

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8031

Thursday 24 February, 2011

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER



### West coast's bonniest baby



### Forteth trade show is biggest yet in Oban

### Final Sea Life token inside



Also inside this week: Focus on Fairtrade • Celtic Care • 20 years in travel for Eric Smith • Saints return to winning ways

### Cash problems leave Glenruitten golf club bunkered

THE FUTURE of Glenruitten Golf Club was debated at the club's AGM yesterday evening (Wednesday) after clubhouse staff were made redundant. Five staff members, two full-time and three part-time, were recently let go as the club tried to balance its books. A club spokesman insisted there was no risk of the club becoming defunct. He added: 'This is not the end for Glenruitten, far from it. Like any business, it just needs to be going in the right direction.' Offering the clubhouse as a franchise is one solution being mooted by the committee of the cash-strapped club. In the meantime, members are being asked to volunteer and the bar will be open on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays. Although the club has introduced various fundraising events over the past year, its financial woes are being attributed to a drop in membership.

### Two held after drugs raid

POLICE arrested two Oban men in connection with drugs offences on Monday afternoon. Acting under a search warrant, police seized a quantity of drugs including cannabis, Methadone, Valium and a number of, as yet, unidentified substances from a house in the town. Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'This was a joint investigation between Oban CID and local officers. 'Illegal drugs are unacceptable in our community.' TWO MEN appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday charged with supplying a controlled drug while on bail. Both men pled not guilty to the charges and were released on bail.

### Tourism day

AN EVENT to attract people into the tourism industry will be held at the VisitScotland Information Centre, in Albany Street, Oban, on March 1 between 11am and 4pm. It is part of Scottish Tourism Week.



Taxi for Tiddles: Lorna Wylie with the black cat who jumped into her taxi at the weekend. 16\_08blackcat01

### Cat in a cab proves the purr-fect fare

A TAXI driver picked up a very unusual fare at the weekend – a big black cat. Like many a passenger on a Saturday night in Oban, it got into the cab and wasn't able to give his name or indeed where he wanted to go. But taxi driver Lorna Wylie said he was the purr-fect passenger.

She said: 'It was about 11.45pm when I saw this cat in the taxi rank. 'I got out of the car to see him because it is fairly unusual to see a cat in the town centre. While I was patting him he just jumped into the car. 'I asked at the police station if they knew of anyone who was missing a black Tom cat.

They said they had watched him walk along George Street and straight to the taxi rank. 'He is a very friendly cat who is used to travelling in cars. He is obviously well loved by someone.' Anyone with information about who owns the cat should contact Lorna on 01631 565293.

### 'Now is the time to review Common Good Fund'

COUNCILLORS are being asked to think again about the Oban Common Good Fund. The Common Good Fund has featured highly on the pages of *The Oban Times* and this has given rise to questions being asked about the nature of the fund. Catherine Gillies, a fundraiser for various charities including Dunollie House and the Hope MacDougall Collection, has written to all local councillors in Oban wards asking them to take the time to consider the function of the fund.

Catherine said: 'There are many people who are interested in having more information about the fund. Maybe now is as good a time as any to look at it and consider whether or not we need to make changes in the way the fund is administered. 'I am not suggesting for a second that there are any irregularities in the fund. But there are scurrilous rumours in the town that it disperses millions of pounds each year – which I understand is not the case. 'As a fundraiser there are a few things

that I want to know about any fund, such as how can I make an application, how much money can I apply for and where is the latest statement of the group. It is not clear where this information is – certainly it is not on the council's website.' Catherine continued: 'I loathe politics and I get fed up when politics get in the way of function. 'Oban councillors who are willing to sit on the board should be invited to do so. It just makes sense.'

## We will listen, pledges Argyll schools boss

A NEW list of schools for consultation on closure is due to be published tomorrow (Friday). In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Councillor Ellen Morton, Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman for education since December, sets out her stall on the consultation process. Councillor Morton said: 'I am not setting a definitive list for closure – parents and children should be very clear about that. I am setting a list for consultation. This is a time where we need to get out and listen to our communities.'

REPORT by LOUISE LEE lee@obantimes.co.uk

school in their area because of the length of their journey. Therefore, I will look at a new way of assessing the journey, such as how many children will be travelling or what the road condition is like. Some of the journeys on Mull strike me as being quite difficult. 'There are serious concerns about the curriculum for excellence in schools with few pupils. If the school is on an island or it is very remote and it is the best we can do then so be it – otherwise we need to seriously look at the school.'

Councillor Morton added: 'Some of the school buildings in Argyll and Bute are simply

not fit for purpose – we need to ask ourselves if every school in Argyll is a centre for excellence in education. If not, we need to look at how we will make that happen. In some cases this may mean looking at improving the school estate. In other cases schools should be closed and an alternative offered – especially if there is a school within a reasonable distance, along a fairly good road that has the capacity to take these pupils.

Councillor Morton says there is 'no appetite amongst councillors at the moment to close schools on islands where they are the only school.'

This means that islands such as Luing, Coll, Colonsay, Jura, Tiree and Iona primary schools will not appear on the new list of schools for consultation.

'Closing schools in town centres would generally be unacceptable as there is nowhere else for children to go if those schools were closed.'

She indicated there would not be as many schools on the list as last time when 26 were included – but that there would be somewhere in the region of the early teens that would be proposed for consultation.

'I will be taking a holistic approach to school closures, such as the number of children in the school, the condition of the buildings, the number of placing requests at a school and the quality of journey to another school.'

*"We need to ask ourselves if every school in Argyll is a centre for excellence in education."*

Councillor Ellen Morton, education spokesperson, Argyll and Bute

### A big conversation for town's future

THE BID4OBAN steering group is planning a series of meetings to ask people what should be done to improve the town.

Town centre manager Campbell Cameron has been visiting businesses within the town to gain support for a nationally recognised Business Improvement District Oban (BID4Oban).

The information Campbell collects will be used to create a business plan to improve the facilities of Oban's business district for locals and visitors.

BID4Oban chairman Graham MacQueen said: 'We intend hosting several meetings, beginning with a breakfast get together, to tell people about our progress so far and giving people

the opportunity to have their say. We are sending a newsletter to all businesses in Oban with an invitation to the launch breakfast and that will open the door for follow up conversations and a chance to contribute ideas.'

A delegation of BID4Oban members will attend the BIDS Scotland Academy on March 2 in Bathgate.

### Spring Weddings

For Beautiful Brides

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

### Wedding Feature on THURSDAY March 3rd

Don't miss this opportunity to advertise your business to our \*40,885 readers

Call Margaret on 01631 568000

\*JICREG DATA 01/04/2009 NEWSPAPER READERSHIP REPORT

## Atlantis Leisure left counting the cost after fraudsters hack into phone system

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Sierra Leone. We don't yet know the source of the calls; it could be Sierra Leone as well. 'I want businesses to be aware of this serious problem. It can happen without the victims being aware of it and, although this is an international crime, it can just as easily happen in a rural area as it can in the city.'

Atlantis Leisure was contacted by its telephone service provider in mid-February to be told of the huge increase in its phone bill and the large number of calls to the West African country.

'We acted quickly as soon as we found out about it,' said Neil. 'At first we tried blocking international calls but that didn't work, so we had to completely shut down all out-going calls. 'We then got help from someone locally who had experience of this kind of thing and were able to identify the problem, which proved to be a very technical one.'

**Shut down**  
The telephone system was shut down while engineers updated the system. Atlantis Leisure is now trying to recover the money lost to the scam but there is frustration it was allowed to happen and that two weeks had passed before the problem was identified. Neil said: 'We are a community charity and every pound is priceless, so we need to make sure we recover as much of the money as we can. 'There is frustration that it happened and there is frustration there is not an easy way to prevent it happening. 'However, we are confident we have a system in place that will ensure it doesn't happen again. We just have to try and stay ahead of the game.'

Phone scams are increasing around the world and it is estimated that the cost of mobile phone scams, in particular, are five times more costly than the PC and laptop equivalents.

Open Monday 28th February • Open Monday 28th February • Open Monday 28th February

We have a full range of domestic and commercial tools, equipment and machinery for hire. Our shop carries a wide range of garden implements and hardware for hire such as:

- Mowers, trimmers, high pruners, cultivators, rotavators & woodchippers.
- Excavators: 1.5 tonne - 14 ton tracked & wheeled
- Dumpers: 500kg - 8 ton tracked & wheeled.
- Rollers & compaction equipment
- Air compressors and hydraulic breakers.
- All types and sizes of trailers, scaffolding, access equipment
- Cherry pickers, water-pumps, generators, wallpaper strippers, carpet cleaners and much more

Oban Lochgilphead

01631 566 401 oban@westcoastplanthire.co.uk 01546 602 992 gilp@westcoastplanthire.co.uk

Old Crofters Yard Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HU Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8EU

www.westcoastplanthire.co.uk

### use green heat

Independent Renewable Heat Advice Service for the North of Scotland

EUROPE & SCOTLAND European Regional Development Fund Investing in your future

HIPP

www.usegreenheat.co.uk

0800 028 58 58

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

Deputy Editor Stuart Laundry slaundry@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor Stephen Norris snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Louise Lee lleeg@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Christine McCartney cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Edel Kenealy ekenealy@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 MacInnes fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Rhona McKillop advrsts@obantimes.co.uk

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

Advertising Sales Person Vanda MacDonald copy@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Margaret Freytag advrsts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Claire Firth cfirth@wyvmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person Kevin Summers ksommers@wyvmedia.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 302201

www.obantimes.co.uk

Barra flights saved amid island council cuts

BARRA'S vital air link with Benbecula has been saved in a bitter-sweet budget that cut £5.1million of public spending in the Western Isles.

He has now urged the MSP for the Western Isles, Alasdair Allan, to make the case to Holyrood to cover the £1million costs that the Comhairle will incur as a result of the Scottish Government's decision to keep four schools open.

Mr Campbell said that, with the council having to make savings of £24.5million over the coming four years, next year's budget could be just as challenging.

He said: 'Whilst the prospect of closing a similar budget gap next year is potentially daunting, I am confident that the budget I am recommending to you today will leave us as well placed as any council in Scotland to address it.'

Western Isles SNP MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'I am glad that the Comhairle have reconsidered their transport committee's initial position and have now decided to continue their valuable support for this lifeline air service.'

Iona moves into luxury tourism market

TOURISM on the Isle of Iona will be boosted this spring as new luxury accommodation opens its doors thanks to £400,000 of funding from Bank of Scotland.

Both properties were built and are owned and operated by Iona-based firm Gordon Grant Ltd.

The project was made possible with the support of the £400,000 funding package from Bank of Scotland.

Both are the first new major tourist accommodation to be built on Iona for 10 years.

The company was established in 1971 by Helen and Gordon Grant but is now operated and managed by their daughters Sheila, Catriona and Eilidh.

Sheila said: 'There has been a real lack of luxury accommodation for tourists to stay in on this island, with many people visiting for the day, but unable to find a place to stay during peak summer season.'

'The buildings that were previously on site had been used as a smaller self-catering block that weren't up to the standards that Iona now needs to attract people to choose to holiday here.'

'We have replaced them with high quality bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation with the most wonderful views over the Sound of Mull and with state of the art accommodation including a spa.'

Experienced operator Mike Cantlay, chairman of VisitScotland said: 'Tourism growth is critical to the future of Scotland and in the current climate it's important we all work together to attract even more visitors and ultimately bring more money to local economies.'

'It is encouraging to see this level of investment from Bank of Scotland and businesses getting the support they need to raise the quality of their product.'

Craig McNaughton West of Scotland Area Director for Bank of Scotland Commercial said: 'The quality of the accommodation and the company's experience in the hospitality sector meant that we were able to work with them to provide the necessary funding to enable the completion of this important project for Iona.'

'This funding package is one of the most interesting that Bank of Scotland has been involved with in the west coast given its unique location and the role this new venture will play in enhancing tourism on Iona.'



Loch Etive used to produce 1,000 tonnes of prime mussels for sale to the home and export market every year.

Loch Etive mussel farmers make last stand against invader

MUSSEL farmers on Loch Etive in Argyll are making their last stand against an invasive species that has decimated the population of the native stock.

More than 40,000 mussel ropes will be pulled from the loch by the end of August for up to two years in an attempt to eradicate Mytilus Trossulus, a thin-shelled low meat species that yields no market value.

Hybridised Since invading the waters of the loch in 2002, the invasive Trossulus has hybridised with the native and sellable Mytilus Edulis species and taken its place on the mussel ropes, meaning the loch's mussel output has been reduced to zero.

It's hoped that by effectively starting again the industry in Loch Etive will return to the days when it produced 1,000 tonnes of prime mussels for sale across the UK and abroad every year.



Left: Pupils at Eriskay Primary School.

government agency advisory boards and committees. He said: 'In 2002, we started noticing this different type of mussel on the ropes, thereafter things started getting worse and they're now hybridised with the Edulis. Production has since fallen to zero.'

'The plan is to take the ropes out and leave the loch fallow. 'The hope is that after a period we can put the ropes back in and start again.'

Trossulus shells are so weak that they cannot defend themselves against predators nor the rigours of open water currents, hence the cause for optimism. Mr Speirs said: 'Natural selection seems to take them out; but there's no guarantee that they won't come back because nobody knows where they came from.'

During the experiment, the waters will be monitored to look at the impact on the Trossulus. Should the move prove successful after one year, the ropes could be re-submerged early.

In the meantime, the ropes will be stored on land and allowed to dry, killing off the Trossulus. For Celtic Sea, that means using the area of ground traditionally used as a car park by fishermen as a store for the ropes.

That means the pier, known locally as Bonawe Pier, will be unavailable for use by fishermen or charter hires for the duration of the experiment, after which it will be returned for use as a car park. Various discussions with the local community council and interested parties will take place over the next few weeks and months to help those who will have to find other arrangements elsewhere meantime.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

DÀ MHILLEAN GU LETH GUN CHOSNADH mar-thà agus mìlean dhiubh sin nan oghanach a' sireadh an ciad chosnaidhean. Miltean de dh'obraichean a' dol à bith às na roinnean poblach.

Cosgaisean foghlaim ann an Oilthighen a' fas agus athbhorachd a' toiseachadh air buaidh mhòr a thoirt air cosgaisean làitheil. Sin far am bheil sinn agus gun na gearraidhean uile air fìù 's bualadh fhathast!

Thuir an Riaghaltas gum bheil bliadhnaichean doirbh gu bhith romhainn agus nach eil duine dol a sheachnadh buaidh nan caomhnaidhean agus ma tha na tha sinn a' faicinn mar-thà na eisimpleir, tha am pian gu bhith domhainn agus maireannach.

Bheil mi gur sàrachadh leis an aon duan seo? An e pìobaire-aon-phort a th' annam a' cur às mo chorp gun bgruid an aghaidh an Riaghaltais?

Tha mi fhìn den bheachd gum feum daoine bruidhinn a-mach às leth a' mhòr-shluagh feadh na dùthcha seo a tha a' fulang mar-thà agus a tha dol a dh'fhulang mòran nas miosa mu 'm bi seo seachad!

Gun teagamh, bha an Riaghaltas ceart suil às ur a thoirt air sochairean agus an ìre gum bheil cuid a' deanamh ana-caitheamh air an airgead sin.

Tha e gu tur ceart gum bithe a' lorg dhòighean air daoine a chur air ais a dh'obair agus deànaim cinnteach nach bi duine aig àm sam bith nas miosa d'èidh an aonachd seach an eisimeil shochairan.

Ach, agus 's e fìor ACH a th' ann, cha bu chòir grad-atharraichean a chur an gnìomh air na sochairean sin chun am bheil dearbhadh follaiseach ann air còthroman cosnaidh ùr a tha dol a leigeil nan daoine sin saor bho bhith an eisimeil taic airgid poblach.

Tha mòran theaghlacha air feadh na dùthcha seo nach fhaca tuarastal cosnaidh riaghailteach a' dol air a' sin aig nach eil aithne air smachd saoghal obrach.

Gu ìre, chan e an coire fhèin a th' ann idir ach ceannsalachd an t-saoghail eaconamach a th' air na tionnsgalan mòra a thaladh gu dùthchannan na h-àirde an ear far am bheil tuarastal bheaga a' gealltainn bhunnachdan mòra.

Mar a tha mi danann ag radh, cha tèid aig duine le sporan a' phailteis air tuigsinn a' bhuaidh a bheir an gearradh as lugha air teachd-a-steach nam feadhna a tha mar-thà ann bochdainn. Chan eil feòil ri a gearradh ma tha thu mar-thà air a' chnàimh!

WHILE most people will accept that the welfare system was in need of review, there must be a serious challenge to the implementation of all the planned changes at a time when unemployment is already at a 25-year high and there is no apparent strategy to create the new jobs on which most of this Government's policies depend.

Getting people to work makes sense but there has to be work available! I repeat my concern that wealthy people cannot easily appreciate the impact which the smallest cut will have on those already in poverty.

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

Gathering raises £1,275 for Colonsay company

ONE OF Colonsay's most famous sons, Hector MacFadyen, and his ceilidh band played at this year's Colonsay Gathering in Crianlarich.

The gathering, held on February 12 in the Crianlarich Hotel, was attended by 68 islanders and ex-pats, who enjoyed a delicious meal and a wonderful night's dancing.

Alastair Scouler said Grace, Dr Roddy MacLeod toasted the island and Mike McNicoll replied.

Angus McFadyen helped with the raffle, which generated a deal of excitement. Sponsors were as generous as always with prizes ranging from accommodation at The Colonsay, The Crianlarich Hotel and island Lodges, to several bottles of fine whisky and champagne from Dr. Roddy, Niall Brown, The Gun Club, Mike McNicoll and Seumas MacNeill.

These, in addition to many other magnificent prizes, had the company digging deep in their pockets and £365 was raised. In total the event raised £1,275

for the company which will be used to ensure the maintenance of current projects and to fund further future schemes.

Dancing Pedie and Jen MacNeill, along with Anna MacDonald and Niall Brown, added to the gaiety with various musical interludes and the dancing was reluctantly wrapped up at lam.

Those who had a distance to travel drifted off and many of those resident in the hotel headed for a comfy bed but there were still the stalwarts to be found carousing and enjoying the craic in the bar until after 4am.

Colonsay Development Company is most grateful for everyone's support - all of those who attended, particularly those who travelled great distances to be present, those who sent good wishes, the donors of the raffle prizes, Hector and his band, the individual entertainers and the hotel.

The development company hopes to repeat the event in 2013.

Islanders unhappy with sporadic bin collection

ISLANDERS on Lismore have rubbished their sporadic bin collection. In the past six months there have been five occasions when the fortnightly bin collection has not happened, meaning rubbish can be lying out for up to a month.

Toby Burnett, from Achnacross, said: 'We have a fortnightly collection, so if they miss a pick up you are looking at a month before it is collected.'

'We pay our council tax like everyone else and you wonder why. 'We have potholes all over the place, a lot of houses have private water and sewage systems and there are about eight streetlights on the island. The least we can expect is a bin collection.'

'Unfortunately there are no spare vehicles for the run on Lismore but the current lorry is being repaired.'

The council spokesman said it was looking to find better ways to keep people living on Lismore up to date.

International interest in rural health project

A PROJECT, which was born in the Highlands and Islands, has won a national award and attracted international interest.

The Remote Service Futures Project explored the most effective ways for communities in rural Scotland to get involved in planning their future health services.

The initiative between the Centre for Rural Health, part of the new University of the Highlands and Islands, and NHS Highland looked at the challenges of providing services in remote and rural areas - including staff recruitment and travelling times and costs for patients, families,

carers and health professionals. It involved community workshops, forums and roadshows in communities in Argyll, Wester Ross and Lochaber.

Now the completed two-year scheme has received one of two awards for the best Scottish partnership project in the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Scotland Awards, presented by Angela Constance, minister for skills and lifelong learning, at a ceremony in Dunblane.

It will now go into the UK-wide awards to be announced in London in October. The project has since attracted international interest.

Mull man ordered to complete 225 hours community service

A MULL council worker who fractured another man's jaw after assaulting him outside a public house in Oban has narrowly avoided a prison sentence because of his good work record.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton described his client as a quiet individual and a hard worker and explained the victim had thrown the first punch, which had not connected.

He added: 'He accepts the argument between the couple and the doormen had nothing to do with him and that he was unwise to get involved.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'I am not going to impose a custodial sentence because of your good work record and good history.'

Morrison was sentenced to 225 hours' community service.



Louise MacDonald with cousin Neil Munro prior to heading to Glasgow in a stretch Chrysler Limousine. 108louise1

## Louise enjoys 'best weekend ever' in Glasgow

'THE BEST weekend I've ever had' was how little Louise MacDonald described her trip to Glasgow, paid for through a fundraising drive by an Oban hairdressers.

The 12-year-old suffers from neurofibromatosis, a genetic condition that causes tumours to grow on nerve tissue throughout the body.

During recent chemotherapy

treatment, Louise lost 17lbs in just two weeks, prompting doctors to give her a break from the treatment and consider whether chemotherapy is the best solution.

### Moved

Staff at Rutherfords salon, where Louise got her hair cut, were moved by her story and, during Louise's six-week stay in hospital, set about organising a

fundraising day in the salon. The event made nearly £2,500.

Last weekend, a Chrysler Limousine took Louise and her mother Mariese to the Glynhill Hotel in Glasgow, where they stayed for two nights.

The pair also went ice-skating and shopping during the weekend.

'It was magic,' said Louise. 'The ice-skating was amazing.

I fell a couple of times but I just got back up. Then we went shopping and I got a pair of Ugg boots, perfume and clothes.

### Best

'It was the best weekend I have ever had and I would like to thank everyone for everything, especially everyone at Rutherfords.'

When asked what her favourite part of the weekend was, the

charismatic youngster replied: 'Everything.'

Mariese said: 'Louise had a great time. She went swimming in the hotel twice and on Saturday we met up with friends she made while she was in hospital.'

'We stayed in a lovely hotel and the staff there were great. Louise got to know them all; she's not shy and tends to make an impression on people.'

# Clean bill of health for Oban hospital

## Standards are among the best in Scotland, say inspectors

AN UNANNOUNCED inspection at Lorn and the Isles Hospital found exceptional standards of cleanliness.

Inspectors from the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI), reputed to be the harshest critics of the standards in hospitals, were impressed with the environment in Oban.

The visit, which took place on January 13, showed the hospital to be one of the cleanest in Scotland, with infection rates at the hospital among the lowest in the country.

In a feedback session with inspectors, senior staff were told the hospital was 'amongst the best in Scotland' operating at the highest standard.

A NHS Highland spokesman said: 'This report is a real tribute to the hard work and commitment of the staff in Lorn and Isles Hospital.'

'They reported that the standard of cleanliness within the hospital is good and fully compliant with the national requirements.'

'They noted that written cleaning schedules are in place for all equipment and environmental cleaning.'

'They also noted that patients with known infections are cared for appropriately within the hospital and that advice for staff is readily available from Infection Control nurses and doctors.'

### REPORT

by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

arrived at the hospital at 8.30am and spent the day examining the standards of the hospital and ward environments and the practice of staff within the hospital.

'It is complete credit to all of the staff working at Lorn and Isles Hospital that the infection rates within this hospital are so low and that we have received such a positive account from the national inspection team.'

'From hospital managers to healthcare, domestic, estates, catering, portering and administrative staff the dedication, team work and pride in their hospital has been tremendous.'

NHS Highland also accepts the requirements and recommendations contained within the report and work has begun already on the areas where improvement is required.

An action plan has been developed which will be monitored through the Argyll and Bute Infection Control Group and is also available on the HEI website.

Derek Leslie, general manager of Argyll and Bute CHP added: 'People right across Argyll and Bute can be assured that Lorn and Isles Hospital in Oban is one to be proud of, where the risks of infection are continually being minimised through the hard work and dedication of all staff throughout the hospital.'

*"An unannounced inspection is a true test of the standards of infection control. It is credit to all staff that rates are so low."*

Pat Tyrrell, CHP

## Hundreds lose power after tree falls on cable

MORE than 300 properties in and around Oban lost power on Saturday morning after a tree fell on an overhead cable.

Power was lost just before 7am but engineers had restored power to the majority of properties by 8.15am.

The engineers restored the 38 properties directly fed by the affected section of the network by 9.50am, once the tree was removed from the overhead network.

A spokeswoman for Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution said: 'We would like to apologise to all of those affected by the interruption to the supplies.'

## Scottish secretary visits troubled Skykon factory

SECRETARY of State for Scotland Michael Moore MP visited troubled wind turbine tower manufacturer Skykon this week to be briefed on the firm's troubles.

Skykon was placed into administration after its Danish parent company filed for bankruptcy. Mr Moore, and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, met in private with Andrew Davidson of Ernst and Young, administrators, and David Steele, factory manager.

'I hope the administrators and the management team will be able to work their way through it and Alan Reid will be taking away a number of points to discuss with the Scottish Government and others,' he said.

Mr Reid added: 'With a modern factory, a skilled, committed workforce and the demand for wind energy it must be possible to find a company willing to take over the site.'

On Friday, Andrew Davison and fellow administrator Colin Dempster confirmed further funding. Siemens, which had advanced funding for the completion of an outstanding order of 30 wind turbine towers in January, has extended its support, ensuring all staff will remain employed for a further two weeks.

## Man arrested and reported to fiscal

A MAN has been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal charged with an alleged assault and theft in Oban's Station Square.

The man is accused of assaulting another man last Friday night before stealing his wallet.

## Band blazes a trail to aid mountain rescue team



Trail West donned mountaineering gear at the fundraising ceilidh for Oban Mountain Rescue Team. 15\_108trail02

THREE ceilidh band Trail West came to the aid of Oban Mountain Rescue Team at the weekend to help them raise funds for the volunteer group.

The band played to a busy Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Friday night after Oban High School Pipe Band had warmed up the crowd with a selection of tunes.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team deputy leader Ian Campbell arranged the event with the band's drummer, Andrew Findlater, at the Three Music Festival last year.

Ian said: 'It was a great event and we plan to do it again, hopefully with Trail West.'

'You can tell they are a good band by the number of people that were up on the dancefloor.'

Ian thanked Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish Ceilidh House for the use of the venue, those who donated raffle prizes and everyone who supported the event, which raised more than £700.

The mountain rescue team is currently on a fundraising drive to buy a new Land Rover.

## Visitor claims to have seen 'leopard-like' black cat between Oban and Lochgilphead

A BIG 'leopard-like' black cat was spotted by tourists on the A816 between Oban and Lochgilphead on Saturday evening.

The 'beast' measuring 'at least five foot in length' was seen crossing the road near to Knipoach around 4pm. Visitor

to the area Charlie Nelson, from Stirling, said: 'It was a powerful looking beast - pure black with a big long tail.'

'It can only be described as leopard like. We stopped the car to try and get a photo but it was gone in a flash.'

# Council to probe Bridge of Orchy water supply

BRIDGE of Orchy village has been plunged into the dark ages because of confusion over its water supply.

Villagers claim the water filtration system that serves the community has been damaged by the harsh winter weather and water has been fed into homes directly from a burn since the last week of November.

However, contrary to community belief, Argyll and Bute Council stated it was not aware of the problem.

Although the council took over responsibility of the water supply from Network Rail about 10 years ago, the closure of the village's

primary school and the sale of any council-owned home since then negates any duty by the council to provide water.

Steven McColl, who owns a 15-bed bunkhouse in Bridge of Orchy, said: 'We are fast approaching the tourist season and we have no running water.'

'I estimate we have turned away £10,000 of business in three months because you can't let people stay here when there is not running water.'

'The hotel has spent a fortune on bottled water. I lived in Peru for two years and

had clean running water. Why can't we have that in Bridge of Orchy - it just seems nonsense to me.'

### Private supply

Mr McColl said although villagers were all on a private water supply, they would be happy to pay for the water filtration to be fixed.

'It just seems like no-one is doing anything about it and the council doesn't want to know,' he added.

'We just want to know who is responsible for providing a water supply.'

The council has denied a claim by Mr McColl that it promised to update residents via letter, but

following the enquiry from *The Oban Times* has pledged to send an environmental health officer to investigate the problem.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'As the council are not a statutory water provider we do not have the same duties as water companies etc; and residents of Bridge of Orchy were informed about this when the school was closed. There are grants available to improve water supplies, and ensure their treatment etc. These can be applied for by the residents, and applications would go to the environmental health team.'

## Appeal for witnesses after alleged assault

POLICE in Oban are appealing for witnesses to an alleged assault outside The Woodside Hotel in Tweeddale Street, Oban.

A 24-year-old man reported an incident, which happened just after midnight on Sunday. An Oban police spokesman said the man did not sustain any serious injuries.

**SWEENEY Kincaid**  
Industrial Auctioneering

By order of the Directors of Mclain Ltd

**Online Auction - Bid Now Live!**

Auction Closes: **Friday 11th March 11am\***

**Important Online Auction of Quarry Plant & Equipment**

To Include: Mobile Crushing Plants, Bitumen and Concrete Batching Plant, 2007 JCB Tracked Excavator, 2x Terex Dump Trucks, CAT D5D Dozer, Paver, Large Qty of Small Tools Etc

Located At: North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Viewing Strictly By Appointment

Please Note: Premium Offers May Be Considered At Any Time

Full Photo Catalogue Now Online

All Enquiries (0) 141 570 4000 [sweeney-kincaid.com](http://sweeney-kincaid.com)

**SPOTLIGHT** Musical Theatre Group

**GUYS AND DOLLS**

Reserved Seating  
BOOK NOW to avoid disappointment

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

**CORRAN HALLS**  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March

Curtain up 7.30pm  
(Matinee @ 2.00pm on 5<sup>th</sup>)

Ticket Prices: Adult - £9.50  
Concession - £7.50, Family - £28.00

Visit us at [www.spotlightmtg.co.uk](http://www.spotlightmtg.co.uk) or find us on Facebook & Twitter

**CORRAN HALLS BOX OFFICE: 01631 567333 BOOK NOW!**

**YAMAHA**

**Clavinova**

Visit us today and view our range

**Oban Music**

20 Argyll Square, Oban tel: 01631 566304  
Email: [jean@obanmusic.com](mailto:jean@obanmusic.com) [www.obanmusic.com](http://www.obanmusic.com)

**Lorn Lines**

THE Oban Concern for Palestine Group has been planning its activities for 2011.

The group was established more than two years ago when a number of local people got together because of their concerns about the situation in Israel and Palestine.

Its main purpose is to discuss, highlight and act on the harassment, humiliation and injustices being inflicted on people there every day. The Oban group now has more than 40 members.

One of its members, David Mitchell, recently returned to Oban after serving for three months as a peace observer in Palestine and Israel under the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme (EAPPI).

He will be talking about his experiences at a public meeting in Glenrui Church Hall, Oban, on Sunday March 13 at 7.30pm.

The group's co-convenor, Graeme Pagan, from Oban, said: 'It is hard to dispute what David witnessed when he was out there.

'Because of the historical part that Britain played in creating the mess which is now being experienced there we have a humanitarian duty to take action. Peace with justice must be secured.'

On Saturday March 19, there is a Scottish conference about the suggested boycott, which some members of the group expect to attend. It is in the Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow, G2 4JP, starting at 10am and finishing late afternoon.

The next meeting of the Oban group is at Neaveaton, Oban, on Friday March 25 at 7.30pm.

Later on in the year, the group intends to have a stall for the sale of Palestinian goods at Oban's Charities Day Street Fair and Carnival being organised again by Oban and Lorn Lions Club. The event takes place on Saturday June 11.

Anyone wanting to join the Oban Concern for Palestine Group is asked to contact Graeme Pagan at Neaveaton, Rowan Road, Oban, 01631 563737, or email neaveaton@tiscali.co.uk.

VALENTINE'S evening saw the judging, by members of Oban Photographic Club, of their entries for the Argyll Trophy competition.

The subject this year, chosen by the trophy donor, Katy Weir, was 'Argyll Castles'. As can be imagined, Kilehurn, Castle Stalker, Dunollie and Dunstaffnage all featured heavily among the 50 images.

The images were of excellent quality and it was an exceedingly hard task to pick the best.

Stephen Lawson and Tim Haynes were awarded joint first prize. The next meeting of the club is on February 28 when George Neilson, from Edinburgh Photographic Society, will talk on sports photography.

THE MS Society Scotland is urgently looking for volunteers in Oban or surrounding areas who have a long-term health condition to train as course leaders for its six-week self-management courses.

Full training will be given at a residential training course in Glasgow in April.

Regional programme co-ordinator, Valerie Johnston, said: 'The self-management course builds confidence and helps people to cope with the problems that living with a chronic condition brings.'

For further information on becoming a course leader, telephone Valerie on 07912 842161.

CHOREOGRAPHER to the stars Tim Noble will bring his dance workshop to Oban for a second consecutive year.

Tim, who has devised routines for the likes of Kylie Minogue and Pharell Williams, will lead the workshop Dance Like The Stars at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on March 13.

Described as an energetic and fun-packed class, the workshop is for anyone over the age of seven.

Contact Atlantis Leisure for more information.

**Matthew's on a mission to help Oban fishermen**



Man on a mission: Matthew Ramsay is the new Fishermen's Mission officer covering Oban. 15\_108ramsay1

THE FISHERMAN'S Mission base in Oban may be a distant memory, but the organisation has appointed a new official to ensure its services are available in the town.

Auxiliary Superintendent Matthew Ramsay now includes Oban and Mull in his area of responsibility.

Based in Carradale, Matthew's patch also includes the whole of Kintyre andIslay.

'The Fishermen's Mission exists to offer support to fishermen and for them it is good to know there is somebody who cares for them,' he explained.

Most recently, Matthew has been offering support to Tarbert fisherman Sean Taylor and his family.

Sean ended up in hospital after being dragged overboard to a depth of 50 metres. It was only the quick thinking of the skipper and crew on board which saved his life.

Sean is now back at home

— and his partner, Natasha MacNaughton, gave birth to a baby girl soon after he was discharged.

Matthew was on hand offering support to both Sean's family and a heavily pregnant Natasha while he was in hospital recovering from his ordeal.

