landscaping

Speanbridge  
Tel: 01397 712 678  
Fax 01397 712033  
Mobile 07778 479300

## CROFT MOTOR SERVICES

Service & Parts  
Service maintenance on all vehicles  
Vauxhall Warranty  
24 hour breakdown & Recovery Service

Unit 5B Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR  
01397 703877 (24 hours)

## Beaver Timber LTD

Barcaldine, by Oban • Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237  
www.beavertimber.co.uk • email: info@beavertimber.co.uk

SUMMER HOUSES, SHEDS, GARAGES, FENCING, STABLES, DOG KENNELS, CHALETS, BESPOKE BUILDINGS,

ALL OUR BUILDINGS ARE MADE FROM 199MM BOARDS AND COME COMPLETE WITH 188MM FLOORING.

Sheds  
Garages  
Summer Houses

## COE CONTRACTS LTD

Fencing, Dyking, Landscaping and General Contracting  
Thirty Years' experience in...

Fencing, from garden to security.  
Dry stone walling and all types of masonry  
Landscaping and groundworks.

Operated excavator plant hire. 1.5 ton to 15 ton

NO JOB TO BIG OR SMALL  
For a competitive quote call the office on  
01855 811408 07979 867870

## KILMALLIE PLAYGROUP AND DAYCARE

Are you stressing about childcare? We can offer a solution!!

Open during holidays  
• Open 8.30am-5.30pm  
Arts & Crafts • Stories • Outdoor Play  
• Toys & Games

Term Time and School Holidays  
Competitive Prices  
Children aged between 2½ and six years old

For further details call  
Carole on 07876 260967

Now open and taking bookings!

Hillside House  
Belford Road  
Fort William  
PH33 6BT

P: 01397 704333 F: 01397 704123  
mail@kd-partnership.co.uk

kearney donald partnership  
chartered architects & CDM co-ordinator

## Chisholms Garage

Chisholms Garage are a Ballachulish based car breakdown recovery centre offering vehicle recovery services throughout Argyll and surrounding areas.

New MOT station opening in March for Motorcycles and up to Class 7.

To arrange a recovery or obtain further information call Chisholms Garage on 01855 811431.

## new start

HUGE range of quality furniture and new white goods all at amazing prices

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10 am - 4 pm

Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William

See us on Facebook & www.newstarthighland.org

**Musicians to join young Oban pipers for fundraiser**

A SCHOOL pipe band is giving its repertoire a modern twist by inviting well-known Argyll musicians to join them on stage at a fundraising concert.

Oban High School Pipe Band will host the concert at the Corran Halls on February 24.

The school is anticipating an expensive season ahead, as it plans to enter two bands into every one of the five major competitions.

Pipe Major Angus MacColl said: 'We are trying to make this concert a bit different; it is definitely not a typical variety show or recital.'

'We'll have musicians and singers on stage with the band for each number.'

Among those supporting the band on stage are: guitarist Finlay Wells; Sileas Sinclair and her uncle, Peter; and the Oban High School dancers.

**Frightened Rabbit for Highland tour**

INDIE band Frightened Rabbit are embarking on a tour of the Highlands this Spring.

Tickets for the tour, starting in April, went on sale this week.

Intimate venues are the theme, with some acoustic performances from lead singer Scott Hutchison before the full band join the tour.

Frightened Rabbit, which started in Selkirk in 2003, decided to tour their native Scotland and have never played in many of the venues before.

Included in the dates are a visit by Scott to Mull on April 15.

The full band will play in Stornoway and Portree later that month.

**Buble tribute act plays Oban hotel**



Michael Buble and Robbie Williams tribute act Andy Miller gave a sterling performance at the Columba Hotel, Oban last Saturday night. 15. 1071rhub01

**Minister visits new Aberfeldy spa**

ABERFELDY spa welcomed Scotland's finance minister, John Swinney MSP, as it celebrated moving to new, purpose-built premises last week.

Ultimate Serenity's new home at the Crown Building, Bank Street, is the result of years of hard work by owner, Cecelia L. Duffy. Having first qualified as a therapist in 1989, she worked for years on a self-employed basis before travelling to work overseas. She can count the Saudi Arabian Royal Family amongst her former employers, also working to set up a therapy department in an Istanbul country club.

She said: 'I would like to say a big thank you to all my clients who have made this move possible; to all who attended and all who could not make the opening. I hope you will experience the new Ultimate Serenity soon.'

**Last gasp grant offer could save Aberfeldy cinema project**

A LAST minute grant of over half a million pounds has helped save a project hoping to revive Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema.

**Iconic building**  
The Friends of the Birks Cinema group had passed the January 31 deadline to raise the £1.8million needed to refurbish and refit the iconic building some £100,000 short - meaning the project faced failure at the very worst.

However, the Big Lottery Fund's Growing Community Assets programme not only saved the project, but provided funding

assistance to ensure the sustainability of the cinema for the next five years.

The £539,950 grant couldn't have come at a better time for the group, who were considering reducing the spec of the picture house or even arranging a low-interest loan to help meet the costs.

**Reopening date**  
It is hoped work will start on the Birks Cinema in April to open 12 months later.

Julia Watson, a director of the Friends, said: 'It's fantastic news,

especially as they had turned us own when we had applied previously.'

'This not only helps us meet our fundraising goal, but it makes sure we have a balance in place for the first five years of operation.'

The new cinema will feature a cafe and a dedicated space for the arts, while the cinema itself is multipurpose and can be used for musical performances.

It is hoped that, long term, it could prove to be a hub for the arts in the town.

Julia said: 'The hope is it will bring together the various venues in the area and at some point in the future we may have a manager to co-ordinate them all and help bring more people into the area. I think that's what we are missing.'

**Crucial**  
Charlotte Flower, Chair of the Friends of the Birks group said: 'The big grants and major funds from the Scottish Rural Development Programme, the Scottish Hydro Griffin Windfarm Community Fund and Creative

Scotland have been crucially important, but the campaign has been about more than just large amounts of money.'

'Some of the most amazing efforts have come from individuals locally; from the child who popped in to an open doors day to donate their pocket money the other week, to the local distillery which has sponsored a row of seats.'

'Every single act of kindness, support and generosity is equally important and very much appreciated.'

**Summer school musicians pack them in**

PERFORMERS from South Uist traditional music summer school Ceolas sold out the Strathclyde Suite at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow as part of Celtic Connections recently.

And it was a Uist invasion of Glasgow as many islanders took their winter break in the city, coming from as far afield as France Switzerland and Ireland.

The evening was also enhanced by a showing of some beautiful photographs of people and scenes from the island.

Kathleen MacInnes and Rona Lightfoot ably co-hosted a star-studded programme in which they individually performed along with singers Gillebride MacMillan, Paul McCallum, Mairead Stewart, Sineag MacIntyre and a new young duo of Sarah MacKay and Josie Burgess from South Uist.

Ceolas' own male voice choir backed Mairead's 'Tha Tighinn Fotham Eirigh' and joined Iain MacFarlane in a great rendition of 'Thoir Mo Shoraidh Thar Ghunnaigh'

Uist's Seonaidh MacIntyre opened delivered a great set of Strathspeys and reels on the pipes alongside Cape Breton Connections brothers, Angus, Kenneth and Calum MacKenzie. Dawn Beaton, also from Mabou, played fiddle and danced.

The West Highland fiddle style was brilliantly displayed by Allan Henderson and Iain MacFarlane, who played a rip-roaring set of strathspeys and reels to energetic dance steps of Sandra Robertson and Frank McConnell.

The evening culminated with Angus MacKenzie, Fin Moore and Angus Nicolson from the band 'Seudan' joining Allan MacDonald and the rest of the ensemble to sing 'Teann a-nall's' their dhomh do lamh.'

**Highland and island youngsters are among FilmG award hopefuls**

WEST HIGHLANDS and isles locals are in the running to win awards in MG ALBA's national online Gaelic short film competition, FilmG.

Among those short-listed for next month's awards ceremony in Glasgow is Islay High School's 'Eilean an Uisge-Beatha', which has been nominated for best production and best film in the 12-17 category.

Also nominated for best production is Ardnamurchan High School's entry 'Bogwarts', while Portree High School, Lionacleit School on Benbecula, and Back School and the Nicolson Institute from Lewis are up for the Gaelic award.

In the FilmG theme award, Plockton High and Mallaig High are both nominees, while Jamie Campbell of Portree High has been shortlisted for best performance.

In the adult category, Comunn Eachdraidh an Taobh Siar from west Lewis, Uist Drama Group and Comunn Eachdraidh Eige (Eigg Historical Society) are shortlisted for a new prize, 'best community short'. Uist Drama Group is also nominated for best drama.

Judges were particularly impressed with the entries in the 12-17 categories, producer Morag Stewart said.

'It was extremely challenging



A scene from Ardnamurchan High School's entry 'Bogwarts'.

to choose only four films for each shortlist category, especially as there were so many entrants. Having worked with a lot of the schools on media projects, I know how much work would have gone into producing the films. This year's award ceremony is sure to be an exciting event as each category has some excellent contributions.'

The competition drew a record 76 entries from all over Scotland and beyond. The jury

panel comprised BBC ALBA executives and experienced broadcast industry representatives, including Chris Young, producer of hit Brit movie, 'The Inbetweeners' and former 'River City' actor turned producer/director, Tony Kearney.

MG ALBA chief executive Donald Campbell said: 'It is very encouraging that young and old alike embrace this competition from within the Gaelic and non-Gaelic communities

both home and abroad, and we would like to encourage as many people as possible to get behind the short-listed finalists by watching the films online.'

The prestigious awards ceremony will take place at The Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow on Friday 9 March. Up-and-coming band 'Donald MacDonald and the Islands' will provide live entertainment whilst an array of special guests will be there to present awards.

**Bogroy Band entertain at Skye box club night**



In full flow at Portree: George Bremner, Carol Irvine, Archie MacPhee and Jacqui MacDonald of The Bogroy Band

A FEAST of music lay in store for the many enthusiasts gathered in the Royal Hotel, Portree for the February meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Club chairman Jim Campbell opened proceedings by inviting local accordionist and keyboard player, John Cameron, drummer Donald John Campbell and multi-instrumentalist Derek Hamilton on stage to get the show on the road with a toe-tapping start.

Derek had travelled from his home in Ayrshire specially to attend - and was not the only far travelled musician on the night as drummers Richard Hughes from Mull and Aly MacIntyre from Dunbartonshire were also welcome visitors.

Needless to say, the musical skills of those gentlemen were put to good use throughout the course of the evening.

Other local musicians to entertain were accordionists Aly 'K' MacPherson and John MacGilvary, fiddlers Joe Buchan and Caerina Campbell along with two of her young pupils, Ellie MacPherson and Elana Beaton.

An addition to the great programme

was a fine display of dancing from three young ladies of the Skye Highland Dancers, namely sisters Anne and Gemma Taylor and Emma Gordon, who were immaculately turned out and enchanted the audience.

However, highlight of the evening was the superb performance of the guest band, Archie MacPhee and The Bogroy Band from Inverness area treated the appreciative audience to a wonderfully varied and well prepared programme, played to the highest standard. Archie led on piano accordion, on fiddle was Carol Irvine, on keyboard Jacqui MacDonald and on drums George Bremner.

All too soon it was time to bring the evening to a close and this was done in fine style when Archie invited all the players of the night to join The Bogroy Band in a traditional rousing 'stramash'.

Next Club night is on Thursday 1st March in the Royal Hotel, Portree when the guest artists will be fantastic Shetland fiddler, Maggie Adamson, with guitarist Brian Nicholson.

- John Grundy

**Screen Machine**

**Wed 22 & Fri 24 at 5:30pm, Sat 25 at 2:00pm**  
**Puss in Boots** (U) 90 mins  
Ever wondered what Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) got up to before he joined Shrek and Donkey? Now the story can be told. With streetwise, seductive Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek).

**Wed 22 & Fri 24 at 8:15pm**  
**The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo** (18) 158 mins **Nominated for 5 OSCARS!**  
Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgård  
Dazzling adaptation from Stieg Larsson's best-selling novel.

**Thu 23 at 5:30pm**  
**Hugo (3D)** (U) 126 mins **Nominated for 11 OSCARS!**  
A dazzling, award winning, passionate love letter to the cinema and its preservation framed by the strenuous adventures of two orphans in 1930s Paris on a quest to unlock a secret left by the boy's father.

**Thu 23 & Sat 25 at 8:30pm**  
**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (12A) 129 mins Dir: Guy Ritchie Robert Downey Jr., Rachel McAdams, Jude Law, Noomi Rapace

**Sat 25 at 5:30pm**  
**My Week With Marilyn** (15) 99 mins  
Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench.  
The amazing true story of Marilyn Monroe's week with a young Englishman. **Nominated for 2 OSCARS and 4 BAFTA awards.**

**Wed 22 - Sat 25 Feb**  
**Atlantis Leisure Car Park Dalriach Road, Oban**  
Book in advance at [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or telephone 0871 902 5750  
Ticket prices: Adults £6.50, U16s £5.00, Concessions £5.00, (3D supplement £1.50)  
Tickets on sale online until 3 hrs before each screening and at Screen Machine 30mins before each screening (cash only).  
All U16s must be accompanied by a parent or 21+ guardian at 8:30pm screenings.

**The Oban Times**  
**bonnie babies**  
competition 2012

In association with  
**The co-operative**  
good for everyone

WIN £500 worth of vouchers

**Enter your baby today!**

Enter online or by post  
We are now open for entries! Bonnie Babies 2012 is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. To enter by post please send us a photograph along with a signed entry coupon (see left) to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please make sure you write the name of the child, date of birth and a contact telephone number on the back of the photo. Should you wish for your photo to be returned, please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We will do our best to return your photo but please make a copy just in case. To enter online visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies).

After you have entered your child into the competition, look out every week in The Oban Times to see when your baby appears. You can find all the competition rules and terms and conditions online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies) or call 01631 568000. More details on page 6.

The closing date for entries will be announced in a future issue.

ENTRY FORM  
Child's name.....  
Child's date of birth.....  
Tel:.....  
Address:.....  
Name of parent/guardian.....  
Signature of parent/guardian.....  
I agree to all terms and conditions applied to this competition.....  
Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Terms & conditions: The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2012 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. Only one entry per child by entering the competition and by filling in the parental consent form that is provided with your entry. You - the parent or guardian - consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times Bonnie Babies feature in the paper and online and in any other related Oban Times Bonnie Babies promotion. If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the magazine or online then you should not enter the competition. The Oban Times cannot take responsibility for the safe delivery and safe return of the entrant's photograph. Photos posted without an enclosed stamped addressed envelope will not be returned. Poor quality photographs, which are out of focus, difficult to see the child's face, ripped, torn or folded, will not be accepted as an entry and will be returned to the sender providing a stamped addressed envelope is supplied by the entrant. By sending us your photograph, you agree that Wyman Media Ltd and The Oban Times have the right to publish the images and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting The Oban Times Bonnie Babies campaign. All the winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Employees of Wyman Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. Photocopied entry forms will not be accepted. Full terms and conditions at [www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies).

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch) CEILIDH IN TAUNOILT VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY, 16th February 2012 at 7.45 p.m.**  
Singers: Nicola Pearson, Rachel Walker, Wilma Kennedy (Trad Mod Gold Medalist).  
Hector McFadyen - Accordion, Jake MacKay - Mouthorgan.  
Agnès Liddell - Keyboard  
The Eilidh MacInnes Dancers  
Fear an Taighe: Eric Smith  
Admission £4.00, Members £3.00, Children £2.00  
Tea and Raffle  
Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture.

**St Columba's Cathedral Gala Concert**  
Featuring Michelle McManus Paul McCallum Comper John Carmichael  
**Friday 17th February 8pm**  
Corran Halls  
Tickets £10 available from Alba Art Shop, Corran Halls, Oban Music, Concessions Available

**29th Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival**  
OBAN [www.obanfestival.org](http://www.obanfestival.org)  
3 May - 6 May, 2012  
SYLLABUS & ENTRY FORMS from Oban Music or Download from [www.obanfestival.org](http://www.obanfestival.org)  
CLOSING DATE 12 MARCH  
Ticket & info Tel: 07510841198 from 3 April, 2012

**Race Night Saturday February 18th 2012**  
Compared by Harry McMaster  
Entry By Donation  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls 8 for 8.30  
For British Legion Scotland SC042395

**Lorn Garden Club**  
Silver medal winner Caroline De Lane Lee talks about Garden Design, Chelsea style, at St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban, on Tuesday, February 21, at 7.15 for 7.30pm.  
For further information contact Marie on 01631 564107

**MEUR LOCHABAIR Annual Skye Ceilidh**  
West End Hotel, Fort William  
Saturday, February 18, at 7.30pm  
Guest Singers: Catriona Fair, Calum Ross, Maggie MacDonald, Arthur and Ruraidh Cormack, Donald Murray  
Piper: Brighde Campbell  
Fear an Taighe: Alan Campbell  
Music: Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band  
Admission £8

**Dunollie, The 1745 House**  
Archaeology and Graves  
Volunteer Opportunities and Discovery Weekend 1-4pm  
Saturday 18th February-Kilbride Medieval Graveyard  
Sunday 19th February-Dunollie Castle and The 1745 House  
A weekend of hands on activities and guided walks in association with Adopt a Monument and Archaeology Scotland.  
Discover the variety of volunteer experiences available at Dunollie throughout 2012.  
Contact: 01631 570 550 • info@dunollie.org • www.dunollie.org

**A fundraising Soup Lunch**  
In aid of Oban Pipe Band  
Will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall  
Shore Street  
Saturday 18th February  
From 12 noon - 2.00pm  
Admission: £3.00  
All welcome

**Oban High School Pipe Band In Concert**  
Friday February 24, 2012 @ 7.30pm in the Corran Halls, Oban  
Also featuring special guests  
Tickets: £8 adult, £3 under 16/concessions, Family Ticket (2 adults/2children) £15  
Tickets available from Oban Music Shop, Oban High School, Corran Halls & Band Members.

**APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
The 1745 Dunollie House: Catherine Gillies  
**Saturday 18 February 2.30pm**  
Port Appin Village Hall  
ALL WELCOME!  
[www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity No. SC029411

**To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: 01631 568000

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

**what's on oban**

**Thursday 16th February >** Waste Not Want Not Skipinnish Ceilidh House & food-tasting event by The Grab Trust at 10 am  
**Thursday 16th February >** Ceilidh@9pm followed Skipinnish Ceilidh House by Club Night with Stuart  
**Friday 17th February >** overK.I.L Balmoral (upstairs) upcoming bands & artists 8pm til late  
**Saturday 18th February >** Club Night 11pm - 2am Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJ's Mark and Stuart  
**Fri 2nd & Sat 3rd March >** Moray MacNiven Markie Dances  
**Fri 9th & Sat 10th March >** Chris Suckle Markie Dances  
**Friday 16th March >** Disco with DJ stevo  
**Markie Dances**

**what's on lochaber**

**Friday 17th February >** Electro Night with DJ Algorhythm Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock  
**Saturday 18th February >** Saturday club with DJ Symondo Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the D

Sponsored by  
**SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE FORT WILLIAM**  
[www.skipinnish.com](http://www.skipinnish.com)  
Middle Street, Fort William

**CD review**

**Eddi Reader - Live In Japan**  
Recorded live at Billboard Live, Japan, in September 2011, showing off Eddi's superb vocals and brilliant backing group. Includes favourites like Perfect and It's Magic, finishing off with a Japanese children's song, sung a cappella with the audience.

**Bruce Guthro - Celtic Crossing**  
Charismatic front man of the Scottish band Runrig, Canadian born Bruce's music is based on Celtic rock inspired by the Scottish highlands. The album was recorded in Ireland, with half the songs written by Bruce, along with a few classic folk songs from Nova Scotia. 'Farewell Nova Scotia' can almost be described as his home country's national anthem.

**John McKissock - The Naked Mandolin**  
An album of new compositions for mandolin, charting the emotions of a man emigrating, leaving for a new life in a new land. The pieces were written in Viladrau, Catalonia through the course of 2011 and are recorded 'naked' - just John, his mandolin and a microphone.

sponsored by  
**musicscotland.com**  
Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples.  
Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles  
[www.musicscotland.com](http://www.musicscotland.com)  
or Tel: 01631 719 001  
Email: [info@musicscotland.com](mailto:info@musicscotland.com)  
20 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT  
[musicscotland.com](http://musicscotland.com)  
is part of Oban Music

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
**bonnie babies**  
 competition 2012



**WIN £500**  
 of shopping vouchers

in association with **The co-operative**  
 good for everyone

**How the competition works**

This year it is up to you, our readers, to vote for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times' 'Bonniest Baby' and £500 worth of shopping vouchers to

spend at The Co-operative! We will publish a selection of Bonnie Babies each week of the competition, between now and early spring. At the end, the babies with the

most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. All finalists will then feature in The Oban Times for one last time, again for public vote. The baby with

the most votes will then be crowned The Oban Times' 2012's bonniest! For rules and terms and conditions, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies).

The Co-operative Group is owned by almost six million consumer members. They are the UK's fifth biggest food retailer and a major financial

services provider, operating both The Co-operative Bank and The Co-operative Insurance. Visit [www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop).

**ENTER YOUR BABY TODAY! See page 11 or enter online at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)**

022  
  
**Abigail Reid**  
 7 months Oban

023  
  
**Robbie MacLean**  
 10 months Isle of Barra

024  
  
**Donald Joseph Hill**  
 7 months Oban

025  
  
**Rebecca Fitzsimmons**  
 28 months Oban

026  
  
**Willow Elizabeth Ann Livingstone**  
 8 months Isle of Mull

027  
  
**Aallaya Teagan Palmer**  
 5 months Isle of Mull

028  
  
**Jayda Marni White**  
 7 months Manchester

029  
  
**Dylan William Thompson**  
 8 months Isle of Mull

030  
  
**Aidan Steeman**  
 7 months Taynuilt

031  
  
**Connor Gillan Colewell**  
 6 months Oban

032  
  
**Henley McCulloch**  
 12 months Oban

033  
  
**Kiara Cairns**  
 1 month Oban

034  
  
**Fletcher Kennedy**  
 8 months Oban

035  
  
**Ava Young**  
 1 month Ballachulish

036  
  
**Kaitlyn Louise Cain**  
 3 months Oban

037  
  
**Jamie Steele**  
 27 months Oban

038  
  
**Lilly Cichocka-Calder**  
 3 months Caol

039  
  
**Lily Anne Colquhoun**  
 7 months Oban

**Vote for this week's finalist!**

**How to vote**

Readers can vote for their favourite baby by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like until we announce the closing date to register your votes. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting.

**By text:**

To vote by text, text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the child's photograph to **88010**.

Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.

**By coupon:**

Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.



Example text.  
**DON'T FORGET TO PUT IN A SPACE.**

040  
  
**Abigail Spink**  
 13 months Oban

041  
  
**Fraser Macgregor-Anderson**  
 14 months Oban

042  
  
**Arran Macgregor-Anderson**  
 25 months Oban

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES **VOTING COUPON** The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number\*:..... Baby's name: .....

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Or text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the baby's three digit number to 88010. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

\*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.  
**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.**

bonnie babies competition 2012

Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes will be announced in a future issue and on The Oban Times website. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

# On call - worldwide

## Henry Gray is only one phonecall away from an international disaster zone

HENRY Gray keeps a bag packed; he is ready to go anywhere in the world at a few hours notice as a first aid worker responding to emergencies.

From a childhood spent on an island farm at Oronsay, off Colonsay, and at the Abbey School, Fort Augustus, Henry's work with international medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has taken him to some of the world's most troubled spots.

'I'm part of the emergency response team. We just go as soon as there is something terrible, to investigate and react.'

'Now I'm doing co-ordination because I have got the experience of 15 or 16 individual trips so I have quite a lot of field experience.'

Henry's phone could ring at any time; he is constantly on standby to head to a disaster zone within 24 hours to assess the situation and set up emergency health facilities. The international headlines take on a totally new significance, knowing that he could be dispatched to a warzone, natural disaster or health crisis.

'The Haiti call was like that,' he said. 'I was on my way to a funeral with some friends and there was a report on rumours of a cholera epidemic in Haiti. I said before the end of the day my phone's going to ring and I will be moving to Haiti. They didn't believe me, but sure enough three or four hours later I got the call.'

'If you know that something's happening, you are totally prepared for it. Sometimes it's a little bit of 'oh my goodness, how am I going to tell my mother?' It was like that for the Libyan war and Afghanistan - there's a lot of negative press, understandably, because they are dangerous places to work.'

'But I'm not a hero, I'm just someone who's very lucky in that I love what I do. The only time you are really brave is the day you sign your first contract - because it's the unknown.'

This year alone Henry has been called upon to respond to the war in Libya, crises in the Ivory Coast, Brazil and Uganda and worked on a long-term trauma project in Afghanistan. It was his experience as a water engineer for Scottish Water that got him his first overseas experience and two years ago he joined MSF's full-time emergency response team.

Henry witnesses people at their most desperate and it would be easy to be immobilised with anger, grief or fear. He said: 'I have seen a lot of difficult things, but the easiest way to deal with them is to focus on the good things. You see a lot of death and sickness but you also see people who's lives you make a big difference to.'

'There's always a bit of a sense of injustice, but it's a reality we have to deal with. It's less useful to get hugely frustrated and start raging against the world when most of the time we have a specific task that makes a difference.'

'There was a four year old boy who came into the cholera treatment centre in Haiti, he was very sick and he died while his mother had gone to get some food. I was just outside the room talking to the doctor and a couple of nurses about it, and his mother came around the corner, and she just knew from our faces - this woman's world just collapsed in front of us, it was absolutely awful.'

'This was a poor woman from one of the poorest countries on earth and she felt pain just exactly the way we do. But it's very motivating.'

'In the very same room a few weeks later I was there with a doctor and a woman went into cardiac arrest. The doctor just incredibly quickly went to a tray and filled a syringe with adrenaline or something and plunged it into her chest. Four days later she walked out of the hospital. Because of our supporters and sponsors, the equipment was there and he was able

to almost bring somebody back from the dead.'

While MSF's staff are working in these desperate situations, Henry believes it is important for people in Scotland to realise their support can help save lives. The organisation and others like them have the experience and capacity to respond quickly, thanks to people like Henry, and turn donations into practical help on the ground. They also campaign for better international co-operation and policies that help prevent emergencies and make sure communities are better prepared when they do occur.

While he is now based in Brussels, to be available at the drop of a hat, Henry's heart is still on the West Coast. He is looking forward to spending New Year on Jura - if he is not called up. 'It's my New Year destination of choice. Hopefully I'll make it there this year...if my phone doesn't ring.'



Henry delivering aid by boat in the Philippines. Photograph by MSF.



Above - Henry has just returned from Afghanistan, where he helped set up a trauma centre specialising in surgery. Photograph by MSF.



Left: Henry co-ordinates emergency responses on behalf of international medical charity MSF. Photograph by MSF.

## Brother to cross the Falklands in memory of fallen Royal Marine

AN OBAN man will this summer take an arduous trek across the Falkland Islands, navigating minefields on the way, in tribute to his fallen brother.

David MacPherson is currently in training for his six day 'yomp' across the island, a feat that will see him cover 120kms of harsh island terrain from Port San Carlos to Stanley in the midst of the harsh South Atlantic winter.

For David, the fundraiser for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund (RMCT) and the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) is particularly poignant, as it will mark the 30th anniversary of the date his older brother, Gordon, died while on duty with the Royal Marines during the Falklands War, aged just 20.

He will be travelling with Simon and Gareth Spencer, whose father, Corporal Frank Spencer, also died while on duty. The trio will be led by a team of Marines.

The painter and decorator said: 'It's really the first chance I've had to go there and do this and I'm really looking forward to it. I just hope I'm fit enough to do it.'

'I'm certainly hoping to take a bottle of Oban whisky with me so we can toast those soldiers that fell.'

'I've got nothing planned specifically for Gordon yet, but it is something I'm thinking about.'

'I'll speak to my mother before I leave and I hope to come up with something when I'm out there.'

'It is really important.'

To successfully complete the trek, David will have to carry a pack weighing up to 20kgs - just over three stone - across the island, taking in 20 miles a day in limited sunlight.

'Training has started in earnest and is already proving tough.'

'I'm walking with half that weight at the moment,' he said. 'I've been doing a few forest routes but I'm really going to have to up what I'm doing in the next month.'

**Challenge**  
'I'm not normally a big walker so it will be a challenge.'

David has launched a website to gather donations for his sponsored 'yomp' and has already received more than £2,000 in pledges of support. His target is £10,000, so to reach that figure already has been a surprise.

He said: 'It's been absolutely overwhelming.'

'I wasn't sure what we'd get. So far we've had donations from people I don't know, people that knew Gordon and people I do know, so I've really been taken aback by the response - it's greatly appreciated.'

To sponsor David on his Falklands mission, visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/YOMP2012](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/YOMP2012).



David MacPherson puts in the miles in training for this May's 'yomp' across the Falkland Islands in tribute to brother Gordon.



Royal Marine Gordon MacPherson who fell in the Falklands War 30 years ago, aged 20.

20 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, February 20, 1992



### Secret in the skies

A SECRET United States military aircraft could be flying through the skies above Kintyre at more than three times the speed of sound.

Reports of mysterious fast-moving radar blips and eerie engine noises have increased speculation that Machrihanish is the base for the new hyper-sonic super plane.

A national newspaper reported this week that an RAF air traffic controller was startled to see radar blips emerge from the joint RAF-NATO base travelling at three times the speed of sound.

The air traffic controller phoned RAF Machrihanish but was told to forget what he had seen, claimed the newspaper report.

Bill Sweetman, technical editor of Jane's Information Group and an expert on Stealth aircraft technology said: 'I have heard similar reports recently.'

In 1988 the New York Times published reports of an aircraft in development with Mach 6 capabilities.

Speaking from Minnesota, USA, Mr Sweetman told *The Oban Times* that the Machrihanish base was well suited for such a top secret operation. 'The natural remoteness of the base and the security of having US Navy SEALs stationed there, means Machrihanish would be ideal,' he said.

'There are many Stealth watchers and if a US base in East Anglia, for instance, was used

then it would not be long before someone took a photograph,' he added. Asked how secret the aircraft would be, Mr Sweetman said: 'Put it this way - in 1988 the US Air Force had 50 F-117 Stealth aircraft operating in Nevada and still denied they even existed. It would be possible for something like this to be buried.'

### Challenge on anti-hunting Bill

ARGYLL'S Conservative Parliamentary candidate has challenged his political opponents to say where they stand on the 'anti-hunting Bill'.

Only days after the Wild Mammals Protection Bill was narrowly defeated in the House of Commons, Conservative Prospective Parliamentary candidate (PPC) Mr John Corrie called on Mrs Ray Michie, Professor Neil MacCormick and Mr Des Browne to say how they would have voted.

Mr Corrie said he was against the Bill as thousands of game-keepers and estate workers in the Highlands and Islands could have lost their jobs had it become law.

Labour PPC Mr Des Browne claimed Mr Corrie was totally misrepresenting the facts. 'The Bill would have had my total support,' he said.

'I cannot agree that sporting estates are a human way of hunting animals nor a sensible way of holding land. Many people who ride horses would not be seen dead hunting foxes,' he added.

The Bill, which had cross-party support, aimed

to outlaw hunting with hounds, hare coursing and wild animal baiting in the UK.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and its Southern counterpart, the RSPCA, had been urging their members and supporters to write to their MPs expressing support for the Bill.

