

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Jinxed Finlaggan suffers another mechanical hitch

THE JINXED Islay ferry *MY Finlaggan* suffered further mechanical problems on its return to service at the weekend.

The ferry returned from Birkenhead after repairs last week and resumed service on Saturday. However, she experienced a half hour delay leaving Kennacraig on Saturday night when the bow ramp would not close properly. The issue was resolved by the ship's engineers.

The £24.5m ferry was built in Gdansk, Poland, and came to Scotland at the end of May to begin service on the Islay to Kennacraig run.

However, following successful sea trials, a naming ceremony and maiden cruise from Port Askaig on the island, the ship suffered a fault in the port-side engine.

The ferry was repaired and back in service within a week.

In mid-June the hydraulics on the bow ramp failed and the ferry operated with the stern ramp only. The diagnosis was one of contaminated oil in the hydraulics system and the ferry was sent to Birkenhead where hydraulic cylinders and pumps were stripped down, decontaminated, rebuilt and refitted. The hydraulic pipework was also flushed clean and a new charge of oil filled into the system.

## Third stolen car turns up nearby

THE LATEST in a spate of car thefts which has involved a vehicle being taken and then abandoned undamaged nearby has been reported to police.

Last week *The Oban Times* reported how two cars had gone missing in Oban, and were later recovered a few hundred yards away without any damage.

In the latest incident, a white Audi that was reported stolen on Saturday July 9 from Dalriagh Road was later recovered in Laggan Road. As in the other cases, the car was not damaged.

**A THEFT from a town centre soap shop is being investigated by police.**

**The break-in happened overnight between Friday and Saturday.**



## OBAN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



## Smiling princess joins in the party

HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, joined in the Oban Bicentennial celebrations when she visited the town on Tuesday. She welcomed a grand parade which made its way from Station Square to the Corran Halls and was made up of representatives of local groups and organisations. But what brought such a big smile to the Princess's face as she watched the parade arrive with Argyll and Bute Provost William Petrie and Oban community councillor Kenny MacIntyre? Find out on page 3. 16\_128princess12

## Sailing in for celebrations

TEN TALL Ships were due to sail into Oban Bay yesterday as the bicentennial celebrations continued.

The ships have come from Greenock en route to Shetland as they compete in the Tall Ships Challenge.

Whilst in town, the ships' crews are being asked to take part in the town's bicentennial celebrations and will be offered chances to take on locals in shinty and take part in dancing.

Councillor Neil Mackay said: 'I am delighted that so many Tall Ships will be making their way to Oban. It is a credit to the hard work of the bicentennial committee, officers of Argyll and Bute Council and others that such prestigious ships are making their way here.'

## It's almost time to strip

THE BIG Strip The Willow organisers are hopeful of getting 2,000 dancers to take the title of highest number of people in a Highland dance this Saturday.

The record attempt is attracting attention from around the globe with a small story in *The New York Times* this week about the challenge.

'Lots of people have already signed up but plenty more are needed on the day,' said Souvy Page, one of the organisers.

'We are telling people around the world they can watch us live on the town's webcams. Whatever the weather we will be stripping for Oban.' For more details look up [www.thebigstrip.com](http://www.thebigstrip.com) or phone 07717 526 999.

# Operators' plea over tourist centre

## Information office 'should be moved to suitable location'

REPORT

by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A LONG-term solution for the future of Oban's Visitor Information Centre (VIC) needs to be sorted out now, according to tourism operators in the area.

Officials confirmed this week that the VisitScotland VIC is to remain at its temporary home in the Caledonian MacBryne (CalMac) building for the remainder of the summer season.

The move came after 'substantial' repairs were required to the roof of the VIC building, the former St Columba's Church in Argyll Square.

VisitScotland officials say a small information point has been opened in part of the stricken building - but operators say a permanent solution is needed.

Linda Battison, chairwoman of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA), said: 'I do not believe CalMac is the right long term location for this critical facility.'

'I fully appreciate that the CalMac location was just a temporary fix but as VisitScotland now knows that the Argyll Square office is unlikely to re-

open this season, or possibly far longer, I think they should now be considering a more suitable location.

'Perhaps Argyll and Bute Council could demonstrate its support for this area's most important industry by offering the Corran Halls - this would be a better location as it is at the top of the town.'

Councillor Neil MacKay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman on tourism, said: 'We need to look very carefully at the interim arrangements for our VIC.'

'The Oban office serves a hefty chunk of the west coast and is integral to this vital business,' he added. 'It is all hands to the pumps to get the message out that we are still open for business.'

Tourism operators say they are noticing a decline in visitor numbers, blaming a lack of information in Oban.

David Gloag, of the Lismore Heritage Museum, said: 'We

are concerned there is no real tourist office in Oban. There is an extension at the CalMac terminal but this is a tourist town at its busiest time of year.'

Iain Close, head of visitor services at VisitScotland, said: 'Oban's Information Centre is moving to the CalMac Ferry Terminal for the rest of the season.'

'We are also starting to identify alternative options in the event of us having to move to a new and permanent site in Oban.'

On the lack of facilities in the town, Mr Close responded: 'I'm pleased to announce an additional visitor information point for the town will be opened in our premises at Argyll Square, which is unaffected by the roof's structural problems. Experienced staff will be on hand with a range of local information material and an electronic booking service by the end of this week.'

He said the information point will be open 9am-7pm Monday to Saturday and 10am-7pm on Sundays for the rest of the peak season.'

## Controversial roadworks to go ahead

THE DECISION to press ahead with unpopular road closures will make tourists 'vote with their feet and their wheels' a Lorn councillor has claimed.

Defiant TransServ officials say the resurfacing works must take place during August and September, despite objections from local businesses, politicians and communities along the A85.

Councillor Donald MacDonald warned the roads body the 11-hour closures on weekday nights would cripple the local economy.

He said: 'Our area lives and dies by tourism. Many of our visitors

come from much further south in Britain and they are only able to arrive here during the evening.

'If there is a hint of delays or restrictions to the free flow of traffic then intending visitors are likely to vote with their feet or their wheels and go elsewhere.'

At last week's Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting, residents said they would also be disrupted by the work.

David Fellowes, chairman, said: 'There is a great deal of concern about it, especially from the people who work in Oban.'

Work at Pennyfuir, north of Oban, will start on July 25 for two weeks, using a convoy system. But at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe, and at Connel, where work is scheduled for four weeks from August 21, TransServ insist closures from 7pm to 6am are necessary.

Angela Funk, principal roads design engineer, said having listened to the views of local people, they would stick to their original plan.

Postponing work would clash with other schemes elsewhere and risk poor weather.

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## NHS looks to make £600,000 savings without affecting front line patient care

HEALTH bosses must find £600,000 savings in Oban, Lorn and the Isles in the next financial year on top of economies of £355,000 in 2010-11.

This has raised fears of redundancies throughout the area among members of Argyll and Bute Council's local area committee.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee, said he was seriously concerned to hear of job losses in other areas of NHS Highland.

He said: 'It is of significant importance that we are kept up to date with what is happening at the hospital. I understand that at the moment 65 members of staff per day are losing their job in the health service nationally.'

'The hospital here in Oban is a real asset to the town and it allows the area to grow and prosper. We do not want any more loss to service than we already have.'

Councillor Neil Mackay added: 'We asked for someone from the hospital to come and discuss the many issues people are raising with us about the hospital.'

'There are changes being made at the hospital we as councillors are not fully aware of - for instance I am not happy that the dental practice is being moved into the hospital and we were not consulted about it.'

'I want to find out what is going on up there,' said Councillor Roddy McCuish.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, the

representative of the area committee on NHS Highland, said: 'The first stage of the redesign at the hospital was completed without diminution of service to the public.'

'There has been no loss of jobs in the Oban area. The locality has made the saving they set out to make, but there are other savings to be made.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said the £600,000 savings had to be made across the whole of the Oban, Lorn and Isles locality.

'As with any organisation NHS Highland has to work within a given budget and as is the case with any other public body we are having to make efficiency savings. Our aim is to achieve this without affecting front line patient care.'

## Council's care home plans in disarray

ARGYLL and Bute Council may have to revise its plans to outsource residential care homes as only one organisation expressed any interest.

The special committee on older people's services had just one compliant pre-qualification questionnaire to consider, and even then the unnamed group only expressed an interest in three of the council's seven care homes.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The special committee on older people's services has asked that a paper be presented to its August meeting setting out the terms of competitive dialogue process with the single compliant organisation.'

'This will take place after the council has determined the future actions in relation to day services and care at home services.'

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OBAN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



A party 200 years in the making

Sun, sand and sea attract thousands of revellers



'MacColl Construction Limited' won the prize for best sandcastle 16\_128picnic18



James MacColl, aged four, from Lismore, who had a 'go' on the ponies. 16\_128picnic7

SUN, sea and sand greeted revellers to the Big Picnic at Ganavan Sands on Sunday. With an estimated turnout of more than 3,000 people for the festival of fun and games, it was probably one of the busiest days the beach has seen in decades, and as the first big event for Oban's Bicentennial celebrations, it went off almost without a hitch.

Highlights of the day included activities organised by Stramash Vertical Descents and Energie Fitness who challenged people to go up hills and out

on the water and also included racing about on the shinty pitch on Segways, battery powered two-wheeled vehicles.

The only downside was the non-appearance, due to a mix-up, of stunt cyclist Danny Macaskill, for which Energie Fitness apologised.

In other activities, police horses Tobermory and Rose-neath were a popular hit with visitors.

The police riders took part in a mounted egg and spoon race against some local children - the kids won.

Neil Mackay, who organised the event along with fellow members of the Oban Cash for Kids charity committee, said: 'We had a great day at Ganavan. There were so many people out on the beach using it the way it should be.'

'This event shows the true community spirit of Oban with volunteers from many of the major organisations in the town.'

'It is an absolute privilege to have worked alongside everyone to get this event organised,' he added.

'Magical' theatre show takes a look back through town's history

A magic evening of poetry, plays and passion for history was presented by Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, Norman Bissell and Catherine Gillies. Mr Bissell has written a poem for Oban's 200th anniversary that audience members described as 'profoundly moving'.

Catherine Gillies presented a number of items from Dunollie's 1745 House, much to the amusement of the audience.

The Three Wee Crows, Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne DeCaris and Carol Thomson, supported by Ian Craig and David Price, gave what can only be described as an emotional rollercoaster through Oban's amazing history. Audience member Olivia Maxwell said: 'The three women are an absolute credit to the town for keeping history alive and well, but most of all for allowing people to celebrate the town's history through a very magical theatre production.'



Having a whale of a time and raising awareness



A Walk for Whales brought more than 30 people into the town to raise the profile of the issue of illegal whaling. The walk was organised by Craig Connor, manager of the Scottish Sea Life Centre in Barcaldine and his staff. Walkers were presented with goody bags and free tickets to the centre at the end of the walk. 16\_128whale1

Going quackers to raise cash for cancer research



There is only one way to describe the duck race - quackers. Who would have thought that launching 500 ducks into the Black Lynn at teatime would cause so much interest? People came out in their hundreds to see the town centre improvement group BID4Oban's duck race. In total, £900 was raised for Cancer Research which will be distributed by the local committee. 16\_128duck2

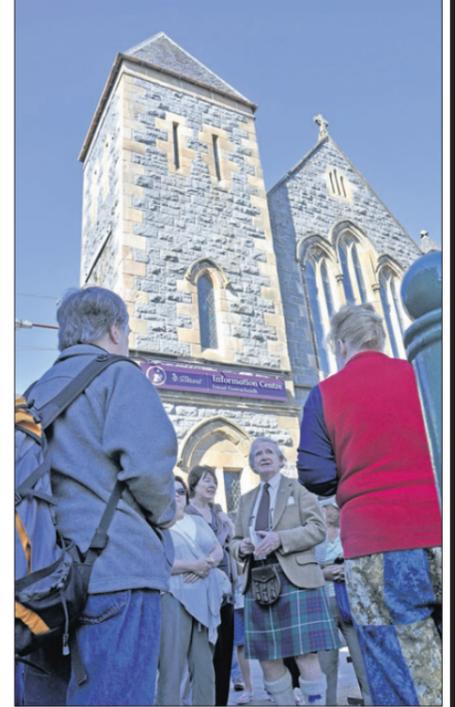


And it's not just Oban that's 200...



A youth choir from the heartland of America helped to celebrate Glenorchy and Innishail Parish Church's 200th year. The Knox Choir, from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, joined parishioners and friends at St Conan's Kirk for a fantastic concert by the 46 choir members. Songs included The Lord is my Shepherd, Misty Morning, a medley from Joesph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and a selection of spirituals and folksongs. 16\_128knox1

History buffs step back in time for history walk



Locals and visitors were transported back in time on Monday as Oban historian Robin Banks led a guided walk through the town. During the tour, arranged as part of the Oban 200 celebrations, Mr Banks, who was still at school during the Second World War, recalled tales of old and recounted how the town centre's famous buildings once looked. Enjoying the eventual emergence of summer weather, Mr Banks said: 'I'm delighted with the crowd and hopefully everyone will learn something new and interesting from the tour.' Mr Banks, centre, sheds light on the history of the former Church of Scotland building at Oban's Argyll Square. 15\_128banks1

She sells sea shells... and fills them with chocolate. Chocolate designer to HRH The Princess Royal, Brooke McCloskey, a primary one pupil from Park Primary School and Kerry Ann MacLeod, aged 11, from Rockfield Primary School came up with some delicious treats for the princess. Brooke designed seashells with a caramel filling, topped with sea salt, while Kerry Ann thought up chocolate hearts inscribed with 200 on the top. The youngsters are joined by Helen McKechnie, owner of Oban Chocolate Factory, who came up with the idea of the Royal Visit Chocolate. A presentation of the chocolates was made to Princess Anne when she visited Oban. 16\_128seashells1



Classic yachts were in Oban Bay for the beginning of the Malts Cruise. The yachts moved onto Tobermory, Skye and Islay. 16\_128classic1



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir performed at a concert to celebrate Glenorchy and Innishail Parish Church's 200th birthday. The choir, slightly diminished in numbers on the night, sang the three songs it will perform at The Royal National Mod. 16\_128taynuilt1



Oban Phoenix Cinema campaigners held an open day in the Rowantree Hotel on Monday afternoon. The group hopes to re-open the former Highland Theatre complex as a community-run cinema later this year. Karen Thomson from Specsavers was on hand to sell tickets for the Phoenix Ball on July 30. 16\_128pheel1

# OBAN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



Oban Pipe Band leads the parade as it heads off from Station Square towards a royal appointment at the Corran Halls. 15\_128march06

## Princess enjoys 'a wonderful day in Oban'

### VIP visitor describes town as 'one of the finest places'

IN SUNSHINE, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal enjoyed a day in Oban helping to celebrate the town's 200th anniversary.

As part of the bicentenary celebrations, Princess Anne, made a series of presentations and cut the town's birthday cake.

She was relaxed in her surroundings - laughing at jokes and enjoying a familiar face or two in the crowds that flocked to see her.

As she quietly chatted with community councillor Kenny MacIntyre and Provost, Councillor William Petrie, she enjoyed a parade of more than 500 townspeople who moved from Station Square along the Esplanade.

Frank McKenna, a teacher at Oban High School, was the parade master and he led a good show in front of the princess.

There were children and adults of all ages on the march. Leading the way was Oban Pipe Band and bringing up the rear was Oban High School Pipe Band, with the diminutive Ukulele Luing Band in the middle.

Piper Angus MacColl played

'Oban's Welcome to the Princess Royal' to a warm reception from the princess.

After a plaque unveiling ceremony, the pipe bands played on the green in front of Markie Dans Pub for a large crowd.

Inside the Corran Halls, Princess Anne made presentations to Kenny MacIntyre and Margaret MacLean for their long service to the community before taking a seat on a raised platform at the front of the large hall.

Jolomo, painter John Lowrie Morrison, presented a picture of a sunset over Oban to the princess, which will be displayed inside the Corran Halls.

**Presentations**

Presentations were made to Oban Inner Wheel, Glenorchy and Innishail Parish Church, West Highland Tennis Championship, An-Commun-Gheadlach and *The Oban Times*.

Four international ambassadors, who have roots in Oban, were named. They are singer Karen Matheson, singer Anne Lorne Gillies, musician Donald Shaw and piper Angus MacColl.

The Princess Royal then presented a replica of the first

charter granted to the Burgh of Oban to Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

He accepted the scroll and made a speech on the history and the future of Oban. He said: 'Old memories and new hopes will endure.' He said he was delighted to receive it on behalf of all the people of Oban.

Lunch was served after a prayer, before the princess made her way around many of the tables chatting with guests including Bob MacCulloch, Mary MacKenzie, Brigadier John MacFarlane and pupils from Oban High School.

All who spoke to the princess said she was well informed and knowledgeable about Oban, the area and its people.

Before leaving for the War and Peace Museum the Princess was presented with chocolates specially designed for a princess and a bottle of Oban Single Malt Whisky.

She thanked the assembly of town's folks and said: 'Thank you for a wonderful day in Oban. This is one of the finest places in the country and I hope you thrive for another 200 years.'



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was presented with a posy of flowers from seven-year-old Joy Barrow, who is a pupil at the Gaelic Medium Unit at the Oban Primary School Campus. 16\_128prince2



Painter John Lowrie Morrison, Jolomo, gave Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal a painting of a sunset over Oban Bay and Dunollie Castle. The painting will stay in Oban while a smaller version was taken back to her residence in London. 16\_128jolo1



Oban ambassadors named during the princess's visit are, from left, Anne Lorne Gillies, Donald Shaw, Karen Matheson and Angus MacColl. 15\_128ambassador01



Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director of Wyvex Media, was presented with a plaque by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The plaque reads 'In recognition of 150 years service to the communities of the West Highlands and Islands. Old memories and new hopes will endure'. 16\_128royal1



Ukulele Luing were one of the most popular groups during the march on Tuesday, with their renditions of popular songs putting a huge smile on the Princess Royal's face when they arrived at the Corran Halls. 15\_128parade3

## Museum accepts Queen's Award

A LARGE crowd had gathered outside Oban War and Peace Museum by the time the Princess Royal came to visit on Tuesday.

Her Royal Highness met directors and watchkeepers and handed over The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE equivalent for groups - to founder member and watchkeeper Nancy Black.

She also presented a certificate to recognise the museum's achievement to watchkeeper Donnie MacFarlane, which was signed

by the Queen. The entrance to the museum was surrounded by members of the public hoping to catch a glimpse of the Princess Royal. When she left, following a tour of the museum, they were not disappointed as she gave the crowd a wave.

Alison Palmer of Oban War and Peace Museum said: 'It was wonderful to have Her Royal Highness visit and everyone was extremely honoured. When we heard we had got the award, it was wonderful when she agreed

to present it. Everyone was thrilled and I think the good turnout from our members today showed our appreciation.'

Among the welcoming party was museum chairman Charles Struthers and patron Kenneth MacKinnon CVO, former Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

The museum's youngest volunteer, 17-year-old Jakki Watt, presented a Highland bouquet to the Princess Royal.

The current Lord Lieutenant, Patrick Stewart, was also in attendance.



The Princess Royal presents the Queen's Award to Oban War and Peace Museum watchkeepers Nancy Black and Donnie MacFarlane. 15\_128wap02



HRH waves to the gathered public outside the War and Peace Museum as she leaves for Oban Airport. 15\_128wap01

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For more pictures and video from Oban's bicentennial celebrations, go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

# Cuts drive bus services off the road

Timetable changes introduced this week will save £16,000

COST cutting measures by Argyll and Bute Council which came into effect this week have seen two bus services in the Lorn area reduced and one withdrawn completely. Angry residents say the long-term view is being disregarded for short-term gain - with one change seen as being possibly dangerous. The changes to the 405 Oban - Appin service, 431 Oban - Gallanachmore service and the 403 Oban - Dalmally service will save the local authority a total of £16,212.38. On school days, the 8.45am journey from Dalnabeich on the 405 and the 2.10pm journey from Oban's Glengallen Road now terminate at Barcaldine instead of Creagan Bridge, while also on school days, the 9.23am and 3.07pm departures from Creagan Bridge now start from Barcaldine, saving the council about £2,900. Meanwhile, the twice daily 431 service, which serves the Kerrera Ferry and the Gallanachmore

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk camp site, has been withdrawn between May and September, saving £5,600 a year. Finally, the 403 Tuesday only service leaving from Dalmally at 9.05am has been withdrawn completely, saving the authority £7,657.62. It says alternative services - rail, Citylink coach and schoolbuses on school days - are available. Locals are not impressed. Dougie MacKenzie is the chairman of Barcaldine Community Association and remembers when the 405 service's termination point was moved from Barcaldine to Creagan Bridge to make turning the bus safer. He said: 'It used to turn at the Marine Resource Centre (MRC), next to Barcaldine Primary School, but there were concerns about the ease of doing that and safety. It was moved a few years

ago. 'I think they would have been just as well leaving the service as it was. One accident would eliminate any thoughts of savings; so it's a bit of a false economy.' The Reverend Liz Gibson, of Dalmally, has previously voiced concern at cuts to bus services. She said: 'We recently had the service cut from three times a week and now to none. It seems bizarre to reduce public transport when there are commitments at national level to reduce our carbon footprint. Maybe they should have put on a smaller bus or promoted the current route more effectively instead.' Of the changes, agreed in April as part of nearly £450,000 of cuts to the transport budget, the council's transport spokesman, the councillor Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'I'm sorry these services have been reduced and withdrawn. There were some difficult decisions to make on how to make savings on public transport in Argyll and Bute.'



Robbie Macdonald could save the wind industry millions of pounds each year with his innovative design to get technicians onto turbines.

## Student's pioneering gangway system

RESEARCH by an Argyll student could save the wind turbine industry millions of pounds a year. Robbie Macdonald, who has just completed a five-year engineering degree at the University of Strathclyde, has developed a system to get technicians onto off shore turbines more safely and easily, allowing them to work in higher seas. Robbie from North Connel was in Oban High School's class of 2005 and plans to set up a company to develop and market the gangway system. He said: 'My system could increase the wave height where it's safe to do work on turbines and raise the number of days it can

be done from 50 per cent to 85 per cent. It's much more than a university project for me - it's something I want to take beyond studying and turn the idea into a reality.' The innovative design, named SolidSeaTransfer, uses a gangway system which could be mounted onto wind farm transfer vessels and fits almost all types of turbine. It has the potential to double the maximum wave height for safe transfer to 3ms, cutting costly delays. It has been physically tested in a wave tank, using a scale prototype. The 23-year-old said he relished the opportunity to be at the cutting edge of the emerging renewables industry.

'It is at a really early stage and it is a really exciting place to be. 'Hopefully it will keep me in Scotland. Scotland is a world leader. We've got so much potential and it's a big factor for me. If I could get home eventually that would be good.' Through the university's entrepreneurial network, Robbie had the chance to present his model to business leaders and is in talks with an established firm about potential collaboration. Professor Jonathan Corney, Head of Department, said: 'We are once again delighted with the creativity, enthusiasm and commitment that our students have shown through their project work.'

## Teenager sentenced to five years and four months for 'sustained' assault

A MAN who survived a vicious beating, stabbing and being doused in bleach was threatened again - on the steps of a police station. Fisherman Michael MacDougall was trying to get to safety after the attack in his own home when he was chased by his assailants, warning him not to report them. They caught up with him just before he reached the front door of Oban Police Station, a judge was told. At the High Court in Edinburgh, Fraser McKerracher, 19, was locked up for five years and four months for his part in the attack on February 27. McKerracher of 5 Combie Court, Oban, pleaded guilty to attempted murder. He admitted

that - along with another - he had attacked Mr MacDougall in his house in the town's Drimvargie Terrace, butted him, punched and kicked him, repeatedly stabbed and slashed him and poured bleach on him - leaving him scarred for life. Mr MacDougall escaped his attackers after telling them he needed to use the toilet. Officers on mobile patrol saw him slumped on the ground outside the police station, with McKerracher and the other man standing over him. Mr MacDougall was taken to hospital where doctors found a total of 27 wounds. Judge Lady Dorrian told McKerracher: 'This was a prolonged assault of a very violent

kind, sustained over a period of time with serious consequences. It was entirely unprovoked and aggravated by being in Mr MacDougall's own home.' He now suffers panic attacks and has difficulty sleeping, the court heard. Police have given him a personal alarm which he keeps with him always. Defence advocate Stewart Ronnie said McKerracher had been drinking at the time and the incident was 'something of a blur'. He and Mr MacDougall had been seen together earlier that day and there was no sign of any problem between them. Lady Dorrian also made an order extending McKerracher's licence conditions for four years after his sentence of detention.

## Tiree Island Centre plans are unveiled

PLANS to give Tiree's Island Centre a facelift have been presented to locals as a community bid to buy the building progresses. Tiree Community Business (TCB) displayed three different design specs as prepared by Roots Design Workshop - of which one partner, Michael Holliday, hails from Tiree - during a recent consultation on the way ahead for the project, which aims to take the building over from Highlands and Islands Enterprise as soon as possible. Two of the designs presented pay more heed to the existing structure, but a third, more dramatic and contemporary design, was also put forward as a proposal to revitalise the ageing structure. Expansion Each plan would see an expansion of facilities, create new office space and create a tourist information office, offering a significant boost to the island's economy. There is also scope to create an amalgamation of all three designs, come up with a completely new one or even simply renovate the existing building. Not only were the plans presented on paper, but a 3D computer fly-through and scale models were on hand to further



Examining the plans are TCB director Mabel MacArthur, Roots Design's Chris Hall, TCB chairperson Jessie Gray, director Ian Gillies, TCB vice chairperson Catriona MacLennan, consultant Stewart McKelie and Michael Holliday. 01727iree@irelandcentre.com

bring to life what the centre could look like. Depending on which option is chosen, the purchase and redevelopment could cost anything from £300-£500,000. Each plan is dependent on the

island being able to buy the centre through TCB's Norma Omand said: 'We want to purchase the island centre from HIE and use it to grow TCB, which is a not-for-profit business. So today, the

idea is to get people to look at the three options and say which one they prefer. From here we'll take it forward, consider our options and move to a lottery application to pay for the whole project.'

## Leader's 'ridiculous' stance on schools

BARRA councillor Donald Manford has accused Argyll and Bute Council's leader Dick Walsh of a 'ridiculous' stance on rural school closures. While Mr Walsh's council has decided to respect the proposed moratorium on rural school clo-

tures - as proposed by Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell - he later proposed that COSLA, Scotland's association of local authorities, reject a moratorium. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar decided to wait until after June's meeting of COSLA before it

made any decision on rural school closures. Mr Manford said: 'It is an absolutely ridiculous situation. Mr Walsh has asked councils across Scotland to reject the proposed moratorium, yet at the same time his own council does the complete opposite.'

## Tax dodgers cost council £1 million a year

COUNCIL tax dodgers have cost Argyll and Bute Council nearly £1 million a year over the past 16 years, but the authority says collection rates are now better than ever. Total unpaid council tax, across the 16 years of council tax from 1993/4 to 2010/11, amounts to £14.7m - prior to write-offs - compared to total bill of £555.3m. The figures include the additional amounts due from reduced second homes and long term empty property discount, but exclude water, sewerage and statutory additions. And in contrast to earlier figures released by Audit Scotland which showed a year-on-year decrease for the past three years, down to 95.7 per cent, the council reports its own in year collection rates have improved to 96.15 per cent. The council claims the figures

released by Audit Scotland are not directly comparable. The authority is now anticipating future collection levels in excess of 97.5 per cent, adding that it continues to collect arrears from previous years. In the last financial year, the council levied net council tax due across all areas of £40.99million and collected £40.55million, an overall collection rate of 98.93 per cent. Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'We are delighted people are paying their council tax more quickly than in the past, especially bearing in mind the current economic situation and the difficulties this may be causing some people. 'We'd ask people in the area to give priority to paying their council tax as the money allows the council to provide valued and essential services to the community.'

