

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Macaulay cup damaged during Glenurquhart celebrations

THE ORGANISING body of the Macaulay Cup competition has condemned Glenurquhart Shinty's Club's treatment of the trophy after finding out, via facebook, it had been broken.

The 65-year-old trophy, which was donated by Flora Anne Macaulay, former owner of *The Oban Times*, was damaged while in the possession of the Drumadrochit club, who won the final of the competition on Saturday against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

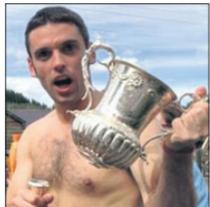
A picture of the damage was posted onto facebook, prompting outrage from the Macaulay Association, which suggested future winners of the competition may not be allowed to keep it. A statement released on Tuesday reads: 'The Macaulay Association wish to express their profound disappointment at the extensive damage caused to the Macaulay Cup within 36 hours of it being presented at Saturday's Macaulay Cup Final.

'To compound the problem the Macaulay only became aware of the damage as a result of postings of photographs on a social networking site, which did little for the reputation of the persons responsible.

'The Macaulay Cup had recently undergone a total refurbishment and was in excellent condition when presented on Saturday. The Macaulay Association will not tolerate their trophy being abused in a manner which seems to be acceptable in some quarters.'

Glenurquhart Shinty Club has admitted responsibility and will compensate the association.

Cup celebrations marred in Glenurquhart, see page 7.



The Macaulay Cup: broken in two after victory.



Don't miss chance to change Oban

Businesses urged to have their say on BID plan

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

BUSINESSES in Oban are being urged to grasp the chance to help transform the town by taking part in a vote of 'massive importance'.

Tomorrow, companies within the town's 30mph zone will receive ballot packs on the proposal to create a Business Improvement District (BID).

They will have until October 5 to vote on the plan, which aims to revitalise the town's trading environment.

The BID, which would see traders developing, managing and paying for a five year scheme to boost the local economy, has already secured a financial commitment of £100,000 over five years from Argyll and Bute Council.

If agreed, all businesses with a rateable value property of £3,000 or over within the town's 30mph zone would contribute through a modest but compulsory levy. Alistair Jackson of Jackson Butchers, a member of the BID4Oban steering group, urged businesses to grasp what he called 'a unique opportunity'.

He said: 'This is a critical decision for Oban. We are standing at a crossroads and face a simple choice. Either we continue on the road we've been on up until now, with each business acting independently, or we change direction and come together to invest collectively to ensure a more prosperous future for all.

'This is a unique opportunity for us to take our future into our own hands. I am confident the vast majority of our traders will support that idea.'

The ballot packs being sent out this week contain a copy of the full BID business plan, as well as voting papers.

Mr Jackson added: 'I would appeal to all eligible businesses to familiarise themselves with the business plan and what the BID could do for them.'

BID4Oban project co-ordinator, Pauline Cameron, said: 'This is massively important for Oban. If you've ever moaned about anything in Oban this is your chance to do something about it. This is the one chance businesses in Oban get to work together to make a difference.'

A number of national companies trading in the town have also come on board with the project, Ms Cameron added.

For more information on the BID4Oban proposal and business plan, go to www.bid4oban.co.uk.

Hospital patient denied transport forced to cancel appointment

AN OBAN woman who was denied patient transport to hospital in Glasgow says she cancelled her appointment because she could not afford the bus fare.

The woman, who did not want to be named, is no longer eligible for the Scottish Ambulance Service's patient transport service, which provides transport for rural patients requiring treatment locally and in the central belt but recent change to the criteria patients must meet has caused concern.

The 55-year-old told *The Oban Times* that after using the patient transport service to get to Glasgow for the past two-and-a-half years, during treatment for a brain haemorrhage, she is now expected to get to the hospital on public transport, despite only having an income of £100 per week in incapacity benefit.

She said: 'Because I am able to walk out of my front door unassisted I was considered ineligible for the transport service. I cannot afford to get the bus to Glasgow and a taxi to the hospital, so I cancelled my last appointment.

'I think vulnerable people will suffer with these changes.'

The woman said she would be on the patient transport service for her next appointment in September, following an intervention by her GP.

Dunollie pensioner Agnes Smith said she has been frustrated by the new phone system and has struggled to book a place on the patient transport service, just to get to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'In July a new direct booking service was introduced for patients as part of a wider upgrade to the Patient Transport Service. Since then 1,362 patients from Oban have been transported to healthcare appointments, 1,168 of them to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

'The Patient Transport Service has always been available for those patients who have a medical or mobility need for assistance to travel to hospital. If a patient is not eligible for ambulance transport, the alternative options available to them are always explained. Many patients qualify for reimbursement of travel under the NHS Travel Cost Scheme and in many areas free public transport is available.'



Happiest boy in Oban gets out on new bike

Nine-year-old Alexander MacLeod was the happiest boy in Oban last week after taking delivery of his new custom-made bike, courtesy of the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust. The Oban-based charity donated more than £2,000 to cover the cost of the bike, giving the youngster the freedom to play with his friends. The Rockfield Primary School pupil has a rare bone disorder, Acampomelic Dysplasia, meaning he cannot operate a standard bicycle. See inside for full story. 15_134bke02

Teenager dies in Tarbert car crash

TARBERT is mourning the loss of a teenage girl this week after a car crash outside the village on Monday night.

The 17-year-old, who has not yet been named by police, died in Glasgow Royal Infirmary at 8pm on Tuesday after sustaining serious chest injuries.

The girl was travelling with three others when their Honda Civic car left the road near Erines at 8.25pm on Monday.

The driver of the car, a 34-year-old man from Tarbert, sustained a serious neck injury and was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where he is in a stable condition.

A 33-year-old woman is also in a stable condition at the Southern and General Hospital after sustaining serious neck and leg injuries.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash to contact PC Alan MacKinnon at Dunoon Police Station on 01369 763001.

The A83 was closed for eight hours following the incident, opening again at 4.40am on Tuesday morning.

Dealer-sized quantity of heroin seized in Oban raid

A DRUGS swoop by police on a house in Oban has resulted in the seizure of a dealer-sized quantity of heroin.

Police officers searched the premises in Soroba Road at 4pm on Tuesday.

As a result, a 34-year-old man was due to appear from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday morning.

Following the search, a 26-year-old man was also taken into custody in relation to other drugs offences and was due to appear at court on Wednesday.

Highland Heathers in receivership

ARGYLL COMPANY Highland Heathers has gone into receivership this week, laying off all 43 staff.

The company, which supplied heather to major retailers across the UK, will close its four sites at Ford, Braevallich, Achahoish and Tynallit this week.

A poor growing season, difficult trading environment and increased competition from overseas have been attributed to the downfall of the business.

Communications manager sacked

ARGYLL and Bute Council has sacked the communications manager it cleared of using social network sites to 'spy' on taxpayers.

Jo Smith lost her job following a disciplinary hearing at Kilmorye last week.

Ms Smith was suspended on February 10 after allegedly admitting, during a PR conference in Glasgow in September, she had set up spy accounts on social media sites.

The following council investigation by external consultant John Clayton, which cost nearly £30,000, found 'no hint of a spying culture within the council'.

But Ms Smith subsequently faced lesser charges of bringing the council into disrepute for using the word 'spy' at the conference.

Speaking after receiving a dismissal letter on Tuesday, Ms Smith said she intended to appeal, adding: 'I don't think it is appropriate to comment until the appeal process has finished.

'I can say though I don't agree with the council's decision.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The matter is still being dealt with in terms of the council's disciplinary procedures and process and for this reason it would be inappropriate to comment further.'

Speaking on behalf of Jo Smith, National Union for Journalists' (NUJ) Scottish organiser Paul Holleran said the sacking decision was based on 'an impression presented by an anonymous source' in a media report which the council had 'so far been unable to identify as even attending the conference'.

He added: 'The council has chosen to ignore witness statements from 10 highly respected, named communications professionals who did attend the conference and who have said the article was inaccurate and misleading.'

Lead councillor for communications on Argyll and Bute Council, Louise Glen-Lee, said: 'This situation is one we inherited from the previous administration.

'However, having being briefed fully, I am satisfied that the process put into place by the executive director was appropriate.

'In the fullness of time as much information, as legally possible, of the full investigation will be put into the public domain.'

Gallop & Grind CHARITY DUATHALON

It's the 5th Gallop & Grind Event and given the success of the previous four years, this year promises to be bigger and better and will provide a fantastic day out for everyone. This year's event is again being organised by an independent, enthusiastic committee and is kindly sponsored by Marine Harvest, MacPhee and Partners, MacLean Electrical and Ferguson Transport. We are delighted to say all entrance fees and money raised will be going directly to the charity. News Radio will provide entertainment at the event throughout the day for participants and spectators alike. Come and enjoy a warm up fitness session in the park from 11.30am. After completing the challenge participants and spectators can enjoy the freshly cooked fish from the Marine Harvest BBQ.

Sat 29th September 2012
@ 12 NOON FROM LOCHABER LEISURE CENTRE, FORT WILLIAM

This event raises funds for the Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust, Cancer Care in the Highlands, a local based charity that supports individuals and families in the Highlands affected by cancer. Gallop & Grind events have raised over £130,000 and MacMillan Nurses, Crossroads Lochaber, Raigmore Hospitals, CLIC Sargent and Crocus charity in Inverness have already enjoyed the benefits from this fantastic event.

PRIZE GIVING
at Leisure Centre @ 4pm

With 1 in 3 of us being affected by cancer in some way please make a difference today by signing up!

www.gallopandgrind.org.uk

Sunshine and silverware were the order of the day at the Appin Show. It was a successful day for young Dougie MacDonald and his family, who took home a trailer-full of trophies. See page 18 for full report. 15_134appin04

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Thursday 30th August
Corran Halls, Oban 12 noon - 7pm

Argyll Renewable Energy Show 2012

FREE ENTRY

Trade stands, exhibits, information, talks and presentations throughout the day

Olympics over! Now time for a rest

The Saturn Flexistore
4 drawer double divan
Was £599
Now only £299
A REAL WINNER!
Lots of other offers in store

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195

OT

Oban man accused of assaulting police sergeant

AN OBAN man who allegedly assaulted a police sergeant and tried to seize him by the genitals appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

Hugh Vennard, 30, of 8 Hynish Crescent, Oban, also allegedly resisted arrest and refused to leave a licensed premises. Vennard, who denies all charges, is further accused of having cannabis in his possession in Oban police office on August 4.

He will stand trial on November 1 and is expected to appear in court again on October 16. He was bailed with special conditions.

Brothers deny caravan break-in

TWO BROTHERS from the Isle of Mull appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday accused of breaking into and stealing from a caravan and wooden store.

Iain and Donald Martin, 18 and 19 respectively, who reside in a caravan at Lee, Bunnass allegedly stole jewellery, musical instruments and fishing tackle from a caravan.

The pair are also accused of taking a quantity of cigarettes and tobacco from a wooden store at the Spar Shop in Bunnass.

The siblings deny the charges and were released on bail. They are due to stand trial on November 1 and are expected to appear in court next on October 16.

Community survey results on agenda

RESULTS of an Oban community survey will be discussed at a stakeholders meeting on September 1.

The meeting, which will take place at Oban High School, will encourage groups to provide solutions for some of the issues raised in the report.

Any community groups who wish to attend should contact Laura Macdonald, community development officer at Argyll and Bute Council.

Meanwhile, the council's Third Sector Grants Scheme is offering grants to community groups in a third round of funding. The deadline for this round of funding is September 5 but groups that have been allocated funds already this year are not eligible to apply.

Support grows for Harbour Bowl re-opening

NEARLY 200 people have joined a Facebook page supporting the re-opening of Oban's Harbour Bowl.

Following an article in last week's *Oban Times*, revealing people want the bowling alley open through a community project - like the Oban Phoenix Cinema - the anonymous administrator and their partner have plans to open it again.

He said: 'I will update the website every now and again with future progress. There are plans for it to be taken over, although nothing is finalised yet.'

Tartan Tavern doors open again

THE TARTAN Tavern at the top of Oban's George Street has re-opened after the council granted a renewed licence.

The previous licence had been allowed to expire after the premises were seized by HM Revenue and Customs last summer.

However, new publican Stevie Shaw welcomed the decision by Argyll and Bute Council's licensing committee last Friday morning, which allowed him to open up that evening.

Stevie, who previously ran the Woodside in the town, said: 'I am glad to be back in the pub trade and I want to give people in Oban what they want, a traditional local pub.'



Dr Mac Armstrong and Jack Tolan of Oban Hospice receive the cheque from Frances MacIntyre, as Frances' grand-daughters Morven, left, and Leanne MacIntyre look on. 15_134hospice01

Oban Hospice welcomes generous cash donation

A 'VERY generous' sum of money has been donated to the Oban Hospice to refurbish the relatives' room in the Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Cancer Care in the Highlands and Argyll, which assists relatives of cancer patients with travel and accommodation costs, has handed over £17,785 towards upgrading the room.

The cancer care charity was established in 2008 by Invergarry mother of four Sharon Fraser, who died following a battle with breast cancer in December of that year.

Sharon's mother, Frances MacIntyre from Dalmally, said her daughter was dedicated to

improving the lives of those with cancer and those whose families were affected by the disease.

Frances has since continued to raise money for the charity and organises the annual 'Gallop and Grind' event in Fort William, which will be held on September 29 this year. It consists of a four-mile run, jog or walk and a nine-and-a-half mile cycle. Last year's event raised £6,165.90.

Oban Hospice chairman Dr Mac Armstrong said: 'We are very happy to receive this very generous sum of money and both charities have worked well together to ensure we are doing what we both think needs to be done with it.'



Ben Cruachan hike boosts charity coffers

Five members of Oban Rotary Club recently climbed Ben Cruachan in aid of Wateraid. The day turned out to be rainy and windy but the intrepid David Mudie, Iain Campbell, Graham Innes, Roger Parry and Graham MacQueen, supported by Roy Rutherford, reached the summit successfully returning within six hours, wet and weary. The group has raised around £1,000 to help provide drinking water in rural communities in Nepal.



Children celebrate Olympics at holiday playscheme

Children from Oban's Schools Out recently celebrated the completion of their Olympic-themed summer holiday playscheme. The youngsters took part in activities such as orienteering, curling and cycling and made banners celebrating the Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence. The scheme was run in partnership with Active Schools and Argyll and Bute Council's early years, Community Learning and development team. 15_131schools01

Elderly man rescued from water by Oban lifeboat

OBAN lifeboat was called to assist an elderly man who had fallen into the water last Wednesday at the pontoons at Kerrera.

The call came at 5.20 pm when the 77 year old fell off the pontoon at Oban Marina, where he was trying to moor the yacht *Pennant*.

Dr Colin Wilson examined the patient and found he had swallowed a lot of water, so drove him to hospital upon the lifeboat's return to Oban for a check up.

The previous day, the lifeboat was called out to assist the 30-foot Gaff Cutter *Wender*, which had suffered engine failure off Lady Rock at the southern tip of Lismore.

The lifeboat took her in tow to Oban Sailing Club moorings in Oban Bay.

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Lifeboat volunteers rescue teenage swimmers

TWO YOUNGSTERS who got into difficulties after swimming at an island beauty spot last Wednesday had to be rescued by Tobermory lifeboat volunteers.

The pair had been swimming in blustery conditions at Calgary Bay on the west coast of the Isle of Mull when they were overtaken by exhaustion. But they managed to climb into a RIB which was moored out in the bay and when the RNLI volunteers reached them

the crew found that one of the youngsters had been able to swim ashore while the other was safe and well, although cold, in the RIB.

But then within minutes of taking the youngster ashore the crew were alerted to a report of a missing woman who had been swimming at the same location.

The lifeboat was about begin a search of the bay when the woman was found to be safe and well at the other end of the beach.

This double shout came at the end of a busy ten days for Tobermory's volunteer crew, responding to six call-outs and undertaking two major exercises.

Lifeboat Operations Manager, Ian Stevens said: 'This has been a busy period for our volunteers who are always ready to respond to their pagers to help others, as well as committing their spare time to train to perform their role as effectively as possible.'

Minutes row rocks community council

Law officer attends Kilmelford and Kilninver meeting

ALLEGATIONS of slander, lying and people serving their own interests led to a law officer attending a community council meeting in Argyll.

Charles Reppke, head of governance and law with Argyll and Bute Council, went along to the meeting of Kilmelford and Kilninver Community Council (KKCC) last Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said area lead councillor Louise Glen-Lee had asked Mr Reppke to attend 'to support the attendance of local councillors'.

The move follows disputes over whether the recorded minutes were an accurate reflection of issues discussed.

One woman told the gathering in Kilmelford village hall: 'This meeting is being high-jacked with people who only want to serve their own interests and I object.'

The controversy over the minutes prompted community council member Lucy Files to

when asked to do so by chairman Nigel Mitchell.

Ewan Kennedy insisted he had not referred to KKCC member Antonette Mitchell as a liar, as minutes at the previous meeting, and if others had heard those words they did not come from him.

He further asked that the draft minutes from the June meeting posted on the internet containing the reference be removed.

And there was further dissent when the audience were told some agenda items - such as whether to support or object to planning applications - were for KKCC members only.

This suggestion drew audible gasps of objections from some members of the public at the KKCC meeting.

One audience member said later: 'If people are so concerned about the way the community council is run why don't they join it themselves instead of attacking those who are trying to do their best for the community.'

Several members of the public stood up and read pre-prepared statements, refusing to cease

resign her post as secretary before the meeting.

She said: 'I have tried to report the meetings as accurately as I can. Sometimes it is very difficult to understand who is saying what because everyone shouts over the top of each other.'

Mr Reppke said minutes were not meant to reflect a verbatim record but rather give an overall sense of the meeting.

He told the meeting: 'Volunteers are here to try and do their best for their community. They can't achieve the standard of paid officials.'

'From what I have heard here I believe it is a very difficult task to obtain a sense of the meeting but the chairman can rule on all matters of competence and relevance.'

Several members of the public stood up and read pre-prepared statements, refusing to cease

Police in the dark over job adverts

POLICE posts on the Isle of Mull are being advertised for those who want to move to the island - but officers currently there say they were unaware of the development.

Chief inspector Brian Auld confirmed the roles had been advertised over the past three weeks in stations and on Strathclyde Police intranet but it had not yet been confirmed who would be leaving the island.

He said: 'All of the officers are aware there is an advert out. Part of my role is to build in succession planning. You need to have officers ready to fill any gaps that might materialise.'

'There are two officers retiring in a few years and if there was no replacement people would be asking why we had not planned for it.'

Standard tenure Chief inspector Auld also confirmed that a standard tenure on an island such as Mull would be between three and five years, and although this depends on individual circumstance an officer wouldn't normally stay there until the end of their career.

He added: 'I wouldn't move two people from Mull at the same time, it is a generic advert for Mull, there is no specific post mentioned.'

'The advert has been out for three weeks, it will go to interview and if there is a successful applicant we will look at where that post will be.'

But officers contacted by *The Oban Times* said they were not aware of the advert or of anyone who wished to leave the island in the near future.

The closing date for applications was August 10 and posts are also being advertised for Rothesay and Islay.

Dinghy trio towed to safety

RNLI VOLUNTEERS in Oban went to the aid of an adult and two children who were adrift in a dinghy last weekend.

The *Mora Edith Macdonald* launched at 6.30pm on Saturday evening to go to the assistance of a 16-foot Starfish dinghy which had lost power and was drifting off Ganavan. The lifeboat towed the trio to safety in Dunstaffnage Marina.

Teenage drink driver fined and banned

A MULL teenager who was caught drink driving while holding only a provisional licence and without displaying 'L' plates has been fined and disqualified from driving.

Donald Martin, 19, now resident at 18 Main Road, Aberuthven, Perthshire pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard how Martin had initially managed to evade the police but was found after he had attempted to hide the vehicle in bushes.

Martin, who was also hiding in the bushes, admitted he had been the driver and that he had been drinking.

Pub Defending, Laura Russell said her client had went to the local pub with his father, who had become 'heavily intoxicated' so he took the decision to drive him home.

Martin, who registered a 46 mcg reading when breathalysed, was now moving away from Mull to live with his mother, Miss Russell added.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Martin £300 and disqualified him from driving for one year. He also added five penalty points to his licence for having no insurance.



Coel Lavery celebrates his record-breaking achievement.

Tobermory tot climbs his way into record books

A-FOUR-year old has set a new record by becoming the youngest person to complete all 214 Wainwrights - hills over 1,000 feet in England.

Coel Lavery, from Tobermory, started climbing hills at just two years old when he tackled Sale Fell near Cockermouth in the Lake District on October 18, 2009.

The youngster isn't the only active member of the family, his seven-year-old brother Sail has completed his second round of the hills while six-year-old sister Danu has also ascended the full complement of Wainwrights.

Older brothers Evan, nine and Eire, 11 have also completed

their second round. Parents David and Clare take a photo of the children at the top of each summit so they'll have something to enjoy when they're older.

Coel, who has just started primary one in Tobermory, completed his last Wainwright at St Sunday Crag on August 13, 2012.

Dad, David Lavery said: 'The children are all exceptionally fit and enjoy walking in the Lake District and on Mull.'

'Coel's brother Sail was the youngest to complete the Wainwrights in 2009 and Coel joined in and kept on walking from the age of two.'

Barcaldine Marine's innovative raft helps nesting terns in Northern Ireland

AN INNOVATIVE raft made from recycled plastic by Barcaldine's Fusion Marine is proving a hit with nesting terns in Northern Ireland.

The raft at Portmore Lough in County Antrim was built at the request of Portmore Lough Reserve to provide a floating platform for the birds during the important breeding season.

Made from two pontoon sections that have been joined together, the recycled plastic raft has attracted a wealth of interest from other conservation organisations interested in using the design elsewhere.

Iain Forbes of Fusion Marine said: 'We are delighted that the raft has proved so successful for nesting terns. Recycled plastic is durable and lasts much longer than wood. The material is corrosion proof and blends in well with the natural environment. Recycled plastic is an incredibly versatile material and has a number of useful applications for nature reserves and other outdoor areas.'

The recycled plastic raft offers a number of important advantages over traditional materials

such as wood and metal, including much having a much longer lifespan and requiring minimal maintenance.

Donnell Black, site manager at Portmore Lough Reserve said: 'The raft has proved really popular with the terns, with around 40 birds taking up residence and breeding on the new island since it was installed.'

'It is anchored near the shore of Portmore Lough, and can easily be seen from the bird hide on the edge of the water.'

'We wanted to use recycled plastic to manufacture the raft as it is an extremely buoyant material, as well as being durable in harsh environments, lasting up to 50 years. It also goes without saying that because it's recycled we're also doing our bit to keep waste to a minimum.'

In recent years, Fusion Marine has supplied boardwalks to the Hermaness Nature Reserve in Shetland, a major access pathway project in Argyll, and for a sand-dune system at Balmedie in Aberdeenshire.



Representatives from Strathclyde Police, Argyll and Bute Council and the Mull community met in Tobermory to launch the new mobile police office.

Second mobile station launched

A MOBILE police station that will be used for emergency incidents and to improve community outreach in Argyll has been launched by Strathclyde Police.

The vehicle was launched recently in Tobermory, Mull, by Philip Braat, convener of the Strathclyde Police Authority. He was joined by members of the community, Argyll and Bute councillors and representatives and local police officers.

The unit is the second in Argyll, where much of Strathclyde Police's properties have been sold off.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'The unit will be used for significant incidents in rural locations. It can become the forward control point to be used by multiple agencies in incidents like the train derailment at Falls of Cruachan and the drownings on Loch Awe.'

The unit will also be used as a community events and will be taken around the county to allow people to raise any concerns with the police.

Police files

A LANDOWNER at Clachan Seil has offered a reward of £200 for information leading to a successful conviction, after vandals chopped down nearly 200 willow trees on his property.

David Ainsley said this was the third time trees on land near to Sealife Adventures had been targeted.

Oban Police are investigating the matter, which occurred between Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

Anyone who has any information regarding the incident should contact PC Jeremy Moore at Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

A BOY racer who is accused of carrying out handbrake turns in the Corran Halls car park has been charged with inappropriate driving.

The 17 year old, who was driving a black Vauxhall Corsa, was charged by police following the incident at 11pm on August 13.

THE DRIVER of an HGV vehicle has been charged with driving without due care and attention after allegedly causing a collision on the A828 near to Appin.

The crash happened approximately quarter of a mile north of the village and also involved a Vauxhall Zafira, which collided with the HGV. The Vauxhall subsequently hit a Saab, which was also damaged. No-one was injured.

POLICE officers have been carrying out speed checks in the village of Lochawe in the past week, resulting in two drivers being charged.

Last Thursday, at 9.25am, a 55-year-old man was clocked driving at 52mph in the 30mph zone.

The previous morning a 60-year-old man was charged with speeding after driving at 51mph near to the Loch Awe Hotel.

TWO ROMANIAN men were left deflated after police officers shut down their temporary toy stall in George Street, Oban.

The pair, aged 25 and 18, had set up their inflatable toys stall outside Boots last Friday.

However, police officers charged the men for conducting business as street traders without a licence and the stall was removed.

A WOMAN living in Oban's Miller Road has been charged for anti-social behaviour after being reported three times about the loud volume of her television.

At 7am on Saturday police visited the premises to warn the woman about the noise from her television and returned following another complaint.

At around 9am police were called a third time when the woman was charged.

THREE youths who broke into a house in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, were found to have drugs on their possession when arrested by police officers.

The men, aged 21, 18 and 18, were arrested for breaking into the premises and, following a search, were found to have quantities of cocaine, diazepam and cannabis.

AN ADVENTURE holiday company near Cullipool, Luing, has had lifejackets and buoyancy aids stolen over last weekend.

Wild Island Exploration reported 14 adult lifejackets and four red and black buoyancy aids had been stolen from their premises, six miles west of Cullipool, between 11am on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.

Anyone with any information should contact Oban Police Station.

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Louise starts the torch on its journey piped on by Oban High School Pipe Band members Grant MacNiven, left, and Ruairidh MacKinnon. 15.134louisetorch

Brave Louise battles through illness to stage charity concert

A BIG-HEARTED Oban girl has refused to let hospital treatment get in the way of organising a charity concert in the Corran Halls this weekend.

Oban High School pupil Louise MacDonald endured several trips to Glasgow in recent weeks for surgery and treatment for the side effects of neurofibromatosis, a condition that causes tumour growth across the body.

Now brave Louise, aged 14, has battled through her condition to write scores of letters to celebrities, organisations and football clubs to ask for support for Rocking it Out With a Smile on Saturday.

The concert from 7.30pm-1am will see Glasgow band Siphon headline the gig, fresh from being nominated for the rock

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

recording of the year at the Scottish New Music Awards.

Also performing will be Inverness band Red Ronson and Oban bands Lush Puppies and The Switch.

All proceeds from the gig and raffle tickets will be split between Schiehallion Ward and Teenage Cancer Trust - both based at Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow - and Les Hoey, a granddad from Wishaw who tirelessly works to make wishes come true for children battling serious illness.

All three have had a major impact on the lives of Louise and countless other children.

She's hoping the community can help her thank charities that save or improve the lives of Scotland's sick children.

Louise said: 'I'm hoping for a really good night and lots of smiles to show the difference the charities made to me and to the lives of my friends who have also been helped by them.'

'I didn't want to let anyone down with raffle prizes so I kept writing letters asking for support when I was in hospital. I've managed to get some pretty amazing prizes so far.'

Louise has successfully bagged a tour for four of Celtic park, a tour for six to Ibrox and a night at a top hotel for two for

the lucky raffle winners. Tickets for the concert are currently on sale at the Corran Halls, Sloans and Cuan Mor, priced £10.

Prizes for the raffle are still being sought and if you wish to contribute please contact Steven at The Oban Times on 01631 568021.

Meanwhile, Louise was torchbearer for Boots this week as the pharmaceutical company held its own torch relay in its Miles for Macmillan fundraiser.

On Tuesday, the torch was taken by Louise and pupils from Rockfield and Park Primary Schools from its Soroba Road branch to its main branch in George Street.

The torch then made its way to Fort William.

Man jailed for preying on vulnerable teenage boy

Hotel worker sent youngster hundreds of explicit messages

By FAITH ORR forr@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN who gained the trust of a 14-year-old boy before sending him explicit sexual messages has been jailed.

Jamie Patel, 30, of 109 West Way, Eastfield in Scarborough was sentenced to four months in prison and was placed on the sex offenders register for seven years when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday. He had previously pled guilty to the offence.

Patel, also known by his stage name Jason Knight, lived in Oban before moving to England in January. He worked in an Oban hotel and as a barman in a local pub where he met the boy's father.

The court heard how the family had taken Patel into their confidences as someone who may be able to provide emotional support to their son who was suffering from a medical condition.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the victim's parents became concerned on May 14 of what they noticed to be a change in his behaviour.

He said: 'He was acting secretly, hiding his mobile phone and was electing to walk to school rather than get a lift which was completely out of



Jamie Patel preyed on a vulnerable 14-year-old boy.

character. They had a gut instinct that something wasn't right.

'His mother went on to the internet and obtained a print out of hundreds of texts that her son had been receiving and she recognised the phone number as that of the accused.'

'She was able to establish that on the times her son was walking to school he was receiving numerous texts from the accused.'