### Plimley reveals plans for Oban's waterfront site

THE CREATOR of Oban's new waterfront development, The Heritage Wharf, met with the town's dignitaries on Tuesday to unveil the second stage of the three-phase £6.5 million project.

Peter Plimley, of Plimley Holdings Limited, said Phase 2 would 'enhance the postcard of Oban'. He added that it would be three times bigger than the first phase since it is planned to cover 60,000 square feet.

The director of Oban, Mull and District Tourist Board Jim Wilson and the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce David Webster said the development's wet-weather facilities would mean Oban's reputation as a tourist town would be 'second to none'.

The first £2 million phase will be finished by May 17. It will comprise three units, Oban Glass, Stewart Allan - backed by the Pringle knitwear family - and a Plimley Heritage Centre with a Victorian theme, in keeping with the era when Oban flourished.

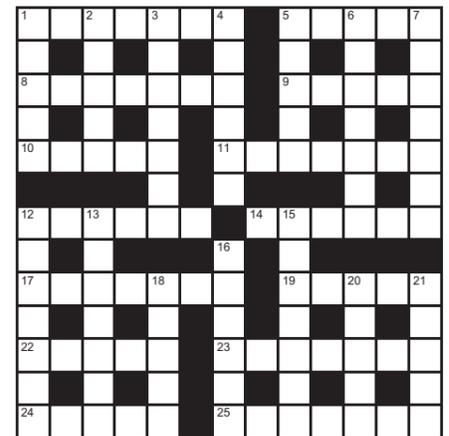
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

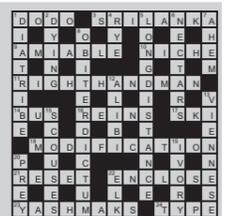
- 1 Rulers (7)
- 5 Leg bone (5)
- 8 Put upon (7)
- 9 Describing phrase, which doesn't make sense in the normal way! (5)
- 10 Chief official of a town or city (5)
- 11 Rainproof material (7)
- 12 Saggy (6)
- 14 Rag (6)
- 17 Try (7)
- 19 Sarcastic remark (5)
- 22 German sub (1-4)
- 23 Stand up and applaud (7)
- 24 Sit in on (5)
- 25 Short witty remark (7)

Down

- 1 Reasonable belief in a God (5)
- 2 Quick (5)
- 3 Riding support (7)
- 4 Funny show (6)
- 5 Woven yarn (5)
- 6 Cut of beef (7)
- 7 One who distributes charity (7)
- 12 Transylvanian gentleman? (7)
- 13 Audibly (3,4)
- 15 A coin equal to 100 pence (7)
- 16 Good-for-nothing (6)
- 18 Choral composition (5)
- 20 Pipe material (5)
- 21 Casual attire (5)



Last week's solution



# Celtic Care



## The Oban and District Disability Forum

The Oban and District Disability Forum was set up in 1991. We run the Access Panel which works with businesses, organisations and individuals to make Oban and the surrounding area more accessible to all. We will visit premises and make suggestions to improve access. We also produce an Access Guide for locals and visitors, and help people with issues to do with their disability.

We run the Shopmobility Scheme, which was set up in 2002, which lends out scooters and wheelchairs to locals and visitors for a small fee. The Scheme is open from Easter until December Monday - Saturday 10.00 - 4.00. The equipment can be delivered locally in Oban for a small fee and it can be hired on a long term loan basis too.

We are run entirely by volunteers and are always looking for new members to help with the Access Panel work and help with Shopmobility. Any help would be greatly appreciated, whatever time you have, we value your input. Please help us keep this valuable service running. Please contact 01631 567150, if you would like our help, with access issues or to hire equipment, or if you feel you would like to help us.

## North Argyll Carers Centre

North Argyll Carers Centre provides a multitude of services from Information and advice to creative short breaks.

We deliver a service across the whole of North Argyll including the Islands and the more remote areas of the main land, for which we will very soon have a dedicated worker. Specific condition support groups, young carers' project, counselling, training for carers, social activities, craft days, therapies and more are all on offer.

We are always happy to have visitors and the kettle is always on. Why not call in and find out all that we do especially if you care for someone within the community be it family or friend. Coffee morning may be a good time for a first visit which is every Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Funding can be an issue but to date we have managed to grow and flourish. In order to keep all of the invaluable service we need to up the fundraising game. Donations are always welcome and can be sent to the Carers Centre in Albany Street as are any ideas for fundraising events. You may wish to become a Friend or Member, application forms from the centre 01631 564422

## Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis continues to expand its support services throughout Argyll and Bute, making access to specialist support less challenging for survivors.

After completion of a very successful volunteer training programme in Oban last year, which provided Rape Crisis with 3 local skilled support workers, we are

currently recruiting volunteers in Campbeltown and Islay. Specialist training will take place from the end of February over 4 residential weekends.

Our TESSA Youth Project programme of workshops is already underway and this year, six of the ten secondary schools in Argyll and Bute are participating. We very much hope to secure funding which will enable the workshop programme to be facilitated in all 10 of the area's secondary schools in 2013. Without doubt, the workshops have been extremely successful and highly acclaimed by all young people, teaching staff and parents participating. Not only is Tessa raising awareness of the dangers of the internet and sexual predators, it provides young people with the 'all round' knowledge required to recognise abuse and to stay safe in their personal and 'online' life. Tessa is vital to the young people of Argyll and Bute in terms of Awareness Raising, but additionally, it provides early intervention and support to those who have unfortunately already experienced sexual abuse.

## Cowal Elderly Befrienders

Cowal Elderly Befrienders provides a range of befriending services designed to improve quality of life, reduce isolation and loneliness, and to keep older people independent and active in the communities they helped create.

We work with over 160 people each year, usually on a weekly basis and cover the whole of Cowal including rural villages. Most people are over 80 and experiencing some of the difficulties of older age - some have just become very lonely as they outlive their partners and friends. Our services include 1-2-1 Befriending, group activities like Lunch Club, Kurling Club (yes Kurling! - see www.kurling.com), Dementia Support, Information Drop-In and Outreach and Hospital Support (for older people who have no-one to accompany them to appointments). One of our most popular services is Out & About where Outreach Workers with volunteer support get people "out of these 4 walls" using our 2 wheelchair-accessible minibuses. Our new service, Befrienders Extra, hopes to help with simple practical tasks that older people find difficult, e.g. replacing light bulbs, recycling household items, sweeping leaves etc. Volunteers can choose how much or little time and commitment they want to give and try different roles to suit individual circumstance.

## The Abbeyfield Society Ltd

The Abbeyfield Society Ltd began over 58 years ago and now has over 400 locations throughout the UK.

In June 1985, Abbeyfield Carradale and District Society Ltd was set up as a Very Sheltered House. Abbeyfield helps older people to live independently at modest prices. The Houses are run by volunteers and is a "not for profit" organisation.

In Carradale there are 7 resident's rooms, each with en-suite toilet and wash-hand basin and built in wardrobe. There is a preference for a resident to furnish their own room thus maintaining their home environment.

In addition, residents have their own kitchen and there are two shower rooms and two bathrooms available. Lunch and High Tea are provided daily by the resident House-keeper who is also on hand to any needs of the residents.

The weekly rent of £225 per week covers all costs including accommodation, food, central heating and all residents are exempt from Council Tax.

In addition to the residents rooms there is provision for a spacious dining room, sitting area, comfortable conservatory and a laundry room.

Regular outings are arranged and entertainment in house is provided.

Stuart Irvine, Treasurer and Secretary says "Abbeyfield is an excellent alternative to loneliness and it provides care in Hous-

ing and continuing participation in the local community."

## The Riding for the Disabled Association

The Oban and Lorn RDA group was formed in 1998 and has grown steadily since then. The aim of the association is "to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride to benefit their health and well being." Anyone in Oban and Lorn, or the adjoining areas, with a disability is welcome to ride and we take riders of any age who have medical approval from their doctor. Riding takes place at Achnalarig Riding Stables, Glencruitten and we use kind, well schooled horses that are hired from the stables. Riders come from all over - from Fort William, Lochgilphead, Dunoon and Oban to our groups which run from Tuesdays through to Fridays. The group relies on volunteer helpers and a vigorous fundraising programme and are at present seeking volunteers to give up an hour of their week to come and help. The volunteer's role is to assist the riders as necessary. This could be leading a horse, side walking and supporting a rider or helping the rider to carry out the exercises and activities. No experience is required as full training is given. We are totally dependent on volunteer helpers in order to carry on.

## Lochaber Women's Aid

Lochaber Women's Aid has been providing support to women affected by domestic abuse for over seven years and supporting children and young people affected by domestic abuse for over five years. During the past seven years we have supported over 400 women, children and young people.

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

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

Through our children's and young people service in addition to providing 1:1 support and group work sessions, we also provide awareness raising to all secondary schools looking at the effects domestic abuse has on children and young people.

We provide support on a variety of practical issues such as benefits, housing and legal issues. As we also work in partnership with other local agencies such as the Police, Social Work and Health and Housing professionals, Lochaber Women's Aid are also able to help arrange appointments for clients.

## Lochaber Action on Disability

Lochaber Action on Disability is a small local member led charity based in the Lochaber area established in 1993. We have become a focal point for the community, specialising in the support and social inclusion of disabled people. We do not exclude any disability or age group from our support, ensuring people are given a better chance in life, enabling them to become part of their community, regaining confidence, enthusiasm and self-esteem.

All our volunteers are an important part of our work and are people with challenging medical conditions who overcome their disability through training, support and sheer personal commitment, in order to make a very valuable and rewarding contribution to helping other people through LAD. We operate a very busy Drop-in centre; Community Café, Arts & Crafts workshop, Bric a Brac shop and provide an accessible community transport minibus service for clients with disabilities.

Our Community Cafe:- Mon - Fri 9.30 - 3.00 & Sat 9.30 - 12.30 Take away are also available

Drop in Centre:- Mon - Fri 9.00 - 3.30  
Arts & Crafts / Bric a Brac Shop :- Mon - Fri 9.30 - 3.00

**Oban and District Disability Forum**  
and Access Panel Incorporating Shopmobility Oban

Station Carpark, Station Road, Oban, PA34 4LL. Tel: 01631 567150

**The Princess Royal Trust for Carers**

**North Argyll Carers Centre**  
Caring for Carers in North Argyll  
Contact us on 01631 564 422

**RAPE and SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT**  
Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis P.O. Box 9338, Dunoon PA23 8WS Tel. 01369 700800

Offers free confidential support to Women, Men and Young People (13+) who have been raped, sexually assaulted and/or sexually abused at any time in their lives.

Helpline Women: 0800 121 4685  
Helpline Men: 0800 032 0399  
support@ab-rc.org.uk  
E-mail: info@ab-rc.org.uk  
www.ab-rc.org.uk

**Cowal Elderly Befriending Scheme**

**Volunteers Wanted!**  
Can you spare a few hours each month to help run our services? We have lots of different roles for volunteers including our new service Befrienders Extra, help with simple, one-off, practical tasks around the house and garden. Flexible hours to suit you. Training and expenses provided. For more information please contact our office on 01369 704985, email cawalbf@btinternet.com, or drop in to 25 Argyll Street, Dunoon. PA23 7HH

**Abbeyfield**  
Abbeyfield Carradale and District Ltd  
"Where older people find care in housing"  
For further details contact 01583 431 717 or 01583 431 278

**OBAN & LORN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP**  
CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A WEEK?  
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
No experience necessary.  
Training provided.  
PLEASE CALL 01631 564 674

Have you experienced Domestic Abuse?  
**Lochaber Women's Aid** offer sensitive support and advice to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.  
Contact us on: Telephone: 01397 705734  
3 Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BT  
E-mail: lwa@btconnect.com  
A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in Scotland No. SC33  
Scottish Charity Number SC034484

**LOCHABER ACTION ON DISABILITY**  
A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee  
Give us a call on 01397 701171 or just pop in and have a chat  
Everyone is welcome and you don't need to book.  
Community Café and Lochaber District Lunch Club - Anyone is welcome!  
Shopping Centre, Glenloy St, Caol, Fort William

# Focus on Optical & Dental Care

**CHILDREN'S EYESIGHT IS PRECIOUS**  
As parents children are our most precious asset. Probably our children's most precious asset is their eyesight. In today's high speed, high technology world good eyesight is essential. With most knowledge acquired visually it is vitally important children have regular eye examinations and, where appropriate, the best possible visual correction.  
Wallace Optometrists specialise in all aspects of children's vision care from comprehensive eye examinations, assessments and treatment for children with reading problems to contact lenses and myopia control.  
There is much more to a child's eye examination than simply checking what can be read from a simple eye chart. One in five children have a significant vision problem which affects their ability to read fluently. Frequently this is not associated with any obvious need for glasses. If your child is struggling to read, contact Wallace Optometrists for a comprehensive review of their vision and their visual needs.  
Perhaps you are short sighted (myopic) and your child is also becoming myopic. Wallace Optometrists specialise in myopia control. It is possible to dramatically reduce the levels of myopia a child develops by up to seventy per cent. Call Wallace Optometrists for details of their Myopia Control Programme.

**SHORT SIGHTED? FED UP WITH GLASSES?**  
Tried daytime contact lenses but never really felt comfortable? Maybe you have even considered laser refractive eye surgery? Did you know there is a safe, scientifically proven and totally reversible alternative to laser eye surgery called orthokeratology?  
Orthokeratology is the science of gently reshaping your cornea to eliminate myopia. The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic specialises in corneal reshaping. As well as correcting existing myopia orthokeratology is proven to reduce the rate of increase in developing myopia in children and teenagers by up to seventy per cent!  
Orthokeratology works by placing a custom designed corneal mould on each eye. These are worn overnight and are removed on awakening. When the moulds are removed in the morning you are able to see clearly throughout the day. At night, just as you go to bed, you place the moulds back on your eyes to do their magic. Unlike laser eye surgery, the moulding effect only lasts from awakening till you retire to bed in the evening. This means, unlike laser, when your prescription changes, which it will do on a regular basis, your moulds can be adjusted to suit your new prescription. For a free initial consultation contact The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic.

**IN SAFE HANDS AT SHORE STREET**  
**Smile brightly. Safe Whitening from your dentist.**  
As a Safe Whitening Practice we only provide tooth whitening treatments which are fully clinically supported and carried out by trained dental professionals, therefore complying within the levels set by the European Council. Only a trained dental professional can legally provide safe tooth whitening using the more effective higher concentrations of hydrogen peroxide (typically this is between 4% and 6% hydrogen peroxide)  
On 21st September 2011 the European Council passed a directive that banned non dental professionals from providing tooth whitening using higher than 0.1% of hydrogen peroxide (the ingredient that whitens teeth). Home whitening kits and treatments provided by non-dental professionals using levels greater than 0.1% of hydrogen peroxide are now banned. The new law places restrictions on the materials and techniques that can be used.  
Tooth whitening can provide the perfect way to highlight your natural smile and increase self - confidence, so remember of you are considering a whitening treatment: Bright, Right, Safe!  
**Facial Rejuvenation / Wrinkle Reduction.**  
Historically these treatments have been the realm of beauticians but in order to ensure safe, clinically governed practice these treatments are best provided by a dentist or medical practitioner, in a clinical environment. These clinicians are experienced in injection techniques and have the knowledge to deal with any anatomical & physiological responses should they arise during or after treatment.

**CHILDREN GO FREE!**  
Upgrade to tough lenses for just £20  
FREE EYE TESTS!  
FREE SPECTACLES!

WALLACE Optometrists  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban 0845 230 3937 member of Kodak LENS VISION CENTRE

**How to Eliminate Myopia Without Risking Invasive Laser Eye Surgery**

A little-known yet scientifically proven way of eliminating myopia while you sleep.  
No surgery required!

Proven safe and COMPLETELY REVERSIBLE  
Call for your free consultation.  
West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic,  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban.  
Tel: 01631 563274

**Shore St Dental and Implant Centre, Oban**

In addition to our full range of Private and NHS treatments we also offer:  
Tooth Whitening • Dental Implants  
Facial Rejuvenation and Wrinkle reduction  
Free initial Consultation  
All cosmetic treatment undertaken by David Bell

Please tel: 01631 563006 or visit practice for further information

# FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

BMW 116i Sport 5-door

**£289** **£289**  
deposit per month

- 17" light alloy wheels
- Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
- Drive Performance Control
- iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

<b>£289</b> Customer deposit	<b>£289</b> Monthly payment x47	<b>£1124.58</b> Dealer deposit contribution	<b>48</b> Months	<b>£21,305</b> On the road cash price*	<b>£1413.58</b> Total deposit	<b>£19,891.42</b> Total amount of credit
<b>£10</b> Option to purchase fee^	<b>£9090</b> Optional final payment	<b>£22,962</b> Total amount payable by customer	<b>£24,086.58</b> Total amount payable	<b>4.9%</b> Rate of interest (fixed)	<b>4.9% APR</b> Representative	



BMW 318i Performance Edition

**£299** **£299**  
deposit per month

- 18" M star-spoke light alloy wheels
- M aerodynamic bodystyling • Sport seats
- M Sport leather multifunction steering wheel
- BMW Professional radio with single CD player



BMW 318i Sport Plus Coupé

**£399** **£399**  
deposit per month

- Dakota Leather Interior
- 19" M Sport Alloy Wheels • Xenon Headlights
- Business Navigation System
- Bluetooth hands-free facility



BMW 320i M Sport Convertible

**£459** **£459**  
deposit per month

- Metallic paint • 19" Alloy Wheels
- Leather upholstery • Front centre armrest
- Front seat heating
- Bluetooth hands-free facility

## Choose from over 130 BMW Approved Used Cars

Here's just a small selection...



07 07 318i ES Saloon

- Barbera red • 16" Alloys • 51,576 miles
  - Front seat heating • Rear PDC
  - Cruise • Auto air-conditioning
- £8,995**



10 10 118 Diesel M Sport 5dr

- Black sapphire • 24,000 miles • 17" Alloys
  - Bluetooth • PDC rear • Fogs
  - Auto air-con • MF controls
- £14,995**



08 58 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon

- Le Mans blue • Beige leather • 18" Alloys
  - Navigation • CD changer • PDC
  - Cruise • Auto air-con
- £17,995**

- 1 Series**
- 11 61 118i Sport Convertible, Titanium silver, black cloth, 2,019 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats, air con, CD .....£20,995 G
  - 11 11 116 Diesel Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 3,056 miles, 17" alloys, air con, CD, choice of colours .....£14,995 G
  - 11 11 116 Diesel Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 3,056 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel. Front foglamps.....£15,495 H
  - 10 10 118 Diesel M Sport 5dr, Black sapphire, black cloth/sensatec, 24,000 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear .....£14,995 H
  - 11 61 118 Diesel Performance Edition 3dr, Alpine white, black cloth/sensatec, 3,481 miles, 18" alloys, sport seats .....£17,995 H
  - 10 60 120 Diesel SE Coupe, Crimson red, black cloth, 6,259 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear, rain sensor .....£16,995 H
  - 10 60 120 Diesel SE Coupé, Crimson red, black cloth, 6,259 miles, 17" alloys, climate, CD .....£16,995 G
  - 10 10 120i M Sport Coupe Auto, Black sapphire, black cloth/sensatec, 7,415 miles, 18" alloys, PDC rear, auto air con.....£17,495 H
  - 08 58 123 Diesel SE 5dr, Black sapphire, black cloth, 32,341 miles, 17" alloys, comfort pack, bluetooth, PDC rear .....£11,995 H
- 3 Series**
- 11 11 318 Diesel M Sport Touring, Titanium silver, black cloth/alcantara, 3,921 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth .....£21,995 H
  - 11 61 318 Diesel Performance Edition, Titanium silver, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, bluetooth, auto air con .....£21,995 H
  - 07 07 318i ES, Barbera red, black cloth, 51,576 miles, 16" alloys, PDC rear, front foglamps, BMW professional radio/CD.....£8,995 H
  - 07 57 318i M Sport Touring, Le Mans blue, black cloth/alcantara, 18" alloys, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, PDC.....£12,995 H
  - 10 59 318i SE, Bluewater, black cloth, 23,533 miles, 17" alloys, climate control, CD .....£13,995 G
  - 11 11 318i SE Saloon, Vermilion red, beige cloth, 3,770 miles, 17" alloys, seat heating front, PDC rear, auto air con .....£17,995 H
  - 07 57 320 Diesel ES Saloon, Black sapphire, black cloth, 36,017 miles, 16" alloys, foglamps, BMW professional radio/CD...£12,995 H
  - 11 11 320 Efficient Dynamics, Alpine white, black leather, 8,305 miles, 16" alloys, air con, CD .....£18,995 G
  - 07 57 320i SE, Montego blue, black cloth, 46,387 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, cruise, MF controls, auto air con .....£10,995 H
- 5 Series**
- 08 58 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon, Le Mans blue, beige leather, 57,431 miles, 18" alloys, navigation, CD changer, cruise....£17,995 H
  - 08 58 520 Diesel SE, Space grey, black cloth, 37,598 miles, 17" alloys, climate, CD.....£14,995 G
  - 11 11 520 Diesel SE Saloon, Deep sea blue, oyster leather, 9,798 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth, USB, PDC .....£26,995 H
  - 07 57 523i SE Saloon Auto, Titanium silver, black leather, 53,495 miles, 17" alloys, seat heating front, PDC, cruise.....£13,995 H
- 7 Series**
- 07 57 730 Diesel Sport, Titanium silver, black leather, 51,705 miles, navigation, voice control system, sport pack .....£15,995 H
- X1**
- 10 10 X1 s Drive 1.8 Diesel SE, Alpine white, black cloth, 15,679 miles, 18" alloys, roof rails in black, climate, CD .....£21,995 G
  - 10 60 X1 sDrive 2.0 Diesel SE, Black sapphire, black leather, 20,822 miles, 18" alloys, Comfort package, heated seats .....£21,995 G
  - 09 59 X1 xDrive 2.0 Diesel SE, Black sapphire, black cloth, 28,511 miles, 17" alloys, USB, comfort package .....£21,995 G
- X3**
- 10 10 X3 2.0 Diesel M Sport, Titanium silver, black cloth, 26,000 miles, 17" alloys, air con, sport seats, M bodystyling, CD...£25,995 G
- X5**
- 11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport, Carbon black, oyster nevada leather, 8,926 miles, 20" alloys, media package.....£42,995 H
  - 11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport, Black sapphire, oyster nevada leather, 8,671 miles, 20" alloys, media package.....£42,995 H
  - 10 60 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 18,873 miles, 20" alloys, media package .....£42,995 H
- X6**
- 09 09 X6 3.0 Diesel, Vermilion red, beige leather, 19,317 miles, 18" alloys, Dynamic pack, front heated seats, climate, CD ....£32,995 G
- Z4**
- 08 57 Z4 2.0i Sport Roadster, Titanium silver, half leather, 32,077 miles, 18" alloys, sport seats, climate, CD.....£10,995 G



07 57 730 Diesel Sport Saloon

- Titanium silver • Black leather • 51,705 miles
  - Navigation • Bluetooth • Xenons
  - Sports pack • Voice control
- £15,995**



11 11 318i SE Saloon

- Vermilion red • Beige cloth • 17" Alloys
  - Front seat heating • Rear PDC
  - Front fogs • MF controls
- £17,995**



11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport

- Carbon black • Nevada leather • 20" Alloys
  - Media pack • PDC • Cruise
  - Front seat heating • Air-Con
- £42,995**

## Douglas Park

Hillington (Used cars only)  
Hillington Road G52 4BL  
0141 891 4783 (H)

Glasgow  
Kyle Street G4 0HP  
0141 333 0088 (G)

www.douglasparkglasgowbmw.co.uk

BMW EfficientDynamics  
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.

Douglas Park



The Ultimate Driving Machine

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW range: Extra Urban 26.2-78.5mpg (10.8-3.6l/100km). Urban 14.6-56.5mpg (19.3-5.0l/100km). Combined 20.3-68.9mpg (13.9-4.1l/100km). CO2 emissions 325-109g/km

Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, 3 Series Saloon, 3 Series Coupé, and 3 Series Convertible models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a 318i Performance Edition, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.6p per mile; and a 320i M Sport Convertible, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile. \*On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

**DUCATI 900 SPORT**



Excellent condition, 04 Reg, 7,700 miles. FD.S.H. New Belts, Tax & Mot May Tyres Good.

**Tel : 01770 700599**

**£2500**

**FORD FOCUS ESTATE**



1999, T reg, new MOT, 172,000 miles, 4 new tyres and exhaust, excellent runner.

**Telephone: 01866 822044**

**£750 o.n.o.**

**2005 FORD TRANSIT 350 MWB**



High Roof van. Only done 24,000 miles. Has easy load ladder rack, also glass rack on side (easily removed). Internal cupboards and shelving. 1 year MOT, Taxed till November. Very Good Condition.

**Tel: 07747 016900**

**£4,995 + VAT**

**LixToll GARAGE**

Quality New and Used Land Rovers




**DEFENDER 130**

2010 10 Reg DOUBLE CAB HI CAPACITY PICK UP, 7,245 miles, Indus Silver, Cold Climate Pack, Exterior Pack and Comfort pack, LIKE NEW!!!, £27,995 + VAT

2000 X Reg DOUBLE CAB PICK UP, 6 Seats, 118, 577 miles, Techno Cloth, Modular Rims & Cooper Discoverer STT Tyres, Blue, £9,995 + VAT

1997 P Reg PRIESTMAN VM 14.5M PERSONNEL HOIST 300 TDI (Cherry Picker), 101,000 miles, 2 seats, Hi line cubby box, Chequer Plate Wing Tops, Modular Rims, GoodYear Wrangler Tyres, Fully Hydraulic, 215 KG SWL Basket, Stabilisers, £9,995 + VAT

**DEFENDER 110**

2008 57 Reg XS STATION WAGON, 7 Seats, Met Black, 49,807 miles, Air Con, Heated Windscreens and Seats, Alloys, £24,895 NO VAT

2010 10 Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, County Spec, 5 Seats, Met Grey, 38,386 miles, Centre Cubby Box, Alloys, Rear Step, £22,495 + VAT

2008 58 Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, County Spec, 7 Seats, Met Silver, 49,908 miles, New Modular Rims & A/T Tyres, £20,795 + VAT

2008 08 Reg XS UTILITY STATION WAGON, 5 Seats, Met Green, 85,119 miles, XS Spec, Half Leathers, Side Runner Steps, £16,995 + VAT

2007 57 Reg STATION WAGON, 5 Seats, 31,145 miles, Met Silver, Colour Coded Body, Snorkel, 7.50 x 16 Tyres, £16,995 + VAT

2007 07 Reg XS STATION WAGON, 5 Seats, XS Spec, 54,404 miles, Met Silver, Chequer Plating, Abs, Traction Control, Alloys, £16,995 + VAT

2009 09 Reg HARD TOP, 2 Seats, 63,421 miles, Heavy Duty Chassis, Met Red, Modular Rims, Convenience Pack, £14,995 + VAT

2007 07 Reg DOUBLE CAB PICK UP, 5 Seats, 72,731 miles, Centre Tray, Met Blue, Soft Canopy, Roof Mounted Spot Light, £12,995 + VAT

2006 56 Reg HARD TOP, 3 Seats, Met Blue, 103,705 miles, Colour Coded Body, 7.50 x 16 Tyres and Steel Wheels, Last of the TDS's, £12,595 + VAT

2005 55 Reg HI CAPACITY PICK UP, 42,000 miles, White, Heavy Duty Chassis, Modular Rims, £11,995 + VAT

1998 R Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, 300 TDI, 12 Seater, Met Red, 1 owner from new, Not many left in this condition, £11,995 INC VAT

2006 56 Reg HI CAPACITY PICK UP, Met Red, Heavy Duty Chassis, 91,390 miles, County Spec, BFG Tyres & Modular Rims, £11,495 + VAT

2004 04 Reg HARD TOP, 77,000 miles, Alpine White, 3 Seats, Wood Lined Rear, £8,995 + VAT

2001 51 Reg HARD TOP, 80,000 miles, Green, 3 Seats, Spotlight, Dog Guard, Chequer Plating, £7,595 + VAT

**RENAULT MODUS OASIS 1.2 HATCHBACK**



SPECIAL EDITION 2006, IMMACULATE CONDITION, 22000 MILES, tax and mot TILL JULY. RECENT SERVICE. GREAT RUNNER.

**Tel: 01770 600038 / 07887 985984**

**£3000 o.n.o.**

**MBK NITRO 50**



Y reg with long MOT, 4500miles, Taxed until end of March

2 owners, all bills and original handbook, Lying Bendorloch.

**Telephone: 01967 431395**

**£400**

**ALASKA 500 WITH YAMAHA 40**



Autolube outboard, built 2003, good condition, recently had work done in yard, with 2 25 litre fuel cans, automatic bilge pump.

**Tel: 07879 650589**

**£4,700 + VAT o.n.o.**

**DEFENDER 90**

2009 59 Reg SVX SOFT TOP, 20,200 miles, 2 Seats, Limited Edition, All the usual SVX Refinements, Sat Nav, Recaro Heated Seats, £23,995 NO VAT

2009 59 Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, 14,995 miles, 4 Seats, Rimini Red, Winter Pack, Alloys, £22,995 NO VAT

2009 09 Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, 18,000 miles, 4 Seats, Centre Storage Tray, Met Silver, 7.50 x 16 Tyres, £21,495 NO VAT

2008 08 Reg XS STATION WAGON, 24,775 miles, Met Blue, 4 Seats, Side Runner Steps, Rear Step, Snorkel, Alloys, £20,995 NO VAT

2006 60 Reg HARD TOP, 12,000 miles, 2 Seats, Alaska White, Like New, Land Rover Ex Demonstrator, £15,995 + VAT

2009 58 Reg HARD TOP, 15,494 miles, 2 Seats, Tamar Blue - Cloth Seats, Hi Line Cubby Box, White Roof, 7.50 x 16 Tyres, £15,995 + VAT

2008 08 Reg COUNTY HARD TOP, 2 Seats, 50,000 miles, Met Green, Centre Tray, Alloys & BFG Mud Terrain Tyres, £14,499 + VAT

2004 04 Reg XS STATION WAGON, 6 Seats, 75,037 miles, Met Green, A Bar & Spots, Light Guards, 265/75/16 BFG M/T Tyres, £14,495 NO VAT

2008 08 Reg PICK UP, 21,000 miles, Met Blue, 2 Seats, Side Steps, Rear Light Guards, £13,995 + VAT

2007 07 Reg COUNTY PICK UP, Met Blue, 41,462 miles, 2 Seats, Cloth Seats, 1 For Williams Canopy, Spotlights, Light Guards, £13,995 + VAT

2006 06 Reg HARD TOP, 59,614 miles, Green, 3 Seats, Grey Vinyl Trim, Rear Mudflaps, £12,995 + VAT

2008 08 Reg PICK UP, 47,380 miles, Green, 2 Seats, Cubby Box, Steel Wheels, Rear Mudflaps, £12,495 + VAT

2008 08 Reg HARD TOP, 46,967, Green, 2 Seats, Centre Tray, White Roof, 7.50x 16 Tyres, Steel Wheels, £12,495 + VAT

2006 06 Reg COUNTY HARD TOP, Met Green, 108,859 miles, 2 Seats, Cubby Box, Techno Cloth, Usual County Spec, Side Steps, £12,495 NO VAT

2004 54 Reg COUNTY HARD TOP, Met Red, 2 Seats, 79,966 miles, County Spec, Techno Cloth, Alloys, £11,995 + VAT

1996 P Reg 90 PICK UP, 300Tdi, Full Extensive Rebuild, Many New Parts, Must Be Seen!!! £11,995 + VAT

2008 08 Reg PICK UP, 56,000 miles, 2 Seats, Keswick Green, Centre Tray, Chequer Plating, £11,995 + VAT

2006 06 Reg PICK UP, 59,352 miles, 3 Seats, Green, 7.50 x 16 Tyres, Steel Wheels, White Roof, £10,995 + VAT

2004 54 Reg HARD TOP, 131,000 miles, A Bar & Spotlights, Winch Bumper, Wood lined Rear, £9,995 NO VAT

2003 03 Reg HARD TOP, 74,101 miles, Green, 3 Seats, White Roof, Steel Wheels, BFG A/T Tyres, £9,995 + VAT

1995 M Reg COUNTY STATION WAGON, 300 TDI, 7 Seats, Met Red, 165,274 miles, Alloys, A Rare Vehicle In this condition £7,995 No VAT

2000 X Reg HARD TOP, 2 Seats, 32,388 miles, Met Blue, Side Windows, Chequer Plate Wing Top and Rear Quarters, £7,995 + VAT

Every vehicle will be supplied Serviced and carry 12 months MOT and a 12 month dealer guarantee where applicable.