## Walkers step out to raise charity cash

MORE than 20 walkers braved the wind and showers for a sponsored walk raising funds for Diabetes UK. The participants of all ages were joined by some four-legged friends to walk from Oban's Station Square to the War Memorial and back. John Twort, treasurer of the local Diabetes UK Support Group said sponsorship was still coming in but it looked like the walk had raised more than £900. He said: 'It was lovely having all the children. 'We were very lucky on the day when you consider the weather - it rained before and it rained afterwards, but we were dry,' he added. Right: Connor and Oscar Wells who walked along the Esplanade with 20 others to raise cash for Diabetes UK. 15\_126walk2



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REAA APPROVED INSTALLER

## OAP injured in A85 collision

AN 82-year-old woman was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital with broken bones in three places following a road collision on the A85 at the Pass of Brander. It is believed the crash, one mile south of The Brander Lodge, was a head-on collision between two cars when a Dutch man drove his car on the wrong side of the road. The man suffered a displaced sternum and was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital. The elderly woman was in the passenger seat of the other car and suffered breaks to her ribs, sternum and right wrist. Two doctors were travelling on the road

at the time of the incident and were able to give medical assistance before the ambulance arrived. The road was closed for about three hours, with diversions in place at Connel and Dalmally. The driver has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. At about the same time there was another incident on the A85, near Loch Dochart, 10 miles south of Crianlarich, when a car clipped an articulated lorry trailer, which caused some of its sawdust load to fall onto the road. However, a Central Constabulary spokeswoman said the road was passable.

## Yacht aground off Ardmucknish

OBAN'S RNLI Lifeboat, *Mora Edith Macdonald*, was called out last week to help a stricken yacht that ran aground off Ardmucknish Bay, near Oban. The 41-foot charter yacht, *Aurora*, was grounded on rocks south of Camus Nathais on Thursday afternoon. Soon after the lifeboat launched, the angling

vessel *Laura Dawn* arrived on scene and pulled the vessel off the rocks as the tide was still falling. The *Laura Dawn* stood by the yacht until the lifeboat arrived on scene. Deputy lifeboat coxswain David Isaac was put aboard to check the *Aurora* for ingress of water or shaft damage and the yacht was escorted to Oban Marina.

**Young fiddlers entertain at ceilidh**

TAYNUILT Young Fiddlers, under Ann Barlow's expert guidance, impressed at the first of the summer ceilidhs in the village hall, organised by the Cruachan branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Anja Powell, Roanne Lilley, Breagha Charlton, Katie Houston and Elizabeth Campbell performed an entertaining set. Benderloch's Emma Law had started off the proceedings with fine pipe tunes then sisters Lynn and Amanda MacLean from the Isla Sinclair Dancers treated the audience to superb highland dancing.

Alasdair MacDonald had toes tapping with his lively accordion music and well-known local singers Morag MacNeil, Kirsty Duncan and Freddy MacKenzie entertained a large and appreciative audience with a wide variety of songs in both Gaelic and English.

Fear an taighe for the evening was Robin Banks who kept the proceedings moving smoothly.

**Fined for swearing in front of children**

A MAN who shouted and swore in front of a woman and her children has been fined £315 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Michael O'Donnell, of Flat 0/2, 74 Galloway Street, Glasgow, admitted his behaviour was threatening and placed them in a state of fear and alarm.

Defending, Laura Russell said an argument arose between 41-year-old O'Donnell and the woman at her home on June 14, because he believed she was trying to take some of his possessions.

**Psychic evening raises £732**

LOCAL charity, the Brian Blue Trust Fund, is £732 better off after a psychic evening at Soroba House.

The charity was set up four years ago in memory of Oban man Brian Blue, and the money will be used to fund drug rehabilitation programmes for those users most desperate to beat addictions.

Brian's father, also Brian, said: 'The Blue family would like to thank all who attended the demonstration of mediumship and supported the fund.'

**Golden anniversary for music group**

MEMBERS of Oban Operatic Society, now Spotlight Musical Theatre Group, have been entertaining the town for 50 years.

Members past and present will be gathering to celebrate the milestone with a gala concert on July 28 and a ball on October 1.

Anyone who has not yet received an invitation should contact Raymond Shaw on 01631 569446 or wshaw1@talktalk.net.

**Couple held after stop and search**

A COUPLE have been arrested and charged with being in concern of the supply of drugs.

On Wednesday July 6, a 20-year-old woman and 25-year-old man were stopped and searched by police and were allegedly found to have cannabis resin and diamorphine in their possession.

A police spokesman said a report has been made to the Procurator Fiscal.

**'It was all my own fault'**

**Ex-safari guide's horrific injuries after cattle attack**

A FORMER safari guide from North Connel says she's lucky to be alive after being trampled by a herd of cows last week.

But Georgie Thomas, who works with the Scottish Government Rural Development Programme, admits the incident was her own fault, after walking in a field near the village with her 15-year-old lurcher, Chali, while the dozen cows had calves at foot.

The rush by the cattle left Georgie with horrific bruising all over her body and a large gash across her right hand side; the wound millimetres from piercing her kidney.

She has now warned other walkers not to become complacent in the presence of the huge creatures, which can weigh well over a tonne.

Speaking from her hospital bed at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Monday, Georgie said: 'It happened at about 9pm last Tuesday and I'm still in a great deal of pain.'

'I've walked through that field many times before and they tend to run away, but on this occasion they came towards me.'

'I didn't want to stress the animals, so I moved the other way, but they kept coming at me. They were looking at the dog, but they came at me; I think they decided I was irritating.'

'One of them knocked me down

and started butting me. The others got excited and all started hitting and trampling me.'

'I really didn't think they'd stop until I was dead.'

In a last ditch bid to save herself, Georgie played dead. The gamble paid off and the cows left, giving her the opportunity to escape. While the cows charged again, she managed to clamber into her car.

She now hopes to be out of hospital in time for the Oban 200 celebrations at the weekend, but had this warning for other walkers.

'I'm unbelievably lucky to be alive. My internal organs or my spine could have been destroyed.'

'I never thought they could become so antagonised. I became complacent. I don't think they would have chased me if I didn't have the dog.'

'People should remember that, at the end of the day, they can become dangerous if you don't respect them.'



Smiling through the pain - Georgie Thomas says she's lucky to be alive after being trampled by a herd of cows near her North Connel home last week. 15\_t28thomas2

**Woman is cleared of drink-driving**

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman who was found sitting in the driver's seat of a car three times over the legal alcohol limit has been found not guilty of drink driving.

Police officers saw Lauren Kirkpatrick, 15 Garshake Avenue, Dumbarton, in her friend's Peugeot wearing a seatbelt and in possession of the car keys.

At a trial at Oban Sheriff Court, Kirkpatrick said she had drunk a bottle of wine and whisky but denied the charge, as she had no intention of driving.

She was in the car to escape the rain and listen to music while smoking, she said.

Giving evidence, her friend said she would never let Kirkpatrick, who had no licence, drive her car.

**Trust declares war on weeds threatening fish stocks**

ARGYLL Fisheries Trust has declared war on invasive plant species that threaten the future of Loch Awe fish stocks.

The trust has a fighting fund of £221,000 for a four-year project to remove Japanese Knotweed and rhododendron ponticum from around the loch and the rivers Awe and Orchy.

Argyll Fisheries Trust manager Craig MacIntyre explained both plant species out-compete native plants, reducing the biodiversity of the area.

'That, in turn, affects the food chain in and around the loch and the prominence of these plants has been identified as a factor in the major drop in brown trout numbers.'

He added: 'We have been monitoring the fish numbers in the loch for years and there has been a big drop in brown trout catches.'

'While there are many reasons for this, the invasive plants are a major factor.'

'Most types of rhododendron are fine but this particular species is a huge problem. I think we have caught the growth of Japanese Knotweed early enough and am hopeful we can eradicate it.'

As part of the Argyll Fisheries Trust project, the Invasive Weeds Agency was drafted in to spray

the Knotweed plants on Monday. Its eight-strong patrol has been working throughout this week and will return in three weeks to check on progress.

At the beginning of September the agency will return once more to spray the area again.

This pattern will continue for the four years, after which time it is hoped the non-native Knotweed will have been removed completely.

The weeds will be sprayed with a herbicide called Roundup, which is the only legal spray allowed to be used around watercourses.

The project cost has been covered by a grant from the European Union (£175,000), Forestry Commission, Loch Awe Improvements Association and the Awe District River Improvement Association.

Similar work is being done in Galloway, Ayrshire, River Tweed and Northern Ireland, which brings the total cost of the overall project to £2.5m.

A recent Forest Research report estimated the current cost of clearing rhododendron ponticum from Argyll and Bute at £9.3m, which could rise to £464m in the next 50 years.

For more information on invasive non-native plants visit [invasiveweedsagency.com](http://invasiveweedsagency.com).



Keith Johnston from Invasive Weeds Agency sprays a cluster of Japanese Knotweed in Lochawe village, as Argyll Fisheries Trust manager Craig MacIntyre looks on. 15\_t28knotweed01

**Neglectful mother 'addressing problems'**

A 41-year-old woman from Islay must prove to Campbelltown Sheriff Court that she can stay out of trouble for another six months.

The woman, who cannot be named, had previously pleaded guilty to two offences of wilfully neglecting the welfare of the child, on dates in

December 2009 and January and July last year at their home on the island.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had previously deferred sentence for three months and the woman has not been in any more trouble.

Sheriff Anderson deferred sentence for a further six months and told the

woman she would be admonished if she kept out of trouble.

The court heard that the woman was seeing a counsellor and was addressing her drink problems.

'This is a rotten childhood for your child and it's not much of a life for you either,' said the sheriff.

**Underwater ROVs put through their paces**

RAPIDLY expanding Oban business North West Marine held an open day at the town's North Pier last week to show off its new £160,000 acquisition.

The company's Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) was launched off the pier by the company's ship, the *Headcorn*, allowing interested spectators to see it in action.

Not only can the robotic sub

transmit images in superb clarity from murky waters, it can carry out a number of deep sea operations using attachments or its mechanical arm.

Also in operation was the company's new mini-ROV, used purely for observation.

Some of the interested spectators included staff from CMAL and Marine Harvest, as well as officers from Argyll and Bute Council, who

watched as the ROV transmitted crystal clear footage showing the good condition of the north-pier's piles. It was the first time either ROV has been used in a professional setting and marked a fine test for a busy year ahead.

Business services manager at North West Marine Steve Clarkson said: 'I think people have seen the benefits of the ROV today; and we wanted

people to see the ROV do work divers cannot necessarily do.'

Managing director Tony Ratcliffe said: 'We must have had at least 50 people here today and we're really pleased with the response.'

'This was its first proper run, but now it's heading out to do some cable servicing for Scottish and Southern Energy for a few weeks and hopefully will be busy from there.'



North West Marine's managing director Tony Ratcliffe, left, with some interested spectators during last week's busy open day to show off the company's new ROV. 15\_t28nwmarine1

**Resident's plea to remove barge**

A RESIDENT of Westbay Apartments has written to Oban firm North West Marine to request its barge be moved out of sight.

Nancy McDonald sent a letter to the company after reading an article in *The Oban Times* on her return to the town from a recent trip.

And she doesn't want it painted. Ms McDonald, who said she sent the letter on behalf of all residents of Westbay Apartments, said: 'They do say it's a working harbour, but it's not in the working area.'

Out of sight 'There are plenty of places they could move it to and it would be out of sight.'

'What would it cost them to move it?' Steve Clarkson, business services manager of North West Marine, said: 'We've actually received two letters, one saying that it was great that we supported so many people in the town, the other asking us to move the barge.'

'We will listen to feedback and try to do what we can, but it is necessary for our business.'

Mr Clarkson said he would be responding directly to Ms McDonald in due course.

**Rules 'could drive disabled from parks'...**

**...but authority insists mobility scooters will not be banned**

NEW RULES being considered by Argyll and Bute Council could lead to the exclusion of people in motorised mobility scooters from public open places, it was claimed this week.

After years of public spaces being rule free in the county, a recent spate of problems with vandalism and dog fouling from Helensburgh to Oban's Mossfield Stadium has led to the council considering the reintroduction of strict rules.

But the proposed regulations read as though electric buggies are barred from public areas.

The rules which councillors are being asked to adopt state: 'Persons must not bring or drive any motor vehicle, including go-carts, quad bikes or other wind, electrical or mechanically propelled vehicle, to include radio controlled craft or apparatus, without prior consent.'

**REPORT**

by LOUISE LEE  
lee@obantimes.co.uk

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who uses a motorised mobility scooter up and down the hills in Tobermory, is demanding clarification of the regulations.

'There is absolutely no way that electric buggies should be included in any ban.'

'They are vital for people to get about.'

'I know that sometimes people use them too quickly, but perhaps a speed limit could be put on them in public parks.'

Wheelchair user Mary Bryce, from Helensburgh, said she would stage a campaign if electric buggies were included in the ban on vehicles from public areas.

'I would handcuff myself to the park gates if we are not allowed in and I know five other people

who would do the same. It is disgraceful these papers went out without any prior thought to people in electric buggies.'

'I mean what do they think we are going to do - mow people over for the hell of it. I don't think so.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council insisted the proposals were still at an early stage.

She said the rules and regulations under consideration had been copied from another organisation, Angus Council, and there were a number of issues with them, and they would be modified for Argyll and Bute to ensure no-one missed out on access to public areas.

'We would be using with the utmost caution when young children and the frail and elderly were in the vicinity,' she added.

**Accused's outburst at court hearing**

A MAN accused of dealing drugs in Oban shouted in protest as he was remanded in custody last week after his co-accused attempted to change her plea.

Duncan McWhirter, 25, of Room 1, Lorn Court, appeared jointly from custody with Lauren Dickison, 20, of 2 Colonsay Terrace, at Oban Sheriff Court on Friday.

Both are accused of being in possession of and being concerned in the supply of heroin, at 1 Lorn Court, on July 7. Dickison also appeared on charges alleging possession of cannabis.

While McWhirter pled not guilty to the charges against him, Dickison had initially sought a continuation without plea.

However, as it became apparent that McWhirter would be denied bail, on account of his 23 previous convictions, she sought to change her plea.

When McWhirter was ushered to the cells, he shouted to the court: 'What, so I'm going to jail? That means I'll lose my flat. I'm going to tell them it was all her.'

In another twist, Dickison's agent, Stephen Macleod, withdrew from representing her, being replaced by duty solicitor Gordon Seaton.

McWhirter will next appear at the court on July 26, while Dickison, who was released on bail, will appear this week.

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**COMPANY PROFILE: CRERAN ENGINEERING**



PLANT and Agriculture service firm, Creran Engineering, has taken on another full time member of staff to further enhance its unrivalled customer service.

Andrew MacMillan's arrival is the latest boost to a firm experiencing rapid growth in recent months. Ewen said: 'Andrew has a lot of experience and a wide range of skills so will be a real asset to us.'

In October 2010, owner Ewen MacGillivray, took on apprentice, Gavin MacMillan - no relation - to help deal with the workload that comes with establishing a reputation for excellence, meaning three people now work at the firm only established in December 2008.

The company also moved into new premises in January, renting a workshop unit from Creran Marine, the company owned by Ewen's father, Ewen MacGillivray Snr.

As well as extending the staff in recent months, the company has expanded its sales and service range, having earlier this year become Argyll's sole dealership for Deutz Fahr tractors and telehandlers.

The deal complements Creran Engineering's existing dealerships with Marshall Trailers, Quickie Loaders and attachments, McHale Grassland Equipment and Twyman Grass cutting Equipment.

The growth doesn't stop there either. Ewen has announced plans to introduce a new service, repair and MOT preparation centre for 4x4 vehicles and vans at his Barcaldine base, with a vehicle ramp to be fitted in weeks. He also plans to take on more trailer repairs.

Their list of current services is just as extensive. As well as being able to service and repair marine craft, from small leisure yachts to large, industrial barges, Creran Engineering is one of just a few companies in Argyll that can offer agricultural, plant and machinery repairs.

That starts at being able to make repairs on site quickly and effectively, to being the only company in the county with the capability of performing on-site repairs and replacements on hydraulic hoses, thanks to their portable electric crimper and premium Stauff hoses and fittings.

Other services include engine overhauls - for both modern and vintage vehicles - transmission repairs, lathe work and machining, welding and fabrication.

A large stock of oils, batteries, filters and spares are also in stock so repairs and servicing can be carried out as quickly as you need it.

For more information on Creran Engineering, email in fo@creranengineering.co.uk or phone Ewen on 07919 414453.



Creran Engineering's team are, from left, Gavin MacMillan, Ewen MacGillivray and Andrew MacMillan. 15\_t28creran1

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Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson opens the new EWOS Lts feed warehouse at Mallaig Harbour on Tuesday. Photo courtesy of Alexander Mathieson.

## Doors open on new village warehouse

MALLAIG harbour has received another boost after a new 1,000 tonne capacity fish feed storage building opened on Tuesday.

The landmark development comes as work continues on a new marina to allow the once-bustling fishing port to tap into the lucrative sailing market.

The feed store will see owners West Lothian-based EWOS Ltd ship 40,000 tonnes of feed through the port to west coast salmon farming sites over the next two years.

### Hub

The move means Mallaig is ideally placed to become the main distribution hub for fish farm pellets on the west coast of Scotland.

Mallaig Harbour Authority chairman Michael Currie said: 'Our close liaison with West Lothian based fish feed manufacturer EWOS Ltd has enabled the authority to proceed with confidence on the building of this facility and we are delighted to be expanding our operational base via this development - a development that opens up new business opportunities for the port of Mallaig.'

Port manager Robert MacMillan said: 'Fish farming is becoming increasingly important to Mallaig Harbour and the building of this storage unit complements the existing Marine Harvest Factory which employs 23 local workers

and handles 40,000 tonnes of salmon per year.'

EWOS managing director Douglas Low congratulated the authority on the completion of the warehouse, and looked forward to commencing distribution from the port. He said: 'Mallaig will be the operational base for our delivery vessel the *MV Fame* which services salmon farms on the West Coast, Western Isles and Shetland. 'We chose Mallaig because of its location, facilities and road links and of course the progressive attitude of the harbour authority to new development and investment. We have enjoyed working closely with them for the last 10 months and they have delivered an excellent facility.'

Marine Harvest business support manager, Steve Bracken said the move was 'good news' as the prospect of new farms being developed in the Minch draws closer. He said: 'Marine Harvest already has its harvest station in Mallaig and with the Authority and EWOS now having this new feed store, it will help the port consolidate its position as a leading fish farming supply base for the future.'

The £480,000 project, completed by engineers Wallace Stone Ltd and building contractor Noel Regan & Sons, was backed financially by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

# Arisaig woman takes the plunge in swim challenge

AN ARISAIG woman whose family has been blighted by cancer is taking the plunge in a spectacular fundraising challenge for Cancer Research UK.

Anne Widdop, 47, lost her younger sister, her mum and her best friend to the disease and is now swimming a gruelling 56 miles to raise money for the charity's life saving research.

Former Paris-based IBM director Anne is supporting The Swim, a relay team challenge which will see celebrities tackle a 56-mile swim across the stormy Irish Sea.

So far, the team includes boy-band legend Ronan Keating, Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson, 'The Gadget Show' host Jason Bradbury and TV presenter Jenny Frost.

Now Anne is hoping her efforts will gain her a place alongside the celebrity swimmers after final selection this weekend.

Anne's sister Marion was just 15 when she died of leukaemia in 1984. Their mum Agnes died of a brain tumour in 2004 and her best friend Mary Murray died aged 60 of liver cancer at the end of March.

Anne, who has never swam competitively, has already clocked up half of her own 56 mile challenge by swimming in the sea close to her home, as well as at Mallaig pool and in Loch Morar. She told *The Oban Times*: 'When Mary died I felt I had to do something to raise money - so I thought what the hell, I'll do this.'

'I'm already two thirds of the way through. It's been really challenging and it's pretty cold out there! I love swimming and I love the outdoors so when I saw Ronan Keating talking about The Swim on TV, I knew this was the perfect challenge for me. It combines something I love with

raising money for a vital cause. People thought I was a bit mad, but I feel fitter than ever and would ideally like to do 100 miles by the end of July.'

Originally from Barrhead, Anne has so far raised £3,500 and is well on target to reach her £5,000 goal.

A humanist celebrant, she has been inundated with support from the people she has conducted ceremonies for. Many have shared stories with her of their own personal battles with cancer.

She said: 'Cancer has taken away too many of the people I love. Marion, mum and Mary all died very rapidly after they were diagnosed. I've seen how this disease devastates lives and how vital it is to keep raising money for research into better treatment.'

Local people can sponsor Anne at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/AnneWiddop](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/AnneWiddop).



Taking the plunge: Arisaig woman Anne Widdop.

## National Park director looks to Mallaig road for A82 tips

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW five-mile stretch of carriageway on the Road to the Isles could provide 'invaluable' pointers to finding the best design for a major improvement scheme on the A82.

That's the view of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park's (LLTNP) Gordon Watson, who visited the acclaimed Arisaig-Loch nan Uamh section last week.

Mr Watson, the park's director of planning and rural development, wanted to find out how the five-mile section had been designed to minimise impacts on native oak woodlands and habitats. Also of interest was how land next to the road had been restored once rock blasting was complete.

The move comes after transport minister Keith Brown announced £500,000 for design work on the A82 along Loch Lomondside.

LLTNP, a statutory consultee in the A82 road upgrade programme between Tarbet and Inverarnan, is currently maintaining its objection to Transport Scotland's scheme at the notorious Pulpit Rock bottleneck.

Along with fellow objectors Scottish Natural Heritage, the park authority wants the scheme to better reflect the natural environment and boost

visitor enjoyment. A compromise solution, which would see the objections being dropped, is believed to be close.

Mr Watson told *The Oban Times*: 'The visit to see the Mallaig road was invaluable to see firsthand how some of the challenges were addressed in its construction, particularly with regard to rock face cutting, restoration techniques and the handling of protected woodlands.'

'It was clear that some issues need to be monitored during construction [at Pulpit Rock] with regular reviews with the contractor as issues arise to ensure quality and attention to detail.'

He added: 'The learning from the approaches adopted by Highland Council at Mallaig will help us move the Pulpit Rock issues forward in partnership with Transport Scotland.'

'We will also be having early meetings to look at how the Transport Minister's recent £500,000 funding award can be best utilised to address some of the strategic issues and set out best practice for future improvements along the route.'

## Fort welcomes new police chief inspector

FORT William Police has a new Chief Inspector, with Donald Campbell being promoted following the retirement of acting Chief Inspector Dougie Allan.

The move will be Chief Inspector Campbell's second promotion in a matter of months after being named acting inspector when previous Chief Inspector John Chisholm was promoted to the role of North Divisional Commander in April.

Dougie Allan was named as Chief Inspector Chisholm's temporary replacement, but after 32 years service with Northern Constabulary he has announced his retirement, with Chief Inspector Campbell named as the new head of police in Fort William.

Chief Inspector Campbell told *The Oban Times* he felt 'very fortunate' to have been offered the job after working for the police in Lochaber for 19 years.

## Woman battles through illness to graduate

AN INVERGARRY woman has battled through illness to claim her degree.

Ann Stewart became the first in her family to graduate when she was awarded an MA in Gaelic Studies from the University of Aberdeen.

Ann, 25, who was watched at her ceremony by parents Rodina and Neil, took years to complete her degree because she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease aged 21 in her third year of study. If she had not had the illness and had done honours she would have graduated at 22.

Invergarry man Hector Rogers also graduated from the university with a 2:1 MA in Scottish Archaeology - at the age of 77.

National Service in Germany prevented Hector from entering university at 18 and it wasn't until after his retirement that he took up his degree course.

His dissertation researched archaeological recordings of the Glenangry chiefs' attempts to keep their estates.

## Lochaline Harbour pontoons to open officially

A NEW pontoon development at Lochaline Harbour will be officially opened next Wednesday.

The £315,000 project, led by Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) boasts pontoon berths for up to 24 vessels and will provide safe berthing and shore access for one of the West Highlands' most sheltered sea lochs.

MCDC hopes the Morvern port will become a major stopping off point for marine leisure traffic, proving a fillip to the local economy.

A raft race and barbecue will follow the 3pm opening.

## Council leader's anger at education review snub

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has reacted angrily to news that the Highlands is to have no representative on the Scottish Government's review on the delivery of rural education in Scotland.

In a strongly worded letter to education minister Mike Russell, Councillor Foxley urged a rethink.

He said: 'As the local authority representing one-third of the land mass of Scotland and having the greatest number of rural schools, we are extremely disappointed not to be currently included in the membership of the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education.'

'If there is any possibility of an increase in the membership of the Commission, then The Highland Council would be very keen to be included.'

## Work to start on new £1.3m health centre

WORK will get underway on a new £1.3 million health centre next to the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital at Broadford on July 25.

The new facility will replace the outdated building currently used by Broadford Medical Practice and will be built on land owned by NHS Highland opposite the existing surgery on High Road.

It will serve people living in Broadford and Strath and in the Kyleakin and Kylerhea communities and will have full disabled access.

Contractors Global Construction will have access to the site for preparatory work from next

Monday and completion is due by March 2012.

The 500sqm centre will house five new consulting rooms, a dedicated treatment room, two nurse consulting rooms and a new base for community nursing staff.

Associated administrative, storage and waiting areas and improved parking facilities will also feature.

### Privacy

Low maintenance landscaping will be used around the building to provide privacy, while remaining areas will be left in their natural state to encourage wildlife.

The building incorporates local

building styles, energy efficiency and boasts views over Broadford Bay towards the West Highlands. The site allows for further development at a later date.

Locality General Manager, Alison Phimister said local people would soon have 'the best possible environment' for care and treatment.

She said: 'The new building will enable the practice to deliver the range and standard of services expected of a 21st century facility.'

'Maximum use will be made of natural daylight and ventilation. 'The building will be well insulated and will have renewable

heating sources. Improvements will also be made to High Road, including widening a section of the single track road between the existing surgery and the entrance to the new surgery, and the resurfacing of the road.'

### Design

NHS Highland's estates department developed the design following meetings involving the medical practice, community nursing team, local community council, community representatives, local access panel and NHS management.

Local health consultation body Skye and Lochalsh reference group welcomed the project,

which had appeared under threat after NHS Highland announced there was no money - only to backtrack when the Scottish Government stepped in.

Mr Murray told *The Oban Times*: 'We are very pleased indeed that Broadford is to have a 21st century centre.'

### Retract

'But let's not forget that NHS Highland initially announced they had no funding - then we discovered the money had been allocated after all and they had to retract their first statement.'

'The whole thing could have been handled better and we hope some lessons have been learned.'



Fit for purpose: the new health centre at Broadford will bring health care in South Skye into the 21st century.

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## Council bids farewell to George after 23 years

One of the first points of public contact for Highland Council in Lochaber House, George Campbell, right, has retired from the chief executive's service after 23 years. At a presentation held in the Council Chambers in Lochaber House, Fort William, George was presented with gifts and cards by area solicitor Alasdair MacKenzie, on behalf of the council, friends and colleagues.