The court heard that on May 20 the woman went into her son's bedroom and noticed that his computer was still on and his Facebook site was also active.

She noticed that her son appeared to have a set up a Facebook profile in a different name and was in the middle of a conversation with Patel.

Mr McGinty added: 'The account had only been opened the previous day but already had over 200 messages - all of an indecent sexual nature. Including 'I can't wait to have you.'

'There was also a message saying wipe your browser history so your mother and father won't find this page.'

Patel admitted communicating in a sexually explicit manner when questioned by police. He also said he was aware of the age of his victim.

Sheriff Eric Brown made clear he was not treating the case as a grooming offence but given the circumstances the only appropriate sentence was still one of custody.

He said: 'The family took you into their confidences as someone who might be able to relate to their son. This was a gross breach of the trust this child's parents had placed in you.'

Pervert sent to prison for four years

Oban Sheriff hands down extended sentence

A PERVERT who performed a 'thoroughly unpleasant and depraved indecent assault' on a young woman after she fell unconscious has been handed an extended sentence.

Timothy Robson, 49, of Balnoe Cottage, Kilmore, was previously found guilty by unanimous verdict of photographing himself performing an indecent act on his 25-year-old victim.

Robson, who gave the girl valium and alcohol, had denied the indecent assault charge, claiming his victim had consented to the acts and even asked for pictures to be taken.

Sentencing Robson to four years in prison Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'While your victim was unconscious you took intimate and close up photographs of her private parts.'

'There were 122 images on the memory card from your camera which you took into Tesco to be put on to a CD.'

'You thought nothing of staff at Tesco viewing the images. Of the 122 images 59 were sexually explicit.'

'You violated this girl's physical integrity for your own personal sexual gratification.'



Robson leaves court after receiving his sentence.

'You compounded matters by insisting to the jury that the girl had consented to the conduct.'

Announcing that Robson would spend three years on licence once released from prison, Sheriff Small added: 'The social worker who interviewed you emphasises in her report that you had 'no insight into the offence or the impact that it would have on your victim.'

Oban man appears from custody on string of charges

A YOUNG Oban man accused of trying to start a fight in the town's Albany Street before attempting to enter a pub while drunk appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Michael Duncan, 19, of 17A Glencairn Drive, Oban is further alleged to have shouted, sworn and uttered threats of violence while in Oban Police Office. Duncan, who appeared from custody, denies all charges and will stand trial on November 2. He is expected to appear in court next on October 16.

Suggestions sought for memorial plaques

WEST coast residents are being invited to submit suggestions for who they believe should be on memorial plaques in the area.

A new scheme, being run by Historic Scotland, will celebrate the life and achievements of significant historic figures, through the erection of a plaque on their home where they lived, or the building that was synonymous with their achievements.

People are invited to submit their nominations for the historic figures they would like to put forward by filling in an application form on Historic Scotland's website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/commemorativeplaques.

The closing date is October 12.



One of the CIRCA developers, Dr Norman Alm, helps Eadar Glinn resident Peggy MacFarlane and her nephew-in-law Ian Darling use the system.

Residents benefit from pioneering new work

AN OBAN residential home has become one of the first in Britain to receive a pioneering new system designed to stimulate the memories of older people with dementia.

Eadar Glinn last week took delivery of the Computer Interactive Reminiscence and Conversation Aid (CIRCA) thanks to a grant of £4,500 from the Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust.

CIRCA uses interactive media accessed with touch-screen technology to help stimulate memories. Developed by the universities of Dundee and St Andrews, it has been proven to dramatically increase the abil-

ity of people with dementia to communicate with family and carers.

Eadar Glinn's Mary Gardiner said: 'The donation from Scottish Sea Farms has meant an improvement in the quality of life for people at Eadar Glinn who have short-term memory loss.'

'It is very satisfying to watch the residents, their families and staff engage with CIRCA and enjoy conversations and past experiences.'

More information on the Heart of the Community Fund and details of how to apply can be found at www.scottishseafarms.com.

Oban man shouted abuse through letterbox

AN OBAN man who shouted abuse through his neighbour's letterbox after they complained of him playing music too loudly has been fined £400.

Paul Ritchie, 37, of 11E Miller Road, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard Ritchie was 'unwinding' after a long week at work and was playing music loudly after midnight in his home on August 4.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that police attended the property and Ritchie assured them he would be quiet.

But he added: 'Fifteen minutes later the police had to be phoned again as the accused went to his downstairs neighbour's front door and shouted through the letterbox 'how's this music for keeping you awake?'

Fining Ritchie, Sheriff Small said: 'This is antisocial behaviour and most unpleasant for the people living below you.'

Pledge to have A83 proposals on the table by end of year

PROPOSALS for a long-term solution to landslides closing the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful will be brought forward by the end of the year.

The Scottish Government announcement came after its task force set up to tackle the issue met for the first time in Arrochar last week.

Transport minister Keith Brown pledged £1.5million on opening an emergency diversion by November - pending landford agreement.

Work has started to upgrade access to the old military road and forestry road - both proposed as diversion routes along nearby Glen Croe.

Haulage, tourism, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce, Argyll and Bute Council, Scotland TransServ, and Transport Scotland representatives all attended the meeting.

Argyll and Bute Council's leader, Roddy McCuish was 'encouraged' by the discussions. He said: 'We were particularly reassured by the fact that short-term works

could be completed within 12 weeks, and that proposals for a longer-term solution will be brought forward by the end of the year.'

'This is a priority for Argyll and Bute. We rely heavily upon the A83 in social and economic terms. But despite the challenges we sometimes face, Argyll and Bute is always open for business and ready to welcome visitors.'

Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce secretary, Jane MacLeod said: 'The first meeting of the task force was very positive.'

Mr Brown added: 'While there is a sense of frustration from many in the local community that the emergency route is not yet up and running, building what is essentially a new trunk road cannot go ahead without the necessary safety checks and detailed planning, as well as agreeing permission from private landowners.'

'I can assure those people who are rightly concerned about the A83 that we are committed both in terms of resources and politically, to addressing the challenges.'

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The event will run from 10am-4pm with short presentations from each organisation at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Business Gateway advisers will also be on hand to answer questions about business support and funding.

One to one sessions with the specialists are available on the day - to pre-book a session or to find out more call the Business Gateway team on 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Marvellous spectacle as crowds flock to Glenfinnan Games



Margaret Dunn from Northern Ireland was among the 22 senior pipers competing. 20_f34glen12



David Bowers from Manchester on his way to winning the mile race. 20_f34glen02



Fear an taigh for the day was Onich man Neil MacLeod, who did a fine job behind the mic. 20_f34glen05



Mitchell Edgar from Mallaig clears the bar to win the high jump. 20_f34glen06



The flag of Nova Scotia flew proudly as Canadians took part in the Highland dancing and piping competitions. 20_f34glen03



Clan Chief and Games Chieftain Ranald MacDonnell of Glengarry, Carolyn, Lady Glengarry, Games convener Roddie Balfour and standard bearer Ian McDonald enjoyed their day. 20_f34glen13



John Mulhearn from Glasgow cut an impressive figure in the senior piping competition with the Glenfinnan Monument his backdrop. 20_f34glen10

GLENFINNAN Games once again made for a marvellous spectacle on Saturday as fine weather ensured a bumper crowd at atmospheric Loch Shiel-side.

Organisers could have been forgiven for looking anxiously to the skies after rain on Friday, but ebullient games field manager Alastair Gibson had no doubts. He told The Oban Times: 'I was never worried about the sunshine games and we were as well prepared as ever.'

'I think Glenfinnan is a very traditional games and we must keep it going. You don't see sideshows that are tacky - Clan Donald and Clan Cameron are among those who have a marquee here. We do have a burger van, but Mary MacRae does that - and she is from Glenfinnan!'

Mr Gibson singled out Ronnie MacKellaig for his unswerving and continuing support over the years. He said: 'What Ronnie has done will never be repeated. He has been 65 years as games secretary, treasurer and is owner of the field.'

He added: 'It costs a lot to run the games - you are talking £9,000 to £10,000. The games nearly never ran because we didn't have fire extinguishers yesterday!'

Across at the senior piping competition, a big field of 22 competitors took to the wooden podium to play before judges Iain MacFadyen from Kyle, Jimmy Jackson and Malcolm MacRae.

Mr MacFadyen told The Oban Times: 'It is a tremendous entry. A lot of the pipers use Glenfinnan as a warm up for the big piping competition at Oban [The Argyllshire Gathering] next week.'

'We have pipers from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland and Australia here.'

Glenfinnan Games, notable for retaining a traditional Highland 'feel', take place yards from the Glenfinnan Monument commemorating the day Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard nearby in 1745.

Clan Donald, Clan Cameron and The MacDonells of Glengarry marched into the field to open the event while An Fir Dileas (The Loyal Men) with their Jacobite banners, period costumes and weapons proved a big hit with the crowd. Kin-

lochleven couple David Boyter - armed with a musket and bayonet - and wife June are both staunch members of the battle re-enactment group.

For Ms Boyter, reminding the i-Pod generation of where they came from has become something of a crusade.

She told The Oban Times: 'It's all about trying to keep the Scottish tradition alive - we are modern day Jacobites and we believe in independence. It's good for the kids to know their history especially as it's not taught in schools now.'

'We go round and show the children what kind of lives the Jacobites had and the hardships they faced. It's important to keep out heritage and not forget.'

Strathspey and reel senior piping judges Iain MacFadyen and Jimmy Jackson deep in thought. 20_f34glen11



Strathspey and reel senior piping judges Iain MacFadyen and Jimmy Jackson deep in thought. 20_f34glen11



David Hart launches the shot on what turned out to be a successful day for the Fort William heavy athlete. 20_f34glen08

Morvern Lines

The 'GLORIOUS Twelfth' refers to the 12th of August - the start of the shooting season for red grouse and ptarmigan.

It used to be one of the busiest days in the West Highland sporting calendar with large numbers of birds being killed.

But, thanks to taxation, sheep tick, heather beetle, gut parasites and poor land management, the species has almost disappeared except in the local pubs where the liquid variety remains as popular as always.

Before the 1914-18 war, there were several good grouse moors in Morvern providing many all-year-round jobs and bags almost equal to those further to the north and east where the rainfall was lower and the heather better.

In 1907, 280 brace were shot on Drimmin Estate - a figure which declined to forty in 1914. Up until 1914 Glenricpsdale (which included Rahoy, Kinlochtaeuis, the Island of Carna and Laudale) produced an annual average of 450 brace although by 1930 it was considered a good day if 12 to 14 brace were shot walking up. In 1891 several guns on Ardtornish - the largest estate in Morvern - accounted for a record 612 brace which fell to 136 brace in 1912.

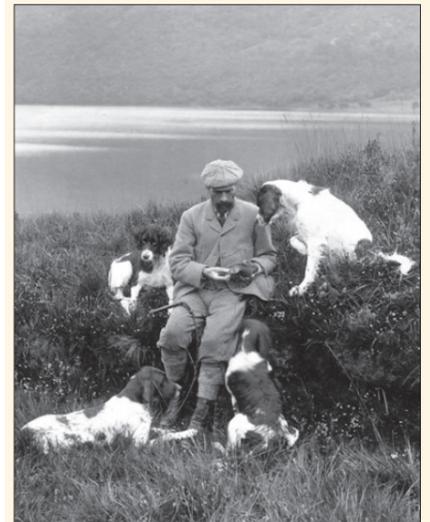
According to oral tradition the smaller Killundine, Beach and Glenmorvern estates produced equally respectable bags for the same period although actual numbers are not now known.

Kingairloch Estate, on the shores of Loch Linnhe - better known for its deer staking, held large coveys on Glensanda and Loch Uisge which were driven or walked up using pointers hired specially for the season.

The late Mrs Patricia Strutt of Kingairloch was probably one of the last local landowners to try for a grouse on the 'Glorious Twelfth' up until a few years before she died in 2000 aged 88.

To be on a grouse moor with a loaded shotgun at dawn on the 12th of August was to know the true meaning of exclusivity. But it came with a price. 'Up gets a guinea, bang goes sixpence and down comes half a crown' was the old saying. Today many of Morvern's grouse moors are covered in Sitka spruce trees and provide few jobs.

□□□



George Dalglish, under keeper on the Ardtornish Estate, Morvern, circa 1870, holding a grouse which his setters have just picked up. He is wearing the once well-known Ardtornish tweed, which all the estate gamekeepers and ghillies used to be issued with twice a year as part of their wages.

□□□

BELLS were rung across Great Britain on the July 27 to mark the start of the 2012 London Olympics - all except those on the Morvern Peninsula which were as silent as the guns on the grouse moors.

Those tower bells which might have been rung were Drimmin Chapel; Kiel Church, Lochaline; Ardtornish House clock tower and Camusnacroise church, Kingairloch. The bells in the first three were cast in what is now the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, the world's most famous bell foundry and the makers of Big Ben and the Liberty Bell.

The Kingairloch bell was manufactured in 1897 by the Gorbals Brass and Bell Foundry for George Sheriff, the local estate owner. All four have an interesting history and a combined age of 817 years. Iain Thornber.



It was a mad dash in the girls' 8-12 race. 20_f34glen14



Among field manager Alastair Gibson's many duties was welcoming people to the Games at the gate. 20_f34glen01



The men's 100 metres was a highly competitive affair. 20_f34glen04

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Kilmelford road action call

RESIDENTS have branded the narrowing of the road at the entrance to Kilmelford as an 'accident waiting to happen'.

Worried locals have also called for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph over fears for children crossing the main road.

Motorists travelling from Oban are currently faced with the road becoming a single track just before the bridge - with no warning signs beforehand.

One woman shared her concerns about the situation at the latest meeting of Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council. She said: 'My nine year old is crossing that road on his own every day and I'm terrified just listening for the screech of brakes.'

Local councillor Louise Glen-Lee agreed it was a dangerous spot. She said: 'There is no sign to say the road is going to narrow. I almost had an accident myself just yesterday.'

Mrs Christlieb added: 'If a child is killed we will never forgive ourselves, we need action taken now before that happens. They can erect temporary traffic lights when doing work, we could have them tomorrow and then permanent ones eventually which would make the road much safer.'

Chairman of the community council, Nigel Mitchell, also shared his concerns that speeds through the village are getting 'ridiculous'.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's local area roads team have been asked to erect 'road narrows' signs on the A816 at Kilmelford village. In addition, 30mph speed restriction proposals are likely to be advertised in local press and in the area around the end of September.'



Swimmers from left to right are Rob Wainwright, Lucy Heycock, Graham MacQueen, Leigh Murray, Katherine Palfrey, Chris Hitch, Martin Haddlington, Kevin McInnes, Carol Collis, Caroline Henderson and Andrew Robertson.

Marathon swim boosts charity funds

ELEVEN swimmers swam from Ardnamurchan Point to Sorisdale on the Isle of Coll in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support - then dedicated their achievement to the family of twelfth team member.

Coll woman Karen MacIntyre was all set to make the 12-mile relay swim, but had to withdraw

at the last minute after her sister Kirsty Robertson, a young mother of four, passed away in her sleep.

Local swimmers included Caroline Henderson of Breachacha Castle - while Caroline's daughter Anna helped organise the beach party to celebrate the team's safe arrival.

An evening dance also boosted funds. Caroline told *The Oban Times*: 'Not only did these fantastic people do the swim but they did it two and a half hours earlier than expected. The RNLI came to the shore during the beach party, just in time to judge the sandcastles. Donations are still coming in and we are

hoping to raise up to £5,000.' Other Coll swimmers included Andy Robertson, ex-Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright, Christopher Hitch and Katherine Palfrey.

The team's donation page is justgiving.com/macmillanatlanticcrossing and, on Facebook, MacMillan Atlantic Crossing.

Forest work rockfall fears voiced

FEARS that work to remove trees from Barcaldine Forest could cause rockfalls from Beinn Lora onto nearby homes were raised at a meeting on Monday evening.

Ardoch Community Council heard Andy Hunt, Forestry Commission Scotland's area operations manager for Argyll and Lochaber, outline plans for harvesting operations to tidy up last winter's storm damage.

Mr Hunt said approximately 1,000 tonnes of timber will be removed between October and February.

The work will require heavy plant operations and the meeting heard there had been concerns that heavy, vibrating machinery could cause problems.

People living next to the crumbly, sedimentary rock of Beinn Lora above Benderloch had already experienced small-scale rock fall after a smaller operation to remove rhododendron, the meeting heard.

Further concerns were expressed about how trees overhanging properties in Benderloch would be removed.

Community council chairwoman Margaret

Adams, who lives at the foot of Beinn Lora, said: 'When you removed the rhododendron this year my neighbour got some minor rock fall in her garden. What will happen when you take the trees away?'

Mr Hunt said: 'I can't speak for the geology of it, but we will have a specialist coming down to look at the site. If the guys do find major problems then we have to review our plans.'

Chain winches will be brought in to remove overhanging trees, he added, during which traffic restrictions will be in place.

All smiles as Alexander gets out on new bike

Oban charity buys custom-made bike for brave youngster

A YOUNG boy who has battled a series of disorders and infections is all smiles this week after a generous donation from an Oban charity allowed his family to buy him a custom-made bike.

Alexander MacLeod is a well-known face in Oban's Hyskeir Gardens where he can now be seen riding his Tomcats bike, thanks to a grant of more than £2,000 from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust.

The nine year old suffers from Acanthopomelic Displasia, an extremely rare bone disorder and a form of dwarfism that affects his cartilage and breathing and has left him deaf.

The Rockfield Primary School pupil's lungs are constrained by the lack of growth in his chest and a tracheostomy has been fitted to help him breathe.

Alexander's condition is so severe, his mother, Susan, has

By EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

had to resuscitate him and he has spent months in Yorkhill Hospital. Last year he was extremely ill after contracting swine flu, he cannot go outside when it rains or the temperature is too low and he never goes anywhere without his bag of medicines.

But despite all his limitations, Alexander has been desperate to join his friends, his brothers and his sister outside on their bikes.

Susan explained: 'Alexander's dad and I saw him one day standing watching the other children on their bikes. It broke my heart because he loves being active but he couldn't operate a standard bike. We discovered the Tomcats website and saw something that was suitable but it was going to cost us a lot of money. We were trying to figure

out a way of paying for it, when one day my friends came to the door to say they had approached the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust and that we had the money to buy the bike.'

Amanda MacPhail, who formed the trust when her son, Ryan, died in a sledding accident, visited the family last week once the bike had been delivered.

Susan told her: 'The bike has given Alexander so much joy - we can't get him off it - and we would like to thank the charity from the bottom of our hearts.'

'Alexander won't grow much more, so the bike will probably do him for as long as he needs it.'

Amanda said: 'Helping children and young people is the reason the charity exists and seeing how much Alexander enjoys his bike gives me so much pleasure.'

Illegal immigrant caught speeding

AN INDIAN man who was caught driving 14 miles above the speed limit in an Argyll village has been transferred to a detention centre to await deportation.

Sawinderjit Singh, 30, of 20 Thornycroft Lane, Wolverhampton, was stopped by police on the A85 in Lochawe on August 14 as he was travelling to Oban for work.

He initially gave a false name, followed by two false dates of

birth in order to avoid alerting police that he did not have leave to remain in the UK.

Singh, who was visibly distressed while in the dock, pled guilty to the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. The court heard he also had other false documents in his possession.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Singh a total of £300 but said it was most likely an 'academic exercise' since the UK Border

Agency were on their way to collect him. Defence agent Gordon Seaton said his client did not have funds to pay an immediate fine, adding: 'My client works in the construction industry and earns £150 per week.'

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'The accused is now an illegal immigrant and will be conveyed today to a detention centre for removal as his leave to remain expired on October 30 last year.'

Lorn Lines

A PIONEERING group in the field of dementia will visit Oban at the end of the month to share their experiences.

The Scottish Dementia Working Group, which is run by people with dementia, liaise closely with the Scottish Government and have been instrumental in shaping policy.

The group was formed in 2002 to campaign to improve services for people with dementia and improve attitudes towards them. They have spoken at conferences around the world.

The working group will be in the Congregational Hall on August 29 giving presentations and showing videos they have produced between 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

Trio listed in Good Food Guide

THREE west coast businesses are celebrating this week after being named in the Good Food Guide 2012.

The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline is one of only six new entries to the guide, joined by the Ardeonaig Hotel, near Killin, and Martin Wishart at Loch Lomond, within the Cameron House Hotel.

Meanwhile, the Airds Hotel in Port Appin celebrates its position as the longest-serving

business in the guide, earning its 37th consecutive listing, joined closely by Inverloch Castle, Fort William, which has now been listed for 30 years. Skye's Three Chimneys has now been listed for 27 years.

Now in its 62nd year, the Good Food Guide is the UK's longest running restaurant guide. It is deemed the UK's most reliable gauge of quality establishments in the UK, as it does not accept sponsorship, advertising or freebies.



Roni MacDonald works on one of his famous chainsaw carvings, this time of a fish among reeds.

THE ANNUAL exhibition from Oban Art Society starts at the end of the month with contributions from local artists taking pride of place.

The event, which runs from August 31 to September 8, will feature paintings on various media but will also include sculpture, jewellery and cards.

'Abstract' will be the theme, with competitors having to create a piece of art to be in with a chance of winning the Alba Cup, donated by Graham Fraser. One well known exhibitor is chainsaw carver Roni MacDonald of Kilmore, who, along with his wife Issy and son Chris, contributes very successfully to Oban's annual summer art show. The exhibition will be held in the Army Cadet Hall on Tweeddale Street.

IN A summer when the UK was gripped by sport, three sporting organisations in the Oban and Lorn area have benefited from council cash.

Lorn Volleyball Club, Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled and Oban and Lorn Sports Festival were all granted funding from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grants.

Lorn Volleyball Club was given £630 to help buy equipment for youths and to help with hall hire costs.

The club has been working with Active Schools and eight of its members last year gained coaching qualifications.

Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled was granted £971 towards the purchase of safety equipment.

The biennial Oban and Lorn Sports Festival, which will be held later this year, had requested £1,750 towards total project costs of £7,600 and was granted £800, pending the submission of additional documents.

Fire crews pump out pilot boat

FIRE crews were called to Stornoway harbour on Saturday night after the pilot boat began taking on water.

Their portable ejector pump took over an hour to remove the water, which had risen in the boat's bilges. Stornoway RNLI lifeboat was on hand as the 14-metre Portrona was taken alongside Number 2 pier at South Beach around 8pm. The pilot boat was later made safe until engineers attended.



Second Coxswain James Fairbairns with some young visitors.



The Stephenson brothers won a host of awards at the gardening show. Left to right: Cameron, aged 7, Struan, 8, Arran, 5, and Ruairidh, 3.

Young gardeners turn on the style at third annual show

THE THIRD annual Junior Gardening Show at Lochaber Rural Education Trust last Saturday was another great success.

The tables were covered with excellent vegetables which would have outshone exhibits at many agricultural shows this year. The United Auctions Cup was won by Banavie Primary School and the Giggles Care Cup went to Caol Nursery.

Rainbows were the theme in memory of the late Marie Maclean, Inverloch. The room was a mass of colour and first prize winners in each class received a rainbow mug.

Competition in the adult section is growing year on year and trophies were won by Sharyn Morgan, Druimarbin, and Ian MacDougall, Inverloch.



Alan Reid MP Constituency Tour Meet your local MP

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

Wednesday 29 August 2012

Colonsay - 7.00pm - 8.00pm (Colonsay Village Hall)

Thursday 30th August

Kilmelford - 11.15am - 11.45am

Ardfern - 12.15pm - 12.45pm

Kilmartin - 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Ford - 3.15pm - 3.45pm

Ardshaig - 4.45pm - 5.45pm (Ardshaig Public Hall)

Friday 31 August 2012

Glenbarr - 2.30pm - 3.00pm

Muasdale - 3.30pm - 4.00pm

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

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Dyslexia Scotland is coming to Oban on 11th September at the Corran Halls, Oban, 2-8pm

This Roadshow will raise awareness and provide information and support around dyslexia.

Around 1 in 10 people have dyslexia, which is commonly thought to be just problems with reading and writing - but people with dyslexia can often have other difficulties such as poor memory, difficulty concentrating and problems managing tasks.

Dyslexia Scotland's roadshow in Oban is a free drop in event. We will have exhibitors and resources and staff will be on hand to answer questions. People might want to know about how to get assessed for dyslexia, what sort of support should be available in schools and workplaces or maybe they want to know more about tutoring and learning opportunities.

For further details see www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk or contact Lena Gillies at lena@dyslexiascotland.org.uk



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Business community must lead the way

BATTLE-weary businesses within Oban's 30mph zone will be asked one of the most crucial questions in Oban's recent history this week when they are balloted on the BID scheme.

With a tightening of spending from UK Government level down to the family purse, there is a movement within the business community that has concluded the future prosperity of the town will only be decided by those on the front line.

As BIDS steering group member Alistair Jackson, of Jackson Bros Butchers, says: 'We are standing at a crossroads.'

His colleagues in the business community must decide whether they want to individually ride out the recession with the status quo or surrender further expenditure for the greater good.

The rest of us can only trust our business community takes the road that is best for us all.

GLASGOW LETTER

Concerts in Glasgow

AS WELL as daytime events, Piping Live has a full series of evening concerts.

This year's opening concert held in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and featured John McCusker, Mike McGoldrick and Kris Drever. Normally John Doyle plays the guitar for the trio but on this occasion Kris played his first gig with them as John was playing elsewhere.

The concert began with John McCusker setting the scene, giving details of their extensive travels before and after this concert, and from then on the concert was one of relaxed excellent music with John playing fiddle, Mike on uilleann pipes, flute and whistle while Kris played guitar and sang. John McSherry and his band played for the second half of the concert. From West Belfast, John is a world renowned uilleann piper and was at one time a member of *Lumasa* together with Mike McGoldrick and it therefore came as no surprise that Mike returned on stage to play a couple of numbers with them.

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Orain nam Piobairean

EACH year Piping Live celebrates the role of the Gaelic language with pipe music and this year the concert was billed as Orain nam Piobairean (Songs of the Pipers).

While previous Gaelic evenings have failed to attract large audiences, this event was a sell-out in the auditorium of the National Piping Centre. Those who attended were the winners as they first listened to Kathleen MacInnes and friends, on this occasion Sineag MacIntyre and Griogair Lawrie. Kathleen was in fine form and relaxed on stage with Sineag assisting with vocals and Griogair playing the fiddle, singing and also step dancing and with James and Calum, two of the best young pipers on the scene, the audience were enthralled.

Pipes and Peace

OFTEN the impression is one of total piping throughout the festival, but having a Pipes and Strings concert goes a long way to disprove that theory.

The Asturian piping group Tejedor opened the concert then Blazin' Fiddles took to the stage with their own inimitable roof raising music. With Jenna Reid and Anna Massie now part of the group and with Angus Lyon replacing

Andy Thorburn on keyboard, the band was in superb form creating an excellent rapport with the audience.

Karen Matheson and Band

AWAY from Piping Live, Karen Matheson and her band played at the Oran Mor.

This concert should have been part of the West End Festival in June but because Karen took unwell it had to be cancelled. Those who attended on the night were treated to an impromptu concert so this, for them, was a free and extra bonus. The hall was well filled and Karen was joined by husband Donald Shaw, Anna Massie, who played with Blazin' Fiddles in the concert detailed above, Jarlath Henderson, the excellent uilleann piper, guitarist James Grant and Ewan Vernal on double bass. She sang a mix of Gaelic and English songs and was joined on stage by young singer Alistair Ogilvie, one of those who came to the rescue at the previous concert for one of her songs. This was a most enjoyable evening of quality music.

Ceilidh dances

THERE is a chance to get some exercise at ceilidh dancing classes being run by An Lochran in Maryhill Community Centre on Maryhill Road.

The classes will start on Thursday September 13 from 7pm to 8.30pm and will cost £7 each or £5 if you book 10 classes in advance. For more information or to book contact stacy@anlochran.com or tel 0141 342 4119. Remember, of course, there is the opportunity to test your new found skills at the ceilidh dances with Deoch 'n Dorus in Glasgow University Union which start tomorrow evening (Friday).

Diary dates

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, Dick Gaughan.

Ceilidh Dance with Deoch 'n Dorus, Glasgow University Union, 8.30pm.

Tuesday August 28: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday August 30: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Lori Watson and Rule of Three.

Friday August 31: Acoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm, Graham Robertson

Saturday September 1: Glasgow Islay Association Senior Citizen Dinner, Crawford Hall, 7pm. Start of Renfrew Food Festival until September 16

Pub scene

Trail West are playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Eriskay Lilt playing there on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be Country Folk on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA344HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA344HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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



Ganavan Sands, Oban, in days gone by

Ann Mansfield of Dunbeg submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows Ganavan Sands, near Oban, in days gone by. 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

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www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Oban ring road vital

Sir, Robert Allan is right that Oban does not require a by-pass, Oban by-pass road a non-starter, Letters, August 16.

Almost all traffic is destined for the town, whilst a modest flow of vehicles heads to and from the ferry terminal. Very little is passing through.

The word 'by-pass' is a misnomer for the road, we're told, to our cost, has been put on the back burner.

With summer traffic flux in George Street at one vehicle every two or three seconds over eight to 10 hours a day - surely as high as anywhere in the UK - Oban needs to do something drastic if it is to maintain its attraction as a tourist destination.