Visiting Oban last week, Matthew said people continued to be very supportive of the mission's work, even though offices were being closed. 'Missions are closing everywhere. Being a charity, everyone is fighting for the same pound. Missions were being used more by tourists than they were by fishermen and there are just not the resources to keep them going to cater only for visitors,' added Matthew, who has previously worked as a fisherman and for the fisheries protection service.

Anyone wishing to contact Matthew can do so by emailing Kintyre@rnmids.org.uk or by calling 07788 674376.

**HIAL reports 10 per cent jump in passenger numbers**

THE NEW year has brought new passengers to Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), which announced a near ten per cent leap in its passenger numbers.

Total passenger figures for January 2011, compared to January 2010, were 9.7 per cent up, a partial rebound from disappointing figures for December.

While year to date figures remain 6.1 per cent down compared to the same period last year, much of that can be attributed to poor weather at the tail end of last year and volcanic ash flight disruption in April 2010.

Inglis Lyon, managing director for HIAL, said: 'The winter in January 2010 was particularly extreme weather wise. This meant that there were a number of unavoidable flight cancellations across the group.

'Luckily, we have had a better January this year which has meant our group passenger figures have improved.'

**Treatment plant goes live - at last**

BONAWE is now benefiting from its 'new' £1.5million sewage treatment plant after Scottish Water finally got it working nearly a year late.

Village residents were concerned that the plant was becoming a white elephant, with the site looking more like a work in progress for months on end.

There were also security fears, with none of the gates padlocked and many of the tanks lying open as the plant continued to malfunction.

Worst of all, from nearby parents' point of view, was a rusty reinforcing rod that was shoved into the ground at a 45 degree angle to 'secure' a collapsed plastic fence, presenting a clear impaling risk.

Finally, it was understood that nearby building plots could not be developed until the plant was finished, something Scottish Water disputed.

Now though, with the facility working, it seems like all those problems are long gone and the site is now fully secured.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said:

'I can confirm that the Bonawe treatment works is, in effect, completed.

'I'm aware of the earlier concern about safety and we looked at that. We also explained there is no issue in relation to housing developments.

'As for the reason for the delay, the treatment works comprises a highly technical process which was designed to provide a very high standard of treatment given the sensitive nature of Loch Etive and its shellfish waters.

'Our project team have worked hard to commission the works and operate it to its full extent but this has proved difficult.'

The spokesperson said that the work wasn't quite finished yet though, with the water services operator looking at other ways to improve the plant.

He said: 'The facility has made a huge difference to the local environment but we believe it could be improved further.

'We are looking at what work could be done and will keep people informed.'

**Time is right for clock repairs**



Time flies on Oban's North Pier — at least it did last Thursday as the clock that perches on the town's iconic red roof was removed for repair. A crane from MacLachlans and electricians from Oban Electrical Services removed the clock, which sits above above Ee-Usk and Piazza restaurants. The clock last ticked about 10 years ago and is now off for a long overdue repair. It is being taken to a clock specialist, James Ritchie and Son Clockmakers, in Edinburgh, and will return refurbished in a month with the original 1927 clock face still intact. 15\_108clock01

**Volunteer work order for vandal**

A SCHOOL pupil who caused £700 of damage to a community-run polytunnel has been told to repay the community through volunteer work.

Stephanie Waiton, aged 17, of 6 Kenmore Cottages, Bonawe, admitted using a metal pole to stab holes in the structure at Ardchattan Primary School on July 15 last year.

Defence agent Laura Russell said her client had committed the offence through boredom but hadn't realised the damage she was doing and deeply regretted her actions.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence on Waiton for one year for her to be of good behaviour, adding: 'You have to make a contribution to the community to make up for the damage and distress you caused.'

**Scheme hopes to grab volunteers**

A RECYCLING and reuse initiative which works across Argyll and Bute to help encourage residents to reduce waste and save money is looking for new volunteers.

The Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust raises awareness of the impact of organic waste going to landfill and helps people reduce what they throw away.

Volunteers are sought to provide support to communities and promote zero waste campaigns by attending events, running workshops, giving talks or chatting to people on a one to one basis.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Kate Glasgow at the Oban office on 01631 569174, in Lochgilphead at 01546 600165 or by emailing kate.glasgow@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

**Fisherman caught with cannabis**

A FISHERMAN who was caught in possession of cannabis resin struggled with police officers who were trying to search him.

Daniel Guy, aged 36, of 2 Gilmour Buildings, John Street, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to causing a breach of the peace and obstructing the police officers in George Street and to possessing the class B drug on December 18 last year.

Prosecutor Fiscal David Glancy said the police officers had approached Guy, who seemed agitated after being refused entry into a licensed premises.

Guy was fined a total of £300.

**'Tensions' led to assault on partner**

A MAN assaulted his partner after a day of 'simmering tensions', Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Robert Graham, aged 25, whose address was given as c/o 64 Ralston, Campbelltown, admitted seizing the woman by her shoulders and restraining her on the ground at a house in Tobermory, Isle of Mull, on November 11.

Sentence was deferred on Graham until August 23 for him to be of good behaviour.

**Annual refit for Jura ferry**

THE JURA car ferry, the Eilean Dhiura, has gone for its annual refit.

The ferry departed Port Askaig last Thursday and was expected to be back in two weeks.

The relief vessel, the Margaret Sinclair, has been on station and will conduct all scheduled runs as normal.

**Retailers must register to sell tobacco products**

TOBACCO retailers have less than a month to prepare for new rules designed to make cigarettes less available for under 18s.

Approximately 700 retailers in Argyll and Bute will be required to sign up to the register, which opens on April 1, with retailers given until October 1 to register.

While the government says registration will be simple and free, anyone who fails to register could face criminal prosecution, a fine of up to £20,000 and sent to prison for six months.

Public health minister Shona Robison said: 'Too many people have died, or watched loved ones suffer, as a result of tobacco-related illnesses.

**Restrictions**

'There is no doubt that cigarettes cause harm and that's why I believe it's right that those who sell cigarettes should be registered, allowing trading standards officers to better enforce age restrictions and helping to crackdown on illicit sales.

'But we were also conscious of the need not to burden responsible retailers with needless bureaucracy.

'That's why the registration process is simple to complete online and will be free of charge. I'd urge retailers now to make a date in their diary and ensure that they join the register from April 1 onwards.'

All retailers will be posted registration packs from next week, which include instructions on how to register.

The pack will include a selection of signs for staff and customers that they can display within their stores.

To register, log on to www.tobaccoregisterscotland.org or request a form from your council's Trading Standards department.

**Offence**

The new legislation is part of a raft of measures being introduced on April 1 to crack down on underage tobacco sales and underage smoking.

From this date, it will also be an offence for anyone under 18 to buy or attempt to buy tobacco products or cigarette papers or who is in possession of tobacco products or cigarette papers in a public place and fail to hand them to police officers, or provide a name and address, when requested.

It will also be illegal for anyone aged 18 or over to buy tobacco products on behalf of anyone under 18.

**Speakers tackle range of topics**

AT THEIR meeting on February 17, members of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed three main speeches on very different subjects.

Alec Clark talked on 'The Stone of Destiny', Jim Fraser talked on 'The Red Squirrel' and Tom Clegg enthused about his former home 'The Isle of Bute'.

They and their immediate critics, Donald MacAskill, Eamonn Arthur and Cameron Fletcher, were introduced by the first half chairman Guido Facenda.

The topics session, which covered subjects from 'Seals' to 'The Common Good Fund' with a visit to 'Soap Operas' on the way, was controlled by Bill Leech.

His speakers were Eamonn Arthur, Donald MacAskill, Iain Fullarton, Roy Wood, Willie Melville and Cameron Fletcher.

Timekeeper for the evening was Frank Walton and an amusing but constructive general evaluation was given by John Maclean.

The next meeting will be held in the Regent Hotel on March 3 at 8pm.

**Quiz raises £410 for pipe band**

THE MASONIC Lodge in Oban was packed to the rafters last Friday at a quiz night held by Oban Pipe Band.

The evening was part of the band's ongoing fundraising and £410 was collected for band funds.

Pipe Major Euan Dewar thanked everyone who came along and supported the event, in particular Tony Cave, who very kindly acted as quizmaster. He also offered sincere thanks to the social committee of Oban Commercial Lodge 180 who provided the premises and gave everyone a very warm welcome.

Euan added: 'This turned out to be an excellent social evening with a large number of teams from different organisations within the community.'

**Motorists fall foul of spot checks at Lochearnhead**

THREE motorists were ordered to stop driving their car and one fixed penalty was issued during recent police vehicle checks near Lochearnhead.

The joint initiative by Central Scotland Police and the VOSA vehicle inspectorate also saw eight vehicle defect rectifications ordered and a number of other motorists warned about defects. Thirty motorists were stopped during the operation.

**SLEEP IS THE NEW ALL ROUND MIRACLE CURE**

It will make you happier, healthier and more intelligent. It could even add years to your life and will definitely ensure you look at your sparkling best.

What's more, this miracle cure-all costs no more than the price of a daily pro-biotic yoghurt and is readily available on the High Street!

It is of course a great night's sleep: completely free if you can handle sleeping on the floor. Or just a few pence a night to enjoy it in the luxury of a comfortable and supportive bed.

'Sleep really is the answer to feeling and looking your best,' says Jessica Alexander of The Sleep Council which will be highlighting the importance of a good bed to a good night's sleep throughout March, National Bed Month. 'People go to huge amounts of time and expense to eat well and exercise regularly but without a good night's sleep all that effort will be in vain.'

According to latest research, a comfortable uninterrupted seven or eight hours sleep each night can relieve stress, slow down the ageing process, boost your mood, your physical and mental performance and cure a wide range of aches and pains.

What's more, says Jessica, there's very little effort involved. 'A good night's sleep is enormously beneficial and unlike a programme of healthy eating or regular exercise, the results can be enjoyed immediately.'

And one of the essential keys to unlocking a good night's sleep is without doubt a comfortable bed, he says. 'Sleep is so vitally important to good health that it's a mystery to me that more emphasis is not placed on the health benefits of a good bed for sleep.'

'Good sleep should be seen as a vital part of a healthy lifestyle like exercise and diet and just as you would invest in the right gear to exercise and buying healthy food so you should invest in purchasing a comfortable bed.'

**Amazing range of beds & mattresses available from stock. We have a store full of them!**

**SILENTNIGHT DEAUVILLE FREE DRAWERS + KINGSIZE FOR THE PRICE OF A DOUBLE ONLY £619**

**Beds, Frames, Mattresses, Pillows, Duvets and much much more**

**MATHESONS Furnishings**

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 565195

**Blindcraft makes all the difference**

**20% Off Kensington Mattresses and Divans**

**Highland BlindCraft Beds**  
They work like a dream

**Telephone 01463 233662**  
OPEN Mon - Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm  
Charity no: SC030764

**www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk**  
38/39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness

# Trade show among Scotland's biggest

## 100 exhibitors squeeze into Corran Halls

NEARLY 100 exhibitors squeezed into Oban's Corran Halls to help make this year's Forteith Foodservice's West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow the biggest yet.

Since starting out in the Park Hotel, Oban, 32 years ago the tradeshow has grown into one of Scotland's largest food and drink shows.

Forteith Foodservice senior partner, John Forteith, said: 'We couldn't get any more trade stands into the Corran Halls; every space was taken up.'

'There were more than 400 visiting businesses represented, which amounted to nearly 1,000

**REPORT**  
by EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

people coming from as far away as Callander and Carlisle and most of the Scottish islands.

'This year we had more local food and drink producers and many of them were new companies.'

Despite a record number of orders being placed at the show, John said there was nervousness among many of those at the tradeshow about spending in the current economic climate.

However, accommodation providers in attendance pointed

to a high number of bookings for April in Argyll and Lochaber.

Delighted by the success of the event, John added: 'We start mar-

keting for this event 14 months in advance, building to a crescendo in the final two weeks; there is a big effort put into this.'

The tradeshow also hands out awards to the most successful exhibitors: Best presented stand went to Rannoch Smokehouses, most enthusiastic exhibitor was Archie MacMillan of The Old Smokehouse, Campbeltown, and Glasgow's Subzi Spice won the prize for most orders placed.

The tradeshow was highly commended at the recent Scottish Wholesale Achievers Awards, where Forteith Foodservice was named Best Foodservice Wholesaler-Delivered.

**"We couldn't get anymore trade stands into the halls. Every space was taken."**

**John Forteith, Forteith Foodservice**



Ron Gillies and Linzey Cairns of Cairn O Mhor Fruit Wines had plenty of interested customers to their stall at last week's show. 15\_108fort14



Flo Macaskill of the newly formed Argyll Free Range Eggs, trading as Balvicar Farms. 15\_108fort17



Mhairi Robertson of Rannoch Smokery with some of their unique products. 15\_108fort12



Soave's Ice-cream, served in Forteith's very own Oban Ice-cream tubs. 15\_108fort03



McPhee and Partners welcome Rosanne Ogden to their staff next month, but she was on hand at Forteith Foodservice's West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow 2011 to say hello and administer their prize draw for a bottle of bubbly. 15\_108fort04



Duncan Grout and Gaynor Anglesea of Oban accountancy, RA Clement Associates, hosted a prize draw, with a hamper and a bottle of malt whisky up for grabs. 15\_108fort09

### Islanders' sadness at death of popular pub landlady

ISLANDERS on Seil heard of the loss of a very popular landlady and resident this week.

Miranda Brunner, a member of the Cadzow family, of the Tigh an Truigh pub, died peacefully on Monday morning.

Known for her good local knowledge and interest in people and the places they came from she will be missed by family and friends.

Her funeral service is due to be held tomorrow (Friday) at noon at Kibrandon Parish Church on the island.

### Heather hopes to cook up some cash for cinema appeal

MOST people would like to be able to cook like celebrity chef Jamie Oliver – and now cinema lovers can indulge their passion while giving to a good cause.

Jamie at Home, the latest initiative by the enterprising chef, will see Appin's Heather Allen show off Jamie's cooking and products in a bid to raise cash for Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Heather said: 'I am not a natural saleswoman so this product must be good because it almost sells itself. All Jamie's products are fair trade, organic and hand made and it is not too expensive with products starting from £3.'

'Twenty per cent of all the profits at the evening will go to the cinema. Anyone who wishes to have a catalogue beforehand can pick one up from The Oban Times office and as long as orders are placed before the event it will be added to the total.'

For more details contact Heather on 01631 730627 or heatherjamieathome@gmail.com.

Doors open at Cuan Mor, George Street on Sunday, March 13, from noon.

□ A FABULOUS Jolomo painting was outshone by the selling skills of the auctioneer at a fundraiser for Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Steering group member Mikey McManus took to the selling of goods as Ginger Rogers took to dancing. His skill, and the fabulous donations from many businesses in town on offer, saw the group take in £3,000 in one afternoon.

Campbell Cameron, town centre manager and steering group vice chairman said: 'It was a fabulous event and all thanks go to the many volunteers and buyers who came along to make the day work.'

For more information about the group visit www.obanphoenix-cinema.com

## Drivers in the dark as fault affects A83 traffic camera

MOTORISTS are becoming frustrated that an online traffic camera on a trunk road between Argyll and Glasgow, which is supposed to alert drivers to weather hazards, has not been working.

The Live-Eye-View camera on the exposed and isolated A83 and Be Thankful on the A83 has not been working for some time, as the wind generator that powers it needs to be replaced.

It is one of a number of cameras run by Transport Scotland, which can usually be viewed on the Traffic Scotland website, although some cameras in the more remote parts of the country are unavailable to view.

Motorist Robert Wakeham, from Castleton, near Lochgilphead, says the cameras need to be working at this time of year.

'It's not ideal, having paid for these cameras through our taxes, to have them break down just when we need them.'

'We have just been through one of the worst winters for years and for much of it this camera was not working.'

'The Rest and Be Thankful is crucial to so many travellers from Argyll.'

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said: 'Occasionally Live-Eye-View cameras are unavailable due to technical reasons and there are mechanisms in

place to alert the Traffic Scotland Operator to these faults which are then passed onto our maintenance contractors.

'We are aware of the problem with the camera at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful and our telecommunications service provider is working to repair this as soon as possible.'

'In the meantime, drivers can still visit the Traffic Scotland website to get real time journey planning updates.'

She added that engineers were making arrangements to replace the wind generator at the Rest and Be Thankful and to install solar panels at the first available safe opportunity.

## Taynuilt whist drive raises a tasty £142

A WHIST drive in Taynuilt has raised £142 for the Dalmally charity Mary's Meals.

Leslie Servant was the card

master at last Friday's event where members of the community and visitors from Connel attended.

The next Taynuilt whist drive will be on March 25, proceeds will be collected for the North Lorn Guides' senior section.



Reserved Forces soldiers, from left: Mark Charlwood, Declan Taylor, Lachie McDowall, Jim Easton and Robert Semple. 15\_108army01

## Afghan vet aids recruitment drive

A SOLDIER who has just returned from training the Afghan National Guard was in Oban at the weekend to help a recruitment drive by the reserved forces (territorial army).

Sergeant Major Jim Easton from the 5 Scots Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' reserved forces spent six months in Afghanistan.

He joined Muileachs Private Declan Taylor, from Craignure, and Colour Sergeant Lachie McDowall, Aros; Sergeant Robert Semple, Glenbarr; and Lance Corporal Mark Charlwood from Campbeltown in Oban's Station Square on Saturday.

Sergeant Major Easton, from Balloch, said his time in Afghanistan

was an experience he thoroughly enjoyed, until it came to a premature end when he had to return for a gall bladder operation.

The soldiers also took the opportunity to promote the territorial army's Summer Challenge, where 17 to 43 year olds can be paid £1,200 to take part in summer training.

## Library plans 'Love Reading' fundraiser

OBAN High School library is holding a 'Love Reading' fundraising event in Oban Rugby Club on Saturday, February 26.

'This is going to be a fantastic evening's entertainment,' said school librarian, Lynsay Black.

As part of the school library's

ongoing development the money raised will go towards improving the book stock in ways that will encourage young pupils to increase their enjoyment of reading.

The talented Taynuilt Swing Band will be playing and there will also be a DJ pumping out the latest dance

hits, as well as an exciting raffle with great prizes and the highly competitive and addictive game of literature bingo.

Tickets are £5 and all proceeds will be spent on books. Tickets are available from the school office today (Thursday) and Friday.

# Progress being made with Oban celebrations

COMMUNITY councillors and elected members rolled up their sleeves and this week got on with the job of organising the bicentenary celebrations for Oban.

Concerns were recently voiced by members of the Oban and Lorn area committee that the group may not have progressed the project as far as would have been expected.

But at a meeting of the event's organising committee in the Corran Halls on Monday, community councillors said plans for the event were well underway with a 10-day-long series of events planned.

Plans to apply for funding had been made with £20,000 worth of cash needed to run the event.

Opening the meeting, community councillor Kenny MacIntyre insisted progress had been made. The function of the group was

*10-day series of events will create party atmosphere in the town for residents and visitors.*

visit in the offing and the tall ships due to call, organisations such as Caledonian MacBrayne and the Northern Lighthouse Board had agreed to take part in organising aspects of the 200-year celebrations.

The programme of events planned so far are a launch for the 10-day programme at the beginning of May, an exhibition in the Caledonian MacBrayne terminal during the summer months and a historic theme to the town's charities day.

On the day when the Royal visitor arrives there will be a Bicentennial Parade from Station Square to the Corran Halls with a re-dedication of the town.

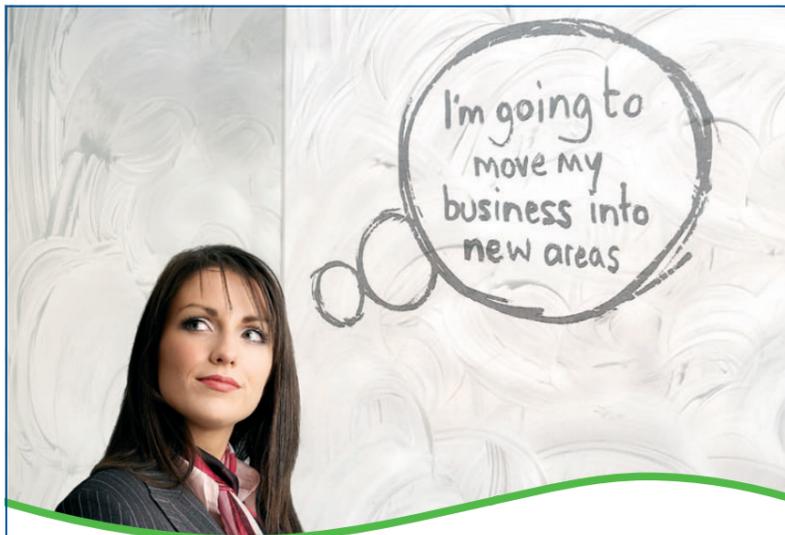
At this ceremony the Freedom of Oban will be bestowed on a number of cultural ambassadors who have made an outstanding commitment to the town through-

out the world. During the week there will be the Rally of Argyll, a historical drama, an Oban War and Peace Exhibition, a Gala Concert in the Corran Halls with special musical guests, an Oban High School reunion, a Family Fun Day an Inter denominational Service and a world record Strip the Willow attempt in George Street.

A further meeting for the group was planned to complete the ideas for celebrating the anniversary in the town and it was decided to concentrate efforts on making it a real party atmosphere for people coming to the town.

A number of sports challenges between locals and visitors will also be organised.

Anyone wishing to help with the celebrations should contact Kenny MacIntyre on kenmac5@hotmail.co.uk.



Thinking of developing your business? Think Business Gateway

If your existing business has growth ambitions then talk to Business Gateway. Our experienced advisers can help you develop your growth plans and signpost relevant sources of funding, all in total confidence.

Are you eligible for a growth grant of up to £3,000?

If your business is already trading over the VAT threshold, or you can demonstrate turnover will reach the VAT threshold within 12 months and have plans to increase turnover significantly you could be eligible for Argyll and Bute Council's Competitive Business Growth grant.

If you are a new business planning to trade over the VAT threshold within your first 18 months and you have plans to increase turnover significantly, you may also be eligible. To find out more contact Business Gateway on 01546 605459 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

0845 609 6611  
[www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)  
or visit your local office



Business Gateway services are delivered by Local Authorities, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Government, with the support of associated partner organisations. Maximum call charge from BT landline is 3p per minute. Call costs from other networks may vary. Text costs vary depending on your mobile operator.

Find us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**ISLAY**

THREE days of top traditional music and dance tuition have been provided this week for local children aged between eight and 18 years, with tutors Simon Moran, fiddle; Nigel Morris, chanter/piping; Fraser Shaw, whistles; Clare Jordan, clarsach; Paula Davidson, dance; and Iseabail Mactaggart, Gaelic singing.

New at Féis Òigridh this year has been Féis Bheag, sessions for children from pre-school age to under eight years old, held last Friday. An outstanding musical evening was offered at the tutors' ceilidh held last Thursday in ICCI and the grand finale of this year's Féis Òigridh was a students' ceilidh where the children presented all their newly-learned traditional music at ICCI.



ISLAY'S Lagavulin-based boatbuilder Stormcats is to launch a new catamaran. The vessel will be a single engine craft, powered by the new 2011 model Yamaha 225HP engine. The boat can be fitted with a hydrofoil system which will reduce fuel consumption by 30 to 40 per cent and increase speed by 20 per cent. Sea trials began in early February and it is expected the new boat will be available in early summer.



THE DOCHAS Carers Centre of Lochgilphead is establishing a carer's service on Islay with the help of three local volunteers. The first drop-in session will be held on Wednesday March 23 in the Columba Centre, Gaelic College, Bowmore, between 11am and 3pm. Information about the new service, lunch and 'pamper' sessions will be available for carers. Go along and meet other carers.

**STAFFIN**

STAFFIN residents are being invited to view and comment on a Highland Council proposal to make Staffin Primary School a Gaelic medium school, with English medium provision. The report, available online at www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations, follows a statutory consultation on changing the school's status. If implemented, the move would effectively change the language balance of the school from English to Gaelic. Staffin is currently classed as an English medium primary with a Gaelic medium unit. However, recent years have seen a large increase in pupils enrolling to be taught through Gaelic at Staffin, leading Highland Council to consult on making changes to reflect that trend.

Local Staffin shopkeeper Peter MacKenzie, of MacKenzie Stores, welcomed the revival in Gaelic among younger members of the community. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is mainly local children that go to the school and they have a special interest in Gaelic up here. This part of Skye is more Gaelic speaking than any other part of the island.'

Comments on the proposal can be made to ecsadmin@highland.gov.uk or in writing to Ron MacKenzie, Head of Support Services, The Highland Council, Education Culture and Sport Services, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

Comments will be summarised and made available to councillors, who will consider the report at the education, culture and sport committee on March 10.

Bun-sgoil Shlèite (Sleat Primary School) went through a similar process and officially became a Gaelic medium primary in August 2008.

**INVERLOCHY**

AT THE February meeting of the Inverlochy branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, the ladies enjoyed an informative talk by Scott Bellwood, who works as a waste management assistant in Lochaber.

Scott explained what went into the area's green bins, brown bins and blue boxes and told members about the new blue wheely bin which accepts paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, making recycling easier for everyone. After a busy question and answer session Scott, judged the competitions.

Empire Biscuits: 1 Elizabeth Rennie; 2 Beatrice Gibson; 3 Christine MacLean. Four Line Poem: 1 Cathie Stevenson; 2 Vera Ritchie; 3 Maureen Dempsey.

President Elizabeth Kennedy gave a vote of thanks to Scott for his hard work.

**BALLACHULISH**

RESIDENTS of Ballachulish will get the chance to sample some fine cuisine at a charity event in the primary school tomorrow.

Michelin-starred chef Alan Donald, his wife Eileen and Jim Scott will be hosting 'Hell's Kitchen' at 7.30pm where they will serve up four course meals. The event is to raise money for the school to allow it to replace its computer which broke recently.



THE BEST of Scottish opera will be visiting Ballachulish Village Hall this week. 'Opera Highlights' will see the Glasgow-based Scottish Opera tour come to the village where four young singers and a pianist will perform at 7.30pm on Tuesday.

They will be playing excerpts from well-known operas along with some surprises from lesser-known works to an audience of seasoned fans and opera first timers.

**PLOCKTON**

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met in Plockton Hall on February 1. Matthew O'Neil from the British Transport Police outlined his role in tackling vandalism and litter. He agreed to look into the poor state of Station Road, which Scotrail and Highland Council are not repairing. Sarah Bowyer from Well North also gave a presentation. The



Pupils with their 'flour babies'.

**'Baby' project challenges Ardnamurchan pupils**

PUPILS at Ardnamurchan High School experienced the joy and challenges of parenthood recently when they were caring for their 'flour babies'. The project was part of the school's health and well being programme, which aims to broaden the education received by the pupils. They carried the flour babies around with them

and treated them like real children - including feeding them and changing their nappies. A crèche was even set up in the classroom to allow the pupils to get on with their work. The pupils have been involved with a number of other activities, including school radio and creating targets - an old fashioned type of shield.

group was established a year ago with the purpose of highlighting and improving a healthier lifestyle in the community by way of diet and activities.

Constable Donald Morrison from Kyle police was also at the meeting and requested the community help the police in any crime solving.

On local roads, councillors agreed they had never been so bad, especially from Plockton to Drumbuie. It was agreed to write to John F Munro MSP to try and get some improvement. Regarding Loch Lundy, the community council has requested information under freedom of information act.

On housing at Burnside, it was noted that there is still one shared equity house available. The community council will meet with housing and roads to discuss problems, especially with access from the houses. On Plockton pontoon, the community council has sold the pontoon to Plockton Harbours Community Interest Company.

An application to change 12 Harbour Street into a deli and hairdressers salon was discussed. The community council reiterated its 2006 objections that it was not a good idea because of parking and wheeley bins. The National Trust for Scotland, Plockton Harbours and TEC services, members heard, are to meet to try and restore public toilets in Plockton, although funding had been reduced making them less viable for any new owner. A letter will be sent to Scottish Water seeking assurances on a cancer compound reputed to be in local water.

The hearing resource centre has been set up in Portree for the past two years but the community council felt it was now the turn of Lochalsh to have this service.

The next ward forum will be in Plockton Hall on March 21 at 2pm. The meeting was told by local councillor Audrey Sinclair that Plockton Library was moving to the high school. The community council was annoyed that there had been no consultation with the community council nor Plockton Hall which leases a room in the hall for the library and the lease doesn't expire until 2014.

Iain Turnbull from the National Trust for Scotland reported that it planned to improve the Drumbuie to Barleyport path. The next community council meeting is in Plockton Hall on March 14 at 7.30pm.

**ARDGOUR**

ANYONE with an interest in knitting, weaving, crochet or embroidery is being invited to the Lochaber textile workshop on Saturday.

Beginners and experts are welcome to attend at Ardgour Hall from 11am to 3pm.

**KILLIN**

A NEW search and rescue dog is in training in Killin.

Policeman and search dog handler Andy Fleming, who lives in Killin, is training the five-month-old black Labrador, Dugald.

Training will continue for up to two years with both dog and handler facing continual

and 19, whilst the winning youth entry will return to Killin's McLaren Hall on March 26 to compete against teams from Falkirk and Life to decide which Eastern team will go on to the Scottish Finals.

Nat Little will judge this weekend's performances.

Gordon Hibbert, chairman of Killin Drama Club, said: 'We have a very strong entry to the district round this year, covering a variety of genres from serious drama to outright comedy. It's always good to see young people represented at these events and we have three cracking youth entries from Fintry, Monument Performing Arts School in Stirling and our own Killin club. The audience is in for a real treat.'

Performances start at 7.30pm each night, with refreshments available before the show and during the interval. For tickets, contact Tudor Rees on 01786 823716.



AT THE recent community council meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Killin skip: The perimeter fencing has been removed. Councillor Owens will ask what is to happen to the skip area now.

Road maintenance: Where are the community grit/sand piles? The access to the doctor's surgery needs to be gritted. Some grit bins have solid grit at the bottom from last year which is of no use. Councillor Owens to attend to and a letter to be written to Stirling Council.

Turning area: Has been tidied up.

Folklore Centre: Waiting for reply to the application to Stirling Council assets.

Breadalbane Forum: Community councillors' meeting with Bob Jack will now be held on March 21.

Rural Housing Stirling: New houses in Ballechroisk now occupied.

Speeding: Speeding boards were in place for a week at the war memorial entrance to Killin. The average speed recorded was 28mph. There were some complaints that the 30mph signs

were not visible enough. The police have spoken to Stirling Council about getting more signs further out of the village giving drivers an earlier warning. There was, however, no real problem with speeding.

National Park: Mike Cantley has left the National Park to go to VisitScotland. Development Plan has gone to the Scottish office to be approved.

Fireworks went well and thanks went to everyone who helped. Thanks also to Gordon Aitken for getting the Christmas tree to Stitt Bros; S Forster for erecting it and putting on the lights and the church for providing the power supply and the site. A letter and cheque to go to the church.

The Gold Mine: A new planning application has been submitted.

Biomass project: Gone to planning.

Dochart Bridge: A burst sewer pipe and the damage the frost has created on the bridge were reported on December 31 2010. Ian Young from Stirling Council inspected the bridge on January 2 2011 and a further inspection was made on January 5. It was then reported that it is in no worse condition than it was in October 2009 and was not a priority as there are no funds to repair it. The budget will be known in late February and a decision will be made then as to what plan of action will be taken. The Bridge of Lochay and Allt Lairig Bridge also require attention.

Community Futures: A questionnaire is to be sent to every household in Killin on how carbon is being cut.

Community Action Plan: A consultation on the update of the plan is to take place in Killin Hotel in February. Scotland's Census 2011: Questionnaires will be delivered from March 7 and must be returned by the end of April 2011. It is law that they are completed by everyone or they risk of £1,000 fine. Condolences were offered to the MacPherson family for their loss.

FOR some time, funding has been sought to tackle the problem of Japanese knotweed and this has become available which means that a programme of eradication will start for the West Tay Catchment area: Strathfillan, Glen Dochart, Killin, Glen Ogle and Loch Earn.

Spraying equipment is being bought and surveying will begin to get an up-to-date picture of the infestation. When spraying begins volunteers will be required. Appropriate training will be given.

The Scotsland Festival was introduced to celebrate the publication of Sir Walter Scott's Lady of the Lake. As part of the festival, the park authority commissioned a composition on the same theme from Phil Cunningham with the aim of promoting the park and, in particular the Trossachs and Breadalbane areas.

It was introduced at Celtic Connections on January 19 and the audience of 1,600 heard The Trossachs Suite performed by Phil and other musicians.

Bill Paterson narrated sections of the poem introducing each phase of the suite. For the second half of the concert, Phil and the musicians were joined by Eddi Reader and Karen Matheson who performed some of the songs from poems by Sir Walter Scott and others.

Mike Cantley, the chairman has now been appointed chairman of VisitScotland. A new convenor will be appointed at the February meeting.



KILLIN Youth Group is a continuing success and now has more than 30 members.

There have been two very successful trips to Glasgow and Edinburgh. In Glasgow they went to Xscape, at Braehead, and spent the morning skiing, snow-boarding and sledding and the afternoon at Laserquest and Christmas shopping. In Edinburgh it was ice-skating, lunch at Jimmy Chung's and then to the Christmas Fair in Princes Street.

Planned activities for the New Year include a visit to the Time Capsule swimming pool in Glasgow. The youth group is open to all secondary school age children in the Killin area and it is hoped to include a wide variety of events and interests. Meetings are held at the Golf Club on Tuesday nights.

**DORNIE**

THE NEW needs-led housing development in Dornie was completed last week and householders have been moving in.

Day centre staff have been moving equipment from Graham House - now closed - to the new Aird Ferry Resource Centre in preparation for a formal opening at a date yet to be determined.

The plan is for the housing association to erect a further 28 houses on the site which looks over the village and Eilean Donan castle. With the closure of Graham House the community has organised a lunch club in the village hall every Wednesday and this has proved popular with senior residents.



**Barcaldine school visits Cruachan power station**

As part of their topic work on renewable energy, Barcaldine Primary School pupils visited Cruachan Power Station. Martin George, a parent, led the workshop that gave the children an insight into the workings of hydro power.