## Fun all the way at first Gaelic holiday club

Lochaber's first Gaelic holiday club was held last week, with 20 youngsters a day enjoying themselves at the Lochaber Rural Education Centre.

The youngsters ranged from playgroup and nursery age up to primary school pupils and were learners or speakers of Gaelic. They baked, sang songs in Gaelic, played games and did some arts and crafts from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday to Friday. Centre trustee Isabel Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought 'Why don't we do something for Gaelic?' It's the very first club for Gaelic and we've got 20 kids here, which is our maximum, and we're absolutely delighted with that.'



## Provost warns ferry support is 'waning'

LOCHABER provost Allan Henderson warned support for restoring Mallaig's ferry link with Lochboisdale among the powers-that-be is fading.

In a letter to head of ferries policy and procurement Judith Ainsley, the Edinburgh-based civil servant guiding the process, Mr Henderson said initial enthusiasm of CalMac and the authorities appeared to be 'waning'.

The provost has yet to secure a meeting with Minister for Housing and Transport Keith Brown, who, he says, 'is too busy' at this time.

Mr Henderson intimated he was 'increasingly worried' following the 'not surprising partisan outcome' of Western Isles Council's consultation exercise into the proposal.

A public meeting in Barra found residents strongly opposed to any switch from Oban to Mallaig as the mainland ferry port serving the Southern Isles.

However, the Uists people favour the Mallaig tie-up, as the route would greatly shorten journey times to the mainland. The proposed route is only likely to progress with widespread support from all the islands.

Urging Ms Ainsley to 'be bold',

Councillor Henderson said the link would bolster new harbour developments at both Mallaig and Lochboisdale.

He said: 'The whole ferry issue has to be looked at in a strategic and fair way and at present South Uist (Lochboisdale) and Mallaig harbours, while having the capacity for extra vessels are poorly served.'

'I always find it strange travelling from Fort William, three hours north and west to Uig (Skye's northern ferry port), then two hours in a boat, provided I book in advance, to turn left and travel south for one hour to get to South Uist. 'Six hours for what should be under four hours travelling does nothing for my carbon footprint.'

Suggesting CalMac's spare ferry the Isle of Arran could ply the route, he added: 'Just as Barra has traditional roots with Oban, similarly, Uist has with Mallaig.'

'The three and a half hour journey by boat from Uist to Mallaig instead of the minimum of five hours to Oban, or seven hours via Castlebay, is obviously a big attraction to islanders, commerce and tourists alike and lessens the CalMac carbon footprint significantly.'

## Caol centre structurally sound

THE GROUP trying to save Caol Community Centre (CCC) has been told the building is structurally sound.

The CCC steering group recently received the results of an extensive building survey, which showed only minor exterior work needs done. The group is also awaiting a business proposal on the future of the centre, which they expect to receive by Wednesday.

The information will be put before a Highland Council housing and social work committee meeting on August 17 where a final decision on the centre's future will be made.

### Update

Steering group members Sammy Cameron, Linda Campbell and George Kerr met with members of the Lochaber District Lunch Club recently to update them on the situation.

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**LOCHAWESIDE**

GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council has voted to object to a retrospective planning application for a storage shed on the shores of Loch Awe.

The application by Edan Kennell is currently pending consideration.

The site of the shed is on land south west of Loch Awe House, East Lochaweside. The application is for temporary erection of the shed for a period of five years.

A DRAFT report on the future of Ardconnel Primary School, on Lochaweside, is being compiled by Argyll and Bute Council.

The future of the building was discussed at the July meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council last Wednesday with both councillors and members of the public asking whether it was already up for sale.

The school was officially closed this year, following the review of the council's schools estate, but had been mothballed since 2006.

The council said the first part of a consultation process had ended on June 30 and a draft report would be sent to Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) for comment.

The final report will be considered at a council meeting on October 20.

After the council makes its decision there will be a period of time allowed for people to object to the Scottish Government and the consultation process should be finished by December 1.

Following the completion of the consultation, a decision will be made on what to do with the building.



Magnus MacFarlane Barrow with his OBE.

**Founder of Mary's Meals charity collects OBE from Queen**

THE FOUNDER of a charity which provides the poorest school children in the world with a meal every day last week collected his OBE from the Queen.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow started Mary's Meals in 2002 following an encounter with a child of a woman who was dying from Aids in Malawi.

Since then, the charity has gone on to feed more than 532,000 children a day across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.

The 43-year-old said: 'This honour is in recognition of the hard work of everyone who has been involved

in the Mary's Meals journey. Mary's Meals is only made possible through this support and the innate goodness of people who share our vision that every child in the world should receive at least one good meal in a place of education.'

The charity, which has projects in 16 countries, is committed to keeping its overhead costs low. The global average cost of feeding a child for a whole school year is just £9.40.

Mary's Meals evolved from a project started by Scottish International Relief, a charity Magnus formed in 1992.

meeting last month, but Morar Community Trust wants to ensure it has all the information and expert advice at hand to inform those attending.

station and postcards of the map produced will be followed up.

A meeting was held between the secretaries of Arisaig and District Community Council and Morar Community Council, when it was agreed that the new digital map produced by the Highland Council had got the boundary between the two community councils wrong at Camusdarach. A signed correction to the map will be sent to Highland Council to get the mistake sorted out.

Contractors have backed away from keeping the toilets open until September. Arisaig Community Trust is negotiating to take over responsibility. A letter from Mrs E MacEachen listed problems with the Traigh toilets and other aspects will need to be taken into consideration there. SEPA is also involved.

Reports: Mr MacDonald reported on his onsite meeting with Mr I MacLellan from TEC Services - banking at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre is stopping water from seeping away. Kerbing may alter this.

Moving the road sign at Canon Gillies Place is on the list of works. Mr MacLellan saw no problem with siting recycle bins at Back of Keppoch, if the lorry comes from the Mallaig end. The piping at the Arisaig Hotel will be checked to stop further flooding. The drain at Morroch has caused more problems. Mr Kirkham reported that a further meeting will take place at Roshven on July 19 to discuss planning difficulties.

Mr Stewart, treasurer, reported the community council has £4,452 in funds at the moment, before payment for the village map.

Although some grass cutting has been done along the A830, it is not considered to be satisfactory and Transerv will be contacted.

The community council welcomes comments on what can be done to improve community life. Please contact any member of the Community Council if you want a matter raised or come along to our monthly meeting at the Astley Hall. Next meeting: Monday September 19.

**DALMALLY**

PLANS are underway for a cycle path to be built between Dalmally Primary School and the new community centre in the village.

The idea has been warmly welcomed by community members, who see it as a safer route for children and elderly residents between Glenview and the community centre.

Primary school head teacher George Kay said: 'It was the school's idea to have the path because we have this tremendous new facility nearby.'

'The alternative is walking along the A85 main road on the pavement and the associated hazards with that.'

The 200-metre path would run from the school, past the new Glenview houses, and down to the community centre and would be suitable for cyclists and pedestrians.

The project is still in the negotiation stages and will cost an estimated £30,000. Half of this total has been secured through Sustrans and an application has gone to LEADER for the remaining costs. Argyll and Bute Council will also make a contribution.

THE NEXT meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail

Community Council is scheduled to be held in the new Dalmally Community Centre - the first time the council has met there.

The community centre opened on March 26 this year after months of delay. The meeting, on September 7 will also be the community council's AGM.

**LOCHALINE**



Fiona Weir and Harry Watkins in Spurn Point Lighthouse on one of their works.

A LOCHALINE-based landscape architect has staged her debut art exhibition - in a Yorkshire lighthouse.

Fiona Weir, of Kinloch Cottage, and fellow landscape architect Harry Watkins, from London, mounted the 'Landtracks' exhibition at Spurn Point Lighthouse after practising together in Suffolk.

They presented work created during a month-long project at Spurn to explore the unique sense of place and landscape character.

Fiona said: 'We have a shared philosophy that is grounded in a respect for place and character. Our interventions are set in deep research and understanding of the systems acting within a landscape and its users.'

**LOCHEARNHEAD**

BALQUHIDDER, Lochearnhead and Strathre Community Council's next meeting will be at Lochearnhead Village Hall today (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

**LOCHNELL**



Lochnell Primary School's primary seven leavers and prizewinners gather for a final photocall before starting at Oban High School in August.

**TREE**

THREE MacArthurs from Tree High School won awards during the school's sports day this year, taking full advantage of the glorious weather conditions.

Pupils from across the school's campus competed in track and field events on the day, with the primary school pupils fulfilling the programme of traditional sports day fun, including the egg and spoon race and the sack race.

Senior pupils had unusual races of their own, with the skipping race proving a stern test of co-ordination as well as speed.

Christine MacArthur, 17, was the star performer, with the S6 pupil smashing a series of records to be named senior girls champion. Bruce Thomson was top of the senior boys' section.

Another MacArthur, Jordan, no relation, won the junior boys championship, with Chloe Williams named best junior girl, while in the Primary sports section, Kirsteen MacKinnon was joined on the podium by Colin MacArthur, again, no relation.

A NEW website detailing historical place names on Tree has been launched, helping anyone delve into the island's rich past.

The website - thought to be the first of its kind - has been put together by Tree's historical centre, An Iodhlann, collating more than 25 years of research into one, easy

to search location. Currently, the collection details over 300 place names for the island, dating back as far as the Iron Age.

Also shown are possible Norse names for various locations on the island. For example, Hynish has no fewer than 15 alternatives listed, such as An Sñoig and Diobadal.

The website has been put together by island doctor, John Holliday, who hopes the site will encourage further interaction with historians elsewhere.

He said: 'Instead of just publishing a book, we decided to put the names on a website, working on the Wiki model, with the hope that people can correct errors and provide new information. 'The intention always was to be more interactive and more collaborative.'

'Many of the names we've taken from Ordnance Survey maps, but we've expanded that considerably, including old names for houses, fields and crofts.'

'The names themselves are quite interesting and we're hoping scholars will contribute to the information we have.'

'We don't think anything like this has been done before, so we're quite excited about it.' The website can be found at treeplacenames.org, while An Iodhlann's website is at aniodhlann.org.uk.

**CONNEL**

CONNEL'S soup lunches have got off to an excellent start this summer.

The lunches, on Tuesdays and Thursdays during July and August, are run by a team of 15 volunteers from St Oran's Church of Scotland and raise money for church funds. Organiser Agnes MacPhee said:

'It's been busier than we ever thought it would be. Usually it starts a bit slowly, but this year we've been packed out.'

She added the lunches, with soup, rolls and delicious home-baking, attract a mix of villagers and holidaymakers, as well as occasionally groups.

**Down Your Way**

**This week - Ross of Mull**

THE ROSS of Mull's biggest social event of the year is only weeks away and the committee members are hard at work making sure everything is ready for Friday, August 5.

Schedules for all sections are widely available and a good entry in all classes is expected making it a difficult task for the judges. This year Mr B Dixon of Kilmartin will be judging the Blackface Sheep while the task of judging the other sheep falls to Mr W Napier of Barcaldine.

Mr I MacInnes of Treen will be judging the cattle and Mrs B Coulson of Carsaig is judging the horse and pony classes.

In the tents will be a display of all the best that the Ross has to offer in horticulture and crafts.

One of the most popular events of the day is the open dog show which will be judged by Mr P Chauvet of Pennyghael.

There will be plenty to keep crowds, both young and old, entertained on the showfield.

By popular demand Mark Wylie and his Drakes of Hazard make a welcome return. There will be a cross country race for adults and children with cash prizes as well as fun games for younger children.

The ladies tug o' war competition is always hotly contested and there will be a chance to try your luck at tossing the sheaf.

No need to bring a picnic as there is always a great selection of local food available as well as the popular beer tent. An excellent selection of local crafts and produce will be available to buy.

Bunessan Show is the ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

The grand finale of the day will be a ceilidh in Bunessan Hall and dancing to 'Pneumatic Drills'.

A DAY in the Sun, hopefully, will make for another memorable day at the Uisken Games on the Ross of Mull.

The fun-filled day of fundraising will be 'quite an event' says Ronnie Campbell, who is a fundraiser for the RNLI.

'It is always a great day. Uisken Games are held on the last Sunday in July. This year that means Sunday July 31.'

All donations on the day will be given to the RNLI. Everyone is welcome.

POST master Sandy Brunton has clipped his last ferry card as he and wife Jane set off for a life of volunteering and Gaelic language.

The couple have established and run the Fionnphort Post Office, hardware food and gift shop for the last 25 years.

As Sandy explains, they built the business up from a derelict shop. He said: 'We bought the premises in 1986, our accountant told us we were 'mad' and our first months were spent trying to pull the place together.'

'We painted the walls, put in new floors, tils, shelving all with a little bit of help from my family.'

Sandy says that he and Jane, who are nowhere near retirement age, have a few holidays to catch up on.

They are off to Spain with their children to learn kite surfing before returning to Fionnphort, where they plan to stay, to continue with the extensive voluntary work they are involved with. Jane will be continuing with her Gaelic language lessons at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The couple are handing over the keys of the business to Rhona and Alan Lindsay, formally of Tillicoultry. Rhona was a marketing officer at Scottish Natural Heritage and Alan is a joiner.

Rhona said: 'We are looking forward to the challenge of the business. Because of Alan's experience he has good advice to anyone who is using the hardware store.'

The couple hope to build a house on the island.

A FUN-filled Summer Fete and Ceilidh on Sunday, August 7 at Lagganulva from 2pm.

Full details of the fete are still being confirmed, but organisers are hoping to have a variety of fun activities which could include: piping, Highland dancing, sheep-shearing, wood carving demonstration, crook-making, working dog, demonstration, tug of war, Prattle competition and a professional children's entertainer (as seen on CBBC).

There will be stalls offering some of best baking on the planet and also plenty of mouth-watering local food on offer.

Finally, there will be a great ceilidh to round off the day. To find out the latest details on the celebrations go to www.uscaevents.co.uk.

A POP-UP cafe is proving to be a big hit with visitors and local alike as it moves to a regular date on the last Saturday of every month.

The Community Out and About Project (COAB) is a trial scheme, started by volunteers after the withdrawal of funding for the Better Neighbourhood Scheme on the Ross of Mull.

The project runs a cafe once a month to raise funds and with the money promotes activities to support the local ageing community.

Dianne Farley, one of the organisers, said: 'The COAB's main aim is to continue and build on the good work of the original scheme to help support those in the community who would otherwise find themselves quite isolated.'

'At the moment, we do this by providing transport to appointments, lunch clubs, shops, social visits, events and by running a cafe once a month. The project is for everyone on the Ross.'

'We have been well supported by tourists and locals alike.' All the money raised at each cafe goes towards the costs of the next cafe and to pay the on-going mileage costs for the COAB project. More than 200 volunteer hours donated and 400 miles have been travelled over the past three months to get the project off the ground.

It is hoped that through the support and help of the community, the cafe will continue to flourish and the project will eventually begin to build surplus funds.

All money raised will be used to help expand the service and for other community ideas such as a local notice board.

PENNYGHAEL Community Development Association (PCDA) is the new name for the organisation that runs the hall and works within the community.

The change comes after islanders on Mull decided that the former two organisations - Pennyghael Community Association and Pennyghael Development Association were broadly similar and should be brought under one umbrella organisation.

Pennyghael Community Association (PCA) had been primarily concerned with running community events at the community hall.

Pennyghael Development Association (PDA) was formed to secure the future of the Old School in Pennyghael, which is now the community hall.

Sue Morgan, chairwoman, said: 'We were two committees and we are so few people so we decided to form the PCDA. 'We will continue almost in the same way - at the moment we run a coffee morning on the first Saturday of every month. A different person takes over the running for that month. Each time there is a different theme. 'Until we upgrade the kitchen and some of the facilities we are not able to do much more in the community centre at the moment. But we do have plans and are already in the process of finding funders for the work we would like to do and undertaking a feasibility study. We have also appointed an architect.'

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

You can contact him on 01631 56800 or email [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk).

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**PLATINUM VIP TICKETS WORTH £99 each**

On Saturday July 30 and Sunday July 31 sixty of the most skillful motorcycle trials riders from fifteen countries around the globe will descend on Nevis Range, Fort William, for the UK leg of the 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship, the most important motorcycle trial competition series on the international calendar. Spectators will witness the World's best riders as they battle for 2011 World titles and entertainment over the weekend including stunt displays, an autograph session and mountain bike race. Visit [www.ukworldtrial.com](http://www.ukworldtrial.com).

The Oban Times has a pair of weekend platinum VIP tickets to giveaway to one lucky reader which include access to the event both days, two day gondola passes, hospitality in the VIP area, VIP seating area on the viewing stand, a complimentary programme and VIP parking - worth £99 each! Plus, five runners up will each win a pair of standard weekend adult tickets, including gondola pass, worth £25 each.

To enter, simply answer this question **In which west Highland town will the 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championships take place?**

a) Oban b) Fort William c) Campbelltown

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**The 100m senior boys race was a closely fought affair.** t27treesports2

**Sportsmen to the end: Hugh MacKinnon and Jordan MacArthur link arms to finish together during the S4 boys 200m race at Tree High School's sports day.** t27treesports5

**Christine MacArthur powers her way to another win during last week's games.** t27treesports1

**KNOYDART**

KNOYDART residents celebrated the completion of three new affordable homes for rent last Wednesday. Knoydart Foundation development manager Angela Williams said the properties, two in Inverie and one in Aior and funded through the Scottish Government's Rural Homes for Rent scheme, were 'hugely important' helping retain young people on Knoydart who might otherwise have to leave. LEADER, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Knoydart Foundation, the Highland Housing Alliance Charitable Trust and Community Energy Scotland funded sewage and water services upgrades and solar panels.

**PLOCKTON**

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met in Plockton Hall on June 20. This was their AGM so the treasurer's report was passed. However, there was no election of office-bearers as the present council ends in October, but the chairman gave a report on the past year. Among items discussed were: Roads - a major improvement to the road through Duirinish promised in the last financial year has still not been done. Streetlighting - lights were required at the new houses at Burnside and at the access from the houses but funding was proving a problem. Car park toilets - Highland Council promise of selling them to the Plockton Harbour CC is taking a long time due to red tape. Road closure - a water pipe from Plockton to Achmore starting on July 14 will result in road closures. Harbour street parking - no obvious solution for this problem could be identified apart from stopping campervans parking on the street. Duncraig Castle - the owners of the castle hope to build two houses for their staff beside the road which leads to the railway halt. The next and possibly last meeting of the council will be on September 5 in Plockton hall. Elsewhere, Johanna Maclean, of 7 Ceann an Uib, Plockton grows plants every year and sells them in aid of Blythwood. This year she raised more than £700. Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held afternoon teas at the garden party in Duncraig Castle grounds on June 18 and raised over £800 which was shared between Macmillan Cancer Care, Marie Curie and Highland Hospice. Weather at Plockton during June saw rain on 24 days totalling four inches, warmest day was 21C and coldest 3.5C. About 30 yachts from the Royal Highland Yacht Club in Oban visited Plockton on June 29. This meant there were over 60 yachts in the harbour making quite an impressive sight. 70 sailors from the Oban yachts held a supper and dance in Plockton Hall to music by the

Cast Ewe Ceilidh Band. The club previously visited Plockton for their 25 year celebrations in 2006.

**LISMORE**

AS A farewell to the school year Lismore primary pupils performed their award winning play "The Fisherman's Wife" to a large appreciative audience in the school. It was clear from the amusing and polished performance why the children had won two cups at the Lorn drama festival earlier in the year and head teacher Catherine Davies took the opportunity to present them to the cast. She also presented end of year certificates to all the children and congratulated them on their year's work. She said it was hard to believe that her first year in charge of Lismore Primary School was over and invited everyone to support the school by attending the Family Fun Ceilidh which the Parent Council will be running on July 30 from 7-10pm.

**KILLIN**

DESPITE very short notice there was a reasonable turnout for a recent ceilidh in the hall when a group of musicians led by Sandy Brechin from Edinburgh, one of the greatest exponents of the Scottish accordion not just in Scotland but world wide, dropped in to Lismore and offered to perform. With them was the equally famous Gaelic singer Brian OhEadhra who is originally from Ireland and now lives in Inverness. He is an acclaimed singer and songwriter who has recorded and played with many great acoustic and traditional Irish and Scottish artists. There was a chance too for locals to join in and Katie Crossan, Freda Drysdale, and Sarah Campbell sang. After the break the tables were cleared for a few dances bringing a memorable evening to an end. LISMORE Community Transport has been wound up but thanks to Argyll and Bute there will still be a 'Granny Bus' as it has been gifted the vehicle used by the now defunct Staying Put Project which will take over the senior citizen service transport service. The bus is for anyone over 75 as well as those with mobility problems. The service will be run by volunteers and it is hoped that they will be able to make a visit to Oban at least once a month as well as offering runs to the shop, the cafe, the Museum etc. The committee is also looking not only for more volunteer drivers but also for



**School pupils celebrate with Paris trip**

Pupils from Lochaber High School celebrated the end of the school year with a week-long trip to Paris. During their stay in the French capital, the 109 youngsters and teachers visited the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur, Montmartre, The Arc de Triomphe, The Louvre and took in a night time cruise down the River Seine. The last day in Paris was one many of the pupils had been looking forward to - a trip to Disneyland Paris. The group took in a lunchtime trip to the Belgian city Bruges on their way back to Scotland.

sponsors to help with the cost of the service which will not be free but, at £1 per run, will not be prohibitive either. Speaking for the committee Freda Drysdale said they were grateful to Argyll and Bute for gifting the vehicle and to the great support offered by all the volunteers as well as the church and the Kirk Session. It was a very good day for the island's seniors when Shaun Davidson visited to hand over the keys and Councillor Elaine Robertson, who did so much to secure the very popular and successful Staying Put project, wished them well.

Unfortunately, there is a hold-up in the building of this route due to the detail involved in the construction of the Carraig Gheal windfarm. Prior to commencement of the road construction on the site, an approved traffic management plan has to be obtained from the planning authority following consultation with the trunk roads authority and Strathclyde Constabulary. So far, Avich & Kilchrenan Community Council, as a statutory body, has not been consulted. Councillor Robertson informed the meeting that Argyll and Bute Council has been trying to arrange a meeting with Greyn Power - the energy company responsible for Carraig Gheal windfarm - for the last eighteen months, but to no avail. There are now two routes being built in the forest; one for timber traffic and the other for windfarm traffic. There is also another hold-up. Due to the routes being closed to golden eagle territory, no construction of a section of the track and no use of the track as a timber haul route can occur between the breeding season - February to August inclusive. Roadworks on A85: Councillor Robertson said that the area committee had written to TransServ to say that the closure of this road during the summer was unacceptable, although they would welcome road improvements. At the time of the meeting, Councillor Robertson said they had, as yet, no response from TransServ. Drainage at Kilchrenan Primary School playing field: During the very wet weather, it is impossible for the schoolchildren to play in the field because it has become so boggy and requires some form of drainage. Niall MacLeod, member of the community council, said he would investigate this.

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**KILLIN**

KILLIN Agricultural Show is revving up for its show at Breadalbane Park next month, when there will be a large motor bike display and vintage tractor show. Starting up at 10am on Saturday, August 21, there will be a host of activities and attractions on offer. The motor bike display, by the Lanarkshire Motorcycle Club and the Bob MacGregor Trials Academy, will bring a spectacular edge to proceedings, while the sheep shearing demonstration will no doubt

**ABERFELDY**

ABERFELDY-based Breadalbane Cricket Club will be sporting new shirts next season after signing a deal with Boom Boom Cricket - becoming the first club in Scotland associated with the brand. The club has also secured a new shirt sponsor for the 2011 season, the Port-Na-Craig Inn and Restaurant in Pitlochry. AKG Homes will become associate shirt sponsor, with the firm's logo appearing on the shirt sleeves, while Taymouth Castle Estate agreed to become official junior match-shirt suppliers.

**KILCHRENAN**

AVICH and Kilchrenan Community Council, which has not held a meeting since November of last year, finally held one in Kilchrenan village hall on Tuesday of last week. Topics discussed included: The Timber Haul Route to direct traffic away from the centre of Kilchrenan, thus avoiding the school entrance and the village hall.

On the subject of the school, Mr MacLeod, who is also chairman of the school board, said that there was some concern about the children having to walk along the B845 to the village hall, for their PE lessons. He said that if a bridge was built over the Kilchrenan burn, the children would have no need to walk this route but could leave the school via the playing field, over a bridge and into the village hall. It was pointed out to him by a Forestry Commission representative that the cost of a bridge would probably cost around £50,000. The previous secretary of the community council also reminded him that this subject had been brought to the council's attention years ago and had been rejected by Argyll and Bute Council, due to health and safety. Mr MacLeod said that he would pursue the matter with the planning department. Local Plan: The Local Plan was discussed and it was decided to hold a public meeting on July 12 to enable residents to ask questions and complete a questionnaire. This has to be completed by July 17 and does not give residents much time to do this. Forestry: Questions were asked about fallen telephone cables near trees. Rod Watts, Forestry Commission representative said that BT are responsible for this. Carraig Gheal Windfarm Community Fund: The meeting was informed that, once again, Green Power, the energy company responsible for this, will not answer any questions. The next community council meeting will be held in Dalvach Community Hall on Tuesday August 30 at 7.30pm.

**TARBERT**

THE FIRST Tarbert 'World' Championship oyster shucking contest took place at Cafebarge as part of the annual Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Seafood Festival. There were many entries, both locals and visitors. The winners of the contest were Ryan Glen, from Tarbert, and novice, Clair Weaver, who was visiting from Lincolnshire in England. 'There was a fantastic turnout', said Izzy Shackleton, head chef of Cafebarge. 'The competition was very close but we decided to award two prizes; one for best time and one for best effort.' The winners received a voucher for tapas and a complimentary bottle of wine on Cafebarge, plus a CD by local musician John Dyson, who compered the contest. The oysters were donated by Prentice Seafoods, Tarbert. All proceeds will go to Tarbert Seafood Festival funds which will help guarantee the continuing success of this important, long-running local food festival.

**ARDCHATTAN**

ARDCHATTAN Community Council will hold its next meeting on Tuesday July 19 at 7.30pm. The venue will be the MRC centre at Barcaldine.

**GLENORCHY**

MEMBERS of Glenorchy Parish Kirk have urged the local community to attend a special service to commemorate the church's 200th anniversary. Guest preacher will be Church of Scotland Moderator, Very Rev David Arnott, who will also carry out the dedication of a banner made by members of the community.

A reception will be held after the ceremony, which takes place on July 22.

**BENDERLOCH**

PLANNERS are currently considering three separate planning applications for houses at Letterwalton, Benderloch. The applications, for planning permission in principle, are for sites north east, south east and south of Letterwalton Lodge.



Scottish Crofting Federation delegates and Highland cattle keepers Morag MacKenzie (left), from Duirinish in Lochalsh, and Ena Macdonald from North Uist met with kindred spirits at the recent Terra Madre indigenous peoples' conference in Sweden. The Highlands and Islands duo are pictured with pastoralist women fighting to maintain traditional agricultural practices in India, where Western-introduced breeds and cereals have depleted soils and impoverished the peasantry through an over-reliance on expensive fertilisers and pesticides.