It needs to remove or reduce the frustration of sitting in a traffic queue and rid itself of the current pedestrian experience of living alongside or dodging a constant stream of cars, buses and lorries - hardly an experience worth the long journey.

A park-and-ride to the north might persuade some day-trippers to leave their cars and take the bus, but it won't stop locals heading in to pick up a week's groceries, neither will it cater for tourists staying overnight at hotels and B&Bs, nor attract those who are unwilling to park their cars any distance from their destination, nor do anything for those taking ferries.

Given that most of the town's supermarkets, high school, hospital, ferry terminal, rail station, main car parks, hotels and cafes are located in the southern part of town away from the entry-point - hence the congestion - the only solution is a ring-road that syphons off traffic, leaving fewer vehicles needing to enter town from the north.

It might also offer the opportunity to pedestrianise George Street and provide the wet-weather canopy that would enhance immensely the visitor experience during those frequent rain-days.

Getting rid of the notion of a by-pass is right, but shelving the ring road that would alleviate traffic congestion is a mistake. There will be no point in making the town more attractive by upgrading its amenities, as now planned, if it becomes even more notorious as the traffic black-spot of the West Coast.

I called for this years ago. However, building the relief road is not the end of the matter. The campaign will continue for

builders merchants - all of which are south of Argyll Square.

CHORD could complement this by promoting a new access road to the railway/south piers via Millpark/coal yard lane round to the end of the gasworks to Lochavullin Road and Cranog Lane. From there vehicles could go onto the pier area via the old railway track from the old oil depot and under Airds Crescent bridge, final access being controlled by lights or a barrier at train times.

All ferry traffic could be encouraged to enter/leave port to the south.

This would have the potential to remove a large number of commercial vehicles from the Esplanade/Dunbeg corridor.

Could a start be a low cost survey of the number of commercial vehicles passing Stafford Street junction each week?

A Robertson, Barran, Kilmore.

No quick answer to west coast road problems

Sir, The recent correspondence on the continuing difficulties at the Rest and Be Thankful and Pulpit Rock prompt me to comment on the major arterial west coast roads.

A suggestion to upgrade the Old Military road surprises me. The incline at the glen top is severe and in days of old was a favourite venue for hill climbs in early cars.

How would HGVs possibly cope today without massive change and cost to the existing road?

As regards the 'Pulpit Rock' fiasco, I can recall the original road fall and so called temporary single tracking with lights. That was more than 30 years ago when bagging Munros every weekend seemed normal.

Now I am reduced to forestry walks and stiff joints.

A quick answer for permanent solutions seem far away.

John Rankin, Netherlee, Glasgow.

Lifeline route campaign continues

Sir, I'm pleased that, at long last, the SNP Government is starting work on an emergency relief road at the Rest and Be Thankful.

I called for this years ago. However, building the relief road is not the end of the matter. The campaign will continue for

to empty the bins as often as is needed in the summer!

If anyone is being misused it is those who live on Coll being let down by their council to whom they all pay a pretty penny in tax, so let's see them earning their wages. As I write this the bottle bank cannot take another bottle and isn't being emptied and the cardboard has excess cardboard stacked up beside it. It is the council which is littering by their inaction - book them!

Peter Isaacson, Isle of Coll.

End the failed methadone experiment

Sir, Heroin is an addictive opiate that destroys lives and is quite rightly illegal.

Methadone, the state sponsored legal heroin substitute is arguably an even more addictive opiate. Recently reported Government figures state that methadone has been responsible for 275 of the 584 drug related deaths in Scotland in 2011.

Twelve of the overall drug deaths this year were in Argyll and Bute including in my constituency.

Former drug addicts, including people from as varied backgrounds as the members of Calton Athletic Recovery Group in Glasgow to the comedian/actor Russell Brand argue that methadone does not work and that rehabilitation - quitting drugs via a treatment programme - is the answer.

Methadone in my view is nothing more than a state administered opiate it is like treating an alcoholic by giving them whisky instead of gin.

Indeed, Professor Russell Newcombe a drugs lecturer at Liverpool John Moore's University, has argued that because of its longer withdrawal period methadone may in fact extend addictions by years.

Methadone is a UK-wide programme which in Scotland alone consumes in excess of £33m a year of public money. The failing methadone experiment has been in place for 30 years and surely the time has long past to scrap the program and for the money to be reinvested in drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment centre.

It is time for the medical profession and the Government to put an end to the failed methadone experiment and instead invest wholeheartedly in rehabilitation and recovery programs for addicts.

Still time to protest about roundabout

Sir, Although we read in last week's *Oban Times* that Councillor Glen Lee said 'we will have the new roundabout which could lead to the new hotel complex at Dunbeg', suggesting that all was settled, the application for planning permission only appeared in *The Oban Times* of August 9.

There is, therefore, still time to protest.

How much consultation has there been? It seems unfortunate to have another roundabout on a bad bend, even if the road is slightly straightened.

If a 'well-developed Dunbeg' is important, surely new developments up the hill should be approached from the Dunbeg roundabout, thus supporting the present village services.

The plans appear to ride roughshod over the boundaries of Pennyfuir (Halfway) Cottage reducing visibility and making exit and entrance dangerous.

Fiona Hunter, Rosebank Gallery, Appin.

Coll let down by council

Sir, Regards your article 'Stop spoiling Coll says MP', Alan Reid is right about the local authority falling short in attendance to their duties regarding litter around the middle pier in Arinagour.

But perhaps he does not go far enough in his criticism.

It simply isn't good enough that 'a council spokeswoman' whinges about the bins being 'misused' and means about 'enforcement action'.

If the council has staff to take enforcement action then give them a pair of gloves and a refuse wagon and just get them

to empty the bins as often as is needed in the summer!

Fred Hall, Councillor Ward 4, Oban South and the Isles.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA BLIADHNAICHEAN A-NISE bho chualas mantra ur ioma-chànanais na h-Eòrpa a' gabhail àite na seann iomaigh dà-chànanas a bh' ann, agus ma bha comas dà chànan a bhruidhinn na bhunnachd tha fhios gum biodh barrachd luachmhor da-riribh!

Bha blaghean de chànanan far feadh an t-saoghail ri 'n cluinntinn aig port-aiseig Cheann na Creige, agus air an aiseag, is mi air mo shlighe gu ruige Ile "Ghorm an Fheadir" - ach a bharrachd air ainmeachas a thug Calmac dhi le teip a' cur fàilte oirnn bòrd, cha chuala mi Gàidhlig idir. Ach bha mi a' toirt misneachd à fhios nach robh sin idir a' ciallachadh nach robh an cànan aig cuid de na bha a' sìubhal, 's e bh' ann 's dòcha nach robh iad a' faotainn cothrom a cleachdadh.

Tha gnìomhachas turasachd air fàs air leth cudromach dha eaconamaidh Bhreatainn gu lèir agus tha e sònraichte deatamach dhan Gàidhealtachd is dha na h-Eileanan. Ri linn sin, tha sinn a' fàs cleachdte ri bhith a' cluinntinn chànanan coimheach nar measg agus bu chòir gum biodh seo a' brosnachadh Ghàidheil gus an cuid cànan fhein a chleachdadh. Fad bhliadhnaichean mòra, bha sìostaman foghlaim is eòlas beatha nan Gàidheal a' toirt a chreidsinn orra nach robh luach neo inbhe aig Gàidhlig agus gun robh a bhith ga cleachdadh a' nochdadh iochdaranachd air dhòigh air choreigin. Bha naire air cuid den òigridh a bhith air an cluinntinn a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig! Taing do Dhia gum bheil na làithean sin seachad agus gum bheil daoine òga a' gabhail spèis às ùr nan cànan 's nan dualchas agus mar phàirt den sin, gum bheil iad a' gabhail moit nan comas a bhith ga cleachdadh. Dha cuid de na daoine as sine chan eil e idir cho furasta nan seann draghan agus chleachdaidhean a chur an dàrna taobh agus ged a chi is a chluinneas iadsan Gàidhlig am measg an òigridh, tha bacadh air choreigin orra fhein ann a bhith ga cur gu feum. Tha sin tàmaidteach oir tha feum aig Gàidhlig air a h-uile duine dhan urrainn a chleachdadh sin a dhèanamh cho bheatha 's a ghabhas ach am bi barrachd is barrachd eile air am brosnachadh a bhith ga h-ionnsachadh. Cha robh dileab riamh cho mòr an urra ris na daoine d' am buin i!

Meal-an-naidheachd air Ionad Chalum Chille Ile is e air deich bliadhna leasachaidh a chur às a dhèidh. Tha e air togail a thoirt air inbhe agus aithne na Gàidhlig na eilean fhein, agus cuideachd air mòr-thìr Earra-Ghàidheal, agus tha mi a' guidhe gach soirbheachadh dha thar iomadh bliadhna rohainn!

CONGRATULATIONS to Ionad Chalum Chille Ile (ICCI) on its tenth anniversary and for all it has done over the decade to raise awareness of Gaelic and to promote it in Islay and throughout Argyll.

The revival of Gaelic depends on growing numbers learning it and using it. ICCI's success will be aided by the continuing and growing support of the Islay community.

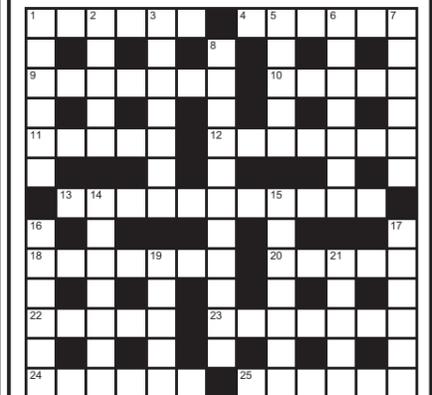
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Something wanted but not needed (6)
 - 4 Country song (6)
 - 9 Scene (7)
 - 10 Unfashionable (5)
 - 11 Ill-gotten gains (5)
 - 12 A sniffer? (7)
 - 13 The part not present in an incomplete series (7,4)
 - 18 Retreat (7)
 - 20 If heavy this is so-called music! (5)
 - 22 Be theatrical (5)
 - 23 Stand up and give your side of events (7)
 - 24 Remove a barrister's privileges (6)
 - 25 One which gives off gases or inhales them by intent (6)
- Down**
- 1 Wee (6)
 - 2 A vessel, formally used by pirates (5)
 - 3 Burnishing machines (7)
 - 5 Directory contents (5)
 - 6 Unqualified success (4,3)
 - 7 Insect probably able to soar! (6)
 - 8 One with another in the same campaign (7,4)
 - 14 Relating to fire (7)
 - 15 Money given all at once (4,3)
 - 16 Go up (6)
 - 17 Cast member (6)
 - 19 The eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
 - 21 Con (5)

Last week's solution

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

Times Diary

AN OBAN school recently received a signed cookbook from Clarence House as a thank you for all their hard work in cooking for the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Pupils at St Columba's Primary School will be trying out new recipes including staples such as cauliflower cheese, fishcakes and chicken and mushroom pie. But inevitably in a recipe book by Camilla's son, Tom Parker Bowles, there are some dishes that may not be so suitable - or affordable - for making in the classroom. He also suggests an array of cocktails to go with baked potatoes and caviar, rabbit and cider casserole and braised ox cheeks.



The new P7 pupils at St Columba's plan to try out some of the more traditional recipes. 16_134cookbook01

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Macaulay Cup damaged during celebrations

THERE WAS more than a few sore heads in Drumnadrochit on Monday morning after the village's shinty team won their first ever senior trophy.

Drum was a ghost town on Saturday as busloads of fans headed to south to watch Glenurquhart crush Oban Camanachd 6-0 in the Artemis Macaulay Cup final.

Chloe MacDonald, whose brother Arran played in the game, travelled to watch the game. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was such a good atmosphere at the game. And there was a great reception for the boys when they got back to the village. Everyone went outside to cheer them when they arrived.'

'I've seen a few pictures of them still celebrating. I think they all booked the Monday off work just in case they won!'

However, the celebrations were dampened when the trophy was damaged in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Glenurquhart co-manager Drew McNeill said the incident had tarnished the cup win.

He said: 'It's taken the shine off a good performance and a great day. Instead of people focussing on how we played they'll remember it as the year the cup got damaged.'

'It wasn't anything malicious, it was just stupidity. It was slightly bent and someone tried to straighten it out.'

'The first people who should have been told were the Macaulay Association, but it was handled badly.'

For the Macaulay Association's reaction, see page 7.



June and David Boyter from Kinlochleven, front centre and right, with their An Fir Dileas comrades at the Glenfinnan Games.

Battle group step back in time at Glenfinnan

JACOBITE battle re-enactment group An Fir Dileas (The Loyal Men) added to the sense of history at Glenfinnan Games on Saturday as an estimated 2,000 people flocked to the scenic Loch Shiel-side location next to the Glenfinnan Monument.

The group's Jacobite banners, period costumes and weapons

proved a big hit with the crowd at the annual event, which prides itself on retaining its traditions and heritage.

Two An Fir Dileas members, husband and wife David and June Boyter, hail from Kinlochleven.

Ms Boyter told *The Oban Times* on the field: 'It's all about trying to keep the Scottish tradition

alive - we are modern day Jacobites. It's important to keep out heritage and not forget.'

Games field manager Alastair Gibson paid tribute to local man Ronnie MacKellaig, who has spent 65 of his 84 years helping to run Glenfinnan's biggest day of the year.

Mr Gibson said: 'What

Ronnie has done will never be repeated.'

An Fir Dileas marched to Highbridge at Spean Bridge from the Commando Memorial on Sunday to commemorate the opening skirmish of the 1745 Jacobite uprising.

See our Glenfinnan Games photonews special, page 4.

New school Caol bound

AN ELEVENTH hour challenge to a recommendation to build Fort William's new Gaelic primary school in Caol will be made in Inverness today amid a furious row over costs.

Highland Council had originally identified the Blar Mhor as its preferred site for the £4million school.

But in a report to today's adult and children's services committee, figures show peat removal at the Blar would make it £900,000 more costly to develop than the new preferred site, the former BMX track on Ardgor Road in Caol.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson and Councillor Eddie Hunter hotly dispute those figures - and will ask for a deferral until more accurate costings are produced.

Councillor Henderson said Ardgor Road was 'perfect' for much needed affordable housing - and said the new school should go on the Blar, next Lochaber High School. He said: 'We are acting with undue haste. If we could wait another six weeks

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

to get real costings [on peat removal] then we would have a Gaelic school for the next 60 years.

'Parents with children in Gaelic medium education are absolutely furious about this decision.'

'They were consulted to death on the new Gaelic school in Fort William and now find their choice has been ignored on the grounds of cost before test bores and accurate costings have been made. The administration could save face by listening to the Gaelic parents. They will be left with 10 acres of peat and no exit strategy.'

But Councillor Bill Clark strongly rejected suggestions costings for the Blar site had been based on incomplete test bore data. He said: 'The facts and full figures submitted by the director and officers can now be debated and a decision taken - and the decision will be to locate the Gaelic school on Ardgor Road. There have

been allegations that these are 'table top' figures, which is completely and utterly untrue. All the work that was carried out on the Blar and Ardgor Road was carried out by professionals and those who would want to bring discredit on these figures are stepping out of line.'

He added: 'Given the current economic climate it is a major achievement to be getting a new Gaelic school built in Fort William in the first place.'

Fiona Byrne, chair of Fort William Gaelic parents group Comann nam Pàrant a' Ghearsdain, backed the Blar site.

She said: 'We, as parents, feel our views and opinions on the preferred site are being ignored.'

She added: 'This is an opportunity to build a flagship school, a central hub for the Gaelic community, but some councillors do not appreciate or understand the importance of this, regardless of the fact we live in the central Highlands, with Gaelic an integral part of our heritage and culture.'

Paralympic torch at Ben Nevis

BEN Nevis will see one of four Paralympics torches being lit around the UK this weekend.

The flames are being created at each of the four highest peaks in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

The Lochaber torch will be lit by a group of local young disabled people and scouts on Sunday.

It will then be taken to Edinburgh for a ceremony on the same day before making its way to the Games' opening celebrations.

Council to ask public where it should make budget cuts

HIGHLAND Council is to ask the public where it should make budget savings for the second time in two years.

The council faces a £30 million funding shortfall up to April 2015 - and this week launched a two-month public consultation on ways to plug the hole.

A series of ward forums and briefing events with business, voluntary and specialist groups are planned across the region before October 19.

Staff, trade unions and the council's Citizen Panel of 2,300 residents will also contribute.

The aim is to bring a report to the full council in December and agree the budget for 2013/14

and 2014/15 in February of next year.

Savings needed in 2013/14 and 2014/15 total £29.7 million. Of that, savings of £17.8 million have been proposed, leaving a gap of £11.9 million.

The public will be asked to comment on four main areas of operation including education - cutting the primary school day is one option being mooted - ways of working, infrastructure and resources, and the environment.

The move follows a similar exercise in 2010, which council leader Drew Hendry described as 'invaluable' in helping to save £55million.

He added: 'The financial

environment looks challenging even beyond the next two financial years so the consultation will also assist in our longer term budget planning.'

Finance, housing and resources committee chairman Dave Fallows will head the consultation and will attend the public forums.

He will also run a budget blog on the council's web site, which will be launched on Monday. Each week, he will introduce a new subject for discussion, starting with education.

The public can also access the budget information and comment online via the council's home page at www.highland.gov.uk.

Book is oil on troubled waters

TRADITIONAL local fishing knowledge could help the Scottish Government meet commitments to biodiversity, according to new research by the Scottish Crofting Federation and the Scottish Association of Marine Science.

Authors, SCF researcher Iain MacKinnon and SAMS' Ruth Brennan say their work, 'Dùthchas na Mara' ('Belonging to the Sea'), could improve relations between bodies such

as Scottish Natural Heritage and local people. Mr MacKinnon and Ms Brennan told *The Oban Times*: 'We believe [the book] has the potential to connect different ways of understanding the marine environment that are held by islanders and government agencies and that finding a place for each of these ways of understanding within the other could give rise to a richer way of knowing and connecting to the sea.'

The report follows SNH consultations on controversial plans to create special areas of conservation at East Mungulay and Sound of Barra - a move fiercely opposed locally.

David MacLennan of SNH said: 'It is clear future management of these areas - if they proceed to designation - can only be delivered with input from the local communities and stakeholders.' The book was launched in Castlebay last Wednesday.

Traffic tailbacks top agenda

TAILBACKS at the Inverloch traffic lights on the A82 are to be discussed at a meeting of the Fort William Traffic Congestion steering group next month.

Since Transport Scotland upgraded the junction last year there has been frequent hold-ups at peak times, with locals complaining the lights automatically

stop the flow of traffic on the A82 when vehicles approach from the Inverloch exit.

Group chairman Brain Murphy told *The Oban Times* the issue will be the top item on the agenda on September 4.

He said: 'I've been inundated with complaints about these lights. No matter what Transport

Scotland tells us, they do not work.'

'They favour traffic coming into and out of Inverloch to the effect traffic on the main road is often backed up all the way to the bypass.'

'The trunk road traffic needs to be kept moving, especially at this time of year.'


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KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust (KCT) and Kinlochleven Community Council have submitted a joint request to Highland Council to have the vacant public toilets in the village transferred to community ownership.

Meanwhile, KCT is investigating the cost of refurbishment and looking at potential funding sources so the toilets can be re-opened.

A KCT spokesperson said: 'Hopefully, this time next year we will have our own toilets, run by the community for the benefit of everyone.'

BRIDGE OF ORCHY

A GROUP that plans to run a horticulture project in Bridge of Orchy was the main beneficiary of council funding, in the latest round of Third Sector Grants in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Bridge of Orchy Community Association received its requested amount of £1,050, which is half the cost of setting up the project.

The newly-formed association requested the grant to help them brighten up the village, making it more welcoming for West Highland Way walkers and to generate income from plant sales.

RIVER LEVEN

A 1.5KM interpretation trail along the banks of the River Leven is being developed by Lochaber Fisheries Trust.

Information panels and artworks describing the salmon lifecycle and the role that fishing and the river have played in the local culture and economy will be the main focus.

The trail will mostly be along existing tracks.

A disabled access picnic site has also been created. Sculptures, marker posts and designs for interpretation signs will be produced through workshops with local school children and adults.

ARDNAMURCHAN

PUPILS at Ardnarmurchan High School have been praised for achieving strong Standard Grade and Higher results.

Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig said many youngsters in S4, S5 and S6 had improved on last year's results and were above the Highland average.

He said: 'Congratulations to our pupils for their achievements.'

'All pupils showed real improvement and that their hard work since the prelims paid off.'

PLOCKTON

DORNIE lad Aedan MacRae has been chosen as Plockton High School's head boy for session 2012-13.

Head girl will be Nicola Goldmann from Dundee, who is a student at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton.

Both achieved five Higher passes this year.



Top in Scotland: Staffin P4-7 Gaelic medium children won £1,000.

Pupils win £1,000 in rainforest competition

STAFFIN Primary School P4-7 Gaelic medium pupils were awarded first prize and £1,000 as Scottish winners of the Sky Rainforest Rescue Challenge competition.

The challenge, led by the

STAFFIN

World Wildlife Fund, is part of a three-year project to save a billion trees in the Amazon rainforest and tackle climate

change. Schools explored rainforests online and discovered how the food they eat, products they buy and energy they use affects the rainforests, and what they can do about it.

Staffin head teacher Margaret

Nicolson said: 'The school community and I are so proud of how well the children have done. They and their teacher worked diligently for this. The skills they acquired will be useful to them all.'



Local children enjoyed their mir mathain in Glen Nevis.

CHILDREN and their relatives gathered for a 'mir mathain' - or teddy bears' picnic - in Glen Nevis recently.

With help from Highland Council countryside ranger Michelle Melville, children took part in pond-dipping, where they had a great time identifying different species they collected in their nets

GLEN NEVIS

and hunted for mini-beasts. Organised by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the picnic gave youngsters an opportunity to participate in Gaelic activities outwith a formal setting.

It was evident they all enjoyed fishing for ceann-phollain

- tadpoles - and digging for boateagan - worms. The children then enjoyed a picnic with their teddy bears and Glen Nevis even provided great weather - albeit with a midge or two!

Anyone wishing information on Gaelic Early Years activities in the area can contact Joanne McHale on 07557 481075 or email joanne@gaidhlig.org.uk.

CANNA



Margaret Bennett and her group at the 'luaidh'.

THE SECOND Fèis Chanaidh - The Canna Fèis - proved just as successful as the first with performances, workshops, story telling and the language and culture of the Gael very much to the fore.

Funded by Creative Scotland for the next two years, the event is growing in popularity and those taking part were treated to a fantastic week of events rounded off by a family ceilidh hosted by the Canna Community.

Making the Canna Struthan - a traditional bannock made for Michaelmass

- started off the week with local resident Winnie MacKinnon demonstrating and Mairi MacInnes from South Uist describing the tradition.

Bill Innes from South Uist hosted a wonderful talk on the island's 20th century poets followed by an excellent taigh ceilidh where stories of his childhood days were mixed with his island pilot escapades.

The delightful Margaret Bennett hosted wonderful talks and workshops on the Canna emigrations to Canada and spinning and dyeing sessions where the tradition of the 'luaidh' - fulling the cloth - was shown to the delight of all who attended and took part in her walking songs.

Local resident Julie McCabe had the children and adults collecting natural products to dye home spun wool and provided spinning, knitting and weaving sessions for everyone to take part in.

Each day started and finished with Gaelic lessons from South Uist's Katie Mary MacIntosh. As well as the workshops, there were local history walks and a croft and farmland walk hosted by Geraldine MacKinnon. Canna House tours were also a highlight with some of the Canna collection of Gaelic folklore and songs collected by Dr John Lorne Campbell and his wife Margaret on display.

The week finished with the main ceilidh which was attended by more than 150 people from Fort William, Lochaber, Mallaig, Elgol, the Uists, Eriskay and Barra prominent among them.

GLENGARRY

THE RECENT Glengarry Flower Festival held the in parish church, and featured in The Oban Times, raised £1,000 from generous donations by visitors from near and far.

Comments in the visitor book, still available in church for all to read, were glowing in their praise of the beautiful displays.

Home baking served by the refreshment team throughout the four-day festival also scored top marks.

Organisers thanked all those who helped put up the shelving for the arrangements, the structure for clean water for Africa, the freshly dug sod for the croft, the signs and all the advertising.

GREENFINGERED

Glen Garry residents are looking forward to displaying the results of their year's labours at the annual Glengarry Produce Show next Saturday, September 1.

Competition sections include vegetables, flowers, home baking, photography, arts and crafts and junior classes (primary and high school).

All entries should be brought to the venue between 8.30 and 10.30am on the morning of the show. Entries must be exhibited by 11am. Doors open to the public at 1pm. The prizegiving is at 2.30pm.

Schedules are available from Gayle Rand on 01809 501449.

The Canna Community would like to thank Ceòlas Uibhinn for their help in making it a success and in particular Mary Schmolter for all her hard work, the National Trust for Scotland, Caledonian Mac-Brayne and local restaurant the Gille Brighde for their sponsorship.

Lastly, thanks to Charlie MacKinnon from Fort William for arranging the Saturday numbers and to all who attended. Here's to next year's!

ABERFELDY

NEW VISITOR facilities created by the National Trust for Scotland are now open to the public at Ben Lawers nature reserve near Aberfeldy.

New unmanned outdoor interpretation has also been created to tell the unique stories of the reserve and remind visitors to think about the significance of the site. Visitors can now experience the new low key facility all year round. They will also be able to enjoy new paths from the car park to the low and high level walks on the reserve. The conservation at Ben Lawers also includes pioneering work to restore threatened plant communities, footpath work and an annual programme of guided walks and educational work.

The Ben Lawers reserve has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1950. It is a site of special scientific interest and a special area of conservation under the European habitats directive for the exceptional examples of a number of habitats, rare on a European scale.

Down Your Way

Ullapool

ULLAPOOL bay has been home to a wide range of sealife during the warm summer, with dolphins, minke whales, killer whales and porpoises all spotted.

Passengers on board the *Summer Queen* boat trip have been fortunate to see the animals up close.

Boat operator Noel Hawkins told *The Oban Times*: 'We've seen so many dolphins with babies this year, it's been really good. The number are definitely up on last year.'

'We've seen two sea eagles as well. We think they are breeding in the area. We've not found a nesting site yet but we're pretty sure we've seen a third. There's been an osprey sighted seven times, as well as a Red Kite and kestrels.'



Dolphins have been a regular feature in Ullapool bay this summer.

A TEAM of lightning fast Ullapool High School pupils will travel to England in October to take on youngsters from around the country in the Secondary F24 Greenpower electric car challenge.

And another team of Ullapool hopefuls have still got a chance of qualifying.

The engineering competition challenges the youngsters to design, build and race electric cars.

The Ullapool team booked its place at the recent Scottish qualifying event in Alford. The teams compete in a four-hour endurance race relying on a maximum of four batteries, with 500 schools around the UK entering.

The national final will be held at Goodwood on Sunday October 14.

ULLAPOOL is playing host to two major art exhibitions inspired by the sea, which will be on display for the next two weeks.

More than 200 hundred artists have contributed small pieces inspired by the sea to 'Mara', which is being shown alongside 'Where Two Tides Meet' by Edinburgh artist Fiona Hutchison.

'Mara (Gaelic for Sea) is an exhibition of more than 200 small pieces of work inspired by the sea, and will be raising funds for the community-run art centre. The pieces of artwork will be available for the public to purchase.

As well as professional artists' contributions, Mara will also feature work from open workshops held in Achiltibuie and Ullapool recently.

Fiona Hutchison has put together an exhibition of woven tapestry, stitched paper and glass to create a work which aims to capture the power and beauty of the sea.

The exhibitions opened last Saturday at An Talla Solais and will run until Friday September 7.



Will MacLean's mirrored fish feature in the 'Mara' exhibition.

ULLAPOOL Community Company has received £30,000 funding as plans for a woodfuel business in the town gather pace.

The money has been used to appoint Sian Curley as business implementation manager for the Lochbroom Woodfuels project. The not-for-profit company will be based at Morefield Industrial Estate and aims to become a financially sustainable social enterprise supplying logs, and potentially other biomass products, to local people.

The grant was awarded by Village SOS, a Big Lottery Fund initiative.

Community development officer Ewan Young told *The Oban Times* the company will be 'quite valuable' for the local community.

He said: 'There's an urgent need for wood locally. We've had plenty of calls from people looking for wood. 'This will provide an affordable product and a reliable and consistent supply.'

ULLAPOOL youngsters have been praised for achieving some of the best exam results seen in the Highlands.

Sixty-eight per cent of S4 pupils gained five or more credits in standard grade - the best in the region.

Three S5 pupils - Eachann Blair, Shona Warwick and Ruth Hamilton - managed five 'A's in Highers, while Anna MacLeod gained six 'A's.

Head teacher Peter Harrison said: 'Such excellent results are achieved, of course, by good subject teaching and examination preparation along with a willingness of all to build an ethos of excellence and mutual support.'

'The willingness of such a high proportion of pupils to work hard and the support of parents and the community in general all make such achievements possible.'

Next week Down Your Way visits Kilninver and the Isle of Seil with Faith Orr. You can contact Faith on 01631 568000 or forr@obantimes.co.uk.