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER



Everyone's favourite competition is back and The Oban Times is looking to find the west coast's bonniest baby in 2011.

If you think your baby is the cutest in the West of Scotland then nominate them.

Our panel of judges will help us find our Bonnie Baby of 2011 and the top tot will be crowned Oban Times Bonnie Baby 2011 and his/her parent or guardian will receive a top prize with two runners up also receiving an award.

The deadline to enter your child is **Monday, February 28 at 5pm** and children must be two or under on **28/02/2011**.

**Parent/Guardian must consent to publication of their child's photograph in our papers by signing the entry form.**

**Entries, including one photograph, MUST be accompanied by the official entry form which can only be obtained from The Oban Times. Photocopies will not be accepted.**

**If you wish your picture returned, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.**

Normal Oban Times terms and conditions apply and the editor's decision is final.

Send your entry to:  
**The Oban Times Bonnie Baby Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll**

Name of parent/guardian:.....

Address:.....

Full name of child: ..... Age at 24/01/2011: .....

Signature of parent/guardian:.....



**Maksim Culton, Cairndow, 10 months.**



**Lexie Gunn, Arisaig, aged 18 weeks.**



**Archie Gunn, Arisaig, aged 22 months.**



**Jack Lawn, Oban, aged 13 months.**



**Rebecca Fitzsimmons, Oban, aged 15 months.**



**Lucy Preiss, Oban, aged 10 weeks.**



**Andrew MacRae, Salen, aged 6½.**



**Rudi Campbell, Ardrishaig, 14 months.**

**COLL**

DEVELOPMENT Coll's new growth plan will be presented for discussion at its next public forum on March 10 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Two days later, the organisation will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting at the same venue to approve amendments to the articles of Development Coll.

Membership is open to all householders, residents and visitors to Coll and gives the opportunity to attend AGMs and vote on company proposals, including the appointment of directors. For more information, email emma@developmentcoll.co.uk or fra@developmentcoll.co.uk or phone 01879 230 000.

**KENMORE**

THE SCOTTISH Crannog Centre, at Kenmore, has announced that it will trial its first winter opening season as part of the WinterWeek+ celebrations,

which runs until February 27. The centre, a full sized replica of an Iron Age crannog situated on Loch Tay, normally re-opens its doors to the public in the spring, but decided to open up early for the plethora of events on offer.

For more information about WinterWeek+, log on to www.winterweek.co.uk.

**ABERFELDY**

THIS year's Fortingall Art Exhibition will take place over nine days, following on from the success of last year's event.

As in previous years, exhibits will include paintings, photography, sculpture, ironwork, engraving, furniture, pottery and jewellery by local contemporary artists.

The admission free event will be held at the Arts and Crafts Molteno Hall, Fortingall, about eight miles from Aberfeldy, between Friday July 29 and Sunday August 7.

For further information please contact audreyslorance@fsmail.net or info@fortingallart.co.uk.

IF ACHALEVEN Primary School was to close, it would be one less reason for families to move to the Connel.

Villagers are anxiously awaiting Argyll and Bute Council's revised proposals regarding the future of primary education in the area.

Achaleven was among the 25 schools earmarked for closure in the initial set of proposals, which were ditched in January. The school currently has just eight pupils on its roll.

Sandy Dunlop, chairman of Connel Community Council, said he could remember when as many as 60 children attended the village school.

'We have lost the police station and if the school goes, it would rip the guts out of the community.'

**Golf course**

He highlighted the possibility of future development in Connel, such as plans for a golf course which include new housing, and proposals for a marina within the village boundary.

'It is an ageing village now, and if the school goes, that's one less reason for families to move here - and makes it more attractive to older folk to move in,' added Sandy.

The revised list of school proposals was expected to be unveiled by Argyll and Bute Council today (Thursday).

THERE have been many bric-bats aimed at Argyll and Bute Council in recent weeks and months - but a word or two of praise has come from villagers in Connel.

A letter of thanks has been sent to the roads department commending the work council staff carried out during the worst of the winter weather to keep the grit bins refilled.

Grosvenor Crescent was singled out as one area which was supplied with grit, but this was true throughout the village.

THERE has been a switch of date for the next meeting of Connel Community Council.

The group normally meets on the second Tuesday every two months.

However, the next meeting will take place on Friday March 11 in the village hall. The meeting is open to the public.



It's not exactly Super Mario - Adam MacLean and brothers Finley and Jack Watson with toys from a bygone age. 15\_108dyvictorian01

**Achaleven turns spotlight on life in the Victorian era**

FOR MANY of today's younger generation, it is hard to imagine a time without the likes of Playstations, computers and Wii to keep them occupied.

But pupils at Achaleven Primary School have been finding out how children kept themselves amused more than 100 years ago as part of project on life in the Victorian era.

They have managed to collect some toys from the area, such as the cup and ball, spinning top and marbles.

Head teacher Sharon Burt explained that all aspects of life were being explored.

'The older ones are comparing the rich and poor and how their lives were different during this period.'

She said that to do this, the school had created two families to see how their lives differed.

'The younger ones are looking at toys from then and now as well as transport then and now, which will get us looking at the railway bridge.'

The project has also got the children thinking about what Connel was like more than 100 years ago, looking at the older houses and buildings in the village and trying to discover which ones are from Victorian times.

'They have also been finding old bits and pieces, which they have now started to bring into school,' added Mrs Burt.

**Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Nether Lochaber**

with reporter Richard Haddock. You can contact him at 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.

**Down your Way**

**This week - Connel**

THE SPEED of traffic through Connel is continuing to cause concern among villagers. While police statistics claim there is no problem, those living alongside the main A85 would beg to differ.

The most recent traffic survey carried out by police showed that the average speed of vehicles through the village is 31mph.

This effectively rules out efforts by Connel Community Council to have warning signs put up alerting motorists to their speed.

Approaching the village from the east, drivers are first advised to slow to 40mph before hitting the 30mph zone.

Coming from Oban, motorists encounter the

30mph sign at the top of a bank which drops down into the village.

Les Stewart, secretary of Connel Community Council, said: 'The police will tell you that through the village, the average speed is 31mph and so there is no requirement to do anything about.'

'We think differently and we would like to find a way to prove it.'

'People in the village mention this to us endlessly, especially the lorries.'

Police are continuing to park vehicles in the village, which acts as a deterrent, but the community council is seeking a more permanent solution.



Is there anyone in there? Neil MacLean and Codie Watson, front, along with Kate Little, Daniel Speirs and Alan Morrison, check their wormery for the first time this year. 15\_108dyworms01

**Pupils unwrap wormery after long winter**

WITH the days starting to get longer, the snowdrops out and spring - hopefully - just around the corner, a group of Connel children decided it was time to check on how their worms had wintered.

To make sure they were nice and cosy during the coldest weather, their wormery had been wrapped with a sleeping bag. The wormery is part of Achaleven Primary School's green activities as pupils aim to gain a fourth eco-schools award. In addition to the wormery, the youngsters make

sure they use the recycling facilities at the school and are well versed in the art of composting.

They know not to litter the environment and have been looking at saving energy, reading their school's meters.

After the Easter break, they will head out into the school garden to get their vegetables planted for the summer.

And during the summer, two legs will replace two wheels. Last year, the children cycled round the village. This time, they will be walking.



The South Arnish piglets were up and about in no time.

**Delight as Raasay sow gives birth to 11 piglets**

LIVESTOCK numbers on Raasay have risen dramatically after a crofter's sow gave birth to 11 piglets.

Paul and Barbara Camilli at South Arnish knew their Gloucester Old Spot sow Shona was due to give birth and were delighted when the large litter was born on February 10.

The little piggies, whose dad was a Tamworth, will be sold after they are weaned between six and eight weeks, Barbara told *The Oban Times*. Shona made a home for her family at the back of the croft shed, but the inquisitive piglets were outside exploring only three days after they were born.



PEACOCKS  
The Great Value Fashion Store

**NEW FASHION STORE OPENS 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH**

LOCATED WITHIN  
The **co-operative** food  
SOROBA ROAD, OBAN

**WWW.PEACOCKS.CO.UK**  
WOMENSWEAR MENSWEAR CHILDRENSWEAR FOOTWEAR

**Mull Lines**

MSP JIM Mather came to Ulva Ferry to meet the newly formed Ulva School Community Association. He took time during his visit to go in and meet everyone at Ulva Primary where the three eldest pupils showed him round the school. Over a delicious lunch of local produce and home baking at convenor Helen Mackay's home, a productive and positive discussion was held between USCA and Jim Mather, looking at the issues surrounding the school, housing, and sustainable development within the local area. Parents said: 'We gained a lot from his enthusiasm and support for what we are doing here.'



Jim Mather has a good look at the classroom display in Ulva Primary School.



Alan Reid MP, centre, had a good meeting with Ulva School Community Association committee members: Maureen Merritt, Helen Mackay, USCA convenor, Mr Reid, Carolyne Charrington and Mark Millward.

MP ALAN Reid visited Mull to discuss education at Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary schools. Accompanied by Councillor Mary Jean Devon at both meetings they discussed issues surrounding each school. Alan Reid offered his support for what each community was doing in securing the future of their schools.



The performers at last weekend's Tainuith ceilidh.

**Star-studded ceilidh at Tainuith**

THE CRUACHAN branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach hosted yet another star-studded ceilidh last Saturday. Despite this being his first visit to a Tainuith ceilidh, schoolboy Shaun Reardon showed absolutely no sign of nerves and gave a polished performance on the bagpipes. The Eilidh MacInnes dancers, Katie MacPherson and Karina Black, were also warmly appreciated by the large audience. Ullapool's Rachel Hair showed why she is one of Scotland's finest young clarsach players and she played a wide variety of contemporary tunes, both lively and emotionally expressive.

Local accordionist Alasdair MacDonald had toes tapping in the audience with an enjoyable selection of tunes.

**Talented**

The three vocalists were the young and talented Robert Robertson from Fort William, together with experienced Mod gold medalists Steven MacIver and Donnie Murdo MacLeod. All three gave top class singing performances and Donnie even managed to teach the audience the traditional chorus of a popular Gaelic song. Fear an Taighe for the evening was the well-known Rev Brian Wilkinson who kept proceedings flowing smoothly and the audience amused.

**KYLEAKIN**

KYLEAKIN Local History Society shared a Nostalgic Trip Down Memory Lane with Ena Sikorski and Ian Robertson. The talk, held at very short

notice having been cancelled in January because of health problems, was very much enjoyed by 40 locals. Dr John Adamson, Kyle,

will be the society's guest on Wednesday March 9 when he will give a talk on 'Highland Medicine' at 7.30pm in Kyleakin Community Hall.

**HELENSBURGH**

HELENSBURGH and Lomond Highland Games (HLG) are now in their fourth year after a lapse of more than 40 years and are going from strength to strength.

Last year a crowd of almost 500 included 120 Chinese students studying in Glasgow.

In 2010 the games ran two championships - the British 90m foot race and the Scottish 22lb shot putt - and have been awarded the new Scottish 200m foot race in 2011. Not bad for a new games.

The games have made it a policy to engage as many young people as possible so the organisers have run a junior 'Heavies' for the last two years which has been well received.

In 2010 there were 54 trade stalls and lots of childrens entertainment including climbing wall, bouncy castle, kiddies slide, paintball and football arenas and puppet/magician tent.

Games chieftain is Diarmid MacAulay, the chief of Clan MacAulay, and the patron is Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss, chief of Clan Colquhoun.

The games are being held in the Empress Field, by Ardencaple Hotel, Ardencaple, Helensburgh.

Trade applications are open until March 31 for any local businesses who may wish to apply and can be downloaded from our website www.helensburghandlomondgames.

There will be ample parking within the venue.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes



**Bright colours at non-uniform day**

PORTREE High School pupils held a non-uniform day on Friday February 11 to raise money for charity and earn house points.

The theme for the day was 'House Colours'. Pupils belong to one of four houses - Blaven, blue; Glamaig, red; Marsco, yellow; and Tianavaig, green.

A total of £582.70 was raised which will be split between two charities - the local Skye branch of Alzheimer (Scotland) and the Sure 24 Orphanage in Nahuru, Kenya. Pictured above are pupils voted the 'best dressed' on the day, left to right: Caitlin Brown and Mae MacInnes (S3), Freya Buchanan (S6), Nicole MacRae (S1), Peter MacCusbie (S2) and Peter MacLeod (S4).



Pupils from Tainuith Nursery visited the Mary's Meals charity shop in Oban last week, to donate old clothes to the cause. The trip, planned as part of their Eco Nursery project, also saw the pupils take a walk across to the recycling centre at Tesco car park to recycle old bottles. The nursery pupils are pictured at the Mary's Meals charity shop in Oban's Stevenson Street. 15\_108marytps1

**Celtic Care**



**Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland**

Have you ever been lost for words? Have you ever had someone chip in answers for you that you don't agree with? Being able to communicate well and most importantly to "Speak Up for Yourself" is central to living a full and active life.

At Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland we work to help people throughout Argyll who have difficulty speaking after suffering a stroke. We are assisted in this by our volunteers, who we train in communication strategies, to work One to One or in a small safe group setting, to enable a person to reclaim their voice.

In Oban we can offer home-based support to clients some of whom may have recently left hospital care. We co-ordinate our support with the local health specialists, and we endeavour to develop our work to enhance the individual's quality of life.

If you feel interested in finding out more about us and our work as a potential helper or volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Judy O'Rourke on 01967 431 880, or email: judy.orourke@chss.org.uk. Come and join us and make a real difference to the lives of local people who have had a stroke.

**Relationships Scotland-Couple Counselling Argyll**

Relationship Counselling helps people with their relationships. This might be to work through difficulties in current relationships, to explore the effects of past relationships or to look at how to improve and enrich relationships for the future.

Everybody faces problems with their relationships at some point in their lives, for many different reasons. It makes common sense to seek help, and it doesn't mean you are failing if you do.

It helps to have an objective third party to talk to, to help work out where things are going wrong and what could help to put things right.

Couple Counselling Argyll's professionally trained counsellors are trained to listen and engage with your concerns. Their knowledge, experience are geared towards resolving issues and providing a positive step towards a healthy, happy relationship.

**North Argyll House**

North Argyll House is situated in a wonderful position, giving breathtaking views over Oban Bay and the Firth Of Lorn. A very attractive feature garden complements the general ambience of the grounds.

The house has a long association with the surrounding community, having been established in 1955 by local people for the benefit of the elderly in the area.

North Argyll House is registered with the Scottish Care Commission for 27 residents and is a registered charity and is a non profit making organisation.

The house, although equipped with every modern comfort, retains an air of unhurried tranquillity. It has a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of family that ensures residents feel relaxed and at home.

Our dedicated staff ensure that whilst staying with us you will enjoy charming surroundings, hand prepared cuisine, quality care and, from the moment you walk through the door of North Argyll House, you will find a very warm welcome.

Visitors are always welcome and the home operates an open visiting policy.

Each resident has their own en suite room and are encouraged to bring their own furnishings to make the room their own.

24 hour care is provided by qualified care staff. Residents are able to maintain contact with their own GP and benefit from the attention of other health professionals, District Nurses, chiropodist, optician and dentist. Our hairdresser also visits weekly.



**Fostering... Rewarding in More Ways Than One**

We need **respite carers** who can take children for brief, time-limited periods to support their full-time carers.

We need **shared carers** who can offer short-term, planned care, usually to a child with special needs, whose families can face extra demands and often find it difficult to arrange babysitting or childcare.

We need **foster carers** who can look after a child or children either for a temporary period while plans are made for their future or for an extended period if they are unable to go back to their families. We are particularly looking for families for sibling groups who need a temporary home where they can live together until a decision is made regarding their future.

We need **adoptive parents and permanent carers** who can offer a child or a sibling group a family to grow up in and to provide support for them for the rest of their lives.

**Argyll & Bute Council Fostering**

Sadly for some young people there are times in their lives, when because of family problems, they need to have other families to look after them. It would be particularly helpful for those young people from Argyll and Bute who might need family, if there were people near their home area, who could offer them a share in their home life at these difficult times.

Some children need to be looked after for just a very short time and if there are no relatives to help out, these are the times when another carer is especially valuable. Sometimes, children need to be looked after for a longer time, maybe even for the rest of their lives.

Looking after someone else's child can be hard work, as many of the children may have had many changes and disruptions to their childhood, and these can affect their development and behaviour. However, to be a part of a secure and stable home can offer children the opportunity to experience a more settled childhood. Most carers will tell you that to see a child relax and become more happy and carefree, makes up for difficult times.

People from all walks of life can become carers. Anyone with affection to spare, patience and genuine interest in helping children and young people can apply to be a carer. You can be married, single or living with a partner. Once you take the first step in finding out about looking after

someone else's children you will be given information and training to prepare for the tasks ahead. If you go on to become a carer, help, support and a generous allowance is available for you.



Please phone **Toril Frantzen on 01631 563068**, e-mail her at **toril.frantzen@argyll-bute.gov.uk** or write to her at Argyll and Bute Council, Community Services, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4JA.

**Volunteers Needed - Please help us to make a difference in Oban!**

**Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland**

Contact Judy O'Rourke **01967 431 880** or email: **judy.orourke@chss.org.uk**

**RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND**

**Couple Counselling Argyll**

Confidential, professional advice for those experiencing a difficulty with a close personal relationship.

We hold appointments in **OBAN, LOCHGILPHEAD, INVERARAY & DUNOON**. Telephone counselling is also available.

Call us: **01631 563297**

**www.argyllcouplecounselling.org**

Couple Counselling Argyll the operating name of Argyll Couple Counselling, Market Street, OBAN PA34 4HR. Charity: SC023995 Reg. Co: SC359930

**LOCHABER ACTION ON DISABILITY**

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Give us a call on **01397 701171**

Any problems just pop in and have a chat

Everyone is welcome and you don't need to book.

Caol Shopping Centre, Glenloy St, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7DB (opposite Caol Post Office)

**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 9.00 - 12.30

Take always are also available

Drop in Centre: Mon - Fri 9.00 - 3.30

Arts & Crafts / Bric a Brac Shop: Mon - Fri 9.30 - 3.00

**North Argyll House**

Bealach an Righ, Oban

**We offer a home for elderly people who are no longer able to stay in their own homes but wish to retain their dignity and independence.**

**We offer each resident their own en-suite room.**

**We offer care on an individual basis**

North Argyll House was established in 1955 by the local community and is still run by local people who care for our elderly relatives needs.

**North Argyll House, Bealach-An-Righ, Oban, PA34 5TX 01631 562168**

**Abbeyfield**

Abbeyfield Carradale and District Ltd

**"Where older people find care in housing"**

For further details contact **01583 431 717** or **01583 431 278**

**Abbeyfield House in Carradale**

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 Housing and continuing participation in the local community."

# Rent arrears could rocket, warn bosses

TWO WEST Highland housing association (HA) bosses have warned of a 'calamitous' increase in rent arrears if housing benefit changes proposed in the UK Government's Welfare Reform Bill are implemented.

Lochalsh and Skye HA chief executive Lachie MacDonald and his Lochaber HA counterpart Blair Allan spoke out to *The Oban Times* after Prime Minister David Cameron unveiled the Bill in the House of Commons last week.

At present LHA and LSHA receive a monthly cheque for all their housing benefit claimants from Highland Council, and adjust rents centrally on behalf of each individual tenant.

However, the Bill proposes unifying all benefits into a single payment to claimants under new Universal Credit arrangements from 2013.

The change would mean housing benefit would be paid direct to the tenant - handing him or her the responsibility for ensuring rent money was set aside each week.

The Bill also envisages housing benefit cuts for tenants deemed to be 'under-occupying' a property - for example a middle-aged couple in a three-bedroom home whose children have moved out.

Mr Allan and Mr MacDonald fear the proposals could wreck income flows from rents and prompt spiralling tenant debt - leaving good payers to shoulder

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

the burden. Mr Allan said: 'These changes taken together could be calamitous, leading to increased arrears, increased demand for advice and support for tenants, and a need to review our business plan due to the uncertainty about our receivable income.'

'We have worked hard in recent years to get our rent arrears to less than two per cent.'

'These proposals will seriously jeopardise our performance and our balance sheet. Increased costs like this can lead to increased rents - it is a vicious circle of decline.'

'More importantly, the financial penalties for under-occupying will impact significantly on our tenants, causing problems when children leave home by actively encouraging them to move out of a home that they have lived in for many years.'

'In the Highlands tenants can use the downsizing scheme's incentives to move to a smaller property, thus allowing the better use of the available housing stock.'

'We believe that this is a more appropriate way to address under-occupation than resorting to financial penalties.'

Mr MacDonald told *The Oban Times* LSHA had decided never to build one-bedroom properties as far as was practicable. Most housing associations are trying to provide flexibility, not simply provide properties of a minimum size.

'They UK Government is now saying these people are under-occupying their homes and for them there will be an adverse impact.'

He added: 'Currently all housing benefit money comes to us in one big cheque from Highland Council, which we deduct centrally on behalf of our tenants. If this stops and instead each tenant receives this money individually, which they then have to pass on in rent to the housing association, the risks of that money not being paid grow substantially.'

'Our concern is for cash flow and a big jump in arrears, which currently stand at less than £50,000 in total.'

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson said:

'With housing benefit expenditure spiralling out of control for over a decade, it's absolutely vital that we take urgent steps to return fairness to the system to make sure that people on benefits make the same choices about the homes they rent as hard working families have to make.'

Continued on page 3.



Star in the making? Rachel Robertson of Mallaig High School won Best Performance, 12 to 17 years, for her portrayal of a young girl in 'Ceumanan Beaga'.

## Mallaig pupil Rachel's a film star in the making

A MALLAIG High School pupil scooped the 12-17 age group 'best performance' at the 2011 FilmG awards in Glasgow on Friday night.

Rachel Robertson's portrayal of a young girl recovering from an accident in 'Ceumanan Beaga' proved a winner with the judges.

Guest presenters at The Old Fruitmarket ceremony included actor David Hayman, actor and film-maker Peter Mullan and STV's Sean Batty.

Mr Hayman praised FilmG for uncovering a seam of rich new talent. The national Gaelic

screen talent competition, run by MG ALBA, received 71 digital shorts film entries from Scotland and beyond.

He said: 'In particular it embraces the younger generations from our Gaelic speaking communities, strengthening and encouraging confidence in their rich and varied culture which is a vital part of the tapestry that is modern Scotland. I am proud to be part of it.'

On the night, Glasgow-based South Uist girl Margaret-Jane Mason won the 'New Faces New Voices' prize for her performance in 'Lámh an Uachdar' (The Upper Hand), while

Paul Steele, also hailing from South Uist but working in Glasgow, won best drama/comedy and best director (industry) awards for his film 'Aodainn'. Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop MSP also announced £20,000 Scottish government funding towards next year's FilmG competition. Rachel's winning performance in 'Ceumanan Beaga' can be viewed at www.filmg.co.uk.

Mallaig High pupil Megan MacLellan, who is now studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, won 'best performance' at the inaugural FilmG awards in 2009.

## Development plans move forward

PLANS for a multi-million pound retail, business and community development near Fort William are moving ahead, with the company behind the scheme saying they hope to start work on the site later this year.

Miller Development's proposal for a 105-acre site next to the A830 at Blar Mhor envisages a 70,000 square foot supermarket, with space for a new Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch, a combined police-ambulance headquarters and a relocated Belford Hospital.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee unanimously approved the plans in December.

Development manager Colin Graham told *The Oban Times*: 'We now need to progress to the next stage, which is to secure a food store operator and get detailed applications in for the store, road network and infrastructure.'

'Assuming that these applications are all approved by the council quickly, then we could be on site later this year and see an opening before Christmas 2012.'

## Skye painting could raise £70,000

THE SALE of a painting of a Skye peninsula could raise up to £70,000 at auction.

Oxford-born artist Winifred Nicholson's 'Sea Treasures', which depicts a view of Sandaig, Duirinish, near Plockton, will be put up for sale by art auctioneers Bonhams in London on March 9.

The auctioneers estimate the artwork will sell for between £50,000 and £70,000.

The painting shows the view from the window of the former home of naturalist Gavin Maxwell. Mr Maxwell was author of 1960 book 'Ring of Bright Water', which tells the story of how he brought an otter back from Iraq and raised it in Scotland.

## Lochaber history group looks forward to March talk

FOUR Lochaber Local History Society members will give short presentations at the group's monthly meeting in the Alexandra Hotel next Thursday.

Peter and Jill Pritchard, local archaeologists, will talk on their recent detailed survey of Clunes, where they now live, while Helen Critchley of Roybridge will speak on the history of Roybridge Memorial Hall.

John McFadzean, who first came to Kinlochell in the 1930s, has the title 'Port William to Fort William' and Derrick Warner, who has a great interest in wartime Lochaber, will reveal his research into HMS St Christopher.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event, which begins at 8pm.

## Second drink-drive trial witness warned by sheriff about lying in court

A SECOND witness at the trial of Kinlochleven motorcycle ace Gary MacDonald has been warned by a sheriff about lying in court.

Van driver Colin Comrie told police he had seen MacDonald, a regular top performer in the Scottish Six Day Trial, driving after drinking in the local pub. But when he gave evidence at

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by RICHARD HADDOCK

Fort William Sheriff Court, Mr Comrie said he now 'had doubts' about who had been driving. Sheriff Douglas Small warned Mr Comrie: 'Lying in court is a very serious offence.' Mr Comrie

then said he was sure MacDonald had been behind the wheel of the car.

Mr Comrie, 50, told fiscal Alison Wylie he had been drinking in the Tailrace Inn where he saw MacDonald drinking with friends. When he left the pub, Mr Comrie saw MacDonald's blue Ford Focus speeding past on Lochaber Road. He said the

front of the car was 'wiggling' as it accelerated and 'the noise and speed was outrageous.'

The car turned and drove past again, when Mr Comrie said he saw MacDonald's face through the side window.

Defending, Ian McGregor said Mr Comrie couldn't have seen MacDonald as the windows of his car are tinted. Mr Comrie replied

the window had been slightly open. Mr Comrie's nephew Brian Spence, who was with Mr Comrie on the night, told the court he saw the car driving at a high speed but had not seen who was driving.

Brian Comrie, Colin Comrie's son, gave evidence to the trial in December, when he was also warned by Sheriff Small. He was told he could face time in prison

for perjury or contempt of court after he claimed he didn't see who was driving and 'couldn't remember' what he had told police. After proceedings were suspended to allow him time to think, he said he had after all seen MacDonald driving.

Mr MacDonald, 26, of 27 Heatherlea Court, denies driving on various roads in the village

while almost twice the legal limit on July 25.

He also denies driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, losing control of the car, locking the wheels, skidding and crossing into the opposite carriageway.

The trial is due to continue on April 21.



Anna Skea: heading to Germany for a craft fair.

## Knitwear firm hooks up with Germany

A SMALL Lochaber knitwear firm is looking to reel in new business at a craft fair in Germany in May.

Ginger, which sells hand-finished knitwear made from local natural yarns at its workshop and showroom in Morar, opened a second second sales outlet in Edinburgh's Morningside in October 2009, with the help of a loan from Highland Opportunities. The move proved productive, but then Ginger's owner Anna Skea noticed many of her tourist customers last summer were from Germany - and reckoned a sales pitch there was worth a shot.

Crafts and culture promotional group HiArts agreed and arranged for Anna and other Highland makers to fly out for the Eunique arts and crafts fair in Karlsruhe on May 27-29.

Anna told *The Oban Times* business in the two outlets had remained strong despite the economic downturn - but the German market could open up new sales opportunities.

She said: 'There's a group of us going out for three days to look at possibly exhibiting at the fair in future. It's a research trip to get a feel for the market. I will be wearing one of my garments, though! I will be looking at what type of work they are selling over there with a view to tapping into that market.'

## Volunteers put through paces



Oban Coastguard volunteers were put through their paces on Saturday during a training day at Dunstaffnage. In cold conditions, the coastguards, pictured with Oban sector manager Kenny Devine, took part in ropework and cliff rescue scenarios. 15\_108Coast01

10 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, February 22, 2001

### Oban or Campbeltown in line for 150 jobs?

OBAN or Campbeltown should be top of the list when it comes to 150 civil service jobs which are up for grabs.

George Lyon, MSP for Argyll and Bute, wants to see the Scottish Executive send the jobs from the Scottish Public Pensions Agency to Argyll.

These jobs, looking after the pensions scheme for Scottish civil servants, are due to be relocated as part of the Scottish Executive's sworn commitment to dispersing well-paid civil service jobs around the more remote parts of the country.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has been lobbying for over two years to get more government jobs into the region.

It has put in a bid for these 150 jobs and Oban and Campbeltown have been named as possible venues along with Wick, Dingwall and Inverness.

Ken Abernethy, CEO of Argyll and Islands Enterprise, said the enterprise company would even go as far as to build for a suitable inward investor.

'We are very hopeful the HIE inward investment team's hard work will pay off to get a significant government relocation into Oban. It fits in with our plans to diversify and balance the economy.'

### Bridge weight restrictions will hit rural areas

PLANS to introduce temporary weight restrictions on bridges around Argyll could have a major impact on the area's economy.

Farmers, hauliers, the council and fish farmers' ability to move heavy goods to and from some rural areas is going to be severely hampered.

Argyll and Bute Council's transportation committee will be told that a survey of 420 out of 567 bridges has found that 36 bridges are not capable of carrying 40 tonne loads.

This will result in temporary weight restrictions of between three tonnes and 17 tonnes - which means no buses, HGVs, refuse lorries and other large vehicles.

An estimated £3 million over seven-eight years is needed to strengthen or replace these bridges.

Mull has eight bridges which need temporary weight limits, one of which is on the main road from Craignure to Fionnphort at the Kinloch Hotel, on the Craignure side.

Councillors Alistair MacDougall said he had been told by council engineers that a temporary diversion beside the bridge could be set up.

'This would let tourist buses carry on operating,' he said.

### Oban needs a firm stage presence

AS work begins this week to breathe life back into Oban's tired Corran halls, there are fears already that the town has missed an opportunity to put itself back centre stage.

Phase one of the redevelopment is the much-needed creation of a 120-seat theatre in what was the restaurant and kitchens.

But Oban councillor David Webster has raised the spectre of a ghost theatre that will not be the attraction it could be unless resident performers can be found.

'This is an ideal opportunity to put Oban back on the map, with summer visitors and residents during the summer season and rescue Oban from the sad decline we have been watching year after year.'

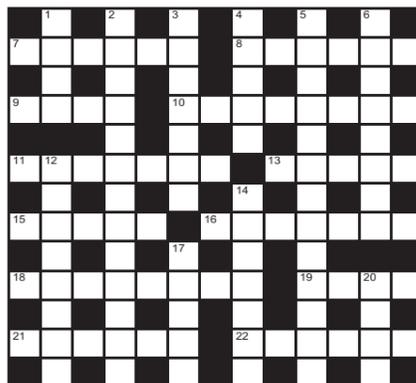
Mr Webster is concerned that although work has started on the theatre and will be completed by April 28, no thought has been given to finding an occupant.

'Ideally, I would like to see a small resident repertory company with an actor manager who could put on plays, not necessarily on all days, but four or five with matinees. Oban must provide something different if it wants to stay number one.'

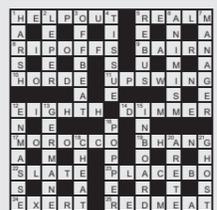
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 7 A pale violet shade (6)
  - 8 Missile (6)
  - 9 Type of speedy computer (4)
  - 10 Sleeplessness (8)
  - 11 Adornment (7)
  - 13 Rumour (5)
  - 15 Foam (5)
  - 16 Disturb (7)
  - 18 Relative (8)
  - 19 Delicate (4)
  - 21 Profession (6)
  - 22 Displace (6)

- Down**
- 1 Monkey (4)
  - 2 Iron attractor (13)
  - 3 Accommodating (7)
  - 4 Brute (5)
  - 5 Exclusive emphasis on profit (13)
  - 6 Shy (8)
  - 12 Sanction (8)
  - 14 Burdensome (7)
  - 17 Animal catcher (5)
  - 20 Mountain rock (4)



### Last Week's Solution



# Pavilion to spark life into Morar

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT**  
 BY STEPHEN NORRIS  
 snorris@obantimes.co.uk

THE FIRST phase of ambitious plans for a new pavilion at Morar will be completed next month when the final design and feasibility study go out to local consultation.

The blueprint, the culmination of three years work by Morar Community Trust (MCT), was unveiled in draft form at Morar and Mallaig Games last summer.

Hundreds of local people viewed the plans at Lovat Field, displayed in a marquee yards from where the pavilion will be built. The playing fields have no on-site facilities, proper access road or electricity.

Morar's shop, post office and village hall have all closed and it is hoped the new pavilion, featuring accommodation, a cafe, a meeting area, an office for MCT, changing rooms, showers and public toilets, will become a hub for community life.

MCT director Anna Cornelius told *The Oban Times*: 'There



Architect Andrea Fox of John Renshaw Architects shows the draft plans to at last year's Mallaig and Morar Games. 10\_08centre01

is no focal point in the village where people can meet and the hotel closes during the winter. We used to have quite a lot of facilities here, but over the years they have all gone.

'The community getting together is very important - and having something like this will help pull people into the area.'

The pavilion would not be a 'bunkhouse', Ms Cornelius said, but instead would provide

overnight accommodation for visiting parties such as artists, writers, university field study groups, scuba divers and people using the sports field.

**Income**  
 She added: 'The pavilion will have to pay for itself - that's why we are looking so carefully into how we can pull in income once it is up and running.'

'We have had consultation all along the way. It has been almost

three years of work so completing the first phase is something of a celebration.'

A summary of the feasibility study, including the finished design will be sent out for comment to MCT members - the majority of the local population - once the final design is agreed with the architects.

'The study will present everybody with the decisions we have made so far,' Ms Cornelius said.

MCT chair Gemma van der Zanden added: 'This is a big ambitious project, we still have a lot of fundraising to do. The pavilion will be a truly multi-functional space which will be of benefit to the local population and to visitors.'

Potential funding sources for the project include the Big Lottery, Sports Scotland, the Scottish Rural Development Programme and Comic Relief.

