

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Stress struck council

300 employees off work in last 17 months

STRESS and depression has seen nearly 300 employees of Argyll and Bute Council sign off from work in the last 17 months.

The figures, obtained under freedom of information by *The Oban Times*, have been described as 'pretty substantial' by Samaritans Scotland, who has urged the council to do more to combat the conditions.

Dougie Philand, the authority's lead councillor for human resources – a role created to 'champion the cause' of the authority's staff – and a trained psychiatric nurse, has pledged to investigate further.

**'Pretty substantial'**  
Stress accounted for 167 staff absences in the 2011/12 financial year, with 42 having signed off in the current financial year. Of that, 18 are still absent.

Sixty-one employees signed off with depression last year. This year, 12 have signed off, with 11 still absent.

Argyll and Bute Council employs approximately 4,000 people.

Reacting to the figures, Samaritans in Scotland's Fiona Barlow said: 'Unfortunately, I'd say the numbers are pretty

substantial. We have seen an increase in calls from people feeling stressed in their work.

'All employers, including the council, would benefit from having a greater awareness of their employee's mental wellbeing and have measures in place to ensure people feel well.'

Mr Philand admits the figures are concerning. He said: 'We need to look at the reasons. No figure like that is good to have.'

'I've treated people with stress in the workplace and depression and it is not good. We have to reduce that – it is not a nice thing.'

Meanwhile, Samaritans Scotland has criticised Robert MacIntyre, the authority's deputy councillor for human resources, after he questioned whether the role was even in his remit.

When reminded of his position, he said: 'I was unaware of the figures. I didn't know there were so many people off with depression or stress. Do you think it's the weather?'

Fiona Barlow said: 'That's not good. Mental health should be taken seriously because stress and depression has a very damaging effect on the lives of those affected.'



There was many a splash at the second Great Oban Bay Raft Race on Saturday, but the event certainly helped raise lots of cash for local charities – and more than a few smiles. For the full story, see Page 3. Picture - John MacTavish

## Appin anticipates biggest show in recent years

ORGANISERS of this Saturday's Appin Agricultural Show have promised one of the biggest events in recent years.

The show at Stalker Croft has seen an increase in cattle entries, a higher entry in the Highland dancing and more stalls than ever before.

Secretary Brenda MacLeod said: 'We already have the best venue in the country but we expect this will be one of the biggest shows seen in recent years.'

## Tiree connection with Olympian

THE only 2012 Olympic medalist with a connection to Argyll used to hold his own beach Games on the Isle of Tiree.

Luke Patience, who picked up silver in the 470 dinghy class sailing at the London Games, regularly went to Tiree with his family who own a home on the island.

His dad, John, told the press that, his 25 year old son would love to hold his own beach version of the games for his birthday when he was younger.

Born in Aberdeen, Patience started competing at the age of seven, at Rhu Marina, Helensburgh.

## Campbeltown man is Alliance director

CAMPBELTOWN man, Jamie Stewart, is to become the new director of the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

Mr Stewart has worked for the Countryside Alliance for a year as a specialist shooting consultant and is MD of Westcountry Wildlife Services, a wildlife consultancy and training enterprise. He is an experienced game and deer manager, with considerable experience of managing wildlife and habitat in the UK.

Previously Jamie was a director for the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

He said: 'I am delighted to be joining the Scottish Countryside Alliance and look forward to working with the team to promote and defend the beautiful Scottish Countryside.'

## Shock at sudden death of young Dalmally man

A WELL-known Dalmally family is in mourning following the sudden death of Mark MacFarlane-Barrow, aged 39, during a pilgrimage in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He was found dead on August 4 in Medjugorje, where he had been on retreat several times before.

Mark had played a full part in Dalmally life as a youngster and was involved in every sport going.

Despite suffering from a rare skin disease, he competed in shinty, football and golf.

The family, who run the religious retreat at Craig Lodge, said: 'When we reflect on Mark's life we recall someone who despite his terrible physical suffering never became bitter and never showed self-pity.'

'Instead he demonstrated great fortitude and courage. He was an amazing example to us and all who knew him.'

Mark's sister, Ruth Black, said: 'My dear brother Mark MacFarlane-Barrow went home to God on Saturday, August 4. He died while on pilgrimage to his beloved Medjugorje in

Bosnia-Herzegovina.

'We are so sad to lose him, so grateful to God for giving him to us and so filled with joy that he is now in his true home - heaven.'

'We are so grateful to everyone for their kindness and for their prayers.'

Bishop Joseph Toal of the Argyll and the Isles Diocese said: 'We extend our sympathy Calum and Mary Anne, their family and community at Craig Lodge.'

'May Mark rest in God's peace.'

## £200,000 upgrade for Tiree Airport as passenger number rise

TIREE Airport's runway is to receive a £200,000 upgrade from Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL).

The airport operator has issued a tender for the work to resurface large sections of the island's runway, with a contract expected to be awarded in September.

News of the investment comes as HIAL confirm passenger numbers to Tires rose by 10.6 per cent to 9,238 passengers between 2011/12 and the previous financial year – making it one of the HIAL's fastest growing airports.

Tim Smith, airport regional manager, said: 'Tiree Airport provides a vital social and economic lifeline for the island and for the wider region.'

'This investment will ensure that Tiree Airport continues to provide a high quality service for airlines and passengers in the years to come.'

Other recent investments at Tiree Airport include new generating equipment to protect power supplies in winter and repairs to the control tower. Tiree Airport offers daily flights to Glasgow and twice weekly flights to Coll and Oban.

## Celebrity artwork to be auctioned

EWAN McGregor, Stella McCartney and Jolomo are among the celebrity artists contributing works to the Red Cross Art Auction taking place this Saturday in Campbeltown.

Viewing is on Friday at 1pm in the Red Cross Hall, Campbeltown, building up to Saturday's auction at 4pm.

## Four-exit Dunbeg roundabout plan goes before council

PLANS to build a new roundabout on the A85 to service the Dunbeg Corridor and a new luxury hotel, have been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council.

West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) submitted the application for a four-exit roundabout on the A85 west

of the Halfway House filling station and The Cottage, Penrynair.

The 11,760sq foot development would provide access on the village side to some 150 homes proposed as part of the Dunbeg Corridor as well as the possibility of a luxury spa hotel

at the top of Cladh Uaine.

Dunbeg Post Office will display the plans for three weeks and the subject will be discussed by the village's community council at their next meeting, on September 10.

No date has been set for the application to be considered

by planners – nor that of the first 50 houses of the Dunbeg corridor – and no further announcement has been made by the hotel group interested in Cladh Uaine.

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of WHHA, said no funding was available for the roundabout

at present, but the application was being lodged in conjunction with the hotel developers in the hope government funding would become available.

A successful application would make funding a greater possibility, she added.

Carol Garside, of The Cottage, says she has concerns about the proximity of the roundabout to her family home. She said: 'The roundabout is immediately south-west of The Cottage and Halfway House, forming a dog-leg at the side of the property. There is probably 85 yards from our door to the roundabout.'

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**Young Oban drummer joins Bretons for world championship**

Catherine learns the score via YouTube

AN OBAN High School pupil has become a world champion with a Breton pipe band after teaching herself the required drumming score via YouTube.

Catherine MacFarlane joined up with Brieg – France when they came to compete in last Saturday's World Piping Championship at Glasgow in grade two.

The 17 year old's tutor, Stevie Kilbride, invited her to join the band, which was short of tenor drummers.

And she helped them to the first place in the drum corps section and a third place overall from 29 bands.

Catherine joined the Breton band last Wednesday and practised five hours per day in the run up to the Glasgow championships, having only previously watched their performances on YouTube.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I was completely surprised when Stevie asked me to play but it was too big an opportunity to turn down.'

'The days I spent with the band were amazing; I met a lot of new people.'

Having played with Oban

**The Argyllshire Gathering**

**OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES**

Mossfield Park, Oban

**Thursday 23rd August 2012**

**March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am**

**OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND**

12noon from Station Square

**Highland Dancing • Track & Field Events • Traditional Heavy Events • Piping**

Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (starts 9.30)

Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

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Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

**PIPING COMPETITIONS**

**Tuesday 21st August 2012**

Silver Medal, Corran Halls

**Wednesday 22nd August 2012**

PIOBAlREACHD

Gold Medal, Corran Halls

Silver Medal Final, Corran Halls

MacGregor Memorial Competition, Regent Hotel

Senior Piobaireachd, Corran Halls

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March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners) – Corran Halls

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**Cleaner, fresher water at Dalmally**

RESIDENTS in the Dalmally area are receiving clearer, fresher drinking water following the completion of a £200,000 Scottish Water project. The project is providing better disinfection at the Dalmally Water Treatment Works, which provides water for about 300 customers.

The work was carried out by contractors ID Systems (UK) Ltd for Scottish Water Solutions, a joint venture partnership between Scottish Water and some of the world's leading construction, engineering and water companies.

**Argyll and Bute gain £5m for better broadband**

A FUND worth £5m has been allocated over the next three years to help bring next generation broadband to communities in Argyll and Bute.

The Community Broadband Scotland initiative will act as a one-stop-shop for rural community groups, providing them with information and advice to find solutions for broadband delivery in their areas.

From October, staff will provide assistance and communities will be eligible to apply for seed funding to enable them to obtain greater access to the internet.

**Oban man sent abusive messages**

AN OBAN man pled guilty to sending abusive messages to his partner when he appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

John Blair, 51, of 5 McGregor Court, Oban admitted sending the messages on August 4 and 5. He had his sentence deferred for nine months to show the court he could be of good behaviour.

**MSP backs**

**Prostate Cancer UK**

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has joined Prostate Cancer UK in renewing its call for the breakthrough prostate cancer drug, abiraterone, to be made available on the NHS in Scotland.

Mr McGrigor's call comes on the back of the news Scotland is the only country in the UK where the drug has not been approved.

He said: 'The Scottish Medicines Consortium's (SMC) original decision to reject abiraterone on the NHS in March was a bitter blow to hundreds of men dying of prostate cancer north of the border.'

# Island-based gap-year provider marks 45th anniversary by raising £1million

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

IT IS one of Britain's most successful gap-year providers, sending some 300 school leavers a year to volunteering projects across the world. Now Coll's Project Trust is hoping to mark its 45th anniversary year by raising £1million to lay the foundations for an even more successful future.

**£220,000 extension**  
Based at the Hebridean Centre on the east of the picturesque island, the Trust has just opened a £220,000 extension - supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise - to help it provide an even more worthwhile experience not just for the teenagers whose horizons it helps expand, but those non-profit organisations who rely on their efforts to provide a first class service the communities they serve.

They range from orphanages in Africa to schools in China and even community newspapers in Namibia.

John Fraser, assistant director and director of overseas at the Trust, which is the island's largest employer with 24 staff, said: 'We want to raise £1million this year. We're looking towards the next 10 years and our strengthening our position over that time.'

'Part of that is also to help pay for the new extension.'

Established in 1967, the Trust had rather humble beginnings, sending only a handful of people to non-government organisations that required volunteers in the earliest days.

**Challenges**  
However, such was the benefit to the students that it quickly expanded, reaching its peak this year with approximately 300 signing up to travel to countries as diverse as Chile, Japan and Guyana and volunteer for one year. More than 7,000 gap year students have taken a Project Trust pilgrimage, and the Trust is now welcoming children of former volunteers.

Participants must meet a minimum academic standard and raise £5,150 for their trip, the rest of which the Trust subsidises. Prior to making a commitment, however, they are whisked to Coll from all over the UK for an interview, training and vetting process.



Returning Project Trust volunteers Alana Wilkinson and Eilidh Quinn with Project Trust's South Africa representative, Yvonne Mathieson and overseas director, John Fraser. 15\_129trust1

Vital to this is the contribution of former Project Trust volunteers, who often return summer after summer to help not only assess whether the students will be able to work in the sometimes demanding conditions, but give them a first-hand account of the challenges they will face, not least of which is home-sickness.

**Orphanage**  
Two of this summer's returning Trust volunteers is Eilidh Quinn, of West Kilbride, and West Calder's Alana Wilkinson. Both turned 20 this month and both have fond - if sometimes harrowing - memories of their adventures.

They are also united in their praise for the work the Trust does and urged anyone who has the opportunity to grab it with both hands.

Eilidh travelled to South Africa to work in an orphanage in 2010, returning a year later with a whole new outlook on life.

Having previously volunteered on a short term basis in China for another organisation, but says her trip to Africa's most southerly country was the most rewarding experience of her life.

It almost never happened though.

She said: 'I had a place at the University of Stirling and I was all set to go after fifth year. I was supposed to be off school when someone told me the Project Trust were making a presentation at the school. I went and signed up straight away.'

'I then spent the next year fundraising and went after sixth year. I had gone to China when I was 16 so I was desperate to do something else and it was perfect.'

'I was working at a children's home about 20 minutes from Cape Town. The kids had come from some horrible places. They

were there because they were physically, sexually or mentally abused.'

'Some were from the townships and some more urban areas. It was really difficult at first because they didn't trust you. They had some short-term volunteers there and they didn't get a chance to build a trusting

relationship. I was there for a year though so we all got to know each other well and it made a huge difference.'

Eilidh found herself taking real pride in the work of the project, establishing firm friendships with fellow volunteers, staff and with the children themselves.

So attached had she become to the place, that leaving was a wrench.

'That was horrible. Leaving Scotland to go was fine, not a problem. But I didn't want to come home. Some of the kids didn't realise what I meant when I told them I was going home, saying I was home. That made it more difficult. I have kept in touch with everyone there though and I'd love to go back.'

'I miss it so much - especially now I'm back in Coll and talking with everyone else about their trips.'

**Teaching**  
Alana was of a similar perspective, having spent her year out teaching English in China. It was, she admits, a bizarre experience, but she's determined to move back to the country as soon as she can.

'It's so different,' she said. 'I was teaching 17-22 year olds and the culture is so different from ours. The language is difficult too; it's atonal. I tried to ask a woman if I could borrow her mirror. I actually asked her where her sperm is. I have got a bit of Mandarin though.'

Like friend Eilidh, Alana saw things she never would anywhere else in the world; from extravagant riches to extreme poverty.

She said: 'China is so different to what people think it is. They work so hard in China, they're up by 6am and sleep at 2am. My students were so hard working and desperate to learn. They would phone and beg me to teach them. I could be out for a meal with a friend and they would ask me to teach them right there and then.'

'I tried to explain to them you couldn't do that in Western culture. They're very blunt in China. I told them you can't go round telling people they're very fat or ugly!'

Both will share their experiences with the Trust's new batches of students and will have an input in whether students are

ready to go to certain countries - if any.

South African volunteer coordinator, Yvonne Mathieson - who hails from the country but whose family has roots in Skye - said that input is invaluable.

The work of the volunteers is even more valuable, however.

'I started working with the Trust as a host five years ago and became a representative two years ago.'

'One of the wonderful things about the Trust is the training and support we give the volunteers. It is definitely the front runner in terms of support and training.'

'The volunteers come to Coll and we give them two or three days' intense training in what they can expect in the countries they are going to; such as the conditions or the political situation.'

'We try to equip them with the skills they need. Once they come over we help them with communications, hand over SIM cards and give them their tickets to get to their destination.'

'Over the course of their trips we watch them grow and their experiences help shape them. They can literally find themselves. We've seen volunteers go as shy, slightly reluctant youths and come back vibrant, confident adults.'

**'Significant benefits'**  
'Project Trust is a tremendous organisation and it really does provide significant benefits to non-government organisations and voluntary organisations. What we really appreciate is the high standard of training they receive.'

This year, two of the island's own residents will be taking a trip with the project Trust. Dougie Wainwright will be heading to Guyana while Sam Rutherford will head to Botswana.

Meanwhile, Ardrishaig's Caitlin Fowler will be heading to Trinidad and Honduras.

However, the Trust is keen to see more students from the Oban area take advantage of the opportunity on their doorstep and hopes more will look at the opportunities it offers.

Mr Fraser said: 'We haven't had anyone from Oban for a few years but we're really keen to see more take a trip with us.'

For more information on the trust, and to find out how to volunteer, see its website at projecttrust.org.uk.



The Isle of Coll has been home to Coll Project Trust for 45 years

## Pennygown heifer triumphs at Salen Show

ONE OF the longest running agricultural shows in Argyll took place last week with a livestock turnout as impressive as ever, according to judges.

Salen Show, run by the Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society, saw its 180th anniversary as last Thursday's show took place at the Aros showfield.

Fiona Boa fulfilled her role as show president for the last time this year. She said: 'This is my last year as president and it has been a great role to fill as I have such an amazing committee and community.'

'Some people have had the same role since I can remember and any new members we have acquired bring great new ideas and qualities with them.'

There was a large turnout of Blackface sheep among the busy sheep rings, with Donald and Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm bringing out the overall sheep champion and reserve show champion with a home bred gimmer.

'This is a great wee show. It has a great atmosphere and is very friendly.'

It was so good to see such a crowd round the ring during the judging of the Highlanders. Spectators were three or four deep, which you don't see a lot.



Overall show champion was the two and a half-year-old Highland heifer Leonara of Greenfield from D and J MacGillivray, Pennygown, Aros. The red heifer, by Lasgaire 2nd of Culfoich and out of Angelina Fox of Blocken was purchased in Germany from Gerold Littlemann's Greenfield Fold. This was her first UK show outing 16\_133salen04



Overall sheep champion and reserve show champion went to Donald and Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline with a Blackface gimmer by a £1,000 Darchirla and out of a home bred ewe by a Gass sire. 16\_133salen07



Overall pony champion at Salen Show was Durris Fairwind, a 12-year-old Welsh section a mountain pony. Owned by Amanda Fergusson of Lochaline and ridden by eight-year-old Alex Fergusson. 16\_133salen01



Ten-year-old twins Laura and Emma Macdougall, Tobermory with Queenie, a two-year-old collie and overall champion dog. 16\_133salen09

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# Local biotechnology firm discovers new antibiotic

FLOURISHING drug research and product discovery firm, Aquapharm, has announced the discovery of a new antibiotic believed to fight a range of multi-drug resistant bacteria.

The biotechnology company based in Dunstaffnage, on the outskirts of Oban, developed the antibiotic from research into marine organisms. It is said that the compound could be effective against clostridium difficile (C-Diff) and infections such as types of staphylococcus and streptococcus, common

hospital acquired infections. The compound 'AQP-182' was discovered after screening a section of 10,000 micro-organisms for substances with anti-infective and anti-inflammatory properties. It is one of many molecules

that could be used to develop new treatments, the company has said. AQP-182 has now gone into development and a clinical trial is expected to begin during 2013. Aquapharm's chief scientific

officer, Dr Tim Morley, said: 'We are very excited, from only a small portion of our natural product library we have identified 16 novel compounds belonging to totally novel and diverse chemical classes. The most advanced

compound, AQP-182, has a promising pharmacological and pharmacokinetic profile essential for the treatment of drug-resistant bacterial infections.'

Aquapharm looks at the bacteria and fungi of the environment to discover new chemical and biological products, as well as helping develop drugs. Research into AQP-182, is attracting interest from major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies which may lead to new partnering agreements.

# Tiree sharks surprise scientists

Unique behaviour recorded as basking sharks leap out water

POPULATIONS of basking sharks off the coast of Tiree and Coll could be of vital importance to the species, with unique behavioural patterns being observed there.

Researchers from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter this summer started tagging those creatures found in the area in an effort to learn more about the ocean's second largest fish.

Already, the teams of scientists have observed patterns previously not commonly associated with the protected species, with some observed leaping several feet into the air in a spectacular display of strength and agility - known as breaching.

Looking into the mysterious behaviour is SNH's lead on the tagging project, Dr Suzanne Henderson. She said: 'It is early days yet, but we're very pleased by how well the tags have performed so far. The sharks are beginning to move around a little bit and we'll be looking at how they're using these waters.'

There's not really been any accurate population tests here and that's because of the lack of data, so that's something we'll be looking at too. There are large numbers of sharks in these areas and what these tags will show is how long individual sharks are hanging around for and how they're using the waters.

There's some monsters out there - some over eight or nine metres in length. This is the first time we've seen the sharks jump out of the water. It seems to occur only in these areas and we don't know why they're doing it.

It is as yet unknown as to why the sharks do this, but indications are that the species only do this off Tiree and Coll, Canna and Garbh Sgeir.

So far the largest populations we've seen is around Coll and Tiree, with high populations also around Canna and Garbh Sgeir.

It is thought the area could not only be highly significant for feeding, but as a breeding area.

Not only are these the areas with the highest populations, but also courtship-like behaviour such as breaching the water, parallel swimming or nose to tail swimming takes place.

We think this area is very important,' she said.



'Cutlass' dominated the race and stormed ahead of the pack to cross the line in a clear first position. The team returned to the water for another lap of Oban Bay after winning. Picture - John MacTavish

# Crowds pack seafront for raft race

Lions Club fundraiser

NOT A space was to be had around Oban's bay on Saturday when the crowds turned out in force to support the Lions Club's second annual raft race.

Hundreds of people took to the beach and lined the north and railway piers to watch in blistering sunshine as 18 rafts built by members of the community piled into the water to race around the bay, all in aid of local good causes.

Winners were aboard the lime-green raft Cutlass, with captain John MacDonald, aided by a crew made up of nephew Ewen MacDonald, John Campbell and Andrew Gray.

So quick were the swashbuckling sailors, that they returned to the water straight away and completed another lap - even finishing ahead of some of the less seaworthy teams.

The race raised a minimum of £1,600 for the Lions before sponsorship is returned, with the funds to be used to help local charities.

One of the organisers, Alex Milligan, said: 'The day panned out exactly as we had hoped, it was really superb. I think people turned up in numbers because they realised it wasn't a one off last year and we're determined to keep that going.'

'We really couldn't have hoped for better weather and to raise a minimum of £1,600 before sponsorship is returned is fantastic. All the money raised goes into the kitty for local charities and causes. If someone needs help with anything - the likes of the hospital or the kids groups etcetera - they can ask us for assistance.'

Such was the success of the event that plans are already afoot to make next year's event even bigger. 'We've already started planning for next year,' Alex said. 'It's fair to say we've got a few tricks up our sleeve. This year it could have lasted all day, but we don't want to overstretch ourselves.'

One thing that didn't go quite to plan was the competition to find the most generations on one raft, but that may be run next year instead.

Alex added: 'A big thanks to everyone involved, from the teams who took part to The Oban Times, the local radio station and Oban Lifeboat - everyone contributed towards a fantastic day.'



Oban RNLI showed little confidence in the build of their own raft as they shadowed its movement throughout the race. Picture - John MacTavish

# Balvicar air gun man forfeits rifle

A MAN who was walking down the road in Balvicar with a loaded, uncovered air gun was fined £80 at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Lewis Gilmour, 19, of 29 Balvicar, Seil Island admitted carrying the weapon without

reasonable excuse or lawful authority near the Seil golf course on May 11.

The court heard Gilmour had one pellet in the rifle and another two in his pocket. There were also young families in the vicinity during the incident.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton said his client had not been using the weapon but had gone to collect it from a friend's house and was heading home with it.

The court also issued an order for the gun to be forfeited and destroyed.

# Rural hotel is hit by 'boil water' notice

ARGYLL and Bute Council has served a 'boil water' safety notice on the Portonachan Hotel, near Dalmailly, due to brown, unfiltered tap water.

provide bottled drinking water. Meanwhile on July 27 the manager of the hotel, Gary Smith, posted on tourism website TripAdvisor that the brown tap water is 'very good for your skin and it is pure highland spring water, filtered straight off the hills and contains none of the chemicals found in ordinary tap water.'

Not safe to drink Health inspectors have told the owner of the hotel, David Parker, the tap water from the private supply does not meet safety regulations and is not safe to drink until boiled.

Mr Parker, was unavailable for comment, but Mr Smith defended his post on TripAdvisor, saying: 'Previous customers have told me that.'

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must

Steps were being taken to install a filter, he said, but he would not confirm what they are.

Mr Smith said: 'It is because we're pumping the water. It is pretty common here and it's the same with all the businesses here.'

Customers are advised the water is not safe to drink, he added. The Oban Times spoke to another nearby hotelier, who said he 'couldn't risk' not filtering his own private water supply.

He said: 'In the past people would say, this is Scotland, you don't need to chlorinate the water. However you cannot take the risk. If you're not filtering the water, you could possibly be running the risk of e-coli getting in, things like that.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Brown water is as a result of the water not being filtered and treated and there is no evidence to suggest it has any health benefits. Monitoring will continue and the council is in 'discussions' with the owner.'

# Profile of Oban Airport to fly high

RAISING the profile of Oban Airport over the next 12 months will cost Argyll and Bute Council an estimated £17,000.

Edinburgh company Business and Tourism Solutions have been awarded the contract to prepare an advertising and marketing strategy for the airport.

The council say they hope to increase the amount of passengers using the airport, attract additional business to Oban and pursue new air services and attract airlines operating new routes.

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# Home from Oz with no car insurance leads to fine

A RESIDENT of Western Australia who used to live in Oban was caught driving with no insurance during a recent trip back to Scotland.

Duncan Strachan, 65, of 2 Sofina Place, Australund pled guilty to driving on Glencruitten Road with no insurance on August 2. He was fined £250 and had six penalty points placed on his licence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff court last week.

# Oban youth admits carrying Stanley knife charge

A YOUNG man who was found with a Stanley knife in Soroba, Oban pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Steven Tonner, 18, of 3 Richard Court, Dunollie admitted carrying the knife without reasonable excuse or lawful authority in Lunga Road on August 10.

Tonner had his sentence deferred until September 18 for reports to be obtained by the court.

Tonner had his sentence deferred until September 18 for reports to be obtained by the court.

# Islay gains extra sailings

AN ADDITIONAL weekday sailing to Islay has been agreed by CalMac following a public meeting in Bowmore.

The ferry company's new managing director, Martin Dorchester, faced questions from islanders last Friday. Many have been angered by CalMac plans to remove the MV Finlaggan from the Islay run during the winter months, replacing it with the smaller MV Lord of the Isles.

Paul Graham, a member of Islay and Jura Marketing Group, said people were happy with the promise of an extra sailing. He said: 'At the end of the day we got out of it what we wanted. We went to CalMac with a solution and they took that on board.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We had a worthwhile, helpful and well-attended meeting. We set out the challenges of managing the refit and reiterated that we have to be allowed to deploy the fleet in whichever way we consider to be in the best interests of the whole network. That was accepted by many of those present.'

# Mull bridge money 'bailed out' road projects elsewhere

COUNCILLORS have demanded to know why money set aside to upgrade a bridge on Mull was removed without consultation or explanation.

Islanders have questioned the stability of Pennyghael Bridge, which they say has been damaged by vehicles on at least two occasions in the past three months.

Community concern has been heightened by the fact the bridge is on a timber haul route and around one million tonnes of timber are likely to be extracted from Mull over the next 20 years.

Argyll and Bute Council bridges engineer Arthur McCulloch told Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday that a finalised plan and funding for the bridge upgrade had been removed to 'bail out' other roads and infrastructure schemes.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'I have seen a plan and development costs for this bridge from 2009, with a completion date of 2010. Why do all that work of planning and allocating money, only for it not to happen. It really concerns me how the money has disappeared.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'It doesn't make any sense to remove projects that are ready to start.'

Area committee chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen-Lee called on Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, and Sandy MacTaggart, executive director of development and infrastructure services, to provide answers.

Representatives from the haulage industry, tourism, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce, Argyll and Bute councillors and officials and the trunk road operator, Scotland TransServ, are expected to attend.

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# A83 clear of debris

WORK to clear up the A83 following this month's landslide is complete, but traffic will continue to be restricted to a single lane for the time being.

Meeting Some 1,020 tonnes of rubble and silt slipped onto the road at the Rest and Be Thankful on August 1 during a day of heavy and sustained rainfall.

Clearance work was completed on Sunday evening, but traffic lights will remain in operation to allow rock netting to be installed on the hillside. Meanwhile, the first meeting of

More than 1,020 tonnes of rubble and silt have been cleared

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# Pulpit Hill one-way plan to be reviewed

THE RECENT decision not to introduce a one-way system in an Oban development is to be reviewed, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

Residents of Pulpit Hill in Oban had branded the traffic management 'an accident waiting to happen' and called for a one way system to be put in place.

Pulpit Drive resident Sandra McCall claimed the only reason cars have not collided is because motorists 'have good brakes'.

Argyll and Bute Council rejected residents' pleas claiming there had only been 'two minor accidents' in the development in the last five years.

But Mrs McCall disputed the council's findings. She said: 'Are we all meant to report slight damage to the police? I personally have had two scrapes in recent years which cost over £100 each to put right, and several people have told me the same.'

Mrs McCall contacted the council who told her the decision of the area committee on June 13 'cannot, in terms of the council's standing orders, be altered or revoked within a period of six months from that date, although it can be reviewed'.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee are set to consider the matter when they meet on September 12.'

# Oban man jailed for two years on heroin dealing charge

AN OBAN man was sentenced to two years in prison after being found in possession of heroin with a street value of £3,000.

Michael MacLellan, 28, currently resident in HMP Barlinnie, admitted possessing the drug with intent to supply on May 18 at an address in Miller Road, Oban. Police officers had a search warrant for the property, occupied by MacLellan's girlfriend, and found him with two large wraps of brown powder and a tin of cream.

There was also another bag with several smaller wraps, known as 'tenner bags', several mobile phones and £150 in cash. There was 46 grams of heroin in total.

MacLellan admitted he had purchased the drug in Glasgow on credit and 'still owed for it'. He intended to supply it in order to feed his and his partner's habit.

Sheriff Small said: 'I have repeatedly made it quite plain in this court that people who are in possession of drugs and attempting to supply them to others will be dealt with severely.'

MacLellan's sentence was backdated to May 21 when he was taken into custody.



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**Music classes for tiny tots**

LOCHABER Music School is on the lookout for babies - aged from six months to three years - to join its 'Exploring Music' classes.

The course helps the kids, accompanied by their mum or dad, learn about rhythm and pitch through a variety of enjoyable musical activities.

The classes are run at Camahael Hostel, Fort William, by music teacher Claire Reynolds, who previously taught music to youngsters at the British School of Brussels in Belgium.

Music school director Peter Rose said: 'The Exploring Music programme helps develop children's social and personal awareness, speech and language, physical co-ordination and self esteem.'

For information contact Mr Rose on 01397 712882.

**Ex soldier drove at double speed limit**

A FORMER soldier who was caught travelling at 60mph through the village of Kilminver, which has a 30mph limit, pled guilty to careless driving at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Ruari Armstrong, 29, of 5 Craighard Road, Oban, admitted travelling at twice the speed limit on May 24 2010.

Armstrong was fined £540 and had eight penalty points placed on his driving licence.

He was fined a further £270 for failing to appear at a previous court date.

**Five tonnes of gravel stolen from Nevis Range**

FIVE ton bags of lime gravel have been emptied and the contents stolen from the Nevis Range car park, sometime in the last seven days.

Fort William Police are seeking the assistance of anyone with information.

**Police warn of ATM scam in Highlands**

POLICE are urging all users of automated teller machines to be vigilant after several devices have been found attached to cash machines in rural areas in the Highlands in recent weeks.

Any suspicious circumstances should be reported to police.

**Junior gardening show at Lochaber Rural Complex**

YOUNGSTERS from across Lochaber will show off the potatoes, onions, cauliflowers and cabbages they have grown over the summer at a junior gardening show this Saturday.

The show will be held at Lochaber Rural Education Centre, Torlundy, for youngsters who have attended the 'Seed to Supper' project at the centre through their schools. Trophies will be awarded to the winning school, playgroup and nursery. There is also a section for adults at the show with the prize presentation at 3pm.

**Duror wildlife camera stolen**

AN INFRARED wildlife camera was removed from its location in woods in Duror.

The Bushnell Trophy camera was taken sometime during July.

**Hub caps lifted**

FOUR new hub caps were stolen from a Renault Traffic van parked at Heathercroft Motors in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, overnight on August 7 and 8.

A male was seen on CCTV in the vicinity about 11.30pm on August 7.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.



Highland Council hopes to protect wild flowers growing on roadside verges.

**Highland Council bid to protect wild flowers by the roadside**

HIGHLAND Council is to change its schedule for cutting grass on roadsides to allow wild flowers to bloom.

And the council is calling on local people to tell them where the plants are growing.

TEC Services chairman councillor Graham Phillips said: 'There are lots of areas that could have their cutting regime altered to benefit the wildflowers there, which will in turn help the insects that feed on them. We are not asking for a detailed

report, just a quick and easy survey of the variety of colours you see as you pass by in a car or walking.'

Proposed changes include having a single early or late summer cut and varying the height of the flail so that low growing species aren't cut but the taller, more competitive species are.

Anyone with information about flowers on the roadside should contact Jonathan Willet on 01463 702274 or email jonathan.willet@highland.gov.uk

**Mull's mini-railway comes to the end of the line**

THE SALE of a castle on the Isle of Mull will see the end of an era for the area's railway line.

Mull and West Highland Narrow Gauge Railway Company Limited has announced it will be lifting, removing and disposing of its Mull assets following the imminent sale of Torosay Castle.

The castle is currently under offer and directors of the railway had hoped an agreement could be reached which would allow the railway to continue but they have been informed there is no interest in retaining the line.

A spokesman said: 'It had been hoped that a purchaser of the castle would look sympathetically upon the railway as a valid tourist attraction and either take over the operation on Mull or allow its continuance with a new lease and licence to operate.'

'However, it is understood that the castle and grounds are under offer and the agents have advised that the railway is no longer welcome.'

Knight Frank, joint agent for the sale of the castle, confirmed the premises was under offer but could not comment on the removal of the railway line.

The railway directors are now seeking buyers for their 10 1/2" gauge locomotives, coaches, 1.5 miles of track and ancillary equipment. Interested parties should contact the company at: info@mullrail.co.uk.

**Football keeps kids off the streets**



11 and under winners Team 1: Left to right: Connor Anderson, Hailie Aitchison, Jamie Duncan, hat-trick hero Brett MacMillan and Duncan Stevenson. 20\_233street02

A FOOTBALL initiative designed to keep youngsters occupied during the summer and boost fitness levels reached its climax at Claggan Park in Fort William on Saturday.

The Lochaber Street League (LSL) tournament attracted around 80 youngsters between eight and 16 years of age, who

played a series of matches to decide nine and under, 11 and under and 16 and under winners. The event followed football games at Claggan park every Monday and Wednesday evening since the start of the holidays.

The scheme, which involves community volunteers, police and Highland Council staff,

aims to boost social integration, non-formal education, sustainable crime reduction and health. LSL chairperson Rosie MacPhee told *The Oban Times*:

'It's the culmination of our whole summer programme, which was geared to keeping the kids involved and keeping them off the streets. The police

have always said there's a direct correlation between a reduction in crime and what we are doing. It has been a hugely successful day in glorious weather and in a glorious setting.'

Lochaber High School will host the LSL presentation of trophies and medals on August 24 at 7pm.

**NHS Western Isles to review Barra hospital options**

OPTIONS to upgrade the existing St Brendan's Hospital and Care Home on Barra will be examined by NHS Western Isles later this month.

The health board and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar commissioned a feasibility study last year to address concerns about the long-term suitability of the hospital.

Now completed, the study outlines the way ahead for both the health and social care facilities. Outline costs have also been identified.

Details of the options have not yet been disclosed.

Preferred options Western Isles health board will consider the options at a meeting on August 30, at which members will be asked to agree on the preferred option or options to progress towards a full business case.

It will then be considered by the joint Health and Social Care Committee on August 31 and the Comhairle's Policy and Resources Committee early in September.

A spokesperson for NHS Western Isles said: 'Clearly the final outcome will depend upon decisions taken on preferred options by both the Comhairle and the Health Board.'

'The board will not be commenting on options contained within the feasibility study prior to the meeting at the end of the month.'

**Hot prospect theatre performers to play Mull**

TWO OF Scotland's most hotly tipped young theatre performers will be visiting the Isle of Mull soon as part of a special island theatre double bill.

Kieran Hurley and Gary McNair will take to the road for a tour around the Highlands and Islands as they take audiences on a journey across Europe.

Kieran hitches a lift from Glasgow to L'Aquila, Italy, in a heartfelt theatre show 'Hitch', an autobiographical performance about global leaders, compassionate strangers and a young man and his thumb.

The second part of the double bill is 'Crunch' by Gary McNair, a hilarious performance about the value of money.

Gary believes you've got what it takes to complete his five-step programme and that you can be liberated from the tyranny of money forever.