**Mull Lines**

AFTER almost 40 years at the front desk, Marlyn Finnigan is hanging up her shorthand pad in favour of gardening gloves. Marlyn first worked at St Mary's when Dr Clegg consulted from his own house. She moved with the practice to Breadalbane Street and then on to the surgery's current site at Rockfield Road. At first she worked as unofficial secretary to Dr Clegg and has seen many changes from using a basic typewriter to the introduction of a computerised system and just this week has overseen the introduction of a whole new computer system. During her time at the surgery Marlyn has worked with Dr Clegg, Dr Jack, Dr Parson, Dr Linnemann and Dr Adie. She has been here far longer than any other member of staff who wonder how they will manage without her but after three venues, five GPs and two computer systems feel she has truly deserved her retirement. Everyone at Tobermory Surgery wishes her well and it is hoped that she won't be too busy being a lady of leisure to be able to come back as relief receptionist from time to time.

FROM Asheville, North Carolina, Dana and Susan Robinson are bringing their own exciting blend of southern Appalachian mountain music to An Tobar on Mull. With Dana on guitar and fiddle and Susan's clawhammer banjo playing and harmony singing they bring a deep understanding of America's musical heritage and a joyful energy to their concerts. The couple will be playing on Friday, July 15, call 01688 302211 for more details.

PONTOONS in Tobermory have been extended. The Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) has added four new fingers to the south leg. The new sections provide an additional 10 berths. These berths will assist larger charter boats and larger yachts. Two 12-meter fingers have been added and the hammerhead extended by two sections north to give a clear 50 meters long berthing area. Extending the hammerhead north also provides protection to the rest of the pontoons from moderate southerly winds. THA's Brian Swinbanks said: 'The south leg extension is the first contract in a far reaching THA Phase 6 infrastructure project which will eventually deliver additional pontoon protection from northerly winds by a new fixed and floating breakwater. The breakwater will provide berthing for small ferries, commercial charter craft and fishing boats. Ashore the THA will add a new, straight, low gradient slip, plus additional boat parking and servicing areas. THA will further demonstrate the community's commitment to protect the marine environment by adding facilities to collect antifouling waste when boats are cleaned.'

WINDY Island Days are hosting a guided tour and information day for anyone interested in learning about the wind turbines and energy systems at Dail An Inbhire, Kintra. The event will take place from 10am. An entry fee is payable.



**Walk raises funds for baby care unit**

PARENTS and staff of Macdiarmid Nursery recently organised an 11-mile sponsored walk to raise funds for the nursery and for Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at Raigmore Hospital. Parents Donna and Andrew Long have a son attending

**SKEABOST**

the nursery and in January their second child was born prematurely. But happily, after a few weeks of fantastic care in SCBU, their daughter was ready to go home.

Just under 40 walkers took part in the walk to raise £547.89 for the nursery and £1,828.40 for the SCBU. The organisers would like to thank all those who prepared the lunch, donated raffle prizes, took part in the walk and gave sponsorship.



**Children enjoy new adventure club fun**

STRATH of Appin Primary School's new Adventure Club has been running for a few weeks through Stramash-trained volunteers, with support from Stramash staff. The club provides an opportunity for children to explore and get to know their local outdoor environment

**STRATH OF APPIN**

through a variety of child-led free play and structured activity sessions. The club provides adventurous, creative and exciting opportunities, where children can develop new skills, grow in confidence,

strengthen friendships and build a connection with their local outdoor spaces. Activities so far have included den-building, cycling, outdoor cooking, beach wildlife exploring, canoeing, and bog hopping. The children and volunteers have been having a fantastic time - regardless of the weather.

**WEST ARDNAMURCHAN**

WEST Ardnamurchan Community Council met in Kilchoan recently, with six councillors and four members of the community in attendance. The following issues were discussed: WACC will meet NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service on August 8 to discuss the future of 999 medical emergency provision. This follows the news in last week's Oban Times report of the First Responders resignation in protest to SAS policies. WACC plans to send a representative to an open event following the Scottish Cabinet's meeting in Fort William on July 28 to ask a question about the nursing dispute.

Lochaber Housing Association chief executive Blair Allan spoke about future housing developments in the area, including plans to build two affordable rent homes on land next to Queen's Cottage, ideas for funding the building of houses for key workers such as nurses, teachers and workers on the estate and ideas for working with major local employers to develop new housing. Passenger numbers on the Kilchoan-Tobermory ferry dropped significantly in the last year, with a community councillor highlighting high prices. Caledonian MacBrayne denied this pricing was an issue. The next WACC meeting will be Monday August 8.

**CAMUSCROSS**

AN OLD TV mast and relay station, which provided Sleat with good TV reception for 25 years, has been removed from Ard-Ghunnail, a small hill overlooking Camuscross. Local man, retired scientist Dr Peter Barham, designed the station in 1985 to bounce the strong TV signal from Mallaig direct to local homes - but the

advent of digital TV had rendered it redundant. Camuscross and Dunsdale Initiative director Graeme MacKenzie told The Oban Times: 'The land is in the process of being restored to its natural state and remaining building materials are being removed - although it is quite difficult to get vehicles up there.'

**INVERLOCHY**

AN AWARD-winning banner designed pupils from Inverloch Primary School which they hope will encourage local people to recycle their rubbish has been unveiled. The P3/4 children's mural won a competition run by Highland Council's Waste Aware Team, with 55 schools submitting a total of 119 entries. The sign is on display at the council recycling centre at Claggan, Fort William, where the children are to unveil their winning entry today (Thursday). The mural depicts 'compost cow' surrounded by a number of pictures drawn by the children of recyclable items, with a view of Ben Nevis as a backdrop. Head teacher Ainsley Burns told The Oban Times the kids were 'delighted

to win the contest. She said: 'It's part of the wider work we are doing with the eco-schools, and it's very much a part of what the kids have been working on.' TEC Services Committee chairman Councillor John Laing was on the judging panel and said was very impressed with the high standard of artwork produced by all the pupils who took part. He said: 'It was obvious that a lot of hard work and thought had gone into all the designs which made my job as one of the judges very difficult. It is encouraging to see our young people are so aware of important recycling issues. The mural banners will help to remind us all to make full use of the wide range of waste recycling facilities at our network of recycling centres.'

**WIN Skincare products**

**5 Elemis Anti-Ageing sets worth £96 each**

We have five Elemis Anti-Ageing Collections worth £96 up for grabs! Elemis the leading British skincare and spa brand have teamed up with The Oban Times to offer five lucky readers the chance to win an Elemis Anti-Ageing Cleansing Collection, a complete advanced cleansing system designed to achieve professional results at home. This gorgeous collection includes award winning Pro-Radiance Cream Cleanser, Soothing Apricot Toner, Papaya Enzyme Peel, Pro-Collagen Marine Cream, plus a gorgeous luxury wash bag and 100% cotton cleansing mitt. Visit www.elemis.com or purchase products at www.timetospa.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer this question  
**The Elemis anti-ageing cleansing collection includes a gorgeous soothing toner. Which fruit is it associated with?**  
 a) Apricot b) Peach c) Plum  
**call 0901 293 0450**  
 or text WM28 followed by a space, your answer, name and town to 88010. Lines open Wednesday July 13 at 6pm and close midnight Tuesday July 19 2011.

Terms and conditions: Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Entries made after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Entrants must be 16 or over and have the bill payer's permission. The winner will be contacted via telephone. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyver Media publication. This competition is open to readers of other Wyver Media publications.

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Royal visit brings out the best in Oban

IT TAKES an occasion like a royal visit to really see Oban in its best finery.

The town centre was awash with colour on Tuesday as hundreds of locals and tourists joined a parade from Station Square to the Corran Halls, where the Princess Royal was there to greet them.

Cynicism and apathy had no place, as those marching took genuine pleasure in being part of something at the heart of the community. Representatives from businesses, charities, emergency services and the local authority joined residents and tourists in the march, while others lined the route along George Street.

The large turnout of people was partly to catch a glimpse of the princess but also to ensure the town put on a good show for the visiting royal, who unveiled a plaque to mark the town's bicentennial celebrations.

The event, and indeed the 10 days of bicentennial celebration, have proved to anyone who was in any doubt that 'community spirit' is alive and well in Oban and that a Royal visit still generates the same excitement it always has.

Congratulations must go to all those involved in organising the Oban 200 celebrations and to everyone who are taking part in the festivities which continue for the next few days.

Not only has it given the local population a reason to celebrate, it will have surely struck a chord with visitors too.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Piping Live 2011

THE EIGHTH Piping Live Festival will take place in Glasgow week beginning Monday August 8 and with 170 events scheduled I will list as many of the highlights as I can over the coming weeks.

Each evening there is at least one major concert and these are as follows:

Monday August 8: Opening Concert - pipes and strings - with Finlay MacDonald/Chris Stout and Mr McFall's Chamber in the Strathclyde Suite.

Tuesday is the ever popular quartet competition which this year will feature eight bands instead of six and will be in the Strathclyde Suite. This year's bands are current World Champions St Laurence O'Toole, Scottish Power, 78 Frasers, Manawatu, Strathclyde Police, Inveraray and District, Lothian and Borders Police and the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band.

On Wednesday in the National Piping Centre, Oran nam Piobairean will feature Armagh Piper's Club, Brian O'hEadhra, Calum Stewart and Manran while in the Royal Concert Hall the Scottish Power Pipe Band, in a concert sponsored by the Phoenix Honda Glasgow Sky Pipe Band, promise an evening with a difference which will also feature a 25-strong orchestra.

Thursday in the Strathclyde Suite features Anxo Lorenzo and Fred Morrison in an international piping concert while in the SECC Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band will be joined by Simon Fraser University and St Laurence O'Toole Pipe bands. Concerts on Friday and Saturday will take place in the Old Fruitmarket with the Friday being the Red Hot Chili Pipers and Rura while the following evening at the After World's Shindig the bands will be the Angus Nicolson Trio, Fiddler's Bid and Lunasa. For more details visit www.pipinglive.co.uk.

### Loch Lomond

#### Highland Games

STARTED in 1967 in an attempt to stimulate the local economy the Lomond Highland Games are now rated in the top three of such events in the country.

The games feature all the usual events including piping, bands and solo, heavyweight athletics and dancing and are the only games which have a Triathlon, swimming, cycling and running.

Organisers will be hoping for, despite the unsettled weather over the past two months, similar sunny weather to that experienced in Glasgow during the past couple of weekends.

### Ceol's Craic

IF YOU have an interest in drama and would like to develop your work, Ceol's

Craic are looking to provide performance opportunities to profile your work.

Examples of the work they are looking for include a new script, a stand up routine, a short sketch, a monologue, reading from an established Gaelic play, rehearsing a new translation or even dusting down the cobwebs of an established play. Ceol's Craic is the social hub for the Gaelic Arts and meets in the CCA on Sauchiehall Street monthly. It has varied programmes which include film screenings, workshops, conversation cafes and live contemporary Gaelic music.

The new season begins on September 10 and expressions of interest will be welcome from performers of all levels. More information is available at info@ceolscraic.co.uk.

### Edinburgh Festival Fringe

FOR THOSE interested in traditional music, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, which starts on August 5 and runs until the start of September, showcases many of our top musicians.

For example, the following are included in the programme which takes place at various venues in and around the city: Battlefield Band, Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain, Treacherous Orchestra, Manran, Wolfstone, Daimh, Peatbog Faeries, Poozies, Red Hot Chili Pipers, Skerryvore, Capercaille, Eddie Reader, Blazin' Fiddles, Shoo Glenifty, Whistlebinkies, Chris Stout/Catriona MacDonald, Fiona Hunter/Mike Vass and Sandy Brechin. The full programme is available on www.edfringe.com.

### Diary dates

**Thursday July 14:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Dana and Susan Robinson.

**Wednesday July 20:** Summer ceilidh, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

**Thursday July 21:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

**Saturday July 23:** Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, 7.30pm.

### Pub scene

APOLOGIES for the error in last week's letter concerning the music in the Park Bar when I intimated that the music would be provided by those who will be there this week; Willie Cameron with Martin Pottinger on Friday; Islay MacFaggart and Donald MacIntosh on Saturday and the Burns Brothers on Sunday.

This weekend in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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

## YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

## 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.



## Ballachulish car ferry, circa 1962

Paul and Valerie Cruickshank of Bromley, Kent, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows the Ballachulish car ferry circa 1962. The cars on board include a Morris Minor at the back with a Triumph Herald in front of it. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

# Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
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### Anger at night staff funding withdrawal

Sir, Argyll and Bute Council has finally surpassed itself for stupidity.

It is withdrawing funding for night staff at the sheltered housing complex at Glen Isal, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Instead it has come up with the idea of employing a private firm from, I believe, Oban, which will provide two people to sit in the office overnight, for seven nights a week from 1pm to 8am.

How can this be cost effective? Is it just me that doesn't see the sense in it. Our staff will be made redundant, but if the job still exists how can they be made redundant?

Our staff are paid a retainer when they are on call and then paid their hourly rate if they are called out after the first hour. This still does not come to the same money that using two people would.

Surely it is a no-brainer to retain the budget for our staff to maintain the status quo.

Apparently these new people will cover the whole of Mull. If they are called to Bunnassan it will take them an hour to get there in an emergency. We are linked to Care-line UK overnight, with our staff being on call for emergencies.

Can I suggested that whoever came up with this idea goes back to school to learn maths or gives the job to someone else, who knows what they are doing.

Our local councillors have given us no support in this fight. Come the next council elections, I hope they won't count on getting a cross in their boxes from us.

**Name and address supplied.**

### Dementia patients deserve the best

Sir, I would like to address some points reported in last week's article 'Staff quit over daycare merger plans'.

I did not 'quit' my job, as reported. I resigned, after much soul searching, from a job that meant the world to me, the reason being a decision was thrust upon us, without any consultation or compromise. Clients and their carers were informed about the merger before staff. I was stopped in a local supermarket and told about the future plans for daycare services by a carer before our staff meeting where the bombshell was dropped.

I am overwhelmed with sadness and incensed by the council's decision behind closed doors.

The National Social Care and Social Work Improvement Service moved us into Willowview from our ideal premises in Eader Glinn. At each inspection its findings were that Willowview was adequate.

Your council spokeswoman said the move to Lynside would improve services to clients, as space is limited at Willowview.

Bigger is not better for dementia clients. People with dementia need specialised nurture, guidance and security in order to flourish. This will not be afforded to them in a generic daycare setting.

The council spokeswoman said 'users and their representatives, also most staff, welcomed the change'. This is untrue.

I have spoken with clients' representatives who have voiced their deep concerns over the merger.

There were five permanent members of staff at Willowview, one has been on long-term sick, two worked in daycare at Ford Spence Court in Benderloch - why is it not being merged if this is the supposed way forward? - which leaves my colleague and myself, who ran the daycare at Willowview and who are devastated by the proposed merger. Staff at Lynside have intimated to me that they too have grave concerns.

My colleague and I ensured the daycare at Willowview was a centre of excellence. We poured our heart and soul into creating a haven of ambience, security, love and laughter for our most treasured clients who we felt, and still feel, are deserving of the very best.

**Ronald Graham, 23 High Street, Oban.**

### Concern for dementia patients

Sir, Over the past few months members of the local branch of Alzheimer Scotland have become increasingly concerned about the proposals for our local people who have dementia.

The local authority is proposing to integrate Lynside Daycare Centre, which is designed for up to 25 older people, with the more specialised and smaller daycare for people with dementia, which currently takes place in Willowview.

Specialist daycare has been ongoing in Oban since 1990 and has been highlighted as an essential service. This has been further supported and developed through recognition from government grants since 1992.

Many of the Alzheimer committee have had first hand experience of the benefits of the daycare and other services provided through social work. The local branch of Alzheimer Scotland has supported the services financially with various fundraising activities and through the generosity and support of local people.

Is Argyll and Bute Council's, Community Services Department proposals now taking a backward step?

Specialist dementia services are vital to support people with dementia and their carers and families because of the wide-ranging and often challenging difficulties the illness can bring.

Alzheimer Scotland campaigns for the rights of people with dementia and their families and provides an extensive range of innovative and personalised support services. One of their aims is to provide and to secure the provision of high quality services for people with dementia.

We as a committee believe that should the proposals go ahead it would be detrimental to the people who currently use the daycare and those that may benefit in the future.

Alzheimer Scotland has major concerns about cuts to services by local authorities and has stated they must be avoided at all costs. Cutting or even restricting access to specialist services is no different from reducing available medical treatments for conditions such as cancer or heart disease. **Alzheimer Scotland, Oban branch.**

### Supporting classroom assistants

Sir, I'll deal with the serious business of the threat to 344 classroom assistant jobs rather than commenting on the attempted Michael MacIntyre comedy from Councillor Eddie Hunter, which has no place when dealing with the emotive issue of people losing their jobs.

In this regard, Eddie's claim that the SNP struggled to come up with an amendment to the proposal for a review based on children's requirements is false. It could not have been clearer - the SNP agreed with the review. They simply asked that the threat to the 344 classroom assistant jobs be removed from the proposal. You either agree with that or you don't.

I was disappointed that Eddie voted against the SNP amendment to lift the threat of cuts now rather than review the posts in 12 months. I don't believe that as a member of the review group, Eddie went into their meetings with the intention of delaying a decision on the future of classroom assistants for 12 months.

The members of the Review Group would have encouraged him to make their vote unanimous. Eddie didn't support this option when he went into this first meeting of the Review Group. At that time he believed that the threat to their jobs should be lifted. He succumbed to their pressure.

When I realised Eddie was not going to vote to lift the threat, I told him before he voted at the Highland Council meeting that he was doing the wrong thing and there is no doubt he knew it.

Now he has to defend his decision by running a few hares and making a comedy act out of it. It is not playing political football to consistently support lifting the threat hanging over 344 classroom assistant jobs. Playing political football is putting off a decision until after the next election.

**Bill Clark, Councillor for Caol and Mallaig.**

### Council facing huge challenges

Sir, I write to clarify and provide further information on the main thrust of your recent article on the council's housing policy not being 'fit for purpose'.

Argyll and Bute, in common with much of the UK, is suffering from an acute shortage of affordable housing where people want to live and work. In terms of planning, the council has responded to this need through providing appropriate housing allocations and the introduction of an affordable housing policy in its existing development plan.

There are now significant challenges facing the delivery of affordable housing in Argyll and Bute due to the ongoing recession and the reduction of public funding. This situation has also been exacerbated with a general collapse of Scotland's private housing market, the relatively high development costs in Argyll and Bute and the lack of affordable mortgages.

The council recognises these challenges in its Main Issues

Report, currently out to public consultation, but simply removing the affordable policy requirement in areas where there is proven affordable housing need such as Mull and Oban is not a solution. Instead, the council is seeking to find new, innovative ways of providing affordable housing with the help of representatives of the building industry, rented social landlords and council officers.

A report on the vital issue of delivering affordable housing in challenging times is currently being prepared for consideration by the council's executive committee. It is intended that the findings of this group will help shape our policy and maximise opportunities for affordable housing throughout Argyll and Bute.

In the meantime I would like to reinforce that affordable housing requirements in accordance with the local plan remain a significant material consideration in the processing of housing planning applications. Given, however, that we are going to revitalise this policy, as a council we will apply some flexibility where there is justification by looking at the merits of each case on an individual basis.

**Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, Argyll and Bute Council.**

### Affordable housing concern

Sir, On June 30 you reported on the concerns voiced by some local councillors about the 'policy on affordable homes', in particular citing the Pennyghael development.

Referring back to the minutes of the planning hearing for that development proposal, March 31 2008, you would read this was approved, despite a great deal of local objection, in favour of the developer.

On July 7 you reported on the planning hearing for a development of five flats in North Connell being approved, despite overwhelming local objections. It was stated the planning department had no interest in how these flats were to be used or who they would be aimed at.

It would again seem that the views of the local residents, community council and local councillors have effectively been ignored and therefore raises the question of the role of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee in deciding these matters.

Surely the need for affordable housing and the views of the local community should be among their main priorities? **John Miller, by email.**

### Teacher should be applauded

Sir, I think the teacher who took the children in his car to Alton Towers should be applauded.

My grand-daughter was on this trip, on the bus, and said it was 'amazing'.

The teacher concerned is obviously dedicated and understands his pupils well, knowing the disappointment it would cause if some were left behind. He got the children safely to Alton Towers and safely home again so what's the problem? **Forence Anderson, Taynuilt.**



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA AINMHIDHEAN a' sabaid nam measg fhèin sònraichte nimheil agus cha tig gèilleadh gun fhuihl agus glè thrìc le bàs! Nuair a thèid pàipearan-naidheachd an uganann a chèile, tha cùisean pailt cho borb!

Tha sinn gu math cleachdte ri bhith a' faicinn is a' cluinntinn nam pàipearan-naidheachd mòra a' dol an sàs ann an sgeulachdan mu bheatha dhaoine de gach seòrsa agus aig amannan, tha na h-ionnsaighean sin glè phearsanta agus goirt. Chan eil teagamh nach eil aire is sgrùdadh poblach a' leantainn cuid de dhreuchdan agus tha na daoine a roghnaicheas a bhith an sàs ann an saoghal poblach a' tuigsinn gur ann mar sin a tha. Tha daoine eile ann, leithid feadhainn a bhios a' toirt beòshlaint a saoghal spòrs, cùil neo ealain, far am bheil aithne a' mhòr-shluagh cudromach mar phàirt den mhargaideachd a gheibheas an cuid dhreuchdan.

Ach tha fìor chiall a' chòir a' th' aig a' mhòr-shluagh air fiosrachadh air a' dhol car iomrall bho chionn greise is cuid de pàipearan a' tarraing gu math cruaidh agus gu math tàireil air beatha phrìobhaideach dhaoine cumanta. Agus a rèir coltais, cha robh mòran ann a' ghabhadh deamam oir cha robh iad a' cronachadh a chèile. Gu ruige seo!

Le fianais a' fàs gun robh News of the World, chan ann a-mhàin ri farchluis mi-laghail air fònaichean ach cuideachd a' dubhadh às theachdaireachdan gus am biodh cothrom eisteachd ri tuilleadh, chaidh na "coim" ma sgaoil le cop orra uile a' feuchainn air sgòran a' phàipeir seo agus News International. Aig àm sgrìobhadh seo is gun an ùpraid ach a' tòiseachadh, tha an impireachd aig Murdoch mar-tha air buille mhòr fhulang is News of the World a' dùnadh!. Tha e doirbh tomhas càit' an crìochnaich seo uile agus cò mheud eile dh'fhuilingeas ach 's neònach cuideachd mura tèid sràid a theannachadh air dòigh obrach nam pàipearan as an fharsaingeachd is cuid, ann an saoghal nam poilteigs gu sònraichte, a' gabhail cothrom air dìoghaltas fhaotainn.

Theagamh gum fuiling saorsa fiosrachaidh dhan mhòr-shluagh ach, air an làimh eile, chanadh cuid de gach seòrsa a' gabhail air an t-saorsa agus gun tug na pàipearan seo orra fhèin. Agus cha ghabhainn iongnadh sam bith ged a bhiodh duine neo dithis gun iobairt mar "eisimpleir" air cho cogaiseach 's a tha luchd-riaghlaidh pàipearan an aghaidh chleachdaidhean mi-laghail!

AS I WRITE, a media 'pack', in full cry, has effectively brought down the News of the World. After years of complacency, while some papers frequently and unjustly infringed personal privacy, some of the roars of indignation at the alleged actions of the News of the World sound decidedly hollow.

News International has already suffered, and some of our cherished freedom of the press may be lost, but it must be said that the press brought this on itself and self-regulation has obviously failed. As the "pack hunt" continues it would not be surprising to see more heads sacrificed as evidence of the outraged innocence of owners!

**Ailean Caimbeul (Alan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### Justice at last?

ALL OF us must be grateful to the current Defence Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, for keeping the promise he made while in opposition.

He pledged if he became a government minister he would urge his colleagues to appoint a Scottish judge to investigate what really happened when a Chinook helicopter crashed on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994 with the loss of 29 lives.

Just after he became Secretary of State for Defence, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg appointed retired Court of Session judge Lord Philip to investigate what caused the Chinook to crash and whether the two pilots, blamed by senior RAF officers for negligence, despite the opposite view being taken by every other inquiry, were at fault. As expected, Lord Philip has reached the conclusion that they were not to blame and that their names should be cleared. Even after painstaking sifting of all the evidence by Lord Philip, top brass at the RAF still maintain that the dismissal of the verdict of negligence is wrong because two of its senior officers say so and that the names of the two pilots should remain vilified for ever.

Their view is now supported by another of their rank, despite new evidence being led at the judicial review which endorsed their blameless conduct. Lord Philip himself indicated that he was unhappy that the entire Scottish investigation had been dismissed and replaced by the decision of two senior RAF officers with no legal qualifications; therefore, they were more affected by service loyalty than judicial expertise to get to the root of the crash.

Had he sided with the RAF top brass, all of us who felt the pilots were not to blame might unwillingly have had to accept that the senior officers had been right. But he has most emphatically stated the original inquiries in Scotland reached the correct conclusions and that the RAF officers were wrong in their conclusions as there was ample evidence that the Chinook helicopter was defective and known to be so from 'near misses' in the preceding months. It remains for Dr Fox to report to the House of Commons that he accepts the Report by Lord Philip and that the records should be altered to show that the crash in thick fog on the Mull of Kintyre was caused by 'aircraft error'.

This step will open another can of worms, not least of which is who is now responsible for the millions of pounds of compensation due to the families of all who perished, and the form of words to be used to clear the names of Flight Lieutenants

Johnathan Tapper and Richard Cook.

### Letting down the 4th estate

AS A journalist at one time employed by News International I can assure readers the current scandal about phone 'hacking' would have been nipped in the bud 20 years ago.

When you were taken on to the staff of 'The Times', you were reminded frequently it was essential that the good name of the group was maintained at all times. The watchwords were: 'a paper of record', therefore you did not embroider the proven facts. But it was becoming the fashion to spice up copy with speculation as to what might happen but before one was allowed to do so one had to prove one could gather the facts and relate them correctly. Their tabloid papers were basically the same. Rupert Murdoch, while paying well for journalism well done, was not one to part with money needlessly in libel damages. And that is how it was and how it should still be.

### Better ethical standards

THE PRIME Minister has announced an inquiry into the 'ethics of journalism' as well as the judicial inquiry into the 'hacking' of prominent people's phones.

I'm not surprised as the interests of making 'big bucks', very often at the command of financial gurus, has become paramount - an able illustration of the oft-quoted aphorism 'don't spoil a good story with detailed attention to the facts'. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in the tabloids where competition for 'readership percentage' is fiercest.

All the media barons must be quaking as to what might come out of this inquiry. There are bound to be strictures, possibly backed by a tougher code of conduct, if editors do not heed tougher ethical standards as to what should be published and how ordinary individuals should be treated if they become involved inadvertently in what turns out to be a nasty business. This is not interfering with the freedom of the press, it is insisting on proprietors exercising their responsibility to do their duty when there is a genuine mischief being perpetrated that needs to be corrected.

Is it any wonder all newspapers are now victims of falling circulations?

*McCaig*

## Insight into life as a touring entertainer

WELL-KNOWN Highland musicians have been training up young people from local feisean in advance of them taking to the road for 100 events across the Highlands and in Argyll in the coming weeks.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Cèilidhean air Chuaire Slighean Ùra (Cèilidh Trails - New Routes) project will see fèis youngsters playing at various venues in Ross-shire, Skye and Lochalsh, Lochaber, Sutherland, Argyll and Bute and the Cairngorms National Park.

Concerts and cèilidhs will be staged in places ranging from distilleries and castles to village halls and care homes.

Insight Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive Arthur Cormack said: 'The touring experience will give them an insight into life as a professional musician at the same time as giving them invaluable groupwork and song-writing skills and earning money through a summer job that they enjoy.'