Everything Land Rover, sales, service and parts.

**Tel: 01567 820 280**

STOCK CHANGING WEEKLY

Visit : [www.lixtoll.com](http://www.lixtoll.com) or or Email: [sales@lixtoll.com](mailto:sales@lixtoll.com)

**1998 BMW323i AUTO**



Only 26,000 miles MOT Dec 2012 Taxed June 2012 Excellent condition.

**Telephone: 01586 553489**

**£1750 o.n.o.**

**FORD FIESTA GHIA 1.6**



68k miles, tidy car, alloy wheels, air con, electric windows and usual Ghia refinements. MOT till end Sept, tax end Feb.

**Telephone: 07988 763254 / 01546 600149**

**£1950**

**WANTED**

Caravan, campervan or motorhome, any make, model or condition.

Instant decision and payment.

**Telephone: 07783 638067**

**2008 BESSACARR E530**



2 Berth, Excellent condition, 11,000 miles

**Tel: 07789175048**

**£29,500**

**Oban Times DRIVE TIMES**

**Oban Times**

**SUBARU CAR OF THE WEEK**



**Subaru Forester DX 60/10**

£18,995.00

Camellia Red, 16,061mils.

**AIRD MOTORS**

HIGH STREET, BEAULY, HIGHLAND, IV4 7BP

TEL: 01463 782266 WWW.AIRD.MOTORS.CO.UK

**WANTED**

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.

**Telephone: 07864035750**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORTIVE VAN**



White 58 Reg, one owner, Diesel Service History, Air Con, CD, electric windows and mirrors Taxed and MOT, great condition, 50+MPG.

**Telephone: 07500786612**

**£5000 o.n.o. NO VAT.**

**WANTED**

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

**Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020**

**WANTED**

Motor Homes or Caravanettes, any age or condition. We also buy damaged or damp ones. Instant Cash.

**Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020**

**HONDA CV-R, 2.0SE**



5dr, 4wd automatic. 47,750miles. FSH. Ex mobility, petrol. MOT Sept, taxed end Feb.

**Telephone: 07770827373**

**£5950**

**FORD TRANSIT HIGH TOP CONVERTED CAMPER VAN**

73,000 miles, MOT'd June 2012 and taxed till July 2012. Fully equipped with fridge, cooker, plenty cupboard space.

**Contact Graham on 07733114328**

**£2,500**

**WANTED FOR EXPORT**

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

**Telephone: 07703 490572**

**WANTED**

Landrover Defenders from 1990 - 2011 All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD Mot'd or not All models required

**Contact James on 07966293996 or 07866590583**

**FORD FIESTA GHIA 1.6**



52 plate, black, nice tidy car for age, electric windows, CD player, air con etc. 68,000 miles, Taxed end Feb 2012, MOT end Sept 2012.

**Telephone: 07988 763254 / 01546 600149**

**£2300 o.v.n.o.**

**WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4**

All types of commercial vehicles, all types of plant and machinery.

**Telephone Fort William 07789428535.**

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1 LITRE ECOFLEX**



Registered June 2010, 10 plate. Excellent condition. Mileage 13,000. Taxed till end of April.

**Tel: 07557987719 for further details.**

**MICHAEL JORDAN (ABBEY) EXPRESSION 470**



2 berth, fully fitted and equipped touring caravan, Isabella, full awning (brand new), fully fitted bathroom, shower and cassette toilet with chemicals. Everything you need to start your caravanning holiday.

**Contact Neil and Elizabeth 01397 712919**

**£4499 o.n.o.**

**BLACK SUZUKI JIMNY**



3 Door, 56 plate, 4WD, Only 23,000 miles, elderly lady owner. Good condition, great runner.

**Tel: 01688 500259**

**e-mail: beccy@oldmillbandb.co.uk**

**£5600 o.n.o.**

**NISSAN X-TRAIL AVENTURA (06) 2.2 DCi**



Kuro black, heated leather seats, cruise control, satnav, climate control, ESP etc. FSH, 78k miles, 12 months MoT and Tax. See full spec and Which? valuation of this car: <http://tinyurl.com/whichxtrail>.

**Tel: 01546 600269**

**£6950**

**new car index**

**ISUZU S & S Services**

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440

**RENAULT W.D Semple**

Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

**SUBARU S & S Services**

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440

**NEW OR USED CARS TO SELL?**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

**Tel: 01631 568000**

**www.obantimes.co.uk**

**NEW! Graphic Design & Digital Print Service based in Oban.**

**Telephone: 01631 568015**

to discuss your requirements

**VANS VANS VANS**

A wide range of Quality used vans ALWAYS IN STOCK

Check our website [www.ashbrookmotorcompany.com](http://www.ashbrookmotorcompany.com)

For more information call 0131 555 6515 or 07767333007

**Oban Times DRIVE TIMES**

**Oban Times DRIVE TIMES**

**Oban Times DRIVE TIMES**

**Oban Times DRIVE TIMES**




**PHOENIX KIA KIA MOTORS** phoenixcar.co.uk



**11 11  
Kia Venga**  
1.4 CRDi EcoDynamics  
2 5dr  
Blue  
14408mls  
**£10495**



**11 11  
Kia Soul**  
1.6 CRDi Shaker  
5dr  
Cream  
20mls  
**£12295**



**10 60  
Kia cee'd SW**  
1.6 2  
5dr Auto  
Phantom Black  
7618mls  
**£9995**



**11 11  
Kia Sorento**  
2.2 CRDi KX-1  
5dr Auto  
Bright Silver  
4000mls  
**£23995**

**KIA CARENS**

- 11 11 Kia Carens 1.6 CRDi 1 5dr Bright Silver, 4200mls .....£11,995
- 11 11 Kia Carens 1.6 CRDi 1 5dr Bright Silver, 6400mls .....£14,595

**KIA CEE'D**

- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.4 VR-7 5dr Silver, 13295mls .....£9,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.4 VR-7 5dr Silver, 14011mls .....£9,995
- 10 60 Kia cee'd 1.6 2 5dr Auto Phantom Black M, 7618mls .....£9,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 3 5dr [6] Silver, 10000mls .....£11,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 2 5dr White, 12554mls .....£11,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Auto Black, 3443mls .....£13,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Auto Silver, 12101mls .....£13,295
- 10 60 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Auto Silver, 3995mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Black, 11552mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Blue, 15098mls .....£12,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Blue, 17080mls .....£11,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Red, 10mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 3 5dr Red, 6000mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Black, 12495mls .....£12,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Black, 13745mls .....£12,495
- 11 11 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Grey, 11981mls .....£11,495
- 11 61 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Infra Red, 4000mls .....£12,795
- 11 61 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Phantom Black, 4000mls .....£12,795
- 11 61 Kia cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Sirius Silver, 4000mls .....£12,795
- 09 09 Kia cee'd 2.0 CRDi Sport 5dr Silver, 14000mls .....£9,495

**KIA PICANTO**

- 09 09 Kia Picanto 1.0 5dr Clear White, 44000mls .....£4,495
- 08 58 Kia Picanto 1.1 Chill 5dr Black, 18559mls .....£4,995
- 11 11 Kia Picanto 1.1 2 5dr Scarlet Red, 10811mls .....£7,295
- 11 61 Kia Picanto 1.25 Galaxy Black, 4500mls .....£10,495
- 11 61 Kia Picanto 1.25 Lunar Glow, 3700mls .....£9,995

**KIA PRO CEE'D**

- 11 11 Kia Pro cee'd 1.4 VR-7 3dr Grey, 15mls .....£10,495
- 11 11 Kia Pro cee'd 1.6 2 3dr [6] White, 10mls .....£10,495
- 11 11 Kia Pro cee'd 1.6 CRDi 4 3dr Silver, 4500mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia Pro cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 3dr Phoenix Silver, 5400mls .....£14,095
- 11 61 Kia Pro cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 3dr Silver Storm, 5000mls .....£12,495
- 11 11 Kia Pro cee'd 1.6 CRDi 89 2 EcoDynamics 3dr Silver Storm, 5000mls .....£12,995

**KIA RIO**

- 11 61 Kia Rio 1.1 CRDi 2 EcoDynamics 5dr Electric Blue, 2000mls .....£12,995
- 11 11 Kia Rio 1.4 2 5dr Auto Blue, 3500mls .....£7,995
- 08 08 Kia Rio 1.4 2 5dr Clear Silver, 19000mls .....£4,995
- 11 61 Kia Rio 1.4 2 Eco 5dr Auto Blaze Red, 1500mls .....£12,495

**KIA SEDONA**

- 07 57 Kia Sedona 2.9 CRDi LS 5dr Auto Black, 37000mls .....£7,495

**KIA SORENTO**

- 11 11 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Auto Blue, 9832mls .....£21,995
- 11 60 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Auto Bright Silver, 12964mls .....£19,995
- 11 60 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Auto Bright Silver, 13175mls .....£19,995
- 11 11 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Auto Bright Silver, 14963mls .....£19,995
- 11 11 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Auto Bright Silver, 4000mls .....£23,995
- 11 61 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-1 5dr Denim Blue, 3000mls .....£21,495
- 11 11 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-2 5dr Bronze, 10937mls .....£22,495
- 11 60 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-2 5dr Ebony Black, 4447mls .....£21,995
- 11 61 Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX-3 5dr Titanium Silver, 4750mls .....£25,995
- 08 08 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi Titan 5dr Auto Black, 22338mls .....£15,995
- 08 08 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi Titan 5dr Clear Silver, 57000mls .....£13,995
- 07 07 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XE [5] 5dr Auto Blue, 46200mls .....£9,995
- 09 59 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Silver, 40000mls .....£14,995

**KIA SOUL**

- 11 11 Kia Soul 1.6 CRDi 2 5dr Bright Silver, 10128mls .....£10,995
- 09 58 Kia Soul 1.6 CRDi 2 5dr Orange, 16000mls .....£8,995
- 11 11 Kia Soul 1.6 CRDi Shaker 5dr Cream, 20mls .....£12,295
- 10 60 Kia Soul 1.6 Echo 5dr Black, 2200mls .....£10,995

**KIA SPORTAGE**

- 11 61 Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 1 5dr Silver Storm, 6500mls .....£16,995
- 09 58 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi XE 5dr 2WD Auto Astral Blue, 22000mls .....£10,995
- 09 09 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi XS 5dr Black, 49500mls .....£11,495

**KIA VENGA**

- 11 11 Kia Venga 1.4 CRDi EcoDynamics 1 5dr Polar White, 14000mls .....£10,495
- 11 11 Kia Venga 1.4 CRDi EcoDynamics 2 5dr Blue, 14351mls .....£10,495

**KIA** Phoenix Kia Phoenix Retail Park, Linwood Rd Paisley 0141 849 5050

Phoenix Kia Glasgow South Street Glasgow 0141 270 9290

Phoenix Kia Stirling Kerse Road, Stirling 01786 476 260

**'just buy it'** twitter.com/PhoenixCar facebook.com/PhoenixCar

**PHOENIX SUZUKI** phoenixcar.co.uk



**10 60  
Suzuki**  
1.2 SZ4  
3dr  
Orange  
11780mls  
**£7995**



**11 61  
Suzuki Swift**  
1.6 VVT Sport  
3dr  
Silky Silver  
4000mls  
**£9995**



**11 11  
Suzuki Jimny**  
1.3 SZ4  
3dr  
Pearl White  
6000mls  
**£10995**



**11 61  
Suzuki Grand Vitara**  
1.9 DDiS SZ5  
5dr  
Silky Silver  
3000mls  
**£18995**

**SUZUKI GRAND VITARA**

- 07 07 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 VVT + 3dr Clear Beige, 27000mls .....£8,695
- 09 09 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS 5dr Grey, 41000mls .....£11,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS 5dr Silky Silver, 3000mls .....£18,995
- 08 58 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS 5dr Silver, 32000mls .....£11,495
- 11 11 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS SZ5 5dr Silver, 11414mls .....£17,995
- 10 10 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS SZ5 5dr Silver, 12000mls .....£16,995
- 08 08 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.0 16v X-EC 5dr Grey, 32500mls .....£9,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.4 VVT SZ4 S. Pack 5dr Silky Silver, 1800mls .....£16,995
- 09 09 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.4 VVT SZ5 5dr Nocturn Blue, 44000mls .....£11,495

**SUZUKI SPLASH**

- 10 60 Suzuki Splash 1.0 GLS 5dr Cosmic Black Pearl, 4000mls .....£6,495
- 11 61 Suzuki Splash 1.0 GLS 5dr Cosmic Black, 2000mls .....£7,695
- 11 11 Suzuki Splash 1.0 GLS 5dr Lagoon Turquoise, 2010mls .....£7,495
- 11 61 Suzuki Splash 1.0 SZ3 5dr Cosmic Black, 4000mls .....£7,495
- 09 09 Suzuki Splash 1.2 GLS + 5dr Cosmic Black Pearl, 18200mls .....£6,795
- 11 11 Suzuki Splash 1.2 GLS + 5dr Sunlight Copper, 4000mls .....£7,995
- 09 09 Suzuki Splash 1.2 GLS 5dr Lagoon Turquoise, 18500mls .....£5,495
- 11 11 Suzuki Splash 1.2 GLS 5dr Sunlight Copper, 4000mls .....£7,695
- 11 61 Suzuki Splash 1.2 SZ3 5dr Galactic Grey, 2000mls .....£8,295

**SUZUKI SWIFT**

- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 3dr Bright Red, 2000mls .....£8,695
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 3dr Galactic Grey, 2000mls .....£8,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 3dr Pearl Cool White, 2000mls .....£8,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 5dr Silky Silver, 3000mls .....£9,295
- 10 60 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 Pearl Cool, 21885mls .....£7,995
- 10 60 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ4 3dr Orange, 11780mls .....£7,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ4 3dr Silky Silver, 4000mls .....£9,495
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.3 DDiS SZ3 5dr Galactic Gray, 5000mls .....£9,995
- 11 11 Suzuki Swift 1.3 DDiS SZ3 5dr Kashmir Blue, 4000mls .....£9,495
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.3 DDiS SZ3 5dr Kashmir Blue, 8000mls .....£9,495
- 08 57 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL 3dr Red, 48000mls .....£5,295
- 09 09 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GLX 5dr Cosmic Black Pearl, 12000mls .....£6,995
- 09 09 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 3dr White, 23700mls .....£6,695

**SUZUKI SWIFT SPORT**

- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.6 VVT Sport 3dr Silky Silver, 4000mls .....£9,995
- 11 61 Suzuki Swift 1.6 VVT Sport 3dr Silky Silver, 500mls .....£11,095

**SUZUKI SX4**

- 10 60 Suzuki SX4 1.6 Aerio 5dr Silver, 8214mls .....£9,495
- 10 10 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX Bluish Black Pearl, 13000mls .....£7,495

**SUZUKI** Phoenix Suzuki Paisley Phoenix Retail Park, Linwood Rd Paisley 0141 849 5115

Phoenix Suzuki Glasgow South Street Glasgow 0141 270 9250

Phoenix Suzuki Stirling Kerse Road, Stirling 01786 476 260

**'just buy it'** twitter.com/PhoenixCar facebook.com/PhoenixCar

# Highland cattle trade bolstered by European interest

## Glengorm bull sells to 10,000 gns at Oban

RAPTUROUS applause rippled round the sale ring when auctioneer Ali Logan's gavel fell to gather the top price at Monday's Highland Cattle Society Spring sale at Oban Livestock Centre.

Stewart Brown of Hagghill, Trowbridge, succeeded with his final bid of 10,000gns to take 23-month old red bull Eoin Ruadh of Glengorm, from Isle of Mull estate owner Tom Nelson, who farms one of the country's oldest and largest folds of pedigree Highland cattle.

The 10,000gns bid was Glengorm's highest ever trade through a sale ring - their previous best being eclipsed by 3,000gns.

**International interest**  
With international interest boosting trade around a busy ringside, sale averages climbed across all classes, with more than 50 per cent of the 100 cattle on offer fetching more than £1,000.

Overseas buyers accounted for 30 per cent of the purchases with the 29 bulls averaging at £2,653.35, up £723.45 on last year's sale. The 70 females averaged at £1,273.49, up £230.84 on the year with a very similar number forward. There was a particularly brisk trade for yearling heifers which saw the average for the 33 sold climb to £703.50.

Overall the till at Oban market rang to the tune of just over £166,000 for the four-hour period of the sale.

**Delighted**  
Highland Cattle Society secretary Hazel Baxter was delighted with the day's trade: 'A very good sale with the continuing rise in interest in the breed showing through in the sale ring,' she said. 'I'm delighted with the way things went.'

Among the ringside audience was UK Agricultural Minister Jim Pace, who farms at Ely in Cambridgeshire, and he returned south with a 2,000gns purchase of the two-year old Calum Seoladair 4th of Killochries, plus several yearling females including the black Princess Dughall of Killochries at 850gns, the red Monah Sean



Reserve champion Eoin Ruadh of Glengorm which sold to 10,000 gns at Oban on Monday.

Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.



Champion female - Dosan Bheag 32nd of Inver from the Isle of Jura fold of Sir William Lithgow, Ormsary, by Lochgilphead.

Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

of Killochries by Sean Ghart of Ormsary at 600gns, and the white, Milly 2nd of Severie, also at 600gns.

Derbyshire farmer Peter Edwards took the rising two-year old bull Nero of Knockendon from Ronald and Francis Fergie, Dalry, with a final bid of 6,000gns, while Glengorm stockman Angus MacColl sold

his own red bull Donnchadh of Miungairigh, which had been placed reserve in the two-year old bull championship, for 5,500gns to Finnish cattle breeder Riika Palonen. The sale was also the highest sum achieved by the popular island stockman whose previous best had been 5,200gns for a heifer and 4,200gns for a bull.

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union  
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



2nd of Mottistone, by Bentalla of Gargunock, out of Lady Alma 3rd of Kindrochaid, from the Bendorloch fold of Isle of Wight-based Michael Poland sold, at 3,700gns, to the new president of the Highland Cattle Society, Charlie Bruce of King Edward, Banff. The bull, which had been reserve champion at the Great Yorkshire Show last year was immaculately brought out by stockman Willie MacLean.

Mr Poland also sold the rising four-year-old bull Challenger of Mottistone at 3,600gns to Meggerie Estate, Glen Lyon.

At 3,500gns, Isle of Kerrera cattle breeder David Keyes bought the seven-year old Angus Ruadh of Gartchionzie from the Glenkinglass fold of RD Schuster.

Highest bid in the female ring saw the reserve champion Joanne of Bein Esk, by Thorn of Bein Esk and out of Beitidh 6th of Hoejgaard, from Paul Burns and Patricia Smith, Craigenfell, sell to the Orkney-based fold A R Casey for 4,000gns.

Craigenfell also sold their 31-month old, in-calf heifer Ciara of Bein Esk at 3,000gns to Gordon Snowie, Inverdunning, Blairlogie.

At 3,600gns, Achnaoloch sold the 34-month old Proiseag Odhar 6th of Achnaoloch by Creag Dugh of Labhal and out of Proiseag Odhar 5th of Achnaoloch, to Mr Palonen of Finland, while another of the top priced heifers is bound for Germany following Falco Steinberg of Leisterforde's final bid of 3,500gns for the four-year old black heifer Iseabal 17th of Carsaig, by Gille Dubh of Graigowmill, from the fold of Lady Lithgow, Ormsary.

Sir William Lithgow's Inver Fold produced the female champion in the three-year old Dosan Bheag 32nd of Inver by Oskar of Hyndford and sold as a March calver to the 2010 champion Callum 2nd of Goldenberry. One of the first black Highlanders to come off the Isle of Jura for more than 20 years, the hammer finally fell after a 3,400gns bid from P and J Farms.

There was a steady trade for yearling heifers, boosted by interest from Estonia, which saw the first three yearlings to enter the ring finding homes in Eastern Europe.

Islay-based Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold their best in show yearling, the black Beatrice Dubh of Ceannacroic at 1,400gns, then followed that up by taking 1,100gns for the red Camilla Ruadh of Ceannacroic. The yellow, Lora of Mottistone from Michael Poland went to Orkney at 1,000gns, with the same bid from Finland securing the red, Princess Mhari of Cladich from Mrs Jon Strickland, Dalmlay.

In a small entry of cows, the March/April calver, Cautunn of Lith Na Doire, from Mrs Hilary Barker, Mid Torrie, Callander, sold at 950gns to Jim Corbett, Isle of Mull.

### 'Exceptional' trade at Fort William sheep sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 654 sheep of all classes at Fort William last Thursday when there was an exceptional trade throughout the sale.

Lambs averaged £53.96 and sold to £92 for a pen of Mules from Carnoch Farm, Ardour.

Ewes averaged £49.73 and sold to £130 for a pair of Suffolks from Breakachy, Laggan. Gimmers sold to £130 for a pen of Mules from Carnoch Farm.

Feeding sheep averaged £51.73 and sold to £68 for a Cheviot wether from 4 Calgary, Isle of Skye.

Rams averaged £62.37 and sold to £118 for a Suffolk from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

### Market reports

#### TIRE United Auctions

Aberdeen Angus X: E1025(5) Heylipol Farm E1000 and E960 Hillcrest E885(2) Heylipol Farm E800(2) and E785(2) Hillcrest E760 5 Ruaig.

British Blue X: E965 Clachan E755 Ruaig Charolais X: E1135, E1125, E1115(3), E1105(2), E1101, E1000(6), E998(2), E995(3), E955, E935, E905(4) and E845 Heylipol Farm E828 Hillcrest E775 Heylipol Farm E755 and E748(2) Hillcrest.

Limousin X: E1165 and E1145 Heylipol Farm: E1135 Clachan E1095 Heylipol Farm E1075 Salum E1005(3) Heylipol Farm E975 3 Kenovay E965 Clachan Salum and 3 Kenovay E955 Heylipol Farm(2) and 3 Kenovay(2) E945(2) Heylipol Farm E935(2) Clachan E915(4) Heylipol Farm E910 Salum E905 Ruaig E905(4) and E900(3) 3 Kenovay E895, E835(2) and E815(2) Ruaig E805(2) Hillcrest E755 3 Kenovay E740 Hough.

Sale X: E700 Middleton Farm. Simmental X: E1035(2) Drumfrahoch E1020 - E945(4) and E905(2) 3 Kenovay E785 10 Crossapol E755 Middleton Farm E738 and E700 10 Crossapol.

Heifers Aberdeen Angus X: E685 Hillcrest British Blue X: E650 Ruaig Charolais X: E970(9), E920, E895(5), E890(2), E835(5) and E800 Heylipol Farm E770(7) Hillcrest E735(2) Salum E705(3) Heylipol Farm E635 Salum.

Limousin X: E935 Heylipol Farm E900 Salum E898 Parkhouse E895 Heylipol Farm & Salum(3) E885 & E875(7) Heylipol Farm E860(2) & E855(5) Clachan E850(2) & E800 Heylipol Farm E780(4) Salum E778(2) Parkhouse E755 & E700 Ruaig E695 Hillcrest & Middleton Farm E685 Vaul E655(2) Ruaig. Sale X: E675(3) Middleton Farm.

Simmental X: E705 & E660 Middleton Farm E635 Benview. In-calf heifers E1220 Ruaig E1055 2 Kenovay. In-calf cows

E980 and E855 Hillcrest.

Cat cows E1255 Crossh E1085 Clachan E1045 and E965(2) Crossh

Prices per kilo

Bullocks Aberdeen Angus X: 257p(2) & 231p(4) Hillcrest 230p 5 Ruaig & Hillcrest 225p(5) & 213p(2) Heylipol Farm 204p and 203p Dunbeag.

British Blue X: 233p Ruaig. Charolais X: 217p Heylipol Farm 271p(2) & 269p Hillcrest 251p, 249p(3), 248p(4), 241p(2) & 239p(2) Heylipol Farm 237p Hillcrest 235p(4), 234p, 233p, 228p(2), 224p, 223p, 217p, 209p & 204p Heylipol Farm.

Hereford X: 231p & 209p 8 Barrapol. Limousin X: 279p Greenhill & Ruaig 267p Ruaig 260p Salum 258p(2) Hillcrest 256p 6 Balevullin 245p(3) Heylipol Farm 241p Hillcrest 234p & 228p Heylipol Farm 228p Greenhill & 3 Kenovay 227p Salum & 1 Kenovay 220p Heylipol Farm(2). Salum - 3 Kenovay & Ruaig(6) 224p(2) Scarinish Farm 223p Heylipol Farm(4) & Hough 221p Clachan(2) & 15 Crossapol 219p(2) Ruaig - 218p 15 Crossapol 214p Heylipol Farm(2) & 1 Kenovay 211p(2) 3 Kenovay 210p Heylipol Farm 209p Clachan - 208p 15 Crossapol & 10 Balevullin 207p & 203p(5) 3 Kenovay. Sale X: 213p(2), 206p, 205p & 201p(2)

Lochpail Simmental X: 239p 7 Balinose 238p 10 Crossapol 226p(2) 3 Kenovay 222p(2) & 221p 10 Crossapol 207p(4) 3 Kenovay 206p(2) Lochpail 201p Middleton Farm. Drumfrahoch 214p(3) Lochpail 212p 3 Kenovay 211p Lochpail(2) & 10 Crossapol 208p 10 Crossapol 207p(4) 3 Kenovay 206p(2) Lochpail 201p Middleton Farm.

Heifers Aberdeen Angus X: 226p Hillcrest 206p Dunbeag.

British Blue X: 257p, 230p & 209p Ruaig. Charolais X: 254p(7) & 244p(2) Hillcrest 234p, 232p(5), 230p(9) & 224p(2) Heylipol Farm 217p Salum 215p(3), 214p(5) & 209p Heylipol Farm 206p Hillcrest 200p(2) Salum.

Hereford X: 208p & 206p 8 Barrapol.

#### FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs: Suffolk: 4 Giebehill, Kilchoan, E88; Charolais X: 19 Wades Road, Inverloch, E80; Blackface: Moy Farm, Banavie, E77; Cheviot: 8 Balnacach, Struan, E76; Cross: Ardross Farm, E70; Swale: Breakachy, E70; Textel: South Laggan, Spean Bridge, E66; Mule: Carnoch Farm, E64; Textel: Kilmoinvaig, Spean Bridge, E62; Jacob: Ardery, Acharacle, E48; Shetland X: Ardery, E42.

Ewes: Cheviot: Dalilea, Acharacle, E78; Blackface: 19 Blarnafodach, Fort William, E70; Cross: Garroge Estate, White Bridge, E64; Textel: Kilmoinvaig, E61; Feeding Sheep: Mule: Brannath, Acharacle, E60; Blackface: 4 Calgary, E60; Cheviot: 4 Calgary, E55; Cross: Armadale Farm, Isle of Skye, E50; Rams: Textel: Ardery, E110; Cheviot: 4 Giebehill, E94; Blackface: Garroge Estate, E90; Swale: Breakachy, E86; Lley: Terlandy Farm, Fort William, E79; Bluefaced Leicester: Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus, E76; Suffolk X: Burnbank, Fort William, E62.

Limousin X: 245p Greenhill 241p Salum & 6 Balevullin 237p(7) Heylipol Farm 236p 6 Balevullin 234p Hillcrest 232p(2) Heylipol Farm 227p(3) Salum 226p Skippinnis 224p(4) Salum 223p 9 Barrapol 218p 6 Balevullin 216p Heylipol Farm 213p(7) Ruaig 212p(2) 9 Barrapol 211p Clachan(5) & Hough 209p Vaul & Ruaig 208p Mainroad & Skippinnis 206p Heylipol Farm & Ruaig 205p 9 Barrapol 204p Skippinnis 203p 9 Barrapol 202p Heylipol Farm & 9 Barrapol 201p 1 Kenovay 200p Heylipol Farm. Sale X: 209p(2) & 208p Lochpail.

Simmental X: 204p 7 Balinose 202p & 200p Lochpail. Sheep Hogg: Suffolk X: E87.50 Clachan Textel X: E79.50 Clachan

Agricultural Contractor Jamie Stringer  
Freelance shepherd, stockman, tractor driver, GFW  
Own dogs  
Sheep, cattle and arable Mainland and islands  
Tel: 07979 607 393  
Tel: 01951 200284  
hebrideanislles@aol.co.uk

1994 Case International, model 895, 4 wheel drive complete with loader, good condition, low hours £11,000.  
Fraser 20' bale trailer, good condition, £1600.  
Howard rota spreader, good condition, £1,000

All items plus VAT @ 20%  
Telephone day 01852 500273, mobile 07710060021

#### Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions

Wednesday 29th February from 10am  
Errol Airfield, Perth PH2 7TB  
FURTHER ENTRIES INVITED  
up until 24/2/12 at 12 Noon.  
\*All items must be onsite by 12 Noon.

ALL TYPES OF PLANT, MACHINERY, AGRI-EQUIPMENT, HGVS, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT WELCOME.  
Tel 01821 642940.  
www.morrisleslie.com

#### COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES  
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL  
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available  
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

### Heylipol Charolais' sell to 278p per kilo at UA Tire

UNITED Auctions held their annual February sale of all classes of cattle and a few sheep at Tire Auction Mart last Saturday when 378 head of cattle were sold.

Bullocks sold to £1,165 for Limousin crosses from Heylipol Farm and averaged £798.21 per head or 219p per kilo against £675.65 or 179p per kilo last year.

Heifers sold to £970 for a pen of nine Charolais from Heylipol Farm and averaged £694.42 or 213p per kilo against £525.25 or 171.13 per kilo last year.

Bullocks sold to 278p per kilo for Charolais from Heylipol and Limousin crosses from Greenhill and Ruaig.

Heifers sold to 257p per kilo for a British Blue from Ruaig.

Cast cows from Croish sold to £1255.

A feature of the sale was the annual consignment of 87 bullocks and heifers under one year old from Heylipol Farm which averaged £943.06 or 229p per kilo.