The show comes to Mull Theatre on Tuesday October 2 at 8pm.



**Charitable trust donates £10,000 to local organisations throughout Lorn and islands**

A CHARITABLE trust in Oban has recently distributed £10,000 to 25 organisations in the Lorn and Mull area, thanks to generous local donations.

MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust awarded money in July to a variety of groups including Argyll RDA Driving Group, Atlantis Leisure Summer Camp and Bunesan Primary School, on the Isle of Mull.

A number of other schools in the area also benefited as well as local sports groups, seniors and youth groups and local festivals.

Graham MacQueen said it was all made possible by the ongoing generous donations from the community as well as the 'whole hearted commitment' of 16 unpaid volunteers and the full-time unpaid manager Grace Scott.

Mr MacQueen also wanted to

thank Argyll and Bute Council for the free use of the White Building. He said: 'This is the most wonderful enterprise with huge community support bringing financial assistance to many community based organisations and also providing items free of charge to deserving individuals.'

For free boxes to donate bric-a-brac or for free uplift of saleable items contact 01631 564848.

**Morvern Lines**

AS TODAY'S highly sophisticated forwarders, harvesters and skidder cranes crash their way through Morvern's state forests, I often wonder how many of their operators appreciate just how rapidly the extraction side of the timber industry has advanced in the last century.

Taken in 1910, the photograph, below, shows four men manhandling five massive fir trees felled by hand on the north side of Loch Arienas from a ravine below Beinn na h'Uamh.

Dragged to the water's edge by horses, these logs were lashed together to form a raft and then slowly towed across the loch behind a rowing boat. Reaching the shallows on the opposite shore, they were

again hitched to another pair of horses and pulled onto firm ground before being loaded onto specially constructed horse-drawn wagons and taken to the estate sawmill three miles away.

The man on horseback is Ardtornish Estate ploughman, James Scouler, who retired in 1924 after 40 years service. He and five of his colleagues retired on the same day, clocking up a total of 234 years between them - all on the same estate.

They were: Samuel Henry, shepherd; James Moffat, shepherd; Duncan Mackenzie, ploughman; Neil McGillivray, ploughman and Archibald Henry, shepherd. Surely a record?



DURING the past few weeks a team with a wheeled excavator from the Highland Council Road's Department has been doing sterling work making off-lets and cleaning two huge ditches on either side of the public road between Lochaline to Larachbeg which will go a long way to prevent flooding and icing of the carriageway during the forthcoming winter months.

IN YEARS gone by the smaller single-track roads used to be maintained by local men who were each responsible for certain stretches.

The last road-section man in Morvern was David Cameron, Bunavullin, who died in 1976. With no more than a wheelbarrow, a bushman saw, a pick and shovel and the stamina of five men, 'Big Davy', as he was affectionately known, kept the gravel surfaces and the verges from Drimmin to Fiunary in immaculate condition winter and summer.

Like his colleague and namesake Alasdair Cameron from Loch Sunartside, who looked after a long stretch of road between Strontian and Salen, Davy had a prodigious knowledge of the history of the area and was always ready with a witticism or some pearl of wisdom for any traveller who stopped and passed the time of day with him.

David and Alasdair Cameron were outstanding personalities who helped to recreate the past and enrich the future of

the communities they lived amongst.

MISSING also from today's highways and byways and probably only remembered now by an older generation, are the travellers or 'milestone inspectors'.

There were three in particular who paid frequent visits to Morvern before the Second World War. Pat McQueen carried a pack with spectacles, wool, knives and needles and was a welcome visitor in the days before travelling vans and mail order catalogues.

He would come in by Ardgour and Kingairloch and in due course walk over the hill to Kinlochtaeacus and Glencripesdale before crossing Loch Sunart and into Moirdart. Another popular itinerant was 'Steenie the Warlock' whose favourite stopping off point was Ullin in the White Glen where Donald and Margaret Mackay gave him food and lodgings in their hayloft in return for help on the croft. As a song writer with a fund of stories and tales and news from other areas, Steenie's visits were always looked forward to. Less welcome was an Irishman called Kelly who had a bad habit of burning down isolated thatched cottages when he was finished staying in them. He was responsible for destroying Lurga House in the Black Glen and a house at Druimbuidhe near Drimmin.

Iain Thornber.

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# French driver who injured five is fined and banned at Oban court

A FRENCHMAN who caused a road accident which injured five people, including himself, was fined £400 at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Bertrand Mouly, aged 45, from Paris admitted driving dangerously by being on the wrong side of the carriageway.

Mouly was on the A816 south of Kilmore, near Oban, on August 3 when the accident happened. He had his wife and two children in the vehicle. His 15-year-old daughter sustained facial injuries, including a broken nose, in the collision. His seven-year-old son had a head

injury. The driver of the other vehicle had a fractured arm and abdominal injuries.

Disqualifying Mouly from driving in the UK for one year, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is unfortunate the accident had such unpleasant consequences.'

The court heard this is not the

first time foreign drivers, who would otherwise be considered responsible and safe, have caused accidents by driving on the wrong side of the road this year.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton told the court: 'It is the usual story, there was no other vehicles

on the road or he would have been reminded to drive on the left.'

Sheriff Small said that problems usually arose when drivers stopped for the evening and started off again in the morning.

In a previous case at Oban

Sheriff Court, a Belgian woman had been in the dock after she had pulled out of a junction near the village of Appin and had been driving on the wrong side of the road.

Lothje Vandersompele caused a crash involving three cars that shut the A828 Oban - Fort

William road for several hours a few weeks ago.

At the time, defending agent Miss Wilson said her client, who was here on holiday, had a 'momentary lapse' of concentration.

'She had previously driven up from Hull without incident.'

## Lorn 'gold' medals for 'local heroes'

WHILE some of the world's best athletes were being awarded Olympic medals, some of Argyll's best ambassadors were rewarded with accolades of their own.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday awarded Lorn Medals to the people behind the Oban Phoenix Cinema, West Highland Yachting Week and Tiree Music Festival.

Yachting week organisers told the councillors there had been an increase in the entry list to 114 and it was the only regatta in the UK to see an increase.

Daniel Gillespie of Tiree Music Festival said the festival had a huge economic impact on the area and that they had hosted the equivalent of double the island's population in one weekend. He added: 'Some guesthouses were getting 20 hits per month on their websites but in the build up to the festival they were getting 100 per day.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema committee has overseen the reopening of the cinema, which has seen sell-out viewings of *Brave* over the past fortnight.

## £650 fine for double breach of the peace at Oban

AN OBAN man was fined a total of £650 at the town's sheriff court last week for committing two counts of breach of the peace.

Thomas Barr, 51, of 11 Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street, Oban, admitted shouting and swearing on Corran Esplanade while trying to gain access to a pub on June 29 but he denied a further offence at a house in the Dunollie area of the town.

Barr was on bail when both offences took place.

He had been at a party at his friend's flat on April 20.

The court heard police officers had attended the residence twice in one evening after receiving several complaints of noise from neighbours. Officers had given those in the flat an opportunity to leave which all, except Barr, had done. He continued to shout and swear. Barr claimed police swore at him and he had been in the process of leaving when he was arrested. Sheriff Small dismissed Barr's claims and found him guilty.

# 'Troops' on the march with banned standard

### Jacobite group marks first skirmish of rising

A GROUP of Jacobite 'troops' will march to the historic High Bridge over the River Spean carrying a banned standard on Sunday.

Jacobite group Na Fir Dileas - the Loyal Men - will make the one-and-a-half mile journey from the Commando Memorial to mark the first skirmish of the Jacobite rising following Prince Charlie's landing at Glenfinnan.

It was in August 1745 at the now ruined bridge that 12 rebels led by a piper fooled two companies of Government troops into believing they were surrounded, causing them to flee.

It became famous as the first skirmish of the '45.

The Loyal Men will march to the bridge in full regalia and conduct a ceremony to mark the anniversary.

Meanwhile the villages which provided the original rebels - Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge - will be flying the red and white Jacobite Standard, still technically outlawed as the law banning it has never been repealed.

The standards have been specially made by local sewing service owner Colette Strachan.

Local tourism group spokesman Peter Wilson said: 'It's the second year the ceremony has been held. We got away with flying the banned

flags last August - and I am sure we won't be getting a knock on the door this year!'

The skirmish at High Bridge has figured in a number of historic books, including the 'Flight of the Heron' by D K Broster.

The march to the bridge will be at midday, with a special Jacobite ceilidh being held at Spean Bridge's Old Station Restaurant on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a recent visitor to the bridge has claimed the site could be haunted.

Rita Henderson, of Glasgow, and her husband said they heard strange sounds while walking along the path.

She said: 'I was aware of an uneasiness and was certain someone was behind us who seemed to stop whenever we did. I was aware of voices. They seemed to come and go and could only be described as the sound of a 'skirmish'.'

Mr Wilson, said: 'This is the first I have heard of anything supernatural at the site. I should be glad to hear from anyone who has had experiences similar to those of Mrs Henderson.

'My wife and I walk the path quite often and, apart from the occasional barks from dogs at a kennels on the other side of the River Spean, it's always been very peaceful.'

# Lifeboat open day success

BLISTERING sunshine ensured a large crowd turned up for Oban RNLI Lifeboat Station's 40th anniversary open day, raising more than £2,100 for the charity.

Hundreds of people turned up for the event at the station's home on Gallanach Road on Saturday, taking a tour of the lifeboat, the *Mora Edith MacDonald*, before perusing the stalls and activities on offer.

One of the most popular attractions was from boat trip operator Sea.fari who took visitors on a high-speed tour of Oban's bay, generating £760 towards the day's takings.

Business boomed on the book stall, burger stall and for teas and home baking and younger visitors enjoyed everything from face painting and a treasure map to painting a big sea-based picture.

A hidden message, contained in a painting completed by children who attend School's Out, Oban, was revealed as being - The RNLI Saves Lives At Sea. The artistic theme continued with Highland artist Paul Taggart painting live at the event.



Artist Paul Taggart painted a montage of events at Oban Lifeboat Station's open day, with the picture donated to the local fundraising group that evening. 15\_1337m13



Four-year-old twins Rannoch, left, and Struan Wilson found out what it was like to take the *Mora Edith MacDonald* out for a spin during Saturday's open day. Their uncle, David Isaac, is a volunteer on the Oban lifeboat. 15\_1337m11

# Mindless thugs rip up memorial bench

THE LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council has led community condemnation against thugs who ripped up a memorial bench on the Corran Esplanade before throwing it into Oban Bay.

The bench, dedicated to the Oban families of Mowatt and Maddocks (1919 - 2008), were bolted down into the concrete path along the Esplanade, across from the Corran Halls.

The incident, which happened last weekend, was reported to council leader and Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddy McCuish, who told *The Oban*

*Times*: 'This is a despicable crime.

'Someone has gone to great expense to have a fitting memorial to their family and it has been ripped up and tossed onto the shore in an act of mindless vandalism.

'These benches are put in place by council workers who take great care to make sure they are bolted down securely, so whoever did this has gone to a lot of trouble to rip it out.

'I just can't understand it and the incident must be very upsetting for the families.'

# Growing frustration with CalMac on Barra

THERE is growing frustration on the isle of Barra over the reliability and timing of the ferry service.

The chairwoman of Castlebay and Vatersay Community Council, Karen MacLean, has called on ferries operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to revise its island arrangements, with complaints about poor connectivity with public transport and the *MV Clansman* cancelling 'far too easily' in 'mild' weather.

Karen said: 'The service is awful at times, it is as if there's no thought put into it.

'The Castlebay ferry is cancelled far too easily. Yet, when the main ferry is cancelled, the small ferry to Eriskay continues to sail.

'We've already had cancellations this summer when the weather is calm. What are we supposed to do in January?'

CalMac say there aren't enough train or bus services to provide a connection with every ferry. Weather, meanwhile, can vary massively between the Sound of Eriskay and the Sound of Barra, with the conditions affecting each of the ferries in different ways.

The spokesman said: 'Ultimately the decision on whether to sail or not rests with the master or skipper and is based on their own professional judgement and knowledge of the route.

'The decision is never taken lightly and we would make no apology for always putting the safety of passengers, the crew and the ship first.'

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Laura Grieve of Dunvegan got the chance to hold the Olympic torch at the Games. First aider Bill McMillan was selected to carry it last month and took his torch along on the day. 20\_f32akye05



Isle of Skye Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Peter MacDonald, performed throughout the day. 20\_f32skye09



Caught in mid-air: Waternish man Ally MacLeod competing in the hop, step and leap. 20\_f32skye08

# Drama filled day at Skye Games

THOUSANDS of visitors and locals packed 'The Lump' in Portree to attend the 135th Isle of Skye Highland Games last Wednesday.

The sky above was cloudy but the rain stayed away as the crowds watched top class efforts in Highland dancing, heavy events, piping and athletics in the natural amphitheatre overlooking the town.

But the Games were nearly overcast when Highland dancing judge Marion MacKenzie of Portree was hit in the stomach by a wayward hammer.

Heavy athlete Peter Mayne of New Zealand released the 22lb hammer too early causing it to fly over the protective net and straight into the judges' tent.

The hushed crowd looked on as Ms MacKenzie was given first aid on the field before being taken to nearby Portree Hospital by ambulance.

To everyone's relief, Games chieftain Tommy MacKenzie confirmed Ms MacKenzie had suffered 'no ill effects' from the incident and had been given a routine check up by doctors.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Records tumbled in the heavy competitions, with four new benchmarks set out of the seven events.

A high class field of eight athletes from Poland, New Zealand and England took part, with Polish strongman Sebastian Wenta taking home the Isle of Skye Estate Agency Trophy for best results overall.

But his brother Lukasz set two new records - first throwing the light stone 59 feet 5 1/2 inches, then throwing the heavy stone 50 feet 6 1/2 inches.

Londoner Scott Rider threw a 28lb weight 85 feet 3 1/2 inches for a new record, and Pole Dominik Zielinski got the 56lb weight over a 16 foot 3-inch high bar.

Portree man Tommy MacKenzie took on role of Chieftain for the Games for the fifth year in a row.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's been a great day. We had one slight blip with someone getting hit by the hammer, but it's going very, very well. There's been

a great local and professional turnout, the rain has stayed off and we've had a very good crowd.

'The local competitions have been very good as well.'

First aider Bill McMillan was selected to carry the Olympic torch as it made its way through Tomintoul last month and the Corpach man brought the torch along with him. Throughout the day people were lined up to have their photo taken with Bill and the torch.

He said: 'I've got a long association with the Games, I've been doing first aid for years here.

'I brought it along to give people the chance to see it.'

Isle of Skye Pipe Band, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, played in the field in the morning and afternoon, before finishing their day with a performance in Somerled Square.

Pipe Major Peter MacDonald told *The Oban Times* performing in *The Lump* was a yearly highlight for the band.

He said: 'I've been in the band

now since 1974 and I always enjoy the Games thoroughly. It's the highlight of the year.

'We're entertaining more than 3,000 of an audience here today and the weather's first class, so that's an extra bonus for us.'

The piping competitions saw plenty of local representation with Decker Forrest of Sleat winning the Dunvegan Medal.

Kyle of Lochalsh man Niall Stewart won the open Strathspey and Reel event, while Plockton youngster Cameron Sharp won the under 18s open Piobaireachd.

Seamus O'Boaighill of Sleat took first place in the under 18s open March Strathspey and Reel.

In the local athletics, Ally Macleod of Waternish finished first in the hop, step and leap, the high jump and the two-lap race.

Anthony Young of Dunfermline finished first in the open two-lap and four-lap races, while Glasgow man Gary Rankin won the eight-lap race and the hill race.

Christina Rankin of Paisley dominated the women's events, winning the hill race as well as the two-lap and eight-lap events.

## Down Your Way

### Barra

THIS week saw the biennial MacNeil Clan Gathering on the Isle of Barra, bringing together a long line of descendants of the clan from across the world.

Around 30 MacNeils from the UK and further afield converged at Kisimul Castle, Castlebay, on Tuesday for a reception with Clan Chief, MacNeil of Barra, and his family, as part of a busy programme of events to celebrate the name's history.

The four-day gathering started on Monday with a presentation from Jamie MacPherson of Civic Scotland, Gaelic lessons and a ceilidh, before members embarked on a busy programme designed to introduce them fully to the island.

Activities included an island bus tour, a visit to the island

market and craft display, and a showing of *Whisky Galore* at a special film evening, complete with archive footage of the island.

Kisimul Castle will then open today (Thursday) to allow clan members a chance to explore the seat of the clan, with MacNeil of Barra on hand to answer questions.

The busy programme will be rounded off tonight with a Clan MacNeil dinner.

A spokesperson for the clan said: 'Some of the MacNeils coming have been to the island before for other gatherings, but for others this will have been their first time. It's very important for the people that come here that they have contact with the island and the home of the clan. It's also important for people from the island to keep their links to their family and friends.'



The show has proved popular with families, with this bunch among those entering products into last year's show. Aunt Morag MacNeil, back left, is joined by Merian MacNeil and her daughters Joanna, front left, and Lauren.

CELEBRATING its sixth anniversary, the Barra and Vatersay Island Produce Show is gaining more and more followers every year.

Held at Castlebay Hall on September 1, the event provides the perfect platform for islanders to show off their talents in the kitchen, workshop or garden, also helping encourage others to put their minds towards flexing their own creative or productive muscles.

Keeping with the theme, the event introduces trophies for the junior sections for the first time thanks to sponsorship from local organisations and businesses. A new shield has also been donated by Nancy MacNeil to be awarded to the entrant under 18 who achieves the highest overall points total in the open sections.

It is gearing up to be yet another high quality show.

Organiser Sarah MacLean said: 'In previous years the under 18s had to make do with rosettes but we wanted to encourage more people to come forward to do some crafts, gardening or

baking. It is thanks to these local organisations that we could get these trophies and hopefully that will make a difference.

'We have baking, craft, gardening and crofting sections again this year and it is all about highlighting the quality of products like this available on the island.'

Last year, nearly a fifth of the island's population took part in the event, with 154 of the 206 turning up under 18 years of age. In total, there were 678 exhibits - nearly half as much as the previous year.

It is hoped that interest will continue to grow, but the organisers aren't resting on their laurels - they're making sure people turn up in force.

Sarah said: 'It is a real community-based show and year after year we sit down and think what we make it better and how can we make it better. We are just hoping all our plans pay off and we get another show as successful as last year.'

More information on this year's show can be found at [produceshow.org.uk](http://produceshow.org.uk).

IT STARTED as a means of helping to decorate venues for community events island, but the Barra Bunting project has quickly turned into an international celebration of the island.

Started in March, the project has already met its initial goal of extending to usable length, with more than 100 bunting flags contributed from islanders and regular visitors.

Such enthusiasm is attached to the project, however, that contributions have already arrived from every corner of the globe, with flags arriving from the likes of Australia, Germany and even the USA.

The current reel of bunting will be officially unveiled on September 1 at this year's Island Produce Show and co-ordinator Sarah MacLean is delighted at the response.

She said: 'It's going really, really well. I've received well over 100 now for the launch day, so the reception has been fantastic. It seems to have really inspired people and we've had some terrific designs. We've had contributions from

people of all ages too and from different materials. Everyone has their own style and it makes for really interesting bunting.'

So successful has the project been that it has been selected to appear on a Scottish Government website about community empowerment.

That's not where the ambition ends though.

'It will be a constant thing now, the project will just go on,' said Sarah.

'So far it's provided a really good line of bunting for community events and to decorate the island but is a great connection to the worldwide community that's either got links to Barra or has visited the island.'

'It's something everyone can participate in so please get in touch.'

For information on Barra Bunting and details of how to contribute a flag, check the website at [barrabunting.net](http://barrabunting.net), find barrabunting on Facebook or follow the Twitter feed, @barrabunting.

**Next week Down Your Way visits Ullapool with Stephen Norris. You can contact Stephen on 01397 703003 or [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk).**



Calum Harper of Broadford giving it his all in the Strathspey and Reel competition. 20\_f32skye02



Highland Games Judge Marian MacKenzie was taken to hospital after being struck by a wayward hammer. 20\_f32skye06

## Killin celebrates successful event

IT MAY have been a bit wet, but the organisers of the Killin Highland Games are celebrating yet another success after a healthy turnout and good competition.

Heavy rain threatened to put a dampener on the day, but it didn't make much difference in the end with visitors decked out in waterproofs and wellies to enjoy the action packed programme.

One of the star guests was the Olympic torch, which was run around the grounds by Herbie McLean, before taking pride of place at the opening ceremony, with Herbie passing the flame to organiser Charlie Grant.

The Games were officially opened by chieftain, David Webster OBE, who was led into the ground by Callander Pipe Band, who marched from the square.

Rain meant some alteration to

proceedings, with the highland dancing competitions held in the McLaren Hall, instead of at the Games grounds.

However, everything went ahead as planned, with the heavy games proving a particular success.

Speaking afterwards, Charlie Grant said he was delighted with the turnout, even if it was one of the wettest days in the event's history.

'It was a wee bit damp right enough,' he said. 'We couldn't cancel it because we had staff on hand, but it was well attended considering the weather.'

'We were quite surprised actually, all the athletes were well for the future.'

'Thanks to everyone who turned up and supported the games.'



David Webster OBE, left, opened the games with Charlie Grant, holding the Olympic torch, and Herbie McLean, right.

### Results

Dancing, Confined to Perthshire  
 U14 S/Triubhas: 1 Rachel Adam, Invergowrie; 2 Catriona Gammons, Criarlairich; 3 Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam. U14 Hullachan: 1 Lyndsey Douglas; 2 Rachel Adam; 3 Catriona Gammons. 14 & Over S/Triubhas: 1 Laura McLean, Perth; 2 Isla Bendall, Crieff; 3 Katrina Kennedy, Aberfeldy. 14 & Over Hullachan: 1 Laura McLean; 2 Isla Bendall; 3 Katrina Kennedy. Open U14 Highland Fling: 1 Riona Clifford, Larbert; 2 Linzi Cameron, Campbelltown; 3 Catriona Gammons, Criarlairich. U12 S/Triubhas: 1 Elisha Scobie; 2 Riona Clifford; 3 Linzi Cameron. U12 Flora McDonald's Fancy: 1 Elisha Scobie; 2 Riona Clifford; 3 Trini Adams, Falkirk. U12 Scottish Lilt: 1 Elisha Scobie; 2 Linzi Cameron; 3 Riona Clifford. U12 Overall: Elisha Scobie, Glenrothes; Riona Clifford, Larbert; Linzi Cameron, Campbelltown. 12 & U14 Highland Fling: 1 Olivia Blennie, Stirling; 2 Katie Reisma, New Zealand; 3 Iona Wallace, Carnoustie. 12 & U14 Hullachan: 1 Olivia Blennie; 2 Iona Wallace; 3 Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam. 12 & U14 Barracks Johnny: 1 Olivia Blennie; 2 Katie Reisma; 3 Anna Machado, 12 & U14 Jig: 1 Olivia Blennie; 2 Rachel Adam; 3 Stephani Roberts. 12 & U14 Overall: Olivia Blennie, Stirling; Katie Reisma, New Zealand; Iona Wallace, Carnoustie. 14 & U17 Highland Fling: 1 Lucy Rice, Stirling; 2 Stephanie Webster, Wick; 3 Isla Bendall, Crieff; 4 Bethany Lyall, Clydebank. 14 & U17 S/Triubhas: 1 Lucy Rice; 2 Bethany Lyall; 3 Stephanie Webster. 14 & U17 Highland Laddie: 1 Stephanie Webster; 2 Lucy Rice; 3 Bethany Lyall. 14 & U17 Sailors Hornpipe: 1 Stephanie Webster; 2 Lucy Rice; 3 Bethany Lyall. 14 & U17 Overall: Lucy Rice, Stirling; Stephanie Webster, Wick; Bethany Lyall, Clydebank).  
 Adults Highland Fling: 1 Fiona Lee, BC; 2 Breanna Watt, BC; 3 Elyane Seaton, Kilbirnie. Adults S/Triubhas: 1 Breanna Watt, 2 Fiona Lee; 3 Elyane Seaton. Adults Sailors Hornpipe: 1 Fiona Lee; 2 Breanna Watt; 3 Eilidh Buchanan. Adults Jig: 1 Elyane Seaton; 2 Eilidh Buchanan; 3 Fiona Lee. Adults Overall: Fiona Lee, BC; Breanna Watt, BC; Elyane Seaton, Kilbirnie.  
 Games, Open  
 Open 16lb ball: 1 Lucasz Wenta 59' 6"; 2 Sebastian Wenta 54' 7"; 3 Scott Rider 54' 4".  
 Open 22lb Ball: 1 Sebastian Wenta 45' 9"; 2 Dominic Zielinski 44' 3"; 3 Lucasz Wenta 43' 2". Open 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 Scott Rider 84' 2"; 2 Sebastian Wenta 78' 10"; 3 Craig Sinclair 76' 9". Open 56lb Weight for Distance: 1 Dominic Zielinski 38"; 2 Sebastian Wenta 37' 4"; 3 Bruce Robb 37' 1". Open 16lb Hammer: 1 Craig Sinclair 129' 6"; 2 Steven King 126' 8"; 3 Lucasz Wenta 123' 3". Open 22lb Hammer: 1 Craig Sinclair 109' 1"; 2 Sebastian Wenta 106' 8"; 3 Steven King 104' 10". Open Caber: 1 Sebastian Wenta; 2 Dominic Zielinski; 3 Jason Young. Open 56lb Weight for Height: 1=Lucasz Wenta 15' 9" and Dominic Zielinski 15' 9"; 3= Jason Young, Bruce Robb, Sebastian Wenta and Scott Rider.  
 PHGA  
 Caber: 1= Stuart Anderson and Lorne Colthart; 3 Pete Hart. Hammer: 1 Lorne Colthart 96' 2"; 2 Stuart Anderson 89' 6"; 3 Pete Hart 87' 5". Weight for Distance: 1 Lorne Colthart 72' 2"; 2 Stuart Anderson 64' 8"; 3 Pete Hart 59' 2". 16lb Shot: 1 Lorne Colthart, Blair Atholl, 47' 9"; 2 Stuart Anderson, Killin, 41' 9"; 3 David Colthart Junior, Blair Atholl 37' 10".  
 Games, Scottish  
 Scottish 16lb Ball: 1 Bruce Robb 48' 11"; 2 Sinclair Patience 48' 7"; 3 Lorne Colthart 47'. Scottish 22lb Ball: 1= Sinclair Patience

39'6" and Bruce Robb 39' 6"; 3 Lorne Colthart 38' 11". Scottish 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 Craig Sinclair 76' 9"; 2 Sinclair Patience 75' 10"; 3 Bruce Robb 74'. Scottish 56lb Weight for Distance: 1 Bruce Robb 37' 1"; 2 Craig Sinclair 33' 8"; 3 Sinclair Patience 33'. Scottish 16lb Hammer: 1 Craig Sinclair 129' 6"; 2 Steven King 126' 8"; 3 Bruce Robb 119' 10". Scottish 22lb Hammer: 1 Craig Sinclair 109' 1"; 2 Steven King 104' 10"; 3 Bruce Robb 102' 1". Scottish Caber: 1 Jason Young; 2 Neil Elliott; 3 Bruce Robb. Scottish 56lb Weight for Height: 1= Jason Young and Bruce Robb; 3= Sinclair Patience, Pete Hart and Stuart Anderson.  
 Piping results  
 Senior Piping  
 Piobaireachd: 1 Douglas Murray; 2 Gordon MacCreedy; 3 James Gore. March: 1 Gordon MacCreedy; 2 Douglas Murray; 3 Jonathan Graham. Strathspey and Reel: 1 Gordon MacCreedy; 2 Douglas Murray; 3 Jonathan Graham. Jig: 1 Grieg Wilson; 2 Douglas Murray; 3 Gordon MacCreedy. Games Champion: Douglas Murray. 18 and Under  
 March: 1 Andrew Clark; 2 Ross Miller; 3 Iain Crawford. Strathspey and Reel: 1 Andrew Clark; 2 Scott Barrie; 3 Ross Miller. Jig: 1 Andrew Clark; 2 Rebecca Tierney; 3 Scott Barrie. 18 and Under Champion: Andrew Clark. 14-18 Piobaireachd: 1 Lucy Ferguson; 2 Ross Miller; 3 Iain Crawford. Pat Sandeman Trophy: Lucy Ferguson. 14 and Under  
 March: 1 Robbie MacIsaac; 2 Lucy Ferguson; 3 Jamie Miller. Strathspey and Reel: 1 Robbie MacIsaac; 2 Lucy Ferguson; 3 Harris MacLennan. Jig: 1 Lucy Ferguson; 2 Jamie Miller; 3 Harris MacLennan. Nancy Munro Shield: Lucy Ferguson.  
 The hill race winners after conquering inclines and stormclouds. They are, from left, Craig Harvey, Steven Rawlinson, first lady Julia Conner and Steven Fallon.

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## Islay Letter

### First decade

IONAD Chalum Chille Ile, the island's St Columba Gaelic centre, celebrated its tenth anniversary on August 10.

During the last decade, the centre, housed in a former fever hospital at Gartnatra on the shores of Lochindaal, has made its own telling contribution to the culture and language of the Gaels. It has also pulled out all the stops to promote and encourage Islay's unique Gaelic dialect.

The tenth birthday celebration took the form of a ceiliidh mhór which attracted supporters from all corners of the island.

Providing the entertainment were schoolboy piper Alasdair Currie and Keills fiddle player Mairi MacGillivray. Pupils from the Ella Edgar Dance School were at their nimble best as they performed solo and ensemble dances sporting colourful and attractive costumes.

Singing the Gaelic songs were Laura Howitt, the centre's summer course tutor, Caroline MacCusker, a college volunteer, and Niall Tracey who is currently sharing his computer skills with the college staff.

Accordianist Niall Kirkpatrick provided the dance music and enticed the young and not so young to take the floor.

The celebrations continue tonight, Thursday August 16, with a special reception attended by staff, board of management members and invited guests representing associated organisations.

The main oration will be delivered by Alan Campbell, Gaelic activist, broadcaster and *Oban Times* columnist, who has chosen Islay Gaelic as the main theme of his address.

The evening will also see former Labour MP Brian Wilson being appointed an honorary patron of the college.

This is an apt honour as the ex-parliamentarian, while a Scottish Office Minister with special responsibility for Gaelic, was largely instrumental in bringing Ionad Chalum Chille Ile to fruition.

### Kildalton Cross service

CLOSE on 50 worshippers from the island's various congregations and denominations met at the Kildalton Cross on Sunday for an act of open air worship.

Heading the service was the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, minister of the linked parish of Kilarrow with Kildalton and Oa, and soon also to be parish minister of the neighbouring isle of Jura.

Other participants were the Rev Jim MacNulty, minister of the Baptist congregations, trainee minister and piper Dave Sutherland, Adrienne MacDougall, representing the island's Roman Catholic presence, and the Rev Kenneth Skipper, pastor to the Episcopal community.

The new annual open air service continues an ancient tradition of worship at this historic and sacred site.

The Kildalton Cross dates from the early part of the 8th century and is widely regarded as the finest surviving cross of its type in Scotland and the most perfect monument of its date to survive in Western Europe.

It stands in the grounds of the former parish church of Kildalton (Cill Daltain), the Church of the Foster Son, a title which is generally thought to refer to St John the Evangelist.

The parish itself is of medieval origin and early records suggest that it dates from around 1425AD. The church building is certainly older and probably dates from the late 12th or early 13th century.

Post Reformation, it continued to be used to service a parish which stretched from MacArthur's Head in the north to the Oa peninsula in the south.

The eventual drift of population towards Ardbeg and the surrounding districts saw the discontinuation of worship at Kildalton and the establishment of a new place of worship at Lagavulin at the end of the 18th century.



Happy smiles from the walkers on Lismore who raised more than £500 for Cancer Research UK.

A SPONSORED walk round the Salen ring raised more than £500 for Cancer Research UK.

Thirty walkers left the café at 6pm in perfect weather. They headed for the Achuinduin road, turned off at Salen where Beth Campbell had provided a snack picnic, then headed back to the café to celebrate with tea, coffee, snacks and wine.

Islanders and visitors were joined by walkers from Appin and beyond with transport laid on from Point ferry.

LISMORE'S annual Art and Photography Exhibition opened

### LISMORE

with wine and nibbles on August 3 from 7 to 9pm.

It subsequently ran daily until August 10 from 11am to 4pm with a late night closing at 9pm on the final day.

Ten artists and six photographers took part with a special exhibition and sale of the late Cristall and Anthony Lutyens' work. Both Cristall and Anthony had been members of the art group and Anthony had also done some tutoring.

Also available was the first

chance to see and order the 2013 photographers' calendar with 12 impressive Lismore scenes.

The exhibition was popular with visitors and locals and once again, as in previous years, it was good to see the depth of artistic talent there is on the island.

Equally impressive was the summer craft fair on August 7 and 8 which offered a great selection of hand-crafted quality goods, such as innovatively designed candles in lovely china cups and saucers, crochet ware of all sorts, a variety of soaps, cards, chocolates, dried flowers,

photo pegs, decorated glass and much more.

This was certainly a great opportunity to get that special present for yourself or someone else and it certainly bodes well for great shopping at the Christmas craft fair.

A Guild coffee day in the hall on August 9 also ran in tandem with the art and photography and was very popular with visitors and locals and did steady business throughout the day. With the teas and coffees, some local produce and a busy bric-a-brac stall it raised more than £300.



### KILCHOAN

A FAMILY visiting Kilchoan recently was greeted with an unusual sight - two pine martens at the living room window looking for food.

Gordon Mullay of Kirkcaldy spotted the creatures at around 4pm and managed to capture one with his camera. He said: 'I couldn't believe my luck seeing them in broad daylight and just managed to get the camera out before they shot off.'

Photograph courtesy of 'A Kilchoan Diary'.

### LOCH LOMOND

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has transferred a boat to Central Scotland Police to help with patrols through the park area.

The 7.5m rigid inflatable boat was given to the force's underwater search unit in return for an increased amount of patrols. The boat has been modified to meet police specifications, complete with markings, sirens and blue lights.

It will play a key role in the force's work on Operation Ironworks, which is targeted specifically towards reducing anti-social behaviour such as littering and irresponsible wild camping on the park's lochs.

Inspector David Baird of the search unit said: 'We are delighted to receive this boat and our underwater search unit is already making good use of it by carrying out regular patrols on Loch Lomond and other lochs in the National Park area.'

Bridget Jones, visitor experience manager for the national park, said: 'Working with the police has produced positive results and we're keen to continue this partnership. We are committed to making sure the national park is a safe environment for visitors and residents to enjoy. Running alongside other initiatives, such as Respect the Park and Operation Ironworks, the new boat is a welcome addition.'

## Mull Lines

THE RECENT Salen Show had new cattle pens and hurdles thanks to grants from Mull Environmentally Sensitive Solutions and the Sea Eagle Partnership. A total of £470 was gifted to Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society to buy new Highland Cattle pens.



Residents on Mull and Ulva didn't let a rainy day put them off turning out in force to show their support for a proposed fish farm in the area. BBC Radio 4's Costing the Earth programme visited the Boathouse on Ulva recently to interview local people about the proposed fish farm in Loch Tuath. The locals turned up at short notice to show their support for the plans. They said they are 'keen to see development' in the Ulva Ferry area, where employment and housing is 'much needed'.



Some of the schoolchildren who took part in the island-wide art project.

SCHOOL children on Mull and Iona who have been participating in an island wide art project are to be invited to a special preview of their exhibition.

The project, led by Edinburgh artist Emma Herman-Smith, is called Forest Partners and was designed for children to explore local woodland environments, learn about forest flora and fauna and then translate their experience into art.

Emma has been working on the project, in which more than 160 children from age three to 14 took part, from An Tobar. The exhibition will run at the arts centre from September 7 to November 3. A preview and celebration of the children's work will be on September 6.

### SEIL

BALVICAR Stores and Post Office has a new manager after Wendy Dugdale moved back to the area.

Wendy and her husband Chris have returned to the area from working down south where the couple met.

They have a son Rikki-Lee at the high school and daughter at the local primary school.

A suggestion box has been set up for any items people want the shop to stock. Wendy has already increased the number of sweets, ice-creams and drinks in stock and fresh fish, crabs and lobsters are available to order from Drew and Charlene whose contact numbers are in the shop.



Parish minister the Rev Dr Rob Barlow leading the worship at the open air service at the Kildalton Cross. Photograph by Becky Williamson.