Edinburgh architect John Renshaw and consultant Hilary Trodd produced the design and feasibility study. The building will incorporate low-energy-use design features and natural materials.

## Caol fights on to save centre

THE FIGHT to save Caol Community Centre (CCC) and its senior citizens lunch club took another step forward last Tuesday as a campaign steering group met for the first time.

The 12-strong committee, selected in the wake of a 300-strong public meeting in the venue a week earlier, agreed tactics it hopes will secure the building's long term future as a hub of community activity.

Cash-strapped Highland Council is looking for ways to offload the centre - the only one in the Highlands funded by social work services.

The council says it cannot

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
 snorris@obantimes.co.uk

afford the £120,000 annual cost of running the club and centre and wants local people to run them, helped by an as yet undetermined grant.

Options include transferring CCC into community ownership by April 2012 - providing the local organisation is in place to operate the venue successfully.

The steering group has formed three sub-groups of four, each with a special area of responsibility.

One, under the chairmanship of George Kerr, will look at the structure of the building itself; the

second, headed by Fiona MacColl will seek ways of increasing community usage and the third, led by Joyce Vickers, will examine lunch club activities.

Over time the sub-groups will be expanded to bring in more volunteers wishing to contribute to the project.

Councillor Bill Clark will take charge of the steering group for the next two meetings. The group will then elect a chairman from its ranks. Isabel Campbell of the Lochaber Rural Education Trust is currently vice-chair.

Councillor Clark acknowledged there was 'a great deal of work' to be done in a relatively short

time but the group was sure a way could be found to make CCC even more of a resource for the wider community. Current uses include weddings, bingo nights, dances and charity events.

He said: 'This is the time for everybody to work together for the good of the whole area. It's a huge challenge but also a great chance for local people to control their community centre and make the most of the opportunities it offers.'

'I am particularly encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the steering group members and look forward to future meetings with confidence.'

## Masterplan to save Plockton music school takes shape

A MASTERPLAN to save the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music took shape at its Plockton High School (PHS) base on Monday.

The crisis summit, attended by Highland Council leader Michael Foxley, chief executive Alastair Dodds, director of education Hugh Fraser, education committee chair Bill Fernie, music school director Dougie Pincock and PHS rector Duncan Ferguson, was convened after the council controversially voted to withdraw its £317,000 funding from July next year.

Describing the meeting as 'positive', Councillor Foxley said broadening the music school's activities, making substantial

savings and pulling in new funding were key to planning a new future for the world-renowned centre. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We looked at various sources of additional funding and active discussions via West Highland College UHI are ongoing about additional activities based at Plockton High School, involving accommodation and the music school. Those could include weekend and summer schools for specialist traditional music training for people outwith school age.'

'The more activity that we can generate at Plockton the easier it is to bring in that additional funding and to ensure a continuing

council input. We can also make significant savings - 20 or 30 per cent, probably more, without affecting the school's activities or capacity.'

He added: 'There are 34 people interested in competing for the seven places in next month's auditions. We have said the school should proceed and recruit as normal and I am quite optimistic that we can resolve this.'

Music school director Dougie Pincock said: 'I am quite upbeat. Even in private I think something is happening here. We may have to change, but change can be a positive thing. The things being suggested will allow us to access other streams of funding, as long

as we can provide additional access to adults and college students.'

Ross, Skye and Inverness West MSP John Farquhar Munro will today (Thursday) in parliament ask Cabinet Secretary for Education Mike Russell for an update.

A Scottish government spokesman said: 'We had a number of productive discussions about this last week and they included the possibility of exploring some extended usage for the centre. These will be followed up with the council and, working with Mr Munro, the Cabinet Secretary is hopeful that a solution can be found.'



Ben Miller: £1,000 cash boost from Bank of Scotland.

## Young biker Ben banks £1,000

A YOUNG Lochaber mountain bike rider hoping to become one of the sport's future stars has been given a major cash boost.

Kinlochleven High School pupil Ben Miller has been awarded £1,000 under the Bank of Scotland 'Local Heroes' initiative to support talented Scottish sporting youngsters.

Ben, 15, who has been selected for the Great Britain talent team for two years running, is in the top three mountain bike riders in Scotland in his age

group. Ben, from Duror, told *The Oban Times*: 'The closest venue for the British races is miles away, so the money will definitely be a big help towards travel expenses and maintaining my bike.'

The Duror flyer, a member of West Highland Wheelers, won the club's latest winter league race at the forest circuit near his home on Sunday.

Ben has already travelled to Belgium to compete along with the other young Olympic hopefuls as a member of the talent team.

## Sides meet to discuss deer slaughter

THE JOHN Muir Trust (JMT) and deerstalkers' representative Iain Thornber met in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss the conservation body's controversial policy of slaughtering deer on its land.

The summit follows a running battle between the two sides in the columns of *The Oban Times* over whether the killings are necessary or appropriate. It is understood Mr Thornber, from Lochaline, and the JMT's head of land and science Mike Daniels discussed the recent shooting of hinds and calves

in upper Glen Nevis and the trust's wider intentions regarding deer numbers. Recent killings have angered stalkers, gamekeepers and landowners who fear their livelihoods could be jeopardised if deer numbers are reduced too far. For its part, the JMT says the culls are essential to encourage habitat regeneration and young tree growth.

The trust this week presented a petition to the Scottish parliament demanding action to protect Scotland's wildland, home. It asked for protection 'to some of our most iconic wildlife'.

## Save YOUR cinema with the Oban Times Ticket appeal

Join one of the many A-list filmstars: Harry Potter's Hagrid, Robbie Coltrane, the White Witch from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Oscar winner Tilda Swinton, *Four Wedding and a Funeral's* John Hannah, Scottish film director Bill Forsyth and the inimitable Mr Bean, Rowan Atkinson and help re-open Oban's Cinema



The Oban Times Ticket appeal is simple: Buy a Gold, Silver or Bronze ticket and help raise the funds needed to re-open the cinema. Your ticket will be printed out and proudly displayed on the wall of the newly refurbished cinema along with your name, so future visitors of the cinema can see who helped raise the "phoenix from the ashes"

*"I love local cinemas. Not only because they provide, like a church or a football ground, a reason for a community to come together but because they are invariably the best places to watch a film, compared to which a lonely viewing on a laptop is a miserable experience. My personal vested interest is that comedy films, in particular, benefit from the shared excitement and communal laughter of a large audience in a proper cinema. I do wish the Oban Phoenix campaign the very best of luck."*  
 Rowan Atkinson



How to pledge your cash.

There are three types of ticket - Gold at £50, Silver at £25 and Bronze at £5. Every donation will be carefully invested in the future of the cinema. If for any reason the cinema doesn't get up and running all monies will be returned.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email address: .....

Pledge GOLD  SILVER  BRONZE  (Tick as applicable)

I would like to pay an extra £17.75 for the framing of my ticket as a gift.

Post or hand in to: Times Ticket, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB  
 Cheques or Postal Orders made payable to Times Ticket.

A full list of donors can be viewed in the Oban Times until the cinema is opened.

Total amount paid: ..... Name you want to appear on the ticket: .....

# Crewmate died in man's arms

THE SOLE survivor of a fishing accident that killed three men broke down at Fort William Sheriff Court as he described the moment a crewmate died in his arms.

Timothy Rowley was onboard the scallop trawler *Aquila* with Thomas Sanderson, Peter Hilton and skipper Tony Hayton when it capsized north of Fasdale, Ardnarnachan on July 20, 2009.

Mr Rowley, from Maryport, England, told the fatal accident inquiry he was submerged in 'freezing' water when the boat's dredges snagged on the seabed, causing it to flip over.

Mr Rowley, Mr Hilton and Mr Sanderson were in the galley when the boat ran into trouble, and Mr Hayton in the wheelhouse.

Mr Rowley told the hushed courtroom: 'The boat went hard over. All of a sudden water came gushing through the door. It went over that quick we didn't have time to do anything. I took a deep breath and swam down. I put my hands to the door, pushed myself upwards and reached the surface.'

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
 fort@obantimes.co.uk

After a brief court recess to compose himself, a tearful Mr Rowley continued, saying after he reached the surface he saw Mr Hayton a distance away.

'I shouted for Tony to swim to me but he didn't,' he said.

'He was moving, just trying to keep himself afloat. I lost sight of him after that.'

Mr Rowley found two planks of wood to help keep afloat and saw Mr Sanderson's body floating nearby.

'I saw Martin face down in the water. I knew he had passed away.'

Through the wreckage, Mr Rowley then spotted Peter Hilton and swam towards him. He said: 'I found some green twine and tried to tie us together.'

'I had his back towards my chest and I was keeping him up.'

'He was complaining about his back and he

couldn't move. After a while he passed away and died in my arms. I had to let him go and fend for myself.'

Mr Rowley was in the water for an hour and 20 minutes before rescue arrived, and said in that time he felt like giving up.

'At first I didn't think anyone was coming. I felt like letting go of the wood because I couldn't keep going anymore.'

A passing yacht caught sight of him and pulled him aboard.

Stornoway coastguard were contacted and

sent a lifeboat and helicopter to the scene and recovered the three bodies. Mr Rowley was airlifted to Belford Hospital where he was treated for hypothermia.

Fiscal Alison Wylie asked if the crew had been wearing lifejackets at the time of the incident.

Mr Rowley said few fishermen wear lifejackets at sea, as they catch on equipment.

He also said snags were common when dredging off the west coast of Scotland, saying it could happen 20 times a day. Earlier, Eric McIlwraith, who fished alongside Mr Hayton for two decades, told the inquiry how he helped search for the men.

His boat, *St Apollo*, was fishing off Mull, and had been in contact with the *Aquila* throughout the day.

Mr McIlwraith said Mr Hayton had not mentioned any problems.

Several family members of the deceased were present at the inquiry, which continues this week.

## Rent arrears to rocket warn bosses

Continued from page one.

She added: 'We want people to manage their own budgets, including paying the rent or mortgage, in the same way as other households'

'But we recognise the importance of stable rental incomes for social-sector landlords in the delivery of new homes and the extent to which direct payments of housing support contribute to this. In the longer term we will develop Universal Credit in a way that protects their financial position and keep a facility to pay landlords directly where circumstances warrant.'

'We shall work closely with the devolved administrations, housing providers and lenders in developing the new system.'

**Now even better...**  
**NEW colour copier at Krisp Print**  
 Ideal for short runs - leaflets, flyers, brochures, posters, menus and postcards

**krisp print**

**Cost effective promotional material**  
**Print only what you need!**  
 Professional design service available or print from files supplied

**Design**  
**Copy**  
**Print**

**fast turnaround**

Campbeltown 01586 554975 • email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
 Oban 01631 568015 • email: sales@krispprint.co.uk  
 www.krispprint.co.uk

**www.obantimes.co.uk/digital**

**Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.**

**Frustrated in waiting for your Oban Times?**  
 Our new E-Edition is delivered direct to your inbox on the day of publication.

- User friendly, professional page viewer
- 'Flip' through pages
- Zoom in and out
- Print pages
- Search

**Drunken pair had little recollection of violent attacks**

TWO TEENAGERS appearing together at Oban Sheriff Court last week admitted committing violent attacks on their victims in the town.  
Stewart Lindsay, aged 17, of Flat 3-1, 117 Petershill Road, Glasgow, and co-accused Avigad Avni, aged 19, of Southfield Road, Doncaster, each pled guilty to one charge of assault and both admitted another charge of threatening to stab a man at an Oban bar and throwing a woman's rucksack into Oban Bay on October 20 2009.  
Lindsay also admitted punching the man and stamping on his head three times.  
Avni pled guilty to punching a teenager at a party in Oban on July 26, 2009.  
Defence agent for both men Edward Thornton admitted neither of his clients had a full recollection of events because of the amount of alcohol they had consumed.  
Stewart Lindsay was sentenced to 200 hours community service and Avigad Avni was given 180 hours.

**Oban man who carried knife given chance to seek help**

A 21-YEAR-old man who admitted carrying a knife in public has been given a chance to seek help for alcohol abuse before being sentenced.  
Colin Carmichael, of 33 Combie Street, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to possessing the knife near Dunbeg on October 15 last year. Police officers were approached by a motorist who had seen Carmichael and was concerned he would stagger onto the road.  
The officers caught up with Carmichael who, upon seeing the flashing blue lights, tried to get something out of his pocket.  
Prosecutor Fiscal David Glancy continued: 'As the officers came towards him he managed to get the knife out of his pocket.'  
Defence solicitor Laura Russell said her client, who has learning difficulties, had no intention of using the knife and had used it for fishing.  
Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence on Carmichael for one month for him to take action for his drink problems.



Taynuilt Playpark Committee member Peter McCracken, left, and community council chairman Murray Sim join Taynuilt mothers and toddlers at the playpark site. 15\_108play01

**Community digs in to give youngsters a new play park**

AN ARGYLL village will soon have a new play park thanks to the collective expertise of its residents.  
Taynuilt Playpark, sited next to the sportsfield pavilion, should be finished by April 1 following the completion of the groundwork last week.  
Architects, solicitors and a building consultant, who all live in the village, have given their professional knowledge in-kind to help see the playpark come to fruition.  
The project has also been led by a trio of community members: Peter McCracken, Kate Hunter and Ishbel Innal.  
Peter said: 'The community has been so supportive of the project: Taynuilt Sports Council sold the ground to us for £1 and so many people in the village have given their time free of charge:

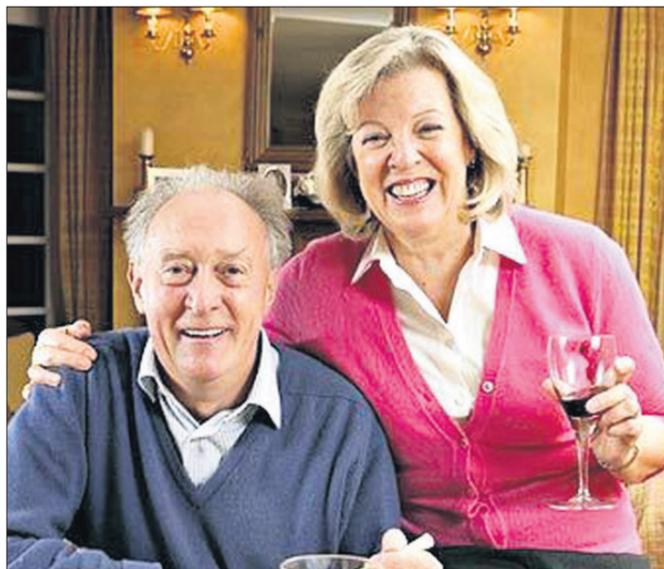
**REPORT**  
by EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Consultant Gregor Cameron was project manager; Taynuilt architects Beaton and McMurchie did the drawing; and solicitors Robin Currie and Heather Wilson oversaw the purchase of the land.'  
The Scottish Rural Development Programme funded 90 per cent of the project and West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) gave the £8,000 it had set aside to repair an existing playpark at Achnafearna housing scheme in the village.  
Extra money has come from Taynuilt Community Council's Beinn Ghlas wind farm fund.  
Murray Sim, chairman of both Taynuilt Community Council

and West Highland Housing Association, said: 'Local people have all pulled together for this project and that is the fantastic thing about it.'  
'On behalf of the community I would like to thank Peter and the committee for everything they have done.'  
'WHHA is happy to be involved because this will definitely benefit our tenants in the village.'  
'This project and the new golf clubhouse being built is part of the big picture here, The Big Society, if you like.'  
The ground work was done by Ruairaidh Neish Contractors and The Playpractice Ltd is providing the play equipment.  
The need for a playpark was highlighted in a Taynuilt Options Study initiated by WHHA following the construction of the new Aldersyde housing scheme.

**Skye hotelier wins award for her support of Scotland's food and farming**

THE NATIONAL Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has presented its Scotland Ambassador award to Skye's Lady Claire Macdonald for her dedicated support for Scottish food and farming.  
In addition to running the Michelin-starred Kinloch Lodge restaurant and hotel on the island with her husband and family, Lady Claire has put considerable time and effort into promoting Scottish produce.  
This is thanks, in no small part, to her writing regular food columns in a number of newspapers, as well as being a patron of both Scottish Food Fortnight and the Scottish Association of Farmers Markets.



Lady Claire Macdonald and her husband Lord Macdonald.

**Finest**  
She also regularly conducts cookery demonstrations to packed audiences at major events, and the finest Scottish ingredients always feature on the menu.  
She received the award in front of 500 guests at the union's annual dinner in St Andrew's.  
Speaking at the event, NFU Scotland's outgoing president Jim McLaren said: 'Scottish farmers, more than ever before, see themselves as part of a chain that runs all the way from farm to fork.'  
'A lot of hard work goes into producing the raw materials needed for Scotland's successful food and drink industry but that hard work seems worthwhile when we have a stalwart supporter

like Lady Claire who can relay the fantastic story we have to tell straight to the consumer.'  
**Heart-felt**  
'Through her business, her articles and patronage of key organisations, Lady Claire's

support for the efforts of Scotland's primary producers is unflinching and her recognition of the quality of food and drink we produce is heart-felt.'  
After receiving the award, Lady Claire said: 'I feel from the bottom of my heart that this award is such a huge honour. However, it should not really be an award about one person.'

**Talented**  
'There is a fantastic team of hard working and talented individuals without whom Scotland's ingredients would be very dull.'  
'My respect for the farmers, crofters and fishermen continues to grow and these people are all too often the invisible food heroes of Scotland. These are the people who produce the goods that continue to truly inspire Scotland's cooks and chefs. It is to them that I offer my immense gratitude.'

**Worthy**  
The award was presented by Ian Leech, the sales and agency director of NFU Mutual. He said: 'Lady Claire has a fantastic way of describing the virtues of Scottish food and farming to many different audiences and is a very worthy recipient of this award.'

**Greenock man pleads guilty to assault**

A GREENOCK man pled guilty to assaulting his partner in Oban's Dunollie Road after the incident was caught on CCTV.  
Aaron McBryde, aged 36, of 10 Kestrel Crescent, Greenock, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to assaulting the woman on October 23 last year.  
Sheriff Ruth Anderson deferred sentence on McBryde until March 15 for background reports.

**Extra flights boost Highlands and islands**

LOGANAIR is adding extra flights to destinations throughout the Highlands and Islands in anticipation of a bumper summer for Scottish tourism in 2011.  
The airline, which operates its scheduled services under a franchise agreement with Flybe, has added more flights from Glasgow to Ilay, Stornoway, Benbecula and Sumburgh as part of its peak summer timetable which will operate between July 1 and August 28. The developments include:  
additional lunchtime services between Glasgow and Ilay on Monday, Friday and Sunday; additional mid-morning flights between Glasgow and Stornoway on Monday and Saturday; and an extra Saturday roundtrip between Glasgow and Benbecula.  
Loganair Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Hinkles said: 'Bookings for peak summer travel on our 20 routes to, from and within the Scottish Highlands and Islands are already ahead of the same time last year.'

**JACKSON BROS**  
*Master Butchers*  
2 George Street, Oban, PA34 5RX  
Tel - 01631 562016  
Congratulations on 20 years in Business  
From  
Alister Jackson  
Jackson Bros, Master Butchers  
Specialising in Top Quality Scottish Beef, Lamb, Pork and Venison

**Eric Smith World Travel**

ABTA The Travel Association  
www.gowestravel.co.uk  
**worldchoice**

**The number one travel agent in Oban is celebrating its 20th ANNIVERSARY.**

Book through Eric Smith World Travel and enjoy a trouble free holiday or journey, at very competitive prices.

Remember, if you're not with us you're on your own!!!

**FANTASTIC FREE OFFERS ON 2011 MED CRUISES!!**  
FOR EXAMPLE 7 NT CRUISE, 7 OR 15 OCT, FROM £599 PER PERSON!!  
FREE CONNECTING FLIGHTS  
FREE UPGRADE TO BALCONY CABIN  
FREE ON BOARD CREDIT  
FREE TRANSFER AIRPORT TO CRUISE SHIP

**To mark the agency's 20 years in Travel in Oban we are giving either a celebratory cash discount of £20 per person on all holidays over £475 per person, or alternatively any one of the following options**  
**FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE,**  
**FREE USE OF AIRPORT BUSINESS LOUNGE,**  
**OR FREE AIRPORT HOTEL WITH PARKING INCLUDED ON OUTBOUND OR RETURN!**

This will apply to all bookings made by 31 May 2011 on production of this advert coupon.

All travel offers subject to availability, conditions apply, full details on request.

**20 years in travel**



Left: Eric Smith is joined by travel agents Dianne MacColl (left) and Sine MacKay. Not pictured is part time accountant, Shirley Smith. 108eric1

HAVING successfully completed its 20th year in business, Oban's independent travel agent, Eric Smith Travel, has pledged to continue offering unrivalled service and prices for the years ahead.

The local company has come a long way from its first day in Stafford Street on February 7, 1991; staffed purely by owner Eric Smith and a YTS trainee.  
Since then, the company has moved premises two times and seen off competition from two national companies, becoming the town's only travel agent.  
It now employs three full and one part time staff at their current premises in Argyll Square. Owner, Eric Smith is a Fellow of the Institute of Travel and Tourism with 38 years experience in travel in Oban. The team is further made up of Agency Manager Dianne MacColl, with 24 years travel experience, making them probably one of the most experienced travel agencies in Scotland. Senior Sales consultant Sine Mackay joined in December 2008 and has become a valued member of the team. She has already visited Dubai and Sharm el Sheik on agents familiarisation trips, to further increase the bank of resort knowledge available to ESWT clients.  
Last but not least, well known former Oban bank manager Willie Melville is still connected to the agency after over 15 years and acts as consultant, due to his expertise on travel to Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan as well as most of the popular short haul resorts.  
What hasn't changed is the company's ability to provide an unrivalled service, great holidays and unforgettable memories.  
That's because Eric Smith Travel is a member of the World Choice co-operative of independent travel agents, giving them access to almost every holiday available to UK residents from a range of providers.  
The result is that staff can tailor your holiday precisely to your needs without having to 'sell in' any particular destination or deal.  
The wide range also means that Eric Smith Travel can source holidays to destinations you want to visit often matching or beating internet quotes, perfect given the

current economic climate and without the risk of offering your credit card details online.  
Not everyone knows where they want to go on holiday before they do, so it can be beneficial to simply drop in for a chat and discuss your options - something internet providers simply cannot do.  
Eric Smith Travel's fully trained staff will talk to you about your preferences, be it for hot weather or cool, relaxation or action, before coming up with a shortlist of ideal destinations.  
They can also give you guidance as to the political stability of overseas countries, as well as provide telephone support - direct to the shop - for information on possible delays or rescheduled flights.  
Not everyone wants to go abroad though and that's why Eric Smith Travel also offer a comprehensive range of holidays within the UK, again to suit all tastes.  
Of course, by booking your holiday through Eric Smith Travel, you'll also be supporting local business, while continuing to enjoy the protection that being an ABTA registered travel agent offers.  
Eric Smith World Travel are also agents for overseas property company "LETS LIVE ABROAD" and currently have a selection of properties on offer at recession forced prices, for example in Spain, Turkey and Italy from around £40,000 to £50,000, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.  
So if you're thinking about taking a holiday, be it for a weekend away or a fortnight in the sun, why not drop in to Eric Smith Travel at 10 Argyll Square, phone 01631 566819/566818 or log on to the website at www.gowestravel.co.uk.  
To mark the agency's 20 years in Travel in Oban they are giving either a celebratory cash discount of £20 per person on all holidays over £475 per person, or alternatively any one option of free travel insurance, free use of airport business lounge, or free Airport Hotel with parking included on outbound or return!  
This will apply to all bookings made by 31 May 2011 on production of the "ESWT 20th anniversary" advert coupon.

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Council must listen to what communities say

THE much-anticipated revised list of rural primary schools in Argyll and Bute being considered for closure is due to be published tomorrow (Friday).

The row over the initial set of discredited proposals which led to so much upheaval at Kilmory must now be consigned to the history books - minds must be focused on those which will be considered by the council during the coming weeks.

However, there can be no doubt that proposed school closures remains an emotive issue.

Since taking over as the member with responsibility for education in December, Councillor Ellen Morton has travelled extensively to visit those which are under threat.

This is to her credit and has, she says, given her a good overview of education in Argyll and Bute.

This has included looking again at the controversial issue of journey times as well as the state of school buildings.

And we must take her words at face value when she says those schools on the list - which can be viewed online at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) - are not a shoe-in for closure.

Councillor Morton says she wants to listen to those communities which could be affected by the closure of their school.

It is up to those communities to make their case and it is vital that the authority listens - even if it means reversing proposals.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Ceol's Craic

THE FEBRUARY meeting of Ceol's Craic will take place in the CCA 350, Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday February 26 when it will be an all day event in association with the Glasgow Film Festival.

Starting at 1pm, the first film will be *Qimmit: A Clash of Two Truths*, an Inuit film exploring the decline in numbers of sled dogs in Arctic Canada.

At 2.45pm Film G will present this year's short Gaelic films and at 4.30pm it will be the turn of the Guga Hunters which was highly acclaimed after its recent television showing. For both the Guga Hunters and the film to follow at 6.15pm, *Before Tomorrow*, an Inuit drama set in Northern Quebec, the directors of the films will be in attendance to lead discussion and to answer questions.

At 7pm there will be the opportunity to relax with conversation before Gillebride MacMillan launches his new CD at 8pm.

The final musical proceedings of the evening will be in the capable hands of father and son Roddy and Rory Campbell who will be joined by a special guest.

For tickets telephone 0141 352 4900 or for film tickets contact [www.glasgowfilm.org/festival](http://www.glasgowfilm.org/festival).

#### Young musicians prize competition

THE SIGHT of young musicians struggling with large instruments as they make their way towards the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama is one which Glasgow Saturday shoppers are familiar.

It was therefore a treat to attend the academy for the final of the Junior Traditional Music Competition. From an entry of 30 musicians, the six finalists, consisting of four fiddlers, one pianist and one on clarsach, each played for 15 minutes and then, to allow the adjudicator Simon Thomoure of 'Hands up for Trad' fame to decide on the winner, all the pupils, divided into three groups, demonstrated that the future of traditional music is indeed very healthy.

After much deliberation, Simon decided that the winning performance came from fiddler Sally Simpson, a popular choice with the audience in the packed hall.

After much deliberation, Simon decided that the winning performance came from fiddler Sally Simpson, a popular choice with the audience in the packed hall.

#### Buntata's Sgadan

THERE was an extremely pleasing turnout of members and friends, some of them far travelled, at last weekend's traditional Buntata's Sgadan/ mince and tatties evening organised by the Glasgow Skye Association in Partick Burgh Hall.

After an enjoyable meal prepared by the association chefs, entertainment was provided by Mairi MacArthur, Kenna and Seumas Campbell

#### Correction

THE OBAN TIMES wishes to point out that a coastguard boat was used to transfer a prisoner from Tobermory on the Isle of Mull to Oban on January 16, not the Oban Lifeboat, as was stated.

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

and accordionist Jonathan Campbell. There was even dancing from those who had not eaten too much!

#### Clydebank ceilidh

ONCE again, despite the poor attendance, supporters of the Clydebank and District Highlander's Association were treated to an enjoyable ceilidh.

The Gaelic singers were Emma Deans, Nicola Pearson and Duncan MacDonald, Susan MacFadyen played fiddle selections and Andrew Caulfield was the piper. Ann Hepburn was accompanied by Carol McLean for her Scots songs and then they sang a couple of duets.

Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist and George Paul chaired proceedings

#### Choir concert

THE ANNUAL concert of Glasgow Islay Senior and Junior Gaelic Choirs will take place tomorrow evening (Friday) starting at 7.30pm in Bearsden Hall which is located at Bearsden Cross just opposite Marks and Spencer.

Please note the change of venue from previous years. Margaret MacLeod will chair the concert

#### Annual gathering

THE ANNUAL Gathering Concert and Dance of the Glasgow Islay Association will take place, as usual, during the first weekend of March but it will be on the Saturday evening, March 5, and not Friday as in previous years.

Both the concert and dance will be held in Glasgow University Union.

Full details next week.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday February 24:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Ross Johnson.

**Friday February 25:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs Concert - see above. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 9pm-1am.

**Saturday February 26:** Ceol's Craic - see above. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Buffet Ceilidh, Partick Bowling Club, Fortrose Street, 7.45pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Annual Dinner, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 5pm.

**Thursday March 3:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jim Malcolm.

**Saturday March 5:** Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering and Dance - see above.

#### Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend it will be the Keelies on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskey Lilt on Friday, Dodgy Ground on Saturday and Willie Cameron on Sunday.

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



## 1st Oban Company The Boys Brigade

An Oban Times reader submitted this week's flashback photograph which is of the 1st Oban Company The Boys Brigade from the early 1930s. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Time to waken up, Oban

Sir, As frequent visitors to Scotland for more than 40 years, we have flown into Connell and stayed many times in and around Oban.

Your town has not altered much over the years. The airport has, but that is another story.

With so much time spent in the area, we feel we have a vested interest in Oban's fortunes and are thereby entitled to comment.

It was interesting, therefore, to read in the same edition of a recent copy of *The Oban Times*, three items concerning potential improvements.

One was a request for ideas for improvement from the town centre manager. Another was a student's award-winning concept of things to come, in which he commented on the decline of the area, and another was a report on even more planning delays for the derelict Argyll Hotel.

What is the point in asking for help on the one hand and looking at future plans on the other, when today's developers are being constantly hamstrung and frustrated by planning authorities, councils and third party interests?

Here you have local entrepreneurs with the vision, desire and resources to turn around Oban's premier eyesore and yet being continually thwarted and frustrated at every turn.

It is a brave person who is prepared in these times of financial unrest to invest in projects such as these.

One can only applaud their determination to succeed. Lesser mortals would have thrown in the towel and left oban to its fate.

This is now the 21st century. Wake up, Oban and grasp this opportunity. Set aside political differences. Stop hijacking progress. Let work start and then work alongside the developers for the common good.

Surely it ought to be possible to stop wasting time and money and give support to the individuals prepared to provide

improvements, work and employment in your town. **Digby Staley and J Anthony Lucas, Chesterfield.**

### Appalling slaughter of hinds and calves

Sir, It would appear from *The Oban Times* letters pages that only two correspondents have supported the John Muir Trust (JMT) regarding the recent appalling slaughter of hinds and calves in upper Glen Nevis.

Predictably there have been JMT chairman John Hutchison and Wildlife Trust's Mark Foxwell. Perhaps we should ask if these incidents are the only known ones - or have there been others unreported?

Bristling with indignation at justified criticisms of their obscene policies, they have both gone into attack mode - Hutchison laying into Iain Thornber for suggesting that the killings were excessive and quite obviously raising serious concerns about Lochaber's image if visitors stumbled upon rotting deer carcasses in the hills - story by Stephen Norris page nine, February 10.

Mr Hutchison said that Iain Thornber was misleading the public by suggesting that visitors were being confronted with the sight of putrefying carcasses. His vacuous explanation was that their shattered remains had been deliberately left on the hill to 'encourage eagles' - note he omitted to state whether Golden or Sea Eagle!

With staggering impertinence Mr Foxwell wrote: 'We need sustainable populations of healthy deer living in healthy ecosystems and we support the John Muir Trust in its professional and humane approach to achieve this goal.'

If the slaughter at Glen Nevis is being professional and humane I think that the JMT and Scottish Natural Heritage should themselves be prepared for an immediate, salutatory!!

For the glaring insensitivity of

this statement alone Mr Foxwell should be hounded from his position as reserve manager with the Scottish Wildlife Trust - Highlands and Islands. It was exactly his type of management /mentality that virtually exterminated wild buffalo from the plains of North America.

The deer slaughter in the recent Glen Nevis bloodbath was not carried out by local gamekeepers who know the ground and could have performed a cull to take out the poorer stock, but by marksmen imported from outside to eliminate a quota previously decided upon by the JMT/SNH.

What a contrast in the observations of other *Oban Times* correspondents regarding this issue. Iain Thornber, James Kennedy, Davy Thomas, J J MacDonald all obviously have real experience of deer management.

Their contributions were sympathetically directed towards the deer themselves having just faced two very long and hard winters. Their realistic aims suggest humane policies to alleviate the problems facing Scotland's wild red deer population.

It would be interesting to hear from estate owners in the Highlands and Islands if they consider that there really are too many deer and if their own stalkers manage to shoot their annual quotas today as they did, for example, ten years ago?

**Name and address supplied.**

### More shelter for deer

Sir, I would like to respond to your article 'Trust hits back over deer cull'.

Any animal denied access to food for weeks on end, as deer were last winter, will starve - this could be understood by a five year old child.

When there is deep frozen snow covering the ground it makes no difference whether there are five deer per square kilometre or 25 the end result will be the same - they will starve. If Mr Hutchison can't grasp this perhaps he should

consider his position. He should certainly think more carefully before making wild accusations about deer deaths last winter being caused by 'current management practices'.

Most stalkers have a great respect and regard for deer and would take exception to that statement, especially coming from someone with no practical experience on the subject. Extremes of weather, be it deep, frozen snow or relentless heavy rainfall, will always cause deaths in deer regardless of density and are not a reflection on management.

To quote from a scientific study done on Rum several decades ago: 'Natural mortality will never be entirely eliminated by culling, even where this holds deer numbers below the level that the environment can support,' taken from 'Red Deer in the Highlands' by T H Clutton-Brock and S D Albon.

Referring to Rory Syme's letter, where he states 'current numbers are unsustainable in some areas', deer numbers in many areas of Scotland - and I doubt if an accurate total figure is known - are currently lower than they have been for a long time, due in part to the many large slaughters that have been carried out by conservation bodies.

Hundreds of thousands of sheep have also been taken off the hills, meaning there are very many fewer mouths on the ground than in the recent past.

Many deer forests, Kingie included, are currently taking steps to provide more shelter and habitat for deer in the form of fenced off areas either being planted with trees or by allowing natural regeneration to take place. Fences will be removed when appropriate and further areas fenced and planted in rotation.

**John Cameron, Stalker's Cottage, Kingie, Invergarry, Inverness-shire.**

### Question needs answered

Sir, I write in reply to the letter of Liberal Democrat Alan Reid MP,

which appeared in last week's issue.