A successful enterprise that has been running for many years, this year's Cèilidh Trailers will be based in six districts:

The Cèilidh Trailers have been training at Fèis Alba in Plockton with well-known tutors including Blair Douglas, Anna Massie, Donal Brown and Allan Henderson.

Today (Thursday) participants will take part in a concert at the Fàs Studio in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, where they will be joined by young actors from the Summer Drama School in Portree.

The Cèilidh Trail groups will then begin their individual tours, visiting places as far flung as Durness and Applecross, taking in island communities including Mull and Muck.

Open to all The concerts are open to all and will be of particular interest to those who enjoy cèilidh dancing. With the Cèilidh Trailers blazing their way throughout many different venues throughout the Highlands and Islands and Argyll, it's impossible to miss them! For more information, visit [www.feisceilidhtrails.org](http://www.feisceilidhtrails.org).

## Taynuilt musicians' Royal date

TAYNUILT'S Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson performed at the season opening of Dumfries House in Ayrshire at the request of HRH Duke of Rothesay. During their performance Prince Charles demonstrated his own musical ability by dueting with Karen on the Aberdeenshire song, The Bonnie Lass of Fyvie.

A fan of the band, His Royal Highness had invited the couple to play at his 60th birthday celebrations. He also paid a visit to the Royal National Mòd in Caithness last year, where he presented the gold medals to soloists.

'We first met him in Lisbon,' said Donald. 'He told me he had a lot of our tapes and follows the Gaelic and piping scenes.'

Donald and Karen were due to be part of Oban's welcoming party when Princess Anne visits Oban this week.

Dumfries House, near Cumnock, is renowned as being one of the UK's most important 18th Century classical houses.

In June 2007, HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay led a consortium of organisations and individuals to rescue Dumfries House for the nation, in what was described as the 'save of the century'.



Toni Russell will miss her dancing students as her classes in Oban have stopped after ten years. 15\_127tonirusell1

## Toni bids farewell after a decade of dance

AN OBAN dance teacher has said a tearful farewell to pupils she has taught for ten years.

All of Toni Russell's 12 students turned out to say thank you last week; eight of them have been attending her classes since the beginning.

As she lives in Fife, Toni said fuel

prices made it too expensive to travel to Oban for her classes.

She said: 'It definitely wasn't a decision I made with my heart, it was with my head. I tried everything to make it work.'

She thanked the scouts for giving her use of the hall and all her pupils

and parents over the years. 'It was a real team effort,' she added. Toni's students presented her with a montage of pictures from *The Oban Times* as a memory of her dance shows in the town. She continues to teach in Fife, Perth and Stirling and her students plan to continue with dancing.

# School reunion promises a blast from the past

REPORT by LOUISE LEE [lle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:lle@obantimes.co.uk)

IT WILL be a blast from the past when Oban High School's Reunion takes place this Saturday at 9pm.

With ex-pupils from every year in the school's history being invited to the party, plus spouses and anyone else who is interested, it is proving to be a bit hit - with people travelling from all over to come back for the event in the Corran Halls.

Organiser Neil Mackay says he has had interest from all over the world. 'This will be a great night for everyone,' he said.

'There are people coming from all over to the town over the bicentennial and we are expecting a good turnout on the night. Some people are asking whether I am putting up bike sheds so people can stand behind them. I am personally looking forward to seeing some people that I have not seen for years. Let's face it, Oban High School is one of the best schools in Scotland



Guess who? Some of these Oban High School past pupils will be at the reunion to be held this Saturday.

and we made wonderful friends in our school days. Many of us have been back in touch through Facebook and the internet but there are still people missing that we would like to be back in touch with. I am encouraging

everyone to come along and take part. We haven't tried a big reunion like this.'

Oban High School Reunion is on Saturday from 9pm, with tickets available from The Corran Halls.

## Mamma Mia! Abba night is a huge success

A LADIES-only Abba night in Benderloch was such a success that a hat was passed around at the end of the night to collect more money for the charity receiving the proceeds of the evening.

Benderloch-based ladies choir Sequence decided that an Abba night was a fitting way to let their hair down, get dressed up appropriately and round off a season of concerts and competitions before the summer.

To make it more worthwhile, they opened it up to any other Abba fans and decided that any proceeds raised would go to Oban's MS Centre.

Sequence started off the evening with Mamma Mia and Money, Money, Money, which were followed by audience sing-alongs, solos and duets from Lora Macleod, Becky Wilson, Jaki Aitken, Heather MacPherson and Janet Fergusson, plus ensemble singing and quizzes. Songs included the classic Dancing Queen, Waterloo and Knowing Me, Knowing You, as well as the less well known I Have a Dream and Lay All Your Love on Me.

Best dressed member of the audience prize went to Bel Cameron, North Connel, and best dressed member of Sequence choir went to Jaki Aitken, Oban. Photos of the ladies in their fancy dress were taken at the beginning of the night for those who wanted by photographer Steven Flanagan, for a donation to the MS Centre of £1.



The Sequence Choir completes its final rehearsal before taking to the stage at Benderloch's Victory Hall on Saturday. 126abba1

Those who had their photos taken can see them by emailing [sequencepics@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sequencepics@yahoo.co.uk).

A total of £180 was raised on the door but the audience agreed they'd had such a good time that they should contribute more and a hat was passed around, raising another £80.

## Appin guide heads to world jamboree

A TEENAGER from Appin will join 40,000 Scouts and Guides from around the globe at this year's World Scout Jamboree.

Amanda MacNeil, a North Lorn senior section member of Girlguiding, will be the sole Argyll representative at the annual event, which this year is being held in Rinkaby, Sweden.

The 16-year-old will fly to Copenhagen with fellow Scots and join up with the jamboree after a few days.

Following the two-week jamboree camp, Amanda will jet-off to the Netherlands, where she will spend four days.

The European adventure is one the youngest, who has only ever left the UK once before, is relishing.

'I am so excited about the trip,' said Amanda. 'I have been on camps with other Guides before but there are



Amanda MacNeil. 15\_128guides01

only up to 30 people there. I have been following the build-up to this event for a while on Facebook and YouTube and it looks really good. I can't wait to go.'

Amanda, who has organised a whist drive and a coffee evening as part of her fundraising, leaves on July 23.

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# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**MID ARGYLL ART SOCIETY**  
**44th Annual Exhibition**  
Monday 1st August - Saturday 6th August 2011  
Lochgilthead Parish Church Hall  
Times of Opening  
Monday - Friday 10am - 8pm  
Saturday 10am - 2pm  
Handing in: Saturday 30th July 10am - 4pm at the Church hall

Entry fee £2 per painting / drawing up to 5 works  
All paintings and drawings must be ready to hang and have name, address, title and price (if for sale) on the back. Only original paintings and drawings (not previously shown in Mid Argyll) may be exhibited (not computer generated). If submissions exceed hanging space, the hanging committee will undertake the final decision

Enquiries to Angus MacNeill 01546 603074 / Vicky Lyon 01546 603281



**Luke Daniels - The Mighty Box**  
This stunning accordion player has taken 71 tunes from traditional Irish archives, sessions and his own compositions. He has played around with the keys and fingering to create a whole new feel.  
The playing is raw, spontaneous and full of life, recorded at Doolittle recording studios, County Sligo. Luke Daniels (button accordion made by Doug Briggs and tuned A/Bb), Junior Davey (bodhran), Seamie O'Dowd (guitar, harmonica, fiddle), Dennis Cahill (guitar, cittern), Rick Foot (double bass), Victor Nicholls (tuba), Gigi Biolcati (drums, percussion).

**Garioch Fiddlers - Heart Of The Garioch**  
Full of great tunes, skilfully arranged and played. Dorothy Ferguson's last recording before retiring as conductor after 25 years. Garioch is pronounced Gairie (rhyming with dearie). The Garioch is an area of the countryside in Aberdeenshire that takes in their home base of Inverurie. The distinctive sound of the Garioch Fiddlers is due to the musical arrangements/harmonies written by conductor, musical director and founder member, Dorothy Ferguson, for the predominantly violin based orchestra which also includes accordions, flutes and mandolin with piano and double bass backing.

**Findlay Napier The Bar Room Mountaineers - File Under Fiction**  
The band are leading the Scottish new-folk revolution with anthemic tales of love, debauchery and sin laced with black humour. A selection of songs about drinking and partying, with some gentler moments, drawing on influences from the darker side of genres like Folk and Country with a sound that remains uniquely Scottish. All songs composed by Nick Turner and Findlay Napier. Findlay Napier (vocals, guitars), Gillan Frame (vocals, fiddle, viola), Douglas Millar (vocals, piano, wurlitzer, rhodes), Scott MacKay (drums), James Lindsay (bass, double bass).

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Tea or coffee and cakes £2.50,  
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(Lunchtime special - Soup/bread followed by tea or coffee and cakes only £4.00)

**An Comunn Gàidhealach Cruachan Branch**  
**SUMMER CEILIDH**  
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8pm  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
Admission £4: Members & Children (5-16yrs) £2

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Oban High School pupil Flora Hamilton tries out some new break dancing moves.

## 'Enthusiasm and energy' at high school dance clash

MORE than 120 S1 and S2 pupils from Oban High School took part in a recent Dance Clan Clash.

The four clans Diarmid, Fingal, Ossian and Somerled pieced together four parts of 'Party Rock Anthem' led by teachers Denise Gemmell, Aisling McGuire, Liz Clunie and visiting dance teacher Nicola McKie. Later in the day all clans gathered in the school assembly hall with a mass performance videoed, after several practices.

PE teacher Denis Gemmell said: 'The enthusiasm, energy and team spirit demonstrated by the pupils created a wonderful atmosphere. Watching back the final performance on the big screen and evaluating their performance was a perfect close to an exhausting but very enjoyable day.'

returned from a two-day excursion to Edinburgh. The 14 senior pupils, who all play a major role in delivering dance classes after school for junior pupils and contributed significantly to the school annual dance show, attended an end of year production, Cross Currents, by Edinburgh Telford College's dance students.

The large scale production, set in Edinburgh's Festival Theatre, provided the Oban High pupils with some new ideas for their own choreography.

The pupils travelled to the National Centre for Dance, Dancebase, the following day, where resident teacher Alan Irvine introduced the pupils and teachers to street and break dance and offered some fantastic choreographic tips for the pupils to use with their junior groups.

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**Home competitors shine in shearing championships**

SHEEP shearers from across the world gathered in Lochearnhead earlier this month for the 18th annual Sheep Shearing Championships, but it was the home competitors who demonstrated their mettle.

Hamish Mitchell, of Lochearnhead, didn't have to go far to take part, but he demonstrated that he could grace any competition by winning the Open Shearing Competition by two clear seconds.

Tyndrum's Sandy McKellar gave the home shearers more heart after winning the intermediate shearing section. While Wales won the International Relay, with Scotland finishing in second place, nearly every other competition was won by one of the home stars.

Although the entry was slightly down on previous years, due in part to the good weather, the titles were still keenly contested, with many of

the competitors having never shorn any Blackface sheep before.

Highlights included the Scotland versus New Zealand Test, which saw four shearers, who are no strangers to competing for their respective countries, shear their 15 sheep in just under 10 minutes.

Gavin Mutch and Hamish Mitchell for Scotland showed they know their way round the blackie hogs, with newcomer to Lochearnhead, Rowland Smith, and Dion King from New Zealand taking reserve place.

**Awards**  
Another highlight of the day was George Bayne and Colin MacGregor being presented with their Master Shearers awards in recognition for all they have done for shearing over the past 30 years, throughout the UK and the world.

The awards were presented to the pair by British Isles Shearing Circuit chairman Brendan Kelly.



James MacDonald, from North Connel, sheared his way into the semi-final during the Sheep Shearing Championships in Lochearnhead.

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**MART PRICES**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., (July, 5th) sold 55 prime cattle and 130 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last week. Prime bullocks averaged 197.6p (+10.0p) and sold to 212p per kilo for a 595kilo Limousin cross from Ankenville, Nigg, and £1,356.60 for a 665kilo Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield. Prime heifers averaged 198.5p (+12.8p) and sold to 209p per kilo

for a 505kilo Limousin cross from Udale, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall, and £1,395.90 for a 705kilo Charolais cross from Oldtown of Aigas, Beauly. New season lambs averaged 205.7p (+4.3p) and sold to 212.3p per kilo for 40.5kilo Texel crosses from Meikle Ussie, Dingwall, and £91.00 twice for 47kilo Suffolk crosses from Lochdhu, Nairn, and 47kilo Suffolk crosses from Wester Lochs,

Wick, both to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall. AT STIRLING, United Auctions sold 2,328 prime sheep, including 1,814 lambs averaging 200.4p (-8.1p), 43 hogs and 471 ewes and rams. Beltex lambs from Hardiston and Texels from Faulds sold to £103, while Suffolks from Gartvaigh sold to £102.50. Dalfask's Texel Ewes and rams sold to £156, with Easter Middleton's

Suffolks fetching £148.50. Bluefaced Leicester's from Lilyburn sold to £142.50. Wright Park's Cheviots to £133.50. Dallowie's Mules went for £98.50. Lilyburn's Crosses fetched £96.50. Drumchork's Blackfaces £91.50. Suffolk rams from Easter Middleton reached £98.50. Camoquholm's Bluefaced Leicesters £96.50m and Wright Park's Bluefaced Leicesters £95.50.

**Crofting in the 21st Century**



**ROSIE Curtis** was raised helping out on her father's croft in a remote Lochaber community in west Ardnamurchan. When he passed away in 1998, Rosie found herself in charge of a croft in Kilchoan, which she has been running ever since. She keeps 60 blackface sheep and five Highlands cows, as well as being chair of the local community council and mother to three young children.

Rosie told The Oban Times she loves what she does, despite the challenges it poses. She said: 'It's more of a hobby than anything; you're not going to make a living from it. You break even if you're lucky because of the price of things like food and transportation. 'In winter I have to get up before work and feed the cows and the sheep. In summer, there's clipping, there's the lambs to sort out. 'There's always something you have to be doing.'

from crofts, and thinks it is important to ensure its future. 'I was brought up with it and I want my kids to have the opportunity to do it as well,' she said. 'It's up to them if they want to do it or not, but I at least want them to have the chance to choose. 'There are quite a lot of young families who have put their names down to run crofts, which is great. If the older crofters don't pass on their skills to the younger people, those skills will just die off.' Rosie's brother Hughie MacLachlan is also a local crofter, and he has hit upon a novel way to clear bracken. 'Rosie explained: 'He started up a pig club with 11 other crofters. He puts the pigs on his land inside an electric fence and they clear the bracken. You have to leave them in long enough to dig up the roots, but you can see a big difference. The pigs are sent to the abattoir and the club members get sent the organic meat.'"

Hughie with his bracken clearing pigs.

**UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF CROFTING**

Crofting has been a way of life, and the backbone of Highland agriculture, for centuries and despite the challenges facing farming in the 21st Century, crofting is in many ways bucking the trend. There are approximately 17,700 crofts throughout the "crofting counties" of the Highlands & Islands and Argyll, covering some 770,000 hectares. Whilst many crofts remain unused with absentee crofters, there are efforts to create some brand new crofts in some areas.

Crofting has however always been more than a system of agriculture, and current opportunities for diversification have increased the possibilities for crofters. The current subsidy of 'Feed-in-Tariffs' for small wind turbine and hydro electricity schemes has given crofters, often together with their estate landlords, a real opportunity to supplement their farming income with a 20-year government-guaranteed revenue. However, time is short for crofters to capitalise on this, with the government due to review the subsidy scheme in early 2013.

Other diversification includes the provision of much needed rural affordable housing and the provision of tourism facilities and services has always been a mainstay of the rural economy

MacPhee and Partners are at the forefront of crofting law, with two lawyers being Law Society accredited specialists in the field. Senior Partner Duncan MacPhee has been advising crofters and crofting estates for 30 years and Jeremy Benfield, himself a Lochaber crofter, has particular expertise in the workings of the Crofters Commission and the Scottish Land Court. They work closely with MacPhees' Renewable Energy team of Jonathan Bell and Rosanne Ogden, and also with other recognized experts in the field, such as the SCF and the Scottish Agricultural College, as well as the Scottish Government's local farming officers.

Whatever the potential opportunity, an early discussion will help to unlock this exciting but often complex area of Highland life. **Duncan MacPhee**

**MacPhee & Partners** Crofting Legislation Croft Sales & Purchases Land Court Matters

**To discuss your crofting and rural property queries please contact Duncan, Jeremy or Rosanne.**

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Airds House, An Aird, Fort William Tel: 01397 701000  
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**Jamie McGrigor**  
Highlands & Islands MSP  
Tel: 01546 606 586  
Email: jamie.mcgrigor.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Jamie is Convenor of the Cross-Party Group on Crofting in the Scottish Parliament and is always happy to be contacted by existing or potential new crofters if they need assistance or advice.

**Mull hotel can be yours for £495,000**

MULL'S well known Pennyghael Hotel has gone on the market at the Oban office of Bell Ingram, with a guide price of £495,000.

Situated on the shores of Loch Scridain and adjacent to the main Craignure to Fionnphort road - which connects the main ferry terminal to the world famous island of Iona - the property is bound to draw plenty of interest.

The property includes six letting bedrooms, a residents lounge, dining room with capacity for 20 covers together with three self-contained holiday letting cottages.

In addition, the hotel has comfortable owners accommodation and good sized service areas.

**Cottage owners show loyalty**

A GROUP of Oban-based cottage owners were treated to an awards presentation at The Royal Highland Show in recognition of their loyalty to a holiday lettings company.

The Hoseasons Group invited its members, many of which have been with the company for more than 20 years, to receive a certificate to display in their property.

**Nickel and Dime take up residence**

OBAN'S town centre welcomed a new business last week after homeworks retailer Nickel and Dime opened in the premises recently vacated by House and Home.

The store is the company's first in Scotland's west coast, having originated in Arbroath on the east coast, with stores throughout Angus and Dundee.

**Spinnaker cooks up new menu**

THE SPINNAKER Café in Oban has introduced a new menu and opened a bar after Iain MacCorquodale took over the full lease of the restaurant.

Iain has been working in the popular town centre eatery for the past 12 months. He has more than 12 years' catering experience in the town.

**Apprentices honoured**

THREE Argyll apprentices have been honoured for their work at the National Construction College (NCC) Scotland annual apprentice awards.

Connor Sanders, 16, Callum MacPhail, 18, both Campbelltown, and Grant Ferguson, 21, of Lochgoilhead, each studied plant mechanics, in years one, two and three respectively and were so impressive they were named runners up.

Connor is doing his apprenticeship with Donald McLean Contractors, Callum with MacFaydens Contractors Ltd and Grant with Drimsnyne Construction Ltd.



Jan Fraser with one of the last pieces of the Argyll Collection to be framed. 16\_128framer1

**Jan was in the frame for art work**

A FRAMER from Easdale has proved that no job is too big for her island business to tackle.

Jan Fraser won the tender to reframe some of the most beautiful works of art held by Argyll and Bute Council just a few weeks after setting up the business.

Working from a small studio

in The Square on the island, it may have been a difficult getting the valuable art to the island, but transporting the Argyll Collection on the small passenger only ferry was not a problem because, as Jan said: 'Everyone helped to make the job run smoothly.'

There was also the question of getting the wood and glass

framing materials to her workshop.

But all the hurdles were overcome thanks to the good nature of those on the island who wanted to support a local business. The Argyll Collection is now reframed and is making its way around the county in public buildings and libraries.



**Taking it up a level**

A Dunbeg apprentice has reached the next level of her training. Nicola Mardeu who works at Bredan Aggregates' Dunbeg depot was recently awarded her Level 3 modern apprenticeship in business and administration. She was presented with her certificate by her trainer Vicki Miller of Argyll Training. Nicola's qualification was made possible by funding from Skills Development Scotland.

**Small businesses hit by late payers**

NEARLY two thirds of Scottish businesses have been paid late in the last year, with a similar proportion reporting the problem is on the increase.

The Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland (FSB) says that while 64.8 per cent of its Scottish members were having to wait longer to be paid for work, 48 per cent are currently waiting for more than £5,000 in overdue payments for invoiced

work. A further 20.8 per cent have charged interest or a levied fine for late payment for supplied goods or services supplied in the last year.

The west of Scotland branch chairman, Rory MacKail, believes the phenomenon is particularly damaging for small business and has called for big business to pay quicker to keep their smaller counterparts afloat. He said: 'Many small businesses

don't have the same cash reserves as their larger counterparts. So you can understand why FSB research shows that 44 per cent of members that are paid late are then forced to pay their own suppliers late.

'While there's still work to be done to ensure that subcontractors on public projects get paid on time, we're asking big Scottish businesses to play their part in driving the recovery.'

**Estate agents' plea to lenders**

**Better offers needed**

THERE are early indications that the local economy could be on the road to recovery after the property market experienced an upsurge in interest.

Estate agents in Oban have reported a significant increase in activity for June, with one agent reporting nearly £2million of business - the majority of which was secured in the space of just two days.

Early indications suggest July could be just as busy, prompting hopes of a sustained period of growth.

But estate agencies are calling for banks to loosen their purse strings and help further stimulate the market.

Oban's most experienced estate agent, Neil Fraser, at Dawsons, said he's 'cautiously optimistic'.

'We are seeing a bit more activity,' he said. 'I'm a bit more optimistic than I was a couple of months ago.'

'It's a long way from being fixed though and we need the banks to co-operate; after all it was the banks that got us into this mess.'

'We need the banks to offer sensible mortgage terms, which at the moment they're not doing. They are too risk averse and it's hindering everything.'

The sentiment was echoed by Steven Hornby, property manager at Bell Ingram.

He said: 'We have seen a similar trend and had a very good June. There seems to be a bit of

confidence in the market again. I don't think the banks have had a great deal to do with it though.'

'While the phone hasn't been ringing off the hook, it is ringing with purpose. However, I cannot remember the last time we secured a house for a first-time buyer.'

'I think the banks need to relax their lending criteria.'

MacPhee and Partners estate agency had a vibrant June, with £1,992,375 of property sold in the month.

Estate agent Iona Bethune said: 'In total, 11 offers came in over two days, with one closing date set as well.'

'What we've found is the properties that sold had just come on to the market that week.'

**Valued**  
Fellow estate agent, Jo-Anne MacDougall, said: 'Part of it may be that the properties just coming on to the market are more realistically valued.'

'On average, they are selling at about 10 to 15 per cent less than before the recession; part of that is due to the new home reports.'

'There are not so many first time buyers and if you look at the fixed rates available for them, it's crippling.'

'The arrangement fees for these mortgages are higher too.'

'While we're seeing some bigger developers offer incentive schemes, such as delayed deposits, the banks need to do more.'

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**Fort chamber sizing up BID application**

FORT William Chamber of Commerce members have been praised for being prepared to get involved in tackling the issues impacting on the Lochaber economy.

Speaking at the group's June meeting at the Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William, chairman Robert Hawkes said members were 'very active across a number of forums' and highlighted the role of Ferguson Transport boss Alasdair Ferguson in the road lobby group the A82 Partnership.

The partnership recently met new Transport Minister Keith Brown in Edinburgh and was pleased to note that £500k has been earmarked for the Invermanan to Tarbet stretch of the A82, Hot Scot boss Mr Hawkes said.

Elsewhere, chamber members Stewart Leitch and Andy Keene had been busy working on tourism-specific matters, while Tim Sims continued to drive forward the High Street group.

Mr Hawkes referred to the recent meetings with Lochaber promotions agency the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK), facilitated free of charge by Roger Gibbins, former chief executive officer of NHS Highland.

Although no formal strategy is in place as yet, OCUK board members and the Chamber believe that there are benefits to both organisations from working

more closely together. One of the first initiatives to involve OCUK and chamber members is that of investigating the potential for an application to be made for a Business Improvement District (BID).

The lunchtime meeting also included presentations from Gillian Sloan of Gillian Sloan Framing and Corpach Boatbuilding Company boss Don Hind.

A guild commended framer with the Fine Art Trade Guild and an experienced pet photographer, Gillian lives and works from her home on Lochielside, where she also runs Penguin Corner.

Don trained in the Merchant Navy and after spending a number of years in the south, started his Corpach-based business in 1992, where he now employs 19 staff.

Corpach Boatbuilding tends to focus on commercial craft owned by operators such as CalMac, Fergusons and The Underwater Centre. A look back through the order book would show the wide range of vessels which Corpach Boatbuilding has been involved in building or repairing, including the smallest ferry in the world which was commissioned by Sheikh Makhtoum of Dubai.

The next meeting of the chamber is to be hosted by Keith Chandler, Crown Vets, Fort William, and is scheduled for Thursday July 28, 12.30pm to 2pm.

**Argyll Smokery to supply Waitrose supermarket**

ARGYLL Smokery, run by Alan MacDougall and his partner Karen Baxter, has signed a deal with Waitrose to supply its largest store in Scotland.

The couple met a decade ago while working at Loch Fyne Oysters and, after moving up and down the country, decided to return to Scotland at the end of 2010 to establish the Argyll Smokery.

Now they'll see their product sold by one of the country's largest supermarket chains in its new Newton Mearns store.

Alan said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity to build the business and offer our product to a wider audience.'

Signing our first supermarket deal with Waitrose is like a dream come true.

'Our salmon is sustainably sourced from Argyll Sea Foods across the west of Scotland.'

'I look forward to building our relationship with Waitrose in the coming months.'

Oliver O Mara, Waitrose local and regional sourcing manager, said:

'Argyll Smokery is exactly the type of supplier we like to work with. They take pride and show enthusiasm in producing fine quality smoked salmon which mirrors our pride in sourcing produce of fine quality and provenance.'

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**A clear case of start-up success**

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway recently delivered its two-day business start-up workshop in locations across Argyll and Bute, including Oban and Tiree.

Designed to offer practical support to those starting their own business, the workshop helps business owners develop their sales, marketing and financial planning skills.

All attendees were positive about the benefits of taking part. Jon Ireland, of Clearbox Designs, said: 'I would thoroughly recommend anyone looking to start up a business to go on the workshop. The amount of information on hand over the two days is excellent especially if you have never had experience of writing a business plan and managing business finances.'

As well as start-up businesses, Business Gateway also supports existing businesses looking to grow.

'The support that Business Gateway can offer is brilliant and doesn't stop once the workshop ends' added Jon. 'I hope to carry on working with my Business Gateway adviser Nicky Archibald to help grow my business.'

Jon, a graduate from Portsmouth University with a degree in interactive media, set up Oban-based Clearbox Designs last year, specialising in web design, e-commerce, database development, corporate branding and design for print.

He had been a freelance website designer/developer for a number of years and established a diverse customer base prior to the launch of Clearbox Designs based on word-of-mouth and reputation.

To find out more about the support available from Business Gateway contact 01546 605 459. Clearbox Designs can be contacted on 01631 570831 or 07510 548294.

**DAWSONS**  
**LICENSED TO SELL**

DAWSONS Estate Agency has become the only National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) licensed agency in Oban.

As the oldest established dedicated property agency in the West Highlands, Dawsons has established a reputation for exceptional customer care and service, backed by experienced staff who know how important buying, selling or renting a property is to its clients. By gaining full licensed status from the NAEA, it has underlined its commitment to further enhancing its quality of service and professionalism.

The owner of Dawsons, Mandy Carmichael, said: 'We're delighted to have achieved licensed status. 'It means we can offer greater protection for all our customers, regardless of whether they're buying or renting, and demonstrates that we are fully committed to exceptional standards of service.'