### Skiff launch

SEA FEVER was in the air at Portnahaven when close on 200 spectators attended the launch of the second St Ayles skiff built for the island's rowing club by Jack Glover and his boat building friends.

The new skiff, named 'Bluebell', was smoothly launched and put through her paces by a crack crew of lady rowers.

Sailing alongside the new boat was her sister skiff 'Lily Bheag', launched earlier in the year. Both skiffs are based at the boat park at Bruichladdich.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

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### PLOCKTON

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club was held on August 6.

Forty four members attended. Treasurer Douglas Hamilton submitted a satisfactory report despite expenditure of £9,325.01.

Membership was up on previous years with 32 life; 31 family; 54 individual; 30 junior and 17 social members.

Alexander MacKenzie was elected commodore and Malcolm MacKenzie, vice commodore.

Secretary, Tristian Southall; treasurer, Douglas Hamilton; minutes secretary, Alison French; sailing convener, Maggie Byrne; principal instructor, John Leiper and social convener, Sandra Byrne. Eight members were elected to the general committee.

The meeting agreed by a one vote majority to have the AGM at the end of the season in future. Also in the new constitution, members must write 28 days before the AGM to have an item on the agenda.

Two cups for local boats are sailed for after the regatta fortnight. The first one is the Visitors Cup and the first race in a series of three was held on August 10: 1

Jay MacKenzie *Sea Ranger*; 2 Douglas Hamilton, *Ajax*; 3 Alastair Sharp, *Rona*.

On Saturday four boats sailed in lovely sunshine and light winds:

1 Jay MacKenzie, *Sea Ranger*; 2 Douglas Hamilton, *Ajax*; Michael Hay, *Nan*.

The third and final race is on August 24 with the final race for local boats in the Jubilee Trophy on August 25.

CONGRATULATIONS to Adam Porritt who played football for Ross County against Aberdeen last Saturday in the Premier League.

Adam, a former pupil of Plockton High School, played for Plockton under 17's last year.

DURING July there was two-and-a-quarter inches of rain at Plockton following on from one-and-a-half inches in June.

With approximately 25 inches for the first seven months, this is around ten inches less than last year. Since March there has been only around 11 inches - the driest spell for many years. The warmest day in July was only 18.5°C and the coldest 5.6°C.

District newsdesks 01631 568000 and 01397 703003

### KILLIN

ASPIRING athletes will be able to practise their own Olympic aspirations in Killin next weekend, with the Tay Fitness Killin 10k introducing a new fun run.

Last year's inaugural event saw participants of all fitness levels take part, but the field was mostly made up of adults. Keen to attract the next generation of runners, organiser Pete Waugh put together a 1km fun run to start just after the main event, bringing the full family flavour to the Glen Lochay event. It is hoped the change will help further boost numbers at the race, which helps raise funds for a host of local charities.

Pete said: 'Last year we had participants of all fitness levels but mainly adults.'

'This year we want runners of all ages so have added a 1km fun run which will start just after the 10K start at 12noon.'

'The 10K is over an undulating course in the beautiful Glen Lochay. It starts by running over the picturesque Falls of Dochart and finishes in Breadalbane Park below the Tarmachan mountain range.'

'All finishers will receive a medal and goody bag and have the opportunity of a post-race massage and to tuck into homemade soup and sandwiches during the prize giving. Whether this is your first or 50th 10k, it is sure to be an experience to remember.'

To register or for more information, see www.tayfitness.com.

### KILMORE

THE AUGUST 100 Club winner was I MacDonald. There are still a few numbers available for new names. Contact D Mudie on 770268.

A successful burger stall was held at the Lorn Show which raised more than £1,000 for Kilmore Hall Funds. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and helpers who worked so hard on such a hot sunny day. Also thanks to Grant's Butcher at Taynult for their burgers and Lidl for their donation of rolls and bacon.

Kilmore Hall is waiting for a stage to be delivered but the new stage curtains are installed. The hall will take bookings by groups of all kinds.

# Thinking of building your own home?

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OT

# Sun shines on Sunart Show



Nine-year-old Eva McMenemy and her six-year-old brother Tom, from Strontian, entered seven-month-old collie Jess in the dog show. 20\_f33show04

MEMORIES of last year's rain-affected event were banished at the 62nd annual Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday as the sun beamed down on Strontian Showfield.

The biggest day on Sunart's calendar did not disappoint, with show organisers reporting an excellent attendance and stallholders doing a roaring trade.

Sunart Community Company's burger stall proved a smash hit, boosting the company's coffers in the process.

The cash raised will go towards progressing ambitious community projects, including a small hydro power scheme above Strontian.

Equestrian stunt riding display team Riders of the Storm from Pitlochry entertained spectators round the main ring with some daredevil tricks, adding a real sense of occasion in what was a great family day out.

For show secretary Denise Anderson and her hard working team, the crowds thronging the tree-lined arena were reward enough for months of hard work and preparation.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

She told *The Oban Times* inside the secretary's tent: 'It's just a fabulous day. The show is very well supported and obviously everybody is enjoying themselves.'

'It's a very good crowd and the great weather means they have stayed as well. It rained last year and everybody disappeared!'

She added: 'We'd like to thank all our sponsors and all those people who were not on the committee, yet gave up their valuable time to help.'

Stallholders included Strontian fire brigade, who were raising funds for the Fire Fighters Charity through a tombola and raffle. Watch manager Alasdair MacLean of Strontian said the money would help personnel injured while doing their job by supporting three recuperation centres across the UK.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are trying to promote fire safety as well. Prevention is better than callouts any day. The quieter we are, the better.'

He added: 'It has been very busy today. All the stuff given to us is donated and we would like to thank those donors for their generosity.'



Firefighters Julian Morris, Fiona MacPhail and Aidan Edwards were part of the Strontian team raising funds for the Fire Fighters Charity. 20\_f33show09



From left, James Hilder, Val Barker and Callan Wilson were among the volunteers manning the Sunart Community Company burger stall. 20\_f33show05



The working dogs class attracted seven entries. 20\_33show10



Riders of the Storm trick riding team from Pitlochry provided an exciting display. 20\_f33show03



Twelve-year-old Carhie MacKinnon from Spean Bridge and 10-year-old Jamie-Lee Laverty from Fort William treated the crowd to an exhibition of Highland dancing. Piper Graham Buchanan from Achacrae provided the accompaniment. 20\_f33show18



The fine weather drew a big crowd to the showground. 20\_f33show02

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This 'fat hen' cockerel from Bill and Sukie Barber in Strontian was best exhibit in the poultry section. 20\_f32show17



A Blackface gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Mull, was overall sheep champion and overall show champion. 20\_f33show13



Iona Cameron, aged 10, from Ardgor Riding Centre at Kilmaleu, Kingairloch, won the overall horse championship with 15-year-old Hettie. 20\_f33show01

## Blackface gimmer judged supreme champion

A BLACKFACE gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline, Mull, was judged supreme champion at Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday.

It was the second success in three days for Donald and Lachlan, who won best in show with the top quality sheep at Salen Show last Thursday.

The gimmer's sire was a £1,000 Dalchirly ram out of a home-red ewe by a tup from Gass, Straiton, Ayrshire.

The fine specimen won best sheep in show earlier in the day and beat off competition from the cattle and horse champions to take the champion of champions rosette.

Best exhibit in the cattle section was a three-year-old Highland cow in calf from

DC Lewis, Drimmin Estate, shown by stockman David Shaw and wife Shirley.

The cow, Annag Mhor the Third of Drimmin, was by a Coll bull, Ninian of Benamenach, and out of a Mull cow from Pennygowan.

**Limousin**  
Best commercial beef animal was a three-month old Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin, while a Suffolk tup from Audrey MacDonald of Portnadoran, Arisaig, won best sheep, any other breed.

Iona Cameron, aged 10, from Ardgor Riding Centre at Kingairloch, lined up with 15-year-old Hettie as overall winner in the horse section.



This Suffolk tup from Audrey MacDonald of Portnadoran, Arisaig, was judged best sheep in the any other breed section. 20\_f33show12



Best commercial beef animal was this May-born Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin. 20\_f33show14



Three-year-old Highland cow in calf Annag Mhor the third of Drimmin, from DC Lewis, Drimmin Estate, was overall cattle champion. 20\_f33show11

**Two hurt on Rannoch railway**

TWO MEN sustained leg injuries after being hit by a train on Rannoch Moor on Tuesday evening. An 87 year-old and a 52 year-old had been walking along the tracks two miles north of Rannoch Station when they were struck at 6.40pm. One casualty was airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital while the other was taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital.

**Stomeferry road solution debate**

MOVES to engineer a permanent solution to a rockfall-prone West Highlands road will be debated by councillors today. Members of the TEC services committee are being asked to allocate £500,000 from reserves on working up options for replacing the A890 Stomeferry bypass. A landslide on December 22 closed the lifeline route, which only fully reopened on April 23. Stabilising the rock face and laying on trains and ferries cost Highland Council a whopping £1.6m, while locals travelling between Kyle and Lochcarron faced a 140-mile diversion via Inverness. Rockfalls have continued since the reopening. Options are: stabilising the rock face and extending the avalanche shelter (£59m to £115m); a £60m bridge across Loch Carron - favoured locally as the best solution; and a new route through Attadale Estate (£23m). The council will need Scottish Government funding - whatever design option emerges in 18 months time.

**Emergency landing**

A COASTGUARD helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing outside Fort William on Saturday afternoon after its computer systems flashed up a control malfunction. The Rescue 100 chopper from Stornoway was carrying two hillwalkers who had got stuck on Anach Mor. Phil Wren, coastguard sector manager for Lochaber, told *The Oban Times* the crew managed to land the aircraft at the new helipad at Carr's Corner without incident.



**Geese strike a pose for Sunart Show judges**

Perfect symmetry: two prizewinning geese make an almost a mirror image of each other at the 62nd annual Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday. The pair, owned by local couple Bill and Sukie Barber, appear to look a bit unsure about waddling to success - but then maybe they know Christmas is only four months away! Glorious conditions held at Strontain Showfield throughout the event, which saw a Blackface gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline, Mull, win the supreme championship. Show secretary Denise Anderson told *The Oban Times* the day was 'just fabulous'. See our photonews show special, page 2. 20\_1335how06

**Ballachulish Bridge stunt stuns locals**

Man's 70-foot leap into narrow water channel fails to impress

STUNNED customers in a bar looked on with a mixture of astonishment and horror as a young man jumped 70 feet off Ballachulish Bridge for a dare on Sunday afternoon.

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

The man, who lives locally and is in his mid-twenties, disappeared below the waves for around two seconds before his head reappeared above the surface. People drinking at 3.30pm on the Loch Leven Hotel terrace gasped as his body hit the water with an audible slap - then breathed a sigh of relief as he re-emerged to swim 20 yards to a waiting support boat. Two friends hauled the jumper aboard the yellow inflatable dinghy and brought him ashore at the northern slipway for the former Ballachulish ferry below the hotel. Seconds earlier, the man had climbed over the bridge parapet in just trainers and shorts as traffic whizzed past on the busy A82. One bar customer, who knew the jumper, yelled across the loch: 'Get back over that barrier, you f\*\*\*\*\* idiot!' The warning was ignored and after a pause the man was hurtling feet first through the air into the narrow channel.

There was no applause after the stunt and his reception when he arrived at the hotel dripping wet was less than enthusiastic. Almost all present thought the jump - known as tombstoning - was reckless and could have cost the young man his life. Loch Leven Hotel owner Hilary Wilson was among those unimpressed - and recalled how a young Fort William man attending a local music festival in 1991 had died jumping from the bridge in a similar act of reckless bravado. His body was not recovered for several weeks. She told *The Oban Times*: 'We thought we were about to see somebody killing themselves. It was just awful. I heard that some of the scaffolding poles that were used to build the bridge fell down and stuck straight into the mud and remained vertical. So when you think of the boy falling on top of one of those, I mean oh my God.' She added: 'It would be terrible if other young folk tried to do the same.'

However the man, who asked *The Oban Times* not to identify him but is from the South Lochaber area, protested he had checked tide times, that conditions were calm and he had organised a support vessel. Aged around 24, he did not appear to have been drinking. He said: 'I have been speaking about this for ages and I was waiting for the right tide and weather. I would not have done it otherwise, not a chance. I'm okay, but my lower back is a bit sore.' He added: 'I've jumped off 50 feet up Glencoe but this was higher. I won't be doing it again.' Phil Wren, Coastguard sector manager for Lochaber was highly critical of the man's actions. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have a policy of trying to discourage any reckless act such as this. We are also trying to alleviate tombstoning, which can result in serious injury or death. Stunts like this can result in the emergency services having to respond, which in itself is a financial burden.' 'Had he called the coastguard before he tried to do this, we would have strongly tried to dissuade him.' See Leader page 10

**£8m re-development nears completion**

FORT William's High Street is set for a boost, with construction of the £8million redevelopment of the former Grand Hotel/MacTavish's Kitchens site on course to be completed by the end of the month. And the 60-room Travelodge which will occupy the upper floors of the new building is

expected to open in early September. Retailers on the ground floor - health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub - will start fitting out their premises once the building is handed over by developers Ashford Property Group. Ashford

director Andrew Smith said the construction process had mainly gone to plan, but had experienced a 'few hiccups' due to weather. West Midlands-based Anglo Holt Construction is carrying out the 20,000 square foot project next to the refurbished Gordon Square and West Highland Way start/finish point.

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Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates;

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Easdale island - 11.30am - 12.30pm  
Ellenabeich - 1.00pm - 1.30pm  
Toberonochy - 3.20pm - 3.50pm  
Cullipool - 4.15pm - 4.45pm

**Thursday 23 August 2012**  
Inveraray - 4.00pm - 5.00pm (Argyll Hotel)

**For an appointment please call 01369 704840**

**Gaelic Ulpan Classes Lochaber - August 2012**

Ulpan Classes will commence in **Fort William** in the week beginning the 27th August 2012. Classes will run for 14 weeks with a break for the October holidays.

**(Unit 1 to 14) Evening** - Tuesday, 7pm to 9pm, 68 Lochaber High School, Starting 28th Aug. Cost (including Ulpan registration fee) £88 or £56 for Gaelic Medium parents and HC Staff.

**(Unit 15 to 29) Evening and Day-time Class available.**  
**(Unit 79 to 93) Evening and Day-time Class available.**

**Ballachulish - Beginners 10 Week class**  
**(Unit 1 to 10) Evening** - Monday, 7pm to 9pm, Ballachulish Primary School, Starting 27th August. Cost (including Ulpan registration fee) £70 or £47.50 for GM parents and HC Staff.

For further information about these classes and to enrol please contact Margaret Mulholland, Gaelic Team, Highland Council.  
[margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk) or 01463 724278.

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**NOTING THE TRADITION**

Noting the Tradition is a Heritage Lottery funded oral history project from the National Piping Centre.

The Project aims to tell the history of the Great Highland Bagpipe over the past 50 years in the words of those who play the instrument. Hear Murray Henderson, Ian McKerral (Kintyre Schools), Iain MacDonald (Neilston Pipe Band and The Battlefield Band), Iain Hurst and others from the pipe world talking about their experiences.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Bravado can easily turn to tragedy

YOUNG men especially have an inbuilt capacity for reckless acts of bravado, which to them prove their machismo but to others seem foolhardy to the point of endangerment of life.

Pubgoers at the Loch Leven Hotel in North Ballachulish - and motorists on the A82 - were treated to one very public example of that on Sunday afternoon when one local lad took it upon himself to leap 70 feet off Ballachulish Bridge in just trainers and shorts.

Tombstoning, as jumping from a height into water is known, may have ticked the thrillseeker's scorecard, but hitting water at high speed is highly dangerous.

Experts warn the impact is akin to slamming into concrete - and if the body angle is slightly wrong, or the jumper strikes underwater rocks or debris unseen from above, death or serious injury can result.

At least one local lad has died jumping off Ballachulish Bridge for a dare - and we don't want any other tragedies.

### GLASGOW LETTER

## The Worlds and Piping Live

MORE than 35,000 spectators converged on Glasgow Green from early morning to watch 235 pipe bands from 11 different countries, consisting of around 10,000 musicians, play in grades from Novice Juvenile to Grade 1.

The park was alive with the sound of the bands as they performed in their allocated arenas, with Grade 1 the focus of attention for many. As in 2011, the winning band was Northern Ireland's Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band with Scottish bands Scottish Power, Boghall and Bathgate and Inveraray and District in the next three places with Strathclyde Police in fifth.

The day was not just about piping with Highland Dancing Championships and the European Heavy Events Championships also taking place.

The Worlds come at the end of the Piping Live week. Continuing with the competitive theme, the festival had a Pipe Idol competition involving 16 top pipers under 21 years of age. From Monday to Thursday four of them competed in the café in front of the National Piping Centre with the winner each day going through to the final held in the centre's auditorium on the fifth day.

The finalists this year were Andrew Clark, 16, from Montrose, David Shedden, 19, from Glasgow, Connor Sinclair, 16, from Crieff and Angus MacColl, 17, from Benderloch, near Oban. The three judges voted Connor Sinclair Pipe Idol for 2012 and he was presented with a set of Fred Morrison Reel Pipes from the maestro himself.

Earlier in the week, eight Grade 1 pipe bands took part in a quartet competition with Scotland represented by Inveraray and District, Scottish Power and Strathclyde Police. As in 2011, Inveraray and District were the winners.

The weather plays an important part in Piping Live and it was only during the first day that it affected the programme which took place in George Square.

Each day the square was packed and this was particularly the case on Tuesday when some of the acts appearing at the Edinburgh Tattoo travelled through to entertain. On the other days, pipe bands from all over the world played with Friday hosting Beat the Retreat, a prelude to the World Pipe Band Championships, with the bands taking part marching from Blythswood Square. Friday was set aside to honour Donald MacLeod, 30 years since his death, with talks and recitals and as a special feature competitors in the Pipe Idol competition were asked to include one of his gigs in their performance.

**World Congress for Active Ageing**

THE OPENING event of the Congress for Active Ageing took place on Monday August

13 in the Clyde Auditorium with the Gaelic language being represented by members of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, Govan Gaelic Choir and Largs Gaelic Choir, conducted by Kirsteen Grant, who provided the musical accompaniment for dance routines. The congress, which takes place every four years, lasted for a week in the Scottish Exhibition Centre and brings together scientists and practitioners, experts and enthusiasts from a range of professional interests and disciplines involved in the promotion of active ageing.

## Ceilidh dances

SINCE I belong to an era which had ample opportunity to attend ceilidh dances at locations such as the Highlander's Institute, Govan Town Hall and Kingston Halls it gives me great pleasure to give information on dances to be held in Glasgow University Union featuring Deoch 'n Dorus.

The next dance will take place on Friday August 24 at 8.15pm, a wonderful opportunity for young folk, and others, to enjoy an important part of our traditional heritage.

## Alistair Turner

HIS MANY friends will be saddened to learn of the death of Alistair Turner, affectionally known as 'Tumshie'. Alistair, who came from Tighnabruaich, spent most of his working life in Glasgow and passed away after a short illness. He was particularly well-known within the shinty fraternity having played for Kyles and Glasgow Mid Argyll, captaining the latter to a Celtic Society Cup success and being a member of the Glasgow club for more than 50 years. Until recently he attended games in Glasgow. A true gentleman, he will be sadly missed and our sympathy is extended to his wife Doris and the extended family.

## Diary dates

**Thursday August 16:** Blazin' Fiddles, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Ian Davison and Carissa Bovill.

**Friday August 17:** Blazin' Fiddles, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm. Ceilidh Trail, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

**Wednesday August 22:** Summer Ceilidh, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

**Thursday August 23:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Steve Hicks and Lynn Goulbourn.

**Friday August 24:** Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm. Ceilidh Dance -Deoch 'n Dorus - see above.

## Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Scott Harvey on Friday, Robert Nairn on Saturday and Willie Cameron/ Martin Pottinger on Sunday. In the Islay Inn it will be Black Velvet on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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



## Lighthouse tender in Oban - early 1960s

Jim Donn of Blackburn, Aberdeen, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows the lighthouse tender *Hesperus* at the Lighthouse Pier, Oban, in the early 1960s. *Hesperus* served the lighthouses and buoys on the west coast of Scotland and the Isle of Man for many years. The *Oban Times* welcomes submitted prints and images of a bygone era for publishing. 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  
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## Oban by-pass road a non-starter

Sir, I note with interest the comments in the edition of August 9.

Most traffic coming to Oban terminates in Oban or heads for the ferries.

The amount of traffic that would benefit from a by-pass does not justify the amount of money that would be required to build such a road.

The logical position of a by-pass would be in the Connel area to somewhere south of the town, most likely in the vicinity of Oban Mart.

Anything closer to town would be difficult to construct and if as has been suggested in the past came into town at the rear of the high school would not be in effect a by-pass but an additional route and have little or no effect on easing town centre congestion.

It is refreshing to see the new councillors striving to better the local community and the difference they are making is already noticeable.

They should be supported with their open and inclusive mode of operation rather than hampered by 'wish list' requests by a few vested interests.

**Robert Allan Mossfield Drive, Oban.**

## Lack of junior pipers

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Robert Wallace regarding the lack of junior pipers competing at the Lochaber Gathering when compared to similar events in Argyll.

He mentions the support Highland Council gives to the gathering but I wonder what financial support they provide at the grass roots level by promoting and financing piping in local schools.

He also mentions the wonderful work being done by Ian McKerral, Stuart Liddell and Angus MacColl in Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Oban respectively where piping in the schools is flourishing.

However, this has only been possible thanks to the finance provided through the Argyllshire Gathering Piping Trust which entered into an agreement with Argyll and Bute Council in 1996 to provide financial support for the teaching of piping in Argyll schools.

Since then, this scheme has expanded and has supported many schools in Argyll giving tuition to many youngsters over the ensuing years.

The success of this scheme is now demonstrated both in the development of pipe bands in Argyll and in the increase in numbers of local pipers competing successfully in local and national competitions.

**J McMillan Inveraray.**

## A83 solution must be the right one

Sir, I must assume LibDem MP Alan Reid has some form of super-intelligence or psychic powers that permit him to know better than the many engineers and geologists currently involved with obtaining a solution to the recent serious problems of landslip at Rest And Be Thankful.

We are all very frustrated by the closures which may occur more frequently in the future

and we all hope for a speedy solution but it has to be the correct solution otherwise we will waste money and the closures will continue.

The proposal to open the Old Military Road as a temporary emergency measure now seems to be impracticable as the most recent landslip also reached it.

There has been 'talk' of much more tree planting as a possible solution as practiced in Fennoscandia and other northern European nations.

There has also been 'talk' of a protective tunnel which may be another solution for the longer term.

Immediate action without 'talk' for the sake of placating people like Mr Reid could well be a criminal waste of scarce resources.

**Dot Macdonald, Arisaig, Crannag A Mhinisteir, Oban.**

## Decades of under investment

Sir, Alan Reid MP's crassly opportunistic comments on the A83 cannot be left unchallenged.

Reid berates the Scottish Government for the Rest and Be Thankful problems when the truth is that the A83 has been the victim of decades of under investment from successive London governments.

Indeed, it is Alan Reid's own Tory/Liberal London government that has slashed £1.3 billion from Scotland's budget whilst resisting calls from the Scottish government for urgent capital spending on shovel ready infrastructure projects.

This is why Scotland requires the same sovereign decision making powers as our independent neighbours in order to borrow for growth and stimulate economic activity.

In the meantime, the Scottish government is getting on with tackling the major engineering and financial challenges presented by the Rest.

We will not let the people of Argyll and Bute down.

**Ron Wilson, Argyll and Bute SNP.**

## Basking shark numbers may affect Argyll Array

Sir, In last week's article on the Argyll Array, Mike Mackenzie MSP Highlands and Islands, referred to 'political will', 'leadership' and 'take a path', all of which tend to cliché.

The papers of the Scottish

Government's economy, energy and tourism committee inquiry into the Scottish Government's renewables targets, suggest Holyrood's political will, leadership and path is becoming increasingly doctrinaire.

Alarming, statutory bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and SEPA - which the electorate would assume to be a-political, and thereby offer an independent input to the process - have been described as being 'aligned with Scottish Government's approach'.

Mr Mackenzie's reference to Kintyre is erroneous. Without being picayune, Kintyre was not kicked-out - it was not kicked-in!

Kintyre was one of nine sites considered for adoption into Scottish Government's offshore development plans; environmental and visual impact were among the reasons given not to adopt Kintyre.

The same reasons applied to Tiree, but did not prevent Tiree Array being adopted.

A close read of the analysis of Scottish Government's post-adoption statement would suggest if there was a straight choice between dropping Tiree or Kintyre then it should have been the former and not the latter. Irrespective, it is debatable if the developer would have taken Kintyre forward, as the intended site, being essentially unidirectional, was not as windy as originally assumed.

But back to basking sharks. The developers survey, on August 6, spotted 918 basking sharks within the site of the proposed array. Within the area, more than 1,000 were spotted, apparently the largest count ever made of this species in the UK.

**Robert Trythall, No Tiree Array.**

## Argyll and Bute Council scrutiny

Sir, Much as I respect Mr Doyle's contributions to the debate on democracy, I have to take issue with him over his dismissal of the proposition that it is for the people of Argyll and Bute to scrutinise Argyll and Bute Council.

It has long been apparent that the missing component in what we call 'local democracy' was the 'demos' - ie the people themselves.

The beautiful thing about democracy in its pure form is that it has as a corner-stone respect for the rights of every member of society. Once respect for

the equal rights of everyone goes, although the system may well continue to be called democratic, it no longer is.

Representative democracy, such as we have in Argyll and Bute Council, is a considerable departure from the pure form and carries with it correspondingly greater risks to our rights. Neither should we doubt that voting at council elections merely delegates certain of our democratic rights and duties to other people - it does nothing for scrutiny.

With the total breakdown of public trust in Argyll and Bute Council, it would seem madness to allow it to retain the right to scrutinise - or to not scrutinise - itself.

There is very clearly an administrative 'gap' here which the people of Argyll and Bute are equally clearly best placed to fill.

It should not be difficult to set up a representative, democratic and independent body comprised of residents with costs met from public - council - funds.

To quote an old saying: 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man.' Given the dire state of democracy and social coherence in Argyllshire, I would not insult its residents by suggesting other than that when the 'hour' comes to assemble the scrutiny body we will find that men and women of principle and public spirit see the opportunity and come forward.

**Arthur McFarlane, Mount Pleasant, Tarbert, Argyll.**

## Special visit

Sir, I have recently returned from our yearly sojourn by caravan to the beautiful Ledaig caravan site.

This year was to become very special. I had recently managed to trace my paternal grand parents back to Benderloch and Ardchattan Priory in the early 1800s. My first port of call was to ask questions of the locals. I got help immediately from a charming man who owns the local garage/camping shop in Benderloch and who in turn referred me to Jill the genealogist at Kintaline Farm who helps you find ancestors from old parish records. Jill was able to trace my documents back to the Island of Duirish, off Bonawe, where we originated from.

Scotland has visitors every year from Australia, Canada and America all wanting to trace relatives.

There is a market out there to be capitalised on for the benefit of the local economy.

**Esther Warren, nee McIntyre clan, Lanark.**



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NACH MATH AN NAIDHEACHD gun d' rinn òigridh Alba cho fìor mhath ann an deuchainnean foghlaim na bliadhna seo agus nach tàmailteach cuid a bhith a' nochdadh bheachd gur dòcha gum bheil ìre nan sgrùdaidhean comas foghlaim sin a' fàs nas fhasa.

Tha fhios gur e aon rud a tha buil nan deuchainnean seo a' dearbhadh, 's e cho math 's a tha ìre an teagaisg a tha clann a' faotainn ann an sgoiltean Alba agus gum bheil na h-inneachdan teagaisg sin a' togail agus a' gleidheadh uidh na cloinne chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil iad ag ionnsachadh math da-rìribh.

Chan eil ni-ionaid ann dha foghlam agus eòlas agus tha na gheibh clann as na sgoiltean gu cinnteach a' stèidheachadh bunait nan beatha obrach is cosnadh.

Ach ann a bhith ag ràdh sin, tha ceist agam fhìn a thaobh an seòrsa feallsanachd a th' air a bhith a' cuartachadh foghlam agus ionnsachadh san fharsaingeachd bho chionn grunn bliadhnaichean a-nise. Saoidh mi gun deach an gealltanais, a thug riaghaltas air foghlam àrd-ìre dhan a h-uile òganach, ionnall as an t-seadh gum bheil mòran a' criochnachadh le teisteanas an nach eil cus feum a thaobh cothrom cosnadh.

Chan eil mi idir a' càineadh brihan nàrsachais sin, ged is dòcha nach eil cuid eua uabhasach domhainn, ach tha mi a' togail ceist a thaobh dhaoinè òga a bhith gan oideachadh ann an sgilean nach fhaigh iad cothrom an cur an sàs ann an saoghal obrach.

Gun teagamh, canar gum bheil an saoghal obrach daonnas ag atharrachadh agus gum bheil e doirbh a bhith a' measadh feumalachdan ghnìomhachais an t-saoghail romhainn, ach saoidh mise gum bheil cuid a chùrsaichean nach fhaic an t-saothair!

Chan e a-mhàin nach eil cus feum anna mar cheumannan trèanaidh ach tha iad cuideachd a' mealladh nan òganach fhèin le misneachd nach eil stèidhichte air frinn saoghal eaconamach na dùthcha.

Tha sin a' fàgail òganaich a' sireadh cosnadh ann an dreuchdan nach eil ann dhaibh agus iad cuideachd ain-deònach obraichean eile a ghabhail neo fheuchainn a tha iad a' meas fòdhpà. Sin is coireach gu ìre gum bheil uimhir de luchd-obrach a' dùthchannan Eòrpach eile ag obair an seo fhad 's a tha mòran de na daoine òga againn fhìn nan tàmh.

Tha feum eaconamaidh san bhith air measgachadh de sgilean, proifeiseanta agus practaigeach, agus bho chionn bliadhnaichean, saoidh mise nach eil cairdean practaigeach air a bhith a' faotainn na h-inbhe air am bheil iad airidh.

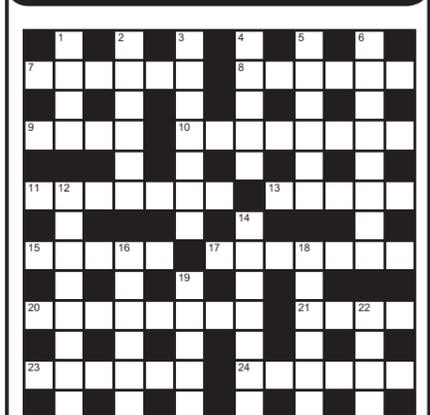
CONGRATULATIONS to Scottish students who have so excelled in Higher and Standard Grade examinations.

It seems particularly churlish to attribute results to less difficult examinations and more appropriate perhaps to praise teaching standards which clearly capture and retain the interest and enthusiasm of students.

Education and knowledge are critical foundations for living and it is important that modern apprenticeships are given appropriate status in career guidance, reflecting the essential mix of practical and professional skills which are vital to any successful economy.

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

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Code word for "S" (6)
  - 8 Equal sided shape (6)
  - 9 Likened to (4)
  - 10 A powerful unit? (8)
  - 11 Against the law (7)
  - 13 Drawing (5)
  - 15 Encourage (3,2)
  - 17 Distracted (7)
  - 20 For hangers? (8)
  - 21 Fish or boat (4)
  - 23 Coarse speech (6)
  - 24 Jaunt (6)
- Down**
- 1 Choose tool? (4)
  - 2 Shrink in fear (6)
  - 3 Black bird (7)
  - 4 Church song (5)
  - 5 Flight path? (6)
  - 6 Heavy linen fabric (8)
  - 12 Wooden home (3,5)
  - 14 Mature (7)
  - 16 Hubby (3,3)
  - 18 Fill in (6)
  - 19 Obstreperous (5)
  - 22 Smallest of the bunch (4)

Last week's solution

S	P	E	C	I	A	L	B	R	A	N	C	H
E	L	S	O	I	L							
A	D	V	A	N	C	E	E	P				
I	I	E	E	C								
N	O	U	R	I	S	H	O	R	A	T	E	
P												
B	E	I	G	E	B	E	D	A	O	C	K	
P	R	R	S	N	I	E						
P	A	V	E	T	W	R	I	G	G	L	E	R
W	O	R	D	B	L	I	N	D	N	E	S	S
R	Y	L	L	T	T	E						

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## Times Diary

WE AT the Diary understand that people make mistakes - and spelling errors are among the easiest to do.

But we couldn't help but be amused by a card on an Oban supermarket noticeboard offering a flat to let.

The advertiser specified that 'NHS' were not welcome.

Unless he/she has something against those who work in the medical profession we're fairly sure he's got his wires crossed, and perhaps meant DSS.

'I just got bored one night while sitting in front of the fire and thought that a little fire-breathing dragon would be ideal to keep us warm in the winter,' he said.

However, Donnie has no plans to go into production with his creations. 'I'll stick to wrought gates and signs,' he confirmed.

You can send your funny little observations of life to editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Benefit fraud trial postponed**

THE TRIAL of an Arisaig woman accused of falsely claiming more than £13,500 in benefits been postponed until November 8.

Margaret Harrison, of 17 Cannon Gillies Place, had been due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, but Sheriff Douglas Small gave the defence team more time to collect vital bank statements.

Hearing the case had been postponed five times already, Sheriff Small said: 'It would not be in the interests of justice for me to order this trial to go ahead without these bank statements. But this trial will not be postponed again.'

Harrison, aged 69, denies giving false statements to the Pension Service and falsely claiming housing benefit and council tax deductions.

**Police hunt Lewis car fire suspects**

POLICE in Lewis are hunting possible arsonists after three vehicle fires in Balallan in the early hours of Friday morning.

Fire and rescue service personnel alerted police after being called to the blazing vehicles outside a garage on School Road shortly after 2.20am.

Police are treating the fires as suspicious and are encouraging anyone with information to contact Stornoway Police Station on 01851 702222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Doors open on Plockton High School extension**

PLOCKTON High pupils returned to school this week – and a brand new £3 million extension with a new dining hall and better access to classrooms.

A new biomass heating system, home economics classroom and computer suite also feature.

Meanwhile, PHS has been joined by five new members of staff this week - the largest cohort to join the school in one year for a long time.

Mrs Irene Mitchell, an experienced teacher of geography moves from North Berwick High school, new teacher of home economics is Ms Jill Porter, who previously taught in Auchinleck Academy for five years and Ms Colette MacKay will be teacher of History after completed her probation in Castle Douglas High.

The languages faculty, led by Ms Chrisma MacDonald, will welcome Mrs Daisy Reeves, who was a probationer in Portree High last session, to teach French on a temporary contract.

Ms Karen MacKinnon, a native of Tiree, will be a probationer teacher in Gaelic for this session.

Head teacher Duncan Ferguson told The Oban Times: 'It is really pleasing to have this influx of new staff at an exciting time for our school with the completion of our new building and the introduction of new courses under Curriculum for Excellence.'

**Landmark monument secure despite tilt**

VISITORS to this Saturday's Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games might not notice it – but the nearby monument to Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival in 1745 is leaning to one side.

National Trust for Scotland (NTS), which manages the landmark, said the structure has a lean of around 27cm in a north-westerly direction, but that it is not visible to the eye.

The tilt is thought to have been caused by the sandy subsoil found on the shore of Loch Shiel and frequent flooding of the area undermining the foundations.

But the NTS said the monument, erected in 1815 as a memorial to the men who died in the Jacobite uprising, is secure and there is little chance of the lean increasing in coming years.



Museum manager Colleen Foggo and management committee chair Chris Robinson, with museum volunteers, celebrate the award outside the museum.

**West Highland Museum celebrates four-star award**

THE WEST Highland Museum in Fort William is celebrating the award of 4-star accreditation by VisitScotland.

The tourist body accreditation is based on the overall quality of the visitor experience in categories covering arrival, welcome and presentation. Four stars is the second highest grading.

Management committee chairman Chris Robinson said the accolade comes at 'exciting times' for the museum.

He said: 'Our move to free entry last year has

created a real buzz, with four times the previous visitor numbers.'

'This success is down to our enthusiastic team of volunteers, who work tirelessly to make the visitor's experience truly rewarding. The award from VisitScotland is recognition for these efforts.'

He added: 'The museum belongs to the people of Lochaber – it's not just a tourist attraction. With free entry, anyone can pop in at any time, even if it's only for a few minutes, and we're always looking for more volunteers to join our team.'