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LUING

LUING Horticultural Society hosted its first Open Gardens Afternoon recently, with a lot of visitors coming to admire the gardens.

Phil Robertson, Brian Heaton, Pete and Paula Roberts, Denise Cowley and Watson Young opened their beautiful gardens to the public.

The event, in Tobernoch, took place on August 4 and raised £205 in donations for Luing Horticultural Society.

One visitor even remarked that the gardens were better and more colourful than the show gardens she had seen at the Chelsea Flower Show. The society's annual show of flowers, vegetables, baking and preserves on Saturday August 11 was also well supported with particularly strong entries in roses, dahlias, mixed herbs, potatoes, sponge cakes and bread.

Mary Whitmore judged the baking, preserves and junior entries, and John Grieve judged the flowers and vegetables.

Phil Robertson won the MacKenzie Flower Cup for most points for flowers and the Scottish Slate Industries Cup for most points for flowers and vegetables.

The Vegetable Cup for most points for vegetables was won by Birgit Whitmore, who also won the Helen Cadzow Trophy for baking and preserves overall and a Best in Show Rosette for her brown bread rolls made by hand.

Julia Shuff won a Best in Show Rosette for her vase of mixed flowers and was runner-up overall for flowers.

LUING's first open gardens afternoon was voted a success.

Fergus Ritchie won the Neil Galbraith Junior Trophy for most points overall and the Kay Smith Cup for artwork for under 12s.

Tullis Ross won the Junior Medal for most points overall for under 18s and Hazel Cruickshanks won the Kay Smith Medal for under 18s artwork.

The proceeds of the auction of produce, which was conducted by Richard Shuff, will be shared by the Luing Play Park Group and the North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme.

A previous garden fund-raising event, held by Jane MacLachlan, raised £457 for Luing History Group.

Cullipool Hall has seen plenty of activity over the summer with weekly beetle drives and a well-attended family ceilidh and dance by the talented young traditional musicians of Cèilidhean air Chuaire.

It also hosted a workshop led by the director and producer of the *We Are Northern Lights* documentary film project which invited everyone to contribute to a feature film about Scotland past, present and future.

Megan Cruickshanks and Norman Bissell made short films about Luing which can be seen on the organisation's website and YouTube. Norman also shared a best ambassador award for the project.

ISLE of Luing Community Trust has raised more than £5,000 to be put towards the cost of its Atlantic Islands Centre project.

The money was collected from donations, fund-raising events and 'buy-a-slate' donations from residents and visitors.

The trust previously received £754,910 towards the project and continues fund raising.

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Tributes paid to former leisure centre manager

LOCHABER is mourning the loss of popular former leisure centre manager Graham Brooks, who died in his Roy Bridge home last Friday.

The 59-year-old was a well-known figure around the town, having worked with his partner Doris McSevenie at the centre since it opened in 1973.

The pair were instrumental in organising numerous successful swimming galas and aqua-shows and launched Lochaber's first life-saving club.

Mr Brooks received national recognition for his coaching ability before they both retired in 2010.

Doris passed away in early 2011.

Away from his work Mr Brooks was a stalwart of Lochaber Athletic Club and was a regular competitor in the annual Ben Nevis Race.

Local councillor Eddie Hunter paid tribute to Mr Brooks.

He said: 'It is a sad, sad day



Graham Brooks.

and a big loss for the people of Lochaber. Graham will always be remembered for all his hard work at the leisure centre, especially with teaching the children to swim.'

Police confirmed there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr Brooks' death, and said a report would be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Children's care home go-ahead

A NEW children's residential care home is to be situated in Fort William after plans were given the go-ahead by councillors.

Belfast-based Keys Childcare applied for permission to turn the former residential home at Camaghael into a home for up to six young people.

Despite objections from some neighbours, Highland Council's south planning applications committee voted in favour of the plans on Tuesday.

The detached house 'Birchwood' and an adjoining self-contained unit will be used to help and support local young

people in preparation for semi-independent living or to return to their own family.

Local councillors Thomas MacLennan, Andrew Baxter and Bill Clark voted in favour of the application, which planners had recommended for approval.

Councillor Clark said some of the objections had been 'extreme'.

He said: 'The children find themselves in this position through no fault of their own.'

Objections to the proposal were entered by 10 residents of Camaghael and neighbouring Banavie, with one saying the home would be 'a miniature young offenders institution'.

Handbags stolen after car break-ins

TWO CARS were broken into and handbags stolen from inside within three hours on Thursday, August 16.

Smashed

The window of a silver Vauxhall Corsa parked at Old Inverloch Castle was smashed and the handbag taken between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.

An Audi A3 parked at Glenceo

Visitor Centre also had a window smashed with a handbag taken between 5.40pm and 6pm.

Any person with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702 361.

Alternatively, contact the confidential line 01397 702 000, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Drink-drive dentist had two children in her car

Sheriff bans woman from road after hearing 'compelling' Crown evidence



Samantha McKay drove erratically on the A830 with children in her car.

A FORT William dentist who repeatedly veered across the A830 at Banavie with two children in her car forcing other vehicles to swerve out her way has been banned from driving.

Samantha McKay pulled off the main road only to come to a stop yards away in the middle of Kilmallie Road in Caol just before police arrived.

Shocked local woman Catherine Sanderson came across McKay and had to help her move the car to a nearby bus stop.

In her evidence to Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday, Mrs Sanderson said McKay could not put on the hand brake or use her mobile phone.

Mrs Sanderson and two police officers also testified that McKay smelled strongly of alcohol and was incoherent at the time, around 4pm on Tuesday, May 22.

McKay failed to blow into the roadside breathalyser and found it difficult to even put her lips round the mouthpiece.

Mrs Sanderson said: 'I leaned into the car to help her and got a whiff of alcohol, so I took the keys.'

Police Constable Colin Marshall said: 'Her speech was slurred, there was a strong smell of alcohol and she was unable to hold a normal conversation.'

'She struggled to walk to the police car and then made a feeble effort to blow into the device.'

McKay was taken to Fort William Police Station where she again was unable to provide breath specimens despite repeated attempts.

Scotland Transerv employee Duncan Crilly called police after seeing McKay veering across the road between Corpach and the Banavie swing bridge.

Mr Crilly told the court: 'She was weaving from the kerb to the centre line. She encroached

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

a couple of times into the other carriageway and a couple of on-coming vehicles had to swerve to avoid her.

'It appeared she clipped the corner of the bridge, swerved out and narrowly missed a delivery van.'

McKay, who works at Fort William Health Centre, claimed she only had one glass of wine at lunchtime and was not drunk. The 36-year-old blamed her odd behaviour and failure to take the tests on a panic attack.

She said: 'It came on all of a sudden. My vision goes, there was pounding in my ears, my heart was racing.'

'I just shut down. I did co-operate with them but I felt unable to do what they asked.'

She said her poor driving was caused by trying to separate a fight between the children in her car.

Fiscal Andrew Laing told McKay: 'I think you are in denial. You didn't have a single glass of wine, you had several. These are the symptoms of a person who had been drinking too much, not the symptoms of a person having a panic attack.'

Finding McKay guilty, Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist said: 'The Crown case was compelling, and the evidence from Mrs McKay was simply not credible.'

Sentencing was deferred until August 29 for reports, with McKay disqualified from driving in the meantime.

McKay, of Tias, Tomonie, was previously banned from driving for one year after drink driving on the A9 near Perth in 2009. She admitted downing a bottle of wine while driving from Aberdeen to Glasgow, and crashing into nearly 70 posts in the central reservation.

Tourist caught with knife in handbag

A TOURIST was caught driving in Spean Bridge with a knife in her handbag.

Nicola Evans had just started a week long stay in Roy Bridge Lodge with her husband when police pulled their car over on the A82 on August 14.

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose said the 43-year-old ran a craft company and used the lock knife to create miniature wooden dolls and had forgotten the blade was in her bag.

Appearing from custody last Wednesday, Evans, of 110 Mansfield Road, Selston, Nottingham, admitted having the knife without reasonable excuse or lawful authority.

Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist fined Evans £200 and confiscated the knife.

Shinty players get Scotland call-up

FIVE Glengarry shinty players have been selected to represent Scotland for the women's team's trip to Ireland in October.

Annie Butterworth, Karen Cameron, Laura Gallacher, Joanne Gillanders and Elaine Wink are all named in the 20-strong squad.

Skye's Lorna Macrae was also selected for the first time, while her teammate Jenna Beaton and Lochaber's Kathleen Cameron are on the reserve list.

Royal Bank denies Fort William branch closure

THE ROYAL Bank of Scotland has denied it is set to close its Fort William branch.

Rumours had circulated the town that RBS was considering shutting down the High Street branch, but an RBS spokesperson told The Oban Times there were 'no plans to close'.

The bailed-out bank closed more than 40 branches around the UK in 2011.

Skye food trio on awards shortlist

THREE top Skye eateries feature among 44 finalists in this year's Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards finalists announced this week.

The Red Roof Café Gallery in Glendale is nominated in three categories - best other eatery, environment award and new business.

Creelers of Skye in Harrapool and The Glenview in Staffin are up for restaurant of the year, where they face stiff competition from Isle of Eriska Hotel, Kylesku Hotel, Summer Isle Hotel, Baltasound Hotel in Shetland and The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline.

Elsewhere, Roy Bridge-based Great Glen Game is nominated in the best marketing initiative category.

Kinloch powers ahead with hydroelectric plan

A LOCHABER village famed for its industrial heritage is a step closer to generating its own hydroelectric power.

Kinlochleven Community Trust is advertising for consultants to work up plans for a 100kw hydroelectric scheme on the Allt a' Chumhainn, a fast-flowing burn between the village and Loch Eilde Mor.

The experts will be charged with identifying potential funders for the £540,000 project and providing technical advice.

Early estimates show the hydro plant could generate around £80,000 annually to fund local projects.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The cash would be a major boost for the trust, which admits it 'faces considerable financial challenges to survive and to continue the regeneration of Kinlochleven'.

Now community directors are keen to use water to power their efforts just as industrial pioneers did over a century ago.

KCT chairman Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times*: 'We have the backing of Rio Tinto Alcan for this scheme, who are providing behind the scenes advice

and support. They know that the £70-£80,000 generated every year by the scheme would make a big difference to the village. It would allow us to carry out bigger environmental tourism based projects without always depending on outside funding.'

Moira Hartley, the trust's development officer, added: 'It's a big project to manage and we are several years away from the first spin of the turbine but this is an important stage towards completion.'

A public meeting in Kinlochleven to discuss the consultant's report has been provisionally set for December 11.

The village's aluminium smelter closed in 2000, dealing a devastating blow to the local economy. The turbine hall built to power the whole village and smelter is still working, producing huge revenues for Rio Tinto Alcan.

Alcan handed over ownership of several properties and 75 acres of land to the community to soften the blow.

Tourism has grown since then, but in its tender brief to consultants the trust accepts it has become 'too reliant' on rental income and needs to develop new income streams.

It adds: 'KCT is keen to seek all opportunities for any renewable energy project that would have community ownership or part ownership. Any such scheme could bring an increased sense of control but more importantly a regular income stream for economic and community benefits.'

'Kinlochleven community has been conscious of the loss of their own power and there is a strong desire to make use once again of the local generation capacity for their own benefit and as part of the move towards village sustainability.'

A Rio Tinto Alcan spokesperson said: 'We have been working with KCT for some time on this project. We are fully supportive of their aims to construct and run a small hydro scheme, and will aid them where we can in order for them to meet their goal.'

30-stone bear's mission 'impawisible'



Woodcarver Gary Shand hands over the giant bear to Gladys and Jimmy Johnston at Sunart and District Show.

A GIANT wooden bear is marooned in Ardour - awaiting a lift over the Corran Ferry and on to its new home at Spean Bridge. Jimmy and Gladys Johnston, who live in the village, won the six-foot high, 30-stone beast at the recent Sunart and District Show at Strontian - where it was top prize in the raffle.

Wood carver Gary Shand from Huntly fashioned the animal as hundreds of spectators looked on - with those buying tickets all wondering how they would get it home if they won.

And when Jimmy's £1 ticket was announced as the winner, the Lochaber couple couldn't believe it.

Gladys told *The Oban Times*: 'Jimmy asked me what I was going to call it and I said wait a minute - the thing's not home yet!'

'Johnnie Boyd took it up to his house at Keil Farm in his tractor but it's still sitting there. We were told at the show a way would be found to deliver it. How are we supposed to lift this thing - it weighs a ton!'



Hydro electric piping down to the power house at Kinlochleven.

Morvern group hosts a weekend of Shakespeare

'ALL the world's a stage', wrote Shakespeare - including, apparently, Achnaha Woodlands in Morvern.

The forest provided an unusual backdrop for a community performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' last Saturday and Sunday.

The Morvern Community Woodlands production saw performers lead the audience on a meandering path, with scenes set at different points among the trees. Around 85 people came to see the production over the two days.

Director Veronique Walraven said: 'The spectators had to walk through the forest to see the whole story. So, dress code was not high heels and formal wear but hiking boots and midge hats.'

Tourism group plans bigger and better march

THE ORGANISERS of a Jacobite march to the historic High Bridge over the River Spean last Sunday are hoping to make the annual event bigger than ever next year.

Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism marketing group organised the march to mark the anniversary of the first skirmish of the August 1745 rising for the second year in a row.

Spokesman Peter Wilson told *The Oban Times* a big expansion of the day was planned for 2013. He said: 'It will become a proper annual event and will hopefully be much bigger eventually. We were hoping to get a grant from some re-enactment groups this year, it was too expensive to do ourselves. We'll put in another application for next year. There would be a large number of people involved in re-enacting a battle. There wouldn't be enough room down at the bridge so we're thinking about holding it at Achaderry Estate in Roy Bridge.'

The group marched to the bridge from the Commando memorial where Terry Innes, brother of the clan chief Colin Innes, made a speech recalling the bravery of 11 Jacobite troops and a piper who tricked two parties of government troops into fleeing in 1745. Meanwhile, the nearby villages Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge flew the red and white Jacobite Standard, still technically outlawed as the law banning it has never been repealed.

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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.

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.

We are now closed for entries. Votes remain open for every weekly round until we announce the voting deadline. See foot of page for details

 071 Morgan Cocker Spaniel Stornoway	 072 Muffin Cocker Spaniel Lochgilphead	 073 Alfie King Charles Cavalier Spaniel Fort William	 074 Boo Lionhead Rabbit Dalmaly	 075 Candice Guinea Pig Duror	 076 Guinness Horse Duror	 077 Nikee Collie Spaniel Cross Oban
 078 Gucci Cat Isle of Lewis	 079 Jake Border Collie Oban	 080 Nipper Ferret Oban	 081 Lucy Golden Retriever Kilmelford	 082 Mini T Border Collie Appin	 083 Jenson Rhodesian Ridgeback Inveraray	 084 Gigha Berger de Picard West Lothian
 085 Snowball French Bulldog Taynuilt	 086 Mal Malein Springer Flat Coat Retriever Cross Isle of Islay	 087 Jess German Wirehaired Pointer Dalmaly	 088 Mac West Highland Terrier Dalmaly	 089 Lupin Domestic Short Hair Cat Dalmaly	 090 Merlin Northern Inuit Arisaig	 091 Max Pure Breed English Springer Spaniel Isle of Mull
 092 Rascal Collie Labrador Cross Oban	 093 Beany Cava-poo Oban	 094 Maowse Persian Cat Oban	 095 Molly & Ruby Scottie and Westie Tayvallich	 096 Woody Jack Russell Duror	 097 Flo Collie Fort William	 098 Suzy Wong Siamese Cross Ardrishaig
 099 Milly Chocolate Labrador Isle of Tiree	 100 Esme Staffordshire Bull Terrier Connel	 101 Max Border Collie Morvern	 102 Sammy Toy Poodle Appin	 103 Gypsy Cat Fort William	 104 Angel Cat Benderloch	 105 Zak German Shepherd Oban

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 also still vote for a pet from a previous weekly round until we announce the voting deadline. 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.

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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.

ALenergy Argyll Renewable Energy Show

FREE ENTRY

12 noon to 7pm,
Thursday 30th August
in the Corran Halls, Oban

Exhibition – Presentations
– Free and Impartial Advice

It's that time of year again!

Building on the success of the previous two years shows, the 2012 Argyll Renewable Energy Show is coming to the Corran Halls in Oban on Thursday 30th August, 12 noon to 7pm. We are delighted to welcome Cllr John Semple, Depute Leader of Argyll and Bute Council and Lead Councillor for Energy, Environment, Development, Infrastructure and Tourism, who will be officially opening the event.

With ever rising electricity and fossil fuel prices, and renewable technologies becoming more affordable, more and more people are switching to renewable energy. With over 20 exhibitors from all parts of the renewable energy sector, and information stands, exhibits, talks and presentations throughout the day, this is an event not to miss!

Here in Argyll, we have abundant renewable resources, which represent a secure and sustainable energy supply for the future. If you've been thinking of the possibility of installing a renewable energy technology in your home, community,

or business, this is your opportunity to see the technology, chat to a variety of installers, and find answers to all your questions.

Whether you are interested in generating electricity (for example, by solar photovoltaics, wind energy, or hydro) or in heating (for example by woodfuel, heat pumps, or solar hot water), this is the event for you.

Find out more about how you could benefit from the government's Feed In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentive. Come along and find out which technology is right for you - installers of a wide range of types and sizes of renewable energy technologies will be exhibiting at the show. We will also be joined by Argyll and Bute Council Planning Department and a number of energy related charities and advice organisations.

We look forward to seeing you!

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As rising energy bills and other costs continue to eat into many household budgets, your local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre would like to let you know about free and subsidised home insulation offers currently available from UK energy suppliers. These offers are heavily subsidised as a result of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) which finishes on 31 December this year.

Brian Barker, the advice centre's Outreach Engagement Officer for Argyll and Bute says:

"We expect many free and low-cost offers will be no longer available once CERT ends and expect a heavy demand for installations as the deadline draws near. We therefore strongly advise that you act now by calling us on 0800 512 012 to find out if your home is suitable. If this is the case we will refer you to the relevant energy supplier for a free survey."

"We can also give you free, impartial advice to help reduce your fuel bills and make your home cosier too. Everyone can get help, regardless of their income. Simply call your local Energy Saving Scotland advisor on 0800 512 012 to find out how we can help."

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands is funded by the Scottish Government and provides free, impartial advice to help householders save energy and money.

About the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands is funded by the Scottish Government and provides free, impartial advice and support in Argyll and Bute on all matters relating to energy efficiency.

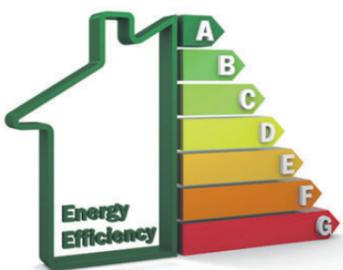
Householders can call the advice centre for free, impartial advice to enable them to reduce their fuel bills and carbon footprint. This includes advice on financial support such as grants and loans, and also the Energy Assistance Package – a package of measures aimed to maximise incomes, reduce fuel bills and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The Energy Assistance Package could help people across Scotland in four different ways:

- A free home energy check. This short survey will check how energy efficient a home is and suggest practical changes and improvements as well as free energy advice to everyone.
- A benefit and tax credit check and access to the lowest-cost energy rates.
- Free or subsidised insulation for homeowners and private sector tenants who are receiving benefits, or are 70 or over.
- A package of energy efficiency measures for homeowners or private sector tenants who are most vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Householders can also access renewables advice including financial assistance to help install renewable technologies. A personalised report will be provided often based on a home visit, and follow up advice to help them understand the renewable technologies suitable for their home.

For more information, call free from landlines on 0800 512 012 or visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland.



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 - ALLenery
 - Use Green Heat
 - Energy Saving Trust
 - Highland Birchwoods
 - LORI (Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative)
 - Skills Development Scotland

Case studies of renewable energy systems in Argyll

Air Source Heat Pump Abernethys, Connel, Argyll



Before installing an air source heat pump, Abernethys, a five bedroom house in the village of Connel, was heated using an electric central heating system. This system involved an electrical element providing hot water for heating an under floor heating system as well as providing hot water for domestic use. Although the home is well insulated, this was a very expensive way of heating the property, and the owner of the new home was left with an electricity bill of £8,500 in just one year. This led to the decision to invest in an air source heat pump.

An air source heat pump was installed to provide space heating and hot water for showers and domestic usage. The heat pump uses ambient heat from air outside the property, and concentrates the heat for use inside the home. The system operates all year round, and is up to four times more efficient at providing space and hot water heating than electric air heaters or water immersion units.

Wood Chip Boiler Drimsynie House Hotel, Lochgoilhead, Argyll



The estate management team at the Drimsynie House Hotel in Lochgoilhead, identified energy usage as one of the potential cost savings for the business. Switching from oil fired boilers to renewable heat also reduces fossil fuel consumption, which is part of an overall environmental strategy for Drimsynie Estate. The existing heating system included several oil-fired boilers which were replaced with a centralised wood chip boiler. The rising cost of oil means that there is a financial benefit of switching to using wood fuel as the main source of heat for the Drimsynie House Hotel and the adjacent leisure complex and swimming pool. There is also a similar wood fuel boiler system installed by Cowal Leisure Ltd at Hunters Quay Holiday Park, Dunoon.

Log Boiler System Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Argyll



The Cuilfail Hotel is a twelve bedroom hotel which was built in the Victorian era, and is situated close to the shores of Loch Melfort. With rising fuel costs and also a desire to reduce the environmental impact of the hotel's heating system, the current owners replaced the old LPG boiler system with a new log fuelled boiler. A log gasification boiler was chosen, as there was limited space for an automated wood fuel boiler and no suitable local supply of dried wood chip. The owners were also enthusiastic about using logs as a fuel, which are very abundant locally.

The log boiler system was installed in July 2011, and includes a 3,200 litre thermal storage tank which stores water that is heated from the log boiler. The system design also allows for an input from a solar hot water panel, and an air source heat pump. In addition, the log boiler system will remain operating even if there is a power failure.

Wood Pellet Boiler Isle of Eriska Hotel, Argyll




The Isle of Eriska Hotel is situated on its own island, in the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands. The desire of the Eriska Hotel to improve its environmental performance and also lower heating bills, led to the decision to install two wood fuel boilers to heat the main hotel building as well as the swimming pool. Due to the lack of a suitable wood chip supply in the Oban area, and the nature of the heating requirements of the hotel, it was decided that wood pellets should be the source of heat for the hotel. The advantage of wood pellets is that the fuel comes ready dried and is easy to store. The new wood pellet boilers each have their own pellet store and vacuum pump supply system, and new buffer tanks were installed for hot water and central heating. The internal wood fuel hopper avoids the need for an external boiler house and the boilers make use of existing traditional style chimneys.

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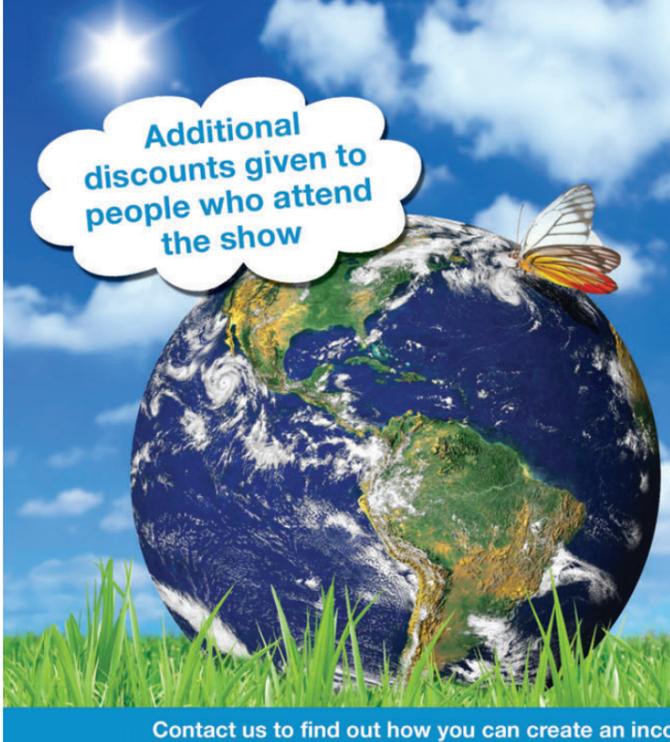
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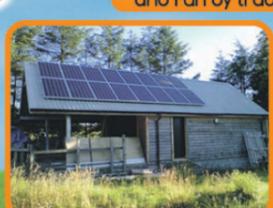
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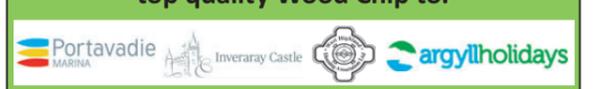


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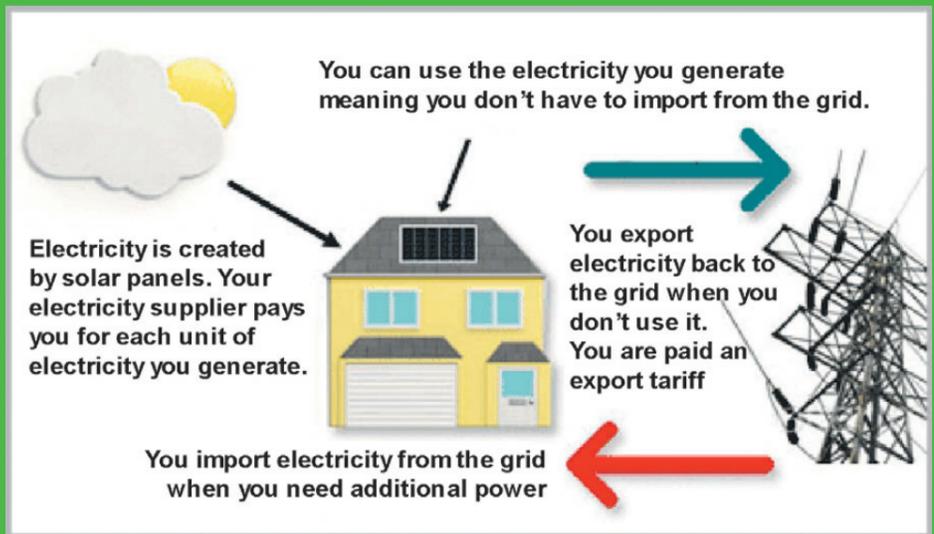


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When you generate your own energy, you don't just save money by not having to buy that energy - you can also get paid for the energy you produce.

Instead of buying all your energy from suppliers, many people are now installing renewable technology to generate their own - and in some cases, selling the surplus back to the companies for a profit.

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Water saving tips for inside the home

- **Snub the tub** - By replacing one bath a week with a five minute shower, a four person family can save on average around £18 on energy bills.
- **Fill 'em up** - Make sure that your dishwasher and washing machine are full before putting them on and always use the most water and energy efficiency settings. When it is time to replace your appliance, look out for Energy Saving Trust Recommended products.
- **Suds law** - Using a bowl to wash up rather than leaving the hot tap running could save around £34 a year on a household's gas bills if you wash up twice a day. Use cold water where possible and don't keep the tap running.
- **Go off the boil** - Only boil as much water as you need to avoid unnecessarily heating water you won't even use!
- **Turn it off** - A running tap uses around six litres of water a minute so turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face and use cold water where you don't need hot.
- **Don't be a drip** - A dripping tap wastes over 5,500 litres of water a year so make sure your taps are properly turned off and change washers when the tap starts dripping.
- **Make it go further** - Where possible try and reuse unused water, for example pour your left over glasses of water on houseplants, and avoid wasting water from running taps whilst waiting for hot water.

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Family ceilidh fun at Cullipool

A FAMILY ceilidh packed Cullipool Hall last Saturday as locals enjoyed a night full of music and entertainment.

Winnie and Jim Robb from Arduaine played some fantastic music for dancing with the surprise addition of Rachel Cruickshanks, who played for her first 'Canadian Barn Dance' on the accordion.

Well known folk singer Jacqui MacDonald and Lynn Jenkinson performed guitar and songs from Australia, New Zealand and home spun songs of Luing.

Fiona Cruickshanks also sang with her guitar, before a home made supper was served to the audience. The traditional raffle was drawn and Kay Benn, MC for the evening brought the evening to a close. The evening raised money to go towards running costs and repairs for the village hall.

History group summer exhibition

THE SUMMER exhibition from the Luing History Group will be taking place on the island this weekend with life on the seas celebrated.

The event, to be held in Tobernochy village hall, will also trace George Orwell's narrow escape from the sea and the early history of Luing.

The exhibition will take place from August 24 to August 26. Entry is free but donations are welcome, there will also be home baking available.



Some of the staff from the Queen's Hotel celebrate being awarded an AA Rosette.

Oban hotel awarded AA rosette

THE QUEEN'S Hotel has joined a select few restaurants in Oban to be awarded an AA Rosette.

The award, which is awarded based on the entire dining experience, puts the hotel's Glen Campa Restaurant in the top 10 per cent of establishments in the UK.

Award-winning head chef Romi Denesle was brought to the hotel in April and has helped to secure the rosette.

However, Susan Hyams, who runs the hotel with her husband, Raymond, said the award was a team effort: 'We wanted a head chef who could take us along the direction of getting to rosette standard but all the staff have worked hard towards this accolade. I would like to give them all a big thank you.'