The chief executive of NAEA, Peter Bolton King, said: 'I can confirm that Dawsons has been awarded licensed status. This is the National Association's top level of membership and Dawsons is one of the first member firms in Scotland to achieve it. 'We would like all sellers and buyers to ask their prospective agents, do you

have an NAEA licence? If they don't, they should ask themselves whether that's the agent from whom they will get the best service when marketing their property.'

Mandy, who took over Dawsons two years ago, is joined in the company's George Street office by Neil Fraser and Caroline Brady.

Neil, who specialises in residential sales, is Oban's most experienced estate agent having been involved in the housing market in the town for more than 30 years, 14 of which have been with Dawsons. In that time, he has worked through three economic slumps, so knows more than most how to deal with the current financial crisis.

That, combined with his unrivalled knowledge of the local market, means there is nobody better qualified to handle the sale of your home. However, in the current climate, with limited mortgage finance available, not everyone is in a position to buy. This has resulted in more and more interest being shown in the rental market, from both prospective tenants and landlords.

Once again, Dawsons is well equipped to deal with this and Caroline is particularly involved in this aspect of the business.

Although a small, personalised and fully independent estate agency, Dawsons business premises occupy a prime location right in the centre of the town. Its prominent and extensive window display is the place for your property to be seen in, complemented by automatic inclusion in the company's attractive professionally-produced website, and via the national portal

websites, Primelocation.com and FindaProperty.com. Print advertising is just as important, which is why Dawsons ensure they regularly advertise their properties in The Oban Times, which is read across not just the Lorn area, but throughout the UK to readers often keen to move to the area.

Further enhancing Dawsons marketing penetration is the company's association with Mayfair Office, a marketing company based in London which specialises in gaining extra media exposure for highly desirable homes of national and international importance. So, if you need an estate agent that values and delivers a professional and truly independent service, make sure Dawsons is your first port of call.

**Sandy Dawson, who founded the business in 1974, retired from residential estate agency two years ago but has continued to act as a consultant to the company and conducts its commercial property agency.**

**Pictured are the team at Dawsons. They are: Mandy Carmichael, centre, Neil Fraser and Caroline Brady.** 128dawson110

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**ACHA residents face gardening bills**

RESIDENTS of properties currently or once owned by Argyll Community Housing Association are facing new gardening bills after the organisation stopped maintaining common ground. The cost-cutting measure will see the responsibility for maintaining any common areas pass from the association to tenants and residents. The housing association said: 'We will no longer maintain common ground which is the responsibility of either tenants, through the conditions of their lease, or owners through their title deeds. 'We appreciate that initially this may cause some difficulties for tenants and owners in organising alternative cuts, however, we have offered to host meetings with tenants and owners to help facilitate a way forward. 'We have found that a number of groups of local residents have successfully co-ordinated themselves to organise cutting of grass in communal areas.'

**Couple deny poor conditions at home**

AN OBAN couple denied the unsanitary and unsafe condition of their home caused their children unnecessary suffering. In a trial at Oban Sheriff Court, Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said police had been called to a flat after a disturbance. PC Christopher Taylor said he quickly became concerned after finding clothes and beer cans lying around and a smell of urine. In the main bedroom, he said he found a young baby lying in the middle of a double bed and broken glass on the floor nearby. Catriona Banks, an Argyll and Bute social worker, said she found exposed carpet gripper rods with sharp nails, a lack of appropriate bedding on the children's beds and a bin liner full of nappies. But she added: 'I could not comment how long the condition of the flat had been like that.' The trial continues.

**Abattoir back in business after huge fire**

Mull slaughterhouse promises improved quality of services

MULL'S slaughterhouse will re-open in August, less than a year after it was destroyed in a devastating fire. The island's producers have welcomed the news, as it allows them to keep livestock on Mull rather than having to bear the cost of taking it to the mainland. Emma Morgan, for Mull Slaughterhouse, said: 'We plan to open the slaughterhouse for new business in August, after the completion of the reinstatement works and the new extension following our dreadful fire last autumn. 'We are introducing new ways of working as we strive to improve the efficiency of the operation, raise our quality standards and enhance the level of animal welfare. 'While we are delighted to be re-opening, we are sorry for the disruption that the fire has caused and the loss of contact with so many of our customers in the interim.'

**REPORT**  
by LOUISE LEE  
lee@obantimes.co.uk

The company says it will be using an enhanced scheduling system to streamline the recording of key information. This will keep a live record of slaughter timetabling for each animal and associated hanging, cutting and processing for each customer. 'As part of this operation we may well consider a Tuesday evening slaughter session to suit market days in Oban, enabling mainland customers to bring animals over without need for overnight lairage,' Ms Morgan continued. 'We have improved the design of the animal reception and race area to ensure that the animal is shepherded through to the killing pens as soon as possible.' Plans also include butchery training courses to enable staff to take orders for more specialised

cuts and sausages and treating skins on site before sending them off for tanning. 'We look forward to many productive years working together for farmers and producers on Mull, Argyll, Ardnamurchan, Morvern and further afield,' added Emma. 'In some ways we are starting afresh with new staff as the operation gets under way. We have a clear plan in place and aim to deliver a greatly improved service in the forthcoming weeks that will become our standard as the years proceed.' Ronnie Campbell, a crofter from Mull, said: 'It makes quite a difference to have the slaughterhouse here. Some farmers have had to send animals as far away as Granton-on-Spey and Shotts and it just does not make as much sense. The slaughterhouse re-opening means we can get our sheep killed here. We can then sell our local meat rather than it travelling all over the country.'

**Vermin shot to ensure airport safety**

RABBITS are shot on a regular basis at Connel Airport. Argyll and Bute Council officials say the practice is no different to that at any other airstrip even though neighbours in North Connel are alarmed at the practice. Residents have raised

complaints with police and the Health and Safety Executive, but it seems there is nothing that can be done to stop the practice. A council spokeswoman said: 'Vermin, including rabbits, are shot a couple of times a year at the airport. This happens at

night and the police are informed beforehand. Signs are put up saying 'shooting in progress'. 'It is necessary to shoot the vermin because burrowing animals could undermine runways at the airport or could nibble through cables.'



Firefighters from the Isle of Luing celebrate Michael Fothergill's 22-year service.

**Long service medal for isle firefighter**

VOLUNTEER firefighter Michael Fothergill thought Wednesday June 29 was just another training night at Luing Fire Station, but his colleagues, family and friends had a better idea. They had planned a surprise presentation of his long service medal from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. The medal is awarded to personnel who have completed 20 years of service. Michael joined Luing firefighters in 1989 and although he is only 42, he is the longest serving member of the team.

'When I started, we wore yellow oilskins for protection and carried pumps and hoses to fires in the back of our cars. 'We now have a purpose-built fire station with an appliance, and 10 volunteer crew kitted out in the latest gear, with breathing apparatus, pagers and all safety equipment. We have come a long way.' Michael is deputy leader of the crew on the Isle of Luing and is well placed to respond to any 999 call as he works on the island as a general builder. The close knit team provide not

only fire and rescue services, but are trained in trauma - carrying a defibrillator and oxygen on the appliance - and are essential in a helicopter evacuation situation, where they are responsible for deploying the landing lights on Toberonochy pier. Colleagues, friends and family raised a glass to toast Michael's long service, and enjoyed the tasty buffet his wife Caroline and mother Julie had prepared. There was a large cake to celebrate the occasion; luckily there was a hose at hand to help put out the candles.

**Plea for Bridge of Orchy water talks**

A CALL has been made for talks between Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Water and Bridge of Orchy residents as the problem of the village's water supply came to a head. The village's water filtration system was badly damaged last winter and a legal wrangle over who is responsible for it ensued. It resulted in Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee voting by a majority of one to patch up damaged pipes and restore the treatment system this week, in order to sell the last remaining council property in Bridge of

Orchy - the mothballed primary school. But councillors and residents claim that is not going far enough and have urged the council to upgrade the whole system to a standard that Scottish Water can adopt. Bridge of Orchy Hotel manager Duncan Walker said: 'The council has said it would patch up the pipes and let us know when the water was safe to drink. Well, who is to maintain it after they hand it over?' 'The council has gone for the cheap option and thinks that is a gesture. The council has always

maintained the water system, even though the school closed 10 years ago and it seems like they have only stopped doing that because they don't want to spend the money.' Oban North and Lorn Councillor Donald MacDonald said: 'I would like to see the council negotiate with Scottish Water to see what needs to be done for them to take it on. 'But there is a combined responsibility and some of the commercial operators need to be involved in discussions round the table to resolve this.'

**Police launch summer crackdown**

POLICE have launched a summer-long campaign to tackle drugs, anti-social behaviour and bad driving. Operation Vantage hopes to cut the number of serious accidents on Argyll and Bute's roads after figures showed they were among the most dangerous in Scotland. A police spokesman said: 'The first phase, targeting serious and organised crime, commenced in June and involved 30 police officers, including road traffic officers, community policing teams, response police and proactive drugs teams. 'Using Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology, officers stopped and searched more than 100 vehicles during a five-hour period on the A82, near Arrochar, looking for drugs, bogus workers, and those suspected of being involved in other criminal activity. 'As a result of the night of action, three individuals will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for drugs and road traffic offences, with one individual being arrested for allegedly driving whilst unfit through the use of drugs. 'Intelligence on individuals thought to be involved in the trafficking of heroin was also gathered. 'Police will be deploying extra patrols including the use of unmarked cars and our colleagues within the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership will also be in the area. You will be caught! 'Anti-social behaviour is also a high priority. 'Our high profile patrols will be focusing on providing increased police presence at the key beauty spots during weekends and bank holidays.'

**Theft from vehicle**

POLICE are investigating after a theft from a motor vehicle in Duncraggan Road, Oban, on Sunday July 10 at about 1pm.

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## Isle music festival heading for a sell-out

TREE Music Festival is close to being a sell-out for the second year in succession, with fewer than 100 tickets still available as *The Oban Times* went to press.

The news comes after the festival announced Red Hot Chili Pipers frontman, Stuart Cassells, will hold a live piping workshop during this year's event.

His arrival comes in support of the new Tree Piping Society, which aims to increase the number of pipers on the island and improve the skills of existing musicians.

A spokesperson for the festival said: "Despite an increase in capacity, it looks as if TMF2011 will be headed for its second successive sell out."

"If you've not managed to book your tickets yet and want to go, then do it now."

At the time of going to press, Ticketsoup.com had 61 left, Tree Business Centre 12 and Coll Stores 16.

This year's event, on July 23-24, will be bigger than ever. Headliners Wolfstone will be followed by such acts as the Macdonald Brothers, Pearl and the Puppets, Gaelic sensation Manran, local favourites Skerryvore - fresh from their appearance at T in the Park - and Americana star, Jill Jackson.

For more information, log on to [treamusicfestival.co.uk](http://treamusicfestival.co.uk). To register for the piping workshop with Stuart Cassells, email [info@treamusicfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@treamusicfestival.co.uk).

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## Mindless vandals destroy bench

A vandalised bench in Station Square was removed by council officers after volunteer gardener Andy MacDowell pointed it out to them. Andy said: "It is terrible that people are vandalising the flowers in the squares and breaking the seats for no reason. I want it to stop. We have a small number of people who volunteer to tidy up Station Square and if it is damaged it is us that have to put it back together."

16\_128bench1

# Leader's fury over make-up of schools group

## Rural education commission includes closure opponents

ARGYLL will be under-represented on the Commission on Rural Education set up by MSP Michael Russell, according to the council's leader.

In a hard-hitting statement, Councillor Dick Walsh says members on the commission have already made up their mind with a 'fundamental opposition' to closing rural primary schools. Councillor Walsh said: "We are extremely disappointed at both the process adopted by COSLA in nominating local government representatives to the Commission on Rural Education and the outcome that means we will not be at the table."

"While we have confidence in those nominated to the commission, it is hard to understand why the councils with the most significant recent experience of working with the government's defective legislation are not able to directly contribute their knowledge."

Argyll and Bute was at the centre of an ongoing battle on closures after it proposed to close 26 rural primaries last October, followed by revised plans to axe 12 schools this February.

When the formation of the Commission on Rural Education was announced, Argyll and Bute councillors agreed to stop its school closure programme after Mr Russell called for a

### REPORT

by LOUISE LEE  
[llee@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:llee@obantimes.co.uk)

moratorium. While there is no place on the commission for a representative from Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Rural Schools Network and the Argyll Rural Schools Network - both of which opposed the council's closure plans - will be on the group.

Councillor Walsh added: "It is of further concern to note the Scottish government's nominations include organisations who have publicly confirmed their fundamental opposition to school closures under any circumstances, which does not suggest approaching the critical issues around rural education with an open mind."

**"Nominations include organisations fundamentally opposed to closures under any circumstance."**

Dick Walsh

The commission is tasked with examining the link between rural education and rural communities. It will make recommendations on the delivery of all aspects of education in rural areas.

Education secretary Mr Russell said: "The group will report back next spring with a number of recommendations on the way forward for the delivery of education in rural areas."

Members of the commission are Stephen Hagan, leader of Orkney Council; Anne Robertson, leader of Aberdeenshire Council; Terry Loughran, education convener of Inverclyde Council; Peter Mackenzie, Education Convener of East Lothian Council;

Malcolm Burr, chief executive of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; Glenn Rodger, director of education at Scottish Borders Council; Peter Ferguson, head at Auchterhouse Primary School; Sandy Longmuir, Scottish Rural Schools Network; Anne Baird, Argyll Rural Schools Network; Professor Cara Aitchison, head of Moray House School of Education; Professor Bill Slee, James Hutton Institute; Bob Cree-Hay, National Parents Forum; plus two members to be nominated - one from the third sector and one from a rural background. Sheriff David Sutherland, from Tain, will chair the group.

## Inner Wheel's chosen charity

THE NEWLY-elected president of the Inner Wheel Club of Oban has chosen the Ronald McDonald House at Yorkhill Children's Hospital as the group's charity for the year.

Shona Neil made the announcement at the group's recent annual meeting at the Regent Hotel, where Past President Rosemary MacIntyre gave the Chain of Office to President Ms Neil.

Ursula Parry continues as secretary, and Sandra Owens was elected treasurer.

Ms Neil urged the members to promote friendship and service within the club and the community.

## Drunk fined £350 after kicking cars

A FORT William man has been fined £350 after kicking cars in a Tobermory car park when drunk.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week Dean Conn, of Stobhan, Campbell Road, became frustrated and angry after falling out with a friend on October 10 last year.

Defending, Laura Russell said the 21-year-old had kicked his own car as well as his friend's and regretted the whole incident.

## Garden centre is top of the poppies

OBAN garden centre, Poppies, has been named one of Britain's best garden centres after winning Silver at the Garden Trade News Greatest Awards 2011.

## Man allegedly found with drugs

AN OBAN man has been charged with the possession of diazepam after being allegedly found in possession of the drugs last Tuesday.

The 27-year-old suspect has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

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Further information and an application form (unfortunately we're unable to consider CVs) are available on the careers section of our website - [www.hial.co.uk/careers](http://www.hial.co.uk/careers) - or by contacting our HR team on 01667 464314. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 29 July 2011.

South Kintyre Development Trust & Campbeltown Community Council



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- working in the third sector, and making funding applications -
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Closing date for applications: 1st August 2011

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The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

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For an application form and job description, please contact: HR Department, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.

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Email: [cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com)  
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Various hours possibly up to 18hrs/week.  
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Both posts are nightshift, working 11pm to 7am. One post is 32hrs/week (4 nights) and the other is 28hrs/week (3 nights).

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## Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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## Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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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
11/02354/PIP	Site 60M South East of Coimh Lionadh Ormsaigbeg Kilchoan Acharacle	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00103/OUTLO)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/02355/PIP	Land 90M South East of Coimh Lionadh Ormsaigbeg Kilchoan Acharacle	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00104/OUTLO)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/02358/PIP	Land 200m North East of Ardloch House Gairloch Spean Bridge	Erection of house & detached garage - Plot 1 (Renewal of 08/00313/OUTLO & 09/00234/REMLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02362/FUL	White Corries Ski Centre Kingshouse Glencoe Ballachulish PH49 4HZ	Installation of ten static sleeping cabins, hardstanding pitches for touring campervans/caravans	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02411/FUL	Croft 3, 40m North of 4 Bunacaimb Arisaig	Demolition of old croft building and erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/02415/FUL	Waste Water Treatment Works Corpach Fort William	Erection of kiosk	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02435/FUL	Tigh Na Hoige Kentallen Appin PA38 4BY	Proposed garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02441/PIP	Land 50M East Of Beinn Bhudhe Achnasich Kilchoan Acharacle	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00194/OUTLO)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/02464/FUL	9 Maccoll Terrace Ballachulish PH49 4JH	Proposed alterations and extension to dwelling 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

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 27 OF THE TRUSTEES ACT 1925**

**Employer Name: Ennstone PLC (subsequently Brendon Aggregates)**

**Pension Scheme Name: Ennstone Group Pension Scheme**

The Ennstone Group Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") was established on 1 November 1993.

The Scheme commenced wind-up on 24 May 2011.

If you were an employee of the above Employer (or any of its subsidiaries or alternative iterations), and a member of the Scheme, and think you are entitled to benefits under the Scheme but have not been notified of your benefits or received other communications from the Trustees, it is of vital importance that you make contact with them to establish whether or not you have an entitlement.

Claims should be sent in writing to the under-mentioned contact on or before (date two months after date notice issued), after which the Trustees will proceed with the distribution of the Scheme assets having regard only to claims and interests of which they have notice. Upon writing, you should include details of your current address and any benefits that you think you are entitled to. It would be appropriate to include a copy of any documentation that can support your claim.

Notification is not required from persons who are currently in receipt of a pension from the Scheme, or who have already received correspondence from the Trustees.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Ennstone Group Pension Scheme.

Address for Trustee communication: The Trustees of the Ennstone Group Pension Scheme, c/o KPMG LLP, Arlington Business Park, Theale, Reading RG7 4SD

Date of notice: 14 July 2011

**DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011  
PRE-AUDIT INSPECTION**

Notice is hereby given, under Regulation 5(1) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985, that the accounts to be audited, all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating thereto and copies of the financial statements of DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD for the year ended 31 March 2011, duly made up, balanced and signed, will be deposited in the offices of the TREASURER, DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL AND BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD, COUNCIL OFFICES, GARSHAKE ROAD, DUMBARTON. The accounts will be open to INSPECTION on Mondays to Fridays, 29 July 2011 to 19 August 2011 from 9.15 a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. and any person may take copies or extracts from the same without fee.

Any interested person may make objections to such Accounts or part thereof and shall transmit these objections and the grounds thereof in writing to the Auditors:

Grant Macrae, Director, KPMG LLP, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2EG  
And a copy thereof to:

- (i) The Controller of Audit, Accounts Commission, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2QU
- (ii) Any officer concerned, and
- (iii) To me, the undersigned, not later than 19 August 2011.

Where a person objects to the Accounts the Auditor shall, if so requested by that person, afford to that person an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Auditor with respect to objection.

**J. White, FCMA Chartered FCIPD  
Treasurer  
Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute  
Valuation Joint Board  
Garshake Road,  
DUMBARTON, G82 3PU**

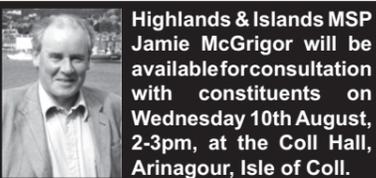
**NOTICE FOR TENDER  
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MARINE INSTITUTE**



SAMS seeks an experienced caterer with their own off-site cooking and preparation facilities to provide hot and cold food and beverages to its staff students and visitors at its purpose built teaching facility situated at the Scottish Marine Institute campus at Dunstaffnage just outside Oban.

Full details of how to apply can be found on the SAMS website www.sams.ac.uk/pqq

Please send your completed Tender to tenders@sams.ac.uk by 2nd August at 15:00pm to register your interest.



**Highlands & Islands MSP  
Jamie McGrigor will be available for consultation with constituents on Wednesday 10th August, 2-3pm, at the Coll Hall, Arinagour, Isle of Coll.**

No appointment is necessary but for any further information, please call Jamie's office on 0131 348 5616.

**Application for Apportionment  
North Ballachulish  
Common Grazings**

Jean Robertson, Croft No Seven intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 1.29 hectares for the purpose of Stock Management.

Linda McLachlan Grazings Clerk/Constable, Garadh Mhor, North Ballachulish has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, before July 28, 2011. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NAN  
CROITEARAN  
DECROFTING DIRECTION  
ISSUED**

Angus MacDonald Drimduh, Arisaig & Moidart Croft house site - 0.116 ha Case no: 4.85.32541

- (1) Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of acquisition.
- (2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Within 42 days of the date of this newspaper any person with an interest in the application may appeal the decision to the Scottish Land Court.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NAN  
CROITEARAN**

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofters Commission into the application by A Carmichael, D Carmichael, E D Carmichael and I G Carmichael to decroft the whole croft at 55 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart advised as extending to 1.65 ha.

The Hearing will take place in the Kilchoan Community Centre, Pier Road, Kilchoan on Thursday, 28 July 2011 at 5pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Inverness IV3 8NW by 21 July 2011 quoting the reference number 4.87.26934.

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 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008  
REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

ref	proposal	site address	location of plans
11/00673/PPP	Site for the erection of 1 dwellinghouse.	Garden Ground of Ashdon North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RD	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/00972/PP	Erection of dwelling house	Land North East of Mountain View Isle of Lismore Argyll	Sub Post Office Lismore
11/00988/PP	Demolition of existing boathouse, erection of replacement boathouse and repairs to existing small jetty	Mucklairn House Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JA	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01058/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land Adjacent to Old School House Appin Argyll and Bute PA36 4DB	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01085/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West of Beadoun Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
11/01135/PP	Erection of extension and conservatory and alterations to dwellinghouse	Grasspoint Cottage Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
11/01204/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 South of Archoille Bonawe Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01212/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 South of Archoille Bonawe Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED),  
RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)  
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

ref	proposal	site address	location of plans
11/01049/PP	Erection of rear extension to dwellinghouse	Corrachan House Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QJ	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/01067/PP	Installation of oil tank and boiler	1 Cullipool Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UB	Sub Post Office Cullipool
11/01068/LIB	Installation of oil tank and boiler	1 Cullipool Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UB	Sub Post Office Cullipool
11/01120/LIB	Replacement of external timber curtain wall screen and installation of replacement timber windows and powder coat aluminium flashing surrounds	The Old Bond House Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
11/01140/LIB	Erection of extension and conservatory, external and internal alterations to dwellinghouse	Grasspoint Cottage Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
11/01203/LIB	Erection of extension and alterations to courthouse	Court House Albany Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4AL	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SL, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

ref	proposal	site address	location of plans
11/00912/PP	Erection of 13 metre high flue and support mast from biomass boiler plant at Progressive Care Facility (relative to planning consent ref. 09/00282/DET)	Land North East of Java Houses Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
11/01066/MFF	Relocation of ardmaddy fish farm	Port Na Morachd Seil Sound Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED),  
RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)  
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

ref	proposal	site address	location of plans
11/00802/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Ros Gorm Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SL.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, ISLE OF MULL)  
(WEIGHT AND LENGTH RESTRICTIONS)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 2011**

On Monday 11th July 2011, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 26th August 2011, introduces amendments to existing weight and length restrictions and introduces new restrictions on various roads on the Island of Mull as listed below.

A copy of the Order and plan relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices;

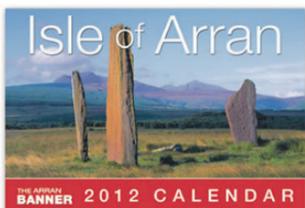
- (i) Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory;
- (ii) Salen Post Office, Salen, Isle of Mull;
- (iii) Bunnassan Post Office, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull;
- (iv) Craignure Post Office, Craignure, Isle of Mull;
- (v) Dervaig Post Office, Dervaig, Isle of Mull;
- (vi) Roads and Amenity Services, Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban
- (vii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

road	road
B8035 Salen-Gruline-Kinloch Road	U6 Croig Road
B8073 Tobermory-Calgary-Gruline Road	U9 Cuirn Road
B882 Back Brae, Tobermory	U12 Kilpatrick Road
C44 Ulva Ferry Road	U14 Grasspoint Road
C45 Dervaig-Torloisk Road	U16 Crogan Road
C46 Aros Bridge-Dervaig Road	U18 Lee-Knockan-Ardtun Road
C47 Glangorm Road	U20 Uisken Road
C48 Carsaig Road	U21 Kintra Road
C49 Ardtun Road	U42 Kilfinichen -Tioran Road
C54 Ardura-Lochbuie Road	U70 Calgarry Holdings Road
	U71 Knockvologan Road
	U75 Scoor Road
	U76 Balmeanach Road

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 15th July 2011, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services,  
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD

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## COMMERCIAL

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**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**FOR SALE**  
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY  
The 'White Building', North Pier, Oban, is being offered for sale. Offers Over £550,000 are invited. Closing date for offers is Friday 5th August 2011

**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
Former Rockfield Primary School, Stevenson Street, Oban. Offers Over £475,000 are invited. Closing date for offers is Friday 12th August 2011

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Thanks to Joan and Colin Felgate and all the wonderful staff at Lochnell Arms Hotel for a fabulous wedding reception and looking after us all so well.

Thanks also to Mel Wallace, George Noble, Kyle and DJ and the coastal connections team.

Theresa and James Baillie-Card

PERSONALS

Paul and Chris would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts and for joining us at our Graduation Party.

A great night was had by all.

PERSONALS

This chick from Achalic is the big 50 this week

Happy Birthday Fiona

PERSONALS

Happy 18th Emma

PERSONALS

All our love Mum, Dad, Cammy Nanna and Papa xx xx

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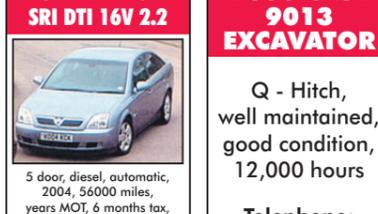
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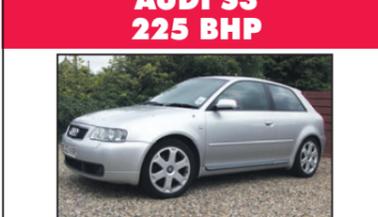
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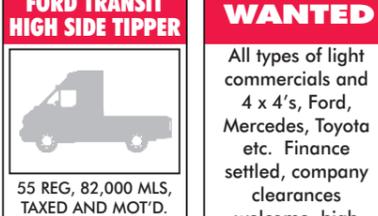


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**BIRTHS**

**COURTS** - Giles and Eilidh (née MacMillan) are delighted to announce the arrival of Cameron Alexander on July 10, 2011 at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin. Third grandchild to Ian and Anne, Braeside, Oban and Lorna and the late Ian, Elgin.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**GREAVES - HEALEY** - Both families are happy to announce the engagement of Jessica, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Greaves, Philipines, to Kieran, youngest son of Denis and Sandra Healey, Benderloch.

**DEATHS**

**CAMERON** - James (Jimmy Sam) of 101 Kilmallie Road, Caol, Peacefully on July 4, 2011 at Belford Hospital, Fort William, husband of the late Margaret Cameron, much loved father, grandpa and great grandpa. Sorely missed.

**COLVILLE** - In loving memory of William Beaton, who sadly lost his battle on July 5, 2011. A much loved husband, brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral service to be held on July 18, 3.20 pm at Barham Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Pilgrims Hospices, 56, London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JA.

**COTTERILL** - Sheila (née Minion) died on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, beloved wife of Grahame, loving mother to Stephen and Paul, daughter-in-law Sharon and a much loved grandmother to Jordon, Riley and George. Private funeral service to take place. Donations, if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**HARDIE** - Suddenly on July 11, 2011, Adam, loving husband of May, "Guisachan", Longistan Road, Oban, devoted father to Lesley and Derek. Sadly missed.