**Basking shark tags reveal secrets**

BASKING sharks in west coast waters being tracked by satellite have begun to reveal some secrets.

Scottish Natural Heritage and University of Exeter scientists finished tagging 20 sharks last week as part of a project to find out more about their life cycle.

Early studies show many have stayed around the Inner Hebrides where they were tagged.

But one has gone southeast to Colonsay and Jura, while two have headed west to the open sea beyond the Outer Hebrides.

Dr Suzanne Henderson of

SNH, who is managing the basking shark tagging project, said: 'It's fascinating to see where the sharks have been going since they were tagged. We're keen to learn more about the behaviour of the sharks during the summer months, when they can be seen at the surface in large numbers around the islands of Coll, Tiree, Canna and Hyskeir. And we're particularly intrigued to see where they go during the winter.'

Results from the study will help inform decisions about marine protected areas.

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**Mallaig prawn boat salvages capsized French catamaran**

THE FRENCH catamaran which capsized in the Sound of Sleat off Knoydart two weeks ago in a squall has been salvaged.

The *Pampero*, anchored upside down off Isleornsay since the dramatic rescue of its seven crew on August 1, was righted by Mallaig prawn boat the *Rebecca Janine*, owned by local skipper Robert Summers.

The catamaran was then lashed to Peter Fowler's Armadale-based Seafari boat the *Orion* and brought across to Mallaig

harbour for inspection. A local source told The Oban Times: 'She looks intact to me, although the electrics will probably need dried out and the engine re-oiled and started.'

'There's not a mark on her – it is remarkable to see.'

The crew – two women and five men – have returned to France. The matter is in the hands of their insurers. Several crew were trapped inside when the boat overturned, and only got out through escape hatches.



The *Pampero*, left, beside Seafari's *Orion* in Mallaig harbour. Photograph by Alexander Mathieson.

**Knife man must return to high court**

A FORMER Fort William man who admitted carrying a knife in the town must appear at Edinburgh High Court before finding out his punishment.

John McPhee was sentenced to 40 months at the High Court for a previous crime in 2010, but was given a supervised release after serving half his prison term.

Sheriff Douglas Small said the 22-year-old would have to return to the High Court to find out if he would now need to complete that sentence before McPhee could be sentenced for carrying the knife.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard McPhee approached two men on Hill Road with the knife, which a witness said was six to eight inches long.

Fiscal Andrew Laing said McPhee spoke aggressively to the men and waved the knife about.

McPhee, a prisoner in Inverness, previously pled guilty to having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse or lawful authority on Hill Road and Cameron Road on March 30.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003

**Charity swimmers give bridge a miss**

Hardy group take to Skye water to raise cash for new leisure centre spa bath

FOURTEEN people gave the Skye Bridge a miss on Saturday to swim across to the mainland – but it was all in a good cause.

The hardy group in the Kyleakin to Kyle swim, or K2K as it is known, took the plunge into the narrows to raise cash for another water feature - a new spa bath at Lochalsh Leisure Centre in Kyle.

The annual event, which marks the opening of the leisure centre in August 1992, saw eight swimmers take part as novices. Impressively quick times by all competitors reflected the ideal conditions on a glorious afternoon of sunshine and flat calm seas.

First swimmer home was Cathy Kitson Jones of Plockton followed very closely by Gilleasbuig Ferguson from Carlost in Skye.

Leisure centre manager Chris Mackinnon singled out several remarkable achievements after the event, which was first held in 1997.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Two swimmers, Chris Dibble and Jason Hammond had completed the Skye Bridge 10k a couple of hours before the swim.'

Jonathon Mackinnon was competing for the seventh time, and Fionnuala Stark from Lochcarron has swum in 13 of the 15 swims since its inauguration - surely a statistic to be immensely proud of.'

The race owes its origins to Alasdair Bremner, who retired as secretary of the swimming



Leisure centre manager Chris Mackinnon welcomes last swimmer out of the water Mark MacDonald at the Kyle slipway.

pool board of trustees several years ago. He wanted to start an event to mark the centre's success – and came up with the idea of the swim.

Mr Bremner, together with race sponsor Hugh Macquarrie of Central Filling Station in Kyle and his wife Margaret, presented K2K quiches to the first lady and first gent, and a memento to

all who took part. At the prize giving ceremony Mr Mackinnon thanked the local RNLI, Qinetiq, and the South Skye Kayak club for supplying excellent safety cover.

**Support**  
He said: 'Without their support it would be impossible for the event to go ahead.'

Swimmers and times: Cathy

Kitson Jones 12mins 26secs; Gilleasbuig Ferguson 12.28; Douglas Forbes 13.51; Kathryn Beaton 14. 33; Chris Dibble 14. 46; Andrew Smith 15. 56; Jonathon Mackinnon 16. 01; Fionnuala Stark 16. 34; Rachel Macleod 16.39; Laura Knowles 18.48; Jason Hammond 18.52; Graham Finnie 19.16; Lucy Kerr 19.41; Mark Macdonald 22.13.

**Fort William golfer celebrates record fourth hole-in-one**

A FORT William man has set a remarkable record at the town's golf club – by notching his fourth hole-in-one.

Vincent 'Rusty' Duncan aceed the 125-yard par 3 third hole with his wedge during the club's Bank Street Lodge Senior Open on Friday afternoon.

It was the third time he has finished the third hole in one shot, with his first hole-in-one at the course coming in June 1998. His last hole-in-one was recorded at the same hole in July 2010.

His other hole-in-one came at the short sixth hole on the course.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I just hit it and it bounced once

and went straight in. I think they heard us on the seventh green when it went in!

Rusty's feat was witnessed by his playing partners Henry MacDonald, Ronnie MacDonald and Jimmy Ross.

After the ball dropped into the hole, Rusty phoned his daughter and asked her to bring a bottle of whisky to the clubhouse, as is tradition when a hole-in-one is scored.

He said: 'By the time I got to the clubhouse, practically all the whisky had been drunk.'

Rusty has recently won the Royal Dornoch Senior Open as well as the Nairn Senior Open, which he has won two years in a row.

**West Highland Way one of 'world's best hikes'**

THE INTERNATIONAL Appalachian Trail, which runs from Stranraer to Cape Wrath and takes in the West Highland Way and much of the northwest Highlands, has been listed in the National Geographic's 'World's Best Hikes' feature this month.

VisitScotland chairman Mike Cantlay said: 'National Geographic is showcasing our country on an international stage, this type of exposure is priceless.'

**Media club hosts Dunvegan Hall film night fun**

DUIRINISH Media and Culture Club is holding a 'Shorts and Sweet' film night in Dunvegan Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Short films include Olympic comedy Runneman and Gaelic films Faradh (Skye Bridge Tolls, Dolina Munro), Oidhche Samhach (Outer Isles) and 2012 FiMG competition entries.

**Sentence deferred on woman who bit police officer**

A SHERIFF deferred sentencing a Fort William woman who bit a police officer on the hand during a drunken struggle outside a pub in the town for further reports.

Roxanne Simpson, of 22 Young Place, pled guilty last month to assaulting the constable on Kennedy Lane on July 15.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing the 24-year-old until September 26.

**Mitsubishi & Citroen arriving in Oban**

Walker Motors are delighted to be attending the Argyll Gathering on Thursday August 23. We will have the hard working L200 4x4 pick up, the versatile Outlander 7 seater 4x4 and the exciting Citroen DS3 available for test drive on Wednesday August 22 and at the Gathering on the August 23.

Please Contact Gary Henderson on 07743 373047 or 01334 654228 to arrange an appointment.

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12 12 L200 BARBARIAN BLACK EDITION	WHITE	LINER	£21,899 + VAT
12 12 L200 WARRIOR D/CAB	GREY	LINER	£18,499 + VAT
11 11 L200 WARRIOR D/CAB	BLACK	LEATHER	£17,999 + VAT
09 59 L200 ANIMAL AUTO D/CAB	BLACK	ALLOY/LINER	£16,999 NO VAT
10 10 L200 4WORK D/CAB	SILVER	LINER/T BAR	£10,999 + VAT
08 58 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW D/CAB	SILVER	ROOF BARS/LINER	£11,499 + VAT
06 06 L200 ANIMAL D/CAB	RED	CANOPY/LINER/T BARR	£8,999 + VAT
06 06 L200 4 WORK D/CAB	BLACK	LINER/T BAR	£7,999 NO VAT
05 05 NISSAN NAVARA CLUB/CAB	RED	LINER/T BAR/ CANOPY	£6,999 NO VAT
04 54 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW D/CAB	BLACK	CANOPY/LINER/T BAR	£5,999 + VAT

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

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**Group's community land ownership call**

LAND reform campaigners Community Land Scotland have called for 'millions of acres' to come under community ownership to reverse decline in rural parts of the Highlands and Islands.

Chairman David Cameron, from the Isle of Harris, made the call after the 8,000-acre Ardgay Estate in Sutherland went on the market for offers over £8 million.

Mr Cameron welcomed the Scottish Government's establishment of a land reform

group with the aim of broadening community ownership – but demanded 'a further rebalancing of the rights of the individual and the rights of communities'.

Quoting the property advert to a human rights audience in Edinburgh, he said: 'The estate will appeal to the international super rich.'

He added: 'I cannot see many local people having the 'over £8 million' to put in an offer. I want to see more community owners, many thousands more acres, indeed millions of

acres, come under local community control. Can it ultimately be socially just in looking to Scotland's future, that in 10, or 20, or 50 years, that we will still largely have the land ownership pattern we currently have, and have had for many generations? Land reform is unfinished business that Scotland needs to address if we are to live in a more socially just and collectively prosperous Scotland.'

The country already has 500,000 acres under community control.

**Barra lifeboat searches after 'flare' report**

BARRA lifeboat launched in the early hours of last Friday morning after a report of flares being seen off Orosay - but nothing could be found.

Six volunteer crew members were out of bed and launched the lifeboat 10 minutes after they were alerted by the coastguard at 12.55am and searched the area until 3.25am, to no avail.

Lifeboat mechanic John L MacNeil said: 'It was like a mill pond out there, so calm we were even able to pick out seagulls from a distance, but we didn't find the source of the flare.'

The source of the flares is still unknown but the RNLI would encourage people to inform the coastguard if they are planning to let off lanterns or fireworks in a coastal area.

**Kentallen man fined for dangerous driving**

A KENTALLEN man found himself in court last week for dangerous driving after overtaking and causing another car to swerve off the road.

Alan Milton, 76, of Darach, Kentallen had denied the charges but was found guilty of careless driving by Sheriff Douglas Small at Oban Sheriff Court.

Milton had been heading from his home into Oban on July 31 last year when he overtook while approaching a bend near Creagan Bridge.

The car he was overtaking braked and swerved into the grass verge to avoid a collision.

The other car driver told the court: 'I have no doubt in my mind that if it wasn't for the actions of myself and the oncoming vehicle I wouldn't be here to tell you this story, that is how terrifying it was.'

During cross examination by Milton's defence agent, the passenger in the car said: 'If my husband had not swerved there is a good chance we would have been hit.'

Giving evidence, Milton told the court he had been taking his son to work in Oban. He said: 'I was absolutely shocked when the police came to my house, the journey had been quite unremarkable.'

Milton was fine £500 and had eight penalty points placed on his licence.



Neil MacDonald, Bunnahabhain, won the supreme championship with a spring-born Belgian Blue cross, Smarty Swagger. 15\_1331slay07

**Calf is Islay show leader**  
'Busiest show in years,' says president

THE HIGH standard in beef cattle on Islay was maintained this year at the island's agricultural show when a spring-born Belgian Blue cross calf was named overall champion.

**Double celebration**  
In a win that was reminiscent of the previous year when a month-old Charolais calf, GaGa Lady, won the overall prize, Neil MacDonald's young calf Smarty Swagger gained universal approval as the judges top choice in 2012.

The calf is by Smart's Braveheart, bred by Alastair Smart, Afford.

Mr MacDonald, Bunnahabhain, said he had been showing animals at the show since he was a child but had never won a championship under his own name.

He added: 'It feels great to have won today and although I have never won before, I knew I had a chance with this calf.'

There was a double celebration for the MacDonalds after Neil's son, Jack, aged nine, won the young handlers and his Suffolk shearing was reserve in the breed championship.

Show president John Findlay said his final year in the role had been the busiest in a number of years, stating the glorious weather last Thursday at the show field in Bridgend was a major factor in the good turnout.

He added: 'The number of entries were down but I think the quality has been high.'

'Neil MacDonald has shown an outstanding calf and I am

really happy for him because he has supported the show for a long time.'

Reserve beef champion was an eight-year-old Galloway cow, Lana of Burnhilde, from G and M Porter and Son, Carrabus. The Porters had made history at last year's show by winning all the beef championship prizes.

The Highland cattle champion went to N and M McLellan, Kilchiaran, with a two-year-old heifer by Calum of Kilchiaran and out of a cow by D and J MacGillivray, Pennygown, Mull.

Champion in the sheep classes was a home-bred Texel gimmer

from Tony Rozga, Kilmey, which was being shown for the first time. It was out of a Cairness Barradale ewe and sired by Barradale Rolex.

Tony had also been awarded reserve in the Texel class with a two-year-old ewe by Miller's Outstanding.

Reserve champion sheep went to a one-crop Suffolk ewe from nine-year-old James Bignal, Smaull, sired by Glenhead Golden Phoenix. It was the third year in a row James had won the Suffolk championship.

Elliot Bowman, Hillview, Port Ellen won the Blackface cham-

pionship with a two-crop ewe out of a £9,000 Auldhouseburn and by a £3,000 Dalchirla.

Reserve in class went to Duncan Currie, Ballachlaven, with a two-shear tup bought at Dalmailly for £11,000.

In a competitive horse and pony section, Angela MacLeod, Bruichladdich took home the main prize with a Highland mare, Rhinns Point Gale.

Those in attendance were treated to great entertainment during the day, including the annual parade of vintage vehicles and the acrobatic horse riders, Renegade Riders.



Champion in the sheep classes was a home-bred Texel gimmer from Tony Rozga, Kilmey, which was being shown for the first time. It was out of a Cairness Barradale ewe and sired by Barradale Rolex. 15\_1331slay03



Two-year-old Struan Henderson from Dumfries had a great time on the vintage tractors. Struan's father, Nicholas, is from Port Wemyss on Islay. 15\_1331slay08



Mairi Porter's Suffolk cross Texel won the best cross-bred sheep. 15\_1331slay02



Acrobatic horse riders, Renegade Riders, proved to be a big hit with the show crowd. 15\_1331slay11



Champion Blackface sheep was shown by Elliot Bowman, Hillview, Port Ellen. 15\_1331slay04



Highland cattle champion went to N and M McLellan, Kilchiaran, for this two-year-old heifer. 15\_1331slay06



Horse and pony champion, a Highland mare, came from the Rhinns Point stud. 15\_1331slay10



There was plenty silverware up for grabs at this year's Islay Show. 15\_1331slay01

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**Festive Breaks** From Edinburgh, Glasgow & Inverness airports

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From Glasgow airport, from £329.95pp  
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**The British Military Tournament 2012**  
Departing Friday 7 December 2012  
From Oban, from £239.95pp  
From Glasgow, from £219.95pp

3 days by Rail, from **£219.95pp**

The Tournament exists to raise much-needed funds to support the brave men and women of our Armed Forces as well as their families via the three national charities of the British Armed Forces; The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

- Return standard class rail travel to London from Oban or Glasgow
- A ticket with a face value of £29.75 for an evening performance of the 2012 British Military Tournament at Earls Court on Saturday 8 December 2012. (Ticket upgrades are available at a supplement)
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26 October & 30 November 2012  
From Edinburgh or Glasgow airports

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**Lapland**  
The home of Santa Claus  
Saturday 15 December 2012  
A Great Value Day Excursion  
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Please note: due to the cold temperatures in the Arctic Circle, travel to Lapland is not advised for any children under 3 years old.

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**Buckingham Palace**  
Friday departures, 14 & 28 September 2012  
From Oban, from £229.95pp  
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Return standard class rail travel to London from Oban or Glasgow  
• Admission to the State Rooms of Buckingham Palace  
• Entrance to the 'Diamonds: A Jubilee Celebration' exhibition  
• 2 nights stay at a choice of 3 and 4 star London hotels with breakfast  
• Free time in London for shopping and sight-seeing

**Warner Bros. Studio Tour London**  
- The Making of Harry Potter  
Friday departures, 12 October & 2 November 2012  
From Oban, from £279.95pp  
From Glasgow, from £259.95pp

Return standard class rail travel to London from Oban or Glasgow  
• Admission to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London  
• The Making of Harry Potter on the Saturday  
• Return coach transfer from the hotel to Leaveness on the Saturday  
• 2 nights stay at a 4 star London hotel with breakfast  
• Free time in London for shopping and sight-seeing

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\*Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

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Inveraray and District Pipe Band performing at Glasgow Green in front of huge crowds last Saturday. 15\_1331mv01

## Argyll bands play at World championships

OBAN High School Pipe Band round off a great week after being placed in the World Pipe Band Championships.

The novice juvenile band, members young and old, came in fifth last weekend. They played against 25 bands and gained a place in the final after qualifying. The juvenile band were placed seventh.

Angus MacColl, Pipe Major, said: "The novice juvenile band

did great, they were up against a lot of others. I'm also pleased for the juvenile band, their grade is equivalent to grade two, and it's a very high standard of performance.

"The results should spur the wee ones on, they should keep practising they've got a chance at winning at Cowal later in the month, they are right up there."

"The bands continually change,

we hope to keep the two bands going; but sometimes it can be difficult. New members come into the band; old members leave it.

"The weather made the atmosphere at the world's brilliant. It's always better when the sun is shining.

"The weather last year was awful; it led to the organisers moving the Piping Live concert from George Square, inside."

Oban Pipe Band came in 11th place in the grade two qualifying round, after moving up last year. The Isle of Islay was placed ninth in grade 3A, while Kintyre Schools came sixth in the juvenile grade.

Inveraray and District juvenile band came fifth, while in grade one the result was seventh overall.

This year's returning grade

one champions are Field Marshal Montgomery; grade two winners, Denny and Dunipace Glencalgies; grade 3A winners, Robert Malcolm Memorial - Canada; grade 3B winners, Ballybriest; juvenile winners, George Watson's College; grade 4A winners, New Ross and District - Eire; grade 4B winners, Clogher and District and novice winners, Scotia Glenville - U.S.A.

## Mull men visit 190 RNLI stations

A EPIC trip which saw a lifeboat volunteer and a firefighter visit more than 190 RNLI stations will come to an end this weekend as the pair arrive as Tobermory's Lifeboat Day.

This weekend sees the main fundraising event of the year for the Tobermory lifeboat take place in Ledaig Car Park.

Lifeboat Operations Manager, Ian Stevens said: "Our annual lifeboat day is not only a highlight in our fundraising calendar but it's an opportunity for locals and visitors to have a look around the lifeboat and meet the crew."

Preparations are well underway for the annual event, in which the all-weather Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey will be moored alongside the pontoons and open to visitors.

There will be a raft race, barbecue, stalls, raffle and many other activities. An exercise involving the lifeboat and a Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter promises to be one of the highlights of the afternoon.

The Tobermory lifeboat crew also hope to avenge their defeat by the Tobermory Fire Brigade in last year's rescue services raft race.

The Lifeboat Day will take place on Sunday August 19 from 12pm until 4pm and it is hoped to repeat the success of last year's event which raised more than £5,000.

## Distilleries and halls host Islay jazz

LAGAVULIN Islay Jazz Festival is to attract hundreds of fans to the island and will host some of the best music the country has to offer.

The festival will take place in the most atmospheric settings of the island varying from distilleries to village halls on September 14-16.

The number of acts confirmed for the festival has expanded to cope with the increasing audience numbers.

Favourites such as Brian Kellock and Colin Steele will make their return, but this year will see a few unfamiliar faces from around Europe, including Swedish musicians.

Lagavulin's Nick Morgan said: "Jazz Scotland has put together a terrific list of very exciting artists, representing a huge diversity of musical styles, we are delighted to support this quite unique festival again."

Fiona Alexander, director of

promoters Jazz Scotland said: "Visitors to the festival arrive with a sense of discovery."

"The musical programme is packed with surprises and the constantly changing weather presents Islay's wonderful nature in fresh light every hour. Every visitor leaves with a sense of enchantment. It's the warmth of the welcome, the quality of the jazz, the savouring of a dram, and the sense of Lagavulin's heritage."



Swedish jazz singer Miriam Aida is to perform at the festival.

## Ladies walk away with more than £5,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support in John Bichard's memory



A GROUP of women have raised more than £5,200 for MacMillan Cancer Support by walking the West Highland Way, in memory of Oban man John Bichard, who died last November following a battle with bowel cancer. The group, which included John's widow and daughters, took up the challenge, which the keen walker was never able to achieve.

## Taynuilt summer ceilidhs near their peak

AT LAST week's Taynuilt summer ceilidh in the village hall, Benderloch piper Emma Law kicked off the evening with some rousing tunes.

This was followed by fine Highland dancing performances from Isla Sinclair dancers Mairi MacCorquodale and Ailie Munro.

A large audience enjoyed solo performances from local singers Morag MacNeil and Graeme Campbell while the 'Karaoke King of Ceilidhs' Tom Irvine gave one of his typically hilarious singing performances.

Music was provided by Connel's Scott Sinclair on the accordion and the Inveraray duo of Jake MacKay (mouth organ) and Agnes Liddell (keyboard).

Fear an Taighe for the evening was Malcolm Black, who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

Tonight (Thursday) will see the final Taynuilt ceilidh of the summer.

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### Local Producers Market

Thursday 16th August  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO

Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
[www.lorn.org.uk](http://www.lorn.org.uk)

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# Pet Idol!

COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Pet's name .....

Breed of pet (optional) .....

Owner's name: .....

Address: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

I agree to all terms and conditions applied to this competition

The Oban Times would like to send you special offers and details of our forthcoming promotions.  
If you would prefer not to receive information from us, please tick here

Please post to The Oban Times, Pet Idol Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Pets entered for this competition must be owned by the person submitting the entry. Alternatively, entrants must have written permission from the pet owner. Only one entry per pet. The competition is free to enter via post or online. Photos must be of the pet only. We will not accept photos which include people with the pet. Poor quality photographs, which are out of focus, difficult to see the pet, ripped, torn or folded, will not be accepted as an entry and will be returned to the sender providing a stamped addressed envelope is supplied by the entrant. By entering the competition, the pet owner gives consent to the reproduction of their pet's photograph in The Oban Times Pet Idol features in the paper and online and in any other related Oban Times Pet Idol promotions. If you do not wish for your pet's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition. This is a voting contest. The overall winner will be the pet which receives the most votes in the grand finale. The Oban Times cannot take responsibility for the safe delivery and safe return of the entrant's photograph. Photos posted in without an enclosed stamped addressed envelope will not be returned. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. The Oban Times Ltd has the right to publish details of all entrants. Employees of Wyre Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol). Value of goody bag will vary between £30 and £50 depending on type of pet.

## Win £100 cash!

plus a goody bag for your pet

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## The Oban Times Pet Idol Competition 2012!

Calling all pet lovers! The Oban Times is giving you the chance to make your furry loved one famous. We are printing photographs of your most loveable pets over the next few weeks. This time, it will be up to you, our readers, to vote every week for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times Pet Idol 2012, £100 cash PLUS a goody bag for your pet! See page 10 for this week's entries.

**How to enter**

We are still taking entries! Whether you have a cute cat, darling dog or creepy crawly, you can enter a photograph of your much loved pet by post or online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol). When entering by post, please make sure you write the name of the pet, the town where they live and a contact telephone number on the back of the photo, complete the entry form here and send to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please make sure that only your pet is in the photograph. Should you wish for your photo to be returned, please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We will do our best to return your photo but please make a copy just in case.

After you have entered your pet into the competition, look out every week in The Oban Times to see when your pet appears. The closing date for entries is 12 noon, Monday 20th August, 2012. Full terms and conditions online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol).

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Appin Show**  
Saturday 18th August  
Stalker Croft  
Judging from 10am  
Afternoon prog from 2pm  
Teas Refreshments

**Ticket only dance**  
Appin Hall  
9pm

Oban Bowling Club  
Dairiach Road, Oban

Fete

Saturday 18 August 2012  
1.00 pm

Afternoon Teas • Home Baking  
Bottle Stall • Bric a Brac  
Books • Raffles • Whisky Trail  
Produce Stall • Green Games  
Fun and Games For All  
All welcome

**Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society**  
Annual Flower Show  
Glencrudden Road  
Church Centre  
Saturday 18th August  
Open to the Public from 12 noon

Tea/Coffee & Homebaking  
Oban in Bloom Prizegiving  
Auction of Produce at 3.30pm  
Proceeds in aid of charity

**Lorn Garden Club**  
Summer Fete

Come along and join in the fun at Ardmaddy Castle  
On the way to the Isle of Seil

Sunday 19th August, From 1.30 - 4.30

Horse and carriage and miniature steam train rides, traction engines and other working models, plant, craft and other stalls, kids' activities, tombola, and most of all, refreshments and home baking, all in the setting of a beautiful garden!

£3.50 per person, children under 16 free, friendly dogs admitted on leads. A donation will be made to a local charity. For further information, contact Marilyn on 01866 822191.

**Oban Congregational Church**  
Coffee Morning  
Saturday 18th August  
10.30am - 2.00pm  
In the Church Hall

Tea or Coffee & Cakes £2.50  
Soup/Bread £2.00  
Special Lunchtime Offer  
Soup/Bread followed by Tea/  
Coffee & Cakes - Only £4.00  
Sales Stalls

all proceeds to church funds

**North Connel & District Horticultural Show 2012**

Victory Hall, Benderloch  
Saturday 25 August

Show opens 2.00pm  
Entry - Adults £2.50 Children £1  
(includes tea and cakes)  
Prizes & Raffles at 3.00pm (approx)

SEIL ISLAND HALL

Summer Craft Fair

Sunday, August 19, 11am - 4pm

Many & Varied Craft Stalls  
Outdoor Fun & Exercise for all  
with Bodyzorb Scotland,  
Tea, Coffee, Light Lunches,  
Homebaking & BBQ served  
throughout the day.

All proceeds raised towards Easdale  
School Parent Council & Seil Hall  
(Charity No: SC032419)



Taking our first steps together

**Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery**

With the new school term approaching we are taking bookings, for enquiries call 01631 567491 or visit our website for further information and a look at our wonderful testimonials, download an application form or e-mail Ann or Fiona at manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk to arrange a visit. We look forward to hearing from you!

Croft Road | Oban | Argyll | PA34 5JL  
Tel: 01631 567491 www.firststepsoban.co.uk

At Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery, we pride ourselves on offering Quality Childcare and Education! We opened our nursery in April 1998 and are still very proud to offer a 'home from home', family environment where every child is encouraged to take their first steps away from home in a supportive, loving and nurturing environment. In our safe, stimulating and happy

environment our children thrive; embracing the outdoors with our own sensory garden of; wild trees and plants, willow dome & tunnel which enhance the learning environment along with areas for free play. Whilst we work hard to ensure that every child is treated as an individual and offered a range of learning experiences to ensure they get the best start in life our

children's learning and development is supported by National Documents Pre-Birth to Three and The Curriculum for excellence enabling staff to provide well planned daily activities and allowing your child to benefit from an active, creative and educational environment. Managed and staffed by a hard working and dedicated staff team who are highly, skilled, and caring

qualified professionals. Open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday we offer opportunities for babies from 3 months to 2 years, Tweenies from 2 to 3 years and work in partnership with HMIE and Argyll & Bute Council to offer Pre School Education Provision for children from 3 to 5 years. We offer breakfast, snack lunch and tea in a caring and supportive environment.

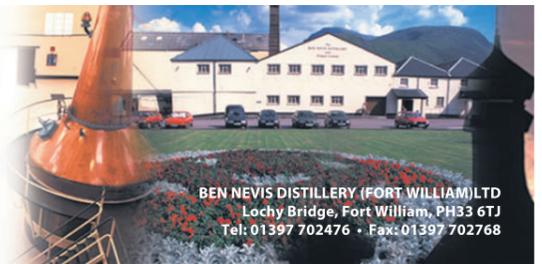
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There is a conducted tour of the production areas by a trained guide which concludes with a complementary 'tasting'. After your tour around the distillery relax with a refreshment or if you are hungry, try some of their delicious home cooking in the coffee shop and restaurant. The whisky shop is stocked with a large range of select whiskies, Scottish books and interesting gifts.



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Barrachander Quarry Ltd, a sister company of A & L McCrae Ltd (Contractors). Taking the helm of the new company will be Calum McCrae, son of Alistair McCrae who started his contracting business 35 years ago with just a tractor and a determination to succeed. Now his ever-expanding Mid Argyll business has broken into the quarry sector to help support

his roadwork contracts and help meet demand for construction projects elsewhere. The family have wasted no time in setting out their vision for the future of the quarry by investing heavily in new crushing machinery and their own lorries, taking the business into the 21st century. He said: 'My father's business mantra was always; 'Quality doesn't cost; it pays,' and I would

like to think I'm running this business the same way. 'We are a family business; my Mum handles the paperwork, Dad does the contracting and now I'm managing the quarry side. 'Quality of care to the customer is really important to us because our reputation is on the line if we don't deliver that to a high standard. We rely on repeat contracts.



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Winners of the prestigious Scottish Local Retailer award "Community Store of the Year 2012", Crianlarich Store & Post Office is a shining example of a thriving village store which is at the heart of the community it serves. The store stocks an impressive range of goods. A strong focus on fresh items meets the needs of local people but also the many holiday makers and walkers in the area.

Although firmly independent, owners Bryan & Isla Craig believe that being part of the Londis symbol group enables them to offer extremely competitive pricing and a range of promotional offers which are frequently cheaper than supermarket prices. The team are always looking for new products and services to offer. They have recently started operating an outreach Post Office in

Bridge of Orchy on Tuesday mornings, and are delivering groceries there at the same time. Other new services being introduced during August include National Lottery tickets & scratchcards, and they have also just become agents for Calor Gas. Next time you are passing through Crianlarich, call in and have a look - you might be surprised at what you find!



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Whilst searching for fun and unusual gifts for friends Lisa and Ronnie suddenly realised that they had found a gap in the market. Where could you buy products with that unmistakably Scottish feel that were made in the UK, and preferably Argyll? Being a gardener it didn't take Lisa long to come up with the idea of turning the spotlight onto one of Scot-

land's most infamous beasties and The Midge Factory was born. All of The Midge Factory's products feature cartoon midges and most recently a midge recycling scheme has been introduced, to incorporate unwanted midges into bird feeders (all donations of dead midges gratefully accepted). Over the coming weeks the midges will be on tour at

various Highland Games and craft fairs and some of their products are on sale in their favourite shops locally as well as online. Interviewed at his base on the Isle of Seil Hamish Macloud (Head Midge) said 'We have no shortage of ideas, so keep in touch by visiting our website, or follow me on Facebook and put the Midge back into your life'.



**Shore St Dental and Implant Centre, Oban**

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cally this is between 4% and 6% hydrogen peroxide) All of our dentists at the practice offer safe whitening treatment. **Facial Rejuvenation / Wrinkle Reduction.** Historically these treatments have been the realm of beauticians but in order to ensure safe, clinically governed practice these treatments are best provided by a dentist or medical practitioner, in a clinical environment. These clinicians are experienced in injection techniques and have

the knowledge to deal with any anatomical & physiological responses should they arise during or after treatment. **Implants/Implant retained Dentures** Free initial consultation given by Dr David Bell. All of the above treatments now available at Shore Street. Visit our Mobile Unit at Dalmally Show this year where our Dentists and Dental Team will be on hand to advise you and provide you with all the information you need.



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**NEW 50 BERTH MARINA NOW OPEN**

Mallaig Harbour's new yachting facilities include pontoon berths for 45 craft and additional moorings for busy periods. This development has been funded by the EC Sail West project, a marine tourism initiative of partner organisations from N Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. Mallaig was once the largest herring port in Europe, and is still a thriving fishing and ferry port for the Isle of Skye, the Small Isles and Inverie. There are plenty of options for shopping,

eating or drinking with several restaurants, pubs and takeaways available. Local history is presented at the Mallaig Heritage Centre near the Railway Station. Mallaig Harbour Authority Harbour Master: James McLean Tel: 01687 462154 VHF: Ch 16/09 (office hours) Email: info@mallaigharbourauthority.com Website: www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com www.mallaig-harbour.com



# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Pet Idol

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 plus a goody bag  
 for your pet  
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*your pet  
 is our priority*

[www.petlogistics.co.uk](http://www.petlogistics.co.uk)  
 01631 566781/07786450100

## How the competition works

Calling all pet lovers! From cute cats and darling dogs to creepy crawlies, The Oban Times has been searching high and low for the west Highland's most adorable pet. Now, it is up to you, our

readers, to vote every week for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times Pet Idol 2012, £100 cash plus a goody bag for the winning pet. We will publish a selection of your furry loved ones

each week for the duration of the competition. At the end, the pets with the most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. All finalists will then feature in The Oban Times for one last time, again

for the public vote. The pet with the most votes will then be crowned The Oban Times Pet Idol 2012! For rules and terms and conditions, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/pet-idol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/pet-idol).

Until we announce the voting deadline in a future issue, you can keep voting for a pet on this page via text and using coupons printed every week for the duration of the competition.

**Entries for this competition close at 12 noon on Monday, August 20, 2012. See page 15 for entry details**

 <b>036</b> <b>Max</b> Border Collie Morvern	 <b>037</b> <b>Rolfie</b> Collie cross Oban	 <b>038</b> <b>Murphy</b> Cat Oban	 <b>039</b> <b>Harvey</b> Rough Collie/German Shepherd Oban	 <b>040</b> <b>Midge</b> Pointer/Labrador Isle of Mull	 <b>041</b> <b>Iolair Buidhe</b> Highland Cow Lochawe	 <b>042</b> <b>Brodie</b> Jack Russell Terrier Lochawe
 <b>043</b> <b>Bridie</b> Jack Russell Terrier Lochawe	 <b>044</b> <b>Erin</b> Australian Kelpie Lochawe	 <b>045</b> <b>Ollie</b> Saint Bernard Kinlochleven	 <b>046</b> <b>Eva</b> Cat Kinlochleven	 <b>047</b> <b>Aryan</b> Guinea Pig Kinlochleven	 <b>048</b> <b>Wilson</b> Lhasa Apso Isle of Kerrera	 <b>049</b> <b>Tessa</b> Golden Retriever Oban
 <b>050</b> <b>Marlay</b> Yellow Labrador Oban	 <b>051</b> <b>Brandy</b> Domestic Short Haired Cat Kilmore	 <b>052</b> <b>Alfie</b> Jack Russell/Border Terrier/Lakeland Terrier Cross Shrewsbury	 <b>053</b> <b>Pepe</b> Chihuahua Oban	 <b>054</b> <b>Ty</b> Dog Oban	 <b>055</b> <b>Molly</b> Springer Spaniel North Connel	 <b>056</b> <b>Tigger</b> Short Haired Coon Cat North Connel
 <b>057</b> <b>Keal</b> New Foundland Isle of Mull	 <b>058</b> <b>Flynn</b> Golden Retriever Midlothian	 <b>059</b> <b>Murphy</b> Pure Cross Border/Lakeland Terrier Oban	 <b>060</b> <b>Marley</b> Lhasa Apso Oban	 <b>061</b> <b>Mimi</b> Lhasa Apso Oban	 <b>062</b> <b>Rocky</b> Chocolate Labrador Isle of Tiree	 <b>063</b> <b>Hughie</b> Kune Kune Pig Isle of Mull
 <b>064</b> <b>Buie</b> Kune Kune Pig Isle of Mull	 <b>065</b> <b>Tigga</b> Cross Breed Pony Isle of Tiree	 <b>066</b> <b>Cuan</b> West Highland Terrier Benderloch	 <b>067</b> <b>Oscar</b> Ragdoll Cat Fort William	 <b>068</b> <b>Hector</b> Springer Spaniel Isle of Mull	 <b>069</b> <b>Diesel</b> Black Labrador Taynuilt	 <b>070</b> <b>Misty</b> Domestic Short Haired Kinlochleven

## Vote for this week's finalist!

**How to vote**  
 Readers can vote for their favourite pet by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many pets as many times as you like until we announce the closing date to register your votes. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the pet's photograph when voting.