**MCLAREN TRACTORS**  
THE AFFORDABLE MACHINERY DEALER  
NEW  
Valtra A93H 101hp 4wd power-shuttle with loader.....£POA  
Zetor Proxima 100 4wd tractor with front linkage.....£27,632 + VAT  
Zetor Proxima 100 4wd tractor with weights.....£26,499 + VAT  
Zetor 68hp 4wd tractor with loader & fork.....£26,799 + VAT  
Kioti DK551 55hp 4wd c/w loader.....£22,189 + VAT  
Kioti 30hp 4wd tractor with loader & backhoe.....£18,975 + VAT  
Polaris Sportsman 550XP 4x4 ATV.....£5,799 + VAT  
Polaris Ranger 400 2 seat 4x4 ATV from.....£6,699 + VAT  
Polaris Ranger Diesel, 3 seats and full cab with heater.....£13,998 + VAT  
USED  
John Deere 6510 Premium 115hp 4wd 4300hrs 1999 model.....£20,495 + VAT  
Zetor 6340 75hp 4wd 5200hrs c/w loader 1994 model.....£9,998 + VAT  
Lamborghini 115 36x36 synchro shuttle 1992 model.....£9,995 + VAT  
Foster D750 silage feeder wagon, reconditioned.....£3,995 + VAT  
Please check out our website for used machinery offers:  
www.mclarenttractors.co.uk  
Strathpeffer Road, Dingwall, IV15 9QF  
Tel: 01349 867521 • Fax: 01349 866738 • Parts 01349 867210 • Sales Mob: 07775 584565  
Email: sales@mclarenttractors.co.uk

**Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions**  
Wednesday 29th February from 10am  
Errol Airfield, Perth PH2 7TB  
FURTHER ENTRIES INVITED  
up until 24/2/12 at 12 Noon.  
\*All items must be onsite by 12 Noon.  
ALL TYPES OF PLANT, MACHINERY, AGRI-EQUIPMENT, HGVS, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT WELCOME.  
Tel 01821 642940.  
www.morrisleslie.com  
**COVENTRY for FENCING**  
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES  
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL  
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available  
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

## PROPERTY

**Dunbeg, By Oban (close to Marine Lab)**  
Two bedroom semi detached house with sea views.  
Excellent starter home  
Electric storage heaters.  
Walk in condition  
Large garden, off street parking.  
For further details contact Mark  
01631 565219/07717533998  
West Coast property service

0800 081 8989  
adrianflux.co.uk  
ADRIAN FLUX

**WANTED**  
Want to let your holiday property? We'll give you more bookings, less hassle  
Achieve as many as 47 bookings a year  
FREE property inspection & letting consultation  
EXPERT photos & advertising  
Call today for your FREE owners pack  
0800 915 4750  
www.SykesOwners.co.uk  
SYKES cottages  
**NEW!**  
Graphic Design & Digital Print Service based in Oban.  
Telephone: 01631 568015 to discuss your requirements

**TO LET**  
**HOUSE TO LET**  
Oakbank Kinlochell Nr Fort William 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, sitting room and sun room, unfurnished. £525pcm. Further details telephone 01397 722402  
**LONG LET - TAYNUILT**  
BRIGHT SPACIOUS FURNISHED FLAT SUITABLE FOR UP TO 2 PEOPLE (1 DOUBLE BEDROOM AND 1 SINGLE BEDROOM/STUDY) OFF ROAD PARKING. ELECTRIC HEATING. £430 PCM PLUS BILLS TEL: 01631 570060 DURING OFFICE HOURS  
**TO LET**  
Unfurnished two bedroom semi-detached Oil central heating Recently refurbished Available early March Ref & Dep Required No smokers, pets or D.S.S. £500 pcm Tel: 07850127671  
**TO LET**  
Unfurnished 2 Bedroom Flats in Oban £500 PCM + C/Tax + Bills + Deposit AVAILABLE NOW Call West Lettings: 01631 569 466 westlettings.co.uk  
**KILMELFORD (Oban 15 miles)**  
Double room to let In private house Suitable for single person £350 pcm incl. bills No D.S.S. Tel: 07831811576

**FLAT FOR RENT**  
Spacious 1 bedroom, first floor flat available for rent in a quiet side street in the centre of Campbeltown. Flat in excellent condition, very clean. £295 pcm immediately Tel: 07776175038  
**West Coast property service**  
ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY FOR THREE WEEKS IN OUR PROPERTY SECTION STARTING FROM ONLY £220.  
OPTION 1 14cm x 3 columns 3 WEEKS with £119.40 NOW £220  
OPTION 2 10cm x 3 columns 3 WEEKS with £83.90 NOW £220  
OPTION 3 7cm x 3 columns 3 WEEKS with £38.90 NOW £220  
All adverts include free web listing until sold www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk  
All prices include full colour, all photographs and are inclusive for 3 weeks. Prices are exclusive of VAT  
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk  
TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT OR TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS TEL MARGARET ON 01631 568000 OR EMAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk offer exclusive to re-sale property only

**OASIS YOUTH**  
**Oban Addiction Support and Information Service**  
 Has a vacancy for a  
**YOUTH ADDICTION WORKER**  
 35 HOURS PER WEEK  
 Salary to be discussed

Specialised youth addiction worker required to work with youths affected by their own or another's use of substances.

Excellent communication/interpersonal skills essential. Must have experience of youth work and SVQ 3 in Social Care essential.

Experience of addiction issues desirable but not essential.

A full driving license is essential as the successful candidate will travel across the area in which they are based.

This is a fixed term post until November 2013

Contact Louise Steel for an application pack at 11 Stafford Street, Oban, 01631 571348 or email to mail@oasis-oban.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Monday 5th March 2012

**Head Gardener/Couple**

A full-time Head Gardener is required for Glenborrodale Castle. The successful candidate will be responsible for the regeneration, improvement and maintenance of a Grade A listed coastal garden with a further walled garden. In addition, the role will require liaison with the castle's resident chef to produce flowers, fruit and vegetables for the castle. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated and able to work under their own initiative, with significant experience in horticulture and arboriculture. In addition, a practical ability to maintain buildings and machinery would be an advantage.

An excellent salary is payable, along with live-in accommodation. Work may be available for a partner.

**Please contact Lise Williamson MacDougall for a detailed job description and application form: Bell Ingram Ltd, 2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA34 4AY. Tel: 01631-566122 or email lise.macdougall@bellingham.co.uk**

**the kilberryinn**

**We need enthusiastic and hardworking people to join our happy team!**

Full and Part time members of staff required from early March

**Chef de Partie**  
 (accommodation available)

**Kitchen porters**  
**Housekeeping**  
**Front of house**

Flexible hours and excellent rates of pay.

Please telephone David on 01880 770223 or email relax@kilberryinn.com for more details.

Kilberry, Argyll, PA29 6YD

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
**Media Sales Executive**

**campbeltown courier**  
 Incorporating Arran Advertiser

**Media Sales Executive**

The Oban Times and the Campbeltown Courier are seeking to recruit Media Sales Executives to join our experienced sales teams in Oban and Campbeltown. Applicants should be lively, enthusiastic, good communicators and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidates will work across a variety of publications and products. Ongoing in-house training will be given as required.

**Paymasters House Inveraray**  
**Manager/Housekeeper**  
**Salary £15,000.00**

Please send your details to:  
**enquiry@paymastershouse.co.uk**

**Person required to carry our book keeping and accounts preparation**

Experience of VAT, Sage, and Payroll advantageous.

Full time or part time considered

Please send application and CV to Jean Ainsley, Jean Ainsley & Co, 21 Argyll Square, Oban

Email jean@jeanainsley.co.uk

**CUILFAIL HOTEL**  
 KILMELFORD

**Chef, full time post**

Pay negotiable according to experience

Please send CV to Yvonne, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA or mail@cuilfail.co.uk

A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding areas in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent basic salary along with bonus, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes – we want to hear from you.

Please apply by e-mail with a full C.V including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Closing date: Monday, 27th February, 2012

**The Oban Times** **campbeltown courier** **Argyllshire advertiser** **THE ARRAN BANNER**

**the National Trust for Scotland**  
 a place for everyone

**CRARAE GARDENS**  
**VISITOR CENTRE/SHOP ASSISTANT**

Seasonal Part Time Position. Required End March to mid August . 20 hrs p.w.

For job description and application form, please telephone 01546 886614, or write to the Property Manager, The National Trust for Scotland, Crarae Garden, Minard, Inveraray, Argyll. PA32 8YA

**EDUCATION RANGER (Part-time)**  
 Knapdale Forest, Argyll  
 c. £16k pro-rata

We are looking for a committed and enthusiastic individual to lead and organise a programme of public and educational events in and around this ground-breaking trial site in Mid Argyll. Working to a flexible, seasonal time schedule, you will cover some weekend and evening work in order to lead guided walks, talks and educational group visits for the Scottish Beaver Trial. You will also engage with visitors, the local community and our partners to help promote the project's aims, along with supporting volunteers, helping to develop new income streams, and assisting with media and PR work.

Applicants should have experience of educational work and public events, with knowledge of the local area and have the interpersonal skills and ability to communicate to a wide audience with enthusiasm and passion. Experience in a similar role and a full driving licence is essential.

**For an application form please see www.swt.org.uk email recruitment@swt.org.uk or phone 0131 312 4731.**

**Closing date for applications is 2nd March 2012 with interviews on 19th March 2012.**

*The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and host Forestry Commission Scotland to undertake a time-limited, five year long trial reintroduction of Eurasian beavers (Castor fiber) to Knapdale, Mid-Argyll.*

Rural Tayside LEADER 2007-2013 programme.  
 Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792)

**ANCHOR HOTEL**

**TARBERT**  
 REQUIRES  
**FRONT OF HOUSE**  
**RECEPTIONIST**  
 (FULL-TIME POSITION)

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic Front Of House Receptionist with previous experience working in hotels. Reporting directly to the General Manager, the ideal candidate should be familiar with all aspects of reception duties from taking bookings, interacting with the clientele, assisting promotions, wedding organising, and general day to day duties which may include waitressing and occasional house-keeping when required. You should also have a amiable & welcoming manner, and be confident and professional in meeting & greeting the customer, be fully PC literate, excellent communicator and able to demonstrate the ability to work on your own initiative as well as being a valued member of the team.

On offer is an excellent salary

Please forward your CV to:  
**dwhyte@linelleng.co.uk and also scott@xplora.demon.co.uk**

**JDP** **TRAINEE SALES REPRESENTATIVE**  
**CIVIL & DRAINAGE PRODUCTS**

If you are looking for your first external sales role, are enthusiastic, keen to succeed and possess excellent organisational skills, we could have the perfect opportunity for you!

We are looking to appoint, a trainee SALES REPRESENTATIVE to join our skilled sales team in North West Scotland. Managing medium spend accounts as well as validating sales leads throughout the North and West Scotland, the role of Sales Representative provides excellent training opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge needed to prepare you for progressing to a Sales Executive position, normally within 2 years.

Experience of our products would be advantageous but not essential although knowledge of our industry and some sales experience would certainly be desirable.

In return we offer a competitive salary, company car, sales bonus, pension scheme and contributory travel and health insurance schemes

Interested in a move for the better? email CV & covering letter to hradmin@jdpipes.co.uk

For background information on JDP refer to: www.jdpipes.co.uk

The closing date is Feb 24th 2012

**ROBIN DIXON & SON LTD**  
 Barfad Farm Office, School Road  
**TARBERT, Argyll, PA29 6UL**  
 Tel: 01880 821133 Fax: 01880 821147  
 E-mail: robin@robindixon.co.uk

**P.A. to Director**

**Robin Dixon and Son Ltd are a Land Management/Forestry company, based in Tarbert, managing many varied estates across Scotland.**

The Managing Director is seeking a P.A. with exceptional organisational skills. You must be able to work as part of our team and cope in a fast moving, high pressure environment . Excellent office/computer and people skills are required. This is a very demanding and busy role where hard work and commitment will be rewarded.

Please send your application and CV to robin@robindixon.co.uk, or by post to: Robin Dixon & Son Ltd, Barfad Farm Office, School Road, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6UL.

**CROSSROADS Caring for Carers NORTH ARGYLL**

We are a small home care agency providing support and personal care for carers and people with care needs.

£7.70 pr hour + evening and weekend enhanced rates. SVQ level 2 an advantage, training given.

Car necessary.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

**Contact: Bette Hunter or Margo Marr 01631562277 or northargyllcrossroads@hotmail.com**

**Tractor driver/ GFW wanted in Argyll**

**to work on stock farm within a team of 3.**

On occasion, at busy stock handling times to be available to help with stockmen. Must be competent with mechanics, machinery and general farm maintenance and work on own initiative at times. 3 bedroomed house available with workshop next door. Great Primary school and shop. The 2 minute ferry runs every ½ hour and it takes 30 mins to drive up to Oban. When applying please make sure that you have at least 2 references.

**Phone Shane 01852 314234 mob 07775 907644 or email cadzow@luing.net**

**University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College** | Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

**Have you an engineering background? Are you interested in passing your skills on to others?**

Argyll College will be opening an engineering skills facility in Lochgilphead in the summer of 2012. This centre will train people in the fundamentals of engineering skills to allow progression to a variety of careers, e.g. in the energy industry, motor vehicle, marine engineering etc. Applicants are now sought for the post of

**Engineering Tutor**

Applicants for the post should hold a recognised qualification in engineering skills. Previous teaching experience is desirable but not essential as training will be provided.

The salary is £27,882.28 plus a final salary pension scheme contribution by the college of £5,381.28 bringing the total salary on offer to £33,563.56.

The successful applicant will be subject to an application to join Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

Please send CV (max 2 pages) and 1 page covering letter to:  
 Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY or e-mail lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk or fax to 01631 564370.

Closing date for applications is February 24th 2012.

In the development of this engineering facility, Argyll College UHI is working with North Highland, Kilmarnock and Carnegie Colleges and Doosan Babcock. The project is funded by Argyll College, Argyll & the Islands Leader Programme, the Kilfinan Trust, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Argyll & Bute Council, Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council.

**YOUR LOCAL PAPER**

**Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.**

Your local paper - the effective and trusted environment for recruitment advertisers.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**MACLEOD**  
 MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD  
 REQUIRE  
**ELECTRICIAN**  
 (17th edition qualified)  
 also  
**BENCH HAND JOINER**  
 (LOCHGILPHEAD BASED)  
 WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, WITH C.V.  
 TO  
 MacLeod Construction Ltd  
 Kilmory Industrial Estate  
 Lochgilphead PA31 8RR  
 e-mail - lil@mkmacleod.co.uk

**Fixed Plant Fitter**  
 Glensanda, Oban Attractive salary & benefits package

Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day year-round, has a staff of nearly 200 people, and is unique in both its physical characteristics and its potential as a world centre of excellence.

As a key member of our engineering team, you'll carry out a range of mechanical fitting, maintenance and troubleshooting tasks. A time-served Mechanical Technician, you'll have an ONC (or equivalent) qualification. A good awareness of Health & Safety is important too.

There's the real opportunity to develop your career, plus excellent benefits including pension and online discounts on a range of corporate products.

Visit [www.aggregate.com/Employment/Current-Job-Vacancies](http://www.aggregate.com/Employment/Current-Job-Vacancies) for full details and to apply online, please quote reference 004871.

Closing date: 1 March 2012.  
 A Sunday Times Best Green Company 2010.  
 We believe in Equal Opportunities for all employees.

**AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES**

**Domestic Help Wanted**

For holiday home in Craobh Haven

Tel:07776 132901

“The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record.”

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Tel:01631 568000 email:adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**Prime hogs rise 10p per kilo at Stirling**

UNITED Auctions sold 2954 prime sheep including 2291 hogs averaging 202.4p/kg (+10p on week) and 663 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex hogs from Luckenburn sold to £109 and 248p per kilo, while Airthrey Kerse sold Texels to £105.

Macharioch had Suffolk to £96 while Blackfaces from Dunruchan sold to £89.

Texel ewes from Finnont fetched to £120 with Cheviots from Shanry to £115.50.

Blackface ewes from Auchenroch sold to £82.50 with the same home selling Texel rams to £124.50.

**Prime bullocks from Cloy, Fortrose sell to 224p per kilo at Dingwall weekly sale**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 82 prime cattle and 1,156 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 201.4p (+1.3p) and sold to 224p per kg and £1,500.80 for a 670kg Charolais cross from The Cloy, Fortrose.

Prime heifers averaged 197.5p (-3.0p) and sold to 211p per kg for a 570kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,329.65 for a 655kg South Devon cross from Drummond Farm, Evanton.

Over 30 Month bullocks sold to 177p per kg and £1,053.15 for a 595kg Limousin cross from Docharty Farm, Dingwall.

Lambs averaged 211.2p (-2.4p) and sold to 229.6p per kg for 40.5kg Texel crosses from Bruiach Mills Farm, Kiltarity, and £108 for 56kg Cheviots from Invertrornie, Kingussie, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

Cheviot lambs from Geise, Thurso sold to £100 and to 228.1p per kilo from Balloan, Conan Bridge, while Texel crosses from West Moy, Urray fetched £99.50.

Blackfaces from Blackford Farm, Croysold to £92 and 214p per kilo.

**Caledonian Marts sell prime bullocks to 224.5p per kilo at Stirling**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 282 cattle at their weekly primestock sale at Stirling last Thursday.

Bullocks averaged 198.5p per kg and sold to 224.5p per kg for a 630kg Limousin from Learielaw Farm, Broxburn and to £1552 720kg Limousin also from Learielaw.

Heifers averaged 198p per kg and sold to 220p per kg for a 645kg Limousin from Mains of Culmalundie Farm, Perth and £1442 for 705kg Limousin, also from Mains of Culmalundie.

Butchers cattle averaged 213p per kg and sold to 218p per kg for a 595kg Limousin Bullock, Faskine Farm, Airdrie.

Young bulls sold to 216.5p per kg and £1624 for a 750kg Limousin from Allanfauld Farm, Kilsyth.

Cast cows sold to £1405 for a Charolais cow from J M More, The Beid Farm and to £1065 for a Friesian from S & M Dalgleish, Balgowrie Mains.

Cast bulls sold to 140 per kilo and £1385 for a Simmental from Goldenlea and to 135p per kilo and £1335 for a Simmental from Mosshall, A Highland bull from Balquharn sold to 127p per kilo and £1035.

**Mull farmer named in group to secure industry future**

A MULL farmer is to represent a National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) group which aims to secure the future of Scotland's agriculture.

Iain Mackay, from Torloisk on the Isle of Mull, is a member

of the 'New Generation' group and will appear for them at the NFU's upcoming Annual General Meeting in St Andrews.

He said: "The disadvantages that new farming businesses face with no access to SFP

needs to be rectified as a priority within the current CAP negotiations. The New Generation group believes that the current exclusion should not be allowed to persist and all businesses need to be treated in the same

equal manner. "Everything must be done to ensure a National Reserve is in place to assist new businesses from the outset of the new CAP regime."

He added: "Much must be

learnt from the mistakes of the past to rectify this problem and that excluding genuine new entrants to the farming sector from support is not allowed to happen again under the future direct payment scheme."



Top priced heifer at the Highland Cattle Society's sale at Oban on Monday was the rising four-year old Joanne of Bein Esk from Patricia Smith and Paul Burns which sold at 4,000gns to Orkney cattle breeder A R Casey. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

**Members vote down Highland changes**

A MOVE to alter the Sunday show day currently utilized by the Highland Cattle Society was rebuffed by members as the Society held its AGM at Oban on Sunday night.

Outgoing president Ian Bowie said that there had been complaints relating to the show being held on a Sunday as it prevented some people from taking part. A decision to hold the show on a Sunday had been put in place as a five-year pilot scheme after the 2009 AGM and members agreed to stay with the status quo in the meantime.

In what was described as an attempt to improve the standard of bulls being put forward by Highland cattle breeders, the breed council presented a case for compulsory assessment of all bulls going forward for sale at official Society events.

The proposal included inspection of bulls after 14 months of age by breed fieldsmen who would evaluate and score the breed characteristics. The scoring would be linked to the bull for the duration of its life, with only bulls attaining a minimum 50 per cent pass rate being allowed to enter official sales.

The proposal met with fierce opposition as members highlighted that a similar scheme had been mooted in the past and then abandoned as unworkable.

While the mood of the meeting was reasonably calm and measured, there was considerable anger and frustration being loudly voiced by members in the bars that the breed council was adopting a "dictatorial" stance over this issue.

The proposal was overwhelmingly defeated by a members' vote.

**Store cattle in strong demand at Dingwall**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 137 store cattle, 31 Over 30 Month cattle and 25 breeding cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a mixed show continued to sell at exceptional rates.

Bullocks averaged 213.0p (-1.8p) and sold to 258.8p per kg for a pen of 313kg Limousin crosses from Strone Farm, Fort William, and £1,250 for a pair of 740kg Aberdeen Angus crosses from The Laurels, Balblair.

Heifers averaged 201.5p (-5.8p) and sold to 240.1p per kg for a pen of 302kg Limousin crosses from Strone Farm, and £1,020 for a 680kg Aberdeen Angus cross from The Laurels.

Young bulls averaged 210.5p (+10.5p) and sold to 234.5p per kg for a pen of 290kg Charolais crosses from Crackaig, Helmsdale, and £840 for a 410kg Limousin cross from Strone Farm.

Heifers with calf at foot sold to £1,700 for a Simmental cross from Bogburn Farm, Duncanston while in-calf cows sold to £1,800 twice for a Limousin and British Blue from Fisherton Croft, Dalcross.

In-calf heifers sold to £1,700 twice for a pair of Limousins from Fisherton Croft.

OTM prime cows averaged 142.8p and sold to 147.3p per kg for a 655kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Ardjachie, Tain, and £1,090 for a 750kg Limousin cross from Ordmuir, Muir of Ord.

OTM feeding cows averaged 116.7p and sold to 138.4p per kg for a 625kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Ordmuir, and £870 twice for a 630kg Whitebred Shorthorn cross from Ardjachie, and a 680kg Charolais cross from Cranford, Gollanfield.

OTM bulls sold to £1,170 for a Limousin from Bogburn.

**Caledonian sell prime sheep at Stirling**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 2400 prime sheep and 716 cast ewes and tups at Stirling on Tuesday.

Prime hoggets averaged 204.07 p (-2.09p on the week or + 20.09p on the year) selling to a top of 254p per kg for Texel's from D Gracey, Edengrove and £107.50 or 252p per kilo for Beltex crosses from DS & RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill.

Export ewes averaged £64.46 (+ £4.52) selling to £85.50 from J M Cullens, Dollarbank and Hilltop while heavy ewes averaged £82.04 (- £2.34) and sold to £116.50 from D McEwan, Arnprior Farm.

Tups averaged £93.03 (+ £4.03) selling to £127.50 from R S Kinloch, Wester Coldrain.

**North Argyll Blackface sheep breeders stockjudging**

THE NORTH Argyll Branch of the Blackface Sheep Breeders held their annual stock judging competition last Friday when more than 130 competitors took part.

**Results**  
Individual and North Eastern Trophy  
1 Laura Campbell, Strachur 382 points  
2 Gillian MacNeil, Tiragholl, Isle of Mull 370 points  
3 Willie Walker and D. Nicol 368 points

**Team**  
1 Laura, Alastair and John Campbell, Strachur 1053 points  
2 R. MacKay, Sr., R. MacKay Jr and W. MacIntyre, Oban 1052 points  
3 Jim Fairlie, Willie and Andrew Walker, 1042 points  
Young Farmer's Class and Suie Lodge Cup  
1 Laura Campbell, Strachur 382 points  
2 Raymond Kennedy, Glendaruel, 367 points  
3 Angus Dickie, Kilmore 350 points

**Ladies and Youngs Animal Health Shield**  
1 Laura Campbell, Strachur 382 points  
2 Gillian MacNeil, Tiragholl, Isle of Mull 370 points  
3 Katie Fairlie 365 points

**Under 14s**  
1 Lewis MacKenzie 354 points  
2 Erin Cameron 332 points  
3 Gavin MacLachlan 329 points

**Top hogg homebred class and Bill Black Shield**  
1 Messrs. MacPherson, Balliemeanoch  
2 Messrs. Schuster, Duilletter Farms, Glenstrae, Dalnally  
3 Messrs. Schuster, Duilletter Farms, Glenstrae, Dalnally

**Open top hogg homebred class**  
1 Messrs. Jackson, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead  
2 Messrs. Campbell, Strachur  
3 Messrs. MacPherson, Balliemeanoch

**Overall winner of competition - Bottle of whisky**  
G Nicol

**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
11/004324/FUL	Land 90m North East of Lorient Hostel Brae Foyers Road Kinlochleven	Change of use from vacant land to contractor's yard including the siting of storage container and erection of storage shed (part retrospective)	Kinlochleven Service Point (14 days)
12/00333/MSC	Site at Blar Mor and Corpach Moss Banovie Fort William	Approval of condition 26 of 10/02/634/PIP (class 1 retail store, petrol filling station site, access roads, servicing, landscaping, recycling and parking)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00364/FUL	Land 70m North of Camus Cairain Glenacross Road Morar Mallaig	Erection of house and garage	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/00388/MSC	Land 25m W of Tigh Beag Corpach Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00391/FUL	9 Glen Nevis Road Cool Fort William	Demolition of existing and erection of new extension	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00443/FUL	Farm Steading Ruin 110m East of Moy Farm Tulloch Roy Bridge	Conversion of existing ruin to two houses (semi-detached)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00446/FUL	Site 80m North East of Moy Farm Tulloch Roy Bridge	Erection of house within existing walled enclosure	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2001 APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION ARDMADDY SOUTH (PORT NA MORACHD)**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Lakeland Marine Farm Ltd (part of the Meridian Salmon Group) for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at Ardmaddy South, namely:

Port Na Morlachd marine cage fish farm, as follows:

Description of Controlled Activity	Waters affected	National Grid reference
Discharge of waste effluent from marine cage farming of Atlantic Salmon with a maximum tonnage of 2500tonnes (including the discharge of sealice chemical therapeutants).	Seil Sound	NM 7739 1349

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity is likely to have an impact of the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/10999009.

Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Craesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

Geographically, the Oban Times encompasses a 400sq mile radius. This provides the most extensive coverage of Argyll, the West Highlands, and Islands - an area usually very difficult to reach.

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000  
email: advtvs@obantimes.co.uk  
www.obantimes.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/02460/PP	Erection of 1 replacement 6 metre high sign	Threshold Sign on the A82 at Tyndrum Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalnally
12/00001/PPP	Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse	The Walled Garden Sonachan House Portsonachan Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalnally
12/00056/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.	Plot 2 Land West of Annlea Dalnally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalnally
12/00267/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse (class 9) to form house in multiple occupation to assist in rehabilitation.	Barmaddy Farm Dalavich Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HL	Sub Post Office Tainuill

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00247/L1B	Change of use from Class 1(e) shop to part Class 1(e) shop and part Class 3 cafe together with internal alterations and re-painting of exterior	Island Bakery 26 Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00248/PP	Erection of 50 metre high anemometer mast for a temporary period of 2 years	Land South East of Glenegadale Lots Isle of Islay	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00227/PP	Demolition of existing outbuilding, alterations and change of use of police station to form 4 flats and offices (Class 2) and erection of detached dwellinghouse for persons with disabilities	Police Station Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
12/00228/CONAC	Demolition of outbuilding	Police Station Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT.**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Dalriada House, Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8ST, 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](http://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	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/02447/PP	Windfarm comprising of 9 wind turbines (77 metres to blade tip), construction compound, substation, formation of access tracks and ancillary works	Clachan Seil Windfarm Clachan Seil Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <http://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 of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18**

Planning Application Reference Number: 11/02447/PP  
Proposed development at Clachan Seil Windfarm  
Clachan Seil Argyll and Bute

Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Mr Rory Young relating to the planning application in respect of Windfarm comprising of 9 wind turbines (77 metres to blade tip), construction compound, substation, formation of access tracks and ancillary works, notified to Argyll and Bute Council.

A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at Dalriada House, Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, Sub Post Office Balvicar; and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and going through the 'Online planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Mr Rory Young, c/o Green Cat Renewables Ltd, Midlothian Innovation Centre, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RE at a cost of £20.00 (CD) and £200.00 (hard copy) including postage and packaging.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R. Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, Dalriada House, Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST

**COUNCILLORS' SURGERY**

**Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073. She can also be contacted by email on [mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or e mail - [gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or [gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com)

**Island Parrot Sanctuary**

**A.G.M**  
Sunday 18th March  
12.30 ferry for a 2pm meeting at the Parrot Sanctuary.  
There will also be a tour round the sanctuary prior to the meeting.  
All welcome

**BREEDON AGGREGATES**

**Blast at Banavie Quarry - Monday 20 February, 2012 at 12 Noon**

**BREEDON AGGREGATES**

**NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS AND USERS OF THE BONAVE ROAD**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE HGV TRAFFIC MOVEMENT ON THE B845 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7PM & MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY 16 February**

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

# www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

## NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk). Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

### AUDIO EQUIPMENT

**HI-FI SPEAKERS** pair of floor-standing speakers - Solovox 55, 3 speaker system, rosewood finish, offers around, £25 Telephone 01499 500216.

### BABY EQUIPMENT

**BATH, BOWL N MAT** yellow, Winnie the Pooh bath with matching top & tail bowl, brand new still in packet, Winnie the Pooh changing mat (Oban), £10 Telephone 07810 876042.

**HAUCK PUSHCHAIR** black and green, big basket, raincover included, excellent condition, £30 Telephone 07880 876634.

**MAMAS AND PAPAS PLIKO PRAMETTE** in City Scape, excellent condition, can be viewed online, complete with luxurycosytoes, raincover, parasol and changebag, £150 Telephone 07850 230369.

**MAMU STROLLER PRAM** In good condition, grey/green, with rain cover. Delivered in/around Oban, £15 Telephone 01631 571069.

**MOSES BASKET AND STAND** cream material with tartan trim. Small quilt and pillow (never used) and mattress. In very good condition, £15.00 Telephone 01631 770656.

**PUSHCHAIR Mamas and Papis** twin with raincover, excellent condition, black/brown, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564410.

**SAFETY 1ST BED GUARD** for use with children of 18months-5years, excellent condition, £10 Telephone 01631 710787.

**WETWIPE WARMER** Prince Lionheart wipes warmer, cosy for little bums, any type wipes fits, keeps moisture, used but still in box, £10 Telephone 07880 876634.

### BUILDING / DIY

**FLUX CORED WELDING WIRE** A new 4.5kg reel of Draper 0.9mm steel wire. Delivered in/around Oban, £20 Telephone 01631 571069.

**REDLAND REGENT ROOF TILES** Approximately 900 used tiles including ridges and block ends. Buyer collects, £49.99 Telephone 07554 316320.

**SPANISH SLATE** top quality, £1 a slate. Telephone 01546 510245.

**WINDOWS** Solid wood, double glazed, 2x1760x1335, 2x 1190x 1190, 2x1190x1040, 2x6 20x1190, 1x62x1135, in excellent condition, £50 or from £5 per window. Telephone 01631 562746.

### COMPUTERS AND GAMES

**V-TECH V-SMILE MOTION** 3-7yrs, comes with Thomas the Tank learning game, in excellent condition hardly used (Oban), £15 Telephone 07810 876042.

### DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

**BABYLISS HOT STICKS** boxed curling sticks, set of 14, excellent condition, £10 Telephone 01631 562750.

**CARPET WASHER** Rapide VAX Carpet Washer, easy to use, don't leave carpets wet, manual included, £40 Telephone 07880 876634.

### DOMESTIC PETS

**GOOD HOME REQUIRED** for English Springer Spaniel, male, neutered, 4 yrs old, micro chipped & KC Registered. Telephone 07733 063250.

**LHASA-APSO PUPPIES** 1 boy, 2 girls, ready now, can email pic, £375 Telephone 01586 820546.

### EQUESTRIAN

**FOR LOAN** to negotiable experienced home only, well mannered older gentleman 17hh middle weight gelding. ID X TB very good doer easy boxed, shoe. Genuine reason. Telephone 01681 700378 (Linda).

### FURNITURE

**2 MALM SINGLE BEDS** 2 Ikea malm single beds white in very good condition £25 each, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710378.