In these days of consensus politics it is pleasing to see that Mr Reid is in total agreement with the SNP group's position in that the school closure consultation process was fatally flawed and that he welcomes the SNP group's decision to vote against those closures. It is a shame that he was not able to convince his own Liberal Democrat colleagues on the council to be of the same opinion as they voted to close 25 schools. In the same letter he also seeks to deflect the blame of the recent cut in Argyll and Bute Council's budget and place it at the door of the Scottish Government. Unfortunately for him the facts do not bear that assumption out.

The blame lies equally between Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) who asked the Scottish Government to make changes to certain areas of local council funding, the council officials who agreed to these changes without understanding or realising their consequences, and the persons who represented Argyll and Bute Council at the meeting between Scottish Government officials, COSLA and members from all of Scotland's 32 councils on November 19, 2010.

While two of those persons were Council Leader Dick Walsh and Chief Executive Sally Loudon, the inconvenient truth for Alan Reid, and hence the real reason for his letter, was that the third person who attended this meeting was Liberal Democrat councillor and their candidate for the coming Scottish Holyrood election, Alison Hay. Just why Councillor Hay, who is an Environmental spokesperson, should have felt it necessary to attend the most important meeting regarding the council's budget in the last 20 years and not the council's own Director of Finance, Bruce West, is a question that the council needs to answer.

But in the end the people of Argyll and Bute are not stupid and they know where these cuts have ultimately come from. They have been imposed on Scotland by the ConDem Westminster government of which Mr Reid is a member of, a government made up of many millionaires, who have, despite their rhetoric, refused to curb banker' bonuses while leaving ordinary, every day working class folk struggling and in despair. And lets not forget Labour's part in this disaster. It was Gordon Brown who, as chancellor, deregulated the Financial Services Authority to such an extent that the banks were given cart blanc to do as they pleased.

**Mark McCormack, Isle of Bute.**

### What are we paying towards renewables?

Sir, Everyone knows fossil fuels will eventually run out. As they say today, that is a 'no-brainer'.

Other energy sources have to be found, which also speaks for itself.

We all know development of replacements cost vast amounts of money. There is only one source for this and that is us and not 'the government' as they say.

There is a hidden tax buried somewhere in our fuel accounts. I have tried now for two weeks to get some indication of the amount from my suppliers

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 an email, 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk).

without success. I feel it is only fair we should know as such items of VAT, standing charges are stated.

People are making money from our contributions into such developments as wind farms. As time goes by wind farms are being proved at times to be virtually useless in their contribution to the National Grid. During the recent freezing and windless December I believe they only contributed 0.2 per cent of our national electricity. The builders and landowners claim approximately 30 per cent efficiency, but from October 2009 to September 2010 they only averaged 23.6 per cent.

To quote John Constable of the Renewable Energy Foundation, in a recent article, 'what is happening now is simply reckless because of Government current obsession with wind farms to look good to comply with EU directives'. In the meantime please can anyone tell us what we are all contributing to renewable subsidies through Renewable Obligation on our power bills?

### No money to spend on roads

Sir, I have a lot of sympathy with Lauren Stewart who is worried about the state of Argyll's roads and the potential damage caused to vehicles. *The Oban Times* letters, February 17.

Let's be clear, Argyll and Bute Council has no money to spend on the roads which were already crumbling before the winter.

Argyll, like the rest of Scotland, has seen decades of neglect and underinvestment by successive governments.

I am sure the council would love to spend the money but they don't have it. Scotland doesn't have the money either as the country sends every penny down to London and if fortunate gets some pocket money back to spend in Scotland. That is how the Union works and how it will always work.

Simply put, as part of Britain Argyll and Scotland have crumbling infrastructure and it will always be that way under the current system.

Scotland should be independent and take control of its own resources. That means every penny raised in Scotland is under the control of Scotland. And, yes, that includes oil.

If you vote Lib Dem, Labour or Tory you will get more of the same, crumbling roads, poor infrastructure and underinvestment. Lauren should vote for a party that puts Scotland first.

### Highland past

Sir, The National Trust for Scotland's Property Manager in Glencoe, Scott McCombie, claims that 'the Highlands were cleared of their people 250 or so years ago', *The Oban Times* letters, February 3.

The populations of the seven crafting counties in 1755, Webster; 1801, Census and 1851, Census were as follows: Argyll - 66,286; 81,277 and 89,298. Inverness-shire - 59,563; 72,672 and 96,500. Ross and Cromarty - 48,084; 56,318 and 82,707. Sutherland - 20,774; 23,117 and 25,793. Caithness - 22,215; 22,609 and 38,709. Orkney and Shetland - 38,591; 46,824 and 62,533. In total in 1755 - 255,513; in 1801 - 302,817 and in 1851, 395,540. The real Highland past, in short, was less simple than Mr McCombie appears to believe.

**G A Dixon, Stirling.**

### YOUR LETTERS

## A view from the Tower by McCaig

### 'Let there be light' - and adjust the school day accordingly

THE COALITION government announced last week that it is to bring before parliament a Bill to make British Summertime permanent throughout the year.

Strange to say, there has been a noticeable drop in the opposition to this proposal which has been around for at least half a century.

There were the usual mutterings about children going to school in the dark and the problems of farmers and crofters starting their daily round in similar dreary conditions.

Naturally, there were also the usual Europhobic screams from those who believe Britain is still a world power and can dictate whatever it pleases as it has the power to enforce its rule wherever it chooses.

Fortunately, the latest Defence Review has put an end to this old

nonsense. If it is imperative that children go to school in daylight - how many of them walk anyway - then adjust the school-day so that it starts an hour later and finishes similarly - it will still be light even up to five o'clock at its darkest.

We need not think we are the only European country that has this problem; what hand-ringing there would be if we suddenly found ourselves with three hours of winter daylight as is the case with Finland!

Mind you, our problems with those who drink too much pale into insignificance when compared to those of Finland and other countries with very short daylight but that is the fault of those who cannot amuse or entertain themselves without a glass in their hand.

I suspect that the change to Central European Time will go through both Houses of Parliament with little real opposition and we will have a school-day timed to suit the pupils and not the farmers of yesterday.

### A new name in Scottish shipping

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (Cal-Mac) had a 'bad' year in 2010 with ferries breaking down and timetables having to be changed at short notice or, in the case of some summer cruises cancelled all together.

This year has started as badly with atrocious weather, more scheduled services cancelled and ramp problems at Craignure currently.

However, the state-owned shipping company has another problem on its ever-lengthening agenda: the decision, sneaked out very, very quietly that Dunoon, far from getting the grandiose promises made by now retiring MSP Jim Mather with his fellow Cabinet Minister Mike Russell being left to tell his potential electors there will be no new ships for the Dunoon to Gourock route as were promised.

There will be no vehicular transport across the Clyde from CalMac but a relatively infrequent passenger only service.

The good citizens of Cowal didn't find this out until it was too late to invade Mr Russell's adoption meeting and a jolly good ceilidh last Friday evening.

Mike should have known Mr Mather would leave him with yet another 'broken' promise.

### Plockton music school to be saved?

I RECENTLY wrote a piece on the disgraceful lack of commitment on the part of Highland councillors who voted to close the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton.

They couldn't have faith in something that they helped to found because they wouldn't find a relatively small contribution compared to the much larger one made by the Scottish Executive.

Shame on all of you who washed your hands in public to show where your true loyalties lie.

However, if you read my piece you will remember I made a suggestion

that there could be a solution to the problem: the removal of the governance of the music school from Highland Council with control passing to the University of the Highlands and Islands as a foundation course for a Faculty of Music for which there is a greater need than for one of religion of which no one ever hears a word.

I'm delighted to report that having spoken to Mike Russell, the Education Minister, a few days ago when he was in Oban that he shares my enthusiasm for the proposal as does the Leader of Highland Council Dr Michael Foxley. Talks, I understand, are progressing well.

I hope they remember this university is multi-campus and that there is room in Oban for a specialist subject degree course in music.

*McCaig*

# Crofters Commission propose pilot plan to simplify planning process

THE CROFTERS Commission are to attempt to simplify the planning process and untangle a web of complications that have trapped people aiming to build new homes on croftland.



Drew Ratter

**Streamlining**  
The Commission and Highland Council have embarked on a six month pilot project aimed at streamlining the often complex processes of obtaining planning permission and decrofting land for a new house on croftland.

It is hoped that the proposal will help retain the better quality croft land and avoid conflicting decisions where planning permission for houses are granted - but decrofting refused.

**'Major step forward'**  
Convener of the Crofters Commission, Drew Ratter, said: 'This is a major step forward to help preserve the better quality croft land.'

'Legislation means folk will still have to submit a decrofting

application to the Commission but this can be done at the same time as they lodge their planning application. This will save time as the majority of the information required will be captured at the planning consultation stage.

'I am looking forward to seeing the results in September and hope it can then be rolled out across all local authorities in the crofting areas.'

Chair of the Highland Council's Planning Environment and De-

velopment Committee Councillor Ian Ross, said: 'The Council recognises that crofting is a core component of life in the Highlands, beneficial not only to crofting communities but also the wider population and environment. With this pilot the Council will be able to more fully consider the crofting impact of a development proposal by including an assessment of the quality of the land for crofting and whether there are any options for relocation of the preferred sites

where that might help to preserve the integrity or viability of the croft as a small agricultural holding.'

The pilot scheme will cover an area from Assynt in the North to Glenorchy, Argyll in the South, and also take in the Isle of Skye and the Small Isles.

People submitting planning applications for a new house on croft land will be asked to complete and submit a crofting questionnaire along with their planning application to assist the process.

## Ewes with twins at foot sell to £173 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1545 store cattle, 128 young bulls and 197 cows and 1020 store sheep and grit ewes at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 168.26p (+6.15p) and sold to 211.8p per kg for a 340kg Simmental cross from Bangour and £1100 from Milton

Heifers averaged 160.85p (+1.22p) and sold to 209.4p per kg for a 234kg Limousin cross from Roughside and £965 for a 664kg Limousin cross from Robertson.

Young bulls averaged 165.71p and sold to 217.20p per kg for a 221kg Charolais cross from Shaw of Touch and £935 for a

592kg Simmental cross from New Mains

Texel 2-crop ewes with Texel twins from Lathrisk sold to £173, £170 and £168 while Texel in-lamb gimmers from the same home fetched £138. Texel in-lamb gimmers from Kinneil Mill sold to £152 with Texel 3-crop ewes also from this home

selling to £135.

Rodders sold Blackfaces ewes with Bluefaced Leicester triplets to £76.

Texel hogs from Ashfield sold to £75.50 and to £75 from Binzain. Ashfield also sold Mules to £66 and Charollais to £65, with Baidlandhill selling Blackfaces to £61.

## Islay sheep sell well at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 2280 prime sheep and 643 cast ewes and rams at Stirling last Tuesday when prime lambs averaged 183.33 (-0.65p on the week), selling to 246p per kilo for Beltex's scaling 40kg from DS and RC Taylor Easter Ochtermuthill.

Suffolk ewes sold to £109.50 from J Buchanan, Lead, while Mules from Eorrabus, Islay sold to £77.50. Continental rams from C McMillan, Ardbeg, Islay sold to £121.50 and to £115.50 for Cheviots from West Dron and to £108.50 for Texels from Seart.

## Quality breeding cattle remain in demand at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 197 store cattle, 68 breeding cattle and 43 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality grazing and forward stores met a strong enquiry, quality breeding cattle sold extremely well and Over 30 Month cattle sold at increased rates.

Cows with heifer calf at foot sold to £1,450 for a Simmental cross from 34 Newmarket, Stornoway.

Cows with bull calf at foot sold

to £1,600 for a Simmental cross from 34 Newmarket.

In-calf cows sold to £1,000 twice for a Limousin from Littleburn, Munloch and a Shorthorn from 34 Newmarket.

Breeding bulls sold to £1,800 for a Charolais from 34 Newmarket.

Bullocks averaged 170.8p and sold to 193.1p per kg for a pen of 360kg Limousin crosses from 145 Badnellan, Brora, and £955 for a 705kg Shorthorn cross from Ordmuir, Muir of Ord.

Heifers averaged 160.4p and sold to 178.5p per kg for a pair of 297kg Limousin crosses from 145 Badnellan and £930 for a 605kg Belgian Blue cross from Ordmuir.

Young bulls averaged 107.7p and sold to 117.1p per kg and £720 for a Simmental cross from Welbeck Estates, Berriedale. OTM heifers and bullocks averaged 145.7p and sold to 153.8p per kg and £815 for a 530kg Charolais cross from Hilton Farm, Tain.

## Ellary manager is new NFUS regional chairman

THE ARGYLL and the Islands region of the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has a new chairman, with John Semple of Ellary Estate, near Lochgilphead taking over the reins from long serving member Bert Leitch, Lagganulva, Isle of Mull.

### AGM

The change came following the organisations annual general meeting held in St Andrews last week.

NFUS also finalized its new look Board of Directors under a new presidential team of Nigel Miller, Stow, Galashiels as president and Allan Bowie, St Andrews and John Picken, St Andrews as vice presidents were elected.

John Semple will be joined on the Board by three other regional chairmen, Alastair Martin from Bankend, Dumfries and Galloway, Kevan Harvey, who hails from Orkney and Shetland and Charlie Adam from the North East.

New committee chairmen are Kenneth Campbell (Milk) and Andrew Moir (Combinable crops).

John Smith, Drumalea, Kilkenny, Campbeltown remains as chairman of the legal and technical committee.

NFUS's new president Nigel Miller said: 'There is a new team and some new faces in place for what will be a very important year for the Scottish farming industry.'

'There are huge immediate challenges to many of those involved in primary production in Scotland in securing a fair return from the marketplace.'

### CAP

'At the same time, European discussions on fundamental changes to the way the Common Agricultural Policy supports our industry will begin in earnest. 'The Union's board is a fantastic mix of experience and fresh faces and I look forward to working with them as we build on the great work that NFUS continues to do in representing our industry.'

'That work starts this week when I will sit down with my vice presidents and chief executive to plot our work programme for the coming months.'

Clear from 10 to 10,000

### Starlings

and other birds from farms, sheds, masts

**BirdGard**  
Humane! Effective! INEXPENSIVE!

Distress and predator calls with four random modes to prevent habituation  
FREEPHONE: 0800 988 0499  
See Birdgard in action on BirdCard.co.uk

**HAY AND STRAW DELIVERED**  
Round and Square Bales.  
Telephone:  
N Robertson  
07768 506826

**Oban Times FARMING**  
**Oban Times FARMING**

**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

## SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**Be seen by over 40,000 readers**  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

# An t-Oban-Baile Malairt-chothromaich

## Oban a Fairtrade Town - How are we doing?

Since Oban achieved Fairtrade status in November 2006, Fairtrade throughout the world has come a long way. In 2011, 7.5million people in the so-called developing world - farmers, workers, their families and communities - are benefitting from Fairtrade.

In Oban and Lorn there are now 73 businesses and voluntary organisations committed to Fairtrade. They are listed on the Oban Fairtrade Steering Group's website at [www.obanfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.obanfairtrade.org.uk), with printed copies of the recently updated Oban Fairtrade Directory also available from participating businesses and organisations.

### What is Fair Trade?

"Pay us a fair price for our coffee and we will make poverty history for ourselves"

Raymond Kimaro, Kilimanjaro Co-operative Coffee Union, Tanzania, who visited Oban last Summer.

Poor market access and unfair trade rules often mean that the price farmers in the developing world get for their crop does not even cover the cost of production, whilst millions of workers remain in poverty. They also face the global challenges of food price rises and climate change. Fairtrade means that farmers receive:

- Agreed stable and sustainable prices
- An extra payment ('a premium') to invest in their community

**'Show off your label!': Fairtrade Fortnight 2011**

We are now on the threshold of Fairtrade Fortnight (28th February - 13th March), the theme for this year being 'Show off your Label' focusing on fairtrade cotton clothing and in Scotland there is a specific emphasis on fairtrade school uniforms. An estimated 100 million rural households are involved in the production of cotton in 70 countries around the world. Two-thirds of this cotton is produced in the developing world. For most farmers in cotton-producing communities it is their only means of income and their only cash crop. But less than 1% of cotton fashion on the high street carries the FAIRTRADE Mark, which guarantees the farmers who grow the cotton receive a price which at least meets the cost of production.

Here in Oban, the events focusing on fairtrade cotton are:

- 'Fairtrade Fashion Fix' evening in Taynuilt on Wednesday 2nd March, when Pauline Cameron of 'tonic' style consultancy will 'make over' local models using FT cotton clothing and accessories!
- A Fairtrade Assembly at Park Primary School, which is currently working towards FT status
- 'Women doing it for themselves: fairtrade cotton, coffee and fashion!' at Oban Chocolate Shop on Wednesday 9th March, which will celebrate International Women's Day's 100th anniversary by looking at the fashion industry and how fair trade has impacted on the lives of women cotton producers and garment workers across the world.
- A number of local businesses - cafes - are running promotions on selected products during FT Fortnight. Look out for the Oban FT Fortnight flyer which provides information on these special deals.

For ticket information for these events check the website [www.obanfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.obanfairtrade.org.uk) or phone Pauline on 07930 313172 or Murdoch on 01631 710550.

### Getting involved

More information about fairtrade and how you can get involved will be available in a display at Oban Library and at Fairtrade Stalls at the Co-operative from 28th February to 5th March and at Tesco from 7th March to 12th March, both from 10 am to 12 noon. Volunteers will be on hand to offer you free samples and leaflets,

or alternatively you can email Oban FT Steering Group secretary at [secretary@obanfairtrade.org.uk](mailto:secretary@obanfairtrade.org.uk).

**Scotland: A Fairtrade nation?**

All of this is helping Argyll to move forward to become a Fairtrade Zone and Scotland to become a Fairtrade Nation. The campaign to make Scotland one of the world's first Fairtrade nations has been given backing from the Scottish Government and this year sees a final push to secure the status. To claim the title, every city and 55% of local authority areas have to achieve Fairtrade status. Scotland is on its way to achieving this, for example Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR) have recently signed up to becoming a FT organisation, pledging to make Fairtrade products available in all staff canteens and at staff meetings.

Hopefully we will be able to take similar steps here in Argyll & Bute.

Photo courtesy of Fairtrade

**Connel Village Store and Post Office**

For all your everyday needs  
Happy to support Fairtrade  
Tel: 01631 701216

**SCOTT'S SANDWICHES**

43 STEVENSON STREET

**NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

Supports Fairtrade in Oban  
For fresh home-made food & outside catering  
Contact John Miller on 01631 566646

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

**SHOW OFF YOUR LABEL!**

28 February - 13 March 2011  
[facebook.com/fairtradeofscotland](http://facebook.com/fairtradeofscotland)

**'Women doing it for themselves': fair trade cotton, coffee and fashion!**

Wednesday 9th March,  
Oban Chocolate Shop, 6.45 - 9.00pm

Come and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of **International Women's Day** in partnership with **Fairtrade Fortnight** for an evening focussing on the women across the globe who make what we wear.

Fun workshops on fairtrade cotton & the fashion industry and a chance to try FT clothing for yourself!

Complimentary Fairtrade refreshments and nibbles.

Tickets from Pauline tnx.07930 313172 or the Chocolate Shop. Advance booking essential. The event is free but donations on the evening will go to the Linda Norgrove Foundation.

[www.womenatwork.org.uk](http://www.womenatwork.org.uk)

**Roxys**

Enjoy Fairtrade products with us

7 ARGYLL SQUARE, OBAN TEL: 01631 570307

**Bossards**

patisserie & coffee shop

Serving tasty food all day

Happy to support Fairtrade

1 Gibraltar Street, Oban  
Tel: 01631 564641

The Oban World Famous Fish Chip & Chop and Restaurant

Supporting Fairtrade in Oban

116 George Street, Oban  
Tel: 01631 567000

Helping to develop countries by supporting Fairtrade.

Oxfam Shop  
107-109 George Street, Oban  
Tel: 01631 566465

From 1st April 2011  
Open Daily 11am - 4pm  
Serving Morning Coffee, Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks & Afternoon Teas

Isle of Lismore Café  
Heritage Centre, Lismore  
01631760020 or 07760474005  
Supporting & Serving Fairtrade Products

**imani DEVELOPMENT**

global vision, local knowledge

Imani Development  
St Moluag's, Croft Avenue,  
Oban PA34 5JJ, UK  
Tel: 01631-569990  
Fax: 01631-569520  
[www.imanidevelopment.com](http://www.imanidevelopment.com)  
[oban@imanidevelopment.com](mailto:oban@imanidevelopment.com)

**IMANI DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTS FAIRTRADE BECAUSE IT IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS, GOOD FOR PRODUCERS, GOOD FOR CONSUMERS; FAIRTRADE WORKS!**

**Coca Tenorio in Concert**  
 An evening of Afro-Latin music with singer/songwriter Coca Tenorio  
 Featuring top Latin musicians from:  
 Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Scotland and Venezuela  
**26th February 7:30pm**  
 Oban, Corran Halls  
 Tickets: (01631 567333)  
 coca@cocatenorio.com  
 THE LIST \*\*\*\*\* SONGLINES \*\*\*\*\* THE SCOTSMAN \*\*\*\*\*

# Talent to spare at Rockfield

MORE than 400 people crammed into Oban Primary Campus' sports hall on Thursday for the final of Rockfield's Got Talent!

Judges Morven Mc Kerrell, Oban High School's head of music, the Reverend James Beaton and local businessman Neil Matheson watched as performers from every age group put on a show to remember, with jokes, music, dance and singing lighting up the hall.

Competition was tough, but the judges ruled that the outstanding act of the night was the Sparklers dance group, made up of P3-5 girls, who performed country dancing to modern music.

First runner up was Rachel Campbell, P7, on accordion.

Third place was shared between

the Flawless dancers, consisting of P7 girls, and P2 pupil Aiden Dunn, who danced solo.

The event was organised and run on the night by the school's P7 pupils, who filmed the entire event and are to make a DVD of the proceedings.

Teachers Fiona McCormick and Isobel Boyd assisted the pupils in organising Rockfield's Got Talent! and were delighted to hear the children had made around £700 profit.

The majority of the money will go towards school funds, with £100 going to Comic Relief.

Mrs McCormick added: 'This is a great event and meets the criteria of the Curriculum for Excellence by incorporating music, drama, English and maths.'



The Dance Girls, from P4, kicked proceedings off on Thursday with a lively dance routine. t08rock6



Finley Murphy told tiger themed jokes and stories for his performance, getting a 'grrreat' response from the crowd. t08rock4



Jessica Swan demonstrated her undoubted musical abilities by her performance on the clarsach. t08rock3

## Sweet taste of success for Women's Day

A CHOCOLATE designed in Oban will be the emblem of the celebrations to mark International Women's Day.

And the sweetie will be enjoyed as part of the town's Fairtrade Fortnight and the area's Women at Work Project on March 9.

The evening soiree, Women doing it for themselves: Fair Trade Cotton, Coffee and Fashion, will include the unveiling of the International Women's Day chocolate, designed by Helen MacKechnie, co-owner of the town's Chocolate Shop.

Women at Work is a women's network, providing information and training for women in nine areas of northern Scotland. It encourages women to learn together, to develop skills and to speak out about what matters to them at home, at work and in communities.

Organiser Pauline Cameron said: 'It's going to be a great fun packed evening for celebrating women's lives and achievements throughout the world, particularly focussing on the women who make what we wear.'

'There will be a couple of fun workshops looking at fairtrade cotton and the fashion industry and a chance to try fair trade clothing for yourself.'

'We'll be exploring how our shopping choices directly affect millions of women whose livelihoods depend on growing cotton and manufacturing what we wear as well as enjoying good music, tasting some fairtrade wine, tea and coffee and enjoying that specially designed chocolate.'

★★★★★ The Herald  
 ★★★★★ Scottish Daily Express  
**Opera Highlights**  
**Ballachulish Village Hall**  
 Tuesday 1 March, 7.30pm  
 Tickets from: Ballachulish Visitor Centre  
 Tel: 01855 811 866  
**Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern**  
 Thursday 3 March, 7.30pm  
 Tickets from: Diane Steele  
 Tel: 01852 500 746  
 Tickets: £11 / £5 Under 26s  
 Find out more at [scottishopera.org.uk](http://scottishopera.org.uk)  
 Registered in Scotland Number SC027351 Scottish Charity Number SC019787

**gig argyll guide** your essential guide to live music in argyll  
**Friday 25 February >** Ivan Drever Solo  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh Bar 8pm - Tickets £6

**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**  
**Lady**  
 Very friendly old dear who needs somebody to love her after her owner died. Vets have given her a good report, but any necessary vet bills for her in the future will be covered by us.  
 Please contact Jean on 01631 566406 after 8pm for more details.  
 aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com  
<http://www.smallpaws.co.uk>  
 Reg. charity SCO13211

**Local Producers Market**  
 Thursday 3rd March  
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
 1 mile along the Trale road  
 10 am to 3 pm  
**LOTS TO EAT AND DO**  
 Every First / Third Thursday  
 Interested Producers contact  
 01631 720223  
 Local Origins Rural Network  
[www.lorn.org.uk](http://www.lorn.org.uk)

To advertise in the  
**WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
 Telephone: **01631 568000**

[www.oban.org.uk](http://www.oban.org.uk) - the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits per year.  
 Help us promote Oban and we'll help you promote your business.  
 Visit: [www.oban.org.uk](http://www.oban.org.uk) TODAY!

**HOLDING AN EVENT?**  
**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)

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (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

Meur Lochabair  
**HARRIS CEILIDH DANCE**  
 West End Hotel, Fort William  
 Saturday, February, 26th @ 7.30pm  
 Singers: John Murdo Morrison, Freddie MacKenzie, Sheena MacLeod, Jayne Morrison, Catherine MacLeod.  
 Piper Calum MacLeod.  
 Music by Ian Angus MacLeod.  
 Admission £8

## Fans out early to secure Mumford and Sons tickets

FRESH from their success at the Brit Awards, Mumford and Sons are playing a sell-out gig in Tobermory.

Tickets for the band's intimate Highland and Islands Tour went on sale at 10am on Saturday morning. Fans started queuing shortly after 6.30am and the venue was sold out shortly before 11am.

Far more people than tickets turned up at arts venue An Tobar which will host the gig on March 2.

The venue's Gordon MacLean said: 'The biggest band in the country are playing the opening gig of the season. It doesn't get better than that.'

To keep warm folk were well wrapped up in hats, scarves and gloves. People had flasks with hot drinks to keep the cold out.

'It was the band that insisted tickets went on sale from the venue and that people had to buy tickets in person. They wanted the tickets sold to local people.'



Ticket number one was sold to Michelle Duffy, left, accompanied by other early birds Erin Turnbull, Claire Brown and Fiona McAdam, who all have tickets for Mumford and Sons, who will be playing Aros Hall, Tobermory, on March 2.

The band were keen to play to people who live here on Mull.

'It was top secret that the band were coming here - and I managed to keep it under wraps,' added Gordon.

Meanwhile, demand for the Mumford and Sons gig in Fort William next Thursday saw people begin to queue for tickets at the BA Club from 1am on Saturday.

More fans from as far as Oban arrived throughout the night so that by 8am about 150 hopefuls were queuing. At two tickets per person, the 300 £20 briefs were snapped up within minutes of them going on sale at 10am.

Many were left disappointed, their mood contrasting with the party atmosphere in the car park throughout the night. Music played from car radios as fans sat in deck chairs under quilts, braving wind and rain until first light.

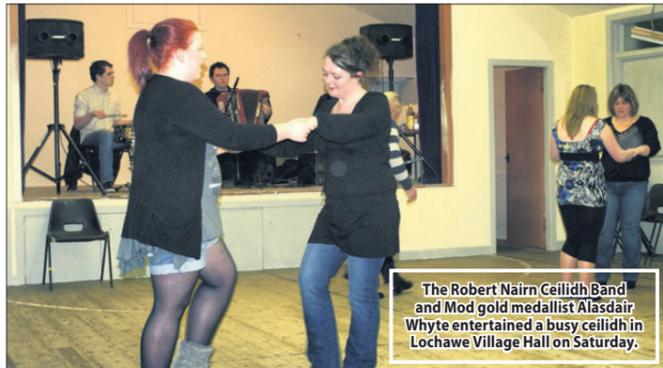
**Call to help celebrate 100th birthday of Macmillan charity**  
 ARGYLL residents are being asked to help mark the 100th birthday of a leading cancer charity.

Macmillan Cancer Support, which was founded in 1911, is asking local people to help make its birthday year extra special by taking on a fundraising challenge.

Fundraising manager for Argyll and Bute Elsie Riley said: 'Your fundraiser could be anything from a sponsored walk for one to a glamorous ball.'

To find out more about fundraising for Macmillan contact Elsie Riley on 0141 952 0085 or e-mail eriley@macmillan.org.uk.

## Gold medallist entertains at Lochawe



The Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band and Mod gold medallist Alasdair Whyte entertained a busy ceilidh in Lochawe Village Hall on Saturday.

**The Scottish Sealife Sanctuary has teamed up with The Oban Times for their new passes**  
 Redeem your passes from 26th February to 13th March inclusive  
  
**TOKEN 3**

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB  
**Musical Evening**  
 Tuesday 1st March, 2011 at 8pm  
 GUEST ARTISTS:  
 Robert Whitehead Trio  
 Railway Club Inverloch  
 All Welcome  
 Admission £4.00 ... Tea & Raffle Extra  
 IN THE EVENT OF LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

**HAPPY HOUSE**  
 Christian Pre School  
**Coffee Morning**  
 Saturday 26th February  
 10.30 - 12.30  
 Glencruinn Church Centre  
 Admission Adults £2, Children £1

Scottish Opera present  
**Opera Highlights**  
 Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern  
**Thursday 3rd March, 7.30pm**  
 Tickets £11/£5  
 Reserve on 01852 500746  
 Buy online [www.thebooth.co.uk](http://www.thebooth.co.uk)

**GUYS AND DOLLS**  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!  
 Curtains up 7.30pm  
 (Matinee @ 2.00pm on 5th)  
 Tickets: Adult - £9.50  
 Conc. - £7.50, Family - £28.00  
**Corran Halls, Oban 3rd, 4th & 5th March**  
 SPOTLIGHT  
 www.spotlightmgt.co.uk  
 RESERVED SEATING Book now to avoid disappointment!  
 CORRAN HALLS BOX OFFICE: 01631 567333

**OBAN U3A**  
 Tuesday 1st March 2011  
 At 10.30am  
 Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban  
 A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting.

Comun Gaidhealach  
 An Obain  
**Ceilidh**  
 Masonic Hall, Albany Street, OBAN  
**Saturday 5th of March 2011 at 7.30pm**  
 Admission £5  
 See Local Posters for Artists

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
 Thursday 3rd March 2011  
 Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.30pm  
 Audience and Players welcome  
 Special Guest Artist  
 Nicky McMichan Trio  
 Admission £3  
 Come Along and Enjoy the Music

LOCHABER STRATHSPEY & REEL SOCIETY  
**FIDDLERS' RALLY**  
 (Incl. CD Launch)  
 Lochaber High School  
**Saturday March 5, 2011 At 7.30pm**  
 Guest Artist: Mary Ann Kennedy  
 Tickets £8, Concessions £6, Children/Students Free  
 Available at the door or Tel 01397 704062

## Isla's got plenty to smile about



The Face of Rutherford's 2011 took a trip to the Oban hair and beauty salon on Friday to collect some of her prizes. As well as appearing on all Rutherford's advertising brochures for 2011, Taynuilt's Isla Hannigan received more than £300 worth of products and £220 worth of vouchers to be used in the salon. Isla, 16, said it was 'great' to win but has noticed a bit of extra attention at school since dazzling at the final photoshoot in Glasgow last year. She said: 'Everyone keeps asking me if I'm a model now!' Isla is pictured receiving a hamper stacked full of goodies from Rutherford's owner Pamela Mackay. t08isa1

LAST week the clock on Oban's North Pier tower was removed for maintenance. We posted this picture on Facebook: 15\_107clock04



And this is what you said:  
 Jimmy McCallum: 'Time flies!'  
 Rosslynn Gemmill: 'Time traveller!'  
 Simon Macdonald: 'Oban Times!'  
 Alex Fletcher: 'If that's the watch I would hate to see the pocket it goes into.'

Other comments on Facebook from the week:  
 Marilyn Hazlett: 'I love the Bonnie babies competition.'

Eileen Duncan: 'Can The Oban Times do a singles page and maybe a few people might get it together and, you never know, The Oban Times could have a first wedding through your dating page.'

## Coffee morning is music to Bach choir's ears



A coffee morning was held at St John's Cathedral Hall on Saturday to raise money for Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra. Looking after the raffle stall were choir members Elizabeth Little, left, and Jenny McEvoy. 15\_108choff01

## S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

**All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves**

2005 Vauxhall Meriva Breeze, 1.4Ltr, Black, 5Dr, 46,778 Miles .....£3,200  
 2004 Vauxhall Corsa SXI, 1.2 Ltr, Green, 3Dr, 77,295 Miles .....SOLD  
 2005 Vauxhall Meriva Breeze, 1.4 Ltr, Silver, 5Dr, 85,909 Miles.....£2,875  
 2001 Vauxhall Corsa Comfort, 1.2 Ltr, Green, 5Dr, 62,521 Miles .....£1,995  
 2005 Vauxhall Astra 1.9Ltr CDTI, Diesel, Silver, 5Dr, Taxed & Mot'd Customer Vehicle.....£5,495  
 1996 Mercedes C220, 2.2Ltr, Diesel, Silver, 5Dr, Taxed & Mot'd, Customer Vehicle.....£1,295  
 2002 Vauxhall Vectra Elegance 2.2Ltr, Automatic, Blue, 5Dr, 89,941 Miles, Customer Vehicle.....£2,250

**NEW STOCK ARRIVING WEEKLY**  
**MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales**

**Unit 6 Lochavullin Estate, Oban PA34 4HB**  
**Tel 01631 566502 Fax 01631 566470**  
 VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26

## S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

### CAR OF THE WEEK



**2001 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Ltr**  
 £1995.00  
 Mot and Service at time of purchase

**Unit 6 Lochavullin Estate, Oban PA34 4HB**  
**Tel 01631 566502 Fax 01631 566470**  
 VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26



Follow us on  
**facebook**

www.facebook.com/  
 obantimes

## Robertson Van Sales

06 FORD TRANSIT 260 SWB, White, Side Door, Wood lined, 61,000 Miles, Roof Rack, MOT July 11 ... £4500 + vat  
 07 FORD CONNECT T200, White, Facelift Model, Side Door, Wood lined, CD Player, MOT Sept 11..... £3600 + vat  
 04 CITROEN BORLINGO 2.0 HDI, White, Wood lined, MOT March 2012.....£2350 + vat

**ALL LIGHT COMMERCIALS BOUGHT & SOLD.**

**Robertson Van Sales, Crannog Lane, Oban**  
**07990 548046**

## BMW 3 SERIES 318D ES 5DR DIESEL ESTATE



56 reg 108000 miles. 6 Speed Manual Gearbox, Dark Blue, Black Leather Interior. Alloy Wheels, Air Con. CD Player. 12mths Tax & MOT. 4 new tyres and recently serviced. Great Condition throughout.