**By text:**  
 To vote by text, text the word **OTPET** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the pet's photograph to **88010**. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.

**By coupon:**  
 Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.

Example text. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT IN A SPACE.**

## VOTING COUPON

I would like to vote for:

Pet number\*:.....

Pet's name: .....

Please post to The Oban Times, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

\*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet's photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.

**You may send in multiple coupons in one envelope**

Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes will be announced in a future issue and on The Oban Times website. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).



# Learning Curve

**LEARNING while enjoying yourself is the foundation that hobbies are built on.**

Hobbies, according to the dictionary, are 'activities pursued in our spare time'. This definition however, does not really describe the all absorbing devotion to some interest that is what a hobby can actually become. Some people devote their entire lives to learning something new, turning it into an obsession rather than a mere interest or pastime. Some even manage to turn their new source of knowledge into a profitable business.

What leads us to choose an interest or hobby is something of a mystery. Some are energetic, some are far from it. Some interests begin in early childhood, others come late upon their devotees. It is probably more accurate to say an interest or hobby chooses its follower rather than the reverse because there seems no rhyme or reason to the interests people take up.

If you start to look at the things people collect you will probably find there is no barrier to the choice. There are all the usual things of course including stamps, matchbox labels, cheese and fruit labels, pressed flowers, chloroformed insects, decorated eggs, feathers, ephemera such as old playbills, menus, bus and tram tickets, posters, buttons, sewing items, etc. Some collectors are drawn to what would have been described as rubbish in days gone by. They seek out old newspapers, empty bottles, biscuit tins and commercially produced tea caddies, old jam jars and dried food packets. There is hardly anything that isn't avidly collected somewhere by someone for which space is really the only essential requisite.

Antiques are very popular though they present such a huge subject that most collectors specialize. Collectors may concentrate on furniture, glass, porcelain, silver or pictures. They may collect items for a specific purpose such as garden tools, kitchen ware, table linen, flower vases, plant pots, or clothes.

Books provide another fertile source for collectors though these too may require specialization.

Making things is just as popular though again it usually also requires space and not a little skill. However where a hobby is concerned, skill is perhaps less important than enthusiasm and if what you choose to do is sufficiently absorbing, you really have to please no-one other than yourself with the end result. And let's face it, skill is only acquired with time and practice, so pursue your hobby for long enough, you'll eventually become quite proficient.

So what can you make or do? Well you can start off considering the obvious such as drawing, painting or sculpture in a variety

of media and materials. You can look to needlecraft of all types such as lace making, knitting, crochet, tapestry work, cross stitch, embroidery, appliqué and drawn thread work. You could try spinning and weaving or making carpets and rugs. And if you have a mind for something larger, upholstery and soft furnishings can transform your home and even earn you some money. Printing is popular as is calligraphy. Glass etching, candle making, plastic moulding and a whole variety of wood and metal work are also avidly pursued. Furniture restoration is particularly absorbing and again, potentially financially rewarding.

Dancing can be a rewarding hobby as it can keep you fit as well as having social advantages. There are so many types of dance to choose from ballroom dancing with the traditional waltz, quickstep, etc., to world-wide dance styles such as salsa, merengue, lambada, swing dance, hip hop, flamenco, to name but a few.

With the success of the 2012 Olympic Games hundreds of thousands of people will be taking up sports they never thought they would. And they can choose from as many of the sports that featured in the Games, plus some.

For the less active, there are still hobbies to take up. Music can now be listened to in so many different forms that people are taking up learning to play a musical instrument, and there are teachers just waiting for keen pupils to answer their ads. A relaxing hobby could be to learn another language, especially for those who are keen to take their holidays abroad. Learning a foreign language used to be quite a tedious task, but with nowadays the most popular is the traditional CD format, with many courses available to download in standard MP3 format with vocabulary guides coming as PDF files.

If your life lacks an interest outside of family, home and work, open your mind and let an interest or hobby choose you. There are shops and stores specializing in materials and tools, books and magazines galore packed full of instructions and advice. You can join evening classes, attend weekend instructional breaks or summer schools. Help is out there if you need it.

If you haven't already got an interest or hobby, don't you think it's time you had?

**tmw** tai chi movements for wellbeing  
**New class starting**  
**Craignish Village Hall**  
**Wednesday 5th September**  
**10.30 to 11.30 am**  
 For further information contact or see web  
 Susanne Lin McCardel  
**01852 500 361 07979 860754**  
 info@susannemccardel.co.uk

**Scottish Country Dancing**  
**Thinking of trying on your dancing shoes?**  
 Introductory classes starting  
 Monday 27 Aug 2012 at 8:00pm in  
 Church Of Scotland Centre, Oban.  
 Contact Sue Porter on 01631 563103

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**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SESSION 2012 - 2013**  
 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF OUR PROSPECTUS AND APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT US

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 Newbattle Road Dalkeith Midlothian EH22 3LL  
 Email: office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk  
 Web: www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk  
 Tel: 0131 663 1921

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**Argyll College** | Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

**SVQ Level 1 Food Preparation and Cooking**  
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**SVQ Levels 1 and 2 Hospitality**  
**HNC Computing & Information Technology**  
**NC Administration**  
**HNC Administration & Information Technology**  
**NC Digital Media Computing**  
**NC Sound Production**  
**HNC Sound production**  
**NC Horticulture**  
**Childcare**

**Limited places still available. Call 01631 559 500 NOW**

tel: **01631 559 500**  
 email: lin.kengen@argyllcollege.ac.uk

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 Viennese Waltz, Rumba, Tango, Waltz, Jive, Cha-cha-cha, Samba etc... also Merengue, Salsa and Salsa Solo Ladies Styling!  
**WEDDING 1ST DANCE LESSONS**  
 Make your wedding even more special with a first dance to remember!  
 Private, one-to-one, group lessons available.  
 Oban and area  
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 07593630916

**Places still available!**

**Full time courses starting September**

- Adventure Tourism Management BA(Hons)
- Applied Music BA(Hons)
- Administration
- Child Health & Social Care
- Early Education & Childcare
- Maritime Skills
- Music (Rock & Pop or Traditional)
- Advanced Outdoor Leadership
- Construction Skills
- Event Planning
- Rural Skills
- Professional Cookery

*More full time courses available in Skye & Wester Ross - see website for details*

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**Also available from your local college**

- Higher Courses : English SCQF 5/6 & Maths SCQF 4/5/6
- From September : NEW 18 week 'Work Readiness' programme
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**01397 874246 www.whc.uhi.ac.uk**  
 West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)

**Argyll and Bute** learning locally  
**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**  
 learn locally in Argyll and Bute

Lorn Community Learning team offer a varied programme, from ICT for absolute beginners, to help with writing CVs and job applications - try our informal and friendly sessions, all held in community venues.  
 We're also looking for volunteers to help people with reading, writing and number skills in the Oban and Lorn area. Training starts 4th September!  
**Phone us to find out more - contact: 01631 567979**  
 PS. We have moved! Find us at Willowview, Lower Soroba, Oban PA34 4SB, or visit <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/>

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (STRATHFIELD, GLENCOE - REVOCATION) ORDER 2012**

TAKE NOTICE that the Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland has made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 entitled as above to revoke planning permission for the erection of a house and garage at Strathfield, Glencoe, Ballachulish (reference 07/00099/FULLO) granted on 12th October 2007.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and occupier of the land and by all other persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order. If any person wishes an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Directorate for the Built Environment, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ not later than 14th September 2012. If no such notice has been given by that date, the Order shall take effect by virtue of section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 28th September 2012.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

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
12/02827/FUL	127 High Street Fort William	Change of use of land to allow for outdoor seating
12/02880/FUL	Land 110m NE of Lorient Hostel Brae Foyers Road Kinlochleven	Change of use of ground to form building contractors yard
12/02894/FUL	Lower Glenfintaig Farmhouse Spean Bridge	Erection of raised timber deck
12/02981/PIP	Land 150m NE of Fort William Health Centre Camaghael, Fort William	Erection of 10 houses

Time period for comments is 14 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01409/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank.	Site South West of Coille Dharraich Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QB	Oban Area Office
12/01534/PP	Change of use from art gallery and picture framing workshop to interior design studio and showroom with the basement to remain as a store/workshop area as existing	6 Star Brae Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4NX	Oban Area Office
12/01642/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.	Garden Ground of Jaraw Fishnish Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/01644/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.	Garden Ground of Jaraw Fishnish Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/01647/PP	Erection of general purpose agricultural shed (part retrospective).	Grianan South Cuan Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TU	Sub Post Office Cullipool
12/01691/PP	Formation of vehicular access (part retrospective).	Land West of Craig Lora Ederdonich Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1AS	Sub Post Office Dalmally

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01694/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access.	Low Nerabus Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7UE	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01693/PP	Variation of condition one of Planning Permission reference 07/01984/DET (Conversion and change of use of existing south warehouse building into distillery use. Provision of new visitors centre building, boiler house and workshop and landscaping) to extend the timescales for the implementation of the approval by a further 3 years	Port Charlotte Distillery Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
12/01716/PP	Alterations (including formation of dormer window), extensions to dwellinghouse and formation of access/handstanding area for parking	2 King Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SP	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

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, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

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.

**BIDWELLS**

**CONSTRUCTION TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders are sought for the erection and completion of a Hall Extension of approximately 250 sq. metres in area At Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, The Parade, Fort William.

Respondents will be required to complete a Pre-qualification questionnaire, to be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday 21st September 2012.

Up to six (6) respondents will be invited to tender.

Contact details to request to participate in the tender process must be received by 31st August by:

**Mike MacGruer, Bidwells**  
Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William

This project is being part financed by the Scottish Government And the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2012 Programme.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**KINLOCHLEVEN COMMUNITY TRUST INVITATION TO TENDER COMMUNITY HYDRO SCHEME FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Kinlochleven Community Trust invites proposals from eligible consultancy firms to carry out a detailed feasibility study for a 100kw Community Hydro Scheme

The ideal consultant will explore and analyse the potential, viability and costs for electricity generation as detailed in the tender brief

Closing Date for completed tenders: Wednesday 5th September 2012 at 4pm

FOR A COPY OF OUR TENDER BRIEF AND ASSOCIATED PAPERS PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms Moira Hartley, Development Officer, Kinlochleven Community Trust, Unit 4A, Kinlochleven Business Park, Kinlochleven, PH50 4SH

Tel: 01855 831 779 or Email: [moira@kinlochleven.co.uk](mailto:moira@kinlochleven.co.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

**Scientific Studies Project on Marine Renewable Energy Loch Ceann Traigh, Sound of Arisaig**

Notice is hereby given that Cranfield University and AlbaTERN Ltd have applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a Scientific Studies Project based on a Wave Energy Converter Device at:

Description Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Loch Ceann Traigh, Sound of Arisaig	56 46.00 N	05 55.70 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the Post Office in Acharacle, PH36 4JL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: FKB/Z263

Applicants Contact Details: Cranfield University and AlbaTERN Ltd Environmental Science & Technology Department, Building 56b, Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, MK43 0AL

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR AUDIT SERVICES FOR SAMS GROUP**

SAMS wishes to advertise the issue of a Tender for the Audit Services for SAMS Group.

The Services required are to carry out statutory annual audits of the Scottish Association for Marine Science and SAMS Research Services.

The successful candidate should be able to provide all Services that we are requesting.

The Tender closes on the 31st August, 2012 at 12.00pm and full details can be found on the SAMS website [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk).

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206)

**WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 30th August 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall, Church Centre, Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**RECRUITMENT**

argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

Published by The Oban Times Group

Applications are invited for the post of:

**JUNIOR REPORTER**

Based in Lochgilphead

We want to hear from you if you have:

- The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
- Shorthand
- Ambition and enthusiasm
- Talent, self motivation and commitment
- A full current driving licence
- Knowledge of Argyll an advantage

We offer a good, competitive salary, excellent benefits and great working conditions. Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Social Media Intern**

An excellent 'apprentice' opportunity for the right graduate.

The role is to develop and implement an online marketing calendar and manage social reputation through Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and other channels.

Needs to have superior copywriting skills, be social media savvy, deadline driven and able to work effectively in a small team and with world-wide contacts.

12 month initial contract, with personal development plan.

£16k

Based in Oban, [www.hypnosisdownloads.com](http://www.hypnosisdownloads.com)  
[ContactLyndsay.Elliott@unk.com](mailto:ContactLyndsay.Elliott@unk.com) for further details  
Closing date: August 31st

**JOB SEARCH**

Contract Shepherd available with good dogs for hill gatherings and inbye work

Tel: 07816063279

**WANTED: Carer/Companion**

to assist with the care of a lady suffering from dementia (mid sixties), someone with caring and compassion required near the Craignure area.

Payment rate negotiable for the right person.

**Please contact 01631 562317**

Stevenson Kennedy Limited, Solicitors, Linnthu House, 19 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA (Contact Gordon McNab)

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Advertising Sales Executive**

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**alba THE ART SHOP**

Full and part time vacancies

Apply in writing to Alba the Art Shop, 6 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR

University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College

Oiligh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

Argyll College UHI Ltd provides access to a range of further and higher education opportunities.

We require the following post, starting as soon as possible, based in our Lochgilphead Centre:

**Assistant Centre Manager - part time**

The successful applicant will deal with enquiries from students and businesses as well as assisting with the administration of the centre in line with college policy and procedures. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, a sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office and good administrative skills are essential requirements of the post. The highest quality service to students and customers is of prime importance to the college.

This is a part time post and includes working two evenings per week. To allow flexibility to ensure the centre is covered at the busiest times of the year, we are offering 850 hours per year and would envisage working more hours per week during busy periods and less during quiet periods. The actual days and times of work will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The hourly rate of pay for this post is £9.70 plus a payment in lieu of annual leave of £1.53 per hour, giving a total hourly rate of £11.23

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Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban, Argyll PA34 4RY, e-mail: [lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk) fax: 01631 564370

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## Islay Show results

**BLACKFACE:**  
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Open: E Bowman, Port Ellen; Ewe in Milk: Crofter: E Bowman, Port Ellen; 2 Year Old in Milk: Open : A Currie, Ballachlaven; 2 Year Old in Milk: Crofter: A Currie, Ballachlaven; Gimmer: Open: K Wiggins, Port Charlotte; Gimmer: Crofters: K Wiggins, Port Charlotte; Ewe Lamb: Open: J Campbell, Port Ellen; Ewe Lamb: Crofters: A Currie, Ballachlaven; Shearing Tup: A Currie, Ballachlaven; Tup : 2 shear and above: D Currie, Ballachlaven; Ewe with lamb/lambs(tup or ewe) at foot: K Wiggins, Port Charlotte; Best Group consisting Rams(shearing or older) Ewe in Milk or Gimmer, Ewe Lamb or Tup Lamb: Open: A Currie, Ballachlaven; Crofter: A Currie, Ballachlaven.

**BORDER LEICESTER:**  
Tup, 2 shear and above: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Shearing Tup: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Tup Lamb: R Smith & A McGill, Coille; Ewe in Milk: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Gimmer: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Ewe Lamb: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Best Group consisting Ram (shearing or older) Ewe in milk or Gimmer and a Ram Lamb, Ewe Lamb: I McKerrill, Island Farm.

**TEXEL & BELTEX**  
CROSS:  
Tup 2 shear & over : A Torrance, Mulindry; Shearing Tup: N McDonald, Bunnahabhain; Tup Lamb:



Willie and Gordon Currie, of W and M Currie and Son entertained guests at their show stand. 15\_1331slay09

T Rozga, Kilmeny; Ewe: T Rozga, Kilmeny; Gimmer: T Rozga, Kilmeny; Ewe Lamb : J McDonald, Bunnahabhain; Pair of Ewe Lambs: Dunlossit Estate, Lossit.

**ANY OTHER BREED OR CROSS BREED OF SHEEP:**  
Ram, 2 shear and over, Other than those eligible for Sections 1, 2 or 3: E & J Brown, Aoradh; Shearing Tup: R Smith & A McGill, Coille; Tup Lamb: G & J Archibald, Craigns; Ewe: E & J Brown, Aoradh; Gimmer: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Ewe Lamb: R Smith & A McGill, Coille; Pair of Ewe Lambs: R

Smith & A McGill, Coille.

**SUFFOLK:**  
Tup 2 Shear and over: I McKerrill, Island Farm; Shearing Tup: J McDonald, Bunnahabhain; Tup Lamb: J & N McGillivray, Keills; Ewe: J Bignal, Smaladh; Gimmer: J Bignal, Smaladh; Ewe Lamb: J Bignal, Smaladh; Pair of Ewe Lambs: R Smith & A McGill, Coille.

**PRIME LAMBS:**  
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**HIGHLAND LIVESTOCK:**

For Competitor under 21 yrs Of age for Best Animal, Cattle Or Sheep, entered in Show in own name: J McDonald, Bunnahabhain.

**BEEF CATTLE:**  
Galloway Section: Galloway Cow in Calf or with Calf at Foot: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Galloway Calf: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus.

**Highland Section:**  
Highland Cow Any Age: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Highland Heifer, 3 yrs old: Dunlossit Estate, Cean-nacraig; Highland Heifer, 2 yrs old: N & M MacLellan, Kilchiaran; Highland Heifer, 1 yr old: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Highland

Calf: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Best Pair of Highland Females: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus.

**Commercial section:**  
Beef Cow, any breed or Cross breed: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Heifer in Calf, any breed or Cross breed: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Heifer for breeding: Dunlossit Estate, Knocklearach; Suckled Calf, male or female, Sired by a native bull: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Suckled Bullock Calf, born on or after 1st February this year, sired by a Limousin Bull: J McKellar, Ballygrant; Suckled Female Calf, born on or after February this year sired

by a Limousin Bull: T Epps, Ardnave; Suckled Bullock Calf, born on or after 1st February this year sired by any bull other than Limousin: T Epps, Ardnave; Suckled Female Calf, born on or after 1st February this year sired by any bull other than Limousin: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Extra Stock: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Best Pair Calves, same sex, any Breed or cross breed: J McKellar, Ballygrant.

**HIGHLAND AND OTHER PONIES SHOWN IN HAND:**  
Best Highland Gelding or Mare, in hand, 4 yrs old or over: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich; Colt, Gelding or Female up to 3 yrs old: J Monaghan, Kilnoughton; Best Highland Gelding or Mare, ridden, up to 4 yrs old Or over on 1 January: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich.

**OTHER PONIES:**  
Veteran Gelding or Mare in hand Any height or breed, 20 yrs or older: A Brown, Bridgend; In hand mare or gelding over 4 yrs old: L A Stewart, Bowmore; Small Ridden Pony under 13 hands 4 years old or over on 1 January: FA & HA Roxburgh, Ballivacar; Small Ridden Pony 13 hands and up to 14.2 hands, 4 years old or over on 1 January: FA & HA Roxburgh, Ballivacar; Riding horse, cross native breed over 14.2 hands, 4 years old or over on 1 January: J M Fletcher, Persabus; Riding horse over 14.2 hands, 4 years old or over on 1 January excluding those eligible for Class 93: Rockside Trekking Centre; Donkey any age: D & A McFadyen, Bowmore.

**RIDING COMPETITIONS:**  
Best Young Rider on leading Rein, 12 yrs or under: M Brown, Port Ellen; Best Young Rider under 16 yrs of age (ex entrants in Class 96): A MacTaggart, Ardnave; Gymkhana Event: E Aitken, Port Ellen.

**Suffolk Sheep:** J Bignal, Smaladh; The Aileen Whyte Memorial Shield for Best Female in the Suffolk Section: J Bignal, Smaladh; Foreland Perpetual Cup presented by D Doyle Foreland Estate for Best Sheep other than Blackface, Suffolk or B/L: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; The Kilchoman Cup – presented by the Late Iain Campbell for Best Pen of Prime Lambs – Any Breed : R Smith & A McGill, Coille; Wilsons Fuels Ltd Trophy for Champion Sheep Overall: T Rozga, Kilmeny; Highland Livestock Trophy for a young Exhibitor under

Broad Teeth: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Hamilton Bros Tankard for Champion Suckled calf: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Perpetual Challenge Cup presented by Shell & BP (Scotland) Ltd for Best Pair Of Calves: J MacKellar, Ballygrant; Cairnmore Cup presented by JAW Morrison for Best Animal in Beef Section: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Jim R Calder Memorial Trophy - Competitor with most points in Beef Section: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; John McGillivray Memorial Trophy for Best Stockperson with 6 months full-time employment prior

largest number of points over sheep, cattle and horse sections: K Wiggins, Port Charlotte; Jim Kerr Memorial Trophy for Reserve Overall Show Champion: T Rozga, Kilmeny; Glasgow Islay Association Cup for Champion Animal at Show: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain.

**Flower and Vegetable Section:**  
The Seumas MacKillop Perpetual Challenge Cup for Best Hand Bouquet of Flowers grown or made up by Exhibitor: L Cuninghame, Neriby; Islay & Jura Gardeners Club Trophy for Best Lady's Spray: J & C



Bob Cunningham, Neriby, Bridgend drove his Fordson Major in the parade of vintage vehicles. 15\_1331slay13

21 years of age – for Best Animal, cattle or sheep, entered in Show in their own name: J MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Kinnabus Tray – presented by The Late Commander JRC Montgomery RNJP, Kinnabus for Best Galloway or First Cross Galloway bred by Exhibitor: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Schroder Cup presented by The Late HKB Schroder of Dunlossit: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; The MacTaggart Cup

to the Show: J Rountree, Bowmore; The Donald MacGregor Perpetual Challenge Cup presented by Donald MacGregor for Best Highland Pony entered by owner: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich; Perpetual Challenge Cup awarded by T Caskie Esq, Glasgow, for Best Riding Pony, any age, excluding Highlands: R Hayes, Bowmore; The Duart Cup Perpetual Challenge Cup Presented by Sir Charles H

MacGillivray, Keills; The James T Christie Memorial Cup for Sweet Peas : C Todd, Portnahaven; Logan Shield for Best Shallots: B Paget, Port Charlotte; Logan Shield for Best Carrots: D McCormick, Blackrock; Logan Shield for Best Onions: B Paget, Port Charlotte; The Silver Cup presented by the remaining Members of Islay Horticultural Society for the competitor gaining largest pointage throughout the



Islay Pipe Band played on the showfield to entertain the crowd and to fine tune their pieces before travelling to the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow on Saturday. 15\_1331slay05

presented by H T De Vere Clifton Esq of Kildalton for Championship Animal in Highland Cattle Section: N & M McLellan, Kilchiaran; Rennie Trophy, best yearling Heifer (Native): G & J Archibald, Craigns; The Donnie Shaw Memorial Trophy for Best Highland Heifer: N & M McLellan, Kilchiaran; Highland Females Trophy presented by A & S Cameron best pair of Highland Females: G & M Porter & Son, Carrabus; Perpetual Challenge Trophy presented by Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd for Best Spring Born Suckled Calf: N MacDonald, Bunnahabhain; Kilchiaran Cup presented by the late Neil McLellan for the Best Heifer showing no

M McLean Bart, KT, KBE, Duart Castle, Isle of Mull, for Best Pony in Show: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich; The Don McFarlane Memorial Trophy for Reserve Champion Horse: Rockside Trekking Centre; Islay Jura & Colonsay Agricultural Assoc Shield for Winner of Best Riding Horse: Rockside Trekking Centre; Iain Martin Crawford Memorial Trophy Champion Horse/Pony in Show: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich; Dawson Perpetual Cup for Best Horse or Pony shown In Hand: A M MacLeod, Bruichladdich; Special Prize of £25.00 and Rosette for best turned out exhibit and exhibitor donated by Rhinnis Point Highland Ponies: A Brown, Bridgend; The Islay Campbell MacLachlan Memorial Cup for Most Aggregate Points in Gymkhana Events : E Aitken, Port Ellen; The Elliister Cup presented by Mrs J Dawson Elliister for Best Young Rider under 16 years of age: A MacTaggart, Ardnave; The Hardie Memorial Trophy for Best Young Rider 12 years or under: M Brown, Port Ellen; Medals in memory of Mr Peter Smith (POP) 1 M Brown, Port Ellen, 2 A Brown, Bridgend, 3 K Middleton;

Section: J & C MacGillivray, Keills; The John MacNeill Memorial Trophy for most points in Vegetable Section: D McCormick, Blackrock; Dugald MacTaggart Perpetual Cup for Dahlias: A & P MacEachern, Keills; Rose Bowl in Memory of Flora McLellan presented by her family- Four Roses: N Baker; Finlay MacMillan Memorial Cup for Best Exhibit in Class 130: A & P MacEachern, Keills; Minnie MacTaggart Perpetual Cup for the Best Fuchsia: M Porter, Bowmore; Cup presented by Mairi Porter for Best Geranium: B Paget, Port Charlotte; Tankard presented by M Porter for best exhibit: M Porter, Bowmore; Mavis Spears Memorial Trophy – Most Points in Flower Section: M Porter, Bowmore; The Thomas Shaw Memorial Cup for Best Exhibit in Show: A & P MacEachern, Keills; Port Askaig Cup for Best Dog presented by Frank and Mavis Spears for Best Dog in show: R Wats, Port Askaig; A & P MacEachern Trophy presented to Winner Of Puppy Section (local puppy): L Woodrow, Bowmore; Keills Cup presented by B & A Pillely for Best young exhibitor: R Wats, Port Askaig; Islay Book Festival for best adult exhibitor: K Rowlands, Port Ellen; Coullabus Cup presented by A & J Waterworth Cup for Best Junior Handler: I Mathison, Bruichladdich; Bruichladdich Distillery Trophy for Tossing the Sheaf Competition: A Porter, East Carrabus.



Brothers Donald, left, and Ewen MacPherson, from Berwick upon Tweed and North Connel respectively, were judges at the show. 15\_1331slay10

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## Clydesdale takes Mid Argyll crown

### Isle of Islay cross British Blue calf takes cattle title

A CLYDESDALE FILLY from Campbeltown-based MacFadyen Contractors took the supreme champion's title at Mid Argyll Show last Saturday.

The two-year old Carnaff Lady Lucinda, by Whinhill Lord of the Isles and out of Torrs Karis, had previously by named supreme champion at Kintyre Show, and also won Clydesdale champion at the Royal Highland Show in June.

The Mid Argyll confined champion also came from the equestrian classes, with Christina Ferguson, from Lochgilphead, and her horse Bea winning the overall Mid Argyll Championship.

#### Cattle champion

Overall cattle champion was a Spring-born British Blue cross calf, Smarty Swagger, from Neil McDonald, Bunnahabhain, Isle of Islay, which had won the overall cattle title on the island two-days before.

Taking the reserve beef ticket was the Highland champion Lolair Buidhe 9th of Glenkinglass from Mr and Mrs R D Schuster, Duiletter Farm, Dalmally.

In the open sheep classes, the

champion was a Blackface ewe from J. Jackson and son, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead with their leader out of a ewe by £10,000 Nunerie and by a £2,000 Garpel.

Mid Argyll farmer David Anderson of Barnakill Farm, Cairnbaan, won the confined sheep title with a Texel.

The reserve confined champion came from Kilmichael farmer Bruce Dixon with an eight-month-old pure Simmental heifer which was also named confined beef champion.

The show saw a wealth of entertainment take place alongside the traditional agricultural events - with the sunshine drawing thousands of spectators to the show field.

Crowds were entertained by BMX riders Unit 23, who performed dare devil stunts throughout the day, Argyll Brass provided great music and the Quack commandos brought lots of laughter as a sheepdog herded ducks around the show ring.

In this, its 115th year, Mid Argyll Show was deemed a great success by organisers and visitors alike.



Clydesdale champion Carnaff Lady Lucinda, owned by MacFadyen Contractors Campbeltown, was named open supreme champion. 06\_a33show06



Open Cattle Champion was a Spring-born Belgian Blue cross, Smarty Swagger, by Smarts Braveheart, and out of a Stabiliser, from Neil MacDonald, Bunnahabhain, Islay. 06\_a33show14



Open sheep champion was a Blackface ewe from J Jackson and Son, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead. 06\_a33mid08



Highland champion from Mr and Mrs RD Schuster. 06\_a33show44



Nine-year-old Jack McDonald, Bunnahabhain, Islay, with the champion Suffolk and reserve sheep champion. 06\_a33show05

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5-speed diesel estate with 104k miles. Super-safe, fuel-efficient cruiser in great working order. FSH and regular maintenance local garage. Recent works include new timing belt, brakes, refurbished drive shafts, etc. Save on home heating this winter: lounge in heated leather seats! MOT Oct 2012, TAX Dec 2012.

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TODDLER BED RAIL/GUARD Pink Tomy universal bed guard. Suitable from 18mths to prevent falling out of bed, length 102 cms, adjustable, £15 Telephone 01631 710110.

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Married in Oban August 23, 1962

Happy 18th Birthday Siobhan Williams



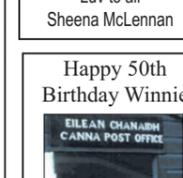
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A massive Thank You to all my family and friends for making my 60th Birthday so special.

Thank you all for the beautiful cards and gifts. A special Thank you to my Spotlight family for the fantastic party, I had the time of my life.

Luv to all Sheena McLennan

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**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**WIN £1600**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

E Cameron Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire

D Harvey Tarbert, Argyll

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**McKECHNIE**

The McKechnie family are delighted to announce the birth of a beautiful baby girl Darcy Loral, first daughter of Louise. Born July 27, 2012 weighing 7lbs 15ozs.

**DEATHS**

**BYATT** - David Arthur died peacefully at home on Wednesday, August 8, 2012. Beloved husband of Mary (née Arber) and father of Sarah (Lovesy), and James. Private funeral in Argyll. Memorial Service in Moray to be announced later.

**CARSON** - Peacefully after a short illness, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on August 8, 2012, aged 73 years, Jim beloved husband of Elizabeth, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral took place on Tuesday at Clydebank Crematorium.

**MACNEILL** - Peacefully at Dunoon on August 8, 2012 aged 83 years, Lexy former post mistress for Tobermory. Much loved daughter of the late Alexander and Johanna, sister of the late Lachie. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

**McCAIG** - Christina aged 68 years, originally of Newmains, then Oban, died peacefully at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on August 10, 2012. Wife of the late James and loving mother of Agnes, Ewing and Jim. A special daughter, sister, aunt and grandmother.

**ROBERTSON** - Suddenly but peacefully at home in Quothquan, Biggar on Sunday, August 5, 2012, Kirsty Mairi Robertson, dearly loved partner of Gordon Jack, devoted mum of Harris, Donald, Kyra and Finlay, much loved daughter of Alasdair and Jane, much missed sister of Karen and Calum and adored Aunt and friend to many. Funeral service on Friday, August 17, at 11.15am at Holytown Crematorium, Memorial Way, Holytown, ML1 5RU, to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Biggar, Babies, Toddlers and Playgroup.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**ROSSETTER** - Memorial Service at 3pm on Saturday, August 18, at Fort William Baptist Church for Rev Bruce Rossetter, former minister of The United Free Church.

**ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS**

**BROWN-IainandElizabeth** jr wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy for their sad loss of Elizabeth and would give special mention to staff of local hospital and community services including Jacquelin Barron, dietician, Allyson Murray, GP, Hilary Brown, Macmillan Nurse and staff of the Accident and Emergency Unit and of Ward 1 Lorn and Islands District Hospital. Rev Dugald Cameron and Ken Moncrieff, organist, provided a personalised and comforting service and D & A Munn made efficient funeral arrangements.

**SMITH** - Violet and Theresa wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the very many kind expressions of sympathy which they received following the sudden death of Jimmy, their dearly loved dad. We are extremely grateful for all the visits to our home, telephone calls, sympathy cards, Mass cards, flowers and gifts received at this sad time. Special thanks are extended to all doctors and staff at the Glen Mor Medical Practice and to the Community Nurses for their outstanding care and dedication shown to Jimmy over the past few years. We especially wish to thank Fr Roddy McAuley, Fr Michael MacDonald, Mgr Tom Wynne and Deacon Stanilov for their exceptional spiritual comfort and personal support, and for concelebrating the beautiful and serene Requiem Mass at St. John's Church. Grateful thanks to Sr Audrey and Sr Therese, everyone who provided the uplifting music throughout the Mass, and Mr Raj Smith for playing the pipes. We greatly appreciate the professional, efficient and sensitive assistance shown to us by Ewen and Scott at John McLellan and Co Ltd. Many thanks to Shiona and Serena (MacDonald Brothers) for the beautiful floral tributes, and the staff of the Moorings Hotel for catering. We thank everyone who paid their final respects to Jimmy at the church and cemetery. The sum of £662.71 from the retiring collection has been donated to the Glen Mor Medical Practice. Jimmy was a loving and devoted father, and he is very sadly missed. R.I.P.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAIRNS** - Christine Mary, passed away August 17, 2008, dear wife of the late James Cairns and loving mother of Robert, Derek and Douglas and much loved grandmother and mother-in-law. Sadly missed and always in our thoughts.

**CAIRNS** - In loving memory of my dear sister and our aunt Christine, who died August 17, 2008. We do not need a special day to bring you to our mind.

For days without a thought of you  
Are very hard to find.  
- Your loving sister Cathie and family, Caol, Corpach and Falkirk.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Tootsie (Sarah), who died August 16, 1989.

Silent thoughts of times together  
Hold memories that will last forever.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.  
**CAMPBELL** - Cherished memories of Duncan, a much loved husband, father and papa, who died August 20, 2011.

Always in our thoughts.  
- Emma, Gordon, Morvern, Murdo and David.  
**DOCHERTY** - Mac. In loving memory of a dear mother who died August 16, 2002.

Always in our thoughts.  
- Love Mary, Peter and family.

**FLEMING** - In loving memory of my dear husband Donnie, died August 15, 1984. We'll meet again.  
- Margaret.

**LAIRD** - Davy. In memory of a dear father who died August 17, 2011.  
- Love Peter, Mary and family.

**LAIRD** - On August 17, 2011 our very intelligent, supportive, loving father, gaga and great gaga passed away, Davy, aged 81. Loved by all missed by many.

- Damian, Brenda, Poacher and familyxxx.  
**LAIRD** - In loving memory of Davy a much loved dad and gaga, who died August 17, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

- The Laird family.  
**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Alister, a devoted husband and father, who passed away on August 18, 2001. The many things you did for me

In your kind and loving way  
Give me memories to treasure  
As I think of you each day.  
- Helen.  
We miss you dad, our hearts are sore  
With each new day we miss you more  
No longer in our lives to share  
But in our hearts you're always there.

**MACEWAN** - Loving memories of our parents, Maimie died August 2001 and Iain died April 1977. Love you always.  
- From the family.

**MACFARLANE** - (née Lafferty) In loving memory of Nadia who was taken from us on August 12, 2008.

You left a place no-one can fill  
We miss you now and always will.

- from Brian, Pene & familyxxx  
**POTTER** - Treasured memories of Thomas Potter, a dearly loved husband, father and Danda who died at An Airigh, Dalmally on August 15, 1980.

Loved and remembered always.  
**ROBERTSON** - Loving memories of my dear wife Heather, who died August 17, 2007.

No tomorrows for us to share  
But yesterday's memories will always be there  
Dearly loved and sadly missed.

- Love from Doss.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of Donald who passed away on August 15, 2011.

Gone are the days we used to share  
But in our hearts you're always there,  
Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered everyday.

Sadly missed, Mum, Archie, Fiona, Calum and families.  
**SPROAT** - Precious memories of Harry who passed away on August 18, 2011.

Not a day of this past year has gone without you in our thoughts.  
Every waking moment you are with us, guiding us, and giving us strength.

We count our blessings for every hour we spent with you.  
You fly with the angels now, but you will always walk beside us.