**2X 2-SEATER SOFAS** 2 Ikea "Klippan" sofas, red, washable covers (others available from Ikea). Cost £179 new, £49.99 each. Buyer collects. Telephone 01499 302325.

**4"6" DIVAN & MATTRESS** in clean condition, free buyer collects. Telephone 01631 710378.

**DESK** Teak, 4 drawers, 2 trays. H71cms, w132cms, d76cms. Buyer collects, £45 one Telephone 01866 822071.

**DROPLEAF TABLE** AND 4 dining chair, light wood, unused, £200 Telephone 01397 773771.

**HEADBOARD** Double bed headboard, blue fabric covering, £5 Telephone 01586 550367.

**HIGH SINGLE BED** with wardrobe and desk underneath, no mattress, vgc, £25 Telephone 07833 551164.

**STACKING CHAIRS** 38, upholstered, good condition, £10 each. 100 tablecloths, various sizes, 50p each. Telephone 01631 720452.

**THREE SEATER SOFA** Reids three seater leather sofa and matching reclining chair, stone, £180 one Telephone 01631 720626.

**WALL UNIT** ex Mathesons teak display unit with 3 drawers and cupboard below, £49.99 Telephone 07881 882563.

### GARDEN

**GARDEN HAMMOCK** free standing, very good condition, £15ono Telephone 01586 830253.

### GARDEN MACHINERY

**GARDEN SHREDDER** garden shredder, disc type, in working order, £20 Telephone 01631 563414.

**LAWNMOWER** Black and Decker, 33 inch, with grass box, £25ono Telephone 01586 830253.

### HEALTH AND FITNESS

**36" REEBOK TRAMPOLINE** comes unused with original box (Oban), £15 Telephone 07810 876042.

### HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

**ELECTRIC FIRE** Hyundai, coal effect, £90 Telephone 01397 710377.

**LARGE PLASTIC COAL BUNKER** 3'4" high, 2'2" wide, 2' deep, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602259.

### HIGHLAND DRESS

**GHILLIE BROGUE KILT SHOES** Size 10.5 new, boxed, never worn, Carradale, £35 Telephone 01583 431681.

### HOME ENTERTAINMENT

**FLAT SCREEN TV** 17" flat screen TV hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710378.

### HOME OFFICE

**COMPUTER DESK** pine, excellent condition h75cm, w75cm, d53cm (Oban), £10 Telephone 07810 876072.

### KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

**ELECTRIC SHOWER** Gainsborough 8.5kw white electric shower, excellent working order, £25 Telephone 01631 562750.

**MICROWAVE/QUARTZ GRILL** Sanyo microwave oven, 900 watts, with quartz grill, 1000 watts, little used, good condition, £35 Telephone 01852 314230.

### LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

**CHESS SET AND BOARD** complete 15+yr old Chess set with board which was bought as a gift and never used. Happy to post but postage must be paid for prior to dispatch, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562723.

**SPOTTING SCOPE SWIFT** spotting scope 25x50mm, as new and complete with carrying case, £20 Telephone 01631 562750.

**THULE ROOF RACK AND BARS** 757 quick fit lockable system with keys. Square bars. Suitable for roof rails. Good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07801 352184.

**TOTAL TRAINER** 2000 as new condition. Full body resistance trainer. Folds and stands erect to minimise space when not in use. Can deliver, Oban, £49 Telephone 07801 352184.

### LIVESTOCK

**PULLETS** brown or black or pure breed, ducks, geese, feeders, drinkers, hen sheds. Telephone 01470 572213.

**PULLETS** Point of Lay. Telephone 01786 842788 or 07500 264977.

### MAIL ORDER

**SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS**, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

### OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR

fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

### MARINE

**HELLY HANSEN LIFE JACKET** very good clean condition, size 60-90kg, 100N buoyancy, whistle, zip and buckle, crouch strap in original plastic bag, £15 Telephone 01631 770698.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**BUGGY** Goka 250 road legal off road buggy, great condition but needs work on electrics. Offers invited. Telephone 01546 510245.

**CALOR GAS BOTTLE** 15kg Butane Gas bottle, full and unused, £15 Telephone 01546 605251.

**SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL VASE** gorgeous vase, engraved mum happy 60th birthday with a heart shape, can email pics with double present (Oban), £40 Telephone 07810 876042.

**TELESCOPE REFLECTOR** 4.5 INCH Primary mirror 4.5 inch, 900mm focal length, 4mm 12mm and 20mm eye pieces, sighting scope, 45-225x, solid tripod, EQ mount, £49.99 Telephone 01631 770698.

**WELL ROTTED HORSE DUNG** collect in large plastic bags at £1.00 per bag, or with your own trailer at £20. Telephone 01631 740282.

### WANTED

**GRANITE COBBLES** Granite cobbles required, will uplift. Money waiting. Telephone 01866 822519.

### SCRAP METAL

all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636

### UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

### ADVERTISEMENT

## When the party is over...



There are many people, and you may be one of them, who believe that life should be one never ending party; friends to meet, places to go, and things to get and do, seeking constant amusement in the pursuit of happiness, needing non-stop activity to fill the emptiness inside, to fight the boredom that surrounds them.

for sin which is found only in His Son Jesus Christ. God's word reveals that if you die in an unclean & unforgiven state, because of your own choice, you'll go to hell with all the other people who refused God's mercy. You may think, "That's okay - all my party friends will be there too!" Yes, sadly they will be there too if they reject Christ, but the thick blackness of "outer darkness" will separate you from each other. It is a place of torment, never ending fear and punishment and you'll be there on your own.

Drugs, alcohol, immoral relationships, money and music are some of the most popular choices in this party called life. We don't want to think about the fact the party will end. However there is an enemy to all this pleasure-seeking excitement. It is death. We all have an appointment with death and eternity.

You have a God-given eternal soul and the Bible makes it clear that you will spend eternity somewhere when the party is over. Where you will be in eternity may not matter to you right now. The thought of facing a sin-hating, Holy God or talk of His dear Son the Lord Jesus Christ are subjects you probably avoid at all costs.

The Lord is trying to reach you now, because once your "party" is over it will be too late.

We see in the Bible that we are all unclean in God's sight because of our sins. You may not think that you are a hell-deserving sinner, but God is Holy and He hates sin. Sin will keep you from being with God in heaven for eternity and damn you to Hell, unless you receive God's forgiveness

Right now you are without God in this world and have no hope, but in Christ Jesus you, who are far off, can be brought near by the blood of Christ; He can be your peace. You can know that when you die (and you will die) you will be in Heaven, not Hell.

Take a moment, please consider and understand God's love for you in giving His Son, the Wonderful Lord Jesus Christ to die for your sin on the Cross of Calvary and then three days later to rise again from the dead. He can be your Saviour. You must call upon the name of the Lord, acknowledging and turning from your sins and trusting Him, and only Him, to save you.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16,18)

...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment

# LOCAL services

### window blinds

**Chris Craft window blinds**

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480

FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES  
FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND  
ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE

FREEPHONE 0800 371250

Check out our Customer Views at [www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk](http://www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk)

### caravans

**CARAVANS FOR SALE**

ON SITE CARAVANS from £8,950  
OFF SITE CARAVANS from £1,095

Loch Awe Holiday Park  
\* 14 miles from Oban

Deal for temporary use  
\* can be delivered to your location

**lochawe holiday park**  
Contact us on 01866 822 666  
[lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com](mailto:lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com)  
[www.argyllholidays.com](http://www.argyllholidays.com)

### storm damage

**PVC Facias WEST COAST BUILDERS NO VAT**  
Maintenance & Repair

**STORM DAMAGE - ALSO INSURANCE QUOTES**

Brickwork • Plastering • Slating • Guttering • Roofwork • Extensions  
Garages • Renovations • Landscaping / Patios • UPVC Doors & Windows

24 Hour Call  
Tel: 01631 710334 or 01631 710851  
Mob: 07796390411 or 07730654693

### funeral directors

**D & A MUNN LTD.**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880  
JOINERS AND BUILDERS  
BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN

24 hour Family run business  
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son.  
TELEPHONE: 01631 562562  
WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

**HAMISH HOEY & SON**  
Joiners & Funeral Directors  
37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban  
Telephone: 01631 562269  
24-HOUR SERVICE

### removals & storage

**MACQUEEN BROS LTD**

Removals/Storage & Self Storage  
Full range of packing materials  
Glangallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG  
Tel: (01631) 564848  
[www.macqueenbros.com](http://www.macqueenbros.com)

### piano tuner

**ALLAN R WRIGHT PIANO TUNER**

All types of work carried out, tuning, maintenance and valuations on pianos, harpsichords and small chamber organs.

Harpichord hire also available  
Quality friendly service - distance no object  
Tel: 07970 443 456

**SERVICE TO PROMOTE?**  
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED  
Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

### CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the Publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

### The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES

Private Classifieds  
Lineage Rates  
Minimum charge £13.85 + VAT (up to 25 words)  
thereafter £2.70 per line  
Box Number Fee £5.50 (+VAT)  
Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments  
Minimum charge £12.80 (+VAT) thereafter £2.50 per line (+VAT)

**In Memoriam:**  
Minimum charge £9.45 (+VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+VAT)

Trade Classifieds:  
See Trade Classified Page for Rates  
Trade Display:  
£9.63 per single column centimetre  
Recruitment:  
£16.55 per single column centimetre  
Public Notices:  
£10.90 per single column centimetre  
Properties  
£10.50 per single column centimetre  
Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted  
£10.50 per single column centimetre (all rates exclusive of VAT)

**Personals:**  
£7.42 per single column centimetre  
Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices)

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

### A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK!

The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year)

U.K. .... £58.00  
Rest of World ..... £100.00

The Oban Times Ltd  
P.O. Box 1  
Oban, Argyll,  
PA34 4HB  
Scotland, UK  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**BIRTHS**

**LOPEZ** - Dante and Rose (née Johnston), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Sienna Elsa, born at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert, on December 29, 2011. A little sister for Dante and Natalie and third grandchild for Morag and Dante and Christine and Hugh.

**MACMILLAN** - James and Catherine are delighted to announce the birth of their son Andrew William Morrison Macmillan born on January 26, 2012, little brother for James, Rachel and Lewis. Another grandson for Wilreen and Murdina. Special thanks to the midwives at Lorn and Isles, Oban and the staff at RAH Paisley.

**SMITH** - Jamie and Claire (Nee Black) are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter Blythe Kelly on February 4, 2012. A little sister for Isla and a much loved granddaughter for Alasdair and Kathleen Oban, Ewan and Sandra Glencoe and the late Lynn Smith, Port Appin.

**ENGAGEMENTS**



**MACKIE - LYNDE** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Niall Mackie, son of Dougie and Karen Mackie, Oban, to Martha Lynde, daughter of Mrs Clara Lynde and the late William Lynde, Perth.

**DEATHS**

**ELLIS** - Suddenly and peacefully at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, of February 12, 2012. Gerald Watson Ellis "FRANK", dear husband to Emily Mason. Sadly missed.

**HARROWER** - James (formerly Lochaber Forestry Ltd), passed away peacefully on February 7, 2012 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, a much loved husband, father and grandfather.

**MACAFFER** - Peacefully at home with his family in Ardbeg, Islay on Wednesday February 8, 2012. Corporal Menzies MacAffer (Caff) of the Royal Marines 45 Commando, aged 35 years, after an illness which he courageously accepted. Beloved son of Menzies and Cheryl, adored brother of Craig, Natalie and Nikki, a dear grandson of the late Angus and Jean MacAffer. Sheila Corson and the late Alex Corson. A much loved and admired nephew and cousin. Funeral service will be held at St Johns Church, Port Ellen, Islay on Tuesday, February 21 at 11.30am followed by interment in Kilnaughton Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, donations if wished towards N.E.T. Islay and Jura Sick Children and The Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully on December 9, 2011 Donald William, loving husband of Catherine (Trena), father of Maria Alaina, father in law of Noel and dearest grandad of Erin, Orla and Danny, beloved son of the late Allan and Mary Macdonald. I Green, Castlebay, Isle of Barra. The funeral took place at St John's R.C. Church, Caol, on December 16, 2011 at 12pm. Interred in Glen Nevis Cemetery on December 16, 2011. Fortified by Rites of the Holy Church. R.I.P.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully at home on Saturday, February 4, 2012, Sybil Mary (née Gibbs), aged 90 of Annandale, Isle of Tiree, a much loved and treasured mother to Georgine, Catriona and Trudy, cherished and sadly missed granny and great granny. Laid to rest in Kirkapoll Cemetery, Isle of Tiree on Tuesday, February 8. Donations in memoriam to Tiree Surgery Fund.

**MACKINNON** - On February 7, 2012, peacefully at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Gregor in his 83rd year, beloved husband of the late Flora and much loved father of Iain and Gregor, dear father-in-law of Morag and Heather, dearly loved grampa of Jamie, Rebecca, Diarmid, Ruairidh and Christina, great grampa of Kayla and Lacey. Funeral service was held at Inveraray Parish Church, on February 13, interment thereafter at Killeven Cemetery.

**MCKAY** - Alan Gordon, suddenly and peacefully in Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban on February 8, 2012, in his 80th year, beloved husband to Sylvia, loving father to Gillian and Ian, father-in-law to Ian and Helen and much loved grandfather to Charlotte, Tom and Katy. Funeral service will be held at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch on Friday, February 17 at 11 am, followed by cremation at Cardross Crematorium at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired to Kidney Research UK.

**O'HARA** - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban on Friday, February 10, 2012, Tommy, a dear husband to Janet, 21b McKelvie Road, Oban, loving dad to Alex and Neil and dearest papa to Jodie.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late David Glenn Campbell (the Bear) would like to thank relatives and friends for their over-whelming support over the last few sad weeks. We would also like to thank Dr Calder, Dr Wilmington, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Father Francis, Kenneth Mann (piper), Vance and Peter and John McLellan for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements. A collection of £1387.89 will be donated to A.R.I. IT Unit, Headway, Red Cross, St Muns, St Mundas, St Johns, Ballachulish.

**CAMPBELL** - Fiona, Derek and Innes would like to thank family and friends for all their help and support they have received after the loss of their mother Elsie. Special thanks to Rev Beaton who comforted both Dad and Mum during a difficult time and Hamish Hoey and Son for their kindness and efficiency. The retinal collection was £861.29 on behalf of Cancer Research.

**CAMPBELL** - Sheila and Mary, sisters of the late David, would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and support following his sad loss.

**GAULD** - Glynis, Bobby, John and Margaret would like to thank all friends and relatives for the cards, flowers and telephone calls received following Greta's death. Thanks also to all those who attended the service and at the graveside. Many thanks also to the Integrated Care Team and the staff at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital for the care given to Greta during her final illness, to Rev Keith Pagan for a comforting service, to Donald MacKinnon for his moving tribute and to the Stag Hotel for an excellent purvey. Very special thanks to Stan Lupton for his advice, help, caring and efficient services and to Euan for piping for his granny one last time. The sum of £400 was collected for the Red Cross.

**MACKAY** - Evelyn and the family of the late Willie MacKay would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their exceptional kindness and support over this difficult period. Our thanks also go to Rev Dr Varwell, Rev MacQuarrie and John Fraser for their comforting words, Ewen and John of McLellan & Co and The West End Hotel for catering. The sum of £900 was raised for the Glen Mor district nurses who along with doctors provided wonderful care and support over the last few weeks.

**ROBERTSON** - Norma Robertson, beloved wife of Roy and mum of Amy and Iona, died peacefully at home on Thursday February 2, 2012. A private family cremation service took place in Greenock on Saturday February 11, 2012. Roy, Amy and Iona invite all who knew and liked Norma to join them for a celebration of her life commencing at 12.30 pm in the Oban Bay Hotel on Saturday February 18, 2012. No flowers please. Donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses.

**ANDERSON** - In loving memory of Catherine (Rena) who passed away on February 13, 2009. There's a corner in our hearts, Mum You visit every day, It gives us this warm feeling, That you're never far away. Mandy and Duncan, Alaine, Kenny and Craig

**BARRIE** - In ever loving memory of our dear father Matthew, who passed away February 14, 1984. Sadly valentine day a caring and thoughtful father was taken

Forever sadly missed. -Wendy, Matthew and Clelland.

**CAMPBELL** - In ever loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Anne, who died February 15, 2007

No other words needed to say except loved and missed every day.

Also all our other loved ones no longer with us. All the family in oban and away.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering with love our devoted dad John, who passed away February 20, 1986

Memories most precious Avril and John.

**CAMPBELL(McLARTY)** - Our dear mum Bella, passed away February 21, 2000 and dad Bob (Pop), June 27, 1955.

Our family chain is broken And nothing seems the same

But as God calls us one by one The chain will link again.

- Norma and family, Fort William, Mairi and family, Irvine and loving son Bob, Spain.

**COOPER** - In loving memory of Billy, dear husband, dad and granddad who died on February 17, 2009.

Sadly missed by Kathryn, Andrew, Douglas, Pauline, Zoe and Abby.

**CULL** - Helen and George, forever in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

George, Alan, Angela, Barbara, Sonia, grand children, friends and family.

**CURRIE** - Cherished memories of Lily who died February 14, 1989 and Archie who died June 1, 1998.

Remembered always with love.

- Margaret, Donald and family. Love and miss you Lily. - Mike, London.

**FORBES** - My darling mother, Rosina, died February 20, 1991, also my beloved father, Albert Francis, died October 25, 1991.

Loved and remembered every day.

- By their loving daughter Annette.

**JOHNSTONE** - Treasured memories of my much loved daughter Catherine who passed away on February 18, 2005.

Always at my side -love mum

Always in our thoughts - Neil and Daniel

Forever in our hearts - Raema, Graham, Jenny and Paul

**LAMONT** - In loving memory of my dear sister Joanne, who passed away February 17, 2009.

Sadly missed along life's way

Quietly remembered every day.

Ann

**MACARTHUR** - In loving memory of John, died February 21, 2010.

Quietly remembered in our hearts

From all the family at Middleton, Tiree.

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of Mary, a much loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny who passed away on February 20, 2007.

Forever in our hearts.

- Willie, Fiona, Robert, Janet and families.

**McCLOUNNAN** - In loving memory of my husband David, died February 17, 2006 at Balephuil, Tiree.

Sad is the heart that loved you

Silent the tears that fall

Living my life without you

Is the hardest part of all.

- Nan.

**McCLOUNNAN** - Precious memories of my dear dad, father-in-law, grandpa David, who sadly passed away on February 17, 2006.

Often I pause in my daily tasks

And by my side you'll be

A million memories bring you back

To spend a while with me.

All my life I'll miss you

As the years may come and go

In my heart I'll keep you

Dad Because I loved you so.

I miss you Dad, I always will.

-Christine, Lachie, David, Karen, Joe.

**POULTON** - In loving memory of our baby son and brother, Danny, who died on February 15, 1992, aged three days.

Never more than a thought away

Loved and remembered every day.

- Mum and Hannah, Ardtun, Bunnassan.

**POULTON** - In loving memory of my grandson and our nephew Danny, who died on February 15, 1992.

Always in our hearts

Freena and family, Bunnassan

**ROBERTSON** - In memory of my husband Tom, who passed away February 18, 2011.

Always remembered.

- Jean.

**RODGER** - In loving memory of our dear mother Emily Rodger, who died February 20, 2011.

Memories are a gift to treasure

- Inserted by Bill, Mairi, Jean and families.

**SPREADBURY - MUIR** - In loving memory of my dearest wife, Donna, who passed away on February 16, 2006.

Precious are the memories of the times we spent together and the love we shared.

**SUTHERLAND** - Treasured memories of our dear nephew and cousin Innes, who died on February 14, 1999, aged 21 years

Today, tomorrow, Our whole lives through

We'll cherish the memories we have of you

With lots of love - From Robert, Julie, Siobhan and Robbie x.

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

West of Scotland Fundraising Office

1st Floor, Erskine House

North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR

Tel 0808 100 6000

In memory of Dawn Joyce

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**

**Fighting Cancer on all fronts...**

CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation

Commitment of over £15 million each year

Cancer Research UK Scotland

Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court

Clydebank Business Park

Clydebank, G81 2LA

**Oban Hospice**

CARING FOR THE FUTURE

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer)

Oban Hospice Ltd

The Croft

Kilmore

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**

**Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch**

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode

Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban

01631 571009

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**

Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy

Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

**ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**

Campbell Street Church

Sunday 19 February 2012

11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh

(01631) 567076

All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

Sunday 19 February 2012

Quinquagesima

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion..... 08.00

Sung Eucharist..... 10.15

Sunday School and Crèche

Loop System

Large Print Hymn Books

All Welcome

Norman MacCallum, Provost.

(01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Communion..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona

Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

Wednesday 22 Feb 2012

Ash Wednesday

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Said Eucharist..... 11.00

Sung Eucharist..... 19.30

St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Communion..... 11.00

**PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**

**The Clubhouse at Glencruitten**

Restaurant & Bar

Available for Private Functions

Great Food

Ample Parking

Tel: 01631 562368

**Thought for the Week**

WHAT do Valentine's Day and the Good News of Jesus Christ have in common? They are both about making a person or people feel special, know they are loved. It is easy to send a card, sometimes the hardest part is remembering to buy one! It is easy to say I love you, the hardest part is to give practical expression to the words.

He gives practical expression, by going to the extreme act of commitment and giving his life for the well being of other people. That is what the Church, the community of men and women who are followers of Christ are called to do. Give practical expression to the love God has shown for us in Christ.

friend John Fraser's 'A meter reader's travels in Lochaber.' He mentioned the village of Achaphubuil could not receive the BBC TV signal because it was too low on Loch Eil side.

The secret of Christian living is to be reflectors of the love of God. To let that love bounce off our lives to touch, the lives of others. In difficult economic times we give practical expression to love by helping folk, especially the young, realise their potential as men and women.

That is the important I was reading my old



**Nurse looks forward to retirement after 43 years**

Babs McIntyre, front row, third from right, has retired after working as a nurse for 43 years, latterly at the town's Lorn and Isles Hospital. Babs, originally from Tiree, is looking forward to a long and happy retirement after celebrating at a party at the Soroba House Hotel with friends and colleagues from Ward A.



**Turning on the style at church table top sale**

Ready to serve, these sharp-suited folk were on call during a recent table top sale organised by Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland. The event proved to be a success with a grand total of £1,721.55 raised. The Reverend Dugald Cameron said: 'I'd say the day has been very successful. There's a good atmosphere and that's the main thing, along with enjoyment of everyone's company.'

**American church group visits Mull**

AN AMERICAN church group is to visit primary school children on Mull and Iona as part of a week long revival of Christian community. The Ladner United Church Youth Group will visit the island in July and have been busy fundraising for the trip, dubbed the Solas project. Rev Linda Pollock, a Church of Scotland minister on Mull and Iona, invited the Ladner youth to help her revive ministry for children by creating an experience of Christian community.

**Muckairn Guild members hear talk about life in Malawi**

MUCKAIRN Guild hosted an open night in the church in Taynult on February 6 with Marlene Stanners presiding. Continuing the theme 'Walking humbly with God', she read from St Matthew's gospel: 'Whatever you did for the least of these you did for me.' After the hymn 'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You,' Mr Alistair Watt gave an illustrated talk on Malawi, which he has visited several times on sponsored cycle rides with the Scottish Medical Missionary Service. The country is half as big again as Scotland, life-expectancy is only 37 with one doctor per 120,000, one nurse per 1,000 and more cases of HIV/AIDS than in Europe, USA,

and Canada combined. The land is green and fertile. Six months of the year are dry and six months wet. The people are friendly and own mobile phones although they have no electricity and cook in wood ovens. They have some wind turbines and solar panels. Conditions in the hospitals are basic. The diet is maize porridge. The children chew raw sugar cane. The men fish and exports include maize, bananas, rubber and tobacco. The Rev Margaret Millar gave a vote of thanks on behalf of everyone for a most informative evening. The hymn 'Look Forward in Faith' was followed by refreshments.



From left: Stuart Carmichael, Ross MacDonald, John MacLean, Aimee MacDonald, Scott McEwan, Lorne Carmichael, the Rev Roderick Campbell, Fiona McEwan, back, Ciara Colthart, front, Alan Carmichael and Iain Henderson at the Burns Supper organised by Appin Youth Club.

**Youth club Burns Supper success**

APPIN Youth Club organised a successful Burns Supper on February 4 at the Creagan Inn. Chairman of the evening was the Rev Roderick Campbell, who is very active within the youth club. Principal speaker was Scott McEwan from West Lothian, an Inspector with Strathclyde Police who delivered the Immortal Memory and his wife, Fiona, did the Reply to The Lassies.

John MacLean, from Oban, did the Toast to the Lassie. Stuart Carmichael, chairman of Appin Youth Club, spoke of 'The Land we Live In', while youth club committee member Iain Henderson delivered the vote of thanks and spoke on behalf of the club. Club members also took part in the proceedings. Aimee MacDonald sang, Alan Carmichael was piper for the evening,

Darius Scorgie recited To a Mouse, and Ciara Colthart delivered the poem 'Hallow'en'. Lorne Carmichael gave the Selkirk Grace and the haggis was carried by Ross MacDonald. Stuart said: 'On behalf of the club, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Appin Burns Supper, making the evening a success. Also to Liz, of Creagan Inn, and her team for their tremendous service.'

**GRADUATIONS**



The wedding of Omar Mahmoud, son of Jayne Mahmoud of Oban, to Elisabeth Jones, daughter of Mr & Mrs Paul Jones, Montreal, Canada. The couple were married in Montreal, guests travelled to the wedding from Scotland,

Under-16s lose out at Glencruitten

YOUTH RUGBY

U16 West League Argyll 14

Waysiders Drumpellier 26 ARGYLL under-16s coach Murray Hamilton said his team could hold their heads high despite a defeat to Waysiders Drumpellier in Oban at the weekend. The visitors were favourites going into this tie and Argyll took consolation from scoring two tries through Mull's Jim Ratcliffe, Argyll's best player on the day, and Jamie Bate, from Oban.



Argyll under-16s second row and man of the match, Jim Ratcliffe, from Mull, rises to collect a lineout ball during the match against Waysiders. 15\_107rugby01

This Sunday, the under-16s from Oban will take part in a coaching and development day at Oban Lorne Rugby Club, sponsored by MacQueen Bros, and will also receive a new set of strips. The same day the club will host a mini-rugby Dalriada tournament, featuring clubs from around Argyll. Oban Lorne's senior first team host Uddingston this Saturday, in what is being billed as a potential relegation decider.

# Coaching Champions event - a big success

Growth of interest in new sports in Argyll and Bute was encouraging

COACHING

THE COACHING Champions event run by Argyll and Bute Council grew in reputation once again this year after 430 coaches took part.

The 43 coaching courses in a variety of sports took place in Oban over the weekend of February 4-5.

Delegates signing up to the swimming courses are now newly qualified new Level 1 and Level 2 swim teachers. Also in the pool the council ran a series of half day CPD courses for swim coaches, presented by expert tutors from across the country on swim strokes, technique and training.

Conjunction

A fitness instructor programme in conjunction with Fitness Scotland and Jordan Training Academy brought people from across Scotland to learn new

skills for their gym clients and members. Growth of interest in new sports to Argyll and Bute was encouraging with a full volleyball instructor course and the basketball course attracting great numbers.

Traditional and indigenous sports of football and shinty as usual had good support and netball's getting started course offered those new to the sport great help.

For the energetic, the first triathlon coaches course brought keen and fit people from three islands - Tiree, Islay and Mull, as well as the mainland.

Elevating Athletics and Run, Jump, Throw offered teachers and club helpers the wisdom and experience of Scottish international coach Sandy Robertson. Keeping on the running theme, the new 'batch' of jog leaders

were put through their training, and some experienced jog leaders went one stride further with the brand new Scottish Athletics Advanced Jog Leaders Course to take their advanced skills back to their groups.

Workshops

The event also supported other club officials to develop their club by offering child protection, first aid, nutrition, working with children and positive coaching workshops provided by Children 1st, Sports Coach UK and sport-scotland.

Outdoor courses were provided in partnership with Stramash Social Enterprise and saw brave souls venturing out on mountain skills and navigation and kayaking courses.



One of Oban Saints' primary school team coaches Kenny Campbell was among those put through their paces at a goalkeeping coaching session run by Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae. 16\_106coach01

Mid Argyll athletes take home the silverware

ATHLETICS

YOUNG athletes representing Mid Argyll Athletic Club exceeded all expectations by winning silver medals at the International Athletics Arena in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall last Saturday.

The boys were taking part in the Under-12 Superteams competition promoted by Scottish Athletics and were competing against another 24 clubs from all parts of Scotland.

The contest involved the team of four boys all competing in three individual events, followed by a 4 x 200metres relay to finish what was a long day in the Kelvin Hall.

The Mid Argyll team was Joseph Harper and Felix Maddox from Slockavullin, both pupils at Kilmartin primary school, Gregor McGeachy from Lochgilphead and William Brock from Castleton. Both Gregor and William are pupils at Ardrishaig primary school.

First event of the day was the shot putt and all four boys recorded good throws with Joseph throwing 5.62metres, the best in their pool of teams. But it was in the high jump that the boys really excelled with both Joseph and Gregor clearing 1.25metres and William and Felix also improved their personal bests.

At the half way stage, after two events, the Mid Argyll boys were leading the competition by 11 points and looking forward to the 60metres and relay in the afternoon session. Joseph, Gregor and Felix all won their 60metres time trials and William was second in his heat in 9.7seconds but still the fastest of the Mid Argyll boys.

And finally to the relay to round off the day and by this time all four boys appeared to be developing head colds but this did not distract them as they finished second in their heat in a good time, adding valuable points to the overall score.

At the end of the day Glasgow's Victoria Park AC won with 223 points with Mid Argyll a very creditable second on 213 points and Pitreavie AC third on 209 points.

Mid Argyll's travelling reserve Shaun Doy from Kilmichael Glassary was a last minute replacement for the Law and District AC boys B team.

## Fort youngsters return from Forres with a share of the points

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM U-17's began the second half of their league season at Forres and returned with a 2-2 draw.

The result could be considered disappointing, due to the dominance Fort had for the majority of the game.

With very heavy underfoot conditions both teams initially struggled to control the ball, but strong hold-up play from Cameron Grant and a delightful through ball saw Martin Munro time his run to face the on rushing Forres keeper.

Munro remained calm as he passed the ball into the corner of the net to give his side a 1-0 lead after only 10 minutes.

Fort were adapting to the conditions better and tested the

Forres keeper on several occasions with Noble, Grant and Munro being denied by excellent goalkeeping, but a mix up in the Fort defence gave Forres a cheap equaliser.

Fort then again failed to clear their lines and Forres went 2-1 up, but the young Fort team came out with a point to prove in the final period and were rewarded within two minutes when Munro's cross found the energetic Whittaker, who took his chance to make the score 2-2.

Fort laid siege to the Forres box but were denied time after time by resilient Forres defending and goalkeeping. Best chances fell to Jordan MacPhee, Cameron Grant and Ryan Clarke who all

must wonder how their efforts didn't end up in the back of the net.

Coach John Matheson said after the game: 'Overall, Fort were disappointed not to have won due to their possession and efforts on goal.'

'Although the second period was poor from Fort's point of view they certainly showed their commitment and desire as they finished the game strongly. With this being their first game back for two months it was a good effort from the whole team with defender Kieran Lopez and midfielder Aaron MacPhee impressing in particular.'

## Lochaber Leisure go 13 points clear

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER LEISURE increased their lead at the top of the Ali Young Premier League to 13 points after beating TNF United 4-2 at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The defeat sees TNF drop to fourth, while third-placed Ballachulish were thumped 9-4 by Achintore FC. Goon Squad moved into second after beating The Granite House 5-2.