Tel: 01967 431661

**£7800 o.n.o.**

**54%**  
 of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Regional Press GROUP LTD

## NEW PLATE. NEW MODEL. NEW REASON TO ORDER A SUBARU. ORDER YOUR 11-PLATE VEHICLE TODAY.

The unique layout of a boxer engine and permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive affords a safer and more dynamic driving experience. And a new 11-plate model can be yours when you order today.



WRX STI range from £32,995



Forester range from £21,295



Impreza range from £17,345



Legacy range from £24,795



Outback range from £26,795

**CALL IN OR CALL US TODAY TO ARRANGE A TEST DRIVE.**

**S&S SERVICES SUBARU**  
 Tel: 01292 880080/880440 www.sandsservices.co.uk

UNCOMMON ENGINEERING  
 UNCOMMON STABILITY  
 UNCOMMON ROADHOLDING  
 UNCOMMON SENSE

SUBARU

Subaru range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km). Urban from 19.5 (14.5) to 40.4 (7.0). Extra urban from 29.1 (9.7) to 54.3 (5.2). Combined from 24.6 (11.5) to 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 270 to 155 (g/km). Prices correct as listed on going to press.

## Scotland's most established Renault dealer




**RENAULT**

**New and Pre-Reg Renaults  
ready for immediate delivery**

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

### USED CARS

10 Renault Grande Modus Dynamique, 1.2 TCI, blue, 7,900 miles.....	£9,850
10 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0 DCI 150, Grey, 2500 miles.....	£15,350
59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 9000 miles.....	£10,995
59 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Silver, 17,000 miles.....	£9,750
09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles.....	£14,995
09 Ford C-Max Style. 1.6, 5Dr, Blue, 12,650 Miles.....	£8,500
08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles.....	£8,950
08 Nissan Note Tekna, Auto, 1.6, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 Miles.....	£6,850
08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles.....	£6,550
07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 18000, ....	£5,650
07 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCI 106, Silver, 26,500 Miles.....	£6,950
07 Renault Clio Campus 'Music, 1.2, 3Dr, Blue, 25,000 Miles.....	£4,500
06 Renault Modus Dyn, black, 26,000 miles.....	£5,550
06 Suzuki Ignis GL, 1.4, 5Dr, Red, 43,000 Miles.....	£3,500
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 Miles.....	£4,950
05 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2, 3Dr, Silver, 29,000 Miles.....	£3,850
54 Mitsubishi Colt Equippe, 1.2, 5Dr, Red, 42500 Miles.....	£2,850
54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles.....	£3,350
04 Ford Focus Flight, 1.6, 5Dr, Grey, 70,000 miles.....	£3,250
04 Ford Ka Style, 3dr, blue, 42,000 miles.....	£2,650
53 Honda Civic SE 1.6 5door, silver 82,500 miles.....	£3,450

### COMMERCIALS

57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver.....	£8,000 + vat
02 Renault Kangoo.....	£2,150 + vat

**SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR  
CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES**

## W.D. Semple

Approved Renault Dealer

www.wdsemble.com

Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150  
 Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767



# new car index



**TOYOTA**  
**Helensburgh**  
 5 John Street,  
 Helensburgh  
 Tel. 01436 672779  
 www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk



**RENAULT**  
**W.D Semple**  
 Inveraray &  
 Lochgilphead  
 Tel. 01499 302150



**ISUZU**  
**S & S Services**  
 Old Bridge Road,  
 Heathfield, Ayr  
 Tel. 01292 880080 /  
 880440



**SUBARU**  
**S & S Services**  
 Old Bridge Road,  
 Heathfield, Ayr  
 Tel. 01292  
 880080/880440

**TO PROMOTE  
YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP  
PLEASE CALL:  
01631 568000**

## COLLECTORS CLASSIC FORD CAPRI



1983, starts, runs and drives excellent.

**For more details  
01631 760213**

## VAUXHALL COMBO CDTI 16 VALVE VAN



55 reg, cd player, Mot'd till Feb 2012, 49,000 miles, very good condition.

Telephone:  
 01855 831530 or  
 07771642174

**£2600 plus vat.**

## WANTED

**WANTED for cash, caravans, motorhomes, any make, model, condition, instant pick-up and payment.**

Telephone:  
 07751 026953

## ATLAS OAKWOOD SUPER CARAVAN



35ft x 12ft, 2 Bedrooms, Gas Boiler, Cooker and Fridge, Gas Fire, Large Living Area, Kitchen/Dining Area, Average Condition for age, Mid 1990's.

Telephone:  
 01586 830145  
 Buyer must arrange collection

**£1500 o.n.o.**

## AUDI A3 SPORTBACK SPECIAL EDITION



31,715 miles, 5 Door Sportback, Alloy Silver, Audi Roof Rails, Audi front Fog Lamps, Audi Mats, Full Audi Service History, 1 Owner, Petrol, Electric windows, Black Cloth seat trim, Audi CD Player, Air Con, Immaculate Condition

Tel: 01631 570455 or 07756 514660

**£9250 o.n.o.**

## VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI CDTI ESTATE 1.7



56 reg, 46mpg.

Telephone:  
 07825 828732

**£4300 o.n.o.**

## STATIC CARAVAN 1996 WILLERBY GRANADA



35x12, 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen/living area Currently situated at Resipole, Acharacle (new build close to the camp site)

For further information contact Jeff or Alex Forrester  
 01967 431698 / 07918640355 jeff.forrester@btinternet.com

**£6000 o.n.o.**

## '03 SMART CAR



Tax May '11, Mot Sept '11. 65935 miles. FSH. Both keys. Dash clock and rev counter, boot divider, spare wheel.

Contact  
 John or Anne  
 01496 850540 /  
 07799 271903

**£1500 o.n.o.**

## MITSUBISHI CANTER TIPPER 3.5 TONNE



2000 X reg, diesel. New clutch, 90% good tyres, tips well, recent service including oil fluids changed. No MOT as exempt on Arran, but kept to standard. 95k miles.

Telephone:  
 07909 886385 or  
 01770 (Arran) 860225

**£2000 o.n.o.**

## VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE



3 door  
 21,000 miles  
 Red  
 58 Plate.

Telephone:  
 01770 (Arran)  
 700516

**£5100**

## VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT V5



Auto tiptronic, 2.3 fuel injection, 2002 new style, Metallic Blue, Leather interior, Back pack and sensors, Alloy wheels, Mot'd & disc multi changer, Full electric pack. Very good condition for year, Very comfortable and dependable. Lots of paperwork.

Telephone:  
 07795 341113

**£1650 o.n.o.**

## WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Daihatsus, any 4 x 4, also considered non-runners or MOT failures.

Telephone:  
 01250 884306  
 or mobile  
 07885 203020

## WANTED

**Motor Homes or Caravannes, any age or condition.**

**We also buy damaged or damp ones. Instant Cash.**

Telephone:  
 01250 884 306 or  
 07885 203032

## CITROEN XSARA LX HDI



2001, Very Good Condition  
 70,300 miles  
 Mot till November 2011  
 Taxed till April 2011  
 CD Changer  
 Very Good on Diesel.

Telephone:  
 07717481589

**£1200 o.n.o.**

## WANTED

**Caravan, Camper Van or Motor Home, any make model or condition considered.**

Telephone:  
 07900 882331

## ROVER 75 DIESEL



Mot to September  
 Tax until April  
 Very good condition.

Telephone:  
 01770 (Arran)  
 860259



**15% OFF**



## SPECIALIST BIKE INSURANCE.

Bikesure Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a bike insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.

**FREEPHONE 0800 089 2000**  
 Quoteline hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm

bikesure.co.uk  
 Part of Adams Risk Insurance Services  
 Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



**Need an MOT?**  
 From Cars to Light  
 Commercials



Contact Donald or Neil  
 Quarry Road MOT Centre  
 Quarry Road, Oban  
 Tel: 01631 564614

# Motoring Times

For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

## The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE



**Store cattle rates up at Stirling sale**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 418 store cattle, 14 young bulls and 1023 hoggets and breeding ewes at Stirling on Monday of this week when trade for store cattle rose by an average of 4.5p per kilo.

Bullocks averaged 168p (+4p) and sold to 211p per kg (twice) for four 275kg Charolais from Auchtygemmel, Lesmahagow and two 380kg Limousins from High Kilphip, Ballantrae and to £1150 for five 665kg Charolais from Woodend, Gartcosh.

Heifers averaged 164p (+5p) and sold to 195p per kg for four 405kg Limousins from High Kilphip, Ballantrae and to £970 for a 580kg Charolais from Woodend, Gartcosh.

Bulls averaged 122.8p (+14.8p) and sold to 182p per kg for three 340kg Charolais from Balcaachie, Girvan and to £675 for a 400kg Limousin from Drumelzier, Denny.

A feature of the sale was a consignment of 41 Charolais bulls, cows and heifers from Woodend, Gartcosh which averaged £964. Breeding cattle sold to £900 for a Blonde D'Aquaine cow with calf at foot from Wester Lochgreen, Bonnybridge. In calf cows averaged £783.

Blackface ewes scanned as carrying single lambs from Otter Estates, Cowal sold to £70, while Cheviots carrying twins from Mid Forrest fetched £96.

Store lambs sold to £70 for Cheviot crosses from C Methven, Auchleskine and Mule ewes from Mid Forrest sold to £112.

**Prime trade maintains rise**

UNITED Auctions sold 5,445 prime sheep including 4,241 hoggs averaging 189.4p/kg (+7.2p) and 1,204 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex lambs from Luckenbun sold to £98.50 and to 238p per kilo from Coilavoulin, with Texels from Guardswell selling to £98. Guardswell also sold Suffolks to £90 and Charollais to £87 and 207p per kilo. High Machrimore sold Suffolks to 203p per kilo.

Glendamp sold Blackfaces to £83.

Ewes sold to £115 for Beltex from Kinloch with Bluefaced Leicesters from Ballagan to £111.50, and Texels from Shanry to £101. Blackface ewes from Dunruhan sold to £72.



Diseases such as John's, TB, bluetongue and BVD can affect the long and short term incomes of Argyll's livestock farmers

**Argyll farmers meet to discuss disease prevention measures**

SCOTTISH Agricultural College's veterinary investigation officer, Colin Mason, will give a talk on John's Disease which can hit the long and short term incomes of Argyll's livestock farmers.

He will be meeting farmers in Kintyre at West Backs Farm on Wednesday, March 2 and 1.30pm

before moving north to talk to farmers in Mid Argyll Farmers at the Royal Hotel, Ardrishaig at 7.30pm.

John's Disease is a chronic, progressive, wasting condition that affects ruminants and is caused by the organism Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis.

Animals are infected by ingesting the agent and young animals are considered to be the most susceptible to infection.

In heavily infected herds this leads to a high rate of wastage in cattle at two to four years of age. Infection is nearly always introduced to a herd by purchasing infected replacement breeding

stock, including bulls.

The Scottish Government acknowledges that it aims for Scottish livestock to be disease free of John's, TB, bluetongue and BVD, which Colin Mason will also discuss.

The meetings will discuss the symptoms, control and the costs, to make people in the industry

in Argyll aware and ultimately for farmers to have a healthy, fit livestock enterprise.

For more information please contact John Forster SAC Campbelltown 01586 552502; Donald Armour, Westwards Veterinary Practice 01586 552136 and Alison Barr, Dalriada Vets, 01546 602240

**Dingwall and Highland**

Bullocks up to 250kg - 1/9 Camustianvaig, Inverness, £335, 134.0p; 251-300kg - 192 The Doll, Brora, £515, 180.7p; 301-350kg - Craggan Sheig, Balmuir, £570, 164.3p; 351-400kg - Balmuir, Culloden Moor, £725, Torroble, Lairg, 187.8p; 401-450kg - Lochdhu, Nairn, £845, 191.2p; 451-500kg - Dunain Mains, Inverness, £840, 199 Lednabrichen, Dornoch, 182.6p; 501-550kg - Dunain Mains, £855, Ordmuir, 162.2p;

551-600kg - Lower Milton Farm, Drumadrochit, £885, 158.0p; 154.0p; 251-300kg - 145 Badnellan, £530, Achteuie, Drumadrochit, 164.3p; 301-350kg - Dunain Mains, £545, 162.7p; 351-400kg - Dunain Mains, £640, 145 Badnellan, 169.4p; 401-450kg - 199 Lednabrichen, £680, Lochdhu, 153.5p; 451-500kg - 199 Lednabrichen, £800, Lochdhu, 161.9p; 501-550kg - Lochdhu, £825, Ordmuir, 158.5p;

551-600kg - Ordmuir, £890, 158.9p; Over 60kg - Ordmuir, 153.7p; **Breeding cattle** Cows with heifer calf at foot: Simmental X - 34 Newmarket, £1,300; Shorthorn - 34 Newmarket, £1,220. Cows with male calf at foot: Shu - 34 Newmarket, £1,420; Sim X - 34 Newmarket, £1,200; SA X - 34 Newmarket, £1,200; AAX - 34 Newmarket, £1,200. In-calf cows: Lim - 34 Newmarket, £920. Bulls: Lim - Littleburn, £1,050; Sim - Kerrysdale House, Gairloch, £800.

**United Auctions**

Bullocks: Up to 250kg Roughside £510, 209p; 251-300kggs Graystale £555, 192p; 301-350kggs Bangour £720, 192p; 351-400kggs Dalhanna £780, 202.4p; 401-450kggs Largiemore £870, 197.7p; 451-500kggs Easter Greenhill £950, 194.7p; 501-550kggs Easter Greenhill £965, 184.9p; 551-600kggs Fleminghill £1040, 175.7p; 601-650kggs Milton £1100, 176.8p; 651-700kggs Mid Auchencarroch £1020, 150.9p. Heifers Up to 250kggs Shaw of Touch £480, 217.2p;

251-300kggs High Milndovan £540, 183.70p; 301-350kggs Hardiston £630, Easter Greenhill 186.3p; 351-400kggs Broadshen £730, 184.3p; 401-450kggs Easter Greenhill £700, Hardiston 168.3p; 451-500kggs Broadshen £770, 169.20p; 501-550kggs Millhole £805, 154.20p; 551-600kggs Drem £935, 163.50p. **Breeding Cattle:** Arnbathie (limXcow and Bull calf) £1550; Gowstone (LimX hfr and Hfr calf) £1400; Arnbathie (LimX cow and hfr calf) £1280. In-calf cows Deantfoot (SimX cows 2nd calves

**Caledonian Marts host Blackface prime show**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd held their Blackface Prime Sheep Show and Sale at Stirling last Tuesday.

Blackface prime sheep averaged 185.99p, selling to £90 for the champion pen of hoggets scaling 45kg and consigned by J MacGregor Dyke.

The sale was kindly sponsored by Hayes MacFarlane, RW Stewart (Haulage), P McKenzie Trailers, Harbro, Scotbeef and District 8 of the Blackface Breeders.

The judge was Bill MacKinnon, Scotbeef and placed his awards as follows:-

Class 1 - Up to 34.5kg  
1 Glenearn Estates, 31kg, £55.50, 179p  
Class 2 - 35 to 37.5kg  
1 A MacGregor, Allanfauld, 37kg, £70, 189.10p  
2 D MacGregor, Burnhead, 37kg, £69.20, 187.02p

3 J Little, West Torrie, 37kg, £68.50, 185.13p  
Class 3 - 38 to 40.5kg  
1 AI Duncan Millar, Remony, 39.5kg, £73.50, 186p  
2 A MacGregor, Allanfauld, 40kg, £73.20, 183p  
3 Firm of JS Shaw, West Lethans, 38kg, £68, 178.90p  
Class 4 - 41kg and over  
1 JR MacGregor, Dyke, 45kg, £90, 200p  
2 JR MacGregor, Dyke, 41kg, £77.50, 189p  
3 McDiarmid Bros, Ben Lawers, 41kg, £76.80, 187.30p  
Champion  
JR MacGregor, Dyke, 45kg, £90, 200p

Reserve Champion  
AI Duncan Millar, Remony, 39.5kg, £73.50, 186p  
District 8, Blackface Breeders Club - Best pen of hoggets:  
JR MacGregor, Dyke, 45kg, £90, 200p

**Dingwall prime lamb trade rises 13p per kilo**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd. sold 62 prime cattle and 1,555 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday of this week when there was again a steep increase in trade for prime sheep.

Lambs averaged 203.2p per kilo (+13.1p) and sold to 227.6p per kg for 37kg Texel crosses from Wester Muckernich, Tore, and £96.80 for 49kg Texels from Wester Craighlands, Fortrose.

Prime bullocks averaged 167.1p

(+1.1p) and sold to 191p per kg for a 545kg Charolais cross from Kincaig Farm, Invergordon, and £1,237.50 for a 750kg Charolais cross from Easter Sheep Park, Balblair.

Prime heifers averaged 167.6p (-0.3p) and sold to 184p per kg for a 575kg British Blue cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,088.00 for a 640kg Limousin cross also from Udale, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

**Machinery and tool sale at Stirling**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd held their February sale of Machinery and tools at Stirling last week when they had forward 315 lots of tractors, machinery and small tools.

All tractors and machinery met a good trade with buyers present from Ireland and throughout the UK.

A John Deere 3350 Tractor sold to £8,200 with a Case 985 Tractor to £5,700.

JCB Mini diggers sold to £3,300, while an Overum plough fetched £1,300.

A K2 mower sold to £1,100, with a Star tanker attracting bids to £950, while in the smaller machinery, a hedgecutter sold to £800, a roller to £580 and a cattle crush to £460.

**West Coast property service**  
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

**TO LET**

**TO LET OBAN**  
2 bed flats  
Un / part furnished, central location  
Period flat, fully refurbished, 2nd floor £525 pcm  
Sorry no pets. No DSS. Available now  
Ground floor, gas CH, own entrance £460 pcm  
Available April  
Both non smoking, price ex c.t. bills, refs required.  
Tel 01631 564954

**LONG LET**  
2 Bedroom Cottage  
1 double, 1 single, Extremely private location, yet commuting distance to Oban and local to amenities in Dalnally. Furnished, Central Heating, Lounge with wood burning stove, recently renovated.  
More information Telephone 07795 280584

**FOR RENT**  
£480pcm  
2 Bedroom unfurnished spacious ground floor flat.  
3a Mill Park Terrace Soroba Road Oban  
Available early March, no DSS or pets, deposit and references required  
Tel 01852 300475

**TO LET**  
The Greens, Glenruitten Road, Oban  
Available on long let, Luxury Apartment with beautiful views overlooking golf course. Accommodation comprises hall, lounge, kitchen, 2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en-suite. Off street parking. Monthly rent £800 and all bills. References required.  
Telephone 01631 730491 or mobile 0781 6459503

**TO LET**  
Two bedroom apartment, for 6 adults, at Miraflores Beach & Country Club, Costa del Sol, Spain for one week  
6th - 13th August 2011.  
£400 for the accommodation, all you need is your flights.  
Contact: 01586 553767

**TO LET**  
3 Bedroom House, Oban  
Fully furnished, freshly decorated in walk-in-condition. Easy access to town centre. Sorry no pets, non-smoking and no DSS. Deposit and references required. £600 pcm plus Council Tax and Bills.  
Telephone 07810731968

**Flat for rent**  
Fully furnished one bedroom flat in the centre of Lochgilphead  
Available for long let  
Own car parking space  
No DSS  
References required  
£420p.c.m + Council Tax  
Apply in writing to Box Number 150 Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NB

**TO LET**  
Detached 3 bedroom house  
In Dalnally  
Beautiful location with spacious gardens.  
C/Heating, D/Glazed  
Unfurnished  
£550 pcm + Bills  
Immediate entry  
Tel: 01838 200218

**West Coast Property Guide**  
**West Coast Property Guide**  
**West Coast Property Guide**  
**West Coast Property Guide**  
**West Coast Property Guide**

**ANDERSON BANKS**  
Solicitors : Notaries : Estate Agents

**Gortan House**  
Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN  
• Substantial detached cottage on the outskirts of Bruichladdich  
• Superb views across Loch Indaal  
• Sun Room, Lounge, Large Dining Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms  
• Bathroom, Shower Room, Large Garden, Detached Garage & Shed  
• Fully double glazed, Electric heating + Solid fuel back boiler

**Offers in the region of £180,000**

22 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT  
Tel: 01631 563158 : Fax: 01631 565459  
www.andersonbanks.co.uk

**Cuil Na Seoc**  
Stronvaar Avenue, Campbeltown  
Fully modernised 4 bedroom detached house.  
**Fixed price £195,000**  
Please telephone 01586 550002 or 07760168884 for further details or to arrange viewing.

**West Coast property service**

**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

**HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED**  
ONLY 15% AGENCY COMMISSION  
For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams  
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

\* Payment in advance  
\* Flexible owner bookings  
\* Sales lines open 7 days/week  
**01665 721 241**  
Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk

**Retired diplomat and wife seek unfurnished detached house, Argyll for long term rent from this Spring.**  
3-5 bedrooms, open fire, sea or loch view.  
Mainland or Island.  
Contact: alasdairmcdermott@gmail.com

**HYDRO**  
A small family company  
Would like to buy an old, new, or a site with planning permission  
For the purposes of generating hydro electricity  
**Please call 07900 654862**

**The ideal place to look for property advertising**  
The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

Sources: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

**COMMERCIAL**

**FOR SALE**  
STATION TEA ROOM  
Criannlarich

Very successful family business. Established over 100 years  
Awarded "Best Station Buffet in Britain"  
For more information please contact 01838 300225

**Bell Ingram**  
01631 566 122  
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, PA34 4AY  
bellingham.co.uk

**Ardchoirc Small Holding**  
Isle of Kerrera  
38 acre smallholding on the island of Kerrera available on a 20 year agricultural tenancy; 3 bed farmhouse, large modern agricultural building, plus traditional steadings. Further detailed particulars and site plan available to seriously interested parties.  
**Offers Invited**

**West Coast Property Guide**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**PLANNING**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

● **Ref No: 11/00192/PP**  
 Applicant: Joy Prentice  
 Proposal: Replacement roof covering from west highland slate to spanish slate.  
 Site Address: Askernish 49 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DJ  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

● **Ref No: 11/00223/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Gordon Hyson  
 Proposal: Demolition of existing lean-to extension and erection of rear extension.  
 Site Address: 104 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BJ  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 17/03/2011

● **Ref No: 10/01970/PP**  
 Applicant: Sarah Campbell  
 Proposal: Renovation and extension of derelict buildings to form dwellinghouse and detached commercial unit and erection of 6kw wind turbine (19.6m to blade tip height)  
 Site Address: Land North West Of Bachuil Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore

● **Ref No: 10/02044/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Kenneth Ferguson  
 Proposal: Installation of air source heat pump  
 Site Address: Morar House Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PA  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel

● **Ref No: 10/02148/PPP**  
 Applicant: Mrs Anna Nicholson  
 Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access  
 Site Address: Barranrioch Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 11/00016/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Colin MacDougall  
 Proposal: Erection of 2 storey extension to form living accommodation, erection of single storey extension, installation of 6 rooflights and 9 solar panels and alterations to dwellinghouse  
 Site Address: Traighmhor Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

● **Ref No: 11/00164/PP**  
 Applicant: Trec Community Business  
 Proposal: Erection of wind turbine on 10 metre mast  
 Site Address: Trec Community Business Island Centre Crossapol Isle Of Trec Argyll And Bute PA77 6UP  
 Location of Plans: Trec Area Office

● **Ref No: 11/00188/PPP**  
 Applicant: Mr And Mrs C Hodge  
 Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse  
 Site Address: Land Adjacent To Kilmore And Kiltiride Parish Church Kilmore Argyll And Bute  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 11/00202/PP**  
 Applicant: John Rodgers  
 Proposal: Siting of mobile home for holiday letting  
 Site Address: Torbhan Cottage Pennyghael Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA70 6HE  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnasan Isle of Mull

● **Ref No: 11/00203/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Andy Knight  
 Proposal: Erection of a 12 metre Anemometer Mast for a period of 3 years  
 Site Address: Torosay Sandpit Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure

● **Ref No: 11/00208/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Richard Fye and Mrs Avril Palmer Fye  
 Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse, demolition of ruinous outbuilding and erection of self catering unit and alterations and re-roofing of further outbuilding to form store and garage  
 Site Address: Lagganey Kilniver Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UJ  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● **Ref No: 11/00215/PP**  
 Applicant: Maritime And Coastguard Agency  
 Proposal: Installation of Medium Frequency Aerial and associated works  
 Site Address: Land North Of The Old Met Office Trec Airport Crossapol Isle Of Trec Argyll And Bute PA77 6UP  
 Location of Plans: Trec Area Office

● **Ref No: 11/00219/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr R Owen  
 Proposal: Erection of domestic ancillary accommodation  
 Site Address: Creagh-Na-Hullach Ardun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DH  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnasan Isle of Mull

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 17/03/2011

● **Ref No: 11/00013/PP**  
 Applicant: Ionaire Chille Chomain  
 Proposal: Erection of workshop  
 Site Address: Land At Port Mhor Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7UE  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

● **Ref No: 11/00232/PP**  
 Applicant: Glynis And Stephen Florence  
 Proposal: Restoration and alterations to existing bothy to form dwellinghouse  
 Site Address: Lussagiven Bothy Lussagiven Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**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](http://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
11/00371/FUL	Land 500m North West of Moonstone Cottage Spean Bridge	Erection of house which also incorporates two self contained units	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00400/LBC	High Land 1 New Buildings Arisaig	Extension to house	Arisaig Post Office Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/00489/MSC	Land on 11-12 Ardnamostg Stronitran	Erection of house	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](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**The Annual General Meeting of Friends of Oban Hospice** will take place in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 7.30pm. All Welcome

**Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 Friday 18th March 2011  
 New members welcome  
 For further details contact: (01389) 726543

**Bonawe (Point Park) Common Grazings AGM**  
 Wednesday 9th March at 7pm  
 Sports Pavilion, Taynuilt



**Seawater Farm Manager: Loch Etive**  
 Basic Remuneration Package £35k - £40k

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably experienced Farm Manager for our multi-site seawater farm at Loch Etive, nr Oban.

Reporting to the Production Manager, you will be fully responsible for all aspects of growing around 1,200 tonnes of large trout per annum. In time, Loch Etive is expected to produce in excess of 2,500 tonnes.

The ideal candidate will be a natural leader, with have a proven track record in fish farming at managerial level and have good communication and interpersonal skills. You should have a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology, welfare and containment, as well as competence in finance, budget control, problem solving and planning. Competence in the promotion of Health and Safety is essential.

Candidates must possess excellent computer skills. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a competitive salary package. Assistance with relocation will also be available, if required.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS, by the closing date below.

Email: [lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Tel: 01698 810008

Closing Date: Friday 5th March 2011



a million voices for nature

**Stockperson**

£17,500 - £19,500 inclusive of contracted overtime

Established Full Time Role - 37.5 hours per week plus

8 hours fixed overtime per week

Based on The Oa Reserve - Isle of Islay

You will assist the Farm Manager in the management of livestock to the highest standards whilst meeting the conservation aims of the Oa Reserve. Experience of livestock management, in particular calving and lambing, preferably in an upland situation, is therefore essential. Literacy and numeracy are essential, computer literacy is desirable. With the cattle herd going through a period of development, this will be an unusual and rewarding position for anyone committed to livestock production. The stockperson at the Oa will also be required to occasionally work on other RSPB sites within the area.

For more information contact Liz Hathaway on 01496 850505 or email: [liz.hathaway@rspb.org.uk](mailto:liz.hathaway@rspb.org.uk)

Closing date: 7 March 2011. Interview date: 28 March 2011.

For further information and an application form, please visit our website.

[www.rspb.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.rspb.org.uk/vacancies)



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity, England and Wales no. 207076. Scotland no. SC037654.

**Office Manager/Accounts Assistant**

Wylie & Bisset LLP are seeking an experienced Accounts Assistant to manage their Oban office.

Applicants should be capable of working on their own initiative and possess knowledge of Accounts production and VAT. Salary negotiable and hours are part-time and flexible.

Please send CV to The Staff Partner, Wylie & Bisset LLP, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TP

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**JOB WANTED**

Bookkeeping, Wages, VAT, Self Assessment etc. Very Experienced Male seeks Part time Position. Flexi Hours or Days to suit. Please contact via Box No 68 Oban Times Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

**Lochaber Council on Alcohol**

Caol Shopping Centre, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7DR  
 LCA offer free, confidential one to one counselling to anyone over the age of 16 who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

LCA are currently recruiting volunteer alcohol and drug counsellors to provide counselling in the following areas: Caol, Kinlochleven, and Mallaig & Arisaig. No qualifications are necessary as full training will be given.

For more information or to obtain an application form contact Lisa on: 01397 702340 Or e-mail [lca.caol@btinternet.com](mailto:lca.caol@btinternet.com)  
 Closing date for applications Friday 11th March 2011  
 Scottish Charity SC020455

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

TSL Contractors of Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY are applying to change an existing licence to add an operating centre to keep 3 Goods Vehicles and 3 Trailers at A.N Cameron Ltd, Goirtean, Old Road, Banavie, Fort William, PH33 7LX. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



Scotland's Census 2011  
 Shaping our future

Census Coverage Survey (CCS) 2011

**Interviewer Posts (476)**  
 Location - throughout Scotland

£880 for 80 hours work (flexible but including some weekend & evening work)

Between 18 April 2011 and 30 June 2011

Are you interested in making a difference to your local community? Interested in becoming part of a national team? Then perhaps working on the Census Coverage Survey is for you.

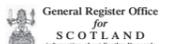
The 2011 census is vital to developing an understanding of our population - its size, ethnicity, health and housing. In support of the census we will be carrying out the Census Coverage Survey (CCS) shortly after census day to ensure that the data published is the most accurate available. Around 40,000 households throughout Scotland will be visited for follow-up interviews during the CCS.

As one of 476 CCS Interviewers, you will be part of a team of up to 20 Interviewers in your area. Your role will be to list all households within your allocated workload area and then to carry out doorstep interviews at each household where you will ask a selection of questions designed to enable an accurate estimate of Scotland's population to be made. You should have access to a motor vehicle.

To find out more and apply online visit: [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

Closing date: Friday 4 March 2011.

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.



Drumclog Plant Ltd are recruiting the following staff for Watermain Projects in Skye:  
 ◆ CPCS qualified 360° Excavator Operators.  
 ◆ CSCS qualified site operatives.

DOMS qualifications, and experience in water projects desirable, but not essential. Immediate start available.

Please send your CV to [andrew@drumclogplant.com](mailto:andrew@drumclogplant.com) or call Andrew D. MacLeod on 07824 381 353

**Senior Social Care Worker - Night (Temporary)**

£26,753 - £30,129

Ardfernaig, Ardrishaig Ref: CSC63091T

33.5 hrs per week

Providing 24 hour support

☎ 01546 604034

Closing date: 11 March 2011.

To apply visit our website



[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)



**Shop Manager**

We are looking for an enthusiastic, fun and friendly person to organise the day to day running of Inverawe's thriving smokery shop, tea-room and Exhibition.

This is very much a hands on role and you must be organised, efficient, flexible and show a great eye for detail.

A food hygiene certificate would be an advantage but is not necessary as training will be provided.

This is a full time position covered by an annual hours agreement. Please apply in writing to Christopher Cox, Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynuilt, PA35 1HU or by email to [jobs@inverawe.co.uk](mailto:jobs@inverawe.co.uk)

**ENCOMPASS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT**  
 (Bute, Islay, Mid Argyll and Oban)

**RECRUITING VOLUNTEER ADDICTION COUNSELLORS**

No experience necessary as full training will be given to successful applicants.

For Further Information and/or an application pack please contact Colette MacLachlan  
 ECS Oban Market St Centre, Market St  
 01631 566090 - [ecsoban@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:ecsoban@talktalkbusiness.net)

Closing date for applications 4pm Friday 11th March  
 Successful applicants will be subjected to an enhanced disclosure check

ECS is a registered charity No SC037908

**Campbeltown Motor Co.**

Require qualified vehicle mechanic or suitably able person. Please apply in own handwriting to: C. McMurphy, Campbeltown Motor Company, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6SY

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**2011 Calendars**



Scottish Field - £6.65  
 £3.83\*



The Oban Times - £5.25  
 £2.62\*

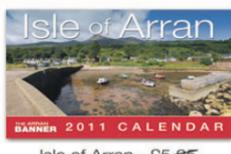


Scottish Field Mini - £5.25  
 £2.62\*

**1/2 price sale!**



East Coast Scenes - £5.25  
 £2.62\*



Isle of Arran - £5.25  
 £2.62\*



West Coast Scenes - £5.25  
 £2.62\*

Only available via our office at The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban, Argyll or by calling us on 01631 568000  
 Order online at: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)  
 \*All prices exclude worldwide postage and packaging, which is an extra £2.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk.

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

PLAYERS CIGARETTE CARDS original presentation album, 50s - 60s Kings and Queens, good condition. Two cards short of complete set, £30 Telephone 07840 753751.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY CAR SEAT Graco baby car seat from birth to 12 months, £20 Telephone 01838 200529.