Isla Sinclair dancers Ailie Munro, left, and Laura Munro performed at the final Taynuilt ceilidh of the summer.

Taynuilt summer ceilidhs end on a high note

THE FINAL Taynuilt ceilidh of the summer this year was also undoubtedly one of the best.

Oban piper Donald Morrison started off the proceedings with some rousing tunes, while his brother Ruairidh later delighted the audience with some very fine accordion music.

The two Isla Sinclair

dancers, Ailie and Laura Munro, were in top form during their Highland dancing performances.

The band Peat Reek (Kirsty Duncan, Chris Beveridge and Ron Pirrie) proved very popular with the large and appreciative audience, while that musical genius, Dr Andrew Dunlop, gave two amazing performances on

the piano. The very talented Lochaber soloist Robert Robertson produced songs of truly high quality while Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, under conductor Ann Barlow, provided some excellent choral singing.

Fear an taigh for the evening was Cameron Fletcher who kept the ceilidh flowing smoothly.

Newsdesks 01631 568000/01397 703003



North Argyll Young Carers celebrate during their week on Mull, run by the Roses Charitable Trust.

North Argyll young carers treated to 'awesome' week on Mull

THE NORTH Argyll Young Carers were able to spend an 'awesome' week on Mull over the summer, thanks to several local business and charitable efforts.

Each of the young carers got a chance to try their hand at climbing, canyoning and coastering, as well as more sedate activities such as camping, to give them vital breathing space away from their daily responsibilities.

The week was run by the Roses Charitable Trust in association with Hebridean Pursuits from Tavool House on Mull's Ardeanach Peninsula.

The young carers considered it an 'amazing experience.'

One said: 'It was the best week ever. Thanks to the Trust for having me and showing us what a good time really is. It was one of the best times of my life.'

Among those making the trip possible were Highland Services Building Materials Limited and Taynuilt Medical Practice Charitable Trust. Several grants were granted to the group and a sterling Lochaber Marathon run by Gill and Andy Spink helped top up the fund.

Gaelic singer takes on Blas 2012 'wedding' challenge

TO ORGANISE a wedding is one thing and it brings with it many challenges - but to organise one which is to be the centrepiece of a major festival with hundreds of guests, at a unique location such as a nature centre, is something completely different.

However, that is the challenge willingly accepted by Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart who was commissioned to deliver one of the showpiece events at Blas 2012.

The 2012 festival's annual commission was awarded to Margaret and her ensemble and they were tasked with delivering four performances which would be highlighted in the festival programme.

The Highland Wedding was the theme chosen by Margaret, who is currently musician in residence at the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, on Skye.

Drawing on her extensive expertise as a Gaelic singer and collector, Margaret has chosen to explore various themes connected with the place of the Highland wedding in local society through the ages.

Drawing on her knowledge of Gaelic music and song, particularly through her familiarity with the Tobar an Dualchais project, Margaret has assembled a multi-talented group of musicians who will help her explore love, loss and disappointment,

flirtation, wooing, night-visiting, humour and dance. The wedding will be consummated - for want of a better word - on the opening night of the 2012 festival at the unique location of Magnus House at the Aigas Field Centre hosted by Sir John and Lucy Lister-Kaye, owners of the nature centre.

Joining Margaret will be some of the best of the Highland's musical talent: Iain MacFarlane on fiddle and box, Ingrid Henderson (clàrsach), Allan Henderson (fiddle and piano), and Angus Nicolson on the pipes.

Donna MacRae, Blas Director said: 'It is now firmly established as one of the Blas traditions that we have an outstanding piece of work to launch the event and to set the tone. I am absolutely certain that Margaret Stewart and her musicians will provide us with another outstanding start to the Festival - for all that the preparations for this Highland wedding, as with any other, will be frenetic until the last minute.'

As long as the marriage survives the opening night, further consumption it will go on tour to a number of its other locations: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye, Saturday, September 8; Poolewe Village Hall on Monday, September 10 and finally Nairn Community Centre on Tuesday September 11, with all the performances starting at 7.30pm.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	The Artist	PG	Friday 24th August	1500
	Rock of Ages	12A	Friday 24th August	1730, 2030
			Saturday 25th August	1700
			Sunday 26th August	2000
	The Lion King	U	Saturday 25th August	1000
	Top Cat	U	Saturday 25th August	1400
			Sunday 26th August	1000, 1400
	Magic Mike	15	Saturday 25th August	2015
			Sunday 26th August	1700
	You've been trumped	PG	Tuesday 28th August	1730
Pofiche	15	Tuesday 28th August	1400	
		Wednesday 29th August	1745	
Hunger Games	12A	Wednesday 29th August	2015	
		Thursday 30th August	1745	
Dark Shadows	12A	Monday 27th August	1745	
		Thursday 30th August	2045	

The Artist
Outside a movie premiere, enthusiastic fan Peppy Miller literally bumps into the swashbuckling hero of the silent film, George Valentin. The star reads graciously and Peppy plants a kiss on his cheek as they are surrounded by photographers. The headlines demand: "Who's That Girl?" and Peppy is inspired to audition for a dancing bit-part at the studio. However as Peppy slowly rises through the industry, the introduction of talking-pictures turns Valentin's world upside-down.

Rock of Ages
If you're looking for 'nothin' but a good time' then you have picked the right film! Set in 1987 Los Angeles, Drew and Sherrie are two young people chasing their dreams in the big city. When they meet, it's love at first sight, though their romance will face a series of challenges. A rock/jukebox musical, built around classic rock hits from the 1980s, Rock of Ages will have you tapping your feet and playing air guitar in no time!

The Lion King
You know the plot, you know the characters and you know the songs, but have you ever seen The Lion King on the big screen? Well now is your chance, for one special Saturday morning, see everyone's favourite Disney cub as he has the adventure of his life. Tricked into thinking he killed his father, a guilt ridden Simba flees into exile and abandons his identity as the future King. What else is there to say other than... HAKUNA MATATA!

Top Cat
Top Cat and the gang face a new police chief, who is not at all happy with officer Dibble's performance in trying to prevent Top Cat's scams. Strickland, the new police chief, will test Top Cat and his gang while proving to be the greatest foe Top Cat has ever encountered.

Magic Mike
With a plot not dissimilar to the classic 1980s Cocktail, Magic Mike sees Mike (Channing Tatum), an experienced stripper, take young performer 'The Kid' (Alex Pettyfer) under his wing as he schools him in the arts of partying, picking up women, and making easy money. Inspired by Tatum's own life experiences, with spectacular dance sequences and some surprisingly touching scenes, if you want to be entertained this is the film for you.

Dark Shadows
The power three are back together again! When Tim Burton, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter get together to work on a film you know it will be two things; firstly fantastically weird and secondly spellbindingly wonderful. Add to that the likes of Michelle Pfeiffer, Eva Green and Johnny Lee Miller and this star studded cast dazzle in the story of Barnabas Collins (Depp), an imprisoned vampire, who after being set free returns to his ancestral home, where his dysfunctional descendants are in need of his protection.

Pofiche
Suzanne Pujol (Catherine Deneuve) is a decorative wife: she runs a household, while her imperious and philandering husband runs the family umbrella factory with 300 employees. While he recuperates from a heart attack during a labour dispute, she brings her two adult children into the factory. Through shrewd use of both her values and an old connection to Babin (Gerard Depardieu), the leftist mayor and MP, she gets things moving again. This delightful screwball comedy charmed audiences at Cannes and is French cinema at its funniest.

You've Been Trumped
In this David and Goliath story for the 21st century, a group of proud Scottish homeowners take on celebrity tycoon Donald Trump as he buys up one of Scotland's last wilderness areas to build a golf resort. Receiving both critical and audience acclaim and screening to sell-out shows across Scotland, The Scotsman deemed it 'absorbing... an important film that will inspire.' While Trump classed it as 'a failure.'

The Hunger Games
Set in a future where the Capitol selects a boy and girl from the twelve districts to fight to the death on live television, Katniss Everdeen volunteers to take her younger sister's place for the latest match. Combining the tension and adrenaline burst of Battle Royale with a twist of Twilight, Suzanne Collins' hugely successful novel translates superbly onto the big screen.

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what's on guide

Thursday 23rd August > Trail West
Markie Dams

Friday 24th August > Disco
Markie Dams

Saturday 25th August > Tim O'Connor
Markie Dams

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Popular comedians join line up for Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival

NEXT month's Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival is adding laughter to its varied programme of events - thanks to appearances by popular comedians Mark Steel and Hardeep Singh Kohli.

The second biennial festival of literature, film, art, music and photography in the Stronitain Centre will have 'the great outdoors' as its theme and promises a mouth-watering choice of events aimed at outdoor enthusiasts and book and film lovers in particular.

The festival will feature films, writers' workshops, a programme for local schools, and contributions from a variety of authors.

A busy programme geared towards youngsters will include storytelling from Maisie Dennison and Scot An Sgeulaiche as well as art workshops with Room 13 and

'campsite cookery sessions led by Abernethy Kids Cookschool.

The Festival - which this year attracted an £8200 Awards for All grant as well funding from Highland Council's Ward 22 Discretionary Budget and local community councils - kicks off on Thursday, September 20 with a programme for youngsters from local schools.

A film and food evening open to all and hosted by The Sunart Centre Film Club, will present 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' - partly filmed in Glen Nevis - while Friday evening will see Hardeep Singh Kohli introduce his favourite film 'Gregory's Girl', preceded by a Scottish 'taster plate' style buffet and bar.

Saturday's programme includes a writers' workshop with Linda

Cracknell, award-winning author of short stories, radio drama, and creative non-fiction.

Author events will feature Iain Banks - acclaimed for both his mainstream fiction (as Iain Banks) and science fiction (as Iain M. Banks). Donald S Murray, author of 'The Guga Hunters' and 'Special Deliverance', and Gaelic singer, folklorist, writer and storyteller Margaret Bennett also line up.

Dan Bailey and Kirsty Shirra will join forces for a presentation on the specialist art of writing outdoor activity guides while budding authors will be able to pick up some useful tips on getting published at a workshop run by literary agent Maggie McKernan.

The 'Lochaline Literates' Reading Group will host a 'Big Read' event while other attractions will

include a photographic workshop and exhibition, local food stalls, the return of Waterstones' mobile bookshop and a BBQ and bar, before activities draw to a close with a live comedy performance featuring writer and comedian Mark Steel.

Internationally renowned author Alexander McCall Smith - a guest at the enormously successful inaugural Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival, held in September 2010, is patron of this year's event.

Mr McCall Smith, author of more than 60 books which have been translated into 42 languages, said: 'The Three Lochs Festival is rapidly establishing itself as one of the most interesting of Scotland's arts festivals. It may be smaller than some, but that, in the world of festivals, is no bad thing. Large fes-

tivals are frequently over-crowded and difficult to navigate.

'A small festival, located in a community and attended by members of the community, has a great deal to recommend it. At this festival, visiting performers will have the opportunity to meet their audience and enjoy the hospitality for which the area is justly famed.'

'There will be friendly conversations; there will be moments of real artistic sharing; there will be everything that only a small and much-loved festival can provide - and all in the setting of one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland. Let's all join in!'

Details about the full Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival programme and ticket booking are at www.threelochs.co.uk. Look for updates on Facebook and Twitter.

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Primary one pupils in the picture

It's the start of a new school year and our reporters have been out and about capturing all the excitement



The new primary one pupils at Portree Primary School smile for the camera. f34portree01



The new primary one pupils at Acharacle Primary School's Gaelic Medium Unit.



Inverlochry Primary School's new primary one class. f34inverlochry01



There are five new pupils at Fort William Primary School. f34fortwilliam01



Acharacle Primary School's new English Medium primary one pupils.



The new pupils at Bunesan Primary School, Mull, enjoyed a sunny first day.



Ballachulish Primary School's new P1s. f34ballachulish01



Dunbeg Primary School's new intake for this term. 15_134dunbeg02



This year's new intake at Banavie Primary School smile for the camera. f34banavie01



Caol Primary School's new pupils. f34caol01



Kilniver Primary School has one new pupil this year. 16_134kiln-



The only primary one pupil on Lismore this year is Fionn Cook.



The new primary one pupils at Upper Achintore Primary School. f34upperachintore01



Lochnell Primary School welcomed these pupils through its doors at the start of the new term. 134lochnell1

Autumn Breaks



AS THE hectic pace of summer begins to slow, it is perhaps time to think about your autumn break. Not only is a west Highland break great for the soul and the perfect tonic after a hectic summer, there are also some great deals on offer anywhere you look. And whether you're searching for a Highland retreat, an island adventure, or a city getaway, The Oban Times has

gathered some of the best locations and destinations for you to mull over. In our Autumn Breaks feature, you will find some of the area's premier locations that offer comforting welcome and stunning scenery. But look a bit closer and you'll find there's more to these destinations than meets the eye.

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Appin Show sheep and cattle impress judges

THE APPIN Agricultural Show once again proved you can have quality stock from a confined entry, with the sheep and cattle classes once again impressing visiting judges.

Supreme champion went to an April-born Limousin cross calf, called Dynamo, from Dougie MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch. The calf is by Tyree's stock bull, Tweedside Upstanding, and was commercial champion at Lorn and reserve at Mid Argyll.

To win the championship, it had to beat the Highland heifer, Morag Odhar of Mottistone, from Michael Poland, reversing the decision in the supreme championship at Lorn. It took a third judge at Appin, Lachie MacLean of Knock, Mull, to separate the two cattle champions.

Adding to his father's trophy haul, nine-year-old Dougie MacDonald lifted his fifth young handler's prize, having also won at Tyree, Lorn, Royal Highland Show and Mid Argyll.

In the sheep categories Allan MacKellar, Seaview, Benderloch ended two decades of dominance in the mule classes by Archie MacGillivray, Achuaran,

Lismore, when he took the cross-sheep championship with a three-crop ewe. It was bought in Stirling as a gimmer. Allan also had the reserve champion with a home bred ewe.

Allan is well known, however, for his Blueface Leicester stock and won the male championship with a two-shear Blueface tup, sired by a Rowandale.

Blackface champion was a home-bred gimmer from Appin farmer James Henry Weir, Invernahyle, off a £1,500 Dyke.

Meanwhile, Highland dancing returned to the Appin show and there were familiar names on the baking and horticultural trophies. Bert Lander, Duror, won the cups for most points in vegetables and in flowers after gaining 11 first place prizes and Barbara Carmichael from Appin won the trophy for most points in the baking classes. The glorious weather provided a stunning setting for the show at Stalker Croft and a large attendance helped to create a fun atmosphere.

The afternoon's entertainment included a tossing of the sheaf and an engrossing tug-of-war between Appin and Lismore, which was won by the Liosseachs.



Above: Supreme champion went to an April-born Limousin cross calf, Dynamo, from Dougie MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch. 15_134appin02



Archie MacGillivray roars on the Lismore tug-of-war team to victory. 15_134appin09



Allan MacKellar, Seaview, Benderloch won the cross-sheep championship with a three-crop mule ewe. 15_134appin01



Blackface champion was a home-bred gimmer from Appin farmer James Henry Weir, Invernahyle. 15_134appin05



Bert Landers won trophies for most points in the flowers and vegetable sections. 15_134appin08



Barbara Carmichael won the trophy for most points in the baking section. 15_134appin10

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Fax: 01631 565434
property@macphee.co.uk

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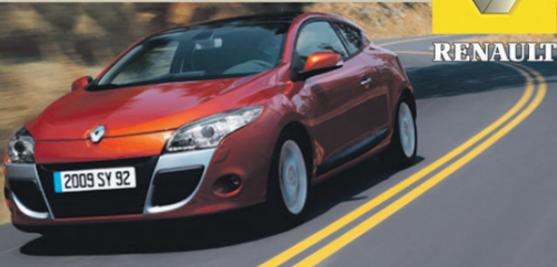


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60 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI Sport Tourer, Black, 11,000 miles.....	£9,500
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59 Renault Megane Exp 1.5 DCi 5dr Black, 12,800 miles.....	£9,950
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 18,000 miles.....	£9,650
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MOT/TAX 1 year, Recent Service Alloy Wheels, Manual, CD Player, Air Con, Metallic Blue, Exc Condition. 52,000 miles.

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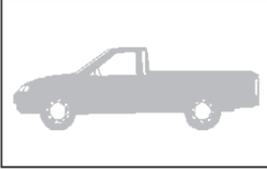
2007 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 sri 57,330 miles silver.....	£4,390
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Tel: 01546 603158

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Tel: 01852 200333

£2350

HONDA CIVIC 1.6 VTEC



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Telephone: 01631 563759

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PERSONALS

Happy 21st Birthday Laura. With love from Mum, Dad, Kristina, Innes and all the family xx

PERSONALS

Happy 21st Birthday Rachael & Ian. Lots of Love Mum, Dad & Family

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BIRTHS



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.

ENGAGEMENT



MACNEIL - MACLEOD
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Marion, only daughter of Roddy and Catherine MacNeil, Oban to Michael, eldest grandson of Calum and Margaret MacLeod, Isle of Barra.

WEDDINGS

MCKERRAL - MACDONALD - At Corran Esplanade Church, Oban, on August 11, 2012, by Rev Dugald Cameron, Colin, son of Donald and Kate McKerral, Southend, to Katherine Mary, daughter of John and Christine MacDonald, Oban. A very happy and enjoyable day.

DEATHS

AITKEN - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, on August 15th, 2012, in his 88th year, Peter Malcolm Aitken (Malky), formerly of Main Street, Inveraray, beloved husband of the late Helen Margaret McConachie, dear father to Alasdair, Peter and Mhairi, father-in-law to Lindsay, Coral and Jim and grandfather to Craig, Emma, Eilidh and Marcus. Funeral was held at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday August 21.

BAXTER - Isabel died peacefully, on Thursday, August 16, 2012, beloved wife of Ian, mother to Caren, John, Angelina and Melanie, gran to Donnie, Calum, Shannon and Joseph and sister to Marilyn and Ann. Memorial service will be held on Thursday August 23, 2012 at The Church of Scotland, Glenclutten Road, Oban at 1.30 p.m. A Private Service will follow at Cardross Crematorium.

DONALDSON - On Thursday, August 9, James (Jimmy) Donaldson passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, in the loving arms of his family. The respect given to him in the last hours of his life has given us immense comfort. Our thanks to Mary and Margaret for their support and all friends and neighbours for their kind words and to Father Donald and Father Roddy for such an uplifting and touching service, also to Ewen and Scott of John McLellan Funeral Directors, you've helped to make the passing of our father a little easier. The support you gave to us and the dignity shown to our father will never be forgotten. Our father was our best friend, a father's love is a blessing and we were truly blessed to have been loved by him. The love he gave us will never die, rest in peace Dad, we will see you again one day. James, Eddie, Peter, Brian, Andrew and Linda, all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

FOTHERGILL - Alan, Peacefully at home on Seil, August 16, 2012, surrounded by his family, beloved husband of Julie and much loved father of Michael, John, Ian and Catriona and wonderful Grandpa. The funeral took place at Kichattan Church, Isle of Luing.

GILLESPIE - Mary, Peacefully after a short illness borne bravely, at Royal Alexandria Hospital Paisley on August 19, 2012, with her family at her side. Beloved wife of the late Malcolm loving mother of David and Alan and dear mother-in-law to Fiona. Much loved and missed Gran to David and Christopher. Funeral Service on Saturday August 25 at Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive at 11.45am.

MACGILLIVRAY - Margaret, Peacefully, after a long illness, at Ranfurly Care Home, Johnstone, on Monday, August 20, 2012. Margaret MacGregor Macgillivray (nee Neilson), beloved wife of the late Neil, much loved mother of Neil-John and grandmother of Morven and John. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley, on Saturday August 25, at 10.00am. Family flowers only please.

MACKINNON - Malcolm (Calum) MacKinnon peacefully at the Royal Alexander Hospital, Paisley on Tuesday 14th August. Beloved husband of Morag and much loved father of William, Catriona and Calum, dearly loved papa of Aidan.

MACNEIL - Suddenly on Saturday, August 11, Dougie (Dughall Dhondaidh) in his 80th year, passed peacefully at home in Ardmore on the Isle of Barra. A much loved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. Will be sorely missed by all. Funeral took place at St Barrs Church, Northbay, Isle of Barra on Tuesday, August 14.

MCVEY - Thomas (Tam), aged 68 years, originally of Blantyre then Castlemilk and finally Fort William, died peacefully on August 17 at Belford Hospital, Fort William after sudden illness. Beloved Dad of Christine & Ronnie, Granddad of Storm & Red. Son of the late John & Agnes, brother of William, Agnes, the late Charles & Elizabeth, father of Thomas & Patricia. Funeral service will be held at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William on Friday August 24 at 12.00 noon. Thereafter to the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, where all friends and family are most welcome.

STEWART OF COLL - Charles Kenneth Moncreiff peacefully at Riverside, Selkirk, on Saturday, August 18, 2012, Kenneth, dear husband of Janet, father of Fiona, Fenella and Nicola, grandfather of Thomas, Hannah, Lucy and Ailsa and father-in-law of Colin. A memorial service will be arranged, date and time to be confirmed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BURNS - The family of the late Albert Burns would like to thank all relatives and friends for their love and support at this sad time. Special thanks to all medical and care personnel who attended Albert over many years, to our Minister Rev Dr Richard Corbett for spiritual care and for comforting services at both church and graveside, Miss MacIntyre, organist and Mike McFall Undertakers for efficient handling of all funeral arrangements. We will be forever grateful to the staff at Invernevis House for making Albert's last year so comfortable and happy. The sum of £606 was donated to the Resident's Fund.

MACNEIL - Moira and family wish to thank most sincerely relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the sudden death of Dougie (Dughall Dhondaidh). The family appreciated the many visits, telephone calls, mass cards, sympathy cards, flowers, cooking and baking. Special thanks are extended to Dr Bickle and Dr Christian and the ambulance crew. Thanks also to Fr John Paul, Canon MacQueen, Fr Toal and Fr McInnes for their spiritual comfort. Thanks to Karen, Aileen and Alistair Elder for their clarsach playing, singing and piping. Thanks also to Charlie, Donald-John and Angus for their help. We cannot thank Christine Galbraith enough for her advice, support and friendship. Lastly, thank you to everyone who paid their last respects to Dougie at the church and the cemetery. A retreat collection in aid of the RNLI and the Fishermen's Mission raised £400. Moran taing dhuibh uile.

MACNEILL - Janice and the girls wish to thank family & friends for their kind expressions of sympathy during their sad bereavement. Thanks to Rev Duncan MacDonald for personal & uplifting service, Billy McClymont for professional & caring funeral arrangements and Douglas McNeilage for his help and guidance at the Church. Special thanks to Margaret Buid, friends, neighbours, Home Carers and to staff at Dunross for their loving care during Lexy's last months in Mull. Lexy moved to, Dunoon in July to be near her family, unfortunately she passed away shortly after arriving despite efforts of the Staff at InvercK. Her heart remained in Mull, where she was interred, she will be sadly missed by us all

MACLELLAN - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Donald (Donnie), a devoted dad and granddad who died August 23, 2009. Thank you for the years we shared. The love you gave. The way you cared. Deep in my heart your memory is kept. Too rarely loved to ever forget. - Your loving wife and family.

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CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Mary Logan, who died on August 24, 1996. Forever in our hearts Always in our thoughts - Inserted by Irene, Donald, Nigel and Glasgow.

DOCHERTY - (Jimmy Texaco) - In loving memory of a dear father who died August 23, 1995. Always in our thoughts. - Love Mary, Peter and family.

GAMBLE - Joan (Sinclair), of Inverloch, died August 21, 2011. Those we hold most dear Never truly leave us They live on in the kindnesses they showed The comfort they shared And the love they brought into our lives. - Inserted by Jim, Linda and Neil.

GAMBLE - In loving memory of our dear sister Joan, who passed away so suddenly on August 21, 2011. Forever in our hearts Our sister, our friend Love and miss you always. Also loved ones gone before. - From all the family at home and away.

MACKINNON - Malcolm (Calum) MacKinnon peacefully at the Royal Alexander Hospital, Paisley on Tuesday 14th August. Beloved husband of Morag and much loved father of William, Catriona and Calum, dearly loved papa of Aidan.

MACLEAN - Fondest memories of Bibs, who died August 25, 2008. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Billy and family xx.

MACLELLAN - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Donald (Donnie), a devoted dad and granddad who died August 23, 2009. Thank you for the years we shared. The love you gave. The way you cared. Deep in my heart your memory is kept. Too rarely loved to ever forget. - Your loving wife and family.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my daughter, sister and auntie Catherine Marion, died suddenly August 17, 2011. Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever Loved by all Missed by many. - Love by family, Fort William and Stornoway.

MACPHERSON - (nee Colthart) - In loving memory of our dear mum and nanny, Christine, who passed away August 21, 2011. Our hearts still ache in sadness Our secret tears still flow What it meant to lose you No-one will ever know. Loved and remembered every day. - Tina and Eilidh.

McGRATH - Precious memories of our dear mum and shen Margaret, Achaleven Farm, who died August 23, 2006. We think about you everyday We talk about you too We sit and laugh about the things We used to say and do There's much in life that's new But never in a million years will there be another like you. - Your loving daughter Marie, grandson Duncan and Dugald xxx.

McGRATH - In tears we watched you sinking, We watched you fade away, And though our hearts were breaking, We knew you could not stay, You can only have one mother, Patient, kind and true, No other friend in all the world, Will be the same to you, You left behind some aching hearts, That loved you most sincere, We never shall and never will forget you, mother dear. - Your loving children Caroline, Josephine, Denise and Christopher, son in law Kevin and grandchildren Joseph, Charlie, Gordon, Owen and Gabriel xxx.

McTAGGART - In loving memory of our dear mum, nanna and sister Mary (nee Nicolson) who died August 23, 2011. Also remembering our dad and papa John who died December 25, 2005. One year has passed since that sad day

You closed your eyes and slipped away You never said I'm leaving You never said goodbye You were gone before we knew it And only God knows why Of all the gifts in life However big or small To have had you as a mum, nanna and sister Was the greatest gift of all We love and miss you both so very much. - Christina, Ian and Philina xxx, Isobel and Margaret xx

Gentle Jesus up above Please give nanna and papa all our love. - Martin, James, Andrew and Ellie xxxx

MORRISON - Cherished memories of Farquhar, a dear husband, father and granddad who died August 28, 2011. Always in our thoughts. - Christine, Julie, Joanne and family.

OWEN - In memory of my dear husband Robert, who passed away on August 25, 1997. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day. - Jean

OWEN - In memory of our dear dad and grandpa who passed away on August 25, 1997. Forever in our thoughts and prayers. - Tom, Lily, Elizabeth and families.

ROBERTSON - Remembering my lovely sister in law, aunt and great aunt Heather, who passed away on August 17, 2007. Too good to be forgotten. - Mary, Arthur, Vincent, Tammie, Alex and Joe xx

SIMPSON - 25th Anniversary. Remembering our dad Ian, who died so suddenly on August 24, 1987. So dearly loved So sadly missed. - From Mary, Margaret, Roberta and John.

SORLEY - In loving memory of Robin, my dear son who died August 26, 2005, a dear brother, brother in law and uncle. They say time heals all sorrow And helps us to forget But time to us Has only proved How much we miss him yet. Ever fondly remembered. - Inserted by his loving mum and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Sunday 26 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 26 August 2012
Trinity 12
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School Fun Day
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.15
Holy Eucharist.....
.....Wed 29 August 14:30
Advance Notice
Friday 31 August 2012
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Institution of the Revd Nicola McNelly as Provost of the Cathedral.....18.00

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GRADUATIONS



Karen MacKenzie graduated from the University of Glasgow with MA (Hons) in Gaelic and German. Karen is the daughter of Betty and the late Alex MacKenzie, Connel and a former pupil of Achaleven Primary and Oban High School.



Lewis Matheson graduated from Aberdeen University with LLB (Hons). Lewis is the son of Neil and Shiona Matheson and a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School. Lewis now begins his Chartered Accountancy training in Edinburgh with Deloitte UK.



Emma Grace graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Bachelor of Science Degree (First Class Hons) in Clinical Medicine. Emma is the elder daughter of Michael and Caroline Grace, Helensburgh and the grand-daughter of Alda Grace and Crawford Cameron, Lochaline and the late Hugh and Nan Cameron, Isle of Mull. She will now continue her studies at the University of Glasgow for the final two years of her undergraduate medical degree.



Sarah-Jayne Shankland graduated from Newcastle University with a 2:1 Bachelor of Music (Hons) in Folk & Traditional Music. She is daughter of Gordon and Elaine Shankland and a former pupil of Fort William Primary and Lochaber High School.



Ruth J Macintyre graduated from the University of Glasgow with a 2:1 Master of Arts (Hons) in French and Politics. She is a former pupil of Taynait Primary School and former Head Girl of Oban High School. Ruth will be continuing her studies at the University of Exeter where she will undertake a PGCE in Upper Primary MFL.



Lorna Smith graduated from Massey University, New Zealand with a Master of Design, following completion of her Bachelor of Design (First Class Honours) in 2010. Lorna is the eldest daughter of Jimmy and Ruth Smith (formerly Dalmally), elder sister of Holly, granddaughter of Geordie and the late Mary Smith, Dalmally and Albert and the late Dot Williams, Liverpool. Lorna is a former pupil of Dalmally Primary School, Oban High School and Riccarton High School, New Zealand.