Elsewhere, Steaua Sookabreast and Liverpool played out a 2-2 draw, while Stroke City won a high scoring encounter with HWEnergy No-Stars 6-4.

The night's other game saw AA Young picking up only their second win of the campaign with a 6-0 thrashing of bottom club Bayern Bru.

E-mail your sports reports to arrive no later than noon on a Monday



Manager David Thomson (left) with his Taynuilt side in their new kits 15\_107tay01

## Taynuilt boys look the part in new kit

SHINTY

TAYNUILT Shinty Club took to the field in a brand new set of strips on Saturday courtesy of Barcaldine-based sponsor Ceran Engineering.

Taynuilt manager David Thomson explained that Ceran boss Ewen MacGillivray had approached the club after learning that one of his friends played for Taynuilt.

The sponsorship deal will last for three years and following the purchase of the strips the rest of the money will be used for other running and

equipment costs.

For the new strips' inaugural outing Taynuilt faced a tough task against last year's top division runners up, Kyles Athletic.

The Tighnabrauch-based outfit ran out 5-2 winners but Taynuilt will have benefited from a good test as they prepare to get their league campaign underway.

## 2012 Co-operative MacTavish Cup draw

FIRST round - games to be played on Saturday 31 March - Lochaber v Lochcarron; Glenurquhart v Inverness; Fort William v Caberfeidh; Strathglass v Skye; Beaulieu v Lovat; Kinlochshiel v Kingussie; Newtonmore and Kilmallie.

Quarter finals - games to be

SHINTY

played on Saturday 21 April - Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel or Kingussie; Strathglass or Skye v Lochaber or Lochcarron; Beaulieu or Lovat v Glenurquhart or Inverness; Fort William or Caberfeidh v Newtonmore

## Table tennis season underway

TABLE TENNIS

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club have put out a reminder to members the 2012 season is underway, with league play being held at 6.30pm every Monday night at the Nevis Centre.

Anyone who has not signed

up but is interested in playing can come along and give it a go. For more information see the club's website, www.tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk.



Oban Saints under-14s, who are sponsored by Oban Electrical Services were on the wrong end of a 7-1 defeat to Dalmuir Park last Sunday. 15\_107youngsaits02

**Get ready for the season**

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

**Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.**

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975  
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
Oban • T: 01631 568015  
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk  
[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

**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.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**WIN £1700**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

V MacArthur  
Dalrigh, Oban

I Wilson  
Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Second national title for Matthew

FIFTEEN-year-old Matthew Anderson from Oban has won his second national swimming title in the space of six weeks.

Matthew took home the gold medal in the 400m Individual Medley event at the finals of the Scottish Schools Championships held at East Kilbride at the end of January.

This was an open age group event with Matthew pushing a 17 and 16-year-old into the silver and bronze medal places.

Matthew, who could only enter a maximum of two events at the Schools Championships, then followed up his gold medal performance by taking the bronze medal a couple of hours later in the 200m Butterfly event to complete a successful championships.

### SWIMMING

at the Scottish National Short Course Championships at the end of December in Inverness, Matthew has been selected from the Scottish youth development squad to visit the Olympic Trials in London at the beginning of March.

Matthew will travel down with fifteen other swimmers selected and will be accompanied by team managers and coaches from Scottish swimming.

The trip will take in heats and finals sessions at the trials. A training session has also been organised giving the swimmers an opportunity to swim in the new Olympic pool and there will also be a tour of the Olympic Park Area and an education session with previous Olympians.



Matthew Anderson takes the plunge. 107matthew2no

## Jim wins new eight ball pool event

OBAN hosted its debut event as a venue in the newly created region five of the Scottish Eight Ball Pool Federation on Saturday at the Balmoral Bar.

After a full day of intense matchplay 32 cue-carriers were narrowed down to just two, with Jim Muir and Geo Telfer battling



Jim Muir with the trophy after beating Geo Telfer in the final. 15\_107pool01

### POOL

it out in the final.

Jim finally triumphed 6-3 and will go into the next round in the series of six tour events in confident mood, knowing that the eventual series top dog will be guaranteed a place in the Scotland squad.

Also deserving special mention were Ian Muir and John Telfer, who put up gallant fights as losing semi-finalists.

Event organiser Laura Ann Sneddon, herself a Scotland women's international, declared herself pleased with the day.

'It's been really good. There have been so many close matches,' she said.

Meanwhile, the Oban Filling Station Cup final was played in the Claredon with The Cellar playing against Markie Dans A.

The Cellar took an early lead at 2-0, then Markie Dans A came back to lead 3-2, but The Cellar in the end came out victorious.

Oban and District Pool League thanked Colin McNiven for sponsoring the event.



Goalmouth action from the Wylie Memorial Cup match between Oban Celtic and Inverness held at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. 15\_107celtic01

## Wylie Cup win for Celtic

The Robert Wylie Memorial Cup Oban Celtic 2 Inverness 2 (Oban Celtic won on penalties)

THE ANNUAL Robert Wylie Memorial Cup was contested between Oban Celtic and holders, Inverness, at Mossfield on Saturday.

Doubling as Oban Celtic's first friendly of the season, the club was delighted to see the cup staying in the town.

A match of high quality saw the visitors score first with a 40-yard strike in the 38th minute from centre David Glass. Celtic managed to equalise just before the break when Alan Duffy was bundled over just outside the D. Taking the free hit himself,

### SHINTY

the ball was slipped left to Lee Askew who casually swept it past the stranded Inverness keeper.

The Oban side then moved ahead after 71 minutes - again Duffy fighting to keep the ball alive long enough to square it inside where a waiting David Hill drove it high into the roof of the visitors' net.

Pressure Inverness exerted continual pressure at this point and scrambled the ball over the Celtic goal-line with only two minutes left on the clock.

After a period of extra time the game remained deadlocked - as they were after five

penalties apiece (Oban Celtic scorers - Daniel Madej and Ali McKerracher) - however, once into the sudden death scenario,

David Hill's strike ensured Oban Celtic's victory.

Lorna Wylie presented the Cup to Oban Celtic captain Kieran

Gallacher. The match was well handled by referee Angus Campbell.



Oban Celtic celebrate winning the Robert Wylie memorial cup after a penalty shoot-out against Inverness at Mossfield. 15\_107celtic01



Club Captain Declan Curran welcomes Terry Burgoyne to Glencruitten. 15\_107golf01

## Professional golfer at Glencruitten

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club has welcomed a new face in the form of professional golfer Terry Burgoyne who has recently joined the club as a member.

Terry, 52, moved to Oban last October after living in Sweden for over 20 years. He has recently qualified for the European Senior Tour, finishing in ninth place, his best result so far.

Although having gained a card for the past three years Terry feels finishing ninth gives him a better chance of not having to go through the qualifying process again next year, as landing in the top ten lets you play more tournaments.

Hundreds of people from all over the world enter every year and so to finish ninth, and as the only Scot to qualify, was a big achievement for Terry.

He said: 'I was probably the lesser known golfer as I've been in Sweden for over 20 years.'

Although Terry admits to only having been to Oban once - about 32 years ago - he says he is glad to be back and looks forward to working with Glencruitten Golf Club.

Club Captain Declan Curran is delighted to have Terry at Glencruitten. He said: '2012 is a really important year for the club and that is why it is fantastic to

### SWIMMING

have Terry on board with us.'

Terry, originally from Stirling, is keen to get more juniors involved at the club: 'There is not a lot going on for youngsters in Oban. We are trying to get them involved at the club and give them something to do.'

The club is looking to at least double the number of juniors it has attending this year with the hope that some may stick at the sport full time.

Terry said: 'Anyone who starts playing golf never usually stops, especially if they start taking lessons as a junior.'

## Busy season ahead for Connel quad biker

CONNEL'S Scott Sinclair has described his first race of the ATV season in France as 'a great experience', despite suffering numerous mechanical problems.

The 17-year-old was taking part in world-respected Le Touque beach race.

In bitter cold weather conditions 550 quads took to the start of the Saturday event, followed by 1,200 solo machines on the Sunday.

Having not taken part in the event before, a low seeding meant Scott had to start from the back of the pack.

The first two laps were done with the result of an overheating clutch so he had to pit to get it fixed.

Clutch checked, his teammate, Amy Neill, left the pits to join the race with 540 male riders.

### QUAD BIKING

Another mechanical glitch stopped the bike. With the quad started again, Amy completed her laps and Scott took over again. He went on to pass more bikes and finish 350th.

Despite the mechanical problems, Scott said: 'It was a great event and a must do again. It was also great experience for both Amy and me.'

Scott has a busy season ahead, competing in British, Nett and Scottish championships.

Meanwhile, the teenager is looking for a good result this Saturday in the final round of the British Supercross championship in a bid to clinch second place overall. He is currently sitting third equal.



Scott Sinclair in action in Le Touque.

## Saints on West Cup duty this Saturday

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team are on West of Scotland Cup duty this Saturday when they travel to Dumbarton to play Myre Athletic in the 3rd round of the competition.

The game will take place at Merkins Park, Belsmyre, with a 1.30pm kick-off with referee Jim Brown from Johnstone in charge.

The game has to be finished on the day, so extra time and penalties, if required, will determine who goes through.

The winners have been given a home tie against top Ayrshire outfit Knockentiber in round four.

## Saints youths - results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results

- Goldenhill 6, Under 13s 6. Scoring for Saints were Lomond MacPherson (3), Evan MacLellan (2) and Zander Kilmurray.

Under 14s 1, Dalmuir Park 7. Netting for Saints was Stuart Munro.

Under 15s 1, Renton 5. Saints goalscorer was Duggie MacLeod.

Under 16s 5, Helensburgh 0. On target for Saints were Rory Bruce (2), Coll MacKenzie, Rhuiradh Cain and Shaun McIvor.

This weekend's fixtures: Lenzie Youth Club v Under 13s; Kilpatrick v Under 14s; Under 15s v Kilpatrick;

## Islay Golf Club

### GOLF

WINTER League results: 1 Alister Blair, 43pts; 2 Calum Davey, 40pts; 3 Scott Currie, 38pts.

## SFA to run child protection courses

### CHILD PROTECTION

THE Scottish Football Association's West Region is running Child Protection courses at Renfrew Sports Centre on Tuesday 21 February and Tuesday 14 August from 6.30pm till 9.30pm.

The course fee is £25.00 (free for Quality Mark clubs subject to approval).

To book a place please contact west@scottishfa.co.uk

## Entries taken for Scottish Series

### SAILING

CLYDE Cruising Club, organisers of the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series, is encouraging sailing enthusiasts to sign up online for this year's event.

The event Notice of Race and entry form are now available by logging on to the dedicated Scottish Series website - www.brewindolphin.scottishseries.com.

The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series 2012 will take place over the Queen's Jubilee weekend from June 1 to June 4 in Tarbert, Loch Fyne, a week later than usual.

Johnnie Readman, event organiser, said: 'We are very excited about this year's event.'

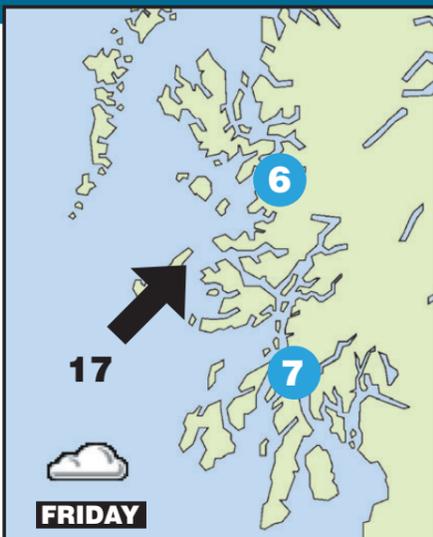
## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds light, south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds light, west south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

**Weekend** Sunshine and showers  
**Outlook** Winds moderate, west north westerly  
Temperatures 0°C to 5°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, February 16, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	06.21 1.5 13.01 2.8 19.13 1.7	** ** *
Fri	01.57 3.0 07.47 1.6 15.06 2.9 20.42 1.5	
Sat	03.19 3.2 09.19 1.4 16.12 3.2 21.51 1.3	
Sun	04.11 3.5 10.23 1.2 16.49 3.4 22.41 1.1	
Mon	04.50 3.8 11.09 1.0 17.15 3.6 23.22 0.8	
Tues	05.24 4.0 11.48 0.9 17.43 3.7	** ** *
Wed	00.01 0.7 05.58 4.1 12.24 0.8 18.12 3.9	

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		

Wherever you are...  
Whatever the weather

Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8082

Thursday 16 February, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

**The Oban Times**  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
**bonnie babies**  
competition 2012



Vote for your favourite on page 12

**Spotlight**  
See our feature on page 10



**Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary**  
annual pass reader offer



Save up to £26!

**SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY**  
see page 8

For all the latest news video and photos log on to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

### Road remains closed at Stromeferry

THE A890 at Stromeferry will not be partially re-opened until at least February 27, a busy public meeting on Monday night heard.

Specialist contractors TRAC Engineering Ltd, which has 40 workers sharing 24-hour shifts to stabilise the rock face, told the meeting at Achmore it needs extra time to install safety netting and clear rocks, soil and vegetation from the hillside.

The road had been due to re-open tomorrow (Friday) but TRAC operations manager Angus MacGregor said: 'Our detailed examination of the site has revealed the need for much more rock scaling and additional stabilisation work than was originally envisaged. The health and safety of our workforce and the travelling public is paramount.'

When the road re-opens, a 10mph traffic convoy system will be in place between 7am and 7pm, with delays of around 30 minutes expected.

The road will be closed overnight.

A landslide caused the closure of the road on December 22. A six-car ferry, the *Glenachulish*, has been transporting traffic between 7am and 6pm Monday to Saturday since then.

TRAC hosted a second public meeting in Lochcarron Village Hall on Tuesday night.

### Stòras Uibhist holds Mallaig ferry public meeting

UIST community landowners Stòras Uibhist has set up another public meeting to demonstrate local support for re-introducing the Lochboisdale-Mallaig ferry service.

The event, being organised in conjunction with four community councils, will be held in Daliburgh South End Hall on February 24 at 7.30pm. Constituency and regional MSPs will attend the meeting. Stòras is also seeking face-to-face talks with infrastructure and capital investment secretary Alex Neil on the issue.



9 771468 629072



### National finals here we come!

Lochaber shinty players celebrate after winning the Primary 5 and under regional play offs at the Nevis Centre on Saturday. The team, captained by Ryan Andrews of Spean Bridge Primary and coached by Lochaber player Martin Porter, will now represent the area in the RBS national finals at Lochaber High School on February 25. Banavie won the Primary 6/7 playoffs. Full report and pictures, back page 20, [fb7shinty01](http://fb7shinty01)

### Police arrest man after Torlundy gun theft

LOCHABER police have arrested one man and detained another in connection with the recent break-ins in Caol, Corpach and Fort William.

The breakthrough came after two firearms were stolen from the Forestry Commission offices at Torlundy on Monday. Two men were subsequently detained following extensive inquiries.

Inspector Donald Campbell of Fort William police told *The Oban Times* at the peak of operations on Monday, 20 officers, including local police and crime management personnel, trained specialists from HQ and officers from Dingwall were involved in the hunt for the thieves and the two weapons.

He said: 'One male has subsequently been arrested and is to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court tomorrow (Wednesday) in connection with these incidents. 'Quite clearly there was a grave concern when weapons like these are in the wrong hands. These weapons should be in the hands of people that know how to handle them.'

'We have recovered the two firearms and it's a weight off a lot of shoulders, I can tell you. We are relieved to have them back under safe control.'

'We would like to thank the public for their support and response to the request for information throughout the sustained period of these break-ins.'

Ms Curtis, who attended Adelphi's presentation on its plans in Glenborrodale Castle on Monday, told *The Oban Times*: 'The community is in favour. Michael MacGregor has issues with it being sited where it is, but that's his personal view. Everybody else is great and they have no problems with it. It is going to bring more jobs to the area. We have 20,000 people going to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse and it's somewhere else for them to go to.'

Mr MacGregor, whose 500-acre farm is run mostly for conservation, told *The Oban Times* he has no problem with the distillery, 'just where it is sited'.

He said: 'It's totally unsuitable - it's only five metres from a 92-year

## Fort shinty club in home park crisis

### Race against time to secure new venue before start of premier league season

FORT William Shinty Club is facing a potential crisis with no agreement yet reached on where the team will play its home games this year - despite the new season starting in just over two weeks.

The club's home park at An Aird is currently undergoing renovation work and is not expected to be available until August, meaning Fort face a race to find a temporary home before facing Scottish Hydro Premier Division newcomers Bute on Saturday March 3.

Talks have been held between club officials and Highland Council to secure a new venue, with Black Parks in Inverloch

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

the most likely destination - a site Fort manager Peter MacIntyre told *The Oban Times* was far from ideal.

He said: 'In my opinion the pitch is not fit for premier league shinty. There's only a single-track road down there; it would be a bottleneck for traffic and there might be problems trying to get an ambulance down there if a player gets injured.'

'It's a worry. We've got our first game against Bute in a few

weeks and I don't know where we're going to be playing.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron, who regularly attends Fort William matches, told *The Oban Times* the Inverloch pitch might be the only alternative left.

'It's looking increasingly like Black Parks is the only option,' he said. 'They were looking at the football pitch at Canal Park but there was an issue with the size of the pitch and it being used for youth football, and there's already a lack of football pitches in the area. And unfortunately the pitch at [Lochaber] High School is not ready yet.'

'It's certainly not an ideal scenario, but you can't create

a first-class shinty pitch from nowhere, you have to go with what you've got.'

He added: 'They're breaking eggs to make an omelette; it's not permanent and we're going to have a far better surface at An Aird after this.'

Councillor Cameron said he hoped Black Parks would be ready for Fort first home game of the season, weather permitting.

Camanachd Association operations manager Astie Cameron said all Fort's fixtures would be played away from home if they cannot secure a pitch.

He said: 'It's the club's job to tell us where they are playing, it's not up to us to provide that.'

## Manford hits out at RET critics as government limits fares increase

WESTERN Isles Council transport convener Donald Manford has blamed 'politically motivated' elements for precipitating the government's decision to withdraw the commercial RET ferry fares scheme.

Speaking ahead of yesterday afternoon's meeting between the comhairle and Outer Hebrides Transport Group (OHTG) representatives in Stornoway, Councillor Manford welcomed transport minister Keith Brown's announcement on Monday of £2.5million over 12 months to limit hauliers' fare increases and a six-month study into how ferry fares impact on island life.

But in a thinly-veiled attack on RET's erstwhile critics, he told *The Oban Times*: 'The impact study is essential to repair the damage done by previous ill-considered responses during the assessment on the benefits of RET for commercial vehicles.'

'Criticism from some people responding back for the Western

By STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

Isles was very often politically motivated and disparaging of the commercial elements of the scheme - certain elements of the political establishment did not want it to be a success. We are now facing the consequences of that.'

'There were many occasions in the comhairle when concerns were raised that there was little benefit to the public and customers from RET on commercial fares because there was no obvious reduction in prices.'

'This was in ill-judged and inaccurate assessment.'

'Consequently, the concern of the assessment was that commercial RET was not value for money and did not pass on benefits to the people. I believe that was always not the case and I said so at the time.'

'It continues to be a bitter

disappointment to me that is only after the damage has been done that some people have woken up to the consequences [of withdrawing RET] and we are therefore fighting to correct the errors of the past. I am confident that if we use common sense and reasoned argument, then we might see further movement over the coming months.'

In his announcement, Mr Brown pledged the extra £2.5m for lorries on Western Isles, Coll and Tiree routes would mean no haulier would see fares rise by more than 50 per cent in any year. Vehicles under six metres still qualify for RET, which pegs ferry fares to equivalent road costs.

He said: 'Before RET was introduced some large hauliers were able to claim rebates of a maximum of just 15 per cent on their fares. We believe this new transitional arrangement will better support all hauliers with significant discounts available.'

The study into ferry fares, he added, would 'bring additional clarity' for all affected communities.

OHTG, which is campaigning for RET for lorries to be retained until the study is complete, gave a muted response.

Co-ordinator Gail Robertson, of Benbecula hauliers DJ Buchanan, said: 'By stating that no fare will increase by more than 50 per cent - is the minister saying that he is content with fare increases of 49.9 per cent?'

'The level of support available for commercial traffic for islands is being greatly reduced. Mr Brown keeps referring to hauliers and the prices they will pay - this is not a tax on hauliers but a tax imposed by the SNP government on island households and island communities.'

'We are pleased that the Government is taking up our idea of having a proper impact study. In the meantime they should leave the current support in place.'

## No split over whisky plans, claims council

WEST Ardnamurchan Community Council chairperson Rosie Curtis has rubbished claims of a major split in local opinion over plans for a malt whisky distillery on the peninsula.

Ms Curtis, from Kilchoan, hit out after reports an online campaign against Adelphi Distillery Ltd's proposed plant at Glenbeg was gathering force.

Local farmer, photographer and holiday home businessman Michael MacGregor, whose letting property sits close to the site, backs the campaign and wants the distillery to go elsewhere.

WACC is fully behind the whisky plant and this week will lodge a supporting statement with Highland Council, which is due to decide the application next month.

Ms Curtis, who attended Adelphi's presentation on its plans in Glenborrodale Castle on Monday, told *The Oban Times*: 'The community is in favour. Michael MacGregor has issues with it being sited where it is, but that's his personal view. Everybody else is great and they have no problems with it. It is going to bring more jobs to the area. We have 20,000 people going to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse and it's somewhere else for them to go to.'

Mr MacGregor, whose 500-acre farm is run mostly for conservation, told *The Oban Times* he has no problem with the distillery, 'just where it is sited'.

He said: 'It's totally unsuitable - it's only five metres from a 92-year

old lady's house and 20 metres from a five-star letting property that we have built up over 25 years. The young people of Ardnamurchan don't need a distillery to feel 'proud' of the area.'

'They are very proud of Ardnamurchan as it is, with their culture, music and Gaelic.'

Maggie MacKinnon, the 92-year-old lady referred to by MacGregor, attended Adelphi's presentation. She would not be drawn on whether she supported the plan or not.

Meanwhile, in Highland's Council public comments section, opinion on the application is divided.

Andrea Polak, whose Nadurra Visitor Centre lies only 300 metres from the site states the distillery centre would be a 'much needed

new visitor attraction' in West Ardnamurchan.

But Lorna and Ian Michie, from Strontian, argue Kilchoan would be a better location as the proposal would jeopardise 'an existing business, ie holiday lets' and compromise 'the feeling of space and tranquility'.

John Lamond, whose forebears lived in the area around 1900, backed the plan, suggesting tourists had little right to want the area 'preserved in aspic' just so they could enjoy their short annual visits.

Opponent, visitor Richard Stead, insisted 'the proposed site is in a place where no-one is looking for work', but local Jane Murchison was 'overjoyed to hear someone is doing something positive in Ardnamurchan'.

### Cailean MacUlarig. Do ghuth ann an croiteireachd.



### Colin Kennedy your voice in crofting.

New Crofting Commission

Vote Colin Kennedy and watch the crofting community change for the better.

Do you want a genuine crofter who will make real representations on your behalf

Do you want your vote to be counted then 'Vote Colin Niall Kennedy' before March 16.

Look out for your voting paper from Monday 27th February and return immediately to have your vote heard.



**HAGGERTY SERVICES**  
Your local Sky TV Dealer  
NEW INSTALLATIONS  
or  
UPGRADE to HIGH DEFINITION and SKY +  
DON'T WANT MONTHLY BILLS:  
Install DIGITAL TV now  
HD FreeSat or HD FreeSat+  
(record one programme and watch another)  
We also install  
Digital Aerials - Freeview (no height restrictions)  
Ask about our:  
Plasma, LCD TV wall mounting service  
P.A. SYSTEMS FOR HIRE!!!  
(Large or small)  
TELEVISION REPAIR SERVICE  
Tel 01397 703071

**KMF CAR SALES AND MECHANICAL SERVICES**  
**STOCK LIST**  
11 11 Citroen Dispatch 1000 HDI 90 SWB... £9,495 + vat  
10 60 Volkswagen Polo S 60... £8,795  
10 10 Nissan Navara Tekna DCI 188 Double Cab... £16,795 + vat  
09 59 Volkswagen Jetta SE TDI 105... £10,795  
09 09 Kia Cee'd S... £7,695  
08 58 Suzuki SX4 GLX... £6,595  
08 57 Volkswagen Polo Match 80... £6,795  
05 05 Peugeot 307 Sport HDI... £3,995  
04 54 Vauxhall Vectra Design... £3,795  
03 53 Renault Clio Dynamique DCI 65... £2,495  
03 03 Ford Fiesta Zetec... £2,795  
FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL CARS  
Unit 1 Caol Industrial Estate, Fort William  
Tel/Fax: 01397 704624 Mobile: 0786652902  
[www.kmfcars.com](http://www.kmfcars.com)  
Good deals on car and van rentals + valeting  
Mechanical Repairs & Servicing, Tyres,  
Bosch Diagnostic, Vehicle Rentals & Valeting.

**Portree garden fence damaged**

POLICE are investigating vandalism to wooden fencing around a garden at the junction of Stormyhill Road with Windsor Crescent in Portree. The damage was caused in the early hours of Sunday, police say.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Busy agenda at ward forums**

THE LOCHABER south ward forum will be held in the Council Chambers, Lochaber House, Fort William, next Monday at 6.30pm.

Scottish and Southern Energy representatives will be on hand to answer questions on the loss of power and water during December's storms. Other items on the agenda include Fort William High Street and an update from November's youth issues meeting.

The north ward (Caol and Mallaig) forum will be held in Kilmallie Hall the following evening at 7.30pm.

The agenda will be similar, but a discussion on the ferries review will replace the Fort William High Street item. Both meetings are open to the public.

**Cleaning service wins award**

HIGHLAND Council's education, culture and sport cleaning service has received a performance network award as 'most improved performer' in the Association of Public Services 2011 Excellence Awards.

The cleaning service, which employs 850 people, provides a daily building cleaning service to 367 council establishments including nurseries, schools, offices, libraries, community centres and museums.

Lochaber cleaning officer Catriona McAllister, a member of the winning team, was presented with the national certificate and trophy by Councillor Bill Fernie.

**Fort FC jackpot rises to £200**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday.

Numbers were 11-15-20. The jackpot goes up to £200 this week.

**Police files**

AN ATTEMPT was made to break into the West Water Treatment Works, Eracht Drive, Caol, sometime between 4.30pm and 10.10pm on Thursday February 9.

DAMAGE was caused to a bedroom window in Camanachd Crescent, Fort William, sometime between Friday February 3 and 1pm on Monday February 6.

TWO VEHICLES were scratched while parked next to each other in a public car park on Lochaber Road, Fort William, sometime between 12pm on Saturday February 4 and 11.30am on Monday February 6. Another vehicle parked in a driveway on Lochaber Road was scratched between 7.45pm on Friday February 3 and 8.30am on Saturday February 4.

A CAR parked on Castle Drive, Lochside, was scratched overnight on Friday February 3 and Saturday February 4.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Newsdesk  
01397 703003

# Marooned fishing boat: an accident waiting to happen



Danger: the decommissioned fishing boat stranded on the shore at Caol. 20\_107ship01

LOCAL people are being warned to keep away from a 75-foot decommissioned fishing vessel marooned on the shoreline at Caol.

The boat broke its moorings at Tresaig during the December 8 storm and was driven across Loch Linnhe high up onto the shingle at Canal Parks.

Sometime on Saturday February 4, a 12-man liferaft from the vessel was inflated, prompting a team from Fort William coastguard to remove it to a place of safety.

The liferaft had been inflated by pulling a lanyard to a CO2 cylinder, described by Coastguard Lochaber sector manager Phil Wren as 'extremely rusty and dangerous'. Twelve rocket

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

flares were also found and taken away for safe disposal.

Mr Wren told *The Oban Times* the vessel had become a local landmark, but was proving to be 'dangerous'.

He said: 'Luckily the out of date flares have all been accounted for. In the wrong hands these explosives are lethal.'

'Inside the liferaft is a large canister containing items you would need if you abandoned ship - everything from drinking water and fishing tackle to first aid equipment. From the manifest only two items appear to be missing.'

He added: 'It's a hulk of a thing

and it's becoming a bit of a pain. It has gone so far up the beach it would take another storm to move it.'

'It's an accident waiting to happen. If somebody tried to climb up the hull it's a 30-foot drop on to the beach. There are also objects on board that could cause injury such as net drums and jagged metal.'

'We must point out that it is both illegal and dangerous to board any shipwreck.'

The coastguard has been in touch with the owner of the vessel, believed to be a Dutchman currently working abroad. If the vessel becomes a hazard to navigation, it could be towed away or taken apart, Mr Wren said.

**'Mr Cairngorms' wins mountain festival award**

FORT William Mountain Festival's Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture has been given to mountaineer expert Dr Adam Watson.

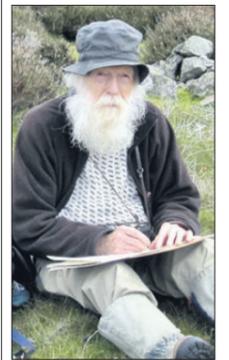
The award, sponsored by Rio Tinto Alcan, will be presented to Dr Watson at the Nevis Centre on Saturday, preceded by a short film of his lifetime achievements and testimonials from friends and admirers.

The Aberdeenshire man, nicknamed 'Mr Cairngorms' for his expert knowledge of the range, has published 23 books and many hundreds of scientific and other publications around the world.

Dr Watson previously received the John Muir Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Highland Mountain Culture Association chairman Mike Pescod said: 'Few people, if anyone, can have a better understanding and knowledge of the Scottish mountains than Dr Adam Watson. He is a great ambassador for mountain culture.'

Last year the award was given to Nevisport founder Ian Skyes.



'Mr Cairngorms': Dr Adam Watson.

## Crowds flock to Glencoe to commemorate anniversary

CROWDS of locals and visitors flocked to Glencoe on Monday lunchtime to commemorate the 320th anniversary of the infamous massacre.

On a bright, dry day more than 70 people joined members of Clan Donald for the annual short march from the Bridge of Coe to the Celtic cross memorial led by piper John MacCallum. The march followed a service in St Mary's Church in the village at 11am.

Reverend Adrian Fallows led the ceremony and explained the history behind the massacre of February 13 1692 when 38 members of the Clan MacDonald were murdered by King William's troops.

Rev Fallows said: 'Many events should never be forgotten. We are gathered here to remember one of those events.'

Gaelic singer Griogair Labhruidh sang a traditional song about the massacre before Glengarry's Lois MacDonnell, patron of Clan Donald Ottago, South Island, laid a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald New Zealand. Flowers were also laid by the Glencoe Heritage Trust and the National Trust for Scotland Glencoe.

Colin Baker, of Carmarthen in Wales, left a bouquet of flowers at the memorial on behalf of his family. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There's no family connection, but we have been here on holiday for the last few years and we wanted to see what the ceremony was like.'

The event, which has been held for the last 80 years, was jointly organised by the Glencoe Heritage Trust, the Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and St. Mary's Church.



The procession to the Celtic cross memorial at Upper Carnoch drew more than 70 people. 20\_107glencoe02



Lois MacDonnell lays a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald New Zealand. 20\_107glencoe01



Kilmallie Shinty Club award winners with club stalwarts Hugh MacIntyre, Alastair MacIntyre and Isabel Campbell. Absent from the picture is second team player of the year, Jamie Morrison. 20\_107kilo01

## Kilmallie Shinty Club holds first awards dinner in 50 years

KILMALLIE Shinty Club held its first awards dinner dance in more than 50 years in Caol Community Centre on Saturday night.