Forever in our hearts, free to traipse your homeland.  
Elizabeth, Daughters and Grand-daughters wish to thank everybody for their continued support throughout this past year.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of Roy who we lost 10 years ago  
We still love and miss you every day.  
Cathie, John, Carolyn, Catherine and families

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 19 August 2012  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 19 August 2012  
Trinity 11  
St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion..... 08.00  
Matins ..... 10.15  
Parish Eucharist ..... 11.30  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00  
Holy Communion..... 11.00  
Community Song of Praise at Duror Kirk..... 19.00  
St Columba Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00  
Evensong..... 20.15  
Holy Eucharist.....  
..... Wed 22 August 14:30

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
Tel 0808 100 6000  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
Oban & Lorn  
Fundraising Branch  
Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact  
Mrs Lillian Kermode  
Tynwald, Glenburn,  
Soroba Road, Oban  
01631 571009

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
Commitment of over £15 million each year  
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Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court  
Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank, G81 2LA

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
Jack Tolan  
Birch Hill  
Achnacreebeag  
North Connel, PA37 1RE

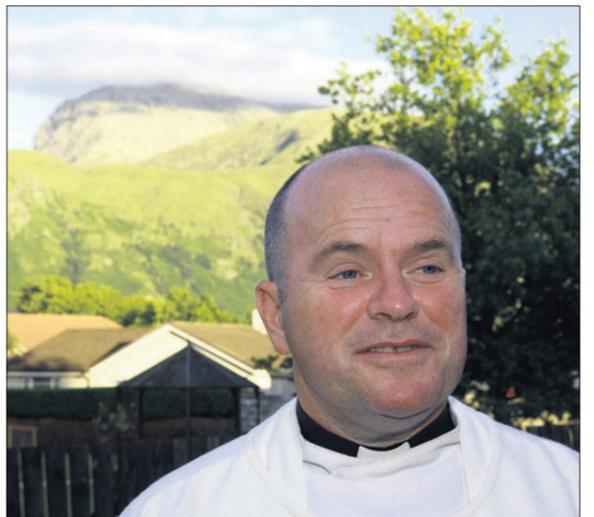
Thought for the week

DURING the Olympics we have witnessed amazing feats of skill and determination. We have seen how people cope with success and failure. Even those who "fail" have succeeded more than most. Competing at the Olympics is serious achievement in itself. During the Paralympics people will also demonstrate amazing feats. They will have required as much or more dedication as those in the Olympics. Olympians and Paralympians achieve what they do with huge amounts of sup-

port in the background. It is intended that new facilities will benefit many more people in years to come. It's also important to maintain and improve, not cut, more general facilities and care for the least able in society. The eyes of the world are on the highest achievers but let's remember that everyone needs appropriate support to contribute our best in society. Two well known biblical characters lived with disabilities. Jacob had a limp for much of his life after dislocating it one night wrestling with God. Paul

had what he described as a thorn in the flesh - over the years there has been much speculation as to what exactly this meant. Whatever it was he had no choice but to live with it. These "disabilities" no doubt affected their lives but didn't stop them fulfilling their potential. As we admire the achievements of elite sportspeople let's commit to ensuring everyone has the opportunities they need for a fulfilling life.

Rev Liz Gibson, Glenorchy & Innishael and Strathfillan



Father Roddy McAuley has ambitions to hold the highest church service in Britain, on top of Ben Nevis

Caol priest to hold Mass on Ben Nevis

A CAOL priest plans to hold a Mass with a difference next Friday - at the top of Ben Nevis.

Father Roddy McAuley, of St John's Church, plans to make the pilgrimage up the Ben along with a number of parishioners.

Father McAuley told *The Oban Times* the idea for holding the highest church service in Britain had been brewing for some time. He said: 'It's something I've been thinking about for a number of years, especially since I moved to Caol about a year and a half ago.'

'I've got beautiful, beautiful views from my sitting room of the Ben and I thought wouldn't it be nice to have a service up there.'

'I've been told it happened before many, many years ago.'

'I'm hoping to encourage a lot of youths to come up with me and anyone else who can manage. But we'll only be going up if the weather is good, safety is the most important thing.'

He added: 'I'll be taking the minimum amount of equipment for Mass - we won't have any brass candles!'

Before moving to Caol, Father McAuley was parish priest on South Uist. During his time on the island he was the focus of the popular BBC fly-on-the-wall series 'An Island Parish' along with fellow priests Father John Paul MacKinnon and the late Father Calum MacLellan.

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www.obantimes.co.uk

**GRADUATIONS**



**DAVID MACFADYEN**  
Graduated from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen with a BSc (Honours) in Physiotherapy. David is a former pupil of Lochgilphead Primary School and Lochgilphead High School. He is the son of Malcolm and Sheila MacFadyen and the grandson of Nettie and the late Calum MacFadyen and the late Duncan and Clare Fraser.



Laura Cameron graduated from Queen Margaret University with a BA Honours Degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. Laura is the daughter of Iain and Heather Cameron, Dalgety Bay and formerly of Fort William.



Melanie Jayne Cottam graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a B.Sc Mathematics (First Class Honours) and P G D E Secondary Education. Melanie is the daughter of Mike and Muriel Cottam, Fort William and a former pupil of Fort William Primary School and Lochaber High School. Melanie has taken a position at the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway.



Saul A. I. Ormiston, eldest son of John and Eilid Ormiston of Barcaldine, Oban graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Earth Sciences. Saul is a former pupil of Barcaldine Primary and Oban High School. He has now taken up a position as a geo-technical engineer in Glasgow.



Innes McDougall graduated with a BA (Hons.) degree at the University of the West of Scotland, Ayr. Innes was a pupil at Oban High School and is brother to Mairi and the son of proud parents Duncan and Margaret from Colonsay.

**GRADUATIONS**



**CARTER - MIDGLEY**  
Jacquelyn Carter and Richard Midgley were married at the White Church, Corran Esplanade, Oban on August 2nd 2012. They celebrated their marriage with family and friends at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dumbeag, Oban.



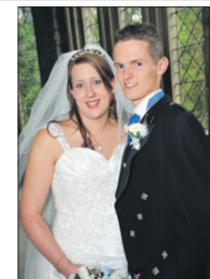
**MACKINNON - KERR**  
Lynne MacKinnon and Graham Kerr were married at Heylpol Parish Church, Isle of Tiree on July 7th 2012. They held their reception at An Talia, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, where they celebrated with friends and family. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dumbeag, Oban.



**CAMPBELL - BRYARS**  
Cheryl Campbell and Darin Bryars were married at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on July 28th 2012. They celebrated their marriage here with family & friends. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dumbeag, Oban.



**AULD - PREISS**  
At McCaigs Tower, Oban on June 2nd 2012, conducted by Rev Brian Wilkinson, Jacqueline Auld, daughter of Iain & Joan married Darryn Preiss, second son of Irene and the late Richard (Johnston). Reception was held at Corran Halls and a wonderful day was enjoyed by family and friends.



**WRIGHT - AITKENHEAD**  
Emma Louise Wright and Mark Aitkenhead were married at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe on June 16th 2012. They parted long into the night with family and friends at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dumbeag, Oban.

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Oban taste victory at Gargunnoch

CRICKET

OBAN travelled to Gargunnoch last Sunday with a slightly depleted team but didn't let that get in the way of a superb victory.

Gargunnoch won the toss and decided to bat, a decision they soon regretted as Andrew Leach, with a great opening spell of swing bowling, sent back their top order for only nine runs.

Stewart and Duncan however shored up Gargunnoch's innings with some big hitting and took the score past three figures.

Some great fielding by Belshaw and McKenzie allied to regular bowling changes by Oban captain Davy Hannah saw Taj Islam, Laycock, Kay and Santos take the last seven wickets for only 19 runs.

This left Oban chasing 121 to win and they produced the perfect opening partnership, Leach (37) playing the anchor role to Taj Islam's (79) flair, saw them play a wonderful array of shots to chase down the total to give them a stunning 10-wicket win.

GOLF

Tobermory Golf Club

Men's section

August Medal:

- 1 John Wilshire 87-23-64,
- 2 Peter MacCrone 78-12-66,
- 3 Donald Brown snr, 68-06-62.

Junior section,

sixth round of the Summer Challenge:

- 1 Lewis Brown 74-19-55,
- 2 Calum MacDougal 113-52-61,
- 3 William MacCrone 68-06-62.

Ladies nine-hole Stapleford:

- 1 Kathy MacAdam 19 points,
- 2 Olive Brown 16 points,
- 3 Doris Haregreaves 14 points.

GOLF

THIS weekend sees the 2012 Argyll and Bute Strokeplay take place over the stunning Machrihanish Dunes.

A field of 45 will battle it out for the title won last year by Glencairn's Alan McKie, Oban.

The draw can be viewed on the website [www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com](http://www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com)

SPORTSDESK  
01631 568000

# Thomas Rae Nicolson - incomparable

Nicolson was arguably the finest Scottish athlete of his generation



EXCLUSIVE REPORT by HD MACLENNAN

IN THE DAYS and weeks which have passed during and after the London Olympics, much has been said and written, quite rightly, about sporting heroes of this era and beyond.

However, not one word has been generated about the only shinty player I know of ever to grace not one, but two Games – in London in 1908 and Antwerp in 1920.

Thomas Rae Nicolson (1879-1951), shinty player, farmer, and heavy-weight athlete par excellence was born on the third of October 1879 at Auchgoyle Farm, at Tighnabruach on the Kyles of Bute, one of the eleven children (10 boys and one girl) of Neil and Anne Nicolson.

Tom, commonly referred to as 'T.R.', was arguably the most outstanding personality of a family which produced eight superb shinty players and four supreme athletes. Married to Isabella (nee Hutton), they had

*Tom Nicolson made two appearances at the Olympic Games, 1908 in London when he was placed fourth, and in 1920 in Antwerp where he was sixth, his performance diminished by late arrival due to farm commitments. The lambing came first.*

three sons and one daughter. T.R. Nicolson became captain of the famous Kyles Athletic shinty team winning many honours with six of the brothers playing together.

Nicolson was arguably the finest Scottish athlete of his generation.

An outstanding thrower in all the heavy events, he was by all accounts a great shinty player, an accomplished wrestler, a gifted golfer and a skilful footballer who had trials with the Queens Park Football Club in Glasgow. He excelled at the shot and hammer to the extent of being one of few who could challenge the pre-eminence of the Irish-American throwers of his day.

Six feet tall and weighing 175lb, Tom Nicolson began competing in 1901 at the SAAA Championships. A modest beginning led to a series of awesome performances based on natural strength and diligent practice at the family farm in Argyll. As a 23 year old he won his first Scottish hammer throwing title and achieved an unsurpassed 19



TR Nicolson proved himself to be one of the top three in the world at throwing the American style 16lb hammer. He threw the hammer 51.72m from a nine foot circle. He is seen here throwing the hammer at Stamford Bridge in London in 1908.



TR Nicolson's 1908 medal from the Olympic Games in London

*This is a man whose reputation was world-wide, his sporting and athletic prowess 'world class'. We should do better in terms of acknowledging our heroes*

consecutive titles up until 1924; won again in 1926 and 1927 and was placed second in 1929, aged 50.

He won 14 SAAA shot titles and the AAA shot and hammer championships at Northampton Cricket ground in 1903. In 1904, at the Rangers Highland Sports at Ibrox, he proved himself to be one of the top three in the world, throwing the American style 16lb hammer 51.72m from a nine foot circle. In the hammer, he was virtually unbeatable in Scottish terms. He eventually set a record of 50.84 at a Scotland versus America contest in Edinburgh. As a native record it stood for 39 years and as a British mark for

15. In the 28 years he competed in the Scottish SAAA Championships, he won the shot 14 times; the wire hammer 21 times; Scots hammer three times; 56lb weight four times, a grand total of 42 championship wins.

His record would surely have been even more formidable but for the intervention of the First World War.

Tom Nicolson made two appearances at the Olympic Games, in 1908 in London when he was placed fourth, and in 1920 in Antwerp where he was sixth, his performance diminished by late arrival due to farm commitments. The lambing came first.

Such was his fame, however,

that his qualification entry was waived.

Nicolson was a great amateur athlete with an incomparable record.

Known for his geniality, modesty, durability and awesome strength, he never followed his brothers into the professional ranks of the Highland Games circuit. Great grandsons still represent the Kyles at camanachd. How happy he would surely have been to see his descendants running out in another final in September.

Tom Nicolson died in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow on April 18 1951, aged 71. He is buried in the Kilbride Church-

yard, Ardlamont. No obituaries appeared in the Scottish national press, surely a grand omission given the truly colossal achievements of one of Scotland's (if not Britain's) greatest amateur athletes.

His fame is noted in the National Dictionary of Biography, but where else? This is a man whose reputation was world-wide, his sporting and athletic prowess 'world class'. We should do better in terms of acknowledging our heroes in the shinty world and in Argyll.

That's a baton, in this Olympic year, that I will happily pass on to others who have influence in these matters.

## International honours for Catherine

SHOOTING



Catherine Fraser with her silverware.

ANOTHER successful shooting season for Oban's Catherine Fraser has seen her capture more silverware and international honours.

The clay target shooter competed in the Scottish Championships at North Ayrshire Shooting Ground in Dalry, where she won the Jane Rae Hamilton Trophy for the highest Scottish lady.

It was there she learnt she was to represent Scotland at the Home Internationals and British Championships for the 17th consecutive year.

She was also selected for the European and World Championships at Mid Wales Shooting Centre, in Trefeglwys, Powys.

Catherine was also successful in gaining the David Leslie Trophy and the Lady High Gun of Scotland title at the Home International.



'Popcorn' - finished second on its return to the water after a 26 year gap Picture - www.yachtingimages.co.uk

## 'Popcorn' returns to the water and winning ways

Family 'amazed' the boat is sailing again after 26 years as a garden ornament

YACHTING

A FORT William yacht made its first journey into the water for more than 26 years to take part in the recent West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW).

'Popcorn' - a Contessa 25 owned by the Fyfe family - has been restored over the last 18 months after years lying in the family's garden.

And Angus Fyfe almost claimed first place in the vessel in Class 8, but had to settle for second overall by one point after dropping places in the final race.

Popcorn was originally part of a famous trio of boats with Bubblegum and Gumdrop which entered races across the world under the stewardship of Ian Fyfe.

The Peter Cocks Memorial Trophy for the best performance of the 114-yacht fleet went to the Leaky Roof 2 team.

In what was effectively match racing off CYCA 15.25, Class 5 boasted seven Sigmas and proved the most competitive of the ten-class WHYW fleet.

**Brand new Roxstar** Harper and Robertson recently finished second overall in the Sigma 33 Nationals in Dublin Bay and prior to that won the Sigma Class at the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series in May.

Taking five bullets and a third over the week the Sigma was consistently well sailed finishing on five points for the series. Also tying on five points with the new XP38i Roxstar, sailing

gurus Johnathan Anderson and Murray Findlay said they were pleased with the way the brand new boat had performed at the event.

Roxstar was just 'out of the wrapper' before being brought across the North Sea from Denmark by Murray Findlay to compete at WHYW.

Roxstar also won the best corrected time in the fleet for the final passage race from Tobermory to Oban sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd.

The McLaren's from Helensburgh won the coveted West Highland Yachting Week Family Trophy in their Sigma 33 Sigmatic, while Donald McLaren finished second overall in Class 6.

## Lorca J team win rugby challenge

RUGBY

THE RUGBY team from the Lorca J emerged as top yacht in the West Highland Yachting Week Touch Rugby Tournament held during the regatta.

The event, organised by Dee Bradbury, president of Oban Lorne Rugby Club, saw yacht teams Hot Toddy, from Oban, and Lizante, from Ireland, also competing against local teams Coastal Connection and Pretty S' Hot.

The Hot Toddy team was runner-up in the competition with Coastal Connection the top local team.

The winners were presented with Tunnock's rugby shirts, caps and teacakes.

Tunnock's is a major sponsor of West Highland Yachting Week.

SAILING

### Oban Sailing Club

August 7 2012  
Race No 103 - Ladies Cup

- Result:
- 1 Amber Haze, Sigma 33, Eric and Irena Chapman;
  - 2 Shadowfax, First 31.7, W.E Billy Fortieith;
  - 3 Torranan NS, Abin Cumulus, Dr Toby J Sherwin;
  - 4 Hot Toddy, Sadler 25, Ms Alison B Chadwick.



The prizewinners pictured at Taynuilt Golf Club last weekend.

## Murphy wins Taynuilt Golf Club Open

GLENCRUITTEN golfer Philip Murphy won Taynuilt Golf Club Open scratch competition, adding two other prizes for nearest the pin.

The event, sponsored by S and S Services, also saw Taynuilt Golf Club's Robbie MacLarty win the handicap competition. Mairead Sim won the ladies

section scratch championship. Gents Open 2012

Handicap: 1 Robbie MacLarty (Taynuilt GC), 59 (7) BIH; 2 David MacLeod (Dalmally GC), 59 (13); 3 Ian MacMillan (Taynuilt GC), 62 (11).

Scratch: 1 Philip Murphy (Glencruitten GC), 62; 2 David Howie (Taynuilt GC), 63

BIH; 3 Alan McKie (Glencruitten GC), 63.

Longest Drive: Graham MacColl (Glencruitten GC). Nearest the Pin at the 2nd, 8th, 11th and 17th - Philip Murphy.

Ladies Club Championship Scratch: 1 Mairead Sim, 263 (82 89 92); 2 Carol Church 267 (87 90 90).



# Macaulay Cup Final SATURDAY, 18 AUGUST MOSSFIELD STADIUM

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hotel and lounge bar  
Good luck to the team on Saturday  
Entire sales of first keg of beer will be donated to the RNLI  
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www.palacehoteloban.co.uk

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**Mrs Flora Anne Macaulay**  
FLORA Anne Macaulay who donated the Macaulay Cup in 1947, was the daughter of Duncan Cameron Snr who took over *The Oban Times* following the death of founder James Miller.  
Mrs Macaulay came to Oban from Edinburgh after the death of her brother Waverley Cameron in a tragic yachting accident off Lismore in June 1891. She married Edinburgh policeman George Macaulay in 1911 and moved to Oban where she became editor and she was actively involved in the management of the weekly paper until her death - aged 99 years.

### Oban welcomes historic national shinty final to Mossfield Stadium

FOR THE first time in a decade Oban's own shinty trophy, the Macaulay Cup, will be contested by a team from the town, when Oban Camanachd take on Glenurquhart on Saturday.  
The Artemis-sponsored competition is played annually at Mossfield Stadium in Oban, with the draw separating north from south teams in the early rounds to make sure there is one representative from each half of the divide in the final.  
The first final was played in 1947 after the cup was gifted by Mrs Flora

Macaulay of *The Oban Times*. This year's finalists have both hit excellent runs of form and although Oban Camanachd play in Marine Harvest South Division One - a league below the Drumnadrochit men - Camanachd are a premier league team in waiting and will have home advantage.  
Oban Camanachd are yet to be beaten in their league and are undefeated under the new management team of Angus 'Gussie' Campbell and Peter McCuish.  
Glenurquhart, meanwhile, have gained some momentum after an indifferent

start to the season and have won four out of their last five league games in the Orion Group Premiership.  
Oban Camanachd have a more decorated history in the cup competition, having won on five occasions from 17 finals.  
Their last final appearance was in 2002 when they lost to Kingussie, but you have to go back to 1995 in the record books for their last win, a 2-1 victory over Fort William.  
Glenurquhart, meanwhile have only contested the final twice, in 1972 and 1977, losing out to Kyles Athletic

on both occasions.  
David Hamilton, secretary of the Macaulay Association is expecting an exciting match.  
He said: 'This is the only senior competition that guarantees a north versus south final, so it brings a lot of people to Oban every year.  
'It is an important annual match to Oban, as it keeps the town on the shinty map and keeps the final of a major competition in the south area.  
'Over the past few years we have seen 'away' teams compete at Mossfield but

this year the town can celebrate having a home team in the final and I hope the people will come out and support that.  
'I believe this year will be an excellent final.'  
As both teams traditionally play in red and black hoops, Oban Camanachd are expected to change into a new white and black kit while Glenurquhart will take the field in red tops, black shorts and red socks.  
The match, which is being televised live on BBC 2 Scotland, will be refereed by David Mitchell and has a 2.30pm throw-up.



It is 17 years since the Artemis Macaulay Cup was won by Oban Camanachd. Team captain that day was one of their current management team and 'Gussie' Campbell fully intends to be getting his hands once again on the old trophy after 90 minutes of sporting action at Mossfield.



Glenurquhart come into Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final on the back of a rich vein of form which has seen them climb the Premiership table.



**Glenurquhart captain Stuart MacIntosh**  
GLENURQUHART captain Stuart MacIntosh says his team will try to ignore the pressure when they go out onto Oban's Mossfield Stadium for Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final.  
Professional musician and goalkeeper MacIntosh told *The Oban Times* he had resisted the temptation to imagine how it would feel to lift the Macaulay Cup in front of the army of the Drumnadrochit club's faithful fans.  
He said: 'Everyone is looking forward to it.  
'We're trying not to put too much pressure on ourselves, we just want to go out there and enjoy ourselves.  
'The last few years we've done pretty well, and the boys have all put in a lot of hard work, so to win a major trophy would be brilliant.  
'It's going to be a tough game for us.  
'Oban have home advantage, and, because we are a premier league club, our starting as favourites will probably suit them.'



Oban Camanachd's managerial duo of Peter McCuish and 'Gussie' Campbell have both experienced Macaulay Cup finals as players with the club, but this will be their stiffest management test yet in their bid to take the club back to the top.



The Glenurquhart managerial partnership of Drew McNeill and Fraser Mackenzie have taken their team to one of the sport's major national finals and the opportunity to win the Macaulay Cup for the first time in the Loch Ness-side-based club's history.

### Oban Camanachd aim to end 17-year wait

OBAN Camanachd co-manager Angus 'Gussie' Campbell was the last captain of the club to lift the Macaulay Cup 17 years ago - a record he wants to see broken on Saturday.  
He said: 'This is a big week for Oban and a big week for the club. Glenurquhart have to start as favourites; they are a strong side, who don't concede many goals and their management team will have them well prepared.  
'But we have beaten two premier league teams on the way to the final, so we have proven we can compete at that level.  
'The boys have also shown me a really positive attitude towards training.  
'I have chosen my starting 12 for the game but what we have on the bench is as strong as what will be on the field and I know I have boys who can come on and make a difference.  
'If we were to win on Saturday it would be a massive boost for this team and would break a 17-year wait for an Oban captain to lift the Macaulay Cup.  
'I was the last captain to do that but I would be delighted to see this season's captain, Daniel Cameron, take on that record. He is a great player to work with and has a very professional attitude towards the game.'

### Glen bid to create another chapter in club's history

DRUMNADROCHIT is expected to be a ghost town this weekend as bus loads of fans head to Oban in hope of seeing Glenurquhart win the first senior trophy in the club's history.  
Glen have previously lost two Macaulay Cup finals and will be hoping to go one better against Oban on Saturday.  
Co-manager Drew McNeill told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole of Drum is absolutely desperate for the win. It means a hell of a lot to them. It is going to be my job to try and keep the emotion out of it, and keep the fans and parents away from the players before the game. It's a hell of a lot of pressure for them.  
'I think it'll be a case of last one out the village, turn off the lights.'  
Glenurquhart go into the game on fine form having won four of their last five matches - including a 3-1 win against high-flying neighbours Lovat last weekend.  
McNeill said: 'It was perfect preparation for us. We're playing well and our confidence is high; this couldn't have come at a better time for us.'  
McNeill said he expected to have a full squad to choose from.



**Oban Camanachd captain Daniel Cameron**  
OBAN Camanachd captain Daniel Cameron made his debut for the club 10 years ago at the age of 14 and says the Macaulay Cup final will be the biggest game of his career.  
The 24-year-old defender said: 'The boys are quietly confident about the final and it is safe to say everyone is looking forward to it.  
'It is definitely the biggest game of my career so far and I will be very proud to lead the team out on the day.  
'We have a young team but there is a lot of experience in there: Ian 'Scally' MacMillan has been there for more than a decade, playing in big games, and Gareth Evans was in the 1996 Camanachd Cup winning squad.  
'We have players for the big occasion and we will need them on Saturday.  
'A trophy is long overdue at this club because that is what is expected, given the history of Oban Camanachd. The club is used to winning trophies.  
'The co-manager, Gussie, keeps reminding me he was the last captain to lift the Macaulay Cup 17 years ago - that is definitely a statistic we want to get rid of!'

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Supporting the Boys at the Macaulay Cup Final

# Inveraray bring focus back to premier league action

## Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Oban takes centre stage

INVERARAY found out the identity of their Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final opponents in the same weekend they took care of league business against Bute.

On-form Inveraray beat the islanders 5-1, thanks to goals from Garry MacPherson (2), Ruairidh Graham (2) and Chris Crawford.

The win ensures the Royal Burgh will play premier league shinty next season but also condemns Bute to life in South Division One in 2013.

The challenge now for manager John Smylie will be keeping his players' minds on a match against Fort William this Saturday, with only a few weeks to go until the season's climax against rivals Kyles Athletic in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup.

John said: 'It says a lot about south shinty that we have two Argyll teams in the final.'

'Over the past couple of years we have been doing better against the north teams and both Inveraray and Kyles are among the favourites for trophies at the start of every season.'

Asked about playing their Argyll rivals in the final, John quipped: 'It will probably be harder to take if we get beaten!'

'In all seriousness, we have to be confident about winning because we have beaten them in two cups already this season and the rivalry will give my players an extra incentive to win.'

'Since winning the cup in 2004, we haven't performed as well in the competition, so the boys are hungry for success.'

'It will be an exciting game.'

A KYLES ATHLETIC victory over Newtonmore in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-final has set up an enticing Argyll encounter with Inveraray in the final at Mossfield next month.

To add extra significance to the derby match, it will be only the second time the cup has seen an all-south final in its history, the first being Kyles versus Strachur and District Shinty Club in 1983.

But Kyles trainer James Perlich claims the fact the match is a derby will have no bearing on his side's attitude ahead of the tie.

'I don't have any feelings about playing Inveraray. They are another good team, who are desperate to win the cup.'

'We will be lining up against other cup finalists, who deserve respect for getting there.'

'We will be approaching the game just as we would with any other final.'

For all their obvious talent, the current crop of Kyles stars still have to cope with the weight of expectation in Tighnabraich, having not yet won a Scottish Cup.

They came close in 2009, when they lost to Fort William at the final hurdle.

James explained: 'The semi-final win is done and we are keeping the players' feet on the ground.'

'The mistake we made in 2009 was thinking that because we had made the final, we had done all the hard work.'

'At the moment we get praise for being a good team but until we win a Scottish Cup we can't compete with the history of this club.'

The 2-1 victory over Newtonmore last Saturday came courtesy of goals Thomas Whyte and Roddy MacDonald in the first half and a determined defensive display in the second.

James said: 'I think we had the run of play in the first half and they had the better of it in the second, but they didn't score.'

KINLOCHSHIEL, all but guaranteed Orion Group Premiership safety, take on Kingussie at Kirton on Saturday with half an eye on next season.

Keeper Graeme Kennedy is

still suspended and his brother Scott will take his place between the sticks.

The influential Mark MacDonald injured his knee in the Camanachd Cup semi-final against Inveraray and coach Johnston Gill will give him to the last minute to recover before making a decision on whether to include him in the line-up. Fraser MacVicar will also be missing because of work commitments.

With young players pushing for places, Gill will use the game to assess their readiness to make the step up to the senior squad.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'My intention is to give some of the young boys a run. Jordan Fraser and Donald Nixon deserve a start and hopefully I will be able to bring in a couple more boys from the second team.'

'We are looking forward to having Kingussie here - it's a good opportunity for both teams to experiment.'

He added: 'We have learned a lot this season, but other teams have also learned a lot about us. We have to strengthen the squad and if our young guys can prove themselves that will be a big help next season.'

FORT WILLIAM take on Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup finalists Inveraray at An Aird on Saturday with a spring in their step now they are back playing at their home park.

Fort's enforced banishment to the wilds of Inverloch's Blackparks while An Aird was being returned was undoubtedly a factor in their indifferent form throughout this campaign.

But Saturday's fine 4-3 win against Kingussie gave an indication that the Fort could once again be a force to be reckoned with next season - although at 3-0 down after 25 minutes Peter MacIntyre's men looked down and out.

However, Alex Duncan's first half goal heralded a spectacular second half comeback, which saw Simpson, MacKinnon and Duncan again score three cracking goals to seal the win.

The cup finalists will present a different challenge - but a win would provide further evidence that the Fort have turned the corner.

Mathematically, it is still possible for KILMALLIE to escape relegation, but for that to happen Kinlochshiel would have to lose their last four games by a distance, while Kilmallie would have to thump Newtonmore on Saturday and Fort William the following week.

But as long as there is hope, the Caol men will fight for survival - and knocking over the champions would, if nothing else, be a major achievement.

Club chairman Hugh MacIntyre declined to reveal details of team selection and who would play where, but said there 'were no injury worries'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They are all training hard and are ready for the game. Newtonmore will know they need a win for the league and will be trying to get the two points. They slipped against Kyles on Saturday so I don't expect an easy game. It will be hard, but the boys are up for it and we will do all we can to win.'

NEWTONMORE will fully concentrate on retaining their Orion Group Premiership title after missing out on the chance to defend the Camanachd Cup.

Norman MacArthur's side travel to Caol to take on Kilmallie this weekend in a game which could have big consequences at both ends of the table.

Newtonmore were big winners last time the two sides met, taking a 7-2 win.

Kilmallie are in the last chance saloon to avoid relegation, while 'More need to two points to draw level with Kyles Athletic at the top of the league.'

'More lost 2-1 to Kyles in the cup semi final last weekend. Fra-

### SHINTY

ser MacKintosh thought he had opened the scoring for Newtonmore early on but his strike was disallowed for offside.

Just after the half hour mark Thomas Whyte found the back of the net to put Kyles in front. Roddy MacDonald doubled the lead when he scored three minutes before half time.

'More pulled one back before half time through talisman Danny MacRae, but despite enjoying plenty of pressure in the second half they were unable to get an equaliser to send to game to extra time.'

BUTE manager, Barry Martin has called on his younger players to step up and take the first team forward next season, following their latest defeat in the premier league.

Bute went down 5-1 at home against Inveraray, with a Graham Fisher goal the only plus point for the islanders.

Barry said: 'The team has been devastated with injuries this season. It's time we get younger players in as the older ones approach the end of their shinty careers. Sometimes you have to go backwards to go forwards, being in another league may help. The premier league is a whole different ball game.'

Inveraray scored two early goals and went on to dictate the game, using the width of the pitch to make space for their deadly forward line.

Bute goal scorer, Fisher, signed off in style as he now misses the next six weeks when he goes for an operation.

Bute have no game this weekend and face the unenviable task of trying to take points from Newtonmore, Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic before the season



Alex Duncan fires home Fort William's winner to complete a dramatic comeback in their 4-3 victory against Kingussie. 20\_133shinty01



Kyles Athletic defender Calum Miller comes clear with the ball as Newtonmore's Glen Mackintosh moves in to tackle. The Kyles full-back had an outstanding game throughout the 90 minutes as Kyles held onto a 2-1 lead to clinch a Camanachd Cup final place.

Picture - John MacTavish

is out. LOVAT are without a game on Saturday and are likely to use their remaining two fixtures to give fringe players a run.

Coach Allan MacRae was generally happy with the team's performance in last weekend's 3-1 derby defeat to Glenurquhart and both teams took the chance to give fringe players a run.

Jamie MacDonald, who sustained a broken kneecap earlier in the season, played for 15 minutes against Beaulieu on Saturday, raising hopes that he could figure in Skye's last six league games.

Captain Shockie MacLennan is likely to sit out the Lochcarron game as his recovery from a knee injury continues.

Skye coach Willie MacRae knows nothing other than a win will do if the title charge is to be maintained - but acknowledged Lochcarron won't make it easy.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would expect it will be a hard game again. It's always the same with local derbies. It's been pretty close in the two games we have had already.'

'We're just hoping that Lochaber will stumble - and that we don't stumble first.'

Skye's second team is playing Beaulieu in the Strathdearn Cup

semi-final on Saturday. LOCHABER will hope to keep the pressure on North Division One league leaders Skye Camanachd by defeating Inverness in Spean Bridge this Saturday.

Michael Delaney's unbeaten side sit four points behind with three games in hand. The title rivals will play each other in Spean Bridge before the end of the season.

Lochaber and Inverness met at Bught Park in June, with Lochaber running out comfortable 7-1 winners, and Delaney will no doubt be hoping for a similar result.

Despite missing a host of players last weekend, Lochaber were able to put away bottom side Strathglass 6-0.

Ben Delaney opened the scoring with Pat Toal doubling the lead before half time.

After the break Delaney and Toal both netted again and youngest Stuart Callison scored a late double to secure a big win for the home side.

LOCHCARRON slipped to second bottom of North Division One after a narrow 3-2 loss to Inverness last weekend.

But Andrew MacKenzie's side

will hope to reverse the result when the sides meet again this Saturday at Battery Park.

Alan MacKenzie opened the scoring for Lochcarron in the third minute, who kept the lead until half time. But two goals with eight minutes of the restart gave Inverness a 2-1 lead.

Kieran Murray's 65th minute strike looked to have sealed a draw but a James Cameron goal three minutes from time gave Inverness the win.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS remain 10-points clear of the chasing pack at the top of the Marine Harvest South Division Two table following their 5-2 away win over Bute at the Meadows, Rothesay last weekend.

For the first time this season Lochside's five goals came from five different players, with Sean Morgan, Brian MacCallum, Gavin Stobbart, Allan MacDougall and Daniel MacKinnon all getting their names on the scoresheet.

Bute's goals both came from Graham Fisher.

This weekend, Lochside Rovers will travel to Ballachulish for a Friday evening throw-up which will allow both teams to take in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final between Oban Camanachd and Glenurquhart at Mossfield Stadium on the Saturday. Throw-up at Ballachulish is at 7pm.

ARDNAMURCHAN travel to play bottom of the table Aberdeen on Saturday firmly focussed on lifting the two points that would elevate them into mid-table in South Division Two. A victory for the home side would see them leap-frog Glasgow Mid Argyll, with Aberdeen still carrying a two-game advantage into the latter stages of the league season.

After a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of near neighbours Gol-Glen last weekend, Kyles have the opportunity to get back to winning ways with another home league tie, this time against third placed Tayforth.

Last weekend, early goals from COLGLEN'S John Beanie gave his side the advantage for the majority of the match, with Roddy MacColl's 74th minute strike for the home side proving to be a consolation as ColGlen held out over the closing minutes.

North Division Three leaders BEAULIEU are in action in the Strathdearn Cup semi-final against Skye.