Andrew Gordon graduated from Glasgow University with First Class Honours MSci Physics and Astronomy, he is the son of Caroline and Kenny Gordon, Ardgour and is a former pupil of Ardgour Primary and Lochaber High School. Andrew is undertaking a PhD at York University.



Jack MacPherson graduated from Stirling University with MA (Hons) in History. Jack is the son of Fred and Meg MacPherson, Castle Kennedy, and grandson of Fred and Tina MacPherson, Cairnryan. He is a former pupil of Ardchattan Primary, Castle Kennedy Primary and Stranraer Academy.



Rachael Ross graduated from University of Glasgow with BSc (Hons) in Earth Science and is going on to study Integrated Petroleum Geoscience at Aberdeen University. Rachael spends her holidays working at The Boathouse, Ulva.

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Glenurquhart hit Camanachd for six in Macaulay Cup final



The champagne starts to flow as Glenurquhart celebrate their Artemis Macaulay Cup Final triumph over Oban Camanachd last Saturday at Mossfield Stadium. Photo John MacTavish

Artemis Macaulay Cup final
Oban Camanachd 0
Glenurquhart 6

GLENURQUHART lifted the first national trophy in the club's history on Saturday with a convincing Macaulay Cup final victory over Oban Camanachd at a pristine Mossfield Stadium.

The strong pre-match favourites wasted no time in demonstrating their intent when they capitalised on a poor clearance to open the scoring after only seven minutes, with what was the first direct attacking effort of the cup tie. Ruaridh Cameron pounced on a loose ball to lash an unstoppable shot to the top corner of the Camanachd net.

Premier division Glenurquhart utilised the wide areas of Mossfield's turf to full advantage and took an ever-increasing grip of the important midfield area as they repeatedly stretched the

Oban defence. Oban's best efforts of the opening 20 minutes came when Lorne Dickie fired a low shot to the near post which keeper Stuart Macintosh saw away to safety, before Aiden MacIntyre pulled a drive across the face of the Glen goal. But they persisted in playing the ball through the middle of the park where their opponents were at their strongest and move after move broke down.

Glenurquhart, by comparison, quickly switched the play both left and right and doubled their goal advantage after 23 minutes when the Oban defence were dragged right allowing Neil Reid the space to collect a pass from Smart and rifle a wickedly swerving ball passed keeper Dunning and high into the net.

Dickie again tested the Glen goalkeeper as Camanachd tried to get back into the match but,

with the break of the ball falling against them, Oban found themselves further in arrears after 37 minutes when a poor hit in from the right fell to the unmarked Ruaridh Cameron and he blasted the ball into the roof of the net from 35 yards to give Glenurquhart a three-goal interval cushion.

The second-half saw the Glen take a firm grip of midfield and dominate long periods of both possession and attacking play. Dunning made a wonderful save from Fraser Heath in the 56th minute and stopped another, this time from Reid, two minutes later as the roof threatened to fall in on the South Division One side. However, the young keeper could do little to deny Reid his second goal, and Glenurquhart's fourth on the hour mark when a low pass from the right saw Reid lash a first-time effort in close to

SHINTY

the keeper's left-hand post.

A spate of scoring chances then came Glen's way and only heroics from young Dunning, including an amazing 74th minute double save from MacPherson and MacLennan, kept the scoreline down as the heavily over-worked Oban defence, in which captain Daniel Cameron and James MacMillan were outstanding, fought to stem wave after wave of Glen attacks. With seven minutes remaining Glenurquhart added a fifth goal when 18-year old Fraser Heath found the net and then Louis MacLennan made it six-nil when he beat the keeper to a loose ball and roll the ball home in the final minutes.

Celebration

A day of huge celebration for the Drumnadrochit faithful who followed their team to Oban in large numbers, while a day of reckoning for Oban Camanachd who are under no illusions as to how high they will have to lift their standards if they return to shinty's premier league next season.

The Man-of-the-Match award went to youngster Fraser Heath of Glenurquhart and many of the after-match accolades were directed to the Glen's management team of Drew McNeill and Fraser MacKenzie who crafted the cup final victory and wrote another chapter in the club's history.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Angus 'Gussie' Campbell said his players felt they had let their supporters down after failing to perform at their best.

He added: 'The motto from

this experience will be: 'Must do better'. The boys are disappointed but also frustrated that we didn't show people what we are capable of.

'But we met a team from the premier league that are on good form and Glenurquhart were the better team on the day. They are playing good teams week in, week out and that makes them sharper.'

Glenurquhart co-manager Fraser Mackenzie told The Oban Times the club's first senior trophy in its 125-year history could be a watershed moment as they look to challenge for more silverware in future.

He said: 'When we got back to Drumnadrochit the reception we got was fantastic, you could see what it means to the community.'

'Our preparation was right. On the day we played really well and the finishing was of a really high standard.'

'We want to use this as a stepping stone for next season. We've got a lot of young players and it's still a work in progress, but we want to put together more consistent performances and challenge for more trophies.'

After the match, both teams were entertained by the Macaulay Association at a reception in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and at the proceedings following the meal Donald Skinner, president of the Macaulay Association, announced that Artemis Fund managers had agreed to continue their sponsorship for a further period of three years.

This will enable the Macaulay Association to carry on with its valuable work in developing youth shinty.



Where's the ball gone? Camanachd's Scott MacMillan and Fraser Heath battle it out during the final. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Glenurquhart captain Stuart MacIntosh proudly holds aloft the Artemis Macaulay Cup. Photo: John MacTavish



Oban Camanachd's 'Papa' MacCuish gets in his block against David MacLennan during Saturday's final at Mossfield. Photo: John MacTavish



Camanachd's David MacMillan gets a tackle in on Glenurquhart's James MacPherson. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Glenurquhart's Lewis MacLennan gets a shot on target despite a last ditch tackle from James MacMillan. Photo: Stephen Lawson



The chase is on! Oban Camanachd's 'Gussie' Campbell and Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo, with a colourful haircut, in a race for the ball. Photo: John MacTavish

Number 1
for shinty

The Oban Times
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Number 1
for shinty

Oban Celtic prepare for Camanachd backlash

Lochside Rovers lift South Division Two league title

OBAN CELTIC are preparing for an Oban Camanachd backlash when the sides meet at Mossfield on Saturday.

The red and black half of the town is still reeling from the Macaulay Cup defeat and Oban Celtic's David Hamilton is hoping Saturday's opponents have a 'cup hangover'.

He said: 'They will be hurting from that defeat and hopefully they might have a bit of a cup hangover but Camanachd will be wanting to put the cup final behind them.'

'They will feel they have to put on a display of shinty for the supporters and we will have to be ready for that.'

'This season is the first time we've had competitive games against them and the boys have really looked forward to them.'

The derby earlier in the season finished 4-0 in Camanachd's favour.

The two sides fought out a fiery 2-2 draw when they last met in May.

More manager Norman MacArthur told *The Oban Times*: 'We just need to get the two points. I know they got hammered at the weekend but they won't have the same team out against us and they will be well up for it.'

'We just need to make sure we keep on winning, but it's not as easy as that. We've got four games left and we still need to play Glenurquhart twice. They're on a high just now, so it's a shame we didn't play them earlier in the season.'

MacArthur's side beat Kilmallie 3-1 in Caol last weekend to move back to the top of the Orion Group Premiership, with two goals from Glen MacIntosh and one from Danny MacRae.

SHINTY

on Saturday after hammering Kingussie 6-1 last weekend.

A first minute strike from Gordy MacDonald set the tone and doubles from John MacRae and Keith MacRae, and a goal from young Connal Fraser had Kings in a spin.

Shiel coach Johnston, as promised, took the chance to give several young players and chance to shine - and they did not disappoint.

Kings were Ronald Ross-less and looked pedestrian, but Gill was delighted at how his reshaped ream put the Badenoch men to the sword.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'A lot of people were thinking it was a weakened Kingussie side, but it wasn't really - the backbone of the team was all first team players.'

'We started minus seven first team regulars and I was pleased with how the whole team played. We put Keith MacRae at full centre and he was absolutely outstanding - he revelled in the freedom he got playing there.'

'Connal Fraser came on at wing forward and had scored one and made another inside five minutes.'

Looking towards the Inveraray game, he added: 'Inveraray at home is a tough prospect and I am determined to field a strong team, but I'm still keen to experiment and bring in some young players.'

CAMANACHD co-manager Gussie Campbell believes his players have a lot to prove after their heavy defeat in the Macaulay Cup final and an Oban derby this weekend could be the perfect tonic.

Returning to their more familiar red and black stripes this weekend, a victory over rivals Oban Celtic would also see Camanachd lift the Marine Harvest South Division One title.

Gussie said: 'The boys need to prove they can bounce back from this kind of defeat.'

'In a local derby like this, both teams are desperate to win but the extra incentive of a trophy presentation on the day is there for them.'

'Celtic had a good end to their season and will be out to spoil our party.'

This weekend Camanachd will be without James MacMillan and Ally Gunn, who are on holiday.

Badenoch and Strathspey will come to a standstill as shinty's biggest rivals NEWTONMORE and Kingussie meet at The Eilan on Saturday.

League leaders 'More go in as favourites, but the form book goes out the window in this

KINGUSSIE will be trying to upset the odds when they visit Newtonmore on Saturday.

Kings manager Russell Jones admitted Newtonmore had overtaken his side over the past few seasons, but said he still expected his team to put in a strong performance.

Jones told *The Oban Times*: 'This Saturday takes care of itself really. Newtonmore games are always the one you want to play in.'

'We definitely want to get a result against them but we'll be under no illusions, over the last couple of years the tables have definitely turned and they are now the dominant team in Badenoch, if not all of shinty.'

Jones will have Ryan Borthwick, Louis Munro and Fraser Munro all available for the game.

Kings had been in good form before losing heavily to Kinlochshiel in Balmacara last weekend, going down 6-1.

Jones said: 'We lost some crazy goals. Whether it was an end of season thing I don't know, maybe people are a bit less focussed. But there's no excuse for that.'

INVERARAY face a resurgent Kinlochshiel away from home this Saturday, but will have to rediscover their motivation for winning after defeat last weekend.

The Royal Burgh could be accused of letting the upcoming Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup affect their league focus, following defeat at Fort William last weekend.

Two late goals from Chris Crawford and Stuart Robertson saved Inveraray from an embarrassing scoreline; after 58 minutes the score stood at 5-1 in the Lochaber team's favour, with Euan McMurdo providing the single goal.



Newtonmore's Scott Chisholm and Kilmallie's Mark MacPherson hold nothing back in this challenge - but it was the league leaders Newtonmore who eventually prevailed 3-1 in a pulsating encounter at Canal Parks. 20.1344/101

Honest mistake proves costly for Newtonmore

THE Camanachd Association has confirmed that Newtonmore have been thrown out of the 2012 Sutherland Cup competition for fielding an ineligible player.

In a statement, the association's behaviour in sport committee said: 'We have had to make a difficult decision in a very unfortunate case.'

'We have upheld the complaint of misconduct made by the discipline administrator of the Camanachd Association against Newtonmore Camanachd.'

'In doing so, we would commend Newtonmore for their prompt admission of their breach of the rules of the Sutherland Cup competition and for the thorough and honest approach taken by Mr MacArthur and Mr MacDonald, their representatives at the hearing. We have no doubt Newtonmore's breach of the rules arose by way of an honest mistake.'

'However, in this case the breach may have had practical consequences in influencing the outcome of both the semi-final and the final, in both of which games their ineligible player scored a goal.'

'Our decision, which is the only realistic one open to us, is that Newtonmore must forfeit the semi-final game to the opponents and are disqualified from the 2012 Sutherland Cup Competition. The result of their semi-final and the cup final are therefore nullified.'

'We thank the Camanachd Association for assisting us by obtaining specialist legal advice from sports lawyers frequently advising SportsScotland and other sports governing bodies in such matters.'

'It has also been decided that the 2012 Sutherland Cup Final will now be played between the losing semi-finalists to Newtonmore, namely Glenurquhart Shinty Club, and the losing finalists to Newtonmore, namely Kingussie Camanachd Club. The Camanachd Association will now make the arrangements.'

However, the two late consolation strikes made the scoreline more respectable.

KYLES ATHLETIC will have one eye on the Badenoch derby in Newtonmore on Saturday, as they take on Bute in Tighnabruich.

Kyles will expect to take two points from the islanders, while hoping Kingussie can beat Newtonmore to give the Argyll side the momentum in the title race.

Kyles trainer James Perlich, however, insists there are no guaranteed points in the Orion Group Premiership.

He said: 'Bute are quite a stuffy team and hold the ball up well, so they can disrupt your game and unless we keep focused on our game plan, we could struggle.'

'Our focus will be on getting the two points but obviously we will be aware of what's going on up north.'

egated Kilmallie at An Aird on Saturday.

The Fort's local rivals will be desperate to end their two-season sojourn in the Orion Group Premiership with a win.

But since Fort William returned to their home pitch from exile at Black Parks, Peter MacIntyre's men have given indications of their true form - far too late in the day for any silverware, of course.

The derby match will be Fort William's last of this campaign - and victory would provide further evidence that the team could be a real force to be reckoned with next season.

The signs are already there - back to back wins over Kingussie, then Inveraray last week, propelled The Fort up to fourth in the league, with a Duncan Rodger hat-trick, one from the penalty spot, and a double from Daniel Stewart doing the damage.

BUTE face one of their toughest matches of the season against fellow Argyll and Bute team Kyles Athletic this Saturday.

The islanders will be out to disrupt the fast-flowing Kyles attack, as they attempt to build for next season.

KILMALLIE travel over the Caledonian Canal to play derby rivals Fort William in their final league game in the Orion Group Premiership carrying the burden of knowing that relegation is now a reality.

The Caol men gave their best last weekend against leaders Newtonmore and when Liam MacDonald equalised midway through the first half hope briefly flickered.

But a 3-1 defeat meant the end of Kilmallie's presence in the top flight next season - and now the club will seek to sign out win a win over their near neighbours.

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a poor season, that's all you can say - we have had difficulty at times getting a team.'

'But we have Fort William on Saturday and that's one we would like to win. We beat them in the Camanachd Cup and they beat us in the league, so I feel we have a good chance of going out with a win.'

'Getting a victory would egg the boys on for next season and give us a good jog on after we go down and show other teams that we are not a walkover.'

own pitch and have some good forwards like Bartlett, but if we can play to our strengths we should be okay.'

One cloud on Skye's horizon is that they will be without full back Stephen Morrison, who received a grievous blow on his leg against Lochcarron.

MacRae said: 'He got a pretty vicious tackle and it should have been a red card. He had to get a couple of internal stitches on his shin and he was told not to do anything for 10 days. But he is a determined character, so we will wait and see.'

Neil MacVicar could replace Morrison, MacRae said.

LOCHABER will be favourites to continue their unbeaten league campaign when they travel to take on bottom side Strathglass this Saturday.

With eight games still left to play in a marathon season for the Spean Bridge side, manager Michael Delaney knows keeping the good form going is essential if they are to catch league leaders Skye.

Delaney told *The Oban Times*: 'Our league form has been consistent and there's a good blend in the squad. Hopefully we'll be back to full strength this weekend.'

'We've just got to try and keep it going, and try and rest people when we can. It's been a long

season, and we're only halfway through.'

Lochaber moved into second place last week with a 5-0 home win against Inverness.

Delaney said: 'That was a much stronger Inverness team than the one we played up there, and they were only one place behind us in the league before the game. We put in a good performance and we took our chances well.'

LOCHCARRON travel to take on Beaulieu this weekend looking for their first win in three games.

Andrew Mackenzie's men went down 3-0 at home to league leaders Skye Camanachd last weekend.

Jordan Murchison gave the visitors an early lead before seeing his penalty saved by Lochcarron keeper Douglas Mackenzie.

But Skye killed the game off before half time as they scored twice more.

Lochcarron came more into the game in the second half although home keeper MacKenzie prevented the islanders from increasing their lead with some fine saves.

MacKenzie will be using this Saturday's game and their last game of the year against unbeaten Lochaber to fine tune his young squad for the 2013 season.

Beaulieu's Conor Ross shows determination to hold off a strong challenge from Skye's Neil John Campbell in Beaulieu's 3-1 win in the Strathdearn Cup semi final at Braeview Park, Beaulieu on Saturday. Two goals from Calum Morrison early in each half and a 17th minute strike from Martin Davidson put the home side 3-0 up before Paul MacKinnon scored Skye's only goal on 56 minutes.

Photo: Donald Cameron



Lochside Rovers celebrate after winning the Marine Harvest South Division Two league title.



Lochside captain Alex Dunning and teammate David MacInnes with the Marine Harvest South Division Two league championship trophy.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	46	21	22
Kyles Athletic	15	10	2	3	42	29	22
Lovat	16	8	3	5	35	27	19
Fort William	17	7	3	5	35	26	17
Kingussie	15	7	2	6	36	32	16
Glenurquhart	15	7	2	6	31	36	16
Inveraray	13	7	0	6	33	28	14
Kinlochshiel	15	6	2	7	39	36	14
Kilmallie	17	3	2	12	28	47	8
Bute	15	0	4	11	9	43	4

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	13	10	2	1	36	16	22
Lochaber	10	8	2	0	48	8	18
Caberfeidh	16	8	2	6	45	30	18
Beaulieu	12	6	1	5	25	26	13
Inverness	16	5	2	9	27	49	12
Lochcarron	16	4	3	9	23	40	11
Strathglass	15	1	2	12	23	58	4

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	11	10	0	0	54	10	21
Glasgow MA	13	10	0	3	40	16	20
Glenorchy	13	10	0	3	30	14	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
Glenarry	17	7	1	9	31	38	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47	15
Aberdeen Uni	17	6	2	9	37	39	14
Kingussie	16	5	4	7	38	41	14
Fort William	16	7	0	9	25	33	14
Lochaber	16	3	3	10	38	68	9

Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	18	17	0	1	98	27	34
Kyles Athletic	16	11	0	5	61	28	22
Tayforth	16	9	1	6	49	38	19
Ballachulish	15	8	2	5	33	29	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	18	5	1	12	44	49	11
Aberdour	16	4	1	11	30	64	9
Glasgow MA	18	4	0	14	19	95	8

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
Bolaskine	16	11	2	3	67	35	24
Kilmallie	16	9	2	5	63	36	20
Lochcarron	15	9	1	5	46	31	19
Caberfeidh	17	8	0	9	46	47	16
Strathspey	18	5	2	11	39	71	12
Lewis Camanachd	18	3	2	13	26	69	8
Strathglass	18	3	2	13	27	79	8
Inverness	17	2	1	14	15	71	5

(All Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)

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Robert makes golfing history

'I just took one competition at a time'

A TEENAGER has made golfing history in Argyll by becoming the first player to hold all four age group county championships at the same time.



Robert with his Argyll trophy haul. 15_1346001

Glencruitten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre, who turned 16 years old on August 3, also became the youngest winner of the Argyll and Bute strokeplay (senior) event last weekend. The Oban High School pupil won the senior competition with a new course record of a five-

under-par 67 at Machrihanish Dunes on Saturday.

The victory, by way of a play-off against Millport 19-year-old Craig Pirie, meant Robert held Argyll and Bute titles at under-16, under-18, youth (under-21) and senior levels.

Robert, who has ambitions to become professional, said: 'I had some good results at the start of the season, which gave me a lot of confidence.

'I started to believe I could do it on the big stage.

'I thought I had a chance of winning all four Argyll and Bute titles because of the way I was playing but I just took one competition at a time.'

Robert's successful season teed off at Ireland's Hilton Templepatrick course at the under-16 quadrangular tournament. He represented the winning Scotland team in the four-team international tournament that included Ireland, Wales and Holland, winning all his singles matches.

In the Scottish boys under-16 open strokeplay Robert finished second by one stroke and made the top 20 in the under-18s equivalent.

He also finished runner-up in the Glencruitten Open (senior).

Coached at the Scottish Golf Union Academy by George Boswell, the teenager will next play at the Scotland versus England junior international in October.



Action from one of the rowing races at this year's Jura Regatta. Photo: Konrad Borkowski

Wonderful weather for Jura Regatta

SMALL Isles Bay was blessed with wonderful weather for this year's Jura Regatta.

There was just enough wind in the morning of August 4 to allow the sailing events to take place.

The warm weather in the afternoon was perhaps more suited for the swimmers than the physical rowing races.

Events were as ever competitive with entrants appearing

from Islay, Tayvallich and even Tiree.

Entertainment continued into the evening with the ever popular Wherries and Trail West who set a fast and furious pace for the dancers.

The Jura Regatta, which started in the mid 1920s, is still the island's main social occasion.

Results: Sailing Class Boats: Sunny Side Down - Cath McCallum; Makito

Fastest Round the Course: Sunny Side Down - Cath McCallum; Sailing - Non Class: Jabiru - Ian Spears and Sandy Rankin; Raft Race: First home - Jura Joinery, Best Dressed - Bataraman; Open Swimming - Charlie Foster; Under-12 years swimming - Oliver Elliot; Rowing Ladies Singles - Katie Fulton; Rowing Men's Singles - Sandy Campbell; Rowing Under-12 years - Jonathon Snell; Rowing 12-15 years - Ryan MacDonald; Rowing Ladies Doubles - Maggie Boyle and Katie Fulton; Rowing Mens Doubles - Alan MacDonald and Kenneth Cameron;

REGATTA

Rowing over-50 years - John MacInnes; Rowing Mixed Doubles - Craig Rozga and Christine Fairman; Open Canoe - David Wright; Canoe under-15 years - Ian Fulton; Outboard Motor Race - David Wright and David MacDonald; Intertownship Trophy (rowing) - Craighouse (Katie Fulton, David and Ronald MacDonald, David Wright); Rose Bowl for the competitor with the most points on the day - David Wright

Primary football festival to be held in Oban on Sunday

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Under 10s and Under 11s are holding a seven-a-side football festival at Mossfield Stadium this Sunday kicking off at 10.30am.

The festival is being sponsored by D & K Lafferty Construction.

Other teams taking part are: Queens Park, Inverness Clachnacuddin, Livingston, Dumbarton United, Dunoon, Lochgilhead and Ardencaple.

Tournament organiser Gary MacIvor said: 'Everything is in place for a great day's football, all we need is for the weather to be kind on the day.'

Old Mull Shield at Glencruitten GC

GOLF

THE FIRST round of the Old Mull Challenge Shield was played at Glencruitten on Sunday August 19, the result was a halved match with three games each.

J Wilshire and P MacCrone (T) won one up against M Cullen and S McCuish (O). J Weir and D MacLean won five and four (T) against J Lafferty and D MacLennan. M Campbell and G Davidson lost one down against J Plunket and D Fraser. I Wilshire and R Inglis (T) lost three and one against R MacKeckan and P Murphy (O). G Chalmers and J MacPhail (T) lost one down against F O'Rourke and K MacCallum (O). D Brown Jr and R Laurie (T) won three and one against P Dunn and S Gow (O).

Charles MacIntyre won the Britannia Trophy at the weekend with a score of 66 - 7 = 59. Kevin Roy was second with a score of 69 - 8 = 61.

In the junior section Steven Murphy won the Trust Quich.

This weekend the Cameron Trophy will be played over Saturday and Sunday.

Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF

GENTS August Tankard: 1 Alan Wilson, 60 (11); 2 Mark Henriksen, 62 (08). Ladies Handicap Championship 2012: 1 Carol Church, 210 (67, 68, 75); 2 Carol MacDougall, 210 (68, 70, 72).

Saints youths do well in Dumbarton

YOUTH FOOTBALL

TWO Oban Saints youth teams, Under 13s and Under 14s, travelled to take part in the Dumbarton Riverside Tournament last Saturday with both finishing up as runners-up in their respective age groups.

The Under 13s lost out to RFD United with the Under 14s going down to Drumchapel United in the final.

The coaches of both Oban teams were delighted the way their players performed on the day.

Saints Under 16s travelled to Lochgilhead for a pre-season friendly and drew 1-1. Netting for the Oban side was Paul McFartridge.

Saints dump Dookers in Centenary Trophy

Centenary Trophy

Tarbert 2 Oban Saints 3

SAINTS travelled to Cil Andris to take on Tarbert in the Centenary Cup knowing that a win or even a draw would put them through to the knockout stages of the competition.

The Oban side had no fewer than eight players unavailable for various reasons as well as team manager Iain Jackson and coach Peter MacCallum, so club secretary David Buchanan and injured central defender Alex Craik took charge of the team on the day.

The home side took the lead in the 4th minute when the Saints defence switched off and Kyle Doull made no mistake, thumping the ball past Daniel Cassells.

The Oban side drew level in the 11th minute after some good work from Ross Maitland set up Craig MacEwan who blasted the ball high into the net past a helpless John Martin.

The Dookers played with only one man up front and were frustrating the premier division side in midfield, not giving them a chance to get the ball down and play it about.

The home side increased their lead in the 14th minute when they were awarded a free kick at

the edge of the Saints box. While Saints keeper Daniel Cassells was organising his defensive wall James Prentice, who had a good game up front for the Tarbert side, spotted that the keeper was off his line and he curled a great free kick into the net to give his side a 2-1 lead.

Saints eventually got their passing game going and equalised with a great goal when Alan Miller made progress up the right flank before firing over a pin-point cross for Myles McAuley who headed the ball home to make the score 2-2.

Referee David MacLean, who handled a sporting game well, blew for half time with the teams going in at the break level at two goals apiece.

The Saints half time team talk was centred round getting the ball down and passing it about and this they certainly did in the second 45 minutes, playing some excellent football.

The Oban side almost broke the deadlock in the third minute of the second half, but keeper John Martin brought off a great save from a Paul Kerr header.

The visitors started to dominate as the half wore on and it was just a matter of time before they scored and this they did in the 57th minute when Myles

McAuley and Craig MacEwan set up Ross Maitland who drilled a low shot into the corner of the net.

Although having plenty of the ball Saints were finding the Dookers packed defence a hard nut to crack although it took another great save from John Martin to deny Paul Kerr. Paul's shot seemed to be heading into the top corner of the net until the Tarbert netminder clawed the ball away with a tremendous save.

Saints brought on new signings Mattie Rippon and Colin Tindall as the game wore on, and although they created a couple of good chances they couldn't add



Craig MacEwan takes on Kyle Doull during last Saturday's game at Cil Andris. 06_4344saints04

FOOTBALL

to the goal tally and had to be content with a 3-2 win.

David Buchanan said: 'It took us a while to get going, but once we got into gear we played some good football, dominating the second half and fully deserved the win, but credit to Tarbert they never gave up in what was an entertaining and sporting game of football.'

This Saturday Saints stay on Centenary Cup duty when they travel to take on Gourcock Thistle in the second round. The game will take place at Battery Park, Greenock, with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Alan Lamb.

Uist and Barra youngsters lose out in Galway Cup final

YOUTH FOOTBALL

BOYS from Uist and Barra Junior Football Club came to within an inch of greatness after reaching the final of the Galway Cup in Ireland, only losing out to a rampant Mervue United. The trip is part of an annual excursion for the group of young footballers from the Western Isles.

Participating in the Boys 1995 category, other guests at the tournament included internationally renowned teams such as Moscow Dynamo, Malaga, Aberdeen and Manchester City, although competing in different age groups.

The players also got to meet Peter Weir, one of the Aberdeen players to earn legendary status for winning Cup Winners Cup.

Uist and Barra opened their tournament against Mervue, who had just won the country's North Regional Cup and ranked as the team to beat. Mervue proved their credentials by winning 5-0, leaving the islanders with an uphill struggle to qualify from their group.

However, they rallied and thumped five past Cavan Monaghan, who had only recently drawn with Mervue Utd. Goals came from Neil Sinclair, Ally Downie (two), Ali MacDonald and Calum Murray.

On day three, Uist and Barra faced two teams, first Salthill Devon, coming back from an early goal to win 3-1, before fac-

Struan to lead out Inverness Caley Thistle against Celtic

FOOTBALL

AN OBAN lad will lead out Inverness Caledonian Thistle for their Scottish League tie this Saturday against champions Celtic at Tulloch Stadium.

Nine-year-old Struan Macdonald has been chosen as the club's mascot for the game, which is being televised live on Sky Sports.

The Park Primary School pupil, who has been a supporter of the Inverness team since the age of four, said he was 'over the moon' to be chosen.

Struan plays for Galaxy FC in the Oban and District Sunday league.



Struan Macdonald.

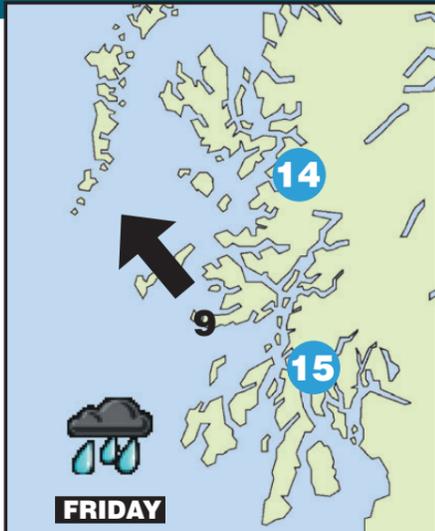
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 23, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.13	1.0	09.03 3.5 15.33 0.9 21.20 3.4
Fri 04.07	1.3	09.57 3.2 16.33 1.2 22.18 3.1
Sat 05.18	1.5	11.15 3.0 17.46 1.5 23.54 2.9
Sun 06.41	1.6	13.34 3.0 19.09 1.6 *** **
Mon 02.17	2.9	08.09 1.5 14.55 3.3 20.38 1.5
Tues 03.37	3.1	09.23 1.3 15.50 3.5 21.52 1.3
Wed 04.25	3.3	10.17 1.0 16.32 3.8 22.43 1.0

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.