After securing its place in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division, the occasion provided a chance for everyone associated with Kilmallie to enjoy a social get together ahead of the new season.

And event organiser, player Martin Stewart, had his efforts rewarded as around 80 people enjoyed a hugely successful evening of fine food, laughter and music.

Kevin Toye won player of the year for his heroic efforts in goal, second team player of the year was Jamie Morrison, Craig McIsaac was voted most

improved player, while Frankie Innes took the juvenile player of the year.

Other awards handed out by compere and coach Johnnie Morrison were somewhat less distinguished - and had the audience in stitches.

'Best move of the season' went to Peter MacIntyre - following his 'move' to Glasgow, announced Johnnie.

'Worst trainer' John Stewart rightly won 'best trainer', but Michael Rodger had to fight off strong competition for his 'worst trainer' award.

'I took the worst trainer, but I have the most ability,' a straightfaced Michael told *The Oban Times*.

Sebbie MacMillan was judged 'worst dressed player', Liam

Cameron claimed the 'best dressed' title and Martin Stewart was 'fastest and fittest player of the season'.

'Injury of the season' went to Robbie MacFadzean for heroically stopping the ball with the tenderest part of his anatomy, while Liam 'Goof' MacDonald earned the 'goal of the season' title for his wonder strike in the 5-2 win over Inveraray.

Summing up the evening, club secretary Linda Campbell said: 'I think it's fantastic to get everybody together for the social night. It's been really worthwhile.'

Linda also thanked the sponsors, Caol Community Centre staff and all those who had helped make the occasion such a success.

## Wind turbine appeal rejected

AN ARISAIG woman has lost a second appeal against a decision to reject her bid to build three wind turbines to provide hercroft with green energy.

Julie Ann Bryce asked a Scottish Government reporter to intervene after Highland Council blocked the turbine plan at Sunnyside Croft, Bunacaimbe, on visual amenity and noise pollution grounds.

But in his findings the reporter ruled that Ms Bryce's appeal papers lacked sufficient detail on noise emissions to allow him to overturn the decision. A similar bid had also been turned down on appeal previously. However, he hinted that with better supporting information a different outcome was possible in future.

He stated: 'The second failure at appeal of a scheme for the site does not preclude possible success with a further submission supported adequately by relevant information enabling a robust assessment.'

He added: 'There is no compelling indication that important wildlife would be significantly at risk from the turbine blades or deterred from using local habitats.'

To opponents of the scheme's possible negative visual impact, the reporter had a different message - that litter on the shoreline was likely to be a far more serious deterrent to tourists than three 21-metre turbines.

'A shocking amount of rubbish, mostly plastic, on the shoreline,' he said, should be the subject of 'systematic clear-up campaigns during the summer season'.

## Developers to start work on mini-roundabout

DEVELOPERS behind a multi-million retail, community facilities, business, and leisure project on the Blar Mhor estate near Fort William plan to start work on restructuring the Lochybridge mini-roundabout by the end of the month.

Miller Developments are creating a new two-lane roundabout at the junction of the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles under a planning deal to secure infrastructure improvements for the community.

Once the three-month job is complete,

construction work will begin on a new roundabout on the A830 to create an access route to the site and a new entrance to Caol Industrial Estate.

**Store**

Supermarket giant Tesco recently received planning permission from Highland Council to create a 70,000 square-foot store.

A spokesman for Miller Developments told *The Oban Times* he hoped preparatory work, including peat extraction, would be completed by the end of the year, paving

the way for Tesco to open the new outlet in 2013.

Plans for the 105-acre site also include a new Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch, a combined police-ambulance headquarters and a relocated Belford Hospital with helicopter landing facility, if and when sufficient finance becomes available.

Miller Developments said 'detailed discussions' had been held with Northern Constabulary about plans for the new police station.

**Michael Foxley appointed college chair**

HIGHLAND Council leader and Lochaber councillor Michael Foxley has been appointed as the new chair of West Highland College UHI.

Dr Foxley has been a board member since the college's formation in August 2010 and was previously chair of Lochaber College UHI.

He takes up the role following the retirement of Professor Norman Gillies, who chaired the college since its inception.

Dr Foxley said: 'This is a challenging time for post-school education, and I believe that we in the west Highlands should ensure that our needs and aspirations are communicated to decision-makers so that our communities and employers are suitably served by us.'



Michael Foxley: new college chair.

## Shophmobility Lochaber delighted as grants boost funds by £5,000

A LOCHABER charity has a double reason to celebrate after receiving two grants totalling more than £5,000.

Fort William-based Shophmobility Lochaber was awarded £4,980 from Comic Relief through the Scottish Community Foundation to help buy new equipment including two scooters, an electric 'powerchair' wheelchair and a large wheelchair.

The group, which provides free use of wheelchairs, powerchairs and electric scooters for people with mobility problems, was also given £200 by the Rotary Club of Lochaber. The

money will go towards creating a new website.

Group co-ordinator Billy Ward described the grants as 'an absolute godsend'. He said: 'These grants will make such a difference. We have been getting busier every year and our long-term goal is to be able to satisfy demand for our equipment. We have in the past had to turn clients away as we did not have enough equipment.'

'We cannot thank these two organisations enough for their tremendous gesture in awarding us this money. Every penny will be put to good use.'

**Sea-kayaking film wins top prize**

LOCHABER specialist film and video makers Sunart Media has won a top prize at a Canadian international film festival with its latest sea kayak production.

'Rescues - Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown', filmed off St Kilda and at various locations round Skye and the Outer Hebrides, won Best Sea Kayaking Film 2012 at the Reel Paddling Awards in Toronto. The film will now tour venues around the USA and Canada.

The accolade was the second Sunart Media has claimed at overseas film festivals.

Sunart Media's Simon Willis, a former BBC producer/director, said: 'Sea kayaking is a fast growing sport and, as double award-winners, we are now the market leader for instructional DVDs. We're helped hugely by the locations in which we film, because for paddlers, Scotland's west coast is a world-class destination.'

**Council tax frozen for fifth year**

HIGHLAND Council agreed to freeze Council Tax for a fifth successive year at its meeting in Inverness last Thursday.

Tax for the year from April 5 will be £775.33 for Band A; B - £904.56; C - £1,033.78; D - £1,163; E - £1,421.44; F - £1,679.89; G - £1,938.33 and H - £2,326.

Councillors also confirmed a revenue budget of £602 million for 2012-13, including £232,870,000 for education, culture and sport and £130,556,000 for health and social care.

The council also agreed to contribute £39,457,000 to police services and £14,787,000 to fire and rescue services.

**ALIENERGY**  
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Free Business Advice Seminar  
**Renewable Heat Incentive in Practice**  
Dan Gates, Natural Power

With The RHI offering a once in a life time opportunity for a guaranteed income for those who switch from oil to wood or heat pumps, Dan will talk about what financing and then building of efficient renewable heat projects at the lowest cost.

The Studio, Corran Halls, Oban, Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 6:30pm  
Tea/Coffee available from 6pm






Three. Enough blood to save a premature baby's life.

Tuesday 21st February  
The Nevis Centre,  
Fort William  
2pm - 4.30pm &  
5.30pm - 7.30pm  
No appointment necessary

GIVE BLOOD

**Traffic lights and convoy on A86**

RESURFACING work on the A86 between Spean Bridge and Kingussie is expected to see sections of the trunk road reduced to one lane until Friday February 24.

The £145,000 works, which started on Monday, are being carried out between 7am and 6pm, Monday-Friday. Traffic lights and a convoy system are being put in place. Two narrow sections of the road will be closed for up to 20 minutes at a time.

**Climate change action rewarded**

HIGHLAND Council has been awarded the Carbon Trust Standard after taking action on climate change by measuring, managing and reducing its carbon emissions.

The rigorously assessed accreditation certifies that organisations have measured, managed and reduced carbon emissions across their operations, and are committed to reducing them year on year.

**Insurance call warning**

POLICE are warning people in the Highlands to be wary of calls offering large insurance payouts in exchange for a commission fee.

Calls from the number 02081 336471 have been received in the Kyle of Lochalsh area claiming to be from a payment protection insurance company which promises a payout of thousands of pounds, but first ask for a gift voucher or a UKASH voucher worth hundreds of pounds upfront.

Any company which asks for cash upfront should be avoided, police said.

**Extra cash for A82 upgrade**

THE SCOTTISH Government has released £2 million of extra funding for designing environmentally sympathetic upgrades of the A82 along Loch Lomondside.

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'It is important we carefully plan a solution that best fits the geographic challenges of this famous route connecting businesses and communities in the Highlands and Islands with the Central Belt, while maintaining the beauty of the area.'

Surveys currently taking place between Tarbet and Inverarnan will help inform the new design work.

**Renewable energy funding workshops**

A SERIES of workshops about funding for renewable energy developments will visit Fort William next month.

Highland Council is holding the workshops after a conference in Inverness to launch its new community benefit policy, which raises the contribution from developers to £5,000 per megawatt.

Rural Affairs and Climate Change Strategy Group chairman Isobel McCallum said: 'The five one-day workshops across the Highlands are designed specifically for communities and in particular community councils to attend.'

The Fort William workshop will be held in the Council Chambers on March 23.

**Plant project's £250,000 boost**

A MORVERN wildlife reserve is to benefit from a £250,000 five-year project to protect plant life in the area.

The 1,700-hectare Rahoy Hills Reserve is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust with Ardtornish Estate, and received the money after bidding to the Scottish Government's Rural Development Programme.

The project will use monitoring, fencing and shepherding practices to allow land managers to bring sheep from Ardtornish to graze on the hills.

It is hoped this will allow rare plants found in the area such as the Norwegian Sandwort and Lapland Marsh Orchid to flower and seed more effectively.



An injured climber was airlifted off Aonach Mor on Sunday lunchtime after falling around 30 metres. The man, a visitor to the area, was on a climb called 'Tunnel Vision' when he slipped. Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team was called and lowered him down the gully where he was picked up by an RAF rescue helicopter and airlifted to Belford Hospital, Fort William. He is thought to have suffered a number of bone fractures. Photograph courtesy of John Sutherland.

**Crofting Olympics to be held every two years**

ONE OF Sleat's biggest local events should be held only every two years from now on, community leaders have decided.

At their monthly board meeting last Wednesday, Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) directors agreed the Crofting Olympics would not be held until 2013. CDI is currently involved in progressing plans for a community hub and café, and it was felt organising the games would take up too many resources.

Director Graeme MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'It could be a bigger event every two years. There's a lot of planning and commitment involved.'

A community barbecue and dance is to be organised instead, with a provisional date of August 18, Mr MacKenzie said.

Last year's Crofters Olympics drew around 200 people to a field next to the shore below Talla Duisdeil, Camuscross.



Camuscross children give it their all in the tug-o-war at last year's Crofting Olympics: the next games day will be in 2013. 20\_107camus01



Kinlochleven community calendar competition winners Lesley Woollocott, Jim Milligan and Elaine Smith show off their winning scenes. Behind, KCT development worker Moira Hartley, sponsor Karl Griffin of Glencoe Photography and KCT chairman Andrew Baxter lend a hand. 20\_107calendar01

**Photographers gather for calendar prizegiving**

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust (KCT) has held an informal prizegiving for the winners of its calendar photography competition.

Now in its fourth year, the competition invited local amateur photographers to submit entries for the 2012 calendar. Proceeds from sales help fund trust activities throughout the year.

KCT chairman Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times* the number of entries was 'just as high' this year, with more than 200 being put forward.

'It makes it very difficult to judge,' he said. 'There were so many great photos that came so close to getting into the calendar.'

I was particularly impressed with the wide range of different genres. We have not got just mountains, but wildlife shots

and shots taken from different perspectives. One was even taken from a canoe in the middle of Loch Leven.'

He added: 'I see hundreds of Kinlochleven calendars going over the Post Office counter to places all over the world.'

Local businesses sponsored each month's photograph in the calendar. Overall winner Lindsay Buchanan could not be present for the prizegiving.

The 12 winners were: January - Alan Senior; February - Jim Milligan; March - Lesley Woollocott; April - Andy Welch; May - Elaine Smith; June - Alan Senior; July - Ian Morris; August - Lindsay Buchanan; September - Alan Senior; October - Keith Owens; November - Jim Milligan; December - Lesley Woollocott.

Follow us on facebook [www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**Bereaved couple hail road safety campaign**

A BEREAVED couple have hailed a community campaign for its key role in securing improvements to the road where their daughter died.

John and Jan Bryden spoke out after Transport Scotland (TS) announced work on a series of upgrades to the A830 would start next month.

The couple have led local efforts to make the Glenfinnan to Lochailort section safer since their daughter Kirsty and friend Roddy MacInnes were killed in an accident at Loch Eilt in September 2010.

The campaign breakthrough came at a 50-strong public meeting in Arisaig last November, brokered by local MSP Dave Thompson, when Transport Scotland engineers presenting a condition report on the A830 faced strong demands to start immediate safety works.

In response, TS has announced 11 separate improvements, beginning with resurfacing 1.24kms of carriageway east of the Brydens' Craiglea home at Lochailort, starting on March 26.

Other works include trialling variable message signs to warn drivers of tight corners ahead, and more resurfacing schemes to improve skid resistance and publicity campaigns to heighten driver and motorcycle rider awareness at hairpin bends.

Bridge parapets will also be upgraded and a deer panel established to seek ways of reducing deer risk on the road.

Mr Bryden welcomed the news, but said it had 'taken too

By STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)



John Bryden: praised community. 20\_107john01

long, too many fatalities and too many people getting hurt.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'If the community had not been so united and so vocal nothing would have been done. It's the community getting together and showing them the evidence that has made this happen.'

'Without the involvement of Dave Thompson it would have been much more difficult to progress this.'

'We appreciate the help and support that has been given to the community and we hope it continues. We will just have to keep chipping away.'

Mr Thompson said: 'I am pleased that we are now seeing definite action to address some

of the extremely worrying defects on this important route highlighted at November's meeting.'

'A variety of problems with this road have been raised and I am doing whatever I can to ensure these are recognised and remedied by Transport Scotland and its contractors.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'We welcome the valuable input to these studies provided by the local community and are committed to addressing both the concerns of the community and those issues identified from our detailed investigations.'

'We take road safety very seriously and I am pleased that we have been able to get started on these improvements immediately, with further measures to be implemented later this year.'

The works beginning on March 26 are scheduled to last two weeks with staff working through the night between 8pm and 6am. Work will stop for 15 minutes every two hours to allow any waiting traffic to be escorted through.

Mr Thompson urged Scotland TransServ to address Arisaig and District Community Council's concern that work should not impact on the busy Easter Holiday period.

He also urged Transport Scotland to ensure signs at Fort William did not give the false impression the road was closed.

He said: 'There is no alternative road route to Mallaig so it is vital the town is not cut off during the fortnight the road is being improved.'

**Replacement nurse appointment a 'positive' step in long-running Ardnamurchan out-of-hours care row**

THE LONG-running dispute over the future of out-of-hours 999 cover in west Ardnamurchan may be nearing an end after NHS Highland (NHS) announced it had hired a replacement nurse for the area.

Avril MacGregor of Ballachulish will take over from Jessie Colquhoun when she retires on Monday. NHS said Ms MacGregor plans to relocate to west Ardnamurchan in the 'near future' - one of the major issues for local campaigners.

Health bosses also said an am-

By RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

bulance technician is moving to Kilchoan and has agreed to join an emergency responder team along with Ms MacGregor.

A joint NHS and Scottish Ambulance Service statement said: 'The ambulance technician will have the use of a car fitted with life saving equipment, including a defibrillator and ECG. 'He will work in a rota with other emergency responders who have a healthcare

background. It is anticipated this will include community nurses residing in west Ardnamurchan.'

'We are still seeking expressions of interest from people with a healthcare background who are living in the area or who would consider moving into the area to be trained as emergency responders.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council (WACC) chairman Rosie Curtis told *The Oban Times* the announcement, which was made at a public meeting in Kilchoan last Tuesday, was a

positive step. She said: 'Things seem to be going in the right direction, but we want to see their proposal on paper. Until we see it written down we cannot take anything for granted.'

In the meantime, local residents are taking their fight to the Scottish Parliament where they will meet with Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon next Wednesday.

WACC representatives Rosie Curtis, Jac Crosbie, Davie Ferguson and Jon Haylett, will discuss the issue with Ms Stur-

geon the day after meeting with NHS chief executive Elaine Mead and SAS chief executive Pauline Howie in Fort William.

Protestors from Lochaber will also descend on the capital and for the first time Ms Colquhoun will take part in the talks. As an NHS employee, she has been unable to take part in any of the discussions so far.

Ms Curtis said: 'We want her to go and tell Nicola Sturgeon what she's done over the last 35 years. We're also taking a busload of protestors with placards down.'

**SNP council manifesto pledges local shake-up**

HIGHLAND Council's political set up would be broken up in favour of new local area committees with local spending powers, the SNP group has pledged in its manifesto for May's council elections.

The move would decentralise decision-making, provide more effective local representation and allow the public to see local democracy in action, says the SNP, currently the opposition to the LibDem/Independent/Labour administration.

The SNP also claims the shake-up would cut costs and expenses by reducing the number of meetings at the council's Inverness HQ.

Under the plan, the existing Ross, Skye and Lochaber committee would be scrapped and replaced with separate Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, and Ross and Cromarty area committees.

The SNP envisages, if elected to power, that 'as many decisions as possible' would be taken at local level, including local planning and licensing and, crucially, revenue spend on roads and community services.

SNP group leader, Councillor Drew Hendry said changing the way the council does business would 'energise the Highlands'.

He said: 'We want to ensure that people are able to see democracy working, as it happens, in their own communities. That is why we will be calling a halt to the current trend of centralising power within the chambers at Glenurquhart Road and putting our Highland communities at the forefront of the council's future plans.'

He added: 'Highland Council is now the only local authority in Scotland with rural communities not served by local committees.'

'The structure that has evolved suits the few, not the many, and previous attempts to address this have not had the political will to ensure any meaningful change.'

'People living in our rural communities often complain of feeling disenfranchised and we will be acting positively to address this deficit throughout the Highlands.'

**New building technology creates houses with no bills**

Insulated concrete frameworks (ICF) is the intelligent solution to low carbon construction.

- Revolutionary new concrete wall and block system
- Air tight, robust structure boasts excellent thermal efficiencies
- Eliminates practically all heat loss
- Cheaper to build to Code 5 than using conventional materials
- Turnkey or watertight 'shell' solutions available
- Highly effective alternative for commercial development especially nursing homes, schools etc



Call 07711 742272 for more details

'The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record.'

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Tel: 01631 568000 email: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk) [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**Call for cash to keep young shinty players from switching to football**

A LOCHABER shinty manager has said he fears the sport will continue losing young players to football if the youth structure is not re-organised soon.

John Morrison, who coaches Caol-based Kilmallie, told *The Oban Times* the youth structure of shinty needed more money to keep talented young players aged between 12-16 involved with the game.

But two other local coaches disagreed with John Morrison, saying most youngsters participate in both sports with no problems. Mr Morrison said: 'Something needs to be done to address

By RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

this a bit more directly. I would suggest getting rid of the internationals and re-directing that money into youth shinty. It would help the sport as a whole.

'You're always going to lose some players to football. It's a much bigger sport and to be fair, the football club does a lot with the youngsters. I think they've got a better set-up than the Camanachd Association at the moment.'

However, Lochaber Camanachd manager Michael Delaney said youngsters in Spean Bridge were finding room for

both sports. 'We've got a lot of talented football players at our club,' he said. 'Most of our boys play both sports at that age. Because of the success we've had at under-17 level, most of the boys have actually chosen shinty over football. Maybe it's because Spean Bridge is quite a small community, but I think most shinty players are sportsmen - they just like to play sport.'

Fort William under-14 coach Victor Smith agreed with Delaney, saying: 'If they want to play football we encourage them - it helps them become better shinty players as well. I don't see a problem.'

CRUACHAN CREATIVE TAYNUILT, ARGYLL GRAPHIC DESIGN

ANNOUNCING A NEW QUALITY GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICE PRINT AND PROMOTION

RECENT WORK FOR: Scotland, THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG, OBAN

0784 9012419 [www.duncanlamontdesignandprint.com](http://www.duncanlamontdesignandprint.com) [duncan.lamont@btopenwork.com](mailto:duncan.lamont@btopenwork.com)

auchrannie resort

Win a family weekend break at Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran In next week's Oban Times

FW

## North Lorn roadworks brought forward

WORK to resurface the A828 between Benderloch and Oban Airport has been brought forward to start next week.

The £103,000 package of works will commence on Wednesday, February 22 and last until February 29.

### Convoy system

The road will be reduced to one lane for the peak time work, from 7am and 6pm, from Mondays to Fridays, with a convoy system in place.

The work had originally been scheduled to start on March 5.

Resurfacing work in Benderloch, scheduled to start on March 12, is unaffected by the move.

Expected to last seven days in total, the resurfacing there will take place between the forestry access road, extending to the northbound 60mph signs.

Traffic will again be reduced to a single lane, with a three-way convoy system operating, governing traffic along the A828 and at the Tralee junction.

Included within the seven days of work is provision for two evening closures. With no suitable diversion in place, queuing traffic will be escorted safely through the works at two hourly, 15-minute windows. These will be at 8pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am, 4am and 6am.

The dates for the night time closures cannot yet be confirmed. As such, drivers will be notified using fixed and variable message signs closer to the date.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'This is the only way the safety of the travelling public and workforce, both of which are of paramount importance, can be ensured.

'Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times.'

Breedon Aggregates are also warning residents and users of the Bonawe road to expect heavy goods vehicle movements on the B845 between the hours of 7pm and midnight on Thursday, February 23.

## MoD announces March Isle of Mull 'invasion'

THE MINISTRY of Defence (MoD) will be conducting an exercise involving helicopters and ground troops on the Isle of Mull between March 11 and 30.

The exercise is just one of those taking place across rural areas of Scotland and will focus on the Ardmeaneach area.

The MoD says out-of-hours flying had been authorised and noise disturbance may be experienced in some locations. Personnel will carry weapons and blank ammunition.

A spokesman added: 'All personnel involved with the exercise will be briefed on the requirement to avoid disturbance to livestock and damage to property, together with the procedures for reporting incidents and complaints.'

## Loganair deny Islay airport complaint

AIRLINE Loganair has denied making an official complaint to the company running Islay Airport about 'over-zealous' security checks on islanders.

Responding to reports that an official complaint had been lodged with Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), David Harrison, Loganair's chief executive said: 'We have a strong working relationship with HIAL, and have spoken to them about security arrangements at all of their airports.

'This has been portrayed as an official complaint, but that's not the case. It is an ongoing dialogue.

'Our customers have told us that, whilst safety and security is of paramount importance, they would like a security regime which is as unobtrusive as possible.'

## Mull councillor questions high fuel prices

A PROMINENT member of Mull Community Council has criticised the high price of fuel on the island.

Vice chairman Steve Willis warned that vehicles were a necessity on an island that was 'not blessed with public transport'.

He said: 'It does seem grossly unfair we have to pay extra for petrol and diesel. We're paying 20 pence a litre more than everyone else.'

Mr Willis's comments come as Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid urged the Office of Fair Trading to look into high fuel prices and delivery charges in remote areas.



Zulu sits astride Sheila MacGregor's quad bike after helping save his master.

# Dog races to rescue of injured island farmer

## Terrier 'Zulu' is hero after island car crash leaves owner badly injured

A RETIRED farmer on Kerrera owes his life to the prompt actions of his dog after a car crash left him seriously injured on a hillside in the pitch darkness.

In true Lassie fashion, Donald MacGregor's black terrier, Zulu, ran the half-mile to his daughter Sheila's house at Slaterich farm, setting in motion a dramatic rescue last Wednesday night, which Sheila described to *The Oban Times*.

'His dog came to the door. I knew it was strange the dog just turning up like that so straight away I thought something must have happened.'

'I went out on the quad bike and heard him shouting. His car had overturned on the track and he'd been thrown out down a steep slope.'

With no mobile phone reception Sheila left her father and took the quad back to her house to ask neighbours for help and to alert the emergency services.

While neighbours Richard and Elaine Pearson stayed with Sheila's young son, she went back to her father's side.

There she learned that the RAF Sea King helicopter was having trouble taking off from Prestwick due to freezing rain.

'They couldn't guarantee me a time when it would arrive so I cancelled the helicopter,' she said.

By that time Sheila's neighbours had managed to get in touch with island-based ferryman Duncan MacEachan, who earlier that night had been at a meeting in Oban. As an ambulance waited at the pier on the Oban side, the

### EXCLUSIVE REPORT by TONY GARNER

rescue plan now depended on a boat being able to take Donald across the 550-metre Sound of Kerrera.

While Donald lay injured, the tide was dropping rapidly and threatened to prevent the ferry from leaving with a vehicle on board.

Luckily, Sheila's husband Corrie Louw had made it to the scene, along with another neighbour, Ally Nudds.

Corrie carried Donald about 20 or 30 metres up the slope and lifted him onto the quad.

'I knew my husband was the only one strong enough to get him up there,' Sheila said.

'Ally Nudds was sitting in the back propping him up.'

With Donald on the quad Sheila drove to the pier at the south end of the island. They had made it in time, and crucially for his

chances of avoiding permanent paralysis or worse, Donald was able to make the short crossing in the relative comfort of a vehicle.

On landing he was rushed by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. He had sustained a punctured lung, fractured vertebrae, and multiple broken ribs.

After staying in Oban overnight he was transferred to hospital in Glasgow the next day.

'He's still in Glasgow now,' Sheila said on Monday. 'Hopefully he should get back to Oban by this weekend.'

The accident seems likely to lend weight to the islanders' demands for council help with Kerrera's crumbling infrastructure.

Sheila herself felt it was both a lucky escape and a warning.

She said: 'The roads are awful and the council doesn't help very much. If I'd been 20 minutes later my dad wouldn't have been able to get off the island.'



Donald MacGregor's overturned car after it came off the track on the island of Kerrera.

## Who else knew as council chief allegedly played 'I spy'?

### Independent investigation may reveal covert operations

WHO else within Argyll and Bute Council knew about allegations of spying ahead of last week's suspension of the authority's communications chief?

That was the question being posed by those based at the council's seat of power in Lochgilphead this week following the suspension of Jo Smith.

The action was prompted by a national newspaper article alleging she told fellow professionals at a Glasgow conference in September that she used aliases on social networking websites to find out what people were saying about the authority.

However, council insiders have privately raised concerns that other officers were aware of

the 'spying' allegations and may have acted on information gathered by the covert techniques.

### Angry response

Others have questioned the timing of the as yet unconfirmed reports, just one week before the council's budget meeting and months prior to council elections.

One said: 'It makes no sense that this is coming out now. Someone at the council must have known about this earlier.'

'We have to wait for the independent investigation to be completed, but if she was doing this and allegedly happy to say something to a conference, then someone else must have known this technique was being used.'

The situation brought an angry response from the county's SNP MSP, education secretary Michael Russell, who in a letter to the council said: 'I cannot remember being as angry.

'The thought that my constituents have been 'spied on' by a senior member of your staff is truly outrageous.'

Council leader, Dick Walsh, said: 'These are serious allegations into which a thorough investigation has been launched.'

'I would like to categorically state that this organisation has never, and would never, condone the sort of practice around which the allegations centre.

'I will of course be seeking regular updates on the progress of the investigation and await its outcome with interest.'

## Tire haulier claims government has misread RET signals

### Transport minister announces additional £2.5m funding

A TIRE haulier has accused the SNP Scottish Government of neglecting the islands because it is 'too busy thinking about its independence referendum'.

The comments by Catriona MacLennan, of Tiree company MacLennan Motors, comes after transport minister Keith Brown announced the government was investing £2.5million to make it easier for hauliers to move to the new fare structure following the modifications to RET, saying: 'No haulier will see fare rises of more than 50 per cent in any year.'

There will also be a six month study into the effect of the new fare structure on the islands' economy.

### 'Disastrous'

While welcoming news that RET will apply to commercial vehicles up to six metres in length, a one metre increase on previous rules, she said a 50 per cent increase on fares would be 'disastrous' for island economies.

She said: 'We would be going up by 55 per cent, so it won't make much of a difference.

'It will be disastrous for the local economy. A 50 per cent increase is huge. The price of a 10m lorry will go up from £250 to £375 - before 20 per cent VAT is added on.

'The islands' economy is fragile enough. For example, petrol is sitting at £1.60ish a litre at the moment. That will probably go up a couple of pence as a result - before the 5p derogation.

'Island life is already very expensive and this will just make it worse.

'The Scottish Government is so busy thinking about its independence referendum and they can't get things like this right as a result.'

### Misread

She feels that the Scottish Government has misread its studies into the effects of RET on island economies when it says some communities felt the savings created by the pilot were not passed on by some hauliers.

She pointed out that islanders on Coll received their goods by van, prices for which never changed under the proposals.

She added that spending on promoting tourism to the isles was pointless when there wasn't the infrastructure to cope.

Announcing the measures, Mr Brown told *The Oban Times* that 'Nowhere will have more than a 50 per cent increase this year.

'It brings parity to all hauliers - that didn't happen before as some benefited more than others. Some will benefit, some won't.

'What we have agreed is a study of the impact of the measures.'

The results of the study will be analysed closely, he said.

As part of the announcement, the Scottish Government pledged to work with hauliers and communities to lobby Westminster and other organisations outside its control, on matters like VAT and insurance costs.

## Islanders 'encouraged' after talks in Edinburgh on Isle of Barra's protected status proposals

CONTINUED opposition to imposing environmental designations for waters off Barra found solid footing at Holyrood last week.

Islanders travelled to Edinburgh last week to protest at the Scottish Parliament and a delegation watched as Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands list MSP, raised Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)'s plan to impose protected status on the Sound of Barra.

They say they have been 'encouraged' by a subsequent discussion with the minister for environment and climate change, Stewart Stevenson MSP.

Chairman of the South

Hebrides Against Marine Environmental Designation (SHAMED) campaign group, Angus MacLeod, has now vowed to fight on until such time as the proposed designation is removed.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Wildlife Trust last week re-affirmed its support for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)'s position that the Sound of Barra is a site of European importance, despite SHAMED' claiming the evidence was, in effect, fabricated.

Mr MacLeod said: 'Firstly, I would wish to express the gratitude of the people of Barra to Jamie McGrigor for his thorough and persuasive presentation to his fellow MSPs.

Secondly we'd like to express our relief that so many MSPs listening to the motion appeared knowledgeable and well-briefed as to our cause and showed their widespread support in opposing this proposed designation.

'We were further encouraged during our discussions with Mr Stevenson.

'Neither did Mr Stevenson dispute the validity of SHAMED's scientific evidence in support of our case against SNH's proposal, nor oppose our assertions of abuse of 'due process' by SNH in contravention of European environmental directives.

'We will fight on to protect the legitimate and consensual

interests of the people of Barra by highlighting the deeply flawed marine science held as 'evidence' within SNH's proposal and SNH's flouting of established European and Scottish environmental directives in pursuing what is increasingly being seen as their own self-serving interests in this entire woeful matter.

'We call upon the minister for the environment to apply sound judgement when considering SHAMED's case and dismiss SNH's ill advised proposed SAC designation forthwith.'

Mr Stevenson was contacted for comment but was unable to respond at the time of going to press.

## Young army cadets from Argyll train in the disciplines of traditional Scottish music

YOUNGSTERS from all over Argyll met in a military camp last weekend for a training session with the Army Cadet Force.