### Results

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi Final  
Kyles Athletic 2 Newtonmore 1

Orion Group Premiership  
Bute 1 Inveraray 5  
Fort William 4 Kingussie 3  
Glenurquhart 3 Lovat 1

Marine Harvest North Division 1  
Lochaber 6 Strathglass 0  
Inverness 3 Lochcarron 2  
Skye 4 Beaulieu 1

Marine Harvest South Division 1  
Aberdour 0 Glasgow MA 1  
Oban Camanachd 7 Kilmory 1

Marine Harvest North Division 2  
Newtonmore 3 Glenurquhart 1  
Aberdeen Uni 5 Skye 1  
Kinlochshiel 3 Fort William 1  
Lovat 2 Kingussie 1  
Lochaber 3 Glengarry 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Kyles Athletic 1 Col Glen 2  
Bute 2 Lochside Rovers 5

Marine Harvest North Division 3  
Beaulieu 12 Lewis 0  
Inverness 0 Kilmallie 11  
Strathspey 2 Lochbroom 8

### Fixtures

Friday, August 17  
Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Ballachulish v Lochside Rvrs  
John Angus Gillies 7pm

Saturday 18 August  
Artemis Macaulay Cup Final  
Oban Caman v Glenurquhart  
David Mitchell - 2.30pm  
Mossfield Stadium, Oban

Strathdearn Cup Semi-Final  
Beaulieu v Skye  
Neil Ferguson

Orion Group Premiership  
Fort William v Inveraray  
Graham Irving  
Kilmallie v Newtonmore  
Robert Baxter 3pm  
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie  
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 1  
Lochaber v Inverness  
John Matheson  
Caberfeidh v Beaulieu  
Graham Cameron  
Lochcarron v Skye  
Duncan Kelly

Marine Harvest North Division 2  
Glengarry v Fort William  
Donald MacRae  
Kingussie v Aberdeen Uni  
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Aberdour v Ardnamurchan  
Daniel MacRae  
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth  
George O'Rourke

Marine Harvest North Division 3  
Caberfeidh v Strathglass  
John MacLeod 12 noon  
Inverness v Lochcarron  
John Sloggie  
Kilmallie v Strathspey  
Ronnie Campbell 12 noon

(All throw-ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated)

Womens Camanachd Association  
Sunday August 12  
Marine Harvest National Division 1  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Badenoch & Strathspey

Marine Harvest North Division 2  
Ardnamurchan v Strathglass  
Lovat v Glengarry

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Dunadd v Aberdour

Sunday August 12  
Marine Harvest National Division 2  
Tir Conaill Harps v Aberdeen

(All throw-ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated)

### League Tables

#### The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	15	10	2	3	42	29	22
Newtonmore	13	9	2	2	43	20	20
Lovat	16	8	3	5	35	27	19
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	35	26	16
Glenurquhart	15	7	2	6	31	36	16
Fort William	16	6	3	7	29	31	15
Inveraray	12	7	0	5	30	23	14
Kinlochshiel	14	5	2	7	33	35	12
Kilmallie	16	3	2	11	27	44	8
Bute	15	0	4	11	9	43	4

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	9	2	1	33	9	20
Caberfeidh	15	8	2	5	44	28	18
Lochaber	9	7	2	0	43	8	15
Inverness	15	5	2	8	27	44	12
Beaulieu	11	5	1	5	23	25	11
Lochcarron	15	4	3	8	23	37	11
Strathglass	15	1	2	12	23	58	4

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy	14	11	0	3	31	14	22
Oban Camanachd	11	10	1	0	54	10	21
Glasgow MA	13	10	0	3	40	16	20
Oban Celtic	13	5	1	7	26	31	11
Taynuilt	13	3	5	5	22	33	11
Strachur	14	3	3	8	19	30	9
Kilmory	14	3	2	9	23	43	8
Aberdour	13	2	0	12	11	48	4

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	16	14	0	2	73	16	28
Kinlochshiel	17	8	5	4	33	38	21
Skye	16	8	2	6	39	31	18
Glenurquhart	15	7	2	6	32	33	16
Glengarry	16	7	1	8	31	36	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47	15
Aberdeen Uni	16	6	2	8	35	33	14
Fort William	15	6	0	9	24	33	12
Kingussie	15	4	4	7	32	39	12
Lochaber	16	3	3	10	38	68	9

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	17	16	0	1	96	27	32
Kyles Athletic	16	11	0	5	61	28	22
Tayforth	16	9	1	6	49	38	19
Ballachulish	14	8	2	4	33	27	18
Col Glen	17	7	3	7	41	47	17
Bute	13	6	1	6	40	27	13
Inveraray	17	5	3	9	41	52	13
Ardnamurchan	17	5	1	11	42	26	11
Glasgow MA	18	4	0	14	19	95	8
Aberdour	15	3	1	11	27	62	7

#### Marine Harvest North Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulieu	15	15	0	0	92	10	30
Lochbroom	18	12	2	4	57	29	26
Boleskine	16	11	2	3	67	35	24
Kilmallie	15	9	2	4	62	33	20
Lochcarron	15	9	1	5	46	31	19
Caberfeidh	16	7	0	9	4		

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## McGlone for 'worlds' in Austria

### Young Appin boy selected for GB team

AN APPIN boy has been selected by British Cycling to represent Great Britain at the Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships in Leogang, Austria.

Fraser McGlone has been chosen as one of six riders for the youth team and is looking forward to competing on September 2.

The 18-year-old has performed well in the World Cup season so far and has consistently qualified in the top 80 at each round, despite competing alongside elite class riders.

#### MOUNTAIN BIKING

He currently sits fifth in the world cup junior category.

Fraser said: 'I'm really chuffed to have been selected for the Great Britain team and I am happy with my results this year. I would like to thank my sponsors MTBcut/Orange Mountain Bikes, my parents and my grandparents for all of their support.'

The season has gone well for the Appin teenager, including a third place overall and a first in junior category at the Scottish Championships in Fort William.



Fraser in action at Fort William for the world cup season round three. Photo courtesy of Seb Schieck/MTBcut

#### McPhee awarded wildcard at Brno

#### MOTORCYCLING

CONNEL Moto3 rider John McPhee has been awarded one of the two wildcard entries for round 12 of the MotoGP World Championship at Brno on August 26.

For John, who is currently sixth in Spain's CEV Buckler Moto3 rider standings, the Brno entry will be his seventh Grand Prix wildcard.

Previously he raced in the superseded 125GP category, claiming his best result - and first World Championship point for 15th - at the British Grand Prix last year before going one better at the season-ending round at Valencia.

So far this year the 18 year old has raced in the Catalunya and British Grands Prix, finishing 19th in Spain and 28th at Silverstone following a crash.

He reached the second round in the World Cup season at Val de sol, Italy and qualified 49th, finishing 54th on race day.

Round three was in Fort William. He qualified 52nd on the Saturday and finished 35th on race day, his best result in this season.

Round four took him to Canada, where the bike suffered a puncture; he couldn't take part.

Round five led him to the state of New York and during practice he crashed resulting in Fraser becoming unconscious and being concussed, he was unable to compete.

Round six was held at Val d'Isere, France. A change of weather consisting of torrential rain and thunder resulted in him using dry tyres in wet conditions. He qualified in 77th place. On race day he finished 55th.

Round seven is the final round and takes place in Norway in September.



The winning team, from left, Glenda MacLeod, lead, Lyn Laverty, second, and Anne MacDougall, skip.

#### Oban bowlers contest Iona Shop trophy

SUNSHINE and showers were the order of the day as an excellent entry battled for the Iona Trophy, originally donated by Iona shop owner Denis Cathro.

After a series of close encounters, Anne MacDougall, Glenda MacLeod and Lyn Laverty,

#### BOWLING

carried off the silverware, but not before they survived a spirited challenge by Donna Forbes, Hugh MacCorquodale and Mac Hardie.

## Glencruitten Golf Course returns to original design

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club is celebrating restoring the golf course to its original design, after years of operating from a 'temporary' sixth green.

Opened on Friday by two of the club's most loyal members, cousins James and Larry Forgive, the new green cost a tenth of the estimated £50,000 cost thanks to help from the

community and a donation of rock from local businessman, John MacGregor.

Both past captains, James and Larry cut the ribbon to officially declare the green open, paying tribute to the efforts of the club and head greenkeeper, Dougie MacIntyre.

James, the 67 year old five-time past captain who runs the

pro-shop, said: 'This is fantastic for the club and the town, the green is looking terrific.'

'Thanks to Dougie and his team for doing a fantastic job and, obviously, to John MacGregor for the donation of the rock.'

'This restores the course to the original layout and it looks terrific.'



Larry Forgive, who first joined the club in 1943, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new sixth green, flanked by cousin James, left, and Glencruitten Golf Club's John MacKinnon, as watched by members keen to play the new hole. 15\_133glengreen2

THE NEW sixth hole at Glencruitten was used in competition for the first time as 157 cards were returned for this year's open.

With warm, sunny conditions and a stiff breeze at times on Saturday, the course would prove challenging to all that had entered - this was borne out with a CSS of 65 for home players and 66 for visitors.

The Wellpark Trophy (handicaps 13-28) was won by young

Daniel MacMillan (Glencruitten) with a 63 net by virtue of the best inward half (bih).

The Chrysler-Sunbeam Trophy (handicaps scratch-12) was won by Andrew Bell, formerly of Glencruitten but back this year as a visitor, with a 61 net, again by virtue of a better inward half.

In the scratch event it could not have been any tighter to decide the winner of the Glencruitten Trophy. Iain MacCallman (formerly of Oban) edged out young

Robert MacIntyre, with both golfers tied on 62.

The result came down to the fact Iain had birdied the 18th and Bob had played it in par, with both players carding an identical better inward nine, identical better inward six and identical better inward three.

The course was in fantastic condition thanks to the hard work carried out by Dougie MacIntyre and Craig Stanners in the run up to the event.

#### Oban hosts first national shinty final on Saturday

#### SHINTY

OBAN'S Mossfield Stadium will host the first of two live televised national shinty finals this Saturday when Oban Camanachd and Glenurquhart go head to head in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final.

For the Oban-based club it is an opportunity to get their hands on a trophy they have not won since 1995, when their current manager Angus Campbell was captain of the team.

Glenurquhart have never won this silverware and have only appeared in two finals throughout the 65-year history of the competition.

Match referee on Saturday will be Mr David Mitchell of Edinburgh and play gets underway at 2.30pm with live coverage on BBC 2 Scotland.

Results  
Handicap (13-28)  
Wellpark Trophy:  
1 Daniel MacMillan 63 bhh, 2 A MacLean 63 bh, 3 S Miller 63, 4 P Mcenan 64, 5 Aidan MacCuish 65.  
Handicaps (scratch-12)  
Chrysler-Sunbeam Trophy:  
1 Andrew Bell 61 bh, 2 John MacKinnon Jnr 61, 3 Alistair MacLean Jnr 62 bh, 4 Graham Melvin 62, 5 Gavin Owens 63 bh.  
Scratch Glencruitten Trophy:  
1 Iain MacCallman 62 bh, 2 Robert MacIntyre 62, 3 Phillip Murphy 63, 4 Allan McKie 64 bh, 5 David MacCuish 64.

## Star are struck as Saints win Argyll derby

#### Oban Saints 3 Lochgilphead Red Star 1

SAINTS entertained Lochgilphead Red Star in a Centenary Trophy match held on the rugby pitch at Glencruitten and although the premier division side came out on top in the end, they were made to work hard for their win.

However, in saying that Saints hit the bar three times and missed a few good chances, so the scoreline could, and probably should, have been different.

The visitors started well and were knocking the ball about confidently, without really troubling Daniel Cassells, who was between the sticks for the home side.

Saints' first real effort came in the ninth minute with a good shot from Craig MacEwan which Red Star keeper Luke Kalache did well to stop.

The Mid Argyll side had the chance to take the lead in the

16th minute when they were awarded a penalty kick after Paul Kerr was adjudged to have handled the ball in the box. Robert Docherty placed the ball on the spot, but his shot hit the post before being scrambled clear.

This was going to be a costly miss for Red Star as a minute later the home side took the lead after some good work between Ross Maitland and Paul Kerr set up Lewis Cameron who blasted the ball home.

Saints increased their lead on the half hour mark when Lewis Cameron fired over a great free kick for Craig MacEwan who rose unmarked in the box to head home past a helpless Luke Kalache in the Red Star goals to make the interval score 2-0.

The Oban side started off well in the second 45 minutes and Marc MacCallum was unlucky with a header that came back off the bar.

Saints increased their lead in the 51st minute when Red Star

central defender Dougie Moore tried a back header to his keeper but Craig MacEwan nipped in to intercept the ball before firing it high into the net.

Although the game was over as a contest the Lochgilphead side kept plugging away and were playing some good football from the back.

Saints skipper Keith Millar was unlucky with a great right foot drive that sailed inches over the top, then Asen Gaydardzhiev thought he had scored, but his effort hit the bar and then Sean Ford had two good chances which were both missed.

Young Red Star striker Gregor Peacock deservedly got on the scoresheet as he had worked hard up front all afternoon. With seven minutes of the game remaining he was sent clear on the right, outpaced Paul Kerr before slotting the ball past the advancing Daniel Cassells in the Saints goal to make the score 3-1.

Saints were quite happy to kill

#### FOOTBALL

the game off, running the clock down by keeping possession of the ball. They nearly scored a fourth goal near the end, but a great strike from Eddie Swift whistled inches past the post.

Referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, blew for full time with Saints fully deserving their 3-1 win, but credit must go to Red Star for a brave performance.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was happy enough with his team. He said: 'We played some good football at times, but didn't pass the ball as well as we had done the week before against Greenock. However, it was good to get a win in the first competitive game of the season.'

This Saturday Saints stay on Centenary Cup duty with an away game against Tarbert.

The match will be played at Cil Andreis at 2pm. Referee Paul Murphy is in charge.

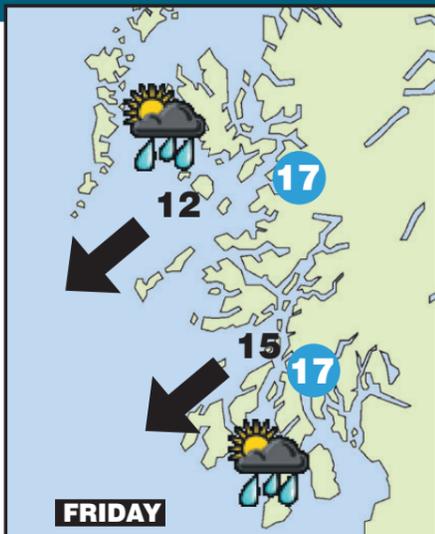
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals and showers  
Winds fresh north easterly  
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C

**Friday** Showers and sunny intervals  
Winds fresh north easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 17°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Continuing changeable with sunshine and showers  
Winds fresh south easterly  
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 16, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.00	1.0	17.11	3.8	23.40	1.1
Thur	05.03	3.6	11.00	1.0	17.11	3.8	23.40
Fri	05.39	3.7	11.35	0.8	17.46	3.9	*** **
Sat	00.13	0.9	06.12	3.9	12.10	0.6	18.18
Sun	00.47	0.8	06.41	3.9	12.45	0.5	18.49
Mon	01.19	0.7	07.09	3.9	13.21	0.5	19.21
Tues	01.53	0.7	07.41	3.8	14.00	0.5	19.56
Wed	02.30	0.9	08.19	3.7	14.43	0.7	20.35

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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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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## Two hurt on Rannoch railway

TWO MEN sustained leg injuries after being hit by a train on Rannoch Moor on Tuesday evening.

An 87 year-old and a 52 year-old had been walking along the tracks two miles north of Rannoch Station when they were struck at 6.40pm.

One casualty was airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital while the other was taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital.

## Stomeferry road solution debate

MOVES to engineer a permanent solution to a rockfall-prone West Highlands road will be debated by councillors today.

Members of the TEC services committee are being asked to allocate £500,000 from reserves on working up options for replacing the A890 Stomeferry bypass.

A landslide on December 22 closed the lifeline route, which only fully reopened on April 23.

Stabilising the rock face and laying on trains and ferries cost Highland Council a whopping £1.6m, while locals travelling between Kyle and Lochcarron faced a 140-mile diversion via Inverness. Rockfalls have continued since the reopening.

Options are: stabilising the rock face and extending the avalanche shelter (£59m to £115m); a £60m bridge across Loch Carron - favoured locally as the best solution; and a new route through Attadale Estate (£23m). The council will need Scottish Government funding - whatever design option emerges in 18 months time.

## Emergency landing

A COASTGUARD helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing outside Fort William on Saturday afternoon after its computer systems flashed up a control malfunction.

The Rescue 100 chopper from Stornoway was carrying two hillwalkers who had got stuck on Aonach Mor. Phil Wren, coastguard sector manager for Lochaber, told *The Oban Times* the crew managed to land the aircraft at the new helipad at Carr's Corner without incident.



Video of this available online [OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)

## Geese strike a pose for Sunart Show judges

Perfect symmetry: two prizewinning geese make an almost a mirror image of each other at the 62nd annual Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday. The pair, owned by local couple Bill and Sukie Barber, appear to look a bit unsure about waddling to success - but then maybe they know Christmas is only four months away! Glorious conditions held at Strontain Showfield throughout the event, which saw a Blackface gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline, Mull, win the supreme championship. Show secretary Denise Anderson told *The Oban Times* the day was 'just fabulous'. See our photonews show special, page 2. 20\_133show06

## Ballachulish Bridge stunt stuns locals

### Man's 70-foot leap into narrow water channel fails to impress

STUNNED customers in a bar looked on with a mixture of astonishment and horror as a young man jumped 70 feet off Ballachulish Bridge for a dare on Sunday afternoon.

The man, who lives locally and is in his mid-twenties, disappeared below the waves for around two seconds before his head reappeared above the surface.

People drinking at 3.30pm on the Loch Leven Hotel terrace gasped as his body hit the water with an audible slap - then breathed a sigh of relief as he re-emerged to swim 20 yards to a waiting support boat.

Two friends hauled the jumper aboard the yellow inflatable dinghy and brought him ashore at the northern slipway for the former Ballachulish ferry below the hotel.

Seconds earlier, the man had climbed over the bridge parapet in just trainers and shorts as traffic whizzed past on the busy A82.

One bar customer, who knew the jumper, yelled across the loch: 'Get back over that barrier, you f\*\*\*\*\* idiot!' The warning was ignored and after a pause the man was hurtling feet first through the air into the narrow channel.

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

There was no applause after the stunt and his reception when he arrived at the hotel dripping wet was less than enthusiastic. Almost all present thought the jump - known as tombstoning - was reckless and could have cost the young man his life.

Loch Leven Hotel owner Hilary Wilson was among those unimpressed and recalled how a young Fort William man attending a local music festival in 1991 had died jumping from the bridge in a similar act of reckless bravado. His body was not recovered for several weeks.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We thought we were about to see somebody killing themselves. It was just awful.'

'I heard that some of the scaffolding poles that were used to build the bridge fell down and stuck straight into the mud and remained vertical. So when you think of the boy falling on top of one of those, I mean oh my God.'

She added: 'It would be terrible if other young folk tried to do the same.'

However the man, who asked *The Oban Times* not to identify him but is from the South Lochaber area, protested he had checked tide times, that conditions were calm and he had organised a support vessel. Aged around 24, he did not appear to have been drinking.

He said: 'I have been speaking about this for ages and I was waiting for the right tide and weather. I would not have done it otherwise, not a chance. I'm okay, but my lower back is a bit sore.'

He added: 'I've jumped off 50 feet up Glencoe but this was higher. I won't be doing it again.'

Phil Wren, Coastguard sector manager for Lochaber was highly critical of the man's actions.

'We told *The Oban Times*: 'We have a policy of trying to discourage any reckless act such as this. We are also trying to alleviate tombstoning, which can result in serious injury or death. Stunts like this can result in the emergency services having to respond, which in itself is a financial burden.'

'Had he called the coastguard before he tried to do this, we would have strongly tried to dissuade him.' See Leader page 10

## £8m re-development nears completion

FORT William's High Street is set for a boost, with construction of the £8million redevelopment of the former Grand Hotel/MacTavish's Kitchens site on course to be completed by the end of the month.

And the 60-room Travelodge which will occupy the upper floors of the new building is

expected to open in early September. Retailers on the ground floor - health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub - will start fitting out their premises once the building is handed over by developers Ashford Property Group. Ashford

director Andrew Smith said the construction process had mainly gone to plan, but had experienced a 'few hiccups' due to weather. West Midlands-based Anglo Holt Construction is carrying out the 20,000 square foot project next to the refurbished Gordon Square and West Highland Way start/finish point.



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## Piping trio enjoy Skye Games trophy success

The piping competitions at the Isle of Skye Highland Games hit the high notes, with three local youngsters picking up trophies and medals. Seamus O'Baoighill, of Sleat, left, took home a host of prizes, winning the Col Jock MacDonald Viewfield Cup for local piobaireachd, the Donnie MacKenzie Cup for local march, the Toronto Cup for best all round local piper and the Dougie MacLeod Cup for best all round local piping under 18. James Roxburgh, of Avernish was awarded the Nicol Campbell Memorial Trophy for overall local winner light music, while Plockton's Cameron Sharp, right, won the Clan Donald Quaich for under 18 piobaireachd. For a full report on another successful Skye Games, see page 6. 20\_133piping01



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# Sun shines on Sunart Show



Nine-year-old Eva McMenemy and her six-year-old brother Tom, from Strontian, entered seven-month-old collie Jess in the dog show. 20\_f33show04

MEMORIES of last year's rain-affected event were banished at the 62nd annual Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday as the sun beamed down on Strontian Showfield. The biggest day on Sunart's calendar did not disappoint, with show organisers reporting an excellent attendance and stallholders doing a roaring trade. Sunart Community Company's burger stall proved a smash hit, boosting the company's coffers in the process. The cash raised will go towards progressing ambitious community projects, including a small hydro power scheme above Strontian. Equestrian stunt riding display team Riders of the Storm from Pitlochry entertained spectators round the main ring with some daredevil tricks, adding a real sense of occasion in what was a great family day out. For show secretary Denise Anderson and her hard working team, the crowds thronging the tree-lined arena were reward enough for months of hard work and preparation.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

She told *The Oban Times* inside the secretary's tent: 'It's just a fabulous day. The show is very well supported and obviously everybody is enjoying themselves. 'It's a very good crowd and the great weather means they have stayed as well. It rained last year and everybody disappeared!' She added: 'We'd like to thank all our sponsors and all those people who were not on the committee, yet gave up their valuable time to help.'

Stallholders included Strontian fire brigade, who were raising funds for the Fire Fighters Charity through a tombola and raffle. Watch manager Alasdair MacLean of Strontian said the money would help personnel injured while doing their job by supporting three recuperation centres across the UK. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are trying to promote fire safety as well. Prevention is better than callouts any day. The quieter we are, the better.'

He added: 'It has been very busy today. All the stuff given to us is donated and we would like to thank those donors for their generosity.'



Firefighters Julian Morris, Fiona MacPhail and Aidan Edwards were part of the Strontian team raising funds for the Fire Fighters Charity. 20\_f33show09



From left, James Hilder, Val Barker and Callan Wilson were among the volunteers manning the Sunart Community Company burger stall. 20\_f33show05



The working dogs class attracted seven entries. 20\_33show10



Riders of the Storm trick riding team from Pitlochry provided an exciting display. 20\_f33show03



Twelve-year-old Carhie MacKinnon from Spean Bridge and 10-year-old Jamie-Lee Laverty from Fort William treated the crowd to an exhibition of Highland dancing. Piper Graham Buchanan from Achacrae provided the accompaniment. 20\_f33show18



The fine weather drew a big crowd to the showground. 20\_f33show02

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This 'fat hen' cockerel from Bill and Sukie Barber in Strontian was best exhibit in the poultry section. 20\_f32show17



A Blackface gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Mull, was overall sheep champion and overall show champion. 20\_f33show13



Iona Cameron, aged 10, from Ardgour Riding Centre at kilmalieu, Kingairloch, won the overall horse championship with 15-year-old Hettie. 20\_f33show01

## Blackface gimmer judged supreme champion

A BLACKFACE gimmer from D&L MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline, Mull, was judged supreme champion at Sunart and District Agricultural Show on Saturday. It was the second success in three days for Donald and Lachlan, who won best in show with the top quality sheep at Salen Show last Thursday. The gimmer's sire was a £1,000 Dalchirly ram out of a home-red ewe by a tup from Gass, Straiton, Ayrshire. The fine specimen won best sheep in show earlier in the day and beat off competition from the cattle and horse champions to take the champion of champions rosette. Best exhibit in the cattle section was a three-year-old Highland cow in calf from

DC Lewis, Drimmin Estate, shown by stockman David Shaw and wife Shirley. The cow, Annag Mhor the Third of Drimmin, was by a Coll bull, Ninian of Benamenach, and out of a Mull cow from Pennygowan. **Limousin** Best commercial beef animal was a three-month old Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin, while a Suffolk tup from Audrey MacDonald of Portnadoran, Arisaig, won best sheep, any other breed. Iona Cameron, aged 10, from Ardgour Riding Centre at Kingairloch, lined up with 15-year-old Hettie as overall winner in the horse section.



This Suffolk tup from Audrey MacDonald of Portnadoran, Arisaig, was judged best sheep in the any other breed section. 20\_f33show12



Best commercial beef animal was this May-born Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin. 20\_f33show14



Three-year-old Highland cow in calf Annag Mhor the third of Drimmin, from DC Lewis, Drimmin Estate, was overall cattle champion. 20\_f33show11

**Benefit fraud trial postponed**

THE TRIAL of an Arisaig woman accused of falsely claiming more than £13,500 in benefits been postponed until November 8.

Margaret Harrison, of 17 Cannon Gillies Place, had been due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, but Sheriff Douglas Small gave the defence team more time to collect vital bank statements.

Hearing the case had been postponed five times already, Sheriff Small said: 'It would not be in the interests of justice for me to order this trial to go ahead without these bank statements. But this trial will not be postponed again.'

Harrison, aged 69, denies giving false statements to the Pension Service and falsely claiming housing benefit and council tax deductions.

**Police hunt Lewis car fire suspects**

POLICE in Lewis are hunting possible arsonists after three vehicle fires in Balallan in the early hours of Friday morning.

Fire and rescue service personnel alerted police after being called to the blazing vehicles outside a garage on School Road shortly after 2.20am.

Police are treating the fires as suspicious and are encouraging anyone with information to contact Stornoway Police Station on 01851 702222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Doors open on Plockton High School extension**

PLOCKTON High pupils returned to school this week – and a brand new £3 million extension with a new dining hall and better access to classrooms.

A new biomass heating system, home economics classroom and computer suite also feature.

Meanwhile, PHS has been joined by five new members of staff this week - the largest cohort to join the school in one year for a long time.

Mrs Irene Mitchell, an experienced teacher of geography moves from North Berwick High school, new teacher of home economics is Ms Jill Porter, who previously taught in Auchinleck Academy for five years and Ms Colette MacKay will be teacher of History after completed her probation in Castle Douglas High.

The languages faculty, led by Ms Chrisma MacDonald, will welcome Mrs Daisy Reeves, who was a probationer in Portree High last session, to teach French on a temporary contract.

Ms Karen MacKinnon, a native of Tiree, will be a probationer teacher in Gaelic for this session.

Head teacher Duncan Ferguson told The Oban Times: 'It is really pleasing to have this influx of new staff at an exciting time for our school with the completion of our new building and the introduction of new courses under Curriculum for Excellence.'

**Landmark monument secure despite tilt**

VISITORS to this Saturday's Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games might not notice it – but the nearby monument to Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival in 1745 is leaning to one side.

National Trust for Scotland (NTS), which manages the landmark, said the structure has a lean of around 27cm in a north-westerly direction, but that it is not visible to the eye.

The tilt is thought to have been caused by the sandy subsoil found on the shore of Loch Shiel and frequent flooding of the area undermining the foundations.

But the NTS said the monument, erected in 1815 as a memorial to the men who died in the Jacobite uprising, is secure and there is little chance of the lean increasing in coming years.



Museum manager Colleen Foggo and management committee chair Chris Robinson, with museum volunteers, celebrate the award outside the museum.

**West Highland Museum celebrates four-star award**

THE WEST Highland Museum in Fort William is celebrating the award of 4-star accreditation by VisitScotland.

The tourist body accreditation is based on the overall quality of the visitor experience in categories covering arrival, welcome and presentation. Four stars is the second highest grading.

Management committee chairman Chris Robinson said the accolade comes at 'exciting times' for the museum.

He said: 'Our move to free entry last year has

created a real buzz, with four times the previous visitor numbers.'

'This success is down to our enthusiastic team of volunteers, who work tirelessly to make the visitor's experience truly rewarding. The award from VisitScotland is recognition for these efforts.'

He added: 'The museum belongs to the people of Lochaber – it's not just a tourist attraction. With free entry, anyone can pop in at any time, even if it's only for a few minutes, and we're always looking for more volunteers to join our team.'

**Charity swimmers give bridge a miss**

Hardy group take to Skye water to raise cash for new leisure centre spa bath

FOURTEEN people gave the Skye Bridge a miss on Saturday to swim across to the mainland – but it was all in a good cause.

The hardy group in the Kyleakin to Kyle swim, or K2K as it is known, took the plunge into the narrows to raise cash for another water feature - a new spa bath at Lochalsh Leisure Centre in Kyle.

The annual event, which marks the opening of the leisure centre in August 1992, saw eight swimmers take part as novices. Impressively quick times by all competitors reflected the ideal conditions on a glorious afternoon of sunshine and flat calm seas.

First swimmer home was Cathy Kitson Jones of Plockton followed very closely by Gilleasbuig Ferguson from Carbot on Skye.

Leisure centre manager Chris Mackinnon singled out several remarkable achievements after the event, which was first held in 1997.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Two swimmers, Chris Dibble and Jason Hammond had completed the Skye Bridge 10k a couple of hours before the swim.'

'Jonathon Mackinnon was competing for the seventh time, and Fionnuala Stark from Lochcarron has swum in 13 of the 15 swims since its inauguration - surely a statistic to be immensely proud of.'

The race owes its origins to Alasdair Bremner, who retired as secretary of the swimming



Leisure centre manager Chris Mackinnon welcomes last swimmer out of the water Mark MacDonald at the Kyle slipway.

pool board of trustees several years ago. He wanted to start an event to mark the centre's success – and came up with the idea of the swim.

Mr Bremner, together with race sponsor Hugh Macquarrie of Central Filling Station in Kyle and his wife Margaret, presented K2K quiches to the first lady and first gent, and a memento to

all who took part. At the prize giving ceremony Mr Mackinnon thanked the local RNLI, Qinetiq, and the South Skye Kayak club for supplying excellent safety cover.

**Support**  
He said: 'Without their support it would be impossible for the event to go ahead.'

Swimmers and times: Cathy

Kitson Jones 12mins 26secs; Gilleasbuig Ferguson 12.28; Douglas Forbes 13.51; Kathryn Beaton 14. 33; Chris Dibble 14. 46; Andrew Smith 15. 56; Jonathon Mackinnon 16. 01; Fionnuala Stark 16. 34; Rachel Macleod 16.39; Laura Knowles 18.48; Jason Hammond 18.52; Graham Finnie 19.16; Lucy Kerr 19.41; Mark Macdonald 22.13.

**Basking shark tags reveal secrets**

BASKING sharks in west coast waters being tracked by satellite have begun to reveal some secrets.

Scottish Natural Heritage and University of Exeter scientists finished tagging 20 sharks last week as part of a project to find out more about their life cycle.

Early studies show many have stayed around the Inner Hebrides where they were tagged.

But one has gone southeast to Colonsay and Jura, while two have headed west to the open sea beyond the Outer Hebrides.

Dr Suzanne Henderson of

SNH, who is managing the basking shark tagging project, said: 'It's fascinating to see where the sharks have been going since they were tagged. We're keen to learn more about the behaviour of the sharks during the summer months, when they can be seen at the surface in large numbers around the islands of Coll, Tiree, Canna and Hyskeir. And we're particularly intrigued to see where they go during the winter.'

Results from the study will help inform decisions about marine protected areas.



Rusty Duncan at the scene of his fourth hole-in-one.

**Fort William golfer celebrates record fourth hole-in-one**

A FORT William man has set a remarkable record at the town's golf club – by notching his fourth hole-in-one.

Vincent 'Rusty' Duncan aceed the 125-yard par 3 third hole with his wedge during the club's Bank Street Lodge Senior Open on Friday afternoon.

It was the third time he has finished the third hole in one shot, with his first hole-in-one at the course coming in June 1998. His last hole-in-one was recorded at the same hole in July 2010.

His other hole-in-one came at the short sixth hole on the course.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I just hit it and it bounced once

and went straight in. I think they heard us on the seventh green when it went in!

Rusty's feat was witnessed by his playing partners Henry MacDonald, Ronnie MacDonald and Jimmy Ross.

After the ball dropped into the hole, Rusty phoned his daughter and asked her to bring a bottle of whisky to the clubhouse, as is tradition when a hole-in-one is scored.

He said: 'By the time I got to the clubhouse, practically all the whisky had been drunk.'

Rusty has recently won the Royal Dornoch Senior Open as well as the Nairn Senior Open, which he has won two years in a row.

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**Mallaig prawn boat salvages capsized French catamaran**

THE FRENCH catamaran which capsized in the Sound of Sleat off Knoydart two weeks ago in a squall has been salvaged.

The *Pampero*, anchored upside down off Isleornsay since the dramatic rescue of its seven crew on August 1, was righted by Mallaig prawn boat the *Rebecca Janine*, owned by local skipper Robert Summers.

The catamaran was then lashed to Peter Fowler's Armadale-based Seafari boat the *Orion* and brought across to Mallaig

harbour for inspection. A local source told *The Oban Times*: 'She looks intact to me, although the electrics will probably need dried out and the engine re-oiled and started.'

'There's not a mark on her – it is remarkable to see.'

The crew – two women and five men – have returned to France. The matter is in the hands of their insurers. Several crew were trapped inside when the boat overturned, and only got out through escape hatches.



The Pampero, left, beside Seafari's Orion in Mallaig harbour. Photograph by Alexander Mathieson.

**Knife man must return to high court**

A FORMER Fort William man who admitted carrying a knife in the town must appear at Edinburgh High Court before finding out his punishment.

John McPhee was sentenced to 40 months at the High Court for a previous crime in 2010, but was given a supervised release after serving half his prison term.

Sheriff Douglas Small said the 22-year-old would have to return to the High Court to find out if he would now need to complete that sentence before McPhee could be sentenced for carrying the knife.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard McPhee approached two men on Hill Road with the knife, which a witness said was six to eight inches long.

Fiscal Andrew Laing said McPhee spoke aggressively to the men and waved the knife about.

McPhee, a prisoner in Inverness, previously pled guilty to having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse or lawful authority on Hill Road and Cameron Road on March 30.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call our reporters on 01397 703003

**West Highland Way one of 'world's best hikes'**

THE INTERNATIONAL Appalachian Trail, which runs from Stranraer to Cape Wrath and takes in the West Highland Way and much of the northwest Highlands, has been listed in the National Geographic's 'World's Best Hikes' feature this month.

VisitScotland chairman Mike Cantlay said: 'National Geographic is showcasing our country on an international stage, this type of exposure is priceless.'

**Media club hosts Dunvegan Hall film night fun**

DUIRINISH Media and Culture Club is holding a 'Shorts and Sweet' film night in Dunvegan Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Short films include Olympic comedy *Runneman* and Gaelic films *Faradh* (Skye Bridge Tolls, Dolina Munro), *Oidhche Sambhach* (Outer Isles) and 2012 FilmG competition entries.

**Sentence deferred on woman who bit police officer**

A SHERIFF deferred sentencing a Fort William woman who bit a police officer on the hand during a drunken struggle outside a pub in the town for further reports.

Roxanne Simpson, of 22 Young Place, pled guilty last month to assaulting the constable on Kennedy Lane on July 15.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing the 24-year-old until September 26.

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**Group's community land ownership call**

LAND reform campaigners Community Land Scotland have called for 'millions of acres' to come under community ownership to reverse decline in rural parts of the Highlands and Islands.

Chairman David Cameron, from the Isle of Harris, made the call after the 8,000-acre Ardgay Estate in Sutherland went on the market for offers over £8 million.

Mr Cameron welcomed the Scottish Government's establishment of a land reform

group with the aim of broadening community ownership – but demanded 'a further rebalancing of the rights of the individual and the rights of communities.'

Quoting the property advert to a human rights audience in Edinburgh, he said: 'The estate will appeal to the international super rich.'

He added: 'I cannot see many local people having the 'over £8 million' to put in an offer. I want to see more community owners, many thousands more acres, indeed millions of

acres, come under local community control. Can it ultimately be socially just in looking to Scotland's future, that in 10, or 20, or 50 years, that we will still largely have the land ownership pattern we currently have, and have had for many generations? Land reform is unfinished business that Scotland needs to address if we are to live in a more socially just and collectively prosperous Scotland.'

The country already has 500,000 acres under community control.

FW

**Cleaner, fresher water at Dalmally**

RESIDENTS in the Dalmally area are receiving clearer, fresher drinking water following the completion of a £200,000 Scottish Water project. The project is providing better disinfection at the Dalmally Water Treatment Works, which provides water for about 300 customers.

The work was carried out by contractors ID Systems (UK) Ltd for Scottish Water Solutions, a joint venture partnership between Scottish Water and some of the world's leading construction, engineering and water companies.

**Argyll and Bute gain £5m for better broadband**

A FUND worth £5m has been allocated over the next three years to help bring next generation broadband to communities in Argyll and Bute.

The Community Broadband Scotland initiative will act as a one-stop-shop for rural community groups, providing them with information and advice to find solutions for broadband delivery in their areas.

From October, staff will provide assistance and communities will be eligible to apply for seed funding to enable them to obtain greater access to the internet.

**Oban man sent abusive messages**

AN OBAN man pled guilty to sending abusive messages to his partner when he appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

John Blair, 51, of 5 McGregor Court, Oban admitted sending the messages on August 4 and 5. He had his sentence deferred for nine months to show the court he could be of good behaviour.

**MSP backs**

**Prostate Cancer UK**

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has joined Prostate Cancer UK in renewing its call for the breakthrough prostate cancer drug, abiraterone, to be made available on the NHS in Scotland.

Mr McGrigor's call comes on the back of the news Scotland is the only country in the UK where the drug has not been approved.

He said: 'The Scottish Medicines Consortium's (SMC) original decision to reject abiraterone on the NHS in March was a bitter blow to hundreds of men dying of prostate cancer north of the border.'

# Island-based gap-year provider marks 45th anniversary by raising £1million

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

IT IS one of Britain's most successful gap-year providers, sending some 300 school leavers a year to volunteering projects across the world. Now Coll's Project Trust is hoping to mark its 45th anniversary year by raising £1million to lay the foundations for an even more successful future.