BOTTLE WARMER

Phillips Avent bottle warmer, like new, £8 Telephone 01838 200529.

MOTHER CARE

SWINGING CRIB Mothercare Swinging Crib, Birch + mattress. As new. Product code N0289. Cost £88 together. Benderloch, can deliver locally, £45 Telephone 01631 720129.

PHILLIPS AVENT

STERILIZER good clean cond, £15 Telephone 01838 200529.

BICYCLES

GENTS MOUNTAIN BIKE good condition, new tyres, £48.00 ono. Telephone 01586 554969 evenings or 01586 552954 day.

BUILDING / DIY

BRAD GUN arrow electric, £20 Telephone 01880 730326.

CIRCULAR SAW

used once, excellent condition, in original box, £20 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

ENGINEERED OAK

FLOORING 3 packs of 1.39m2, 6 panels in each pack, each panel measures 1220mm x 190mm x 13.5mm, £20 Telephone 07872 986164.

MITRE SAW

Gebrungssage with stand, good condition, £8 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

NAILER/STAPLER

draper electric, £20 Telephone 01880 730326.

ORTHOPEADIC DIVAN

with headboard, 4ft, by Hypbis, very good condition, £40 Telephone 01880 760356.

TILE CUTTER

720w with laser, used once, excellent condition, in original box, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

UPVC WINDOW

White, top opening panel, good condition, 884 wide x 1043mm high, £10 Telephone 07872 986164.

WEST MORLAND

SLATES excellent quality, 1700, 16 x 10, £220.00ono Telephone 07824 323752 or 01631 565669.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

MICHELIN PILOT PRIMACY 205/55 R16 91H on 6 1/2 steel rim. Brand New £75. 2 Gislaved Nord frost, mud and snow 205/50R 16, 3 months use £50 each. 4 164/65R 13 77T on a 4 stud wheel rims, £20. Telephone 01838 400277.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

NEW WELLIES Light pink, By Cotswold, ladies size 7, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER DESK Ikea, Pink L77cmxW50cmxH77cm, very good condition, £25.00 Telephone 01866 822760 after 6pm.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

HOTPOINT ICE DIAMOND upright freezer, good condition, £45 Telephone 01631 566475 or 07834 640989.

MICROWAVE OVEN

White 650w Microwave. In very good condition, hardly used. Has defrost and some automatic programmes, £25 Telephone 01567 820521.

SMALL DRINKS FRIDGE

Husky, excellent condition, £40 Telephone 01631 566475 or 07834 640989.

WASHING MACHINE

40, £40 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

WASHING MACHINE

£49 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

ZANUSSI UPRIGHT

FRIDGE good condition, £45 Telephone 01631 566475 or 07834 640989.

DOMESTIC PETS

BLACK LABRADOR PUPS 3 dogs, pedigree, raised in family home. Telephone 01700 811569.

SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPS

dogs and bitches, KC reg, Dad French import, off national and international champions, vet checked, wormed, inoculated, insured, with puppy pack, £600 Telephone 07814 987305.

EQUESTRIAN

BODY PROTECTOR Harry Hall, Blue/Grey/Black/Red. Ladies size medium, never used, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720493.

KID'S RIDING BOOTS

knee length, size 6 E10, size 3 E5, Telephone 01631 730666.

RIDING HAT

brand new, adult size 56-61cm, hat and shiny. Complete with carry bag, £20 Telephone 01631 720493.

FURNITURE

2 SINGLE BEDS free for uplift, Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

3 PIECE SUITE

, £49 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

3 WOODEN CHAIRS

all matching, excellent condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720493.

BROWN LEATHER SUITE

3+2 Seater, Good Condition, £300.00 Telephone 078280 24617.

CHAIRS

two dark wood tapestry chairs suitable for bedroom use, vgc, £45 Telephone 01838 200672.

CHEST OF DRAWERS

brown wood effect, 5 drawers, collection from Barcaldine, £15 Telephone 01631 720493.

CHILD CHAIR

wood and metal, ideal for 6-10 year old and sitting at a desk, £8 Telephone 01631 720493.

COFFEE TABLE

Solid pine, square. Collect from Barcaldine, £20 Telephone 01631 720493.

COTTAGE STYLE CHAIRS

2 Cottage style reclining chairs for sale £20 each or £30 the pair. Buyer collect. Telephone 01880 821293.

DARK WOOD BOOKCASE

excellent condition, £30 Telephone 00631 571115.

DINING TABLE

wooden, roughly 4 ft long. Great condition. Collect from Barcaldine, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

DISPLAY CABINET

two shelved glass cabinets either side of a shelved wooden cabinet. Carved feet, good condition with lockable doors, £49 Telephone 01838 200672.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED,

£48.50 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

DRESSING TABLE

solid pine, 3 drawers, good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 720493.

KINGSIZE DIVAN BED

without mattress, good condition. Comes in two parts with wheels, collection only, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720493.

PINE DRESSER

good quality 3 door & 3 drawer base, shelves + 2 cupboards in top part, H76in W53in, top D9in base D18in, (Ballachulish), £49 Telephone 01855 811879.

ROUND DINING TABLE

Table in very good condition. Light coloured wood with pedestal leg. Measures 1mtr in diam. and has drop leaf facility if req, £25 Telephone 01567 820521.

SIDEBOARD

made by Bridge Craft, top quality, dark wood, 4 drawers, 2 cupboards, excellent condition, £175 Telephone 01631 566475 or 07834 640989.

STAG DRESSING TABLE

good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 562936.

TABLE AND 2 CHAIRS

pine Ikea table with 2 next brown high back suede chairs, with pine legs good condition, £49.50 Telephone 01631 565194.

TODDLER BED

wooden design - from Ikea - good condition - mattress available if wanted, £20 Telephone 01866 822245 Call after 6pm (Taynuilt).

TODDLERS FIRE ENGINE BED

in good condition, includes mattress from Great Little Trading Co., £49.99 Telephone 01631 706999.

TRUNDLE BED

single, with two mattresses, pull-out bed also has legs to heighten. Collect from Barcaldine, £35 Telephone 01631 720493.

TV/HI FI UNIT

low level storage/entertainment unit by Meredew in real wood mahogany veneer, mounted on castors, measuring L 4ft W 2ft H 18", £25 Telephone 01855 811879 Ballachulish.

WOODEN STEP STOOL

pine, very substantial, height 64cm, £10 Telephone 01397 703928.

GARDEN

WHITE PLASTIC CHAIR garden or lawn chair, collapsible, excellent condition, £5 Telephone 01631 720493.

GARDEN MACHINERY

GARDEN SHREDDER , £49.99 Telephone 01866 822072.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

HOME GYM V-Fit Herculean, unused flat packed, ideal for bench and chest presses, leg extensions, back leg curls, sit ups, £150 ono Telephone 01631 720448.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

CENTRAL HEATING RADIATOR 600x600mm, single panel, complete with thermostatic valve and hanging brackets, £20 Telephone 01397 703928.

MARBLE HEARTH SLAB

speckled black, green and white marble slab. Originally for electric heater. Excellent Condition, £49 Telephone 01838 200672.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

FISH TANK LIGHTS selection of fluorescent tank lights, phone for sizes, new boxed, £5 Telephone 01631 720369.

MOSQUITO NETTING

ideal for drapes over bed, white, new, £5 Telephone 01631 720369.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

HI-FI SPEAKERS Pair of Tannoy 607 Mk II bi-wired black speakers, with separate stands. Speakers 50cm high x 32cm x 24cm. (Ballachulish), £40 Telephone 01855 811879.

SONY 21" TV COLOUR

Model KV-21LS30v, needs Freeview box. Free to good home in nearly new condition, Telephone 01631 720328.

STEREO TUNER

Technics Stereo Tuner (Hi-Fi Separate) Model ST-Z25L in silver. (Ballachulish), £12 Telephone 01855 811879.

TV WITH FREEVIEW

BOX Daewoo 26" CRT widescreen + Linsar Freeview box, remotes, scart cable included dem, £45 Telephone 07745 63556.

HOME FURNISHINGS

2'6" MATTRESS 5'9" long. Seldom used, as new, £20 Telephone 01631 563452.

BED BRAND NEW

DOUBLE DIVAN complete with deluxe heat sensitive Memory Foam Mattress. Still in original packaging. Can deliver. Cost £600 will accept, £200.00 Telephone 07799 484184.

CHAIRBED

orange and green check, as new, £20 Telephone 01631 563452.

FLOWER PRINT

in clip frame. Roughly 2ftx2ft. Titled Christmas Rose II by Alan Newnham, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

PINE FRAME MIRROR

21" x 25", £20 Telephone 01499 500216(Furnace).

PRINT IN FRAME

large, titled Tranquil Dusk by David tam, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

HOME OFFICE

COMPUTER DESK pink, Ikea, H78cm, L77cm, W50cm, £25 Telephone 01866 822760.

FILING CABINET

three drawer, beech, £20 Telephone 01880 730326.

STUDENT DESK

wooden frame with slanted laminate top. Top opens for storage. Can break down to store or move, £15 Telephone 01631 730666.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

DIGITAL STEPMACHINE full working order, no longer used, £15 Telephone 01631 720493.

WEIGHTS

3 sets of women's weights, pink, purple and green. 1.5kg, 1kg, 0.5kg. Like new. £15 Telephone 01631 720493.

LIVESTOCK

PULLETS brown, black or pure breeds, ducks, geese, feeders, drinkers, hen sheds, £0 Telephone 01470 572213.

WEANERS FOR SALE

ready now, Gloucester Old Spot/White, Telephone 01586 830217.

LOGS

ARGYLL LOGS hardwood £7 per bag, soft wood £4.50 per bag, kindling £1. Discount for larger orders, Telephone 07771 347011

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

BUDDHA HEAD green, fairly heavy. Made of resin, like new, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

JOB LOT

boxes of items suitable for car boot etc. Kitchen items, books, DVDs, board games, Christmas decorations etc., £25 Telephone 01631 720493.

MINI OVEN AND GRILL

New Cookworks Mini Oven and grill, still boxed and unused white ht 9" Width 15. Ideal for camping, caravan etc, cost £40new, £15 Telephone 01631 720369.

STANDING BUDDHA

roughly 2 foot high. Fat and jolly with his hands in the air. Blueish in colour, £10 Telephone 01631 720493.

MOBILITY

MOBILITY SCOOTER Rio 3 Lite, Red, Good Condition, £350ono Telephone 01631 564264.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

DRUM KIT hardly used, 7 piece, £200 ono Telephone 07824 323752 or 01631 565669.

PIANO

upright, good condition, newly tuned, £100 ono Telephone 01546 602534.

STEINBECK UPRIGHT

PIANO, £49.90 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

PET ACCESSORIES

AQUARIAN 125 LITRES complete with fish, brand new condition, £160 Telephone 07824 323752 or 01631 565669.

FREE BOXES OF

BUGDIE TOYS, 2 boxes of mirrors, balls swings for budgie cage free to take or small donation to animal aid, Telephone 01631 720369.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CANON 40D SLR CAMERA body only ex condition + 2 batteries - Grip - wireless remote - charger & Manual - new tripod, £450ono Telephone 01631 740281.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

PAPER & CARD A4/A3 size, sold in reams or by the box, ideal for copiers, lasers and fax machines. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

RAFFLE TICKETS

For your prize draw, numbered and perforated to your requirements. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

CHILD'S DESK/CHAIR solid wood with drawer for book storage and raised shelf across the back. For age 3 to 7. Overall height 64cm. Exc cond, £40 Telephone 01546 600039.

TRAILERS

4 WHEEL TRAILER in good condition, German make. Includes tool box and new spare wheel, hinged tail gate and lights. Box size 8'4"x4'4"x12", £750 Telephone 01567 820521.

DAXARA 168 TRAILER

5' x 3' 9", £375ono Telephone 01852 200258 or 07787 303562.

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

OBAN TIMES PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

OBAN TIMES PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

PERSONALS

Rhona Purdie would like to thank everyone who wished her well during her recent illness. Cards, gifts and concerned enquiries were overwhelming. I'll be back with cheek and cakes quicker than you think.

HELEN HAYES, FORT WILLIAM I would like to thank all my friends and relatives for their cards, mass cards and best wishes which I received while I was in hospital. Grateful thanks to all staff of the rehabilitation ward of Belford Hospital for their attentive care and encouragement. Special thanks to Monsignor MacKinnon of St Mary's Catholic Church for devoted and kind attention at all times. All these kindnesses and care are very much appreciated. Helen Hayes

WARD C STAFF Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers and gift. See you soon Love from Cheryl

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Is the door of your heart open or closed to the Lord Jesus Christ?

www.WordsbytheWayside.co.uk

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

**BIRTHS**



**ASHER** - Peter and Suzy Asher are delighted to announce the birth of Scott Brian on February 9, 2011, we brother for Chantelle and Liam, little cousin for Mia.

**MACEACHEN** - At Raigmore Hospital on February 19, 2011, to Ross and Angela (née Macdonald) a son, Fergus John.

**DEATHS**

**BYATT** - Hugh Campbell KCVO, CMG, died suddenly on February 16, 2011. Beloved husband and companion for over 56 years, loving father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. Will not be forgotten. Service at Leargnahenshion, Kilberry Church, on Saturday, February 26 at 2 p.m. No flowers. Donations to Tarbert Air Ambulance fund, HMS Gannet and Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

**BRUNNER** - Miranda Helen (née Cadzow) of Tigh an Truish, Isle of Seil, died peacefully on February 21, 2011, beloved wife of Gustl, loving mother of Patrick, Lars and Donny and grandmother to Finlay. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. Funeral service to be held at Kilbrandon Parish Church on Friday February 25, at 12.00 pm. Retiring collection/donations welcome for Macmillan Cancer Care.

**MACKAY** - (Caol/Dornoch). Peacefully on Monday February 14, 2011 in the loving care of the staff at Moss Park Nursing Home, Caol, Catherine (Cathie) Mackay, beloved wife of the late William (Billy) Mackay, previously of Dornoch, dearly loved mother of Amelia, mother-in-law of Peter, loving granny to Steven and Garry and a much loved great granny to Sian; also a loved and respected sister and aunt. Interred Prioncynain Burial Ground, Dornoch. Sadly missed. Enquiries to MacKay & Macaskill, Funeral Directors, Dornoch. Tel: 01862 810492.

**MACLENNAN** - Suddenly at home, Salen, Isle of Mull on February 18, 2011. James (Jimmy) Beattie MacLennan aged 78 years. Much loved husband of Annie, father of Iain, Donald, Nancy, Alison and beloved grandfather. Funeral service to be held at Salen Parish Church, Isle of Mull on Thursday February 24, 2011 at 12.00 noon. Thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
**David Mudie (Treasurer)**  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**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

**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, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

**SNODGRASS** - Peacefully at the Mid Argyle Hospital, Lochgilphead on February 20, 2011, Elizabeth (Betty) Christina Snodgrass nee Leitch, in her 98th year, of Minnow Falls, Lochgilphead and formerly Ceol na Mara, Ardriaisga. Wife of the late Robert N. Snodgrass; dearly loved mother of Jimmy and Fay. A dear mother in law, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service will be held in Kilchrenan Parish Church, Argyll, on Friday February 25, 2011, at 11am, followed by interment at Kilchrenan Churchyard. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

**YOUNG** - Peacefully at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Saturday, February 19, 2011, Helen (née Scott), beloved wife of Dr William David Young and much loved mother to Aileen and John, auntie to Margaret and Carol and nana to Ryan. Funeral service will be held at the St Ninians Old Parish Church, St. Ninians, Stirling, on Friday, February 25, at 11am, thereafter to Logie Cemetery for approx 12 noon, to which all relatives, friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired to be given to Cancer Research.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Alexander (Alastair) would like to thank everyone for their cards of support, phone calls and donations following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of Ward B, Lorn and Isles Hospital; Doctors and District Nurses at Lorn medical Centre; Crossroads and Helping Hands. Many thanks also to D and A Munn for all their help at this difficult time, and to Rev D Cameron, Andrew Mowat, Malcolm MacDonald and Donald Skinner for their kind words at the service, and to the staff of Soroba House Hotel. The sum of £685.36 has been forwarded to British Heart Foundation. Following the funeral service at Kilmore and Oban Church, Oban.

**MACLEAN** - The family of the late Annag MacLean, Kinlochleven, would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls following their sad loss. To all the staff at the Belford Hospital for their care to Annag, Douglas and Helen McLintyre Funeral Directors for their excellent help in the funeral arrangements, Janet McLintyre and Rev Malcolm Kinneer for their lovely service in Kinlochleven, Rev Donald MacDonald for his lovely service up in Staffin, the Highland Getaway for their excellent buffet and Bill and Eleanor for all their help. The sum of £646 was collected on behalf of the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Thanks again to all.

**MACLEAN** - The family of the late Kenny MacLean would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls following their sad loss. Thanks also to the staff of Ward B, the ambulance crew,

Cartriona and all at Hamish Hoey for their support and arrangements. Thanks to Rev Knott for a lovely service, to all at Soroba House for the excellent buffet and The Flower House for the beautiful flowers. Special thanks to all who attended the church service and thereafter to Pennyfuir. The sum of £553.44 at the retail collection was donated to Breath Easy Oban. Thanks again to all.

**MACNICOL** - Duncan and John, sons of the late Peggy Mac Nicol would like to thank most sincerely friends and family who have been so kind by their expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the Rev Christopher MacRae for his visits and very comforting service and we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the kind donations given so generously in aid of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which raised £315. Thanks to John McLellan and Co Ltd, Funeral Directors, for their very efficient arrangements.

**POWELL** - The family of the late Grace Powell of Connel wish to warmly thank all relatives and friends for the very many expressions of sympathy and support extended to them by way of cards, letters, flowers and phone calls following their grievous sudden loss of dear Grace. Grateful thanks also to the Oban Ambulance paramedics and the staff at Oban Hospital and the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank, who tried to save her life, and to the School of Life Sciences at Glasgow University who arranged acceptance of Grace's body. We also warmly thank Rev George Cringles, Archie Campbell and others for the very moving Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Grace held in St Oran's Church, Connel on Thursday evening, February 17. The packed church heard tributes to Grace from Kate Armstrong and granddaughter Jenny, and we are grateful to Norman Nicholson (organ) and the Oban Bach Choir for leading the hymns and singing a favourite anthem. The retiring offering for Cancer Research Scotland and Macmillan Nurses raised the generous sum of £500. Following the service, refreshments were provided for all who wished in the nearby Connel Village Hall and Harry and family warmly thank the neighbours and other Connel folk for providing this opportunity for the relatives and friends to mingle and chat. Heart-warming Connel community friendship and hospitality.

**MEMORIALS**

**BROWN** - In loving memory of my dear husband Alastair who died on February 25, 2005. Also remembering my brother-in-law Hector who died on March 24, 2004. Also remembering loved ones gone before and since. Gone are the days we used to share  
But in my heart you are always there.  
- Seonaid, 11 Balephuil, Tiree.

**MACDONALD** - Precious memories of our dear mother Mary who died on February 24, 1998.  
- Bobby, Kate and Rebecca.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our brother Willie, who passed away on February 24, 2008. There are no more tomorrows  
For us to share  
But yesterday's memories are always there.  
- Elsie, Margaret and families.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of our Auntie Helen who passed away on February 25, 2010.  
A loving smile, a lovely face  
A loving Auntie we can't replace  
- Maria, Joanne, Kirsty, Calum, Duncan and Liam.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and dear mother Catherine, died February 24, 1995, aged 40.  
Always in our thoughts.  
- John, John and David.  
In loving memory of a dear daughter-in-law Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in my thoughts.  
- Mum  
In loving memory of a dear mum and nana Catherine passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Karen, Norman, Christopher, Lewis and Arran xxx

**TOMLIN** - Jim. Another year gone by,  
You hold a place in our hearts always  
Miss and love you.  
- Christine, Natasha, Shauni, James and Jack.

**Stokes Memorials**  
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years  
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor  
• New and traditional memorials.  
• Additional lettering.  
• Cleaning and renovations.  
• Pet memorials.  
• Work carried out in any cemetery.  
• Delivery to all islands.  
• Free estimates and advice.  
• House signs.  
312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01349 702162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk

**OBAN MEMORIALS**  
Alistair MacLean  
Master Sculptor  
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban  
Design and prices on request  
LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY  
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

**BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS**  
The Oban Times  
Tel: 01631 569000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**COOPER** - Cherished memories of our beloved mum, gran and great-gran, Dorothy Cooper, who died on February 23, 2006. Dearly loved and so sorely missed.  
- Tricia, Caroline and families.

**FARQUHAR** - In loving memory of Molly and Donald - Rhoda.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of our dear mum, Marybell who died February 23, 1987.  
Love and miss you always.  
- Iain and family, Dalmainy, Margaret and family, Canada.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of my dear wife, Marybell, who died February 23, 1987. Deep in my heart your memory stays  
Loved and remembered every day.  
- Jimmy.

**LEITCH** - In loving memory of my dear wife, Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. Six years have passed  
Since that sad day  
You closed your eyes and slipped away  
I lost a wife with a heart of gold  
How much I miss her can never be told  
Behind my smile is many a tear  
For one I lost and loved so dear.  
Gus An Coinnichidh Sinn A-Rithist  
- Ivor, Neil, Debbie and family.

**MACARTHUR** John - In memory of a very much loved father, father-in-law and grandpa who went home to be with his Saviour on February 21, 2010.  
Your humility, compassion, your great sense of humour, the twinkle in your eyes, and the witness of your daily walk with Jesus will influence our lives for ever.  
"Over the river faces I see,  
Loved ones in Glory waiting for me,  
Free from their sorrow, pain and despair,  
Patiently watching and waiting up there".  
You will always be in our hearts and we look forward to that glorious day of rejoicing when we will meet again.  
Love you forever - from Rose, Harold and Isabel. (Canada)

**MACCORMICK** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and gran Catherine, passed away February 27, 2002.  
No longer in our lives to share  
But in our hearts you are always there.  
- Colin, Flora and Graeme.

**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of my dear mother Catherine, died February 27, 2002 and my dear father Peter, died August 1, 1980, and all those near and dear gone before and since.  
Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard but always near  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
- Mary

**MACDONALD** - Precious memories of our dear mother Mary who died on February 24, 1998.  
- Bobby, Kate and Rebecca.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our brother Willie, who passed away on February 24, 2008. There are no more tomorrows  
For us to share  
But yesterday's memories are always there.  
- Elsie, Margaret and families.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of our Auntie Helen who passed away on February 25, 2010.  
A loving smile, a lovely face  
A loving Auntie we can't replace  
- Maria, Joanne, Kirsty, Calum, Duncan and Liam.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and dear mother Catherine, died February 24, 1995, aged 40.  
Always in our thoughts.  
- John, John and David.  
In loving memory of a dear daughter-in-law Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in my thoughts.  
- Mum  
In loving memory of a dear mum and nana Catherine passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Karen, Norman, Christopher, Lewis and Arran xxx

**TOMLIN** - Jim. Another year gone by,  
You hold a place in our hearts always  
Miss and love you.  
- Christine, Natasha, Shauni, James and Jack.

**MACLEAN** - The family of the late Kenny MacLean would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls following their sad loss. Thanks also to the staff of Ward B, the ambulance crew, Cartriona and all at Hamish Hoey for their support and arrangements. Thanks to Rev Knott for a lovely service, to all at Soroba House for the excellent buffet and The Flower House for the beautiful flowers. Special thanks to all who attended the church service and thereafter to Pennyfuir. The sum of £553.44 at the retail collection was donated to Breath Easy Oban. Thanks again to all.

**MACQUEEN** - Treasured memories of my dear daughter Veronica who passed away on February 25, 2000.  
If memories bring us closer  
We are never far apart  
Because you are always in my thoughts  
And forever in my heart.  
- Love Mum x  
**MACQUEEN** - In loving memory of Veronica, dearly loved sister, sister-in-law and auntie.  
Precious memories of times shared together  
Will live in our hearts  
With love forever.  
- Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families x  
**MACTAGGART** - Remembering our dear sister and aunt, Katie, who passed away on February 25, 2005.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Joan and family.

**MACVICAR** - In loving memory of my dear wife Teena (Christina MacInnes), died March 1, 2007.  
Every hour of everyday, my thoughts return to you  
Of how you always saw the good in what people did  
I'll never forget your helpful smile of caring and respect  
When helping others along the way and making lives journey meant  
- Johnnie  
For a loving mother and nana  
We knew little that morning  
God would call your name  
In life we loved you dearly  
In death we do the same  
- Catherine, John, John, Niall and Michael.

**McKELLAR** - Cherished memories of Lachlan my loving husband and our adored dad, taken from us on February 24, 2010.  
The tears in my eyes I can wipe away  
The ache in my heart will always stay  
- Your loving wife Donna xx  
Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts  
- Your boys Ewan, Kyle, Kern and Ruan xxxx

**McKELLAR** - Treasured memories of my brother and uncle Lachlan, taken tragically on February 24, 2010. Loved and remembered everyday.  
- Sophie, Billy and Catherine.

**McKELLAR** - In loving memory of Lachlan, who died tragically February 24, 2010.  
Always remembered.  
- Bobby, Kate and Rebecca.

**McLENNAN** - In loving memory of our brother Willie, who passed away on February 24, 2008. There are no more tomorrows  
For us to share  
But yesterday's memories are always there.  
- Elsie, Margaret and families.

**McMILLAN** - In loving memory of our Auntie Helen who passed away on February 25, 2010.  
A loving smile, a lovely face  
A loving Auntie we can't replace  
- Maria, Joanne, Kirsty, Calum, Duncan and Liam.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and dear mother Catherine, died February 24, 1995, aged 40.  
Always in our thoughts.  
- John, John and David.  
In loving memory of a dear daughter-in-law Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in my thoughts.  
- Mum  
In loving memory of a dear mum and nana Catherine passed away February 24, 1995.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Karen, Norman, Christopher, Lewis and Arran xxx

**TOMLIN** - Jim. Another year gone by,  
You hold a place in our hearts always  
Miss and love you.  
- Christine, Natasha, Shauni, James and Jack.

**MACLEAN** - The family of the late Kenny MacLean would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls following their sad loss. Thanks also to the staff of Ward B, the ambulance crew, Cartriona and all at Hamish Hoey for their support and arrangements. Thanks to Rev Knott for a lovely service, to all at Soroba House for the excellent buffet and The Flower House for the beautiful flowers. Special thanks to all who attended the church service and thereafter to Pennyfuir. The sum of £553.44 at the retail collection was donated to Breath Easy Oban. Thanks again to all.

**MACQUEEN** - Treasured memories of my dear daughter Veronica who passed away on February 25, 2000.  
If memories bring us closer  
We are never far apart  
Because you are always in my thoughts  
And forever in my heart.  
- Love Mum x  
**MACQUEEN** - In loving memory of Veronica, dearly loved sister, sister-in-law and auntie.  
Precious memories of times shared together  
Will live in our hearts  
With love forever.  
- Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families x  
**MACTAGGART** - Remembering our dear sister and aunt, Katie, who passed away on February 25, 2005.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Joan and family.



Pupils at Dunbeg Primary School add their names to the scroll.

**RNLI Royal 'wedding card' proves popular**

MORE than 800 people have signed the 40ft long Royal 'wedding card' that is touring Oban, Lorn and the Isles to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).  
The card, in the form of a canvass scroll, made by Benderloch artist Ian Gowdie, will bring its way to Prince William and his bride-to-be Kate Middleton shortly before their wedding in April.

For a small donation to the RNLI, people can sign up to be a part of this piece of history.  
**Popular**  
A spokesman for Oban RNLI Fundraising Group, who have organised the Sign Our Scroll project, said: 'The scroll is proving popular with young and old alike and we are absolutely delighted with the tremendous public support it has received.'

'To collect 800 signatures in under three weeks is amazing and we are hoping that lots more people will sign it in the next few weeks.'  
The public will be able to sign the scroll at a variety of places, including Appin Village Hall this Saturday from 2pm-4pm, Lorn and Islands Hospital on Tuesday, March 8 from 9am-4pm and Oban Tourist Office, all day on Saturday, March 19.

**Around the Rurals**

**Dervaig**

On February 2nd the Dervaig SWRI held their usual business meeting followed by a talk entitled Looking for the Past in Penmore and Kildavie.  
As the speakers were Bill Patterson and Kevin Luscombe, and the subject of local interest, it was decided to make this an 'open' session and we were really pleased to welcome at least a dozen extra people to our meeting.  
Kevin first of all told us about the history of the Penmore and Croig area - this was one of the first areas to start 're-populating' in the 1960's after the population of Mull had reached its lowest recorded numbers. He went on to show some pictures and talk about the many interesting archaeological sites round Penmore and elsewhere on North Mull and the work that has been, and is being, done on them.  
Bill then took up the story of Kildavie and the work that is going on there to uncover the settlement, showing amongst other things some amazing enlargements of aerial photographs taken by the RAF in the 1940's.  
Both Bill and Kevin acknowledged the assistance they have had from organisations such as Scotland's Rural Past, and Adopt-a-Monument, and spoke of the amount of interest that Penmore and Kildavie have sparked in the professional archaeological world.  
All this helps with making further discoveries about the people who came before us and the sort of lives they led.  
Kevin and Bill's enthusiasm was infectious and many in the audience will now be looking at their surroundings with sharper eyes and more care; making a greater connection with those who lived here before us.

We thanked them for giving us such an insight into a part of Mull's past.

**Fionnphort**

In January local environmentalist John Clare gave us a beautifully illustrated talk on the wildlife of Ardanallan, on the south coast of the Ross of Mull. This had turned into an open meeting, so we had an extensive audience. Catering was by Sue Reed and Anita Tunstall, and contributions were donated to Mary's Meals.

In February we started with a brief business meeting, followed by a workshop on paper flower making from Margaret Whitton, accompanied by a number of her comic stories. Amongst general hilarity, everyone managed to produce a flower, some resembled the intended crocus rather more than others. Margaret then gave us an excellent demonstration of paper rose making, these were lovely. Margaret judged the competitions; Jenny Wright won the Charity Shop reworked item and Marilyn Granger the photograph of Mull or Tiree. We finished with refreshments provided by Janis Allen and Julia Schoenleber (with her usual wonderful cakes).

**Salen**

Margaret Black welcomed everyone to our February meeting when the speaker was Gwynneth Pinchbeck one of our own members, who gave us a talk and demonstration on Lace Making. Gwynneth first talked about the types of lace there are:- Torchon, Honiton, Bucks Point and Bedfordshire, then

told us about how she started lace making, and about the different courses and schools she has attended over the years.  
She brought along lots of samples of her work, which was beautiful. Then she gave us demonstration of a simple pattern, which some of us had a go at, very intricate but worth the try. Some members had a good look at some of the magazines and pamphlets she also brought along.

A very interesting evening which was enjoyed by everyone.

**Tiree**

The February meeting was opened by Caroline MacLean, who welcomed 10 members and six visitors and introduced Tiree trekker Fiona MacLeod, who along with her daughter Kirsteen walked The Great Wall of China to raise money (£10,760) for the Eve Appeal (Female Charity).

On arrival in Beijing they were met by two guides, who proved very helpful and supportive. The weather was cold and misty for most of the walk and the scenery was not so clear. After a daily 15 mile walk they left the man-made walkway for a two hour coach journey for an overnight stay ready for the next day. After five days, on completion of the journey, a medal was presented to the trekkers. Their decent was by cable car which they well deserved. The sun shone on the last day when they went to Tiananmen Square, Terracotta Warriors and a Food Market.

Their video and slides were very entertaining and educational.  
Annie MacKinnon gave a vote of thanks to Fiona and a donation for the charity was presented.  
In the competitions - Jennie Niven was first in both 'An interesting item found on the beach' and 'An Item made from a Charity Shop buy'.

**Tobermory**

February is often a dreary month, but not if you're a member of Tobermory WRI.  
Our meeting on the 1st of the month was to have included a talk by Sergeant Stephen, but unfortunately police duties demanded his presence elsewhere.  
So we foregathered in the warmth and comfort of Glen Isal as usual and, after the business was completed (and there was a lot of it!) we had a good old natter instead. It's always a pleasure to be able to catch up on all the news, but usually we're just too busy to do so properly. It's also a chance to swap ideas and tips, and the ladies of the Tobermory Institute take seriously one of the most important SWRI mottos: "If you know a good thing, pass it on."

The "Auld New Year" tea party had had to be postponed because of adverse weather, as you may remember, and so the date was re-set for Saturday 12th February in celebration of St Valentine.

Entertainment was supplied by our stalwart supporter Fiona Jappy, who had fun in fits with her rendition of "The Quine That Did the Strip at Inverurie" and other songs; Donna Duggdale and Natalie Livingstone sang their prize winning songs; and Fiona Macadam brought along her guitar and sang and played her fiddle.  
Everyone who came had a party bag to take home, and our thanks go to

Geoffrey and Rebecca of Park Lodge, Island Bakery and "Am Muileach".  
We look forward to welcoming everyone again next year and hope the weather behaves itself next time!

Finally, Tobermory Institute welcomed teams and their supporters from all the Mull Institutes for the annual side-splitting, brain-torturing Inter-Institute Quiz. Of all the quizzes we've had, this one has to have been the most entertaining, as team members and audience dissolved into gales of laughter at the struggles to get the answers out, the appeals for mercy and "a nice easy question", and the "commentary" by the Fionnphort mascot, an excited Border terrier!

Margaret Broad had surpassed herself in the range and originality of the questions - how long is it since you had to use the term "a murmur of starlings"?

The scorers Jean and Anne were kept busy as the answers kept coming thick and fast, and all the quiz team members will have sore arms this morning from waving them in the air for bonus points.

Finally we had the customary sumptuous supper provided by the ladies of Tobermory Institute. The winners of the trophy were Tobermory Institute.

**Torosay**

In January 14 members of Torosay Institute had a wonderful New Year dinner in the Craignure Inn, food, & company was great.  
A big thank you to Alex, Tina and staff.  
For the February meeting, the office bearers of Mull and Tiree Federation came to visit us and each one spoke their role in the Federation.

**Killin**

Thirty ladies attended the WRI birthday party in the Lesser McLaren Hall.  
Catering was provided by Carlotta Fraser of Town and Country Catering.  
The birthday cake was cut by the newest member, Jani Ellis.  
After dinner entertainment by Broad Sword was enjoyed by all.