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Macaulay Cup damaged during celebrations

THERE WAS more than a few sore heads in Drumnadrochit on Monday morning after the village's shinty team won their first ever senior trophy.

Drum was a ghost town on Saturday as busloads of fans headed south to watch Glenurquhart crush Oban Camanachd 6-0 in the Artemis Macaulay Cup final.

Chloe MacDonald, whose brother Arran played in the game, travelled to watch the game. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was such a good atmosphere at the game. And there was a great reception for the boys when they got back to the village. Everyone went outside to cheer them when they arrived.'

'I've seen a few pictures of them still celebrating. I think they all booked the Monday off work just in case they won!'

However, the celebrations were dampened when the trophy was damaged in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Glenurquhart co-manager Drew McNeill said the incident had tarnished the cup win.

He said: 'It's taken the shine off a good performance and a great day. Instead of people focussing on how we played they'll remember it as the year the cup got damaged.'

'It wasn't anything malicious, it was just stupidity. It was slightly bent and someone tried to straighten it out.'

'The first people who should have been told were the Macaulay Association, but it was handled badly.'

For the Macaulay Association's reaction, see page 7.



The Macaulay Cup: broken in two after victory.



June and David Boyter from Kinlochleven, front centre and right, with their An Fir Dileas comrades at the Glenfinnan Games.

Battle group step back in time at Glenfinnan

JACOBITE battle re-enactment group An Fir Dileas (The Loyal Men) added to the sense of history at Glenfinnan Games on Saturday as an estimated 2,000 people flocked to the scenic Loch Shiel-side location next to the Glenfinnan Monument.

The group's Jacobite banners, period costumes and weapons

proved a big hit with the crowd at the annual event, which prides itself on retaining its traditions and heritage.

Two An Fir Dileas members, husband and wife David and June Boyter, hail from Kinlochleven. Ms Boyter told *The Oban Times* on the field: 'It's all about trying to keep the Scottish tradition

alive - we are modern day Jacobites. It's important to keep our heritage and not forget.'

Games field manager Alastair Gibson paid tribute to local man Ronnie MacKellaig, who has spent 65 of his 84 years helping to run Glenfinnan's biggest day of the year.

Mr Gibson said: 'What

Ronnie has done will never be repeated.'

An Fir Dileas marched to Highbridge at Spean Bridge from the Commando Memorial on Sunday to commemorate the opening skirmish of the 1745 Jacobite uprising.

See our Glenfinnan Games photonews special, page 4.

Paralympic torch at Ben Nevis

BEN Nevis will see one of four Paralympic torches being lit around the UK this weekend.

The flames are being created at each of the four highest peaks in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

The Lochaber torch will be lit by a group of local young disabled people and scouts on Sunday.

It will then be taken to Edinburgh for a ceremony on the same day before making its way to the Games' opening celebrations.

Staff, trade unions and the council's Citizen Panel of 2,300 residents will also contribute.

The aim is to bring a report to the full council in December and agree the budget for 2013/14

Council to ask public where it should make budget cuts

HIGHLAND Council is to ask the public where it should make budget savings for the second time in two years.

The council faces a £30 million funding shortfall up to April 2015 - and this week launched a two-month public consultation on ways to plug the hole.

A series of ward forums and briefing events with business, voluntary and specialist groups are planned across the region before October 19.

The move follows a similar exercise in 2010, which council leader Drew Hendry described as 'invaluable' in helping to save £55million.

He added: 'The financial

environment looks challenging even beyond the next two financial years so the consultation will also assist in our longer term budget planning.'

Finance, housing and resources committee chairman Dave Fallows will head the consultation and will attend the public forums.

He will also run a budget blog on the council's web site, which will be launched on Monday. Each week, he will introduce a new subject for discussion, starting with education.

The public can also access the budget information and comment online via the council's home page at www.highland.gov.uk.

New school Caol bound

AN ELEVENTH hour challenge to a recommendation to build Fort William's new Gaelic primary school in Caol will be made in Inverness today amid a furious row over costs.

Highland Council had originally identified the Blar Mhor as its preferred site for the £4million school.

But in a report to today's adult and children's services committee, figures show peat removal at the Blar would make it £900,000 more costly to develop than the new preferred site, the former BMX track on Ardgor Road in Caol.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson and Councillor Eddie Hunter hotly dispute those figures - and will ask for a deferral until more accurate costings are produced.

Councillor Henderson said Ardgor Road was 'perfect' for much needed affordable housing - and said the new school should go on the Blar, next Lochaber High School. He said: 'We are acting with undue haste. If we could wait another six weeks

By STEPHEN NORRIS
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to get real costings [on peat removal] then we would have a Gaelic school for the next 60 years.'

'Parents with children in Gaelic medium education are absolutely furious about this decision.'

'They were consulted to death on the new Gaelic school in Fort William and now find their choice has been ignored on the grounds of cost before test bores and accurate costings have been made. The administration could save face by listening to the Gaelic parents. They will be left with 10 acres of peat and no exit strategy.'

But Councillor Bill Clark strongly rejected suggestions costings for the Blar site had been based on incomplete test bore data. He said: 'The facts and full figures submitted by the director and officers can now be debated and a decision taken - and the decision will be to locate the Gaelic school on Ardgor Road. There have

been allegations that these are 'table top' figures, which is completely and utterly untrue. All the work that was carried out on the Blar and Ardgor Road was carried out by professionals and those who would want to bring discredit on these figures are stepping out of line.'

He added: 'Given the current economic climate it is a major achievement to be getting a new Gaelic school built in Fort William in the first place.'

Fiona Byrne, chair of Fort William Gaelic parents group Comann nam Pàrant a' Ghearsdaid, backed the Blar site.

She said: 'We, as parents, feel our views and opinions on the preferred site are being ignored.'

She added: 'This is an opportunity to build a flagship school, a central hub for the Gaelic community, but some councillors do not appreciate or understand the importance of this, regardless of the fact we live in the central Highlands, with Gaelic an integral part of our heritage and culture.'

Book is oil on troubled waters

TRADITIONAL local fishing knowledge could help the Scottish Government meet commitments to biodiversity, according to new research by the Scottish Crofting Federation and the Scottish Association of Marine Science.

Authors, SCF researcher Iain MacKinnon and SAMS' Ruth Brennan say their work, 'Dùthchas na Mara' ('Belonging to the Sea'), could improve relations between bodies such

as Scottish Natural Heritage and local people. Mr MacKinnon and Ms Brennan told *The Oban Times*: 'We believe [the book] has the potential to connect different ways of understanding the marine environment that are held by islanders and government agencies and that finding a place for each of these ways of understanding within the other could give rise to a richer way of knowing and connecting to the sea.'

The report follows SNH consultations on controversial plans to create special areas of conservation at East Mingulay and Sound of Barra - a move fiercely opposed locally.

David MacLennan of SNH said: 'It is clear future management of these areas - if they proceed to designation - can only be delivered with input from the local communities and stakeholders.' The book was launched in Castlebay last Wednesday.

Traffic tailbacks top agenda

TAILBACKS at the Inverloch traffic lights on the A82 are to be discussed at a meeting of the Fort William Traffic Congestion steering group next month.

Since Transport Scotland upgraded the junction last year there has been frequent hold-ups at peak times, with locals complaining the lights automatically

stop the flow of traffic on the A82 when vehicles approach from the Inverloch exit.

Group chairman Brain Murphy told *The Oban Times* the issue will be the top item on the agenda on September 4.

He said: 'I've been inundated with complaints about these lights. No matter what Transport

Scotland tells us, they do not work.'

'They favour traffic coming into and out of Inverloch to the effect traffic on the main road is often backed up all the way to the bypass.'

'The trunk road traffic needs to be kept moving, especially at this time of year.'

Gallop & Grind CHARITY DUATHALON

It's the 5th Gallop & Grind Event and given the success of the previous four years, this year promises to be bigger and better and will provide a fantastic day out for everyone. This year's event is again being organised by an independent, enthusiastic committee and is kindly sponsored by Marine Harvest, MacPhee and Partners, MacLean Electrical and Ferguson Transport. We are delighted to say all entrance fees and money raised will be going directly to the charity. News Radio will provide entertainment at the event throughout the day for participants and spectators alike. Come and enjoy a warm up fitness session in the park from 11.30am. After completing the challenge participants and spectators can enjoy the freshly cooked fish from the Marine Harvest BBQ.

Sat 29th September 2012
@ 12 NOON FROM LOCHABER LEISURE CENTRE, FORT WILLIAM

This event raises funds for the Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust, Cancer Care in the Highlands, a local based charity that supports individuals and families in the Highlands affected by cancer. Gallop & Grind events have raised over £130,000 and MacMillan Nurses, Crossroads Lochaber, Raigmore Hospitals, CLIC Sargent and Crocus charity in Inverness have already enjoyed the benefits from this fantastic event.

PRIZE GIVING
at Leisure Centre @ 4pm

With 1 in 3 of us being affected by cancer in some way please make a difference today by signing up!

www.gallopandgrind.org.uk

Haulage firm tops up club coffers again

KILMALLIE Shinty Club may have been relegated to North Division 1, but they will start next season's campaign secure in the knowledge that a stalwart financial backer is still onside.

Ahead of Kilmallie's match against Newtonmore on Saturday, local haulage firm boss Ewen Bowman handed club chairman Hugh MacIntyre a substantial contribution to Kilmallie's coffers - continuing a longstanding commitment that stretches back over two decades. The Duisky-based company also sponsors the club's strips and kits out the Camanachd Association's referees as well.

Kilmallie Club Chairman Hugh MacIntyre expressed his thanks at the informal presentation at Canal Parks.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Ewen has been sponsoring us for at least 25 years and we are very grateful to him. He has been a fine supporter of shinty and has helped us immensely over the years. When he started at first we were very low on funds and his help since then has been invaluable.'

Kilmallie lost the match 3-1. See shinty round-up, page 25.



Ewen Bowman, left, continued his financial support of Kilmallie at Canal Parks on Saturday. Hugh MacIntyre accepts his contribution. 20_134k102

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Voluntary Action Lochaber recruitment fair

FORT William-based charity Voluntary Action Lochaber is to hold a recruitment fair on Tuesday to attract more people to lend a hand.

The fair, to be held on Fort William High Street from 11am-3pm, will give people a opportunity to see what the charity does on a day-to-day basis.

VAL communications officer James McPherson Young said: 'It's a great opportunity to meet local groups and charities, see what they do make Lochaber a better place to live, and even pick up a taster session to get some first-hand experience in volunteering yourself.'

BB gun case against teenager dropped

THE CASE against a Fort William teenager accused of shooting an 11-year-old with a BB gun has been dropped after the alleged victim failed to appear at court for a second time.

David Alexander, aged 16, of 1 Banff Crescent, had denied striking the youngster on the body with the pellet, injuring him, at Lochaber Road play park on February 16.

Fiscal Andrew Laing said he did not know why the 11-year-old, who had been due to give his evidence via video link, had not showed up.

Onich man admonished

AN ONICH man who threatened to burn down his elderly mother's last Christmas has been admonished following for six months of good behaviour.

James Maclean admitted making the threats at Forester's Cottage, Inchree where he lived with his mother on December 28.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 44-year-old brandished matches, threw about items of furniture, shouted and swore and acted in an aggressive manner. Police officers arrived and found him holding matches in the kitchen and had to restrain him.

Maclean also pled guilty to making threats, acting aggressively, and resisting two police officers by swinging his arms, struggling with them and kicking out with his legs.

On site meeting to discuss community hub plans

CAMUSCROSS and Duisdale Initiative directors have met Camuscross common grazings shareholders on site to discuss making around two acres of the grazings available for a proposed community hub.

CDI wants to build the social and enterprise centre on land above the main road, half a mile south of the Isleornsay roadend. The hub would house a shop, café, gathering space and children's play area, and would be connected to CDI's planned hydro scheme from Allt Duisdale Reservoir. It would serve the local south Skye crofting communities.

CDI director Graeme MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'The meeting went quite amicably. It was just to keep them updated on progress on the whole thing.'

CDI has until September 21 to submit a Stage 2 grant application to the Big Lottery for its hub proposal.



Graeme MacKenzie: 'amicable' meeting.

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Stromeferry bypass option spotlight

HIGHLAND councillors have agreed to spend £500,000 on developing options for replacing the A890 Stromeferry bypass near Lochcarron. Possible solutions include a bridge across narrows between Lochcarron and Stromeferry at an estimated cost of £60million and a by-pass through the Attadale Estate between Strathcarron Junction and Glen Udalain at £23million.

A landslide closed the lifeline route on December 22 and only fully re-opened on April 23. Stabilising the rock face and laying on trains and ferries cost Highland Council £1.6m, while

locals travelling between Kyle and Lochcarron faced a 140-mile diversion via Inverness. TECS committee chairman Councillor Graham Phillips said: 'Delivering a permanent solution is a complex and expensive project so we need to make sure we get it right.'

'As we go through the various stages of design development we will ensure that we consult with local people and businesses and actively ask for their feedback.'

Public meetings to update the local community will be held by the end of March 2013.

Roadworks underway

ROAD improvement works in Stornoway and Tarbert got underway on Monday.

The jobs, which will take four weeks, are scheduled for Anderson Road, Goathill Roundabout, Matheson Road, Marybank, Laxdale Bridge and Ferry Road, Tarbert.

The travelling public are asked to avoid these areas if possible.



Lovat Hotel manager Caroline Gregory: being eco-friendly mean boosting profits.

Cutting down on food waste a top priority

LOCHABER businesses and householders are being urged to join a new scheme designed to reduce food waste and boost in-house recycling.

The £34,000 food waste composting trial, being run by Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG), will run over the next 12 months.

The project also aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions and save people money.

LEG is looking for a range of participants interested in getting involved in the trial - from domestic households, small or medium size businesses and community groups.

Those taking part will have access to a range of composting equipment and machinery.

LEG project officer Anne Nelson said the trial was particularly aimed at businesses such as B&Bs and restaurants - but asked the wider community to become involved.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Legislation coming from the Scottish Government states that food premises producing more than 50kg of food waste per week have to separate it from other waste streams and have it collected.'

'They are only applying it to cities at the moment so there is a get-out for Lochaber in the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

short term, but there is nothing to say our businesses here won't be asked to do this in the near future.'

She added: 'Maybe food businesses that have a lot of food coming back should consider changing their menus, and their portion sizes too.'

'Food waste going to landfill gives off methane gas, which is ten times more harmful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.'

'Our aim is to investigate ways of avoiding this.'

Benefits

The scheme will use equipment similar to that in already in use at the Lovat Hotel in Fort Augustus, which is reaping the benefits of eco-friendly policies.

A total of 11,680 litres of food waste was composted in 2011 in its 'Rocket Composter' last year.

Ms Nelson said: 'The hotel has an automated food composting machine which you put food waste into. It chops it up and heats it to kill all the pathogens.'

'Four weeks later you get composted food waste which can't leave the site but can be used on the hotel garden. They can recycle more, send less to

their recycle bin and cut down on waste collection costs.'

The Lovat has won a host of eco accolades, including the CIS Sustainable Hotel award 2012 and the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Award 2012, and has been profiled under VisitScotland's Sustainable Tourism strategy.

Hotel manager Caroline Gregory told *The Oban Times*: 'We are committed to a target of reducing CO₂ by 15 per cent by 2016 with potential financial savings of around £9,000 over the lifetime of the carbon management plan.'

'Sustainability is often a word misunderstood - for me it is another word for profitability. It is embedded in our business plan, benefitting our operation through cost savings as well as marketing opportunities.'

'Our eco-conscious ethos has developed over the past seven years and we are continually looking to improve on our performance, which involves everyone from suppliers, to staff and to our guests.'

For more information on the Lochaber food waste composting trial contact Anne Nelson on 01397 700 090, email info@lochaber-environmentalgroup.org.uk or visit www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk.

Councillors award cash to six groups

LOCHABER councillors have awarded cash grants to six local organisations from their discretionary budgets.

Spean Bridge Community Council received £150, Isle of Muck Community Enterprise Limited £750 for hall equipment and Caol and Lochaber Gardening Show £500.

The business meeting in Lochaber House also agreed to contribute £2,000 in principle to Caol Regeneration Company towards renovating public toilets. The Scottish Islands Federation was awarded £400 towards the cost of an islands seminar, while the Tuesday Social Club received £700 to offset running costs.

Police warning on 'smartphone' apps

NORTHERN Constabulary is urging hill walkers not to rely solely on 'smartphone' apps for navigation after walkers got lost in fog in the high mountains.

The warning comes after police and Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team had to rescue 16 people in two separate incidents last week. The groups only had the map-based apps for navigation and were poorly equipped for the conditions.

Aviemore acting inspector Kevin MacLeod said: 'When you consider the dangers of getting lost in the mountains or of taking a false turn, it would be difficult to over-state the importance of being able to navigate accurately.'

'Smartphone' apps are a great innovation but, on their own, they are not reliable enough for navigation in the mountains.

'In addition to being suitably equipped, walkers should have, and know how to use, a map and compass or other suitable navigational device.'

Council wins better deal on delivery surcharges

HIGHLAND Council has won a better deal for local consumers over delivery surcharges levied by internet trading companies.

Trading standards officers have persuaded more than 20 firms to comply with the law and either scrap or publicise properly excess delivery charges.

Consumer protection legislation requires retailers to be upfront about such fees. Any firm indicating charges lower than those actually charged is breaking the law.

Providing information about delivery charges that is hidden, ambiguous, unclear or untimely is also an offence.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Furious customers inundated the council with complaints after being charged extra for already paid-for goods, despite 'free delivery to mainland UK' advertising.

The outcry prompted a month-long trading standards probe using evidence from Citizens Advice Scotland, Consumer Focus Scotland and the Office of Fair Trading.

The investigation into a large number of individual businesses is ongoing but successes continue, TEC services committee

councillors were told.

Dabs.com, the internet trading platform for BT Store, are to apply a 'flat fee' delivery charge and will no longer surcharge Highlands, islands or Northern Ireland customers.

And eBay, which ships goods for small traders, is to correct a flaw in their systems that miscoded many mainland postcodes as off-shore islands, which saw many people being incorrectly refused delivery by some businesses.

TEC services chairman Graham Phillips said most firms involved had not intended to

'mislead or rip' off consumers, but were simply unaware of what the law required of them.

Trading standards manager Gordon Robb added: 'Great credit goes to a small team of highly motivated staff who have been involved in very detailed and exhaustive negotiations, which have resulted in agreements to voluntarily change the way these businesses handle delivery charges.'

'This success will I have no doubt significantly affect the internet shopping experience of many consumers, both here in Highland and in other remote communities.'

New owners promise to expand Corpach salmon and shellfish business in future

CORPACH salmon and shellfish company GlenIsle has been bought over by Associated Seafoods Ltd, who have promised to expand the business.

GlenIsle, based at Annapoint Industrial Estate, employs around 20 members of staff and was previously part of the Sco-Fro group. It has an annual turnover of approximately £6million and supplies premium whole Scottish langoustine to a wide range of export markets, including Spain, France, Italy, Croatia and the Middle East.

ASL chairman Bill Hazeldean

said the acquisition progresses the company's plan to develop a leading position in the marketing of premium Scottish seafood.

He said: 'We are delighted with this latest acquisition, which will enhance our current shellfish operations and broaden our existing markets. We believe there is opportunity to further develop and grow this area of the seafood sector because the quality of the shellfish found around the Scottish coast is, like Scottish salmon, widely recognised as the best in the world. Scottish shellfish is already in great

demand throughout Europe and, increasingly, around the rest of the world.'

ASL said buying GlenIsle will provide them with new export markets for quality fresh and frozen whole Scottish langoustine and will complement its existing shellfish processing operation at Moray Seafoods Ltd.

The acquisition - for an undisclosed sum - was achieved with funding from Scottish Seafood Investments Ltd. This is the third seafood business acquisition made by ASL in just over a year following the purchase of

Buckie based Moray Seafoods in July 2011 and premium Scottish smoked salmon producer Lossie Seafoods Ltd. Sco-Fro executive chairman Stanley Bernard said: 'I am pleased that the sale of our whole langoustine operation fits well with ASL's other primary processing activities and will offer additional opportunities for both staff and customers of the GlenIsle business.'

Scottish export figures for 2011 show that fish and shellfish were the highest value food sector export, up four per cent on the previous year to £648.4m.



Maureen Robertson and Chrissie MacEachan from Caol were the first two members to sign up to the new service. Also pictured is LHA maintenance manager Sean Doherty.

Encouraging start to round-the-clock trade scheme

A LOCHABER community interest company (CIC) has launched a new round the clock service to local homeowners and businesses.

Lochaber Housing Association Property Services signed up its first two members to LOCHABER 365 earlier this month.

LHA maintenance manager Sean Doherty presented Maureen Robertson and Chrissie MacEachan from Caol with bouquets of flowers as a token of thanks.

The CIC, formed in 2009, employs 20 people, including tradesmen, labourers, apprentices and office staff.

The CIC designation means that all profits are reinvested in the development of employment opportunities and housing in Lochaber.

And because the company takes responsibility for the development of its local apprentices, it doesn't charge customers for them to shadow a tradesman while working on a job. Membership of the all trades,

improvements and maintenance service is also free.

Mr Doherty said: 'This is an exciting time for LHA Property Services, introducing a service that is not presently available to private homeowners and businesses in the local area, allowing one point of contact to access all trades, 24 hours, 365 days a year.'

'Since its launch on August 6 we have had a steady stream of enquiries so the response from both business and homeowners has been encouraging.'

Wester Ross community group builds two new workshops for rent to local firms

A LOCAL community group in Wester Ross launched its latest project - two new workshops for rent to local businesses.

Strathcarron-based Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group (KWHG), which covers Lochcarron, Strathcarron and Kishorn, has built the two multi-use units at Smithy Barn in Strathcarron for lease to local craft/heritage/environmentally-based firms.

Local GP Doctor David Murray and wood-turner Terry Hitchin declared the workshops officially open at an informal ceremony yesterday. One tenant is about to move in.

KMHG recently hosted festival fringe events in its community tree house and its work was featured on Sky TV.

The group employs Kristine Mackenzie as local development officer and has undertaken a number of projects to support the economic, cultural and social future of the remote area.

Ms Mackenzie said: 'We're really excited to have these two units open and ready for businesses. One unit has been allocated to craft worker and trainer Keira MacFleat, the other will be allocated at a later date. 'We would like to pass on a special thanks to Davy Fraser, Beauly, our main contractor, and the architect - Bill MacDonald, Design Services, Inverness and all those who assisted with the build.'

'Also a big thanks to Liz Whiteford (LEADER), Lindsay

Simpson (HIE Development Officer) and Pam Noble (HIE Community Assets Team) as without their assistance life would have been so much harder.'

The units cost £182,000 - with HIE awarding £54,000, £118,000 from LEADER, and the balance from KWHG.

KWHG is the local anchor organisation for HIE's community account management model, part-funded by LEADER, which supports community groups to hire a local development officer to create a comprehensive 'growth plan' for their local area.

In 2011 KWHG built the Strathcarron Treehouse as part of Sky TV's Great British Treehouse Challenge.

New Nicolson Institute welcomes first pupils

But chemical spill forces precautionary early closure the day after doors open

THE NEW Nicolson Institute (Ard Sgoil MhicNeacail) in Stornoway welcomed its first intake of pupils last Thursday - then closed early the next day as a precaution following a chemical spill.

The school shut at 2pm to allow emergency services to deal with the incident. The Comhairle apologised for any inconvenience.

Among those impressed by the revamped Nicolson were school captains Annabel MacLennan and Alasdair Macleod.

Annabel said: 'It is a real privilege to be amongst the last pupils to be educated at the old Nicolson Institute and the first pupils to move to the impressive new building.'

'We, as a sixth year, will do our very best to ensure that fellow pupils look after it and make the most of it.'

Alasdair, who has strong family connections to Oban, added: 'It is really exciting to be in this



Alasdair Macleod and Annabel MacLennan: impressed with the new Nicolson Institute.

new school and to be part of the first sixth year in the new Nicolson Institute.

'I'm sure that these new facilities will make it a lot easier to go

about the every day life of the school, and I'll be doing everything I can to make it the best possible start to this new chapter in the school's history.'

Corpach man fired airgun in direction of man and children

A CORPACH man fired an airgun from his home in the direction of a man and children in the garden of a nearby house.

Alexander Dunbar, of 32 Clerk Drive, pled guilty to culpably and recklessly firing a pellet in the direction of the man who was with children in the garden of a house on Lady Margaret Drive on March 20.

Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'The man heard a whizzing noise go past his ear, and then heard the noise of something striking the front of his house.'

The man looked up and saw Dunbar holding the air gun.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said the 25-year-old had been trying to shoot a telegraph pole outside his home but missed, sending the pellet towards his neighbour's house.

Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist fined Dunbar £150 and confiscated the gun.

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Tributes paid to former leisure centre manager

LOCHABER is mourning the loss of popular former leisure centre manager Graham Brooks, who died in his Roy Bridge home last Friday.

The 59-year-old was a well-known figure around the town, having worked with his partner Doris McSevenie at the centre since it opened in 1973.

The pair were instrumental in organising numerous successful swimming galas and aqua-shows and launched Lochaber's first life-saving club.

Mr Brooks received national recognition for his coaching ability before they both retired in 2010.

Doris passed away in early 2011.

Away from his work Mr Brooks was a stalwart of Lochaber Athletic Club and was a regular competitor in the annual Ben Nevis Race.

Local councillor Eddie Hunter paid tribute to Mr Brooks.

He said: 'It is a sad, sad day



Graham Brooks.

and a big loss for the people of Lochaber. Graham will always be remembered for all his hard work at the leisure centre, especially with teaching the children to swim.'

Police confirmed there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr Brooks' death, and said a report would be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Children's care home go-ahead

A NEW children's residential care home is to be situated in Fort William after plans were given the go-ahead by councillors.

Belfast-based Keys Childcare applied for permission to turn the former residential home at Camaghael into a home for up to six young people.

Despite objections from some neighbours, Highland Council's south planning applications committee voted in favour of the plans on Tuesday.

The detached house 'Birchwood' and an adjoined self-contained unit will be used to help and support local young

people in preparation for semi-independent living or to return to their own family.

Local councillors Thomas MacLennan, Andrew Baxter and Bill Clark voted in favour of the application, which planners had recommended for approval.

Councillor Clark said some of the objections had been 'extreme'.

He said: 'The children find themselves in this position through no fault of their own.'

Objections to the proposal were entered by 10 residents of Camaghael and neighbouring Banavie, with one saying the home would be 'a miniature young offenders institution'.

Handbags stolen after car break-ins

TWO CARS were broken into and handbags stolen from inside within three hours on Thursday, August 16.

The window of a silver Vauxhall Corsa parked at Old Inverloch Castle was smashed and the handbag taken between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.

An Audi A3 parked at Glencoe

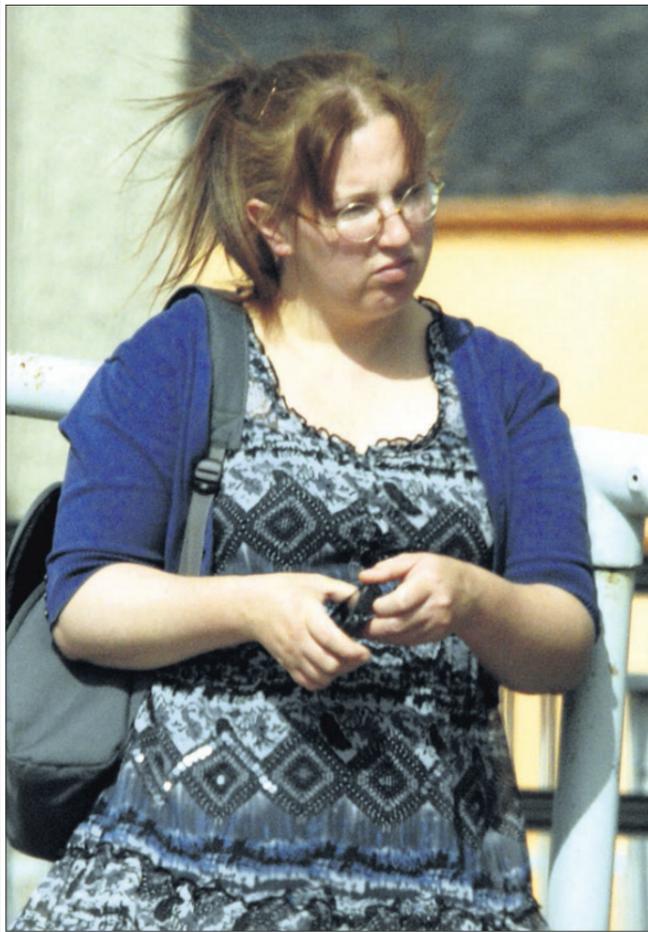
Visitor Centre also had a window smashed with a handbag taken between 5.40pm and 6pm.