**KELLY** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital on Friday July 8, 2011. James Kelly beloved husband of Pauline, dear father of Evelyn, James, Joyce and the late Kenneth. Much loved grand-dad of Philip, Leanna, Claire, Craig and Colin, father-in-law to Allan, Donald and Zena. Funeral to take place at Muckkairn Parish Church, Taynult on Monday July 18, 2011 at 1pm thereafter to Muckkairn Cemetery. Very Sadly Missed.

**MACLEOD** - Archibald, O.B.E. Archie passed away very suddenly in Cowal Community Hospital on July 4, 2011 in his 84th year, former Head of W.S.A.C. Advisory Services in Argyll and latterly Chairman of the Crofters Commission. Dearly loved husband for 53 years of Sheena F. Ferguson, loving father of Neil (decd. 1989), John (Dunoon), Ewan (Canada) and daughters-in-law Shirley A. and Shirley L. and proud, caring grandpa of Kenneth and Iona. The funeral service took place on Wednesday, July 13.

**MACPHERSON** - **CROSSLAND** - Richard. With great sadness that we announce the passing of our son, brother and fiancé, Richy, on July 8 at Marie Curie Hospice, Stobhill. Funeral will take place at St Muns, Ballachulish on Thursday, July 14 at 2pm and thereafter to Duror Cemetery.

**McLEAN** - Margaret. Peacefully on July 7, 2011 at Lorn and Islands Hospital. Margaret dear friend of Alastair, daughter of Alec and Grace, aunt to Sandra and David. Cremation Service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday July 15, at 12.15. Memorial Service at St.Oran's Parish Church, Connel on Monday July 18, at 7.00p.m. No Flowers. Ordinary Clothes - Not Black.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BOYD** - Douglas, Alistair, David and families extend a sincere thanks to all who gave us their sympathy and friendship following the recent loss of dad. After a long and active life dad required assistance only in the last year and this was unfailingly provided by staff at Lorn Medical Centre, Oban Hospital and the Scottish Ambulance Service, people to whom we are greatly indebted. Thanks go to Rev. Cameron and Rev. Butler for their inspiring services and to Kenneth Moncrieff and the Reel and Strathspey Society for a final Ceilidh at the church. As always D & A Munn attended to all arrangements in a dignified and unobtrusive manner. A final, and special thanks to everyone at Torosay Court for being such lovely people

over their last year. A retiral collection raised over £600 for A.B.C.D., money which will be put to good use.

**CAMERON** - The family of the late James (Jimmy Sam), would like to thank friends and family for their kindness, help and support since and before the sad passing of our father. Many thanks also to the staff who cared for him in the Belford Hospital, the Rev Chris Macrae, Rev Gordon Mair and Rev Sandy Sutherland for their on-going kindness and devotion. Also Mike McFall for his professional services. The collection for the Step Down Ward, Belford Hospital raised £775.

**CHRISTIE** - The family of the late Ronald Drummond would like to thank all relatives, friends, the Belford Hospital, Libby, Eilidh, Craig and all the staff at Moss Park for their kindness and caring. Thanks to Mike McFall for his professionalism, John Fraser for his comforting service and the organist and piper for their lovely music, also to all who sent beautiful floral tributes and gave so generously to Moss Park Residents Fund, to the Railway Club for catering and to all who attended the church and graveside services.

**MACCALLUM** - Barbara, Neil, Mairi and Elizabeth of the late Norman MacCallum would sincerely like to thank all family and friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and visits. Thanks also to the staff at Bunnassan Surgery, Helicopter Crew, Golden Jubilee Hospital, Billy McClymont Funeral Directors, Rev Linda Pollock, Brendan, Marilyn and the staff at the Keel Row. Finally thank you to all who paid their respects at church and graveside. The sum of £512 very generously donated will be shared between Creich Church and the Ross of Mull Coastguard.

**MACKECHNIE** - Iain, Betty and family would like to thank doctors and nursing staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care given to Dochie in his final days. Our grateful thanks to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for arranging the funeral, getting Dochie home to Jura, done with courtesy and efficiency. Thanks to Rev. Angus Morrison for the service and to all who attended at the graveside. A special thanks to Martha for all the help she gave to Dochie, and for being such a good friend.

**McKINVEN** - Ella, Calum, Wilma, Mairi, Iain and families would like to thank very sincerely all family, neighbours and friends for their support and kindness by way of letters, cards, telephone calls and visits following our recent sad loss, Rev Burroughs for his moving and comforting service, David McEwan for his beautiful music, Alastair Blair for his caring and efficient handling of the funeral and to Seaford Hotel for their excellent purvey. A very special thanks to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The retiring collection of £1692 was raised for Macmillan Nurses, Kintyre Locality.

**ROWLANDS** - Morgun and Olwen would like to thank family and friends for all their support and kindness following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to aunt Mary for all her help and support, also special thanks to Dr Alison Murray, the doctors and nursing staff on Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, and all staff on Level 7 Centre, Renal Unit, Western Infirmary. We would also like to thank Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and Hamish and Catriona for funeral arrangements. The retiral collection raised £290.54 in aid of North Argyll Stroke Association.

**ROSS** - Anne and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy, cards and flowers following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev.C.Macrae for his fitting words and service. Thanks also to Mike McFall for funeral arrangements. The sum of £212.42 was raised for Scottish Cot Death Trust.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BUCHANAN** - In loving memory of our wonderful and loving husband and dad Peter, who passed away on July 12, 2005. Always in our thoughts and lovingly remembered.

**GILLIES** - Precious memories of a much loved husband Donnie, father and granddad, who passed away on July 16, 1992 and loved ones gone before. Our thoughts are ever with you. Though you have passed away And those that loved you dearly Are thinking of you today.

**MACBRIDE** - Treasured memories of a dear aunt Mary, who died on July 13, 1995. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of Sandra, died July 14, 2010. Gone but not forgotten. - Allan and family, Tobermory.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of Effie who passed away on July 17, 2007, beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Sadly missed. - Neillie and family.

**MEMILLAN** - Treasured and everlasting memories of my dear husband Neil, who died on July 18, 1996. I picture a beautiful garden And by the gate you stand One day that gate will open And you will take my hand - Your loving wife Zena, Port Ellen, Islay.

**MORREN** - In loving memory of a dear sister in law and aunt Morag Morren, who died July 19, 2005. Always remembered. - Ellen and family and Ron and Bess.

**PROSSER** - In loving memory of George, our dearly loved dad, dad-in-law, granddad and great granddad who died on July 13, 2002. Forever in our thoughts And in our hearts Your memory we treasure Remembered always with our love Betty and Iain

Loved and missed our special granddad "P" Marina, Cammy and Emma **ROBB** - In loving memory of Elsie, who died on July 17, 2010. Loving and kind in all your ways A friend and fair to the end of your days Sincere and true in heart and mind Beautiful memories you left behind. Loved and remembered every day and sorely missed. - By all the family.

**SMITH** - In loving memory of Morag, a dearly loved wife and mother, who died on July 14, 2007. We miss you more than words can say Loved and remembered everyday. - Jimmy, Violet and Theresa.

**SPREADBURY** - Treasured memories of Charles, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Always on our minds Forever in our hearts Moira and family.

**STEWART** - Iain, July 12, 2002. Happy thoughts of times together Hold memories that last forever. - Love Dunriona and family.

**THOMSON** - Precious memories of Irene who died on July 16, 1966 aged 3 years. So dearly loved Now with Dad. - Love Mum and Frankie.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

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Sung Eucharist..... 10.15  
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St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08.00  
Evensong..... 20.00

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Sunday 17 July 2011 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
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(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**WEDDING**



**WEBB - MACMILLAN**  
Married on 4th June at Barcalidne House Hotel. Kevin, son of Gary and Sue Webb, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlans to Grace, daughter of Norrie and Mary MacMillan, Dalcairn, Benderloch.

**GRADUATIONS**



Frances Twort graduated from The Open University at The Royal Concert Hall Glasgow on 28th May 2011 with Diploma in adult nursing Dip HE (Ad Nsg) (Open) Frances is the daughter of the late Ron and Margaret Martin Fort William and was a pupil of Lochaber High School. She now lives in Benderloch with her husband and three sons and works in Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban, as a Staff Nurse.



Caroline Grace recently graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a PGDE in Primary Education. Caroline is the eldest daughter of the late Hugh and Nan Cameron, Salen, Mull. Caroline will be completing her probationary training year in the Helensburgh area where she lives with her husband and family.

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

I HAVE just returned from the Royal Highland and Agricultural Show, which was visited by 182,984 people over four days, at Ingilston.  
The Scottish Rural Churches Group, who runs the churches stand, hosted a visit of church leaders on June 23, with the opportunity to meet and talk to Scottish Government minister Richard Lochhead.  
The churches stand witnesses the involvement of the churches with the issues affecting the lives of those who live and work in our rural communities, show-cases the issues with which we have recently been engaged and provides a place where church members and others can find a place of quiet and of spiritual refreshment.  
The church leaders' visit emphasises the importance of that rural mission and the depth of our engagement with current rural

and agricultural issues.  
The main themes were food security and pilgrimage, with the launch of a report on the contribution of pilgrimage to a future Scotland.  
For the churches the development of pilgrim routes and their associated facilities represents an opportunity to play a part in a major community activity and the option of developing a very different expression of church and faith and an alternative way of meeting a clear national need for spirituality.  
We propose the setting up of a Forum on Pilgrimage and Pilgrim Routes. Most of all the presence of the church at the heart of show signifies the love and care that Jesus had for everyone and we are given the privilege to be alongside others in His name.  
Bill Harvey  
Scottish Churches Rural Group

**Community council maintains objection to A82 proposals**

STRATHFILLAN Community Council members will maintain their objection to the A82 upgrade, saying every aspect of the road's reconstruction 'must be right first time.'  
They say the currently planned for 14 weeks of closure of the road would 'devastate' many businesses in the area and cause problems that could take years to resolve.  
The group has also called on the Scottish Government to fully assess the impact on both the community and local business in Crianlarich should the work go ahead as part of the £500,000 it has set aside to carry out a full study on A82 upgrade work.  
But the community council's chairman, John Riley, says a bypass of Crianlarich - planned as part of the A82 upgrade - could be good for the village if sufficient community gain is paid in compensation.  
He said: 'The study should look closely at what could happen here. There may be some

problems as a result of the proposals it will show up. We are hoping to make various gains in terms of community gain from the bypass. We have one or two things in mind and that's principally why we formed Crianlarich into Action (CtA).  
'The Pulpit Rock upgrade could be marvellous for the area, but only if they don't close the roads.  
'A 14 week closure of the trunk road would devastate many businesses and some individuals who live on the other side.  
'They have to look at ways they can perform the upgrade without closing the roads. Another consideration is the possibility of a new gold mine at Cononish. They absolutely have to get this right.  
'On Monday we voted by 5-2 to maintain our objection to the plans as they stand. We need to be involved and be able to have our say and that's why we're continuing to object.'

**Reformed RBL branch welcomes area leader**

THE NEWLY reformed Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLs) Oban branch welcomed the organisation's area chairman to talk to the new members.  
At only the third meeting of the new group, Andy Bryan, chairman of the Glasgow and Western Counties area, spoke to those in attendance at Soroba House Hotel.  
The inaugural meeting of the group was

held on April 9 and the group currently has around 25 members. It meets every second Monday of the month at the hotel and the committee said it would welcome any new members, who are ex-services or support the aims of the legion.  
To celebrate Armed Forces Day, the legion organised a dance in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.



RBLs area chairman Andy Bryan, third from left, is pictured with Oban branch committee members, from left: Lesley Blair-Simmonds, Archie MacCulloch, Ian Blair-Simmonds, Ross Manson and Marjory Gilmore.

**Rotary Club's special visitors**



The Rotary Club of Oban was joined by District Governor, Roberta Gaitan, of Erskine and District Club from the West of Scotland and Assistant District Governor, Andy Lees, from Mid Argyll, at the first meeting of the new year. The club is looking forward to another active year under this year's president, Ken Oxland and his new Council.

**Toddlers' special leaving service**



It was an emotional time for families and friends when the children from the Happy House Christian Pre School sang songs and received a presentation at their leaving service in the Baptist Church. The talk was given by Rev Carol Leech.

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**Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Junior track and field championship at the games**

**HIGHLAND GAMES**

JUNIOR track and field events are being held at the three Argyll Highland Games affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association.

At Inveraray next Tuesday, Mull next Thursday and Oban on August 25, athletes will compete in age groups from 11-16.

An overall junior championship will be decided after the three dates and trophies for the top boy and girl will be presented at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, where prize money will also be distributed. The events are 90m, 600 metres, high jump, long jump and shot putt.

The events are sponsored by Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership, Mid Argyll Athletic Club and Mull Athletic Club.

As well as junior events, the games at Inveraray, Mull and Oban provide a full programme of senior events (16 years and over) in two categories.

Local events are confined to athletes born, or resident, in Argyll and open events, which will attract some of Scotland's top athletes, will make up a large part of the entertainment on the day.



Peter MacDougall with his lightweight category trophy.

# Bodybuilding brothers win Scottish titles

TWO BODYBUILDING brothers have become the first siblings to win titles at the sport's Scottish championships in the same year.

Peter and Duncan MacDougall, from Oban, recently won the lightweight and novice titles, respectively, at the British Natural Bodybuilding Federation (BNBF) Scottish heat.

As a result, both have been invited to compete in the British Championships, which will either be held in Glasgow, where both brothers now live, or Manchester on September 18.

Peter, aged 29, said it was his aim to finish in the top three at the British Championship this year, having placed fourth in 2009.

In 2010 he took a year out from competing to build his upper body muscles but his commitment clearly rubbed off on younger brother Duncan, who decided he

also wanted to give it a go.

"Duncan did really well for his first year and it was brilliant to compete against him in the overall final," said Peter, who is sponsored by Smart-Tec Nutrition. "We had joked that it might happen, which created a bit of friendly rivalry."

**Racket**

"It was my fifth time on stage but that was the best one. There were about 50 people in the crowd who we knew. There was some racket, especially from my mum, Helen, when we were both on stage for the final."

The brothers are both personal trainers in different gyms in Glasgow but trained together in the weeks leading up to the competition.

"The training part is the part we enjoy; the hard work is restricting your calories. Everything that

**BODYBUILDING**

goes in your mouth is calculated and weighed.

"In the days before a competition you are at your weakest because you have been restricting your carbohydrates and your body fat is in single figures, but your muscle definition is at its best because you have been training really hard. It's at that point people start describing my skin as 'see through'."

Peter's diet regime is so strict, he is even postponing his 30th birthday celebration until after the British Championships.

"My birthday is on September 1, a couple of weeks before the competition and I won't even be able to have a bit of birthday cake," he explained. "Bodybuilding is not about how hard you train, it is how well you eat."



Duncan MacDougall with the novice trophy.

**Residential camp a big success**

**SHINTY**

BUDDING shinty players from across the South of Scotland were given the opportunity of a two-day residential camp held in Oban over the first week of the summer holidays.

The camp also acted as part of the selection process for this year's South of Scotland U14 Select team that will face their North opponents in October this year.

The thirty-six 11-14 year olds who represented the 13 clubs that nominated them to attend the camp were given two days of intense shinty coaching, which included various skill and positional workshops, fitness and conditioning sessions, 6-a-side games and some match analysis with former Scotland international Fraser Inglis.

Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer and event organiser, said: "We developed this initiative in the hope to meet three objectives: Firstly to give players in this age category the chance to progress and develop further as individual players; secondly to help strengthen the area squad; and thirdly to give the players an enjoyable experience and a chance to mix with shinty players of a similar age from across the region."

## Lorenzo takes third place at Europa Cup

SAILING sensation Lorenzo Chiavarini has won third place at the Europa Cup.

Enjoying great success at the sailing championship, held in Warnemünde last week, Lorenzo won third place overall and second place in the under 19 laser radial competition.

Sailing neck and neck with the senior men's world champion, Marcin Rudawski, the Mid Argyll teenager impressed at the highest level of competitive sailing.

Describing the race as 'really good learning experience' Lorenzo, aged just 17, sailed alongside the world champion, far ahead of the remaining competitors.

"It was just me and Marcin Rudawski on the second last day," Lorenzo said. "The fleet was 500 metres behind; it was a really close competition."

"The experience of sailing against sailors like that, it's really good, even to lose to them you

just learn so much more than sailing against the fleet."

Now looking ahead to the men's and youth world championships, which begin in France on Monday, Lorenzo says he definitely hopes to better last year's performance.

"I came 23rd, so I'm hoping to improve on that," he said. "I will try my best and after the first two or three days I will set myself a goal [position]."

Carefully managing his transition between the under 19 radial class and the senior standard, the men's Olympic class, Lorenzo said: "I am really happy with where I am as a 17-year-old. I'm still in the radial class of the Laser but hopefully in the autumn I'll be training with the standard and that's where I want to be eventually."

Ranked number one in Scotland in the Laser and second overall in Britain in the under-19 age group, Lorenzo will this year take a

break from full time education to concentrate on his 2016 Olympic dream.

A pupil at Lomond High School, Lorenzo is currently awaiting the results of his Highers and plans on taking a gap year before, hopefully, attending university in the south of England.

Lorenzo said: "The experience I can hopefully gain this summer

will be huge for me on where I want to get to and next year I'm going overseas to compete. I'll be full-time next year as well and then I'll go to uni the year after. I'll go to either Bath or Plymouth because they are a lot closer to Weymouth - the London 2012 sailing venue."



Lorenzo Chiavarini in action.

**SAILING**

## Argyll drivers do well at Hopetoun House

TWO DRIVERS from the Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group were recently placed at the annual British Horse Driving Trials Association event.

Driver Lorraine Smart, with Elaine Trigg as her RDA Whip, was awarded third prize and driver Joyce Buick, with Katie Armstrong as her RDA Whip, was awarded fifth place. Both drivers competed with the RDA horse, Bramble, in the Dressage and Cones Class.

RDA groups from across the region competed for the first time at this prestigious event in the stunning grounds of Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh. Jane Isaac who runs the local RDA Carriage Driving Group and is the organiser of the Hopetoun Event introduced the Dressage and Cones Class into the main event this year.

A spokeswoman for the Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group

said it was a fabulous day and everyone in the group had worked really hard to learn the dressage and cones test.

It was also a major feat to get the horse and carriage, the competitors and supporters over to Hopetoun.

"Thank you to everyone who made this possible," said the spokeswoman. "The drivers did very well and we are really proud of them."

**Delighted**

The group is delighted to achieve two rosettes in the first year of this event. Next year we will try even harder and be 'going for gold'.

"Also, if we can manage to afford a second horse, more of our drivers will have a chance to compete next year. Over time and with enough support it would be wonderful to develop this as an RDA dressage and cones qualifier for a national event."

The group drives out of Benderloch every Monday and Wednesday. New drivers and helpers are always welcome and

**CARRIAGE DRIVING**

anyone interested should contact Jane Isaac on 0845 2411376.



Carriage drivers from Argyll RDA had success at a national driving event.

**The ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING**  
**OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES**

**Argyllshire Gathering**  
**World Premier Piping Competition**  
**Wednesday 24th August**  
 Various events around Oban from 9am onwards  
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**Oban Highland Games**  
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 Highland Dancing, Heavy Events,  
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 March leaves Station Square 10.30am

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Your **highland GAMES** Diary

- Taynuilt Highland Games
- Lewis Highland Games
- Lochcarron Highland Games
- Morvern Games
- Inveraray Highland Games
- South Uist Highland Games
- Mull Highland Games
- North Uist Highland Gathering
- Southend Highland Games
- Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games
- Skye Highland Games
- Mallaig and Morar Highland Games
- Killin Highland Games
- Brodick Highland Games
- Bute Highland Games
- The Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games
- Argyllshire Gathering
- Cowal Highland Gathering
- Glenurquhart Highland Gathering and Games
- The Braemar Gathering

THE ANCIENT tradition of the Highland Games was once used by clan chieftains to find the fastest runners, the strongest heavyweights and the best entertainers. Whilst these contests have survived the test of time, the purpose of the modern Highland Games has taken on a greater context. Today, these annual events provide a local gathering, bringing many people back to their home town or village, as well as a Highland showcase for tourists. For your guide on where to find them, look no further than The Oban Times guide to this summer's Highland Games. Taking place at Taynuilt

Sports Field on July 16 is the **Taynuilt Highland Games**. On the same day is the **Lewis Highland Games** at Tong, near Stormoray on the Isle of Lewis. Other traditional events on July 16 include the **Lochcarron Highland Games** at Attadale Estate, Strathcarron and the **Morvern Games** at Knock Park, Lochaline. On Tuesday, July 19 the Highland Games circuit comes to the picturesque grounds of Inveraray Castle, as the Royal Burgh hosts its world famous **Inveraray Highland Games** at Winterton Park. Spectators, including the

chieftain, His Grace The Duke of Argyll, can enjoy solo piping, Highland dancing, heavy, track and field events, including the world tossing-the-caber championships. There is also cycling, wrestling and performances by pipe bands at what is one of the country's largest one-day games. On Wednesday, July 20 the island of **South Uist** hosts its games at Askernish Machair, near Lochboisdale. On Thursday, July 21 the Isle of **Mull Highland Games** take centre stage at Erray Park in Tobermory. Again, this takes the form of a traditional event with a strong emphasis on athletics and heavyweight competitions. The action takes place at a spectacular venue above colourful Tobermory village with piping, dancing and side stalls providing a great day out for all the family. Scheduled for July 22, the **North Uist Highland Gathering** takes place at Balelone on the island. At Hotel Park, Southend on

July 23 is the **Southend Highland Games**. Also that day at the Games Park in Lochearnhead there are the **Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games**. The traditional games of Arisaig take place on July 27 at the games field. The wonderfully named The Lump, Portree is the venue for the Isle of **Skye Highland Games** on August 3 and, across the water, on August 7 will be the **Mallaig and Morar Highland Games** at Lovat Memorial Field, Morar. The **Killin Highland Games** are held on August 3 at Breadalbane Park, Killin and Newtonmore's big day is on August 6. Also on August 6 is the **Brodick Highland Games** on the Isle of Arran. On August 20 is the **Bute Highland Games** in Rothesay, and the **The Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games** at the Jacobite Monument Field, Glenfinnan. The Bute games, will be held in the Public Stadium, Rothesay, and promise a day of traditional Highland Games with pipe band championships, drum major competitions, Highland dancing championships, schools athletics, a 10km road race, the Bute heavyweight championship for the Duke of Rothesay Trophy, kindly donated by HRH Prince Charles, wrestling championships and a junior

shinty tournament in what is always an action-packed day. At Mossfield Park on Thursday, August 25, the **Argyllshire Gathering** is a showpiece of the traditions that make a Highland Games such a prestigious event and a heritage tent is erected each year for this reason. Some of the best pipers Highland dancers and heavyweight athletes in the world will be in Oban for the big day, as will some of the country's most promising athletes. The previous day's piping competition, which decides the Argyllshire Gathering gold medal winner, is one of the most sought after piping prizes. The three-day **Cowal Highland Gathering** then takes place from August 26 to 28 at Dunoan Stadium, Dunoan. On August 27 is the **Glenurquhart Highland Gathering and Games** at Blairbeg Park, Drumadrochit. On Saturday, September 3 the east coast gets to show how it does a Highland Games with **The Braemar Gathering** at The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park. HM the Queen is patron of this event, which has a long and noble history. International athletes will be among those taking part in the heavyweight and track events, while teams from HM Forces will compete in the InterServices Unit Tug of War Championship and in the Services Medley Relay Race. The customary Mased Pipe Bands is an event not to be missed. This Gathering is world famous for its friendship and hospitality.

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**Inveraray Highland Games**  
 Winterton Park, Castle Grounds  
**Tuesday 19th July 2011**

**SOLO PIPING**  
 (Local and Open) commences 9.00am  
**HIGHLAND DANCING**  
 (Local and Open) commences 10.00am  
**HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS**  
 (Local and Open)

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**INVERARAY & DISTRICT PIPE BANDS**  
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**BUTE HIGHLAND GAMES**  
**20th August 2011**

Entry Price 6 pounds, children and concessions 4 pounds, children under 5 free.  
 Events, 30 Pipe Bands, 200 Highland Dancers, Wrestling, Heavy Events, 10K Road Race, full programme of Athletic Events.  
 Trade Stalls, Beer Tent and Catering  
 Honorary Chieftain Blythe Duff (Jackie from Taggart)



# Oban out to avenge Celtic Cup reverse

## Final four line up for Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals

OBAN CAMANACHD go into Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final against Kyles Athletic looking to avenge the 2-1 reverse they suffered at the hands of the Tighnabruich outfit in the Celtic Cup final.

Co-manager Diarmid MacMillan has issued a rallying cry to his depleted squad ahead of this weekend's rematch.

The Oban side are without the tenacious Daniel Cameron and James MacMillan through suspension and will have to raid the ranks of Lochside Rovers to provide cover.

Diarmid said: 'This is a big weekend and we are looking forward to it.'

'We have been training really hard this season, so we deserve a bit of luck on the day.'

'We know the team has all the qualities there, it's just up to the lads on the park to prove they have what it takes to win us the tie.'

'To get through this round would mean so much to our club. The Macaulay Cup is a great one to compete in and as a local team it would mean a lot to take the trophy home.'

'We know we will have to be on our game as Kyles are playing well and we seem to be blowing hot or cold, which has to change soon if we are to prove what we are all about.'

For his part, KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich insists his team's recent Celtic Cup triumph over Oban Camanachd has no bearing on this weekend's clash.

After a demoralising defeat in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup to Inveraray - their first loss this season - Kyles got back to winning ways last weekend with a 2-0 win over Lovat and will reach their second cup final of the season if they can beat Oban Camanachd on Saturday.

'Our preparations are just the

same as ever,' said James. 'The boys are confident ahead of this weekend but that has nothing to do with the Celtic Cup win. That was a different entity altogether.'

'People say it is a big game but all our games from now until the end of the season could be described that way.'

'This is the third time we have played Oban Camanachd this season, so both teams will have a good gauge on how the other plays and it should be an interesting match.'

Kyles were happy with their away victory at Lovat, which signalled a return to form.

'I would say normal service has resumed up front; our hitting was much better and our forwards' movement was good.'

Two goals from forward Grant Irvine secured the win over Lovat, which consolidated top spot in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division.

In the north, two shinty giants meet this weekend when Newtonmore take on Kingussie for a place in the Macaulay Cup final.

'More manager Norman MacArthur said Kingussie's excellent form in the cups this season would not have a bearing on the outcome of the Badenoch derby.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a one-off game. It doesn't matter what form they are in, it'll always be a tough game.'

'We're playing well at the moment and we're starting to get our players back.'

'We've got a big squad of players now.'

Newtonmore kept up the pressure on Kyles Athletic in the league with a routine 2-0 league win against Glenorchy at the weekend, which moved them to within a point of the top of the table.

John MacKenzie netted for the third game in a row to give Newtonmore an early lead, but

the reigning league champions couldn't extend their lead against struggling Glenorchy until the 79th minute when Fraser MacKintosh made sure of the win.

MacArthur said he was happy with getting the win.

He said: 'We played well, and I'm just delighted with the two points.'

'I've told the boys I don't mind if we win the rest of our games 1-0. I don't think it'll come down to goal difference anyway.'