The competition theme was recycling, a poem and a dress out of plastic bags. Results were: Poem 1. Elizabeth Woods 2. Margaret MacGregor Plastic Bag Dress 1. Margaret Galloway 2. Norma Lang 3. Ellen Stewart

**Kilbrandon**

President Linda Brown welcomed an excellent turnout to the February meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held recently in Seil Island Hall.  
Linda led a workshop on the art of scrap booking, guiding members through the process of producing a page of memories incorporating their own photographs.  
Shona Neil gave the vote of thanks.

You can email all your SWRI news to editor@obantimes.co.uk or by post to SWRI News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban Argyll

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

**Calum races to under-15 record at Leanachan**

**ATHLETICS**

THE FINAL race of Lochaber Athletic Club's Junior Winter League took place on Sunday in good conditions in Leanachan forest.

Calum Fraser set a new under-15 boys course record of 15.21 over the 4km route, with Joseph Tangney not too far behind in 15.52 and inside the old record, while Craig MacLean was third in 18.08.

Isla MacKay also set a new course record in the girls under-15 race in a time of 17.11, with Emily Strathdee second and Elidh Moynihan third.

Innes Blackhall set an age group record of 10.16 in the under-13 boys race, with Bruce MacLean just behind in 10.33 and Ewan MacLean third in 10.38.

Rachael MacPherson won the under-13 girls in 11.24, with Eleanor Strathdee second and Rosa Gibson third.

The under-11 boys race was won by Ruairdh Shaw in a good 10.58, second was Keir Gibson 11.26 and third Lachie Shaw in 11.32 with Alex Dent just behind in 11.41.

In the under-11 girls race, the times ran were exceptionally fast. Ishbel Strathdee from Edinburgh won in 10.40, the fastest time for any girl over this course, Robyn Blackhall was second in 11.21 (this would have been a course record by over a minute!) and Abbie Blackhall was third in 11.23.

**Teenager finishes six minutes ahead of competitors**

**MOUNTAIN BIKING**

WEST HIGHLAND Wheelers travelled to Duror for round six of the Winter League. A well-crafted course was set by Nigel and Ben Miller, more akin to the traditional mountain bike routes of steep, long climbs and gnarly descents through the trees.

Ben, still only 15 years of age, proved that setting the course didn't do any harm as he romped home by six minutes from Gavin Maclean.

The other podium place was taken by the ever-improving Lachlan Blair who once again proved that you don't need a stellar bike to perform.

Young Stephen Dent also showed plenty of potential for the future as he powered past a couple of gasping old-timers.

Marie Meldrum was the ladies winner although there may be a steward's enquiry over the number of laps ridden!

WHW's Andy Rogers said: 'Everyone enjoyed the day out and a big thanks are due to Nigel, Jeanette and Ben for all of their preparation and support on the day.'

Next event is at Invergarry on the March 6.

**David's hard work earns nomination**

**Seil golfer among top volunteers**

A SEIL golfer was selected from thousands of members of Scottish clubs to be nominated as volunteer of the year.

Despite not winning the overall title David Nathan has been praised by fellow golf club members for his hard work and dedication at the nine-hole course on the island.

David was nominated in recognition of his achievement as a volunteer at the club, includ-

ing the work the club does in recruiting and teaching junior members.

A spokesman for the Scottish Golf Union said: 'The standard this year for the volunteer of the year award was exceptionally high and it is a great achievement to be shortlisted in the final five.'

'Nominations highlight the fantastic work being done by volunteers and committee members up and down the country

to develop the name of golf in Scotland and we are very proud to promote those efforts.'

The awards ceremony was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow last weekend with golf celebrities including Colin Montgomerie on hand to recognise the efforts of the golfing community in Scotland.

The Isle of Seil Golf Club, established in 1995, has 109 members with 17 junior members.



David Nathan with fellow members of the Isle of Seil's nine-hole golf course. 16\_t08golf01

**Double-header to fine tune tactics**

**Inverness 1st team 2, Oban Camanachd 2  
Inverness 2nd team 0, Lochside Rovers 7**

**SHINTY**

BOTH Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers travelled to the Bught Park last Saturday for a pre-season double header against Inverness' first and second teams.

South Division One club Lochside were first up against Inverness' second team, who play in North Division Three, and the travelling side got off to a blistering start with Lewis Cameron coming close when his shot was well saved in the second minute. Shortly after, David Devine put a 15-yard effort narrowly past the post.

Lochside continued to push for the opening goal and almost got it in the 24th minute when Brian McCallum's 20 yard effort hit the woodwork.

The deadlock was broken four minutes later though when Lochside won a free hit just outside the box, which Devine passed to McCallum who struck home from eight yards.

McCallum then got his second in the 36th minute when he got his stick on the end of a Scott Maitland ball across the goalmouth. Four minutes later, McCallum completed his hat-trick to put Lochside 3-0 up at the half time interval, without their keeper Robert Dunning having to make a save.

Lochside continued to press forward in the second half and got their fourth when Devine

scored in the 62nd minute and 15 minutes later, Cameron scored to make it 5-0. Inverness struggled to make any sort of impact in the final third against a Lochside team comfortably holding their own and Cameron scored his second of the afternoon with an unstoppable shot in the 80th minute.

Malcolm Clark then rounded off a fine Lochside performance with a well taken goal in the last minute to make the final score 7-0.

**Delighted**

After the match, Lochside Rovers co-manager Tony Howlett said: 'I was delighted with the team's performance from start to finish and we dominated the game. I was especially pleased with our man of the match Brian McCallum and also young Alex Dunning and Peter Currie who both had an excellent 90 minutes.'

After the conclusion of the Lochside match, Premier Division side Oban Camanachd took to the field to take on the Inverness first team, who play in North Division One.

Unlike their second string though, the senior Oban side got off to a poor start when they went 1-0 down in the opening minute to a Connor Gourlay goal.

Camanachd immediately went in search of the equaliser but were thwarted on several occasions by an Inverness keeper in excellent form. The Oban side will have felt aggrieved though not to have

won a penalty in the 28th minute when Gus Campbell was brought down in the box. However the referee waved play on to the bemusement of the Camanachd players, officials and supporters.

In the second half, Camanachd continued to push forward and Daniel MacIntyre came close with a shot over the bar shortly after the half time interval. Scott MacMillan will also have been disappointed to have missed an open goal in the 65th minute.

**Missed chances**

Camanachd paid the price for their missed chances two minutes later when Inverness went 2-0 up with a James Carmichael goal. The home side then almost made it three in the 80th minute when they hit the post.

To their credit though, the Oban players' heads did not go down and they pulled one back in the 86th minute with an unstoppable 15-yard shot from Daniel MacKinnon.

Inverness were rattled by this and two minutes later, Camanachd completed the comeback with a Scott MacMillan goal.

Camanachd will have been disappointed with their overall performance, but can take heart from the manner in which they came back from two goals down.

This Saturday, Oban Camanachd, sponsored by SEC Builders, play Kilmory in their final pre-season friendly at Mossfield with a 1.30pm throw-up, whilst the Cuan Morsponsored Lochside Rovers take on Fort William's second team at Ganavan with the throw-up also at 1.30pm.

**Saints Under-9s blow away the rest**

**PRIMARY FOOTBALL**

IN WINDY conditions on Sunday it was league leaders, Saints U9s, who blew away the competition in the Oban Express Primary Football League.

The U9s were up first to play the derby match against Saints U8s, who defended in numbers making it hard to get the first goal. Lewis Campbell then managed to find some space to smash a fine left foot shot beyond the excellent Innes Horne in goals to open the scoring.

Lennon Campbell then scored to open the game up in the U9s' favour and a third from Aiden MacPhee, who headed in a Gavin Forgie corner, sealed the points.

Cameron Clark also scored with a fine chip into the top corner.

After a good winning start the U9s then played Lochgilphead in another cracking match between the two teams, won by the Saints courtesy of an excellent hat-trick by Lewis Campbell. Sam Coates and Euan Logan combined well in defence to break up the fast counter attacks from Lochgilphead with Rhys Casci, in particular, looking dangerous.

**Long range**

The U9s were straight back on to play Galaxy who played three in defence to make space tight and restricted the older Saints team to long-range shots, which were well covered by Alik Aleynik in goals for Galaxy.

It was always going to be a goalmouth scramble that brought the opener and it was Aiden MacPhee who won in a 50-50 tackle on the goal line to score.

This opened up space for the U9s who used it well to score another two goals before

Galaxy replied through Pearce McBeth.

Galaxy and Pumas served up a game worthy of an old firm derby and it was the black and whites of the Pumas to open the scoring through a long range Ewen Budge goal.

Galaxy were determined, but were hit by a well-worked second goal from Gary MacIvor to earn Pumas the bragging rights. Pumas went on to bring themselves up to the dizzy heights of second place with victories over rivals Saints U8s with a goal apiece for Connor Moore and Ryan Barclay, the latter scoring once again against Benderloch.

Lochgilphead maintained their challenge for second place with a hard fought win over a dogged Benderloch side, who had Rowan Howe in superb form in goals to restrict Lochgilphead. Goals from Euan Finlay and a superb brace from Rhys Casci gave the Mid Argyll boys victory.

**Goal fest**

The youngest teams of the junior league took to the warm climate of the indoor hall to play fun fours and another goal-fest ensued with all the kids having loads of fun with some really exciting encounters.

Over in the senior league the race for the title continues and Saints Boys maintained their challenge with a victory over Lochnell, courtesy of goals from Martin Rennie and Lewis Buchanan, then enhanced their position with a comprehensive win over third-placed Stoddarts, with Rennie netting a brace and Craig Easton putting the shine on a solid performance.

Stoddarts, however, picked themselves off

the floor for another top-of-the-table clash with the Warriors from Lochgilphead but found themselves one goal down to a great effort from Aaron Whitefield.

Stoddarts kept going and were eventually rewarded for their efforts with a late equaliser from Lomond MacPherson, which keeps them in contention.

In their third match Stoddarts kept on the heels of the leaders with a win over Thistle. Oban Saints opened their day with a fine win over Tralee, with James MacIntyre and Zander Kilmurry both finding the net and they followed that with the same scoreline against Stoddy Boys, thanks to Ben Coates and Duncan McDougall.

**Share**

But in their next encounter against Wolves neither side could find that winning goal and had to settle for a share of the spoils.

Wolves went on to defeat Stoddy Boys with two goals from Lorne MacFarlane and another from Liam Cameron, with Jamie MacAllister replying for the Boys.

Lochnell found themselves a goal down in their derby against Tralee when Martin Hendricksen found the corner but they rallied and two goals from Ewan Gibb reversed the scoreline to record the win for Lochnell.

The game of the day was last in the schedule and Thistle found themselves two goals down at half time with Lewis Reeves and Martin Hendricksen scoring for Lochnell.

A half time reshuffle from the Thistle coaches saw them come out a different side in the second half and they got back into the game through Cameron Hill. Thistle grew in stature and went on to equalise when Oran Bryce found the corner of the net.

**MacCrone hopes to start well at Bournemouth**

**RALLYING**

MULL rally driver John MacCrone says he is relishing the start of the MSA British Rally Championship this weekend.

The 21-year-old Dervaig driver has been part of Team UK set-up in pre-season and the training programme provides coaching for the country's most promising young drivers.

John, who drives a Palletforce-backed Fiesta R2 for Rally Team

Scotland, will begin his season with the Rally Sunseeker in Bournemouth. After a successful inaugural season in 2010, John and co-driver Stuart Loudon say they are returning to the championship with a renewed sense of optimism, confidence and determination.

John said: 'I'm really looking

forward to getting back into the car and back out on the stages again. I'm feeling a lot more prepared now than any other year and the Team UK fitness sessions mean we are both in really good physical shape.'

'They have also helped me prepare mentally and I'm looking forward to the challenges that this rally, and the entire season, will bring.'

As part of their preparations, the crew visited the Porsche Human Performance Centre in Silverstone to help concentrate on their fitness and mental preparation for the rally.

As well as chasing class honours MacCrone and Loudon will join Craig Breen and Gareth Roberts to score team points for the new M-Sport Ford squad in the BRC Teams Championship.



Mull rally driver John MacCrone in his Fiesta R2. He begins his season in Bournemouth this weekend.



Eye on the ball: Saints' defender Myles McAuley attempts to time his tackle during the 2-1 home win against Inverclyde. 15\_t08saints2

**56 athletes tackle Arisaig duathlon**

FIFTY-SIX athletes from as far afield as Inverness, Lochgilphead and Falkirk took part in a duathlon near Arisaig on Saturday. The race was the second of three Winter Feast events organised by No Fuss Events.

The route consisted of a five kilometre run followed by a 25km road cycle and a final five km run. The course took competitors around Traigh bay and along Camusdarach beach.

Mike Bond, of Inverness, finished in first place in a time of 1h 49m 59s, with Hannah Barnes following home in second place in 1h 54m 58s. The final duathlon in the series will be based at Nevis Range on April 9.

*Got a Story?* SEND US THE DETAILS BY VISITING [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) 24 hours a day 365 days a year



Lochaber defender Danny Delaney, left, battles for the ball. 10\_f08shinty01

# 'Shiel's successful season celebrated

## SHINTY

KINLOCHSHIEL Shinty Club's annual dinner dance and awards night proved a great success in Dornie Hall on Friday.

Keith MacRae won the first team player of the year award, Colin MacDiarmid was second team player of the year and committee player of the year was Mark MacDonald.

Under-21 player of the year winner Zander Grant was unable to attend.

Keith Loades, who stepped down after three years as joint coach at the AGM because of work commitments, gave a speech highlighting the best goals of the season and the team's achievements throughout last year's campaign.

Top of the list was 'Shiel's epic victory over Fort William in the Balliemore Cup, when keeper Graham Kennedy put glory before life and limb to stop a Fort penalty with his cheekbone. Johnston Gill has taken over as sole first team coach for the 2011 season.

Also singled out was the under-14 team, who swept all before them last season and won the Kenny MacMaster Cup at



Kinlochshiel award winners Colin MacDiarmid, second team player of the year, Keith MacRae, first team player of the year and committee player of the year Mark MacDonald with their trophies.

Bught Park, Inverness before the Camanachd Cup final by beating Fort William 6-1.

Keith told The Oban Times: 'I'm really sorry to be stepping down. But my work as commercial director of Morrison Construction in Scotland

is hugely demanding. Right now everybody is short of work and I can be in Birmingham, London, Glasgow or Aberdeen on any given day. If you can't be at training on Wednesday nights that's no use.'

Supporter Lorraine MacDiarmid said: 'It was a fantastic night, really great. We had around 75 for the meal and over 100 at the dance afterwards.'

Ceilidh band Westword, whose members mostly hail from Kyle and Lochcarron, provided the music.

## Powerful Newtonmore side romps to friendly victory

LOCHABER Shinty Club faced a tough test on Saturday when they took on premier division champions Newtonmore in a memorial friendly in honour of former Lochaber player Joe Toal at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber, playing in their second game before their league campaign starts, were overrun by a strong performance from

## SHINTY

his players' fitness levels before the league season starts next month.

He said: 'A lot of the guys hadn't played the week before, so it was a good exercise to get a game under their belts.'

'Newtonmore are a good outfit. They've got a powerful team and I'm glad we don't have to play them again in the league.'

the away side, who won the game 8-1.

The Spean Bridge men went into the break 4-0 down but didn't give up and managed to pull a goal back in the second half.

Lochaber manager Michael Delaney told The Oban Times the game had been good for raising

## Lochaber welcomes new rugby players



Lochaber youngsters enjoyed the 'bring a buddy day' on Saturday. 10\_f08rugby01

LOCHABER Rugby Club juniors reached out to try to get more youngsters involved with their Bring a Buddy day.

The event was open to any children with an interest in rugby, who were split into three sections - S1 and S2, P5 to P7 and P5 and under. Coaches from the junior side then took the kids through drills in how to pass, how to run with the ball and how to tackle your opponents.

The day ended with each section being split into two for a quick friendly game.

Meanwhile, the senior side travel to take on RAF Kinloss in the Bowl on Saturday. Manager Charlie Donaldson said he was expecting a difficult match.

He said: 'Kinloss and ourselves are knocking on the door at the top of the league so it should be a good game but it'll be tough.'

## Boxers battle to North District wins

## BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club kept up its good recent form when two boxers won their bouts at Northern District show in Aberdeen last Friday.

Thirteen year-old James Aitchison was the first Lochaber fighter in action, taking on George Stewart from Granite City ABC.

James has recently started a new diet to go with his strict training regime, replacing sweets and crisps with fruit and fizzy juice with water - and the lifestyle shift is already paying dividends.

In a short space of time he has dropped down two weight divisions, which shows the benefit of healthy eating to stay strong while losing excess weight.

Both boys got off to a fast start in the first, throwing quick jabs as they darted in and out, James seeking to land hurtful body

shots with George content to head hunt. Aitchison's quicker hands gave him a slight lead going into the second, when Stewart began to falter.

James and pulled out all the stops in the third. The Fort youngster really picked his shots and ended the fight a worthy victor.

North of Scotland featherweight youth champion Denver Small kept up his unbeaten run as he defeated his Peterhead opponent Artor Slazenski after three tight yet very enjoyable rounds.

Round one saw Denver's south-paw opponent forge forward but Small's fantastic balance and footwork kept him out of danger, although his opponent's aggression stopped Denver from landing many counters.



James Aitchison 10\_f08james01

In the second, Denver started to stand his ground more behind an exceptionally tight guard whilst countering with straight powerful shots.

Midway through Small launched a right hand bomb that shook Artor to his boots and the contest took on a whole new complexion. Small showed an old head on young shoulders as he

picked his shots carefully - but now he was the aggressor.

Artor threw plenty of punches in the last but Denver shut up shop and struck like a viper to steal points and come away with a tight but well deserved victory.

Club official Stevie Docherty was a happy man after another fine night - but expressed frustration that illness meant the club would have to pass on Saturday's big fight night at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge.

He said: 'The club's boxers have shown some fine form recently. The only cloud on the horizon is the fact that at this weekend's senior Scottish championships all the local boxers available to compete have been struck down by injury or illness - so Fort William will have no representative at the event.'

## Ballachulish win out at indoor tournament

GLENGARRY hosted an indoor shinty tournament for primary school pupils at the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

In previous years the tournament has been held outside, but after a number of cancellations due to weather, organisers Glengarry decided to move the event indoors.

Ardnamurchan, Ballachulish, Lochcarron and Glengarry all entered teams into the round robin contest.

After a tough day of competing, Ballachulish were the winners in the primary seven and under section. Glengarry won the primary five and under and Ardnamurchan finished top of the primary three

## SHINTY

and under group.

Glengarry would like to thank sponsors Culachy Estate, and everyone who helped make the tournament a success.

Results: Primary three and under: Winners - Ardnamurchan; Runners up - Glengarry; Player of the tournament - Sam Stubbs (Lochcarron). Primary five and under: Winners - Glengarry; Runners up - Lochcarron; Player of the tournament - Mungo Blakely (Glengarry). Primary seven and under: Winners - Ballachulish; Runners up - Glengarry; Player of the tournament - Abigail Woods (Ardnamurchan).



The children who took part in the competition at the Nevis Centre. 10\_f08indoor01

## Livercol on top

## INDOOR FOOTBALL

LIVERCOL increased their lead at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league with a narrow 3-2 win over HW Energy at the Nevis Centre on Sunday. Lochaber Leisure moved into second ahead of opponents Goon Squad after a 3-0 victory. At the bottom, Caley Jags continued their recent revival with a 2-0 win against Ballachulish moving them off the bottom of the league. Replacing them in last place is Crazy Crofter, who lost 3-0 to Achintore FC. Funky Five remain in fifth after beating NGTW 2-1, and the mid-table clash between Caol and All Trades was a high scoring affair, with All Trades winning 6-3.

# Spot the

# SHINTY BALL

## Competition

**WIN £650**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
J McNaughton, Inverlochlarig, Lochearnhead and I Gillies, Fernhill, Rutherglen

**RS Recovery**  
 24 HOURS  
 GLASGOW & ARGYLL  
 24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE  
 COMPETITIVE RATES  
 ALL CARS BOUGHT FOR CASH  
 ANY AGE ANY CONDITION  
 Call Davie on 07788 993809  
 0141 892 0047 Office Hours

## Bught Park to host Camanachd final

BUGHT Park, Inverness has been confirmed as the venue for this year's Camanachd Cup final because of essential upgrading work at Fort William's An Aird. The announcement was made at the first round draw of the competition in Perth on Monday. A preliminary round, featuring six teams, was also drawn and has thrown up a derby between Lochaber and Ballachulish. Also present in the draw for the first time in their 10-year history are

**SHINTY**  
 Aberdour, who travel to play Strathglass. Elsewhere in the draw, Skye were handed a potential inter-island derby away to Bute, should the Rothesay men overcome Caberfeidh in their preliminary tie. More than 100,000 turned up or tuned in to the 2010 final to witness Fort William defeat Kingussie in a dramatic 3-2 encounter.

The 2011 final will once again be broadcast live on BBC TV, Radio and Online. Preliminary round to be played on April 2: Strathglass v Aberdour; Lochaber v Ballachulish; Bute v Caberfeidh. First round to be played on May 7: Inverness v Taynuilt; Glasgow Mid Argyll v Strathglass or Aberdour; Kilmory v Lochcarron; Oban Celtic v Lochaber or Ballachulish; Kinlochshiel v Beaulie; Bute or Caberfeidh v Skye.

## Saints are made to battle all the way

**Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Oban Saints 2, Inverclyde 1**

INVERCLYDE were the visitors to Glencruitten last Saturday and the Gourrock side were a bit unlucky not to have gone back down the A82 with at least a share of the points in a hard-fought encounter, losing by the odd goal in three. Saints were without injured striker Allan MacKay for this encounter so manager Iain Jackson pushed young Mattie Rippon into attack with Myles McAuley taking over the left midfield berth. The visitors started the game well and had Saints on the back-foot, but the home defence looked solid, not letting the Inverclyde attack get too close to keeper Graham Douglas. Saints' first real attack came in the 13th minute, but Willie Gemmell's cross fell just behind Dene Cassells and the midfielder couldn't get the ball from beneath his feet to get a shot on target. After a sluggish start in which Inverclyde looked the better team, Saints gradually hauled themselves back into the game and in the 17th minute Donald Campbell fed the ball to Mattie Rippon, but the young striker's shot was well saved by Clyde keeper Darren McLoughlin. However, 60 seconds later the home side took the lead. They were awarded a corner on the left taken by Ross Maitland who swung a deep cross to the back post where Willie Gemmell and Kevin McDermid challenged. It seemed to deflect off the Inverclyde defender and spun high into the net. The home team should have gone 2-0 in front in the 21st minute when Donald Campbell was clean through with only the keeper to beat, but inexplicably



Hard fought: Saints' Ross Maitland fights for possession in midfield. 15\_108saints01

blasted the ball over the bar when it looked easier to score. Two minutes before half time the major talking point of the match occurred. Inverclyde thought they had equalised when there was an almighty scramble on the Saints goal-line. The Clyde players claimed the ball had crossed the line, but referee John Campbell, who was in a good position waved away their claims. The home side got off to the perfect start at the beginning of the second period with a goal in the 48th minute when Ross Maitland crossed into the box for Marc MacCallum, who rose above the Clyde defence to head the ball home. Any thoughts the visitors would collapse after this second goal were quickly dispelled when

they put the Saints defence under pressure and were unlucky on a couple of occasions. Inverclyde pulled a goal back in the 68th minute when the Saints defence failed to clear their lines properly and the ball fell to Tom McQuilkin who drilled a low shot through a ruck of players and into the net - game on. The visitors pushed more men forward in an attempt to get an equaliser which meant they left spaces at the back, but the Oban lads lacked composure on several occasions when opportunities arose. Try as they might Inverclyde just could not get that vital second goal which would have given them a share of the points so it was a happy and slightly relieved Saints team that left the park at the end of 90 minutes with a

hard-fought three points under their belts. Manager Iain Jackson was delighted to get the win, but not happy with the performance. He said: 'We are not playing well at the moment, everybody is trying to do too much individually. Inverclyde are a good team and made us fight all the way, but credit to the lads they battled hard when things weren't going our way and we still managed to gain three important points. That's us done the league double over Inverclyde, we beat them 4-2 in Gourrock earlier in the season. This Saturday, Saints travel to Stepps to take on Cambria in a league match. The game kicks-off at 2pm with referee Mark Cameron in charge.'

## 15 battle it out at U-14 indoor contest

AFTER a five year absence, the South of Scotland U-14 indoor competition returned to Oban's Atlantis Leisure Centre on Sunday. An encouraging response of 15 teams entered the event, which made for a fantastic afternoon of shinty for more than 100 players. The teams took little time to adapt to the indoor rules and environment and it did not take long for some excellent individual and team performances to be on show to the large gathering crowd. The early exchanges saw strong performances from Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic along with Inveraray, Milgavie and Bearsden, the Glasgow Gaels and Aberdour who progressed through to the knockout stages. It was Inveraray and Aberdour along with Oban Camanachd's

**SHINTY**  
 A and C teams that won through to the semi-finals with Aberdour and Oban Camanachd booking their place in the final. In a final that fitted the occasion and showed the potential for south of Scotland shinty to progress it finished an astonishing 5-5 after full time. In a game where both teams seemed to refuse to be beaten, only a golden goal from Aberdour's Lewis Farrar could separate the teams. Due to the high entry numbers, a plate competition was also played for with the teams that did not qualify for the knockout stages battling it out to be the best of the rest. It was Dunoon, Meadowburn, Ardnamurchan and Ballachulish

that booked their place in the semi-finals of the plate competition with Ballachulish and Meadowburn winning through to the final. In an evenly matched final Ballachulish came back from 2-0 down against a very skilful Meadowburn team to draw 2-2 after full time. It was again a golden goal that decided the outcome of the competition with a great Cian MacPhee strike giving victory to Ballachulish. Oban Camanachd's Connor Howe was awarded the player of the tournament. Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, said: 'It is great that this competition is back as part of the playing calendar and I hope all the teams and players enjoyed it.'



Oban High School won the Scottish Secondary Schools Nine-a-side Challenge Trophy.

## Nine-a-side trophy success for Oban

MORE than 70 first and second year pupils took part in this year's Scottish Secondary Schools Nine-a-side Challenge Trophy, which was won by Oban High School. The event, held last Wednesday at Airdrie Sports Centre, was run by the South of Scotland Schools Camanachd Association and sponsored by North Lanarkshire Leisure. Teams from Dunoon Grammar School, Douglas Academy, Kinlochleven High, Glasgow Gaelic School and Greenfaulds High School also competed in the second annual event. In a tight league it was Oban High School and Dunoon Grammar School who edged out the strong challenge of the Glasgow

**SHINTY**  
 Gaelic School and Douglas Academy in the round robin group matches to book their places in the final. Oban High School claimed victory on the day with a 3-0 win over the Dunoon Grammar youngsters, who now have been runners-up in the tournament for two years in a row. **Eye catching** Shinty's National Development Officer Ronald Ross, who attended the days proceedings, awarded Player of the Tournament to Greenfaulds High School pupil Megan McFarlane and Glasgow Gaelic School's Fionn Whyte for two individual eye catching performances.

Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, said: 'It is great to see such enthusiasm for shinty across the South of Scotland at this level and that the tournament has grown considerably since last year. The tournament was introduced last year to help bridge the gap between primary and secondary school shinty and to strengthen the player pathway. I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who helped out on the day and to all the players/teachers and coaches for making it a great occasion. A special thank you goes to North Lanarkshire Leisure for their continued support of the tournament and to Kate Fairly for all her help in organising the event.'

## Magnificent seventh win sees Oban Lorne march further up the league

**Scottish Hydro Electric West Division One Millbrae 12, Oban Lorne 35**

OBAN Lorne put their cup woes behind them as they marched on in the league, clocking up their seventh consecutive win to rise to second in the division. With several players unavailable following last week's cup defeat at Lenzie, more than 11 positional changes and eight personnel changes were required in the starting line-up. Most notable were the inclusion of Connor Ferris, who made his first start on the wing, and the absence of player/coach Corrie Louw. Oban started the game with most of the possession and territory but failed to make their early chances count. The men in green continued to press and were awarded a penalty in front of the post as a result of some indiscipline at the breakdown from the Millbrae forwards. Stand off Bert Wright kicked the points and Oban led 3-0.

**RUGBY**  
 Again Oban pressed the Millbrae line from the restart but were undone by some sloppy play at the ruck that allowed Millbrae to turn over and regain the ball. Oban found themselves on the back foot due to some strong and direct running from the experienced Millbrae pack, but some good tackling, particularly from centres Calum MacLauchlan and Gus Munro, kept the home side out. Oban saw out this period of Millbrae pressure and were rewarded for their hard work with the first try of the afternoon. Andy MacDougall picked up and ran from the blind side of a scrum in the Millbrae 22, drew in two defenders and passed to Connor Ferris who scored on his first start for the club. This lead was extended shortly after this time with Bert Wright crossing the line. Wright found himself only a few metres from the line with the Millbrae defence being distracted

by several supporting Oban players, allowing the stand off a clear path to the try line. Oban led 15-0 at half time. The men in green were full of confidence at the start of the second half and it didn't take long to again add to the score line. Number eight Andy MacDougall did superbly well to tackle and steal the ball from a Millbrae player in their 22. MacDougall suddenly found himself in space with the ball and he passed to Oban captain Struan Smith who scored and extended the score to 20-0. Millbrae were reduced to 14 players shortly after this when Bert Wright was head butted while being brought down close to the line. As a result the Millbrae player was yellow carded and Oban were awarded a penalty. This was converted by full back Mark MacQueen to give Oban a 23-0 lead. Seemingly dead in the water, Millbrae defied their opponents and scored two consolation tries

in quick succession to narrow the score to 23-12. This gave Oban a wake-up call and they ended the game scoring two further tries from Bert Wright and Andy MacDougall, which resulted in a final score of 35-12. Credit must go to all of the Oban side who made the long journey to Ayrshire and also to the number of young players who were given a chance to impress. Oban Lorne leapfrogged Lenzie in the league after they lost 23-10 at Clydebank. This means that Oban are sitting in their highest league position for several years but will play their nearest rivals and cup conquerors Lenzie at Glencruitten this Saturday in what will be the biggest league game of the season. Kick off is at 3pm. Oban Lorne: M. Downie, K. Kennedy, A. Park, C. Nicholson, D. Hunter, L. MacLauchlan, S. Smith, A. MacDougall, F. Matheson, R. Wright, A. Wright, C. MacLauchlan, A. Munro, C. Ferris, M. MacQueen, D. Williams.

## Saints youth results and fixtures

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

THIS weekend's results:  
 Torrance Thistle 1, Under 13s 6.  
 Scoring for Saints were Jamie MacPherson (2), James Welsh (2), Ally MacLean and Stuart Munro.  
 Kilpatrick 4, Under 14s 2.  
 Netting for Saints were Stewart Twort and Douglas Tyrell-Bunge.  
 Port Glasgow v Under 15s, postponed.  
 Blair Thistle v Under 16s, postponed.  
 Next weekend's fixtures:  
 Helensburgh v Under 13s; Under 14s v EDFC United; Argyll Athletic v Under 15s; Ardencaple v Under 16s

**FOOTBALL**

**Over-35s League**

	P	Pts
Triallists	6	18
Taynuilt	6	16
Hydro	6	15
WCM	8	10
Teachers	7	10
Spartak	6	9
Emergency	6	7
Seil	7	6
Clan Trees	7	3
Owen Sails	5	0

Results: Clan Trees 1, West Coast Massive 12; Seil 2, Teachers 7; Hydro 2, West Coast Massive 0

**SHINTY**

**Lorn Carpet Bowling League**

	P	Pts
Kilmore	8	52
Benderloch	9	44
Easdale	9	39
Cairnbaan	8	38
North Connel	9	36
Connel	9	27
Taynuilt	9	12

Knockout Cup semi-final: North Connel 6, Easdale 2; Benderloch 2, Kilmore 6. The final between North Connel and Kilmore will be played at Benderloch on Tuesday, March 22. Winners of the Kilmore Open Doubles played on February 12 were Neil MacCorkindale and Colin Clark, who won against Ronald Gordon and Sandy Carr.

## GOLF

Tobermory Golf Club: February Stableford at Tobermory Golf Club: 1 Jamie Cowe (9) 20 pts; 2 Ian McNaughton (17) 17pts; 3 Graham Davidson (6) 15 pts. Islay Golf Club: Winter League played on February 20: 1 Graeme Hamilton, 38pts; 2 Peter Kennedy, 36pts; 3 Samuel Graham, 33pts. Csa 36pts. Winter league played on February 14: 1 Alister Blair, 41pts; 2 Graeme Hamilton, 37pts; 3 Alistair MacMillan, 35pts. Csa 38pts.

**Is your sport here?**

Contact Euan Paterson on 01631 568026 or email [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

**Weather**  
 Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler**  
 Telephone: 01631 562550

**Thursday**  
 Sunny.  
 Winds light, southerly.  
 Temperatures 9°C to 11°C

**Friday**  
 Heavy showers.  
 Winds strong, south westerly.  
 Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
 Heavy showers.  
 Winds moderate, westerly.  
 Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - Moderate  
 Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate

**Tides**  
 Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler**  
 Telephone: 01631 562550

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 24, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.49 0.9 09.31 3.3 16.19 1.3 22.01 3.2	
Fri	04.46 1.2 10.25 2.9 17.22 1.6 23.16 2.9	
Sat	05.54 1.5 12.26 2.7 18.41 1.7 *** **	
Sun	01.23 2.8 07.21 1.7 15.29 2.7 20.25 1.7	
Mon	03.07 3.0 09.13 1.7 16.25 2.9 21.39 1.5	
Tues	03.58 3.2 10.15 1.5 16.52 3.1 22.26 1.3	
Wed	04.27 3.5 10.55 1.3 16.56 3.3 23.04 1.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

**Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)

Frustrated waiting for your Oban Times? Our new E-Edition is delivered directly to your inbox on the day of publication.