But the youths, all aged 12 to 18, were not playing soldiers in Barry Buddon, near Carnoustie, instead they were learning traditional Scottish music.

Cadet Millie Beuschier, 13, from Oban is a beginner at piping.

She said: 'It's nice to meet up with other cadets from all over the country and make new friends.'

Shaun Reardon, 17, is in his sixth year at Oban High School and an old hand at piping courses: 'My uncle was a piper in the Army and my great grandfather was a piper too, so its in my blood.'

Shaun, who is currently the



Left to right Shaun, Chloe and Millie practice in the open air.

Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, has played all over Europe.

'This year I've played in the Berlin Tattoo and in Sweden and

last year I played for HM The Queen at Balmoral and marched down The Mall, piping for thousands of people,' he said.

Chloe Marr, 16, is at Dunoon Grammar. She's a drummer who is making a name for herself in the art of flourishing her drum sticks.

Major Jim Stout, is the officer in charge of ensuring that the pipers and drummers get the best possible tuition.

He said: 'We have designed our training to give our cadets a good grounding in traditional Scottish music.

'Additionally we have had our training expanded so that it meets not only the official piping qualifications, but also gives them a BTEC which counts towards college or university places.

'I am very proud of our cadet musicians. They are enthusiastic, dedicated and a great advertisement for young people in Scotland.'

## Grant bid to save iconic Dunollie

A GRANT application for £1.1m will be lodged with the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) in an attempt to save the iconic Dunollie Castle from collapse.

Catherine Gillies, project manager of The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, which maintains the castle, said the large sum was needed to pay for specialist repair work to halt the deterioration of the castle walls.

And if the grant is agreed, the castle could be closed off for at least three years, from 2013, while the repair to the ancient structure is being made.

Ms Gillies explained: 'What we are seeing at the castle is the start of a progressive collapse. Every time we have gales like the ones we had before Christmas, something falls off.'

'Also, the ivy that grows on the wall loosens the stone. It has to come off before any work can start on the walls.'

Ms Gillies and architect Robin Kent have been formulating a plan of restoration over the past 18 months but decided to act quickly following the completion of two structural engineer reports highlighting the extent of deterioration.

Because of the castle's position, on top of a rock overlooking Oban, it is anticipated a lift will have to be constructed up the face of the castle rock to get materials to the top.

Ms Gillies said: 'The sight set-up costs are huge, even before we repair the castle, so the cost of our needs at Dunollie vastly exceeds the pot of money Historic Scotland has. We are relying on this SRDP grant.'

'Dunollie Castle is such an incredibly iconic site in the town, with enormous historical importance that has underpinned modern history. Making it safe is very important and I hope people can bear with us.'

Archaeologists and ecologists will also be involved in the restoration and care will be taken to maintain the habitats of a variety of species, including the castle's resident European cave spiders.

It was from Dunollie that the kings of Dalriada ruled the Western Isles in the seventh and eighth centuries.

## Rail group call for more trains

A RAIL services pressure group has called for more frequent trains on key routes linking the West Highlands to central Scotland.

The call came as a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the re-franchising of Scotland's rail network in 2014.

Reducing services to cut costs would lead to 'a spiral of decline', warned the group, Friends of the West Highland Lines, who instead recommended more services and better marketing to make the lines generate more revenue to cover costs.

The group's criticisms were echoed by Oban Community Council, which said the West Highland service operators 'had assumed that users were all tourists, and had no interest in journey times or frequency.'

Franchise holder ScotRail currently runs three services per day from Glasgow to Oban and Fort William.

Dr John McCormick from Friends of the West Highland Lines called on the regulator, Transport Scotland, to 'specify a higher frequency of at least four trains per day, with a minimum gap of four hours between trains'.

Both Friends of the West Highland Lines and Oban Community Council attacked the consultation for viewing West Highland trains as a social service with little potential for economic benefit.

Fears were also expressed about an alcohol ban across the board on Scottish trains, an idea the consultation had indicated it would consider as a response to aggressive and anti-social behaviour.

'In most circumstances this would be an unpopular and unnecessary measure,' Dr McCormick said.

## Invasive Japanese weeds cause problems for Oban developer and neighbours

OBAN homeowners say they have come up against brick walls when trying to report insufficient control of Japanese Knotweed on a neighbouring building plot.

Sue Bell's Albert Road home sits opposite that of friend Aisling Clark on George Street - sandwiching a building plot owned by Shaun Bate which is covered with the invasive plant.

### Legislation

They are concerned that the species, which can undermine foundations and grow through

concrete, could spread onto their property and have been in correspondence with him in an effort to get the weed removed.

However, they say he has failed to take proper steps to eradicate the weed.

Subsequent conversations with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Argyll and Bute Council have proved similarly fruitless, with each telling the neighbours that the other is responsible.

Mr Bate, on the other hand, insists that the weed has

been sprayed and some plant matter removed in line with legislation.

### Eradication difficult

Because Japanese Knotweed grows from rhizomes, continued chemical treatment, repeated cutting or deep excavation is required to ensure its removal. Full eradication can take up to five years.

Sue and Aisling have now called on the Scottish Government to legislate for such circumstances and remove all doubt when it comes to dealing

with the spread of Japanese Knotweed on neighbouring ground.

Sue said: 'We're worried that, unchecked, it will start growing on our property. The problem is there seems to be no single point of contact to report problems to.'

'The council don't want to know and the one organisation you think would be able to deal with it, SEPA, also don't want to know.

'This isn't a problem that just affects us. It's a growing

problem across Scotland.'

Mr Bate said there had been a breakdown in communications between himself and the plot's neighbours, adding he feels he has done nothing wrong.

He said: 'Japanese Knotweed is everywhere and it is a problem. There's no doubt someone has to do something about it.'

'SEPA actually praised me for the way I dealt with the knotweed.

'It has been dealt with and is being dealt with. I can't do any

more than tell them what I've done and they refuse to believe me.' He is now considering taking the plot off the market until such time as the weed is fully eradicated.

A SEPA spokesperson said: 'SEPA did not consider there to be a need for any regulatory intervention in the case of the Albert Road site and our intention throughout has been to provide appropriate guidance and advice with a view to minimising any environmental risks involved, in accordance

# Rest and Be Thankful nets another £1 million for contingency plan

A FURTHER £1million is to be invested in developing contingency and mitigation plans to deal with future landslips at Rest and Be Thankful on the A83.

**'Fresh investment'**  
Transport minister Keith Brown last week announced the

fresh investment, which forms part of an £72million package of new transport spending across Scotland.

Mr Brown said: 'The Scottish Government is determined to address the impact severe weather has had in recent months on the A83 at the Rest

and Be Thankful - a lifeline route which serves communities throughout Argyll.

**Netting**  
'That is why we are allocating a significant portion of the extra funding - £1million - to address the problems created by landslips at the Rest and Be

Thankful brought about by severe weather events.

'In addition to the recently commissioned study which is investigating the feasibility of longer term options, today's funding announcement will be used to extend the length of debris flow netting on the hillside.

We are also working closely with Forestry Commission Scotland to explore options for making emergency use of forest roads and using vegetation cover to help reduce the risk of landslips.

'We are acutely aware the effect road closures stemming

from landslips impose on local communities and are determined to do everything we can to address those challenges.

**Group initiative**  
'Today's extra funding will allow work to progress which will help minimise the effect on the local communities and road

users in the area.'

The project proposal came as a result of an Argyll and Bute Timber Transport Group initiative.

The group is a collaboration between Forestry Commission Scotland, Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council.

## Cowan comes to dinner in Oban

COMEDIAN and football fan Tam Cowan will join the popular after-dinner speaker James Stirling as special guests at this year's Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund Sportsman's Dinner.

The event, which is the main annual fundraiser for the Oban charity, will be held on March 24. Tickets are available from the Argyllshire Gathering.

Organiser Amanda MacPhail said she was delighted the event continued to attract top names from the speakers' circuit.

## Police search for car paint vandal

POLICE are looking for information into an incident in Knipoch Place, Oban where a tin of white paint was thrown over a parked car.

The incident happened overnight between Thursday and Friday last week.

Anyone who has information about the incident, or saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area is urged to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

## Germany team assess renewables on Isle of Jura

A RESEARCH team from the University of Flensburg in Northern Germany arrived on Jura this week to assess the island's potential for renewable energy.

The team's co-ordinator, Mr Samuel Oguah, said the group of 12 Masters students and four professors would assess the technical, social, economic and environmental feasibility of different types of alternative energy projects.

After a five week stay the multinational team will present a report of their findings to the Jura Development Trust and Community Energy Scotland.

## Euro 'Highland' show visitor lands in Oban court

AN ESTONIAN visitor to the Highland cattle show and sale in Oban at the weekend parted with more cash than he had accounted for after being fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Cattle buyer Kairo Pilviste appeared on an undertaking at court on Monday and pled guilty to being drunk in charge of a vehicle in George Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Pilviste was in the driver's seat of the parked car and had the engine running when patrolling police officers detected a smell of alcohol from him.

He was found to have 68 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

He was fined £200 and banned from holding a UK driving licence for 12 months.

## Net closes in on Appin hoax caller

OBAN Police say they are following a positive line of enquiry into a hoax 999 call made from the Appin area.

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'This hoax call caused a considerable waste of police time and effort.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000  
01397 700303

## New marina owner looks to develop business potential

LOCAL businessman, Peter Weir, says he hopes to further develop Oban Marina at Kerrera after taking over the successful company last week.

On Wednesday, the owner of the North Ledaig Caravan Park, Benderloch, finalised a deal to buy the 115-berth marina, which was put up for sale last year following the collapse of its former parent company.

Peter will run the marina as chairman and managing director, while wife Katy will take up the position of company secretary and director. Son Tim will be the company's development director.

Sue Deacon, who has managed the marina with a staff of seven for five years will continue as director of operations.

Peter, who owns a Moody sailing yacht with his son, has owned North Ledaig Caravan Park since 1982, developing it into a VisitScotland five-star touring caravan park.

His intention, he says, is to take a similar approach to the marina, which already enjoys a positive reputation.

He said: 'We have developed the North Ledaig Caravan Park into a Visit Scotland five-star touring caravan park, but which runs as a friendly family-run area which is un-commercialised and whose major assets are its first class facilities, superb beachside locations and its sea views over to Mull.'

'With Oban Marina, we intend to follow similar policies.'

'Over the years, we will develop the marina facilities both on the sea and ashore, whilst maintaining the friendly, customer-come-first approach and where the marina's assets of its safe and secure island location and quiet surroundings can be enhanced.'

He said the directors plan to visit the marina on a regular basis and will be happy to meet berth holders and visitors to listen to ideas and share their enjoyment of the marina.

## Community group plans new Islay ferry option

A COMMUNITY group representing Islay and Jura has announced its intention to run an additional ferry between Islay and the mainland.

The Islay and Jura Ferry Company has, for the past two years, been in discussions with various parties regarding a new ferry design.

The designers have already sought tenders with a completion date of mid to late 2014.

The Standard Midwater Ferry is powered by LNG gas which makes it an environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient vessel, which can carry 200 passengers and upwards of 50 cars, or seven HGVs.

The intention is to run a shuttle service from Islay to the mainland, subject to the availability of port slots. Discussions are underway with Argyll and Bute Council and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd.

Chairman of the ferry company, Donald Ewen Darroch, said: 'Now that a time line has been set by the designers and ship financiers, we need to move forward with a suitable legal structure which can develop the proposal as required.'

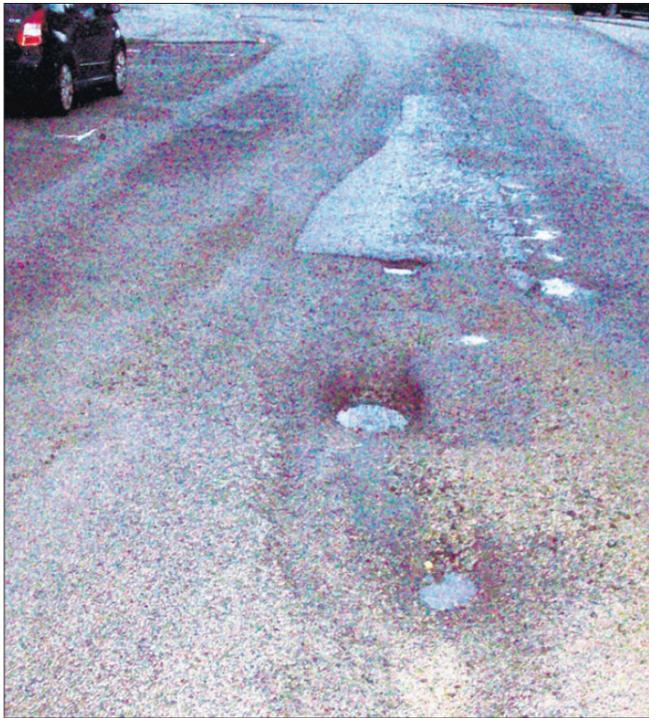
'This is no small task as we have to encourage the participation of new local directors, plus the need to raise a considerable amount of operating capital.'

'It is our consideration that this could be an opportunity for an island based organisation to run an additional supporting ferry service from Islay.'

The vessels would be operated on either a lease basis or bare boat charter and existing directors hope the vessel could be based and crewed on Islay.

## Dunoon ferry change

THE ALI Cat ferry on the Dunoon-Gourock route is to be replaced - a move welcomed by local MP, Alan Reid. He said: 'I am pleased that the SNP have now realised that the 'Ali Cat' is not up to the job of sailing on the Dunoon-Gourock route and are looking to replace it.'



The majority of town centre roads in Oban are dangerously pitted and potholed

## Emergency road repairs start in Oban town centre

Promised upgrade is years behind schedule

EMERGENCY road repairs on Oban's crumbling town centre have been initiated by Scotland Transerv - but Argyll and Bute Council's roads spokesman is calling for more to be done.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre has welcomed the emergency repairs to the short section of road between Argyll Square and Airds Place, due to take place today (Thursday), but is calling for the A85 in Oban's town centre to be upgraded - years after promised improvement works were postponed.

Reconstruction of the A85 in the town centre was approved

to start in October 2005 but was postponed after news that major utility work was to be carried out.

**'Major concern'**  
Councillor MacIntyre, who recently met with Transport Minister Keith Brown to discuss the issue, said: 'If the town centre was in need of total reconstruction in 2005 and approved and authorised, considering the last two winters and this year so far, it is little wonder that the deterioration is a major concern.'

He added: 'It has gone on for too long in my view. At this time

when we are investing in traffic management and improvement we need to be repairing this. It is the responsibility of the Scottish Government.'

But ScotlandTranserv, which is responsible for maintaining the A85, says funding has been confirmed to repair the worst aspects of the road, estimating it will cover 80 to 100 metres.

Following consultation with town centre traders, it has been agreed to begin the emergency one-day repair at 9.30am to avoid the morning rush hour and ScotlandTranserv expects to complete the job by 7pm.

## Dispute over 'adoption' leaves Isle of Jura cemetery road without regular maintenance

Community says it has been ignored for 14 years

A CRUMBLING road on the Isle of Jura is causing consternation for islanders, with even funerals affected by its deteriorating condition.

Some 500m of the Keils cemetery road has not been maintained by any local authority since 1996, when Argyll and Bute District Council became Argyll and Bute Council.

**'Adopted' road disputed**

Since, the disputed section of road has deteriorated rapidly, and is now scattered with craters measuring as much as a foot deep and 1.5m wide.

The island's community council has joined residents in expressing concern about the state of the road since 1998, but say attempts to get the council to accept it as an adopted road have fallen on deaf ears.

Furthermore, they say that patching of the road prior to funerals is proof that the authority has some responsibility for its condition.

On the other hand, the council says the section of road belongs to the residents and add that any maintenance done prior to funerals is out of a moral obligation,



Alex Dunnachie said the condition of the road on Jura has left him 'at the end of my tether'.

rather than any legal requirement, as the cemetery lies at the other end of the un-adopted stretch.

Alex Dunnachie lives next to the road and is a member of the community council.

He said: 'I'm just at the end of my tether.'

'There's virtually no tar left on the road. Every time there is a funeral they just patch it with aggregate but it doesn't last. I

wonder how much they have spent on maintaining that road over the last four years?'

'However, for the last three funerals, they've done nothing.'

Mr Dunnachie says he has had to repair his own car as a result of damage caused on the Keils road, adding that others have faced similar bills.

He has now written to Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, to voice his concerns.

**Mutual maintenance**  
Argyll and Bute Council has said that because it also uses the road for funerals, it was willing to discuss a mutual maintenance scheme with the residents - who it claims own the road.

It added: 'Given the on-going difficulties associated with maintenance and the current condition of the private road, the council will contact the local landowners with a view to establishing a maintenance protocol.'

'Should parties who have a responsibility for the private road wish to fund the construction of a tar surface, then the council would consider what contribution it could make on a share basis.'

# £80 million Tyndrum goldmine to go ahead

50 jobs plus conservation and visitor project package agreed

CONFIRMATION was delivered this week that plans for an £80million gold mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum, will go ahead.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority granted planning permission for the mine in October, but officially green-lighted the project after securing a £2million financial package with developer, Scotgold Resources Ltd.

The deal includes three bonds totalling £1.3million to restore the site to an agreed standard, should Scotgold fail to meet obligations set out in planning approval or abandon the site.

Also included is a contribution of £325,000 towards conservation and visitor projects in the park over the mine's operating period, while Strathfillan Community Development Trust will benefit to the tune of £350,000, £200,000 of which will be used to develop a mining exhibition and interpretative facility to attract tourists to the area.

The mine is expected to be worth at least £80million to the Scottish economy and will generate in excess of 50 jobs for the Strathfillan area.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Gordon Watson, director of planning and rural development for the National Park said: 'I'm extremely proud of the work we have achieved in a relatively short timeframe, which has also met Scotgold's aim to start the development this summer.'

'This is a great example of how business can work with the public sector to facilitate a number of economic and environmental benefits ensuring the park fully capitalises on the opportunities from the mine.'

The news has been welcomed by the local community council, with Monday's meeting greeting the decision as 'great news'.

Strathfillan Community Development Trust's Joyce Russell said the cash package was a 'huge boost' to the area. It is also hoped the success of

the visitor centre will extend long after the gold mine is closed.

She said: 'Apart from anything else, Tyndrum has become a one-trick pony. It's very much a 'pee and tea' stop.'

'To have something like this which will be a destination in its own right is absolutely terrific.'

'We see the state-of-the-art visitor centre as being something that will have a life of its own. We've been to see other centres and they are able to attract significant sums to develop the centre after the mine has closed.'

'There is a possibility of visits and trips to the mine after it closes too, which is an exciting prospect.'

'The £150,000 is unrestricted and with funding hard to come by for our projects, I cannot emphasise how important this is.'

Environment Minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'This new investment for Scotland will bring welcome additional revenue to support the National Park, whilst enhancing the sensitive environment in Cononish Glen in the long term.'

## Leading distilleries come to Oban for World Whisky Day event

FIVE of Scotland's leading distilleries will head to Oban next month for a special tasting event arranged as part of the inaugural World Whisky Day.

The tasting session on March 27 has been organised by Tom Hayward, of the Kings Knoll Hotel, who coincidentally will also be celebrating his and wife Kenia's first year at the hotel, having taken over on April Fool's Day, 2011.

While guests will be welcomed by invitation only, he's hoping it could lead to a host of winter events in future.

So far confirmed to appear are the Oban, Isle of Mull, Tobermory, Springbank and Ben Nevis distilleries.

Tom said: 'I've decided to make the event attendance by invitation only because I want everyone to be able to hear the presentations by each distillery.'

'I also hope it will highlight the quality of local whisky. There are a few nice malts out there, but each is different and not for everyone.'

'I think there is a right whisky for everyone though and this will help some people find that.'



Tom Hayward of the Kings Knoll Hotel tries a dram of Oban ahead of next month's tasting session.

## New buses launched

TWO NEW state-of-the-art buses will operate on the Oban to Glasgow route, following a joint venture launched by two companies.

The brand new coaches will run on Service 976 between Glasgow and Oban, a joint venture by Scottish Citylink and West Coast Motors.

The investment was made by West Coast Motors on behalf of Scottish Citylink.

The new vehicles were due to be unveiled at Oban's CalMac Pier yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

## Oban public park damaged

ONE OF Oban's few 'green' public areas has been damaged by large vehicles despite attempts by Argyll and Bute Council to intervene.

Dungallan Park on Glengallan Road, is a popular walking area and leads to pontoons, which are run by Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association. The association looks after 115 moorings, plus 15 visitor moorings, making the pontoon an important part of Oban's yachting sector.

Damage to Dungallan Park, suspected to have been caused by a large vehicle, had been reported to Councillor Roddy McCuish, who arranged for a chain to temporarily seal off the entrance to Dungallan Park last Thursday. However, last weekend the chain and a section of stone wall was broken and more tyre tracks were in evidence on the grassy area.

Councillor McCuish said: 'It is an absolute disgrace. Whoever committed this act of vandalism should be ashamed of themselves.'

Adrian Lauder, secretary of Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association, condemned the vandalism but said the issue of access to the park had to be sorted out.

**\*NEW\* NC Traditional Music & Short Courses**  
**FREE TASTER WEEKENDS in Plockton**

<p><b>25th/26th Feb - NC Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Time 1 year course</li> <li>• Meet the tutors &amp; find out more</li> <li>• Workshops in: Sound Engineering, Practical Harmony &amp; Groupwork</li> </ul>	<p><b>10th/11th Mar - Short Courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Music &amp; Song</li> <li>• Improve your playing skills and learn some great new tunes</li> <li>• Explore Scots &amp; Gaelic Singing</li> </ul>
---	--

Tutors: Gordon Gunn • Jack Evans • Wilma Kennedy • Mick West  
 www.whc.uhi.ac.uk • 01599 544706 • jackie.maclennan@whc.uhi.ac.uk

**Making Biomass heat work for Argyll**  
**Wednesday 22nd February, Hunters Quay Dunoon, 11.30am-2pm**

**HWenergy invites you to a free Biomass Heat Demonstration Day:**  
 See first hand how a large local business has cut heating costs and carbon emissions by using automated wood fuel heating

With the recent OFGEM announcement that the RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) has been launched now is the time to assess the benefits that biomass heating can bring to your organisation. You are therefore invited to a demonstration event to see it working in practice.

The purpose of the day is to allow you to see biomass heating first hand, learn about the Renewable Heat Incentive & discuss how you can save on your heating costs.

This day is aimed at those with large heating demands for large private and public buildings (not for single domestic dwellings)

If you would like to attend this event please contact  
 Louise McMillan on  
 01397 706412 or email  
 louise.mcmillan@hwenergy.co.uk

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Clash of the ash at Nevis Centre

### Lochaber and Banavie qualify for RBS national finals

LOCHABER and Banavie are through to the upcoming RBS national primary schools shinty finals at Lochaber High School on February 25 after winning their regional heats in Fort William on Saturday.

The well-attended event at the Nevis Centre saw Lochaber score maximum points from their games to win the P5 and under tournament, while defending national Scottish champions

Banavie did likewise to win the P7 competition.

Inverlochey were clear runners-up in the P5 section, but it took a playoff to decide the P6/7 runners up after Ballachulish and Invergarry were left tied on eight points apiece behind Banavie after their round-robin games.

**Thumped**  
Ballachulish had lost their first two games to Banavie and Inver-

#### PRIMARY SHINTY

garry, but then won the next four – and thumped Invergarry 3-0 in the playoff to claim second spot. Banavie coach Victor Smith looked forward to taking on Scotland's best teams in the national finals.

He said: 'I would not say anybody is favourites or underdogs, but the boys were excellent today. The standard is getting better and better every year, and that can only be good for our local shinty teams.'

And winning Lochaber coach Martin Porter told The Oban Times: 'It was a very good all round performance today. It's our first time in the national finals and it will be a hard challenge – there's a lot of good teams about.'

Full results: P5 and under – Lochaber 7, Caol 0; Inverlochey 3, Ballachulish 0; Caol 0, Ballachulish 3; Lochaber 6, Ballachulish 0; Caol 0, Inverlochey 6; Lochaber 5, Inverlochey 4.

P6/7 – Banavie 5, Invergarry 0; St Mary's 1, Fort William/Upper Achintore 0; Lochaber 0, Inverlochey 1; Ballachulish 0, Banavie 3; St Mary's 1, Lochaber 1; Fort William/Upper Achintore 2, Inverlochey 5; Ballachulish 0, Invergarry 1; St Mary's 0, Inverlochey 3; Lochaber 4, Fort William/Upper Achintore 0; Ballachulish 2, St Mary's 1; Banavie 5, Lochaber 0; Invergarry 2, Inverlochey 2; Ballachulish 3, Fort William/Upper Achintore 0; Banavie 4, Inverlochey 0; Invergarry 2, St Mary's 2; Ballachulish 2, Lochaber 0; Banavie 5, St Mary's 0; Invergarry 3, Fort William/Upper Achintore 1; Ballachulish 3, Inverlochey 2; Banavie 8, Fort William/Upper Achintore 2.



P6/7 players enjoyed their round-robin tournament at the Nevis Centre. 20\_f07shinty05



P5 and under players line up following their round-robin games. 20\_f07shinty02



Ballachulish: deserved runners-up in the P6/7 competition. 20\_f07shinty04



P6/7 winners Banavie with coaches Ali Clark and Victor Smith. 20\_f07shinty03

## Fort hope to strengthen their squad

FORT William manager Danny Conlon is hoping to field a strengthened squad for Saturday's home game against Nairn County after his threadbare team went down 5-0 at Turriff last weekend.

Conlon was left desperately short of numbers for the Turriff clash – and has pledged to cast his net far and wide for players of the required standard.

He told The Oban Times: 'We have five long term injured, we had calf offs and with the two Ellis boys away to Australia that has not helped either.'

'Out of our 16 players, seven had not kicked a ball in the High-

land league – that's how short we were. We had two trialists from Skye and the youngest player on the bench was only 15 years old.

'All in all it was not a bad performance – we had some really good passages of play and the two goals we lost in the first half we both down to defensive errors.'

'In the second half we hit the bar and had one kicked off the line – we could easily have got a goal, which would have given us a lift.'

'We lost only the three goals in the last 10 minutes because we were tired on the heavy pitch.'

Conlon added: 'I was disap-

#### FOOTBALL

pointed with what was available on Saturday. We have a hard core of six players who are there week in, week out, so it's just a matter of filling in the areas round about them.'

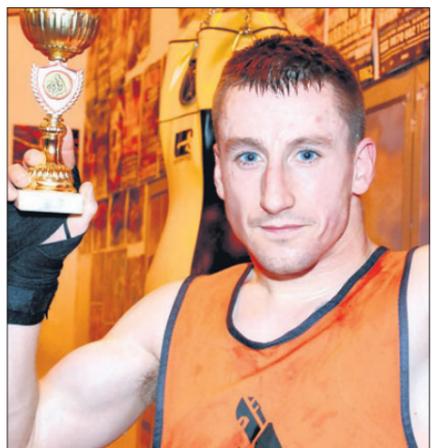
'We are looking outwith the area to try and strengthen the squad. We need a fixed squad to work with rather than having to chop and change all the time.'

'We were hoping to trial the top goal scorer in the Skye league last season, but he had a septic blister on his foot. It's too early to say whether he'll be fit for the Nairn game.'



Danny Conlon: short of players. 20\_f07danny01

## Aberdeen success for Lochaber Phoenix boxers



Lochaber Phoenix boxer Aidan Donnelly outclassed the North of Scotland welterweight champion.

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's Aidan Donnelly claimed a notable scalp in Aberdeen on Friday night when he outclassed North of Scotland light welterweight champion, Granite City ABC's Alex Bailey.

The Fort William man has been through a steep learning curve this season and made that experience count with a polished performance.

Mixing aggression with clever defence in the first two rounds, Aidan put a full stop to a fine display in the last by forcing Bailey onto the back foot to seal a fine win.

On the same bill, Lochaber Phoenix's middleweight Ryan Watson narrowly lost out to James Manders of the host club in a four-round contest.

After three rounds Watson held a slight lead but at the beginning of the fourth Manders changed tactics and drove forward aggressively, catching

Ryan temporarily unawares with a couple of shots. The two points lost swung the verdict for the Aberdonian, who claimed victory by a single point.

On Saturday the club returned to Aberdeen where Igor Sliwinski and Chris Donnelly were in action.

Igor, at 14 a real talent, has a buzz about him in boxing circles – but his trademark desire to win is so great he often discards his skills in favour of wild shoot-outs.

Up against the immensely strong Robert Gordon of host club Insh ABC, Sliwinski immediately set aside all thoughts of boxing behind his jab and both boxers stood in ring centre where war was declared.

The crowd was on its feet as neither boxer gave ground until Igor caught Gordon with hooks from both hands in the second to force to ref to issue a standing count to his opponent.

#### BOXING

The Lochaber man controlled the last to match the win – but his coaches know he will have to control his emotions and box to his strengths if he wants success on the national stage.

Topping the bill at Insh, Lochaber Phoenix's heavyweight Chris Donnelly moved up to super heavyweight to box the home club's Aidin Low.

When men of this size collide, fireworks are guaranteed and Low has a fearsome reputation as a puncher.

But midway through the first Chris landed a pair of colossal backhands, buckling Low's legs and forcing him to the ropes.

From then on Chris put on a boxing clinic, showing his recent sparring sessions with Gary Cornish have proved invaluable as he ran out a huge winner, with Low lucky not to be stopped.

## Clubhouse should be ready

KILMALLIE Shinty Club will go into the 2012 season with a new modern clubhouse at its Canal Park home in Caol.

Work on the £130,000 project, which includes changing rooms, a meeting room and a small kitchen, has been completed and the building is ready for the season to get underway on Saturday March 3.

#### Check

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'We're still waiting for a [building completion] certificate from

#### SHINTY

Highland Council. They've still got a few things to check.'

An official opening will be held once the documentation has been received, which is expected to be before the end of the month.

Funding for the new facility, which is also available for community use, came from a combination of grants and the club's own fundraising. Kilmallie finished sixth in the Scottish Hydro Premier League last season.



Kilmallie expects its new clubhouse to be ready for action for the new season. 20\_f07kilmallie01

## Weather

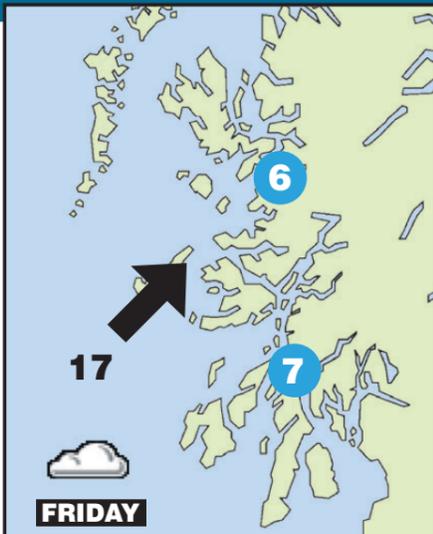
**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds light, south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds light, west south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate, west north westerly  
Temperatures 0°C to 5°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, February 16, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 06.21	1.5 13.01	2.8 19.13
Fri 01.57	3.0 07.47	1.6 15.06
Sat 03.19	3.2 09.19	1.4 16.12
Sun 04.11	3.5 10.23	1.2 16.49
Mon 04.50	3.8 11.09	1.0 17.15
Tues 05.24	4.0 11.48	0.9 17.43
Wed 00.01	0.7 05.58	4.1 12.24

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		

Wherever you are...  
Whatever the weather

Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at  
www.obantimes.co.uk/digital