KINGUSSIE are looking to book a place in their second cup final of the season when they take on Newtonmore in the Macaulay Cup semi final.

Kings have already picked up the MacTavish Cup and will take on Kilmallie in the semis of the Camanachd Cup next month.

Manager Steven Borthwick told *The Oban Times* games against Newtonmore are always hard to predict.

He said: 'We're fairly confident going into this. It's a derby game so you can never predict which way it's going to go but over the past year and a half or so we've gotten the better of them a few times.'

Kings will be missing some key players for the game, including Ally MacLeod, Louis Munro and Ryan Borthwick.

Although they've had success in the cups this year, Kings league form has been up and down, and they suffered a home defeat at the hands of Glenurquhart last weekend.

Borthwick said: 'We shot ourselves in the foot when we lost the early goal. We kept going but once we scored it was as if we just sat back.'

'We've got a young side and consistency is something we've toiled with.'

'But they are able to raise their games for the cup. They are big game players.'

# League is Fort's last chance to snatch a trophy

FORT WILLIAM take on Lovat at An Aird on Saturday looking to keep alive their Scottish Hydro Premier Division title hopes.

The league is Fort's last chance of silverware this season, and assistant coach Willie MacDonald knows anything less than a win could prove a damaging blow.

A hard fought 3-1 win over Camanachd Cup semi-finalists Inveraray last weekend ensured Fort remain in second spot, a point behind longtime leaders Kyles, who have two games in hand.

MacDonald is expecting no favours from the Kiltarity men, who have proved troublesome opponents so far this season.

'They beat us the Macaulay Cup up there and drew with us in the league, so it will be a difficult game,' he said.

'But we will have John MacDonald back from suspension and Niall MacPhee available, so we will almost have a full squad.'

'We are still in with a chance of the league if we keep winning our games, and it's points in the bag that count.'

LOVAT go into Saturday's clash desperate for points after a lean spell in recent games.

The Kiltarity men have been beset by injuries over past weeks and will also be without Lorne MacKay and Calum Cruden for the Fort game after the pair picked up suspensions in last weekend's 2-0 home defeat to Kyles.

Lovat will also be missing Owen Ferguson, with a groin injury, and long term wounded warriors Drew Howie and James Grievie.

Coach John MacRitchie is frustrated he has been unable to field the same side for two weeks running.

He said: 'Fort William will be very difficult given the team we will have. Team selection will be a big problem and we will have to look at who can make the step up from the second team.'

'We will have to have a strong defence and midfield and then hope for a break against them up front. Those tactics seemed to work for us when we beat them in the MacAulay and if we continue that hopefully we can nick a goal.'

KILMALLIE welcome bottom club Glenorchy in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division on Saturday - but coach Peter Jackson is taking nothing for granted.

Kilmallie had no game last weekend and comprehensively dispatched Lovat 6-2 in the Camanachd Cup the week before and similar form should be enough to account for the Glen.

However, the league's whipping boys have been showing



Fort William forward Gary Innes, pictured tackling Alan MacDonald, scored twice in his side's 3-1 win against Inveraray at An Aird on Saturday. 20\_f28shintypage01

increased resilience of late and Jackson is wary of complacency as Kilmallie look to secure their future in the top flight.

'You have to fight for every point in this league and you have to play every game as if it were a cup final. There are going to be a lot of teams fighting right to the death,' he said.

'After the Inveraray game [a vital 2-1 win for Kilmallie] I said we may need 18 points, which will be difficult with the games we have left. However, most of our games are at home so we have got that in our favour. We only have two away games left.'

Kilmallie should have a full squad available, Jackson said.

An improving GLENORCHY team will hope to get something from their away trip to Kilmallie after two promising performances against Fort William and Newtonmore.

Manager Allan MacKechnie admitted he has enjoyed watching the last two games, both of which resulted in losses for his team but were not as error-strewn as previous heavy defeats.

'If we can repeat the level of performance we gave on Saturday we can get something out of this game. Kilmallie are strong but if we can get our first 12 players available I expect the boys to at least compete.'

Despite many predicting a heavy defeat for the Dalmally men, Allan was proud of his players' efforts.

'We had a few players missing and two boys up front who hadn't played outfield for us this season so it was a tremendous performance.'

'Newtonmore were by far the better team but we defended brilliantly. We were blocking and challenging everything.'

'I'm certainly enjoying watching the team now; it's the most relaxed I have been all season!'

A comfortable win over the country's form team, Kyles Athletic, on July 2 looked to have given INVERARAY the confidence boost they so badly needed.

But last Saturday, they slipped into their old habits, passing up

goal-scoring chances and the majority of possession to slump to defeat in Fort William.

Inveraray manager John Smylie said his players know what they have to do to stay in the premier division and has issued his plan for league survival.

'We have three crucial games coming up, starting with Glenurquhart this Saturday, then away to Lovat and Oban Camanachd at home. We are aiming for three wins from those three games. It's as simple as that.'

GLENURQUHART have been anything but predicatable this season, and that form continued last weekend when they came away from The Dell with a surprise 2-1 victory against Kingussie.

Manager Jim Barr said: 'I think we deserved the two points in the end. Kingussie were much stronger in the first period, and our goalkeeper Stuart Mackenzie was excellent.'

'I think after they scored they relaxed and let us back into the game and for the rest of the second half we were well on top.'

Barr said he was expecting a tough game this weekend when his side travel to take on Inveraray. 'I'm really surprised at their current position,' he said. 'I think it's a false position really. They showed what they can do against Kyles.'

'We'll try and give them a good game but it's not a place we've had much luck in the past.'

Calum Miller and Andrew Corrigan will both miss Saturday's match.

In North Division 1, leaders KINLOCHSHIEL knocked 11 goals past struggling Inverness last weekend and will be delighted if they can repeat their goal spree in the return fixture at Kirkton on Saturday.

Coach Johnston Gill was pleased with the big win, not least because goal difference could yet prove crucial in who takes the title. He accepts his team are strong favourites after winning all eight games so far, but is conscious that Lochaber's stealthy march up the league leaves no room for complacency.

He said: 'Lochaber are the team to watch - they still have to play Inverness twice, so goal difference could come into play. We just have to try and score as many goals as we can.'

'We still have Lochcarron and Inverness to play at home, but play Strathglass, Skye, Beaulieu and Lochaber away - and those are tough games.'

SKYE CAMANACHD head to Beaulieu on Saturday for their second testing assignment in a week after losing 7-2 at Spean Bridge last weekend.

The Skymen are looking to avenge last month's 3-1 home defeat at the hands of their opponents, who lie second in the league and still harbour hopes of promotion.

Skye will be without key forwards Sorley MacDonald, who is in Canada, and Alan Palmer, who tore back muscles in the defeat to Lochaber.

Skye coach Nui MacDonald knows Beaulieu will be formidable opponents.

'I was pretty disappointed with the last three goals we lost but our keeper Michael Nicolson was outstanding throughout. We were four or five players short on the day, which didn't help, but I don't know whether that would have made any difference. Lochaber are a strong outfit and would give anybody a game.'

'Beaulieu will be another tough one and as yet I don't know how good our squad will be. But we have a strong second team and I might bring one or two in and blood them for next season.'

LOCHCARRON take on bottom-of-the-table Strathglass this weekend looking for a win to propel them up the league.

After a number of postponements at the start of the season, Lochcarron were left near the bottom of the table but a recent run of games has seen them move up despite last week's 10-4 loss to Skye.

Lochcarron and Strathglass met last month, with Lochcarron coming out 2-1 winners.

A 1-1 draw with Caberfeidh on Saturday left Lochcarron in sixth place, but a win this weekend could move them closer to the

teams above.

LOCHABER will be looking to continue their title challenge when they take on Caberfeidh.

The Spean Bridge side sit fourth in the league but manager Michael Delaney feels his side are still in with a shout of winning the league despite Kinlochshiel's 100 per cent record.

'We've still to play Kinlochshiel at home, and all the pressure is on them now. We've just got to try and win all our games and pile the pressure on,' he said.

A blistering second half display saw Lochaber rack up a 7-2 win against Skye Camanachd last weekend.

Delaney said: 'Their keeper kept them in the game in the first half. Our link up play was much better in the second and I thought we looked a lot stronger than them.'

In South Division 1, LOCHSIDE ROVERS have conceded that this weekend's home tie against Bute will be one of the toughest of the season, not least because some players may be taken to represent Oban Camanachd.

Co-manager Tony Howlett said: 'It is going to be a tough game and I would have liked to have had a full strength team but I expect we will lose some to Camanachd.'

'Bute are a premier division team in waiting and will be promoted this season but you never know what can happen at home. We have had to call on the younger boys before and they have never let us down.'

OBAN CELTIC will not be taking this weekend's opponents, bottom-of-the-table Aberdour, lightly, despite recording a hard-fought win in Fife.

David Hamilton of Oban Celtic said: 'They are a tricky team. Looking at the league table, we should win the game but this will not be an easy task because they have a few tricky forwards who can cause problems. Anything can happen. I am hopeful of getting the two points but it is not a foregone conclusion.'

A 1-1 draw with Caberfeidh on Saturday left Lochcarron in sixth place, but a win this weekend could move them closer to the

### Fixtures

**Friday, July 15**  
Marine Harvest North Division 1 (all throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)  
Strathglass v Lochcarron,  
Innes Wood (7.30pm throw up)

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Newtonmore v Kingussie,  
Jock Matheson (7.30pm throw up)

**Saturday, July 16**  
Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi-Final:  
Newtonmore v Kingussie,  
Billy Wotherspoon  
(at The Eilan, Newtonmore);  
Oban Camanachd v Kyles Athletic,  
Graham Cameron  
(at Mossfield Park, Oban).

**Bulough Cup Quarter Final**  
Col Glen v The Scots, Dunkie Kerr.  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William v Lovat,  
Colin MacDonald.

Inveraray v Glenurquhart,  
Ted McDonald (3pm throw up);  
Kilmallie v Glenorchy,  
David Mitchell (3pm throw up).

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Beaulieu v Skye,  
Donald MacRae (3pm throw up);  
Kinlochshiel v Inverness,  
Evan MacRae;  
Caberfeidh v Lochaber, Graeme MacMillan (3pm throw up).

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kyles Athletic,  
Dougie Cameron;  
Lochside Rovers v Bute,  
George O'Rourke (noon throw up);  
Oban Celtic v Aberdour,  
Kevin Cheeseman, (3pm throw up).

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lovat v Glangarry,  
John Angus Gillies;  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel,  
Robert Baxter (noon throw up);  
Glenurquhart v Lochaber,  
John MacLeod;  
Kilmallie v Skye,  
Daniel MacRae (noon throw up).

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Strachur v Aberdour,  
Gus Campbell;  
Inveraray v Bute,  
Ronnie Campbell (noon throw up);  
Tayforth v Ballachulish,  
Jim Innes.

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Beaulieu v Inverness,  
John Sloggie (noon throw up);  
Caberfeidh v Boleskine,  
Iain Kennedy (noon throw up);  
Lochbroom v Strathglass,  
Jock Matheson.

**Results**  
Result Tuesday 5 July:  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Strathglass 3, Caberfeidh 4

**Results Saturday 9 July:**  
**Aberdein Constidine Sutherland Cup Semi Final**  
Glenurquhart 1, Kyles Athletic 4  
Skye 2, Kingussie 6

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William 3, Inveraray 1  
Kingussie 1, Glenurquhart 2  
Lovat 0, Kyles Athletic 2  
Newtonmore 2, Glenorchy 0

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Inverness 0, Kinlochshiel 11  
Lochaber 7, Skye 2  
Lochcarron 1, Caberfeidh 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish P - P Oban Celtic  
Due to Renovation  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Fort William 3, Lovat 0  
Newtonmore 13, Kinlochshiel 2

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute 3, Strachur 2  
Tayforth 9, Col Glen 4

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Aberdeen Uni P - P Ardnamurchan Ardnamurchan unable to field a team points to Aberdeen  
Lewis 2, Strathglass 8  
Inverness v Lochcarron  
Match rearranged for Wednesday 13 July 7.30pm throw-up

### League tables

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles Athletic	10	8	2	0	18
Fort William	12	8	1	4	17
Newtonmore	11	7	3	1	17
Kingussie	11	5	3	3	13
Glenurquhart	12	6	1	5	13
Kilmallie	10	5	0	5	10
Oban Camanachd	9	3	1	5	7
Lovat	11	3	1	7	7
Inveraray	10	3	0	7	6
Glenorchy	12	0	0	12	0

**Marine Harvest North Division One**

Kinlochshiel	8	8	0	0	16
Beaulieu	8	4	2	2	10
Caberfeidh	8	4	2	2	10
Lochaber	6	4	0	2	8
Skye	11	3	2	6	8
Lochcarron	7	2	3	2	7
Inverness	9	1	3	5	5
Strathglass	11	1	2	7	4

**Marine Harvest South Division One**

Bute	7	7	0	0	14
Glasgow MA	8	5	3	0	13
Lochside Rvrs	10	5	2	3	12
Ballachulish	11	5	1	5	11
Taynuilt	9	4	1	4	9
Oban Celtic	9	2	3	4	7
Kyles Athletic	8	3	0	5	6
Kilmory	8	2	2	4	6
Aberdour	10	1	0	9	2

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**

Newtonmore	13	12	0	1	24
Glangarry	10	7	0	3	14
Fort William	9	6	2	1	14
Kingussie	12	6	1	5	13
Glenurquhart	11	5	0	6	10
Lovat	11	5	1	5	9
Kinlochshiel	11	4	0	7	8
Lochaber	11	4	0	7	8
Skye	11	2	1	8	5
Kilmallie	11	0	3	8	3

**Marine Harvest South Division Two**

Strachur	12	10	1	1	21
Tayforth	10	8	1	1	17
Bute	11	5	3	3	13
ColGlen	12	6	0	6	12
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	11	4	1	6	9
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Aberdour	12	1	0	11	2

**Marine Harvest North Division Three**

Aberdeen U	15	15	0	0	30
Beaulieu	14	10	2	2	22
Boleskine	15	10	1	4	21
Caberfeidh	12	8	1	3	17
Lochcarron	14	7	1	6	15
Lochbroom	13	4	4	5	12
Inverness	12	3	1	8	7
Ardnamurchan	16	3	0	13	6
Strathglass	13	2	1	10	5
Lewis	14	1	1	12	3



Inveraray forward Grant Griffin battles for the ball with three Fort William defenders. 20\_f28for03



**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty

**Abigail wins cycle challenge**

CYCLING



ABIGAIL Evans won the Dunbeg to Oban cycle challenge, taking only three minutes and 50 seconds to complete the course. The challenge undertaken by Energie Fitness was hotly contested but Abigail won for the young women and girls taking part at the Ganavan Sands Family Fun Day. 16\_128picnic13

**Oban swimmers pick up medals**

SWIMMING

FOUR swimmers from Oban Otters Amateur Swim Club recently attended the annual Milngavie and Bearsden ASC summer graded meet in Glasgow, taking away one bronze and two gold medals.

Hugo Stahl, Jamie Jordan, Fiona MacLean, Calum McBurnie also achieved personal bests in all but one race they swam.

Times improved by as much as 21 seconds for the younger swimmers, who had only just started attending swim meets. All the swimmers showed the enthusiasm and commitment that makes them a credit to their club. Oban Otters caters for all standards of swimmers from beginners to the highly competitive.

**Peter sails into first place**

SAILING

ROUND Mull's overall winner was Glencoe sailor Peter Watt and his team on the BB10 Vaila. But had Mathew Simms' Everitt North 26 Odin from North Shields finished the final leg, he would have lifted the top prize.

Results:  
Class 1 - 1 Windmark II, 2 Texa, 3 Manuka.  
Class 2 - 1 Vaila, 2 Amber Haze, 3 Mara of Lorn  
Class 3 - 1 Odin, 2 Marisca, 3 Cherry Pye.  
Restricted Sail - 1 Tidechaser, 2 Josephine II, 3 Seal.  
Fastest circumnavigation on elapsed time - Mull Plaque - Requiem David Walter. Fastest circumnavigation on corrected time The Torray Rock - Vaila Peter Watt. Fastest circumnavigation double handed Bilgewater Sheild - Odin - Matt Simms and Andy Thwaites.

Best overall performance of weekend The Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy Vaila Peter Watt.

## Keyline Cup win for Alloa

Big turnout of spectators sees Paul Hartley's men lift silverware

FORMER Scotland international Paul Hartley won his first silverware as Alloa Athletic player/manager when his side lifted this season's Keyline Cup in Oban.

The third division outfit defeated the much-fancied Dundee United 1-0 in their opening game, thanks in part to a missed penalty by the £2million-rated striker David Goodwillie, and only dropped two points from their five games.

Goodwillie, who was being watched by scouts from Glasgow Rangers at the Oban pre-season tournament, was a star attraction



Oban Saints' midfielder Ross Maitland takes on the Dundee United defence during last Saturday tournament. The amateur side lost a close game 1-0 to their SPL opponents. Photo: John MacTavish

FOOTBALL

and spent much of the afternoon signing autographs for excited youngsters. The striker redeemed himself in the game against Hearts, scoring two goals and helping his side to a runners-up place.

Hartley, who took over the reins at Recreation Park this summer, told The Oban Times: 'This tournament was all about preparation but it was a real bonus to win it.'

'When I saw the Keyline Cup on our pre-season fixtures I had no hesitation in coming up. I was already aware of the

tournament from my days at Hearts. I have never played in it but I remember the under 19s going up to Oban every summer. 'It is great for improving fitness and the round robin format allows you to try out different things.'

The tournament, played in glorious sunshine on the pristine pitches of Mossfield and Glen-cruitten, gave the amateurs of Oban Saints the chance to pit their skills against the professional teams in 30-minute matches.

Saints outplayed St Johnstone in their first match and a Craig MacEwan brace secured a 2-0 win. The Oban side lost their remaining four games, including a narrow 1-0 defeat to Dundee United, which was probably the best game of the day. The Oban amateur side never looked out of place against their more illustrious opponents.

Hearts, St Johnstone and Hamilton Academical made up the six-team format and the young Hearts team in particular demonstrated an attractive brand of football conducted by midfield trialist Callum Tapping, a product of Tottenham Hotspur's youth academy.

Hamilton Accies boss Billy Reid was also pleased with the opportunity to test his young squad, saying: 'The Keyline Cup



David Goodwillie bundles the ball over the line during Dundee United's 2-1 win over Hearts. Inset: Alloa captain Darren Young holds aloft the Keyline Cup. Photos: John MacTavish

is a great tournament to come and play in. It is well run and the hospitality is superb. It allows everyone a competitive run-out and is ideal preparation - we will certainly be back next year.'

Saints manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the way his team played. 'We had a very young squad this time, three who had never played for the senior team before, but I thought we were excellent against top class opposition.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre presented the Keyline Cup to Alloa captain Darren Young and handed out medals to the winning team as well as a quich to Saints club secretary David Buchanan in recognition of the club's work in the community.



Paul Hartley, the Alloa manager, signs autographs for some of the young fans. Photo: John MacTavish

**Three-man open stableford at Dalmally**

GOLF

NINETY golfers from around the country basked in glorious conditions recently as Dalmally Golf Club staged its annual Open Three Man Team Stableford Competition.

A late surge from home side Rail Power saw them return 101 points and overhaul the reigning champions and early pace setters Glenorchy (K MacIntyre, D McNulty, J McNulty) by three points to claim the trophy.

Scott Livingston's superb total of 41 points, this from a three quarter handicap allowance and individual highest of the day, was the major contribution as he joined with dad Jim and Willie Dougal to form the winning threesome.

Third, one point further back, was Team Mackie from Oban (K Mackie, D Campbell, L Askew).

The Club would like to thank the various sponsors, hard working members and visiting and home players for once again making the event such a success. Results from recent club competitions: Gents Club Championship, following second round: 1. G Davies 145; 2. B McKay 152; 3. D McNulty 152

Ladies Braigh Quich: 1. J Sutherland 77 (overall winner); 2. A Cleaver 80.

**Islay Golf Club news**

GOLF

THE July Medal was played on Sunday 3 July: 1 John Ferguson 85 less 16 net 69; 2 Ruairadh MacIntyre 76 less 4 net 72; 3 Keith MacDonald 79 less 6 net 73 Css 71.

S.P Morrison trophy: 1 Nigel Carmichael 71+72=143; 2 Kenny Gillies 69+74=143; 3 Charles Holyoake 74+71=145.

**News from Oban Bowling Club**

BOWLS

OBAN Bowling Club's Helen MacLean (ladies champion 2010) has had a busy week.

She was playing all week in Helensburgh, then at Linlithgow with the Argyll County team and finally at Dunoon, where she won her singles competition at the Argyll and Bute finals. She played Nan Reynolds, from Rothesay, in the morning and then Shirley Bannatyne, from Campbeltown, in the afternoon.

The other success story this week was the triples team from Oban skippered by Margaret MacAlpine, with Lyn Laverty, second, and Leif Maureen Goldie.

They were also winners in Dunoon and next season will take part in the Torrance Purvis competitions throughout Scotland representing Argyll and Bute.

**Oban Saints take on East Kilbride**

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints continue their pre-season build-up with a friendly match against East Kilbride on Saturday.

The game will be played on the rugby pitch with a 1.30pm kick-off. Referee is Peter Laing from Lochgilphead.

## Matthew qualifies for British championships

SPEEDY swimmer Matthew Anderson clocked his first British qualifying time in the 1,500m freestyle in order to compete at this year's British Youth Championships.

The Oban teenager set the time at the recent Scottish National Senior Swimming Championships at Tollcross, Glasgow.

He will now represent his new club, Warrender, at the British championships in Sheffield at the end of the month.

The 15 year old has moved from Oban High School to Stewart's Melville in order to maximise his pool time and is now training 16 hours a week.

Matthew said: 'I have never competed at this [British] level before. I am excited about it and can't wait to get into the pool.'

Matthew's time for the 1,500m freestyle of 16 minutes, 56 sec-

onds also puts him top of rankings for his age group in Scotland. Matthew also produced some tremendous swimming in the 200m butterfly and 400m individual medley events, making the 'B' finals in both.

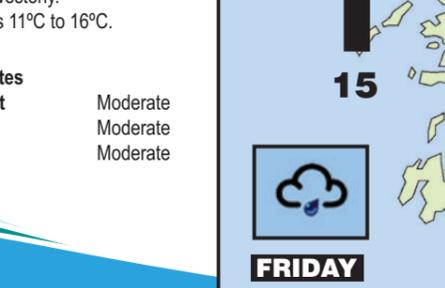
His time for the 200m butterfly was two minutes, 16.7 seconds and only just missed another British qualifying time by less than three-quarters of a second.

Going into the Scottish championships Matthew had set himself the goal of securing the final qualifying time he required in the 400 individual medley to make the Scottish Youth Squad and he duly did this in both the heats and the B final, in a time of four minutes, 56.8 seconds.

Matthew, who began competing with Oban Otters at the age of eight, will now take part in the Scottish Youth Squad training system next season.

His times in 200m butterfly and 400m individual medley elevated him to third in 400m individual medley and fourth in the 200 metre butterfly in the Scottish age group rankings.

These successes come on the back of his recent selection to the Scottish Open Water Youth Development Squad last month.



Matthew Anderson. 15\_t28matt01



Allan Wright pictured with Argyle and Bute RFC chairman Dave Stronrock and secretary Dee Bradbury. 15\_t28allan01

## Young development officer takes up post

OBAN'S Allan Wright became one of the youngest rugby development officers in the country when he took up the Argyle and Bute post on Monday.

At just 19 years old, Allan has already served two years as a SVQ community coach, working alongside former rugby development officer Billy Thomson.

He will be employed on an initial 12-month contract through Argyle and Bute Rugby Football Club and funding for the position has come from the club, LEADER Argyle and the Isles, Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Rugby

Union and rugby clubs in Oban, Mull, Mid Argyll and Islay. Allan said: 'I am really looking forward to the challenge of developing rugby in the area and working closely with the clubs.'

Allan has begun organising a residential camp for players in Argyll and Bute on August 12 - 14 and is working on a schools programme for next term.

Argyle and Bute RFC has received funds from Community 2014 and Sportsmatch.

## Bicentennial trophy for West Highland Week

A NEW Trophy to celebrate Oban's Bicentenary will be amongst several other new cups to be presented at this year's West Highland Yachting Week that runs from July 29 to August 5.

The silver Bicentennial Trophy will be awarded by The Joint Regatta Committee (JRC), which organises the regatta for the best performance in the passage race from Craobh to Oban - the opening race of West Highland Yachting Week 2011.

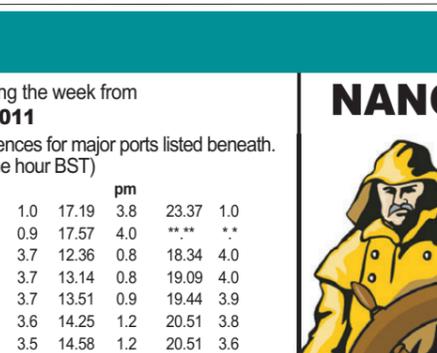
Julia Heap, JRC secretary, said the committee thought it extremely appropriate that the regatta recognise Oban's 200 years as a burgh in 2011, considering the event has had Oban as a base for a consecutive 64 years.

Other new trophies for 2011 include The Thomas Tunnoek Trophy to be awarded for the last day's racing in the passage race from Tobermory to Oban for IRC Class 3.

The winner of Class 3 for Thursday's spinnaker fleet racing off Mull will lift The Lemarac Cup, named after the Moody 38 Lemarac owned by Tunnoek's company head Boyd Tunnoek CBE.

Ms Heap said the JRC hoped for a big turnout, since there were no competing events this year. 'We have had a good expression of interest so far so we are looking forward to another great week both on and off the water.'

Pictured with the new Bicentennial Trophy are JRC secretary Julia Heap and chairman Dave Waltho.



Pictured with the new Bicentennial Trophy are JRC secretary Julia Heap and chairman Dave Waltho.

## Weather

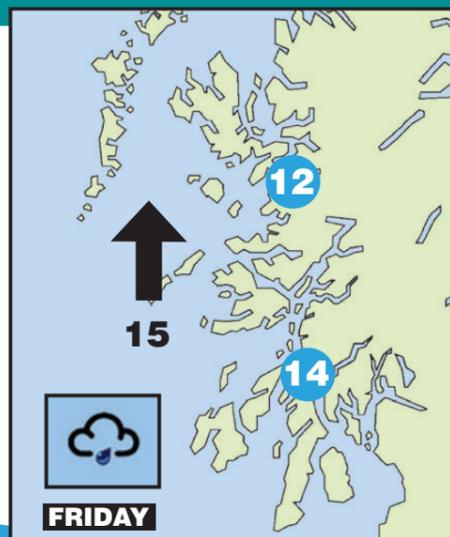
**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, southerly.  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C

**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, south, south westerly  
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

**Weekend** Thundery rain.

**Outlook** Winds light, westerly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 14, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.06 3.5 11.14 1.0 17.19 3.8 23.37 1.0	
Fri	05.44 3.6 11.56 0.9 17.57 4.0 ** **	
Sat	02.21 1.0 06.18 3.7 12.36 0.8 18.34 4.0	
Sun	01.02 0.9 06.51 3.7 13.14 0.8 19.09 4.0	
Mon	01.40 1.0 07.23 3.7 13.51 0.9 19.44 3.9	
Tues	02.16 1.1 07.54 3.6 14.25 1.2 20.51 3.8	
Wed	02.50 1.2 08.24 3.5 14.58 1.2 20.51 3.6	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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