**£220,000 extension**  
Based at the Hebridean Centre on the east of the picturesque island, the Trust has just opened a £220,000 extension – supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise – to help it provide an even more worthwhile experience not just for the teenagers whose horizons it helps expand, but those non-profit organisations who rely on their efforts to provide a first class service the communities they serve.

They range from orphanages in Africa to schools in China and even community newspapers in Namibia.

John Fraser, assistant director and director of overseas at the Trust, which is the island's largest employer with 24 staff, said: 'We want to raise £1million this year. We're looking towards the next 10 years and our strengthening our position over that time.'

'Part of that is also to help pay for the new extension.' Established in 1967, the Trust had rather humble beginnings, sending only a handful of people to non-government organisations that required volunteers in the earliest days.

**Challenges**  
However, such was the benefit to the students that it quickly expanded, reaching its peak this year with approximately 300 signing up to travel to countries as diverse as Chile, Japan and Guyana and volunteer for one year. More than 7,000 gap year students have taken a Project Trust pilgrimage, and the Trust is now welcoming children of former volunteers.

Participants must meet a minimum academic standard and raise £5,150 for their trip, the rest of which the Trust subsidises. Prior to making a commitment, however, they are whisked to Coll from all over the UK for an interview, training and vetting process.



Returning Project Trust volunteers Alana Wilkinson and Eilidh Quinn with Project Trust's South Africa representative, Yvonne Mathieson and overseas director, John Fraser. 15\_129trus11

Vital to this is the contribution of former Project Trust volunteers, who often return summer after summer to help not only assess whether the students will be able to work in the sometimes demanding conditions, but give them a first-hand account of the challenges they will face, not least of which is home-sickness.

**Orphanage**  
Two of this summer's returning Trust volunteers is Eilidh Quinn, of West Kilbride, and West Calder's Alana Wilkinson. Both turned 20 this month and both have fond – if sometimes harrowing – memories of their adventures.

They are also united in their praise for the work the Trust does and urged anyone who has the opportunity to grab it with both hands.

Eilidh travelled to South Africa to work in an orphanage in 2010, returning a year later with a whole new outlook on life. Having previously volunteered on a short term basis in China for another organisation, but says her trip to Africa's most southerly country was the most rewarding experience of her life.

It almost never happened though.

She said: 'I had a place at the University of Stirling and I was all set to go after fifth year. I was supposed to be off school when someone told me the Project Trust were making a presentation at the school. I went and signed up straight away.'

'I then spent the next year fundraising and went after sixth year. I had gone to China when I was 16 so I was desperate to do something else and it was perfect.'

'I was working at a children's home about 20 minutes from Cape Town. The kids had come from some horrible places. They were there because they were physically, sexually or mentally abused.'

'Some were from the townships and some more urban areas. It was really difficult at first because they didn't trust you. They had some short-term volunteers there and they didn't get a chance to build a trusting relationship. I was there for a year though so we all got to know each other well and it made a huge difference.'

Eilidh found herself taking real pride in the work of the project, establishing firm friendships with fellow volunteers, staff and with the children themselves. So attached had she become to the place, that leaving was a wrench.

'That was horrible. Leaving Scotland to go was fine, not a problem. But I didn't want to come home. Some of the kids didn't realise what I meant when I told them I was going home, saying I was home. That made it more difficult. I have kept in touch with everyone there though and I'd love to go back.'

'I miss it so much – especially now I'm back in Coll and talking with everyone else about their trips.'

**Teaching**  
Alana was of a similar perspective, having spent her year out teaching English in China. It was, she admits, a bizarre experience, but she's determined to move back to the country as soon as she can.

'It's so different,' she said. 'I was teaching 17-22 year olds and the culture is so different from ours. The language is difficult too; it's atonal. I tried to ask a woman if I could borrow her mirror. I actually asked her where her sperm is. I have got a bit of Mandarin though.'

Like friend Eilidh, Alana saw things she never would anywhere else in the world; from extravagant riches to extreme poverty.

She said: 'China is so different to what people think it is. They work so hard in China, they're up by 6am and sleep at 2am. My students were so hard working and desperate to learn. They would phone and beg me to teach them. I could be out for a meal with a friend and they would see me and just sit at my table and ask me to teach them right there and then.'

'I tried to explain to them you couldn't do that in Western culture. They're very blunt in China. I told them you can't go round telling people they're very fat or ugly!'

Both will share their experiences with the Trust's new batches of students and will have an input in whether students are ready to go to certain countries – if any.

South African volunteer co-ordinator, Yvonne Mathieson – who hails from the country but whose family has roots in Skye – said that input is invaluable.

The work of the volunteers is even more valuable, however. 'I started working with the Trust as a host five years ago and became a representative two years ago. One of the wonderful things about the Trust is the training and support we give the volunteers. It is definitely the front runner in terms of support and training. The volunteers come to Coll and we give them two or three days' intense training in what they can expect in the countries they are going to; such as the conditions or the political situation. We try to equip them with the skills they need. Once they come over we help them with communications, hand over SIM cards and give them their tickets to get to their destination. Over the course of their trips we watch them grow and their experiences help shape them. They can literally find themselves. We've seen volunteers go as shy, slightly reluctant youths and come back vibrant, confident adults.'

**'Significant benefits'**  
'Project Trust is a tremendous organisation and it really does provide significant benefits to non-government organisations and voluntary organisations. What we really appreciate is the high standard of training they receive.'

This year, two of the island's own residents will be taking a trip with the project Trust. Dougie Wainwright will be heading to Guyana while Sam Rutherford will head to Botswana.

Meanwhile, Ardrihaig's Caitlin Fowler will be heading to Trinidad and Honduras. However, the Trust is keen to see more students from the Oban area take advantage of the opportunity on their doorstep and hopes more will look at the opportunities it offers.

Mr Fraser said: 'We haven't had anyone from Oban for a few years but we're really keen to see more take a trip with us.'

For more information on the trust, and to find out how to volunteer, see its website at projecttrust.org.uk.



The Isle of Coll has been home to Coll Project Trust for 45 years

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## Pennygown heifer triumphs at Salen Show

ONE OF the longest running agricultural shows in Argyll took place last week with a livestock turnout as impressive as ever, according to judges.

Salen Show, run by the Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society, saw its 180th anniversary as last Thursday's show took place at the Aros showfield.

Fiona Boa fulfilled her role as show president for the last time this year. She said: 'This is my last year as president and it has been a great role to fill as I have such an amazing committee and community.'

'Some people have had the same role since I can remember and any new members we have acquired bring great new ideas and qualities with them.'

There was a large turnout of Blackface sheep among the busy sheep rings, with Donald and Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm bringing out the overall sheep champion and reserve show champion with a home bred gimmer by a Blackface gimmer.

The judge of the Blackface section, Brian Gilchrist of Crawford, by Biggar, said: 'The standard of the sheep was good. They are maybe leaner than you see at other shows but they are coming off higher ground.'

'The show itself was good, a big turnout of numbers and a good amount of people round the ringside when judging was going on. It has been a good day. I was quite happy with the quality of stock in front of me.'

Overall show champion came from the Highland cattle lines where Donald and James MacGillivray of Pennygown brought out their two and a half-year-old German-bred heifer Leonara of Greenfield for a winning debut showing in the UK.

Alan Bosomworth of Ormsary, Lochgilphead judged the cattle. He said: 'There was a very high standard and they were tremendously well brought out. I thought the final line up was very good and all credit goes to the stockmen. This is a great wee show. It has a great atmosphere and is very friendly. It was so good to see such a crowd round the ring during the judging of the Highlanders. Spectators were three or four deep, which you don't see a lot.'



Overall show champion was the two and a half-year-old Highland heifer Leonara of Greenfield from D and J MacGillivray, Pennygown, Aros. The red heifer, by Lasgaire 2nd of Culfoich and out of Angelina Fox of Blocken was purchased in Germany from Gerold Littlemann's Greenfield Fold. This was her first UK show outing 16\_133salen04



Overall sheep champion and reserve show champion went to Donald and Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm, Gruline with a Blackface gimmer by a £1,000 Darchirla and out of a home bred ewe by a Gass sire. 16\_133salen07



Overall pony champion at Salen Show was Durris Fairwind, a 12-year-old Welsh section a mountain pony. Owned by Amanda Fergusson of Lochaline and ridden by eight-year-old Alex Fergusson. 16\_133salen01



Ten-year-old twins Laura and Emma Macdougall, Tobermory with Queenie, a two-year-old collie and overall champion dog. 16\_133salen09

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# Stress struck council

## 300 employees off work in last 17 months

STRESS and depression has seen nearly 300 employees of Argyll and Bute Council sign off from work in the last 17 months.

The figures, obtained under freedom of information by *The Oban Times*, have been described as 'pretty substantial' by Samaritans Scotland, who has urged the council to do more to combat the conditions.

Dougie Philand, the authority's lead councillor for human resources – a role created to 'champion the cause' of the authority's staff – and a trained psychiatric nurse, has pledged to investigate further.

'Pretty substantial' Stress accounted for 167 staff absences in the 2011/12 financial year, with 42 having signed off in the current financial year. Of that, 18 are still absent.

Sixty-one employees signed-off with depression last year. This year, 12 have signed off, with 11 still absent.

Argyll and Bute Council employs approximately 4,000 people.

Reacting to the figures, Samaritans in Scotland's Fiona Barlow said: 'Unfortunately, I'd say the numbers are pretty

substantial. We have seen an increase in calls from people feeling stressed in their work.

'All employers, including the council, would benefit from having a greater awareness of their employee's mental wellbeing and have measures in place to ensure people feel well.'

Mr Philand admits the figures are concerning. He said: 'We need to look at the reasons. No figure like that is good to have.'

'I've treated people with stress in the workplace and depression and it is not good. We have to reduce that – it is not a nice thing.'

Meanwhile, Samaritans Scotland has criticised Robert MacIntyre, the authority's deputy councillor for human resources, after he questioned whether the role was even in his remit.

When reminded of his position, he said: 'I was unaware of the figures. I didn't know there were so many people off with depression or stress. Do you think it's the weather?'

Fiona Barlow said: 'That's not good. Mental health should be taken seriously because stress and depression has a very damaging effect on the lives of those affected.'



There was many a splash at the second Great Oban Bay Raft Race on Saturday, but the event certainly helped raise lots of cash for local charities – and more than a few smiles. For the full story, see Page 3. Picture - John MacTavish

# Shock at sudden death of young Dalmally man

A WELL-known Dalmally family is in mourning following the sudden death of Mark MacFarlane-Barrow, aged 39, during a pilgrimage in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He was found dead on August 4 in Medjugorje, where he had been on retreat several times before.

Mark had played a full part in Dalmally life as a youngster and was involved in every sport going.

Despite suffering from a rare skin disease, he competed in shinty, football and golf.

The family, who run the religious retreat at Craig Lodge, said: 'When we reflect on Mark's life we recall someone who despite his terrible physical suffering never became bitter and never showed self-pity.

'Instead he demonstrated great fortitude and courage. He was an amazing example to us and all who knew him.'

Mark's sister, Ruth Black, said: 'My dear brother Mark MacFarlane-Barrow went home to God on Saturday, August 4. He died while on pilgrimage to his beloved Medjugorje in

Bosnia-Herzegovina. 'We are so sad to lose him, so grateful to God for giving him to us and so filled with joy that he is now in his true home - heaven.

'We are so grateful to everyone for their kindness and for their prayers.'

Bishop Joseph Toal of the Argyll and the Isles Diocese said: 'We extend our sympathy Calum and Mary Anne, their family and community at Craig Lodge.

'May Mark rest in God's peace.'

# £200,000 upgrade for Tiree Airport as passenger number rise

TIREE Airport's runway is to receive a £200,000 upgrade from Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL).

The airport operator has issued a tender for the work to resurface large sections of the island's runway, with a contract expected to be awarded in September.

News of the investment comes as HIAL confirm passenger numbers to Tiree rose by 10.6 per cent to 9,238 passengers between 2011/12 and the previous financial year – making it one of the HIAL's fastest growing airports.

Tim Smith, airport regional manager, said: 'Tiree Airport provides a vital social and economic lifeline for the island and for the wider region.

'This investment will ensure that Tiree Airport continues to provide a high quality service for airlines and passengers in the years to come.'

Other recent investments at Tiree Airport include new generating equipment to protect power supplies in winter and repairs to the control tower. Tiree Airport offers daily flights to Glasgow and twice weekly flights to Coll and Oban.

# Appin anticipates biggest show in recent years

ORGANISERS of this Saturday's Appin Agricultural Show have promised one of the biggest events in recent years.

The show at Stalker Croft has seen an increase in cattle entries, a higher entry in the Highland dancing and more stalls than ever before.

Secretary Brenda MacLeod said: 'We already have the best venue in the country but we expect this will be one of the biggest shows seen in recent years.'

# Tiree connection with Olympian

THE only 2012 Olympic medalist with a connection to Argyll used to hold his own beach Games on the Isle of Tiree.

Luke Patience, who picked up silver in the 470 dinghy class sailing at the London Games, regularly went to Tiree with his family who own a home on the island.

His dad, John, told the press that, his 25 year old son would love to hold his own beach version of the games for his birthday when he was younger.

Born in Aberdeen, Patience started competing at the age of seven, at Rhu Marina, Helensburgh.

# Campbeltown man is Alliance director

CAMPBELTOWN man, Jamie Stewart, is to become the new director of the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

Mr Stewart has worked for the Countryside Alliance for a year as a specialist shooting consultant and is MD of Westcountry Wildlife Services, a wildlife consultancy and training enterprise. He is an experienced game and deer manager, with considerable experience of managing wildlife and habitat in the UK.

Previously Jamie was a director for the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

He said: 'I am delighted to be joining the Scottish Countryside Alliance and look forward to working with the team to promote and defend the beautiful Scottish Countryside.'

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# Celebrity artwork to be auctioned

EWAN McGregor, Stella McCartney and Jolomo are among the celebrity artists contributing works to the Red Cross Art Auction taking place this Saturday in Campbeltown.

Viewing is on Friday at 1pm in the Red Cross Hall, Campbeltown, building up to Saturday's auction at 4pm.

# Four-exit Dunbeg roundabout plan goes before council

PLANS to build a new roundabout on the A85 to service the Dunbeg Corridor and a new luxury hotel, have been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council.

West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) submitted the application for a four-exit roundabout on the A85 west

of the Halfway House filling station and The Cottage, Penrynair.

The 11,760sq foot development would provide access on the village side to some 150 homes proposed as part of the Dunbeg Corridor as well as the possibility of a luxury spa hotel

at the top of Cladh Uaine.

Dunbeg Post Office will display the plans for three weeks and the subject will be discussed by the village's community council at their next meeting, on September 10.

No date has been set for the application to be considered

by planners – nor that of the first 50 houses of the Dunbeg corridor – and no further announcement has been made by the hotel group interested in Cladh Uaine.

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of WHHA, said no funding was available for the roundabout

at present, but the application was being lodged in conjunction with the hotel developers in the hope government funding would become available.

A successful application would make funding a greater possibility, she added. Carol Garside, of The Cottage,

says she has concerns about the proximity of the roundabout to her family home. She said: 'The roundabout is immediately south-west of The Cottage and Halfway House, forming a dog-leg at the side of the property. There is probably 85 yards from our door to the roundabout.'

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**Alan Reid MP Meet your MP**

Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates;

**Tuesday 21 August 2012**  
Balvicar - 10.00 - 10.30am  
Easdale island - 11.30am - 12.30pm  
Ellenabeich - 1.00pm - 1.30pm  
Toberonochy - 3.20pm - 3.50pm  
Cullipool - 4.15pm - 4.45pm

**Thursday 23 August 2012**  
Inveraray - 4.00pm - 5.00pm (Argyll Hotel)

**For an appointment please call 01369 704840**

**Gaelic Ulpan Classes Lochaber - August 2012**

Ulpan Classes will commence in **Fort William** in the week beginning the 27th August 2012. Classes will run for 14 weeks with a break for the October holidays.

**(Unit 1 to 14) Evening** - Tuesday, 7pm to 9pm, 68 Lochaber High School, Starting 28th Aug. Cost (including Ulpan registration fee) £88 or £56 for Gaelic Medium parents and HC Staff.

**(Unit 15 to 29) Evening and Day-time Class available.**  
**(Unit 79 to 93) Evening and Day-time Class available.**

**Ballachulish - Beginners 10 Week class**  
**(Unit 1 to 10) Evening** - Monday, 7pm to 9pm, Ballachulish Primary School, Starting 27th August. Cost (including Ulpan registration fee) £70 or £47.50 for GM parents and HC Staff.

For further information about these classes and to enrol please contact Margaret Mulholland, Gaelic Team, Highland Council.  
[margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk) or 01463 724278.

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**THE NATIONAL PIPING CENTRE**

**NOTING THE TRADITION**

Noting the Tradition is a Heritage Lottery funded oral history project from the National Piping Centre.

The Project aims to tell the history of the Great Highland Bagpipe over the past 50 years in the words of those who play the instrument.

Hear Murray Henderson, Ian McKerral (Kintyre Schools), Iain MacDonald (Neilston Pipe Band and The Battlefield Band), Iain Hurst and others from the pipe world talking about their experiences.

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# Local biotechnology firm discovers new antibiotic

FLOURISHING drug research and product discovery firm, Aquapharm, has announced the discovery of a new antibiotic believed to fight a range of multi-drug resistant bacteria.

The biotechnology company based in Dunstaffnage, on the outskirts of Oban, developed the antibiotic from research into marine organisms. It is said that the compound could be effective against clostridium difficile (C-Diff) and infections such as types of staphylococcus and streptococcus, common

hospital acquired infections. The compound 'AQP-182' was discovered after screening a section of 10,000 micro-organisms for substances with anti-infective and anti-inflammatory properties. It is one of many molecules

that could be used to develop new treatments, the company has said. AQP-182 has now gone into development and a clinical trial is expected to begin during 2013. Aquapharm's chief scientific

officer, Dr Tim Morley, said: 'We are very excited, from only a small portion of our natural product library we have identified 16 novel compounds belonging to totally novel and diverse chemical classes. The most advanced

compound, AQP-182, has a promising pharmacological and pharmacokinetic profile essential for the treatment of drug-resistant bacterial infections.' Aquapharm looks at the bacteria and fungi of the environ-

ment to discover new chemical and biological products, as well as helping develop drugs. Research into AQP-182, is attracting interest from major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies which may lead to new partnering agreements.

# Tiree sharks surprise scientists

## Unique behaviour recorded as basking sharks leap out water

POPULATIONS of basking sharks off the coast of Tiree and Coll could be of vital importance to the species, with unique behavioural patterns being observed there.

Researchers from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter this summer started tagging those creatures found in the area in an effort to learn more about the ocean's second largest fish.

Already, the teams of scientists have observed patterns previously not commonly associated with the protected species, with some observed leaping several feet into the air in a spectacular display of strength and agility - known as breaching.

Looking into the mysterious behaviour is SNH's lead on the tagging project, Dr Suzanne Henderson. She said: 'It is early days yet, but we're very pleased by how well the tags have performed so far. The sharks are beginning to move around a little bit and we'll be looking at how they're using these waters.'

There's not really been any accurate population tests here and that's because of the lack of data, so that's something we'll be looking at too. There are large numbers of sharks in these areas and what these tags will show is how long individual sharks are hanging around for and how they're using the waters.

There's some monsters out there - some over eight or nine metres in length. This is the first time we've seen the sharks jump out of the water. It seems to occur only in these areas and we don't know why they're doing it.

It is as yet unknown as to why the sharks do this, but indications are that the species only do this off Tiree and Coll, Canna and Garbh Sgeir.

One of the basking sharks spotted off the coast of Tiree during SNH's survey trips.



'Cutlass' dominated the race and stormed ahead of the pack to cross the line in a clear first position. The team returned to the water for another lap of Oban Bay after winning. Picture - John MacTavish

# Crowds pack seafront for raft race

## Lions Club fundraiser

NOT A space was to be had around Oban's bay on Saturday when the crowds turned out in force to support the Lions Club's second annual raft race.

Hundreds of people took to the beach and lined the north and railway piers to watch in blistering sunshine as 18 rafts built by members of the community piled into the water to race around the bay, all in aid of local good causes.

Winners were aboard the lime-green raft Cutlass, with captain John MacDonald, aided by a crew made up of nephew Ewen MacDonald, John Campbell and Andrew Gray.

So quick were the swashbuckling sailors, that they returned to the water straight away and completed another lap - even finishing ahead of some of the less seaworthy teams.

The race raised a minimum of £1,600 for the Lions before sponsorship is returned, with the funds to be used to help local charities.

One of the organisers, Alex Milligan, said: 'The day panned out exactly as we had hoped, it was really superb. I think people turned up in numbers because they realised it wasn't a one off last year and we're determined to keep that going.'

'We really couldn't have hoped for better weather and to raise a minimum of £1,600 before sponsorship is returned is fantastic. All the money raised goes into the kitty for local charities and causes. If someone needs help with anything - the likes of the hospital or the kids groups etcetera - they can ask us for assistance.'

Such was the success of the event that plans are already afoot to make next year's event even bigger. 'We've already started planning for next year,' Alex said. 'It's fair to say we've got a few tricks up our sleeve.'

This year it could have lasted all day, but we don't want to overstretch ourselves. One thing that didn't go quite to plan was the competition to find the most generations on one raft, but that may be run next year instead.

Alex added: 'A big thanks to everyone involved, from the teams who took part to The Oban Times, the local radio station and Oban Lifeboat - everyone contributed towards a fantastic day.'

OBAN RNLI showed little confidence in the build of their own raft as they shadowed its movement throughout the race. Picture - John MacTavish

A MAN who was walking down the road in Balvicar with a loaded, uncovered air gun was fined £80 at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Lewis Gilmour, 19, of 29 Balvicar, Seil Island admitted carrying the weapon without reasonable excuse or lawful authority near the Seil golf course on May 11.

The court heard Gilmour had one pellet in the rifle and another two in his pocket. There were also young families in the vicinity during the incident.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton said his client had not been using the weapon but had gone to collect it from a friend's house and was heading home with it. The court also issued an order for the gun to be forfeited and destroyed.

# Balvicar air gun man forfeits rifle

# Rural hotel is hit by 'boil water' notice

ARGYLL and Bute Council has served a 'boil water' safety notice on the Portonachan Hotel, near Dalmlally, due to brown, unfiltered tap water.

Steps were being taken to install a filter, he said, but he would not confirm what they are.

Health inspectors have told the owner of the hotel, David Parker, the tap water from the private supply does not meet safety regulations and is not safe to drink until boiled.

Mr Smith said: 'It is because we're pumping the water. It is pretty common here and it's the same with all the businesses here.'

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

Customers are advised the water is not safe to drink, he added.

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

The Oban Times spoke to another nearby hotelier, who said he 'couldn't risk' not filtering his own private water supply.

Health inspectors have told the owner of the hotel, David Parker, the tap water from the private supply does not meet safety regulations and is not safe to drink until boiled.

He said: 'In the past people would say, this is Scotland, you don't need to chlorinate the water. However you cannot take the risk. If you're not filtering the water, you could possibly be running the risk of e-coli getting in, things like that.'

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Brown water is as a result of the water not being filtered and treated and there is no evidence to suggest it has any health benefits. Monitoring will continue and the council is in 'discussions' with the owner.'

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

Islanders have questioned the stability of Pennyghael Bridge, which they say has been damaged by vehicles on at least two occasions in the past three months.

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

Community concern has been heightened by the fact the bridge is on a timber haul route and around one million tonnes of timber are likely to be extracted from Mull over the next 20 years.

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Argyll and Bute Council bridges engineer Arthur McCulloch told Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday that a finalised plan and funding for the bridge upgrade had been removed to 'bail out' other roads and infrastructure schemes.

The notice means all water for consumption needs boiled before being used and the business must provide bottled drinking water.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'I have seen a plan and development costs for this bridge from 2009, with a completion date of 2010. Why do all that work of planning and allocating money, only for it not to happen. It really concerns me how the money has disappeared.'

# Profile of Oban Airport to fly high

RAISING the profile of Oban Airport over the next 12 months will cost Argyll and Bute Council an estimated £17,000.

Edinburgh company Business and Tourism Solutions have been awarded the contract to prepare an advertising and marketing strategy for the airport.

The council say they hope to increase the amount of passengers using the airport, attract additional business to Oban and pursue new air services and attract airlines operating new routes.

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# Home from Oz with no car insurance leads to fine

A RESIDENT of Western Australia who used to live in Oban was caught driving with no insurance during a recent trip back to Scotland.

# Oban youth admits carrying Stanley knife charge

A YOUNG man who was found with a Stanley knife in Soroba, Oban, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

# Mull bridge money 'bailed out' road projects elsewhere

COUNCILLORS have demanded to know why money set aside to upgrade a bridge on Mull was removed without consultation or explanation.

Islanders have questioned the stability of Pennyghael Bridge, which they say has been damaged by vehicles on at least two occasions in the past three months.

Community concern has been heightened by the fact the bridge is on a timber haul route and around one million tonnes of timber are likely to be extracted from Mull over the next 20 years.

Argyll and Bute Council bridges engineer Arthur McCulloch told Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday that a finalised plan and funding for the bridge upgrade had been removed to 'bail out' other roads and infrastructure schemes.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'I have seen a plan and development costs for this bridge from 2009, with a completion date of 2010. Why do all that work of planning and allocating money, only for it not to happen. It really concerns me how the money has disappeared.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'It doesn't make any sense to remove projects that are ready to start.'

Area committee chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen-Lee called on Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, and Sandy MacTaggart, executive director of development and infrastructure services, to provide answers.

**Mitsubishi & Citroen arriving in Oban**

Walker Motors are delighted to be attending the Argyll Gathering on Thursday August 23. We will have the hard working L200 4x4 pick up, the versatile Outlander 7 seater 4x4 and the exciting Citroen DS3 available for test drive on Wednesday August 22 and at the Gathering on the August 23.

Please Contact Gary Henderson on 07743 373047 or 01334 654228 to arrange an appointment.

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## Mallaig lift first trophy of the season

### Goalkeeper Cargill in penalty save drama

MALLAIG are the Lochaber Welfare League Uisdean MacDonald Memorial Trophy champions after overcoming rivals Caol Cosmos in a hard-fought final to take their first silverware of the season.

Every man was a hero in the 3-2 win – but arguably man of the match was goalkeeper Remy Cargill, who kept Mallaig 2-0 ahead with a fine penalty save midway through the first half.

On a sultry evening at the BA Club last Friday, Caol were on top for long spells but were denied by a combination of Cargill's heroics, resolute defending and their opponents' dead-end finishing.

Speed merchant Ross Douglas fired Mallaig ahead after 15 minutes and it was 2-0 shortly after when Andy Cunningham picked out the top left hand corner with an inch-perfect free kick from 22 yards.

Stung into a reply, Caol had a great chance to get back into the game when Cargill downed Liam MacDonald in the box on 28 minutes.

The young keeper felt the decision was harsh – and made amends by diving low to his right to save MacDonald's spot kick to the delight of his teammates.

**Lochaber Welfare League Uisdean MacDonald Memorial Trophy Mallaig 3 Caol Cosmos 2**

Caol continued to press, but David Wright in central defence and right back Angus MacNaughton in particular were strong when it mattered most.

Cunningham almost made it 3-0 with a long raking drive, then Stewart Smillie's clever chip cracked off the bar with Cargill stranded.

Caol were pressing hard and deservedly pulled a goal back when Peter Laing bulleted a header home from six yards to make it 1-2.

After the break Caol fought hard for the equaliser, but Mallaig's Darren Stewart should have done better than blast over from Douglas's cute pass. Douglas made no mistake on 67 minutes though, outstripping the Caol rearguard on the right to slide the ball across the keeper and inside his right hand post.

At 3-1 ahead the fishing port men were content to soak up the pressure and MacDonald's goal to make it 3-2 came too late to prevent wild Mallaig celebrations at the final whistle.



Uisdean MacDonald Cup winners Mallaig celebrate after their 3-2 win over Caol Cosmos 20\_ f33footie02

## Strengthened team to take field for Fort against County

### Martin, MacLean, MacRae, MacDonald and Gillespie back in action against Nairn

FORT WILLIAM are certain to field a far stronger team against Nairn County than the one that took the field in last weekend's defeat at Fraserburgh.

That's according to Fort boss Danny Conlon, whose under-strength team went down 6-0 loss in their first league fixture of the season.

Conlon was seven players short, but pledges it will be a different story for the Nairn game.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We will be in the strongest position we have had so far – Andy Martin will be back and Michael Gillespie is training this week, so hopefully his ankle will not give him any more problems.'

'Nairn have had a few changes from last season, but they were the best side we played at Clag-

### FOOTBALL

gan last year.

'The may have lost two or three players, but they have Junior Mendes so it's going to be really difficult for us. Nairn got beat by Huntly at the weekend, so I hope we're not going to get the backlash.'

Left sided player Sean MacDonald, centre back Farquhar MacRae and midfielder Andy MacLean are also likely to return for Fort.

Conlon added: 'We have also signed a young player Martin Groat from Ross County on loan. He's a right back, but we had to play him in midfield on Saturday because we were so short.'



Mallaig keeper Remy Cargill pulls off a brilliant stop to deny Liam MacDonald from the penalty spot 20\_ f33footie01

## Kilchoan ladies tackle tournament

KILCHOAN ladies football team travelled to Oban to take part in their first ever tournament recently.

Also competing in the event were teams from Uist and Oban, on one of the hottest days of the year so far. Rosie Curtis and Cherraine MacLachlan were amongst the goals in a 5-3 win for Kilchoan over Uist.

### LADIES FOOTBALL

Oban proved to be strong for Kilchoan running out 4-0 winners. Kilchoan captain Kayleigh MacGillivray said: 'We played some of our best football to date in our first match against Uist. We knew Oban would be a strong team as they played some great football against Uist.'

### RUGBY

## Mini and Midi tournament plan

LOCHABER Rugby Club's youth programmes started up again this week, with 'Mini' and 'Midi' tournaments to be held next month.

Mini rugby training for P3-P7 gets underway at Banavie at 10am on Saturday, with new community coach Laura Davies in attendance to help the youngsters through the session.

Training for secondary pupils started on Tuesday and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm at Banavie.

The club will host the mini tournament on Sunday September 16, while the midi event will be held the following Sunday.

### FOOTBALL

## Lottery draw

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw at the weekend. Numbers were 7-9-19. The jackpot goes up to £200 this week.

### GOLF

## Rodger wins Royal Bank of Scotland Cup at Fort William

CLUB champion Duncan Rodger won the two-day Royal Bank of Scotland Cup at Fort William Golf Club last weekend.

Rodger posted scores of 74 and 80 to take a five stroke win from second-placed Eric Wallace.

Stevie Jamieson shot rounds of 78 and 82 to finish in third place overall.

Meanwhile, Ronnie MacDonal won the Bank Street Lodge senior open on Friday. MacDonal's score of 41 points meant he finished top of the 41-strong field.

John Cameron finished nearest the hole on the 16th, winning himself a free fourball at Crieff Golf Club, while Ian Robertson had the longest drive.

The ladies open, played on the same day, was won by Ann Lovat. Hazel Cameron had the longest drive.

### Results

Royal Bank of Scotland Cup:  
1st round – 1, Duncan Rodger 74; 2, Paul Campbell 78 (BIH); 3, Stevie Jamieson 78.

2nd round – 1, Eric Wallace 77; 2, Duncan Rodger 80 (BIH); 3, Kenny Gillespie 80.

Overall – 1, Duncan Rodger 154; 2, Eric Wallace 159; 3, Stevie Jamieson 160.

### Senior Open –

1, Ronnie MacDonal 41 points; 2, Willie McCann 39 points (BIH); 3, David Martin 39 points.

### Ladies open –

1, Ann Lovat 36 points; 2, Hazel Cameron 32 points.

### Sligachan scramble

ISLE OF SKYE Golf Club held the Sligachan Scramble competition last Saturday.

The team of J Beaton, A Munro, M Mace and M Bird took the win with a net score of 52.5 points – a point clear of the second placed team of I Marr, J Marshall, A Graham and J A MacLeod.

Round four of the Strath Cup last week was won by Alex Munro with 44 points, while J A MacLeod won the seniors stableford competition by five points.

### Results:

Sligachan Scramble – 1, J Beaton, A Munro, M Mace, M Bird net 52.5;

2, I Marr, J Marshall, A Graham, J A MacLeod 53.2;

3, S Lattin, E Forrest, A Grant, C Irvine-Smith 54.

Seniors Stableford 1, J A MacLeod, 46 points; 2, Mike Mace, 41 points; 3, Ian Marr 32 points.

Strath Cup round four – 1, Alex Munro 44 points; 2, Alasdair Grant 40 points; 3, Jamie Beaton 39 points.

### FOOTBALL

## Welfare league

CAOL Cosmos took a massive step towards winning the Lochaber Welfare League by beating title rivals BA Club 5-1 at Canal Parks last week.

The result means Caol are three points clear with just one game to play. Caol only need a point from their meeting with bottom side Celtic tonight at Canal Parks to secure the league trophy.

The only other game of the week saw Lochaber fail to raise a team against Balla Utd. Balla were awarded a 3-0 win.

### BOWLING

## Strangways and Ross win charity pairs

THE RAILWAY Bowling Club's charity pairs attracted a high class of entrants and was played in brilliant sunshine at the weekend.

With 30 people taking part in the competition, first-time winner Helen Ross partnered Gordie Strangways, who has won the trophy on five previous occasions, to take the victory.

The pair defeated 90 year-old Wilma MacGillivray and her partner Allan Lawrie of Kinlochleven.



Finalists Helen Ross and Gordie Strangways with Wilma MacGillivray and Allan Lawrie of Kinlochleven

## Cricketers aim for better against Northern Counties at Inverness

FORT William Cricket Club lost out to Nairn County on Saturday after unusually poor display at the BA Club.

Fort's Colin Jennings was able to boast an impressive score of 68, but he team mates were undone by the spin produced by Nairn's bowlers. No-one made double figures except Jennings, and Fort were all out for 128.

After the interval, Fort made a good start with DJ Duncan's tight bowling rewarded with two quick wickets.

### CRICKET

Captain Kevin O'Meara removed Nairn danger man Adrian Neill, although a number of bowling changes were necessary to break through the stubborn defence of Benny Huxtable.

Fort's bowlers gave away 47 extras as Nairn went past Fort's low total with three wickets in hand.

On Sunday, Fort were defeated

by Fochabers in the Twenty20 semi final at Nairn. Fort batted first and Ronnie Maclean reached 25 not out against a strong bowling attack.

Nick Lavin's quickfire 19, including a six, helped Fort to a respectable 87 for 5 off 20 overs. But Fochabers were unforgiving scoring 89 for 2 to move into the final.

This Saturday Fort take on Northern Counties in Inverness, and on Sunday travel to play Fochabers.

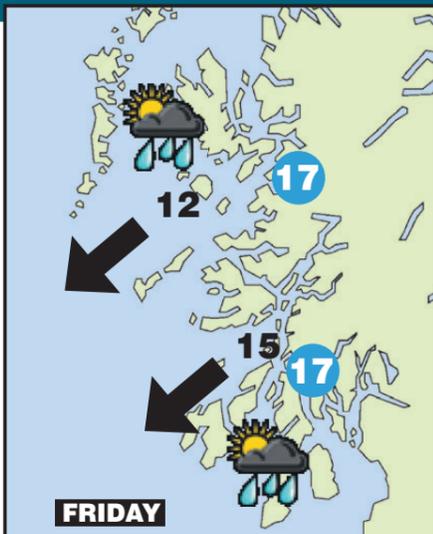
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals and showers  
Winds fresh north easterly  
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C

**Friday** Showers and sunny intervals  
Winds fresh north easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 17°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Continuing changeable with sunshine and showers  
Winds fresh south easterly  
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 16, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.00	1.0	17.11	pm	23.40
Thur 05.03	3.6	11.00	1.0	17.11	3.8	23.40
Fri 05.39	3.7	11.35	0.8	17.46	3.9	*** **
Sat 00.13	0.9	06.12	3.9	12.10	0.6	18.18
Sun 00.47	0.8	06.41	3.9	12.45	0.5	18.49
Mon 01.19	0.7	07.09	3.9	13.21	0.5	19.21
Tues 01.53	0.7	07.41	3.8	14.00	0.5	19.56
Wed 02.30	0.9	08.19	3.7	14.43	0.7	20.35

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



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