Any person with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702 361.

Alternatively, contact the confidential line 01397 702 000, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Drink-drive dentist had two children in her car

Sheriff bans woman from road after hearing 'compelling' Crown evidence



Samantha McKay drove erratically on the A830 with children in her car.

A FORT William dentist who repeatedly veered across the A830 at Banavie with two children in her car forcing other vehicles to swerve out her way has been banned from driving.

Samantha McKay pulled off the main road only to come to a stop yards away in the middle of Kilmallie Road in Caol just before police arrived.

Shocked local woman Catherine Sanderson came across McKay and had to help her move the car to a nearby bus stop.

In her evidence to Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday, Mrs Sanderson said McKay could not put on the hand brake or use her mobile phone.

Mrs Sanderson and two police officers also testified that McKay smelled strongly of alcohol and was incoherent at the time, around 4pm on Tuesday, May 22.

McKay failed to blow into the roadside breathalyser and found it difficult to even put her lips round the mouthpiece.

Mrs Sanderson said: 'I leaned into the car to help her and got a whiff of alcohol, so I took the keys.'

Police Constable Colin Marshall said: 'Her speech was slurred, there was a strong smell of alcohol and she was unable to hold a normal conversation.'

'She struggled to walk to the police car and then made a feeble effort to blow into the device.'

McKay was taken to Fort William Police Station where she again was unable to provide breath specimens despite repeated attempts.

Scotland Trans employee Duncan Crilly called police after seeing McKay veering across the road between Corpach and the Banavie swing bridge.

Mr Crilly told the court: 'She was weaving from the kerb to the centre line. She encroached

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

a couple of times into the other carriageway and a couple of oncoming vehicles had to swerve to avoid her.

'It appeared she clipped the corner of the bridge, swerved out and narrowly missed a delivery van.'

McKay, who works at Fort William Health Centre, claimed she only had one glass of wine at lunchtime and was not drunk. The 36-year-old blamed her odd behaviour and failure to take the tests on a panic attack.

She said: 'It came on all of a sudden. My vision goes, there was pounding in my ears, my heart was racing.'

'I just shut down. I did co-operate with them but I felt unable to do what they asked.'

She said her poor driving was caused by trying to separate a fight between the children in her car.

Fiscal Andrew Laing told McKay: 'I think you are in denial. You didn't have a single glass of wine, you had several. These are the symptoms of a person who had been drinking too much, not the symptoms of a person having a panic attack.'

Finding McKay guilty, Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist said: 'The Crown case was compelling, and the evidence from Mrs McKay was simply not credible.'

Sentencing was deferred until August 29 for reports, with McKay disqualified from driving in the meantime.

McKay, of Tias, Tomonie, was previously banned from driving for one year after drink driving on the A9 near Perth in 2009. She admitted downing a bottle of wine while driving from Aberdeen to Glasgow, and crashing into nearly 70 posts in the central reservation.

Tourist caught with knife in handbag

A TOURIST was caught driving in Spean Bridge with a knife in her handbag.

Nicola Evans had just started a week long stay in Roy Bridge Lodge with her husband when police pulled their car over on the A82 on August 14.

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose said the 43-year-old ran a craft company and used the lock knife to create miniature wooden dolls and had forgotten the blade was in her bag.

Appearing from custody last Wednesday, Evans, of 110 Mansfield Road, Selston, Nottingham, admitted having the knife without reasonable excuse or lawful authority.

Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist fined Evans £200 and confiscated the knife.

Shinty players get Scotland call-up

FIVE Glengarry shinty players have been selected to represent Scotland for the women's team's trip to Ireland in October.

Annie Butterworth, Karen Cameron, Laura Gallacher, Joanne Gillanders and Elaine Wink are all named in the 20-strong squad.

Skye's Lorna Macrae was also selected for the first time, while her teammate Jenna Beaton and Lochaber's Kathleen Cameron are on the reserve list.

Royal Bank denies Fort William branch closure

THE ROYAL Bank of Scotland has denied it is set to close its Fort William branch.

Rumours had circulated the town that RBS was considering shutting down the High Street branch, but an RBS spokesperson told The Oban Times there were 'no plans to close'.

The bailed-out bank closed more than 40 branches around the UK in 2011.

Skye food trio on awards shortlist

THREE top Skye eateries feature among 44 finalists in this year's Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards finalists announced this week.

The Red Roof Café Gallery in Glendale is nominated in three categories - best other eatery, environment award and new business.

Creelers of Skye in Harrapool and The Glenview in Staffin are up for restaurant of the year, where they face stiff competition from Isle of Eriska Hotel, Kylesku Hotel, Summer Isle Hotel, Baltasound Hotel in Shetland and The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline.

Elsewhere, Roy Bridge-based Great Glen Game is nominated in the best marketing initiative category.

Kinloch powers ahead with hydroelectric plan

A LOCHABER village famed for its industrial heritage is a step closer to generating its own hydroelectric power.

Kinlochleven Community Trust is advertising for consultants to work up plans for a 100kw hydroelectric scheme on the Allt a' Chumhainn, a fast-flowing burn between the village and Loch Eilde Mor.

The experts will be charged with identifying potential funders for the £540,000 project and providing technical advice.

Early estimates show the hydro plant could generate around £80,000 annually to fund local projects.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The cash would be a major boost for the trust, which admits it 'faces considerable financial challenges to survive and to continue the regeneration of Kinlochleven'.

Now community directors are keen to use water to power their efforts just as industrial pioneers did over a century ago.

KCT chairman Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times*: 'We have the backing of Rio Tinto Alcan for this scheme, who are providing behind the scenes advice

and support. They know that the £70-£80,000 generated every year by the scheme would make a big difference to the village. It would allow us to carry out bigger environmental tourism based projects without always depending on outside funding.'

Alcan handed over ownership of several properties and 75 acres of land to the community to soften the blow.

Tourism has grown since then, but in its tender brief to consultants the trust accepts it has become 'too reliant' on rental income and needs to develop new income streams.

It adds: 'KCT is keen to seek all opportunities for any renewable energy project that would have community ownership or part ownership. Any such scheme could bring an increased sense of control but more importantly a regular income stream for economic and community benefits.'

'Kinlochleven community has been conscious of the loss of their own power and there is a strong desire to make use once again of the local generation capacity for their own benefit and as part of the move towards village sustainability.'

A Rio Tinto Alcan spokesperson said: 'We have been working with KCT for some time on this project. We are fully supportive of their aims to construct and run a small hydro scheme, and will aid them where we can in order for them to meet their goal.'

The village's aluminium smelter closed in 2000, dealing a devastating blow to the local economy. The turbine hall built to power the whole village and smelter is still working, producing huge revenues for Rio Tinto Alcan.

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30-stone bear's mission 'impawisible'



Woodcarver Gary Shand hands over the giant bear to Gladys and Jimmy Johnston at Sunart and District Show.

A GIANT wooden bear is marooned in Ardour - awaiting a lift over the Corran Ferry and on to its new home at Spean Bridge. Jimmy and Gladys Johnston, who live in the village, won the six-foot high, 30-stone beast at the recent Sunart and District Show at Strontian - where it was top prize in the raffle.

Wood carver Gary Shand from Huntly fashioned the animal as hundreds of spectators looked on - with those buying tickets all wondering how they would get it home if they won.

And when Jimmy's £1 ticket was announced as the winner, the Lochaber couple couldn't believe it.

Gladys told *The Oban Times*: 'Jimmy asked me what I was going to call it and I said wait a minute - the thing's not home yet!'

'Johnnie Boyd took it up to his house at Keil Farm in his tractor but it's still sitting there. We were told at the show a way would be found to deliver it. How are we supposed to lift this thing - it weighs a ton!'



Hydro electric piping down to the power house at Kinlochleven.

Morvern group hosts a weekend of Shakespeare

'ALL the world's a stage', wrote Shakespeare - including, apparently, Achnaha Woodlands in Morvern.

The forest provided an unusual backdrop for a community performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' last Saturday and Sunday.

The Morvern Community Woodlands production saw performers lead the audience on a meandering path, with scenes set at different points among the trees. Around 85 people came to see the production over the two days.

Director Veronique Walraven said: 'The spectators had to walk through the forest to see the whole story. So, dress code was not high heels and formal wear but hiking boots and midge hats.'

Tourism group plans bigger and better march

THE ORGANISERS of a Jacobite march to the historic High Bridge over the River Spean last Sunday are hoping to make the annual event bigger than ever next year.

Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism marketing group organised the march to mark the anniversary of the first skirmish of the August 1745 rising for the second year in a row.

Spokesman Peter Wilson told *The Oban Times* a big expansion of the day was planned for 2013. He said: 'It will become a proper annual event and will hopefully be much bigger eventually. We were hoping to get a grant from some re-enactment groups this year, it was too expensive to do ourselves. We'll put in another application for next year. There would be a large number of people involved in re-enacting a battle. There wouldn't be enough room down at the bridge so we're thinking about holding it at Achaderry Estate in Roy Bridge.'

The group marched to the bridge from the Commando memorial where Terry Innes, brother of the clan chief Colin Innes, made a speech recalling the bravery of 11 Jacobite troops and a piper who tricked two parties of government troops into fleeing in 1745. Meanwhile, the nearby villages Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge flew the red and white Jacobite Standard, still technically outlawed as the law banning it has never been repealed.

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The event will run from 10am-4pm with short presentations from each organisation at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Business Gateway advisers will also be on hand to answer questions about business support and funding.

One to one sessions with the specialists are available on the day - to pre-book a session or to find out more call the Business Gateway team on 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Macaulay cup damaged during Glenurquhart celebrations

THE ORGANISING body of the Macaulay Cup competition has condemned Glenurquhart Shinty's Club's treatment of the trophy after finding out, via facebook, it had been broken.

The 65-year-old trophy, which was donated by Flora Anne Macaulay, former owner of *The Oban Times*, was damaged while in the possession of the Drumadrochit club, who won the final of the competition on Saturday against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

A picture of the damage was posted onto facebook, prompting outrage from the Macaulay Association, which suggested future winners of the competition may not be allowed to keep it. A statement released on Tuesday reads: 'The Macaulay Association wish to express their profound disappointment at the extensive damage caused to the Macaulay Cup within 36 hours of it being presented at Saturday's Macaulay Cup Final.

'To compound the problem the Macaulay only became aware of the damage as a result of postings of photographs on a social networking site, which did little for the reputation of the persons responsible.

'The Macaulay Cup had recently undergone a total refurbishment and was in excellent condition when presented on Saturday. The Macaulay Association will not tolerate their trophy being abused in a manner which seems to be acceptable in some quarters.'

Glenurquhart Shinty Club has admitted responsibility and will compensate the association.

Don't miss chance to change Oban

Businesses urged to have their say on BID plan

BUSINESSES in Oban are being urged to grasp the chance to help transform the town by taking part in a vote of 'massive importance'.

Tomorrow, companies within the town's 30mph zone will receive ballot packs on the proposal to create a Business Improvement District (BID).

They will have until October 5 to vote on the plan, which aims to revitalise the town's trading environment.

The BID, which would see traders developing, managing and paying for a five year scheme to boost the local economy, has already secured a financial commitment of £100,000 over five years from Argyll and Bute Council.

If agreed, all businesses with a rateable value property of £3,000 or over within the town's 30mph zone would contribute

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

through a modest but compulsory levy. Alistair Jackson of Jackson Butchers, a member of the BID4Oban steering group, urged businesses to grasp what he called 'a unique opportunity'.

He said: 'This is a critical decision for Oban. We are standing at a crossroads and face a simple choice. Either we continue on the road we've been on up until now, with each business acting independently, or we change direction and come together to invest collectively to ensure a more prosperous future for all.'

'This is a unique opportunity for us to take our future into our own hands. I am confident the vast majority of our traders will support that idea.'

The ballot packs being sent out this week contain a copy of the full BID business plan, as well as voting papers.

Mr Jackson added: 'I would appeal to all eligible businesses to familiarise themselves with the business plan and what the BID could do for them.'

BID4Oban project co-ordinator, Pauline Cameron, said: 'This is massively important for Oban. If you've ever moaned about anything in Oban this is your chance to do something about it. This is the one chance businesses in Oban get to work together to make a difference.'

A number of national companies trading in the town have also come on board with the project, Ms Cameron added.

For more information on the BID4Oban proposal and business plan, go to www.bid4oban.co.uk.



Happiest boy in Oban gets out on new bike

Nine-year-old Alexander MacLeod was the happiest boy in Oban last week after taking delivery of his new custom-made bike, courtesy of the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust. The Oban-based charity donated more than £2,000 to cover the cost of the bike, giving the youngster the freedom to play with his friends. The Rockfield Primary School pupil has a rare bone disorder, Acampomelic Displasia, meaning he cannot operate a standard bicycle. See inside for full story. 15_134041e02

Teenager dies in Tarbert car crash

TARBERT is mourning the loss of a teenage girl this week after a car crash outside the village on Monday night.

The 17-year-old, who has not yet been named by police, died in Glasgow Royal Infirmary at 8pm on Tuesday after sustaining serious chest injuries.

The girl was travelling with three others when their Honda Civic car left the road near Erines at 8.25pm on Monday.

The driver of the car, a 34-year-old man from Tarbert, sustained a serious neck injury and was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where he is in a stable condition.

A 33-year-old woman is also in a stable condition at the Southern and General Hospital after sustaining serious neck and leg injuries.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash to contact PC Alan MacKinnon at Dunoon Police Station on 01369 763001.

The A83 was closed for eight hours following the incident, opening again at 4.40am on Tuesday morning.

Dealer-sized quantity of heroin seized in Oban raid

A DRUGS swoop by police on a house in Oban has resulted in the seizure of a dealer-sized quantity of heroin.

Police officers searched the premises in Soroba Road at 4pm on Tuesday.

As a result, a 34-year-old man was due to appear from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday morning.

Following the search, a 26-year-old man was also taken into custody in relation to other drugs offences and was due to appear at court on Wednesday.

Highland Heathers in receivership

ARGYLL COMPANY Highland Heathers has gone into receivership this week, laying off all 43 staff.

The company, which supplied heather to major retailers across the UK, will close its four sites at Ford, Braevallich, Achahoish and Taynuilt this week.

A poor growing season, difficult trading environment and increased competition from overseas have been attributed to the downfall of the business.

Hospital patient denied transport forced to cancel appointment

AN OBAN woman who was denied patient transport to hospital in Glasgow says she cancelled her appointment because she could not afford the bus fare.

The woman, who did not want to be named, is no longer eligible for the Scottish Ambulance Service's patient transport service, which provides transport for rural patients requiring treatment locally and in the central belt but recent change to the criteria patients must meet has caused concern.

The 55-year-old told *The Oban Times* that after using the patient transport service to get to Glasgow for the past two-and-a-half years, during treatment for a brain haemorrhage, she is now expected to get to the hospital on public transport, despite only

having an income of £100 per week in incapacity benefit.

She said: 'Because I am able to walk out of my front door unassisted I was considered ineligible for the transport service. I cannot afford to get the bus to Glasgow and a taxi to the hospital, so I cancelled my last appointment.'

'I think vulnerable people will suffer with these changes.'

The woman said she would be on the patient transport service for her next appointment in September, following an intervention by her GP.

Dunollie pensioner Agnes Smith said she has been frustrated by the new phone system and has struggled to book a place on the patient transport service, just to get to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'In July a new direct booking service was introduced for patients as part of a wider upgrade to the Patient Transport Service. Since then 1,362 patients from Oban have been transported to healthcare appointments, 1,168 of them to Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

'The Patient Transport Service has always been available for those patients who have a medical or mobility need for assistance to travel to hospital. If a patient is not eligible for ambulance transport, the alternative options available to them are always explained. Many patients qualify for reimbursement of travel under the NHS Travel Cost Scheme and in many areas free public transport is available.'

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Police files

A LANDOWNER at Clachan Seil has offered a reward of £200 for information leading to a successful conviction, after vandals chopped down nearly 200 willow trees on his property.

David Ainsley said this was the third time trees on land near to Sealife Adventures had been targeted.

Oban Police are investigating the matter, which occurred between Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

Anyone who has any information regarding the incident should contact PC Jeremy Moore at Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

A BOY racer who is accused of carrying out handbrake turns in the Corran Halls car park has been charged with inappropriate driving.

The 17 year old, who was driving a black Vauxhall Corsa, was charged by police following the incident at 11pm on August 13.

THE DRIVER of an HGV vehicle has been charged with driving without due care and attention after allegedly causing a collision on the A828 near to Appin.

The crash happened approximately quarter of a mile north of the village and also involved a Vauxhall Zafira, which collided with the HGV. The Vauxhall subsequently hit a Saab, which was also damaged. No-one was injured.

POLICE officers have been carrying out speed checks in the village of Lochawe in the past week, resulting in two drivers being charged.

Last Thursday, at 9.25am, a 55-year-old man was clocked driving at 52mph in the 30mph zone.

The previous morning a 60-year-old man was charged with speeding after driving at 51mph near to the Loch Awe Hotel.

TWO ROMANIAN men were left deflated after police officers shut down their temporary toy stall in George Street, Oban.

The pair, aged 25 and 18, had set up their inflatable toys stall outside Boots last Friday.

However, police officers charged the men for conducting business as street traders without a licence and the stall was removed.

A WOMAN living in Oban's Miller Road has been charged for anti-social behaviour after being reported three times about the loud volume of her television.

At 7am on Saturday police visited the premises to warn the woman about the noise from her television and returned following another complaint.

At around 9am police were called a third time when the woman was charged.

THREE youths who broke into a house in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, were found to have drugs on their possession when arrested by police officers.

The men, aged 21, 18 and 18, were arrested for breaking into the premises and, following a search, were found to have quantities of cocaine, diazepam and cannabis.

AN ADVENTURE holiday company near Cullipool, Luing, has had lifejackets and buoyancy aids stolen over last weekend.

Wild Island Exploration reported 14 adult lifejackets and four red and black buoyancy aids had been stolen from their premises, six miles west of Cullipool, between 11am on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.

Anyone with any information should contact Oban Police Station.

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Louise starts the torch on its journey piped on by Oban High School Pipe Band members Grant MacNiven, left, and Ruairidh MacKinnon. 15.134louisetorch

Brave Louise battles through illness to stage charity concert

A BIG-HEARTED Oban girl has refused to let hospital treatment get in the way of organising a charity concert in the Corran Halls this weekend.

Oban High School pupil Louise MacDonald endured several trips to Glasgow in recent weeks for surgery and treatment for the side effects of neurofibromatosis, a condition that causes tumour growth across the body.

Now brave Louise, aged 14, has battled through her condition to write scores of letters to celebrities, organisations and football clubs to ask for support for Rocking it Out With a Smile on Saturday.

The concert from 7.30pm-1am will see Glasgow band Siphon headline the gig, fresh from being nominated for the rock

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

recording of the year at the Scottish New Music Awards.

Also performing will be Inverness band Red Ronson and Oban bands Lush Puppies and The Switch.

All proceeds from the gig and raffle tickets will be split between Schiehallion Ward and Teenage Cancer Trust - both based at Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow - and Les Hoey, a granddad from Wishaw who tirelessly works to make wishes come true for children battling serious illness.

All three have had a major impact on the lives of Louise and countless other children.

She's hoping the community can help her thank charities that save or improve the lives of Scotland's sick children.

Louise said: 'I'm hoping for a really good night and lots of smiles to show the difference the charities made to me and to the lives of my friends who have also been helped by them.'

'I didn't want to let anyone down with raffle prizes so I kept writing letters asking for support when I was in hospital. I've managed to get some pretty amazing prizes so far.'

Louise has successfully bagged a tour for four of Celtic park, a tour for six to Ibrox and a night at a top hotel for two for

the lucky raffle winners. Tickets for the concert are currently on sale at the Corran Halls, Sloans and Cuan Mor, priced £10.

Prizes for the raffle are still being sought and if you wish to contribute please contact Steven at *The Oban Times* on 01631 568021.

Meanwhile, Louise was torchbearer for Boots this week as the pharmaceutical company held its own torch relay in its Miles for Macmillan fundraiser.

On Tuesday, the torch was taken by Louise and pupils from Rockfield and Park Primary Schools from its Soroba Road branch to its main branch in George Street.

The torch then made its way to Fort William.

Man jailed for preying on vulnerable teenage boy

Hotel worker sent youngster hundreds of explicit messages

By FAITH ORR forr@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN who gained the trust of a 14-year-old boy before sending him explicit sexual messages has been jailed.

Jamie Patel, 30, of 109 West Way, Eastfield in Scarborough was sentenced to four months in prison and was placed on the sex offenders register for seven years when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday. He had previously pled guilty to the offence.

Patel, also known by his stage name Jason Knight, lived in Oban before moving to England in January. He worked in an Oban hotel and as a barman in a local pub where he met the boy's father.

The court heard how the family had taken Patel into their confidences as someone who may be able to provide emotional support to their son who was suffering from a medical condition.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the victim's parents became concerned on May 14 of what they noticed to be a change in his behaviour.

He said: 'He was acting secretly, hiding his mobile phone and was electing to walk to school rather than get a lift which was completely out of



Jamie Patel preyed on a vulnerable 14-year-old boy.

character. They had a gut instinct that something wasn't right.

'His mother went on to the internet and obtained a print out of hundreds of texts that her son had been receiving and she recognised the phone number as that of the accused.'

'She was able to establish that on the times her son was walking to school he was receiving numerous texts from the accused.'

The court heard that on May 20 the woman went into her son's bedroom and noticed that his computer was still on and his Facebook site was also active.

She noticed that her son appeared to have a set up a Facebook profile in a different name and was in the middle of a conversation with Patel.

Mr McGinty added: 'The account had only been opened the previous day but already had over 200 messages - all of an indecent sexual nature. Including 'I can't wait to have you.'

'There was also a message saying wipe your browser history so your mother and father won't find this page.'

Patel admitted communicating in a sexually explicit manner when questioned by police. He also said he was aware of the age of his victim.

Sheriff Eric Brown made clear he was not treating the case as a grooming offence but given the circumstances the only appropriate sentence was still one of custody.

He said: 'The family took you into their confidences as someone who might be able to relate to their son. This was a gross breach of the trust this child's parents had placed in you.'

Pervert sent to prison for four years

Oban Sheriff hands down extended sentence

A PERVERT who performed a 'thoroughly unpleasant and depraved indecent assault' on a young woman after she fell unconscious has been handed an extended sentence.

Timothy Robson, 49, of Balnoe Cottage, Kilmore, was previously found guilty by unanimous verdict of photographing himself performing an indecent act on his 25-year-old victim.

Robson, who gave the girl valium and alcohol, had denied the indecent assault charge, claiming his victim had consented to the acts and even asked for pictures to be taken.

Sentencing Robson to four years in prison Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'While your victim was unconscious you took intimate and close up photographs of her private parts.'

'There were 122 images on the memory card from your camera which you took into Tesco to be put on to a CD.'

'You thought nothing of staff at Tesco viewing the images. Of the 122 images 59 were sexually explicit.'

'You violated this girl's physical integrity for your own personal sexual gratification.'



Robson leaves court after receiving his sentence.

'You compounded matters by insisting to the jury that the girl had consented to the conduct.'

Announcing that Robson would spend three years on licence once released from prison, Sheriff Small added: 'The social worker who interviewed you emphasises in her report that you had 'no insight into the offence or the impact that it would have on your victim.'

Oban man appears from custody on string of charges

A YOUNG Oban man accused of trying to start a fight in the town's Albany Street before attempting to enter a pub while drunk appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Michael Duncan, 19, of 17A Glencairn Drive, Oban is further alleged to have shouted, sworn and uttered threats of violence while in Oban Police Office. Duncan, who appeared from custody, denies all charges and will stand trial on November 2. He is expected to appear in court next on October 16.

Suggestions sought for memorial plaques

WEST coast residents are being invited to submit suggestions for who they believe should be on memorial plaques in the area.

A new scheme, being run by Historic Scotland, will celebrate the life and achievements of significant historic figures, through the erection of a plaque on their home where they lived, or the building that was synonymous with their achievements.

People are invited to submit their nominations for the historic figures they would like to put forward by filling in an application form on Historic Scotland's website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/commemorativeplaques. The closing date is October 12.



One of the CIRCA developers, Dr Norman Alm, helps Eadar Glinn resident Peggy MacFarlane and her nephew-in-law Ian Darling use the system.

Residents benefit from pioneering new work

AN OBAN residential home has become one of the first in Britain to receive a pioneering new system designed to stimulate the memories of older people with dementia.

Eadar Glinn last week took delivery of the Computer Interactive Reminiscence and Conversation Aid (CIRCA) thanks to a grant of £4,500 from the Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust.

CIRCA uses interactive media accessed with touch-screen technology to help stimulate memories. Developed by the universities of Dundee and St Andrews, it has been proven to dramatically increase the abil-

ity of people with dementia to communicate with family and carers.

Eadar Glinn's Mary Gardiner said: 'The donation from Scottish Sea Farms has meant an improvement in the quality of life for people at Eadar Glinn who have short-term memory loss.'

'It is very satisfying to watch the residents, their families and staff engage with CIRCA and enjoy conversations and past experiences.'

More information on the Heart of the Community Fund and details of how to apply can be found at www.scottishseafarms.com.

Pledge to have A83 proposals on the table by end of year

PROPOSALS for a long-term solution to landslides closing the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful will be brought forward by the end of the year.

The Scottish Government announcement came after its task force set up to tackle the issue met for the first time in Arrochar last week.

Transport minister Keith Brown pledged £1.5million on opening an emergency diversion by November - pending landlord agreement.

Work has started to upgrade access to the old military road and forestry road - both proposed as diversion routes along nearby Glen Croe.

Haulage, tourism, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce, Argyll and Bute Council, Scotland TransServ, and Transport Scotland representatives all attended the meeting.

Argyll and Bute Council's leader, Roddy McCuish was 'encouraged' by the discussions. He said: 'We were particularly reassured by the fact that short-term works

could be completed within 12 weeks, and that proposals for a longer-term solution will be brought forward by the end of the year.'

'This is a priority for Argyll and Bute. We rely heavily upon the A83 in social and economic terms. But despite the challenges we sometimes face, Argyll and Bute is always open for business and ready to welcome visitors.'

Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce secretary, Jane MacLeod said: 'The first meeting of the task force was very positive.'

Mr Brown added: 'While there is a sense of frustration from many in the local community that the emergency route is not yet up and running, building what is essentially a new trunk road cannot go ahead without the necessary safety checks and detailed planning, as well as agreeing permission from private landowners.'

'I can assure those people who are rightly concerned about the A83 that we are committed both in terms of resources and politically, to addressing the challenges.'

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Free weekend will see Fort regroup after Nairn defeat

Manager arranges Friday night game with Welfare Select



Gary Farquhar evades the challenge of Wayne Mackintosh to try his luck from long range, but his effort sailed wide 20_134fort01

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
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FORT William have the weekend free to regroup after going down 5-1 at home to Nairn County last weekend.

Fort's next league game will be away to Keith on September 1, although manager Danny Conlon has arranged a friendly against a Lochaber Welfare select side at Claggan Park tomorrow night (Friday).

Despite conceding 11 goals in their first two league matches of the season, Conlon sees reasons for optimism.

He told The Oban Times: 'We brought in a guy from Ross County, Martin Groat. He's only 17, but he played at the weekend and had a reasonable game. And he can play in three or four positions, which will really help.'

'Andy Martin and Michael Gillespie managed to get some game time at the weekend. They make a massive difference to us, they give us a wee bit of



No penalty! Fort's Scott Hunter looks up in vain to the referee as Nairn defender Scott Hunter protests his innocence 20_134fort02

experience and a wee bit of aggression.'

Conlon said he would use tomorrow's friendly to give Martin, Gillespie and others some much needed game time.

Returning captain Martin nearly opened the scoring against Nairn in the 11th minute but saw his effort well saved.

The away side did find the back of the net in the 31st minute and doubled their lead a minute before half time.

Fort were given a lifeline when Groat was taken down in the box and Darren Quigg stepped up to send the keeper the wrong way from the spot.

The next goal was key and it went to Nairn on the hour mark, and Conor Gethins made it 5-1 in the 73rd minute. Fort keeper Jay Smith made a good save late on to keep the score at 5-1.

Conlon felt his side performed well for the first hour until the third goal was conceded.

He said: 'We were pretty good and I was pleased with what we



Martin Groat blocks Martin MacDonald attempted through pass - but it was a rare moment of success for The Fort on a difficult afternoon 20_134fort03

were trying to do. The third goal killed us off, and after that we struggled. In the last 30 minutes

we lost our shape and the heads went down. It's a funny league so far. Teams are scoring five or

six goals every week and I think on any given day anyone can beat anyone else.'

Alex wins White Box stableford

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's F&G Joiners White Box stableford open was held on Sunday with Alex Stewart taking a one point win from Brian Gillespie.

The ladies competition saw Rosemary Macintyre take a comfortable seven point win from Helen Brian.

Ms Macintyre also won the closest to the pin competition at the sixth and hit the longest drive on the 11th. John Wilson was nearest the pin on the 16th while Martin Duncan had the longest drive.

The Grouse foursome was played on Saturday, with Brian Stewart and Neil Young shooting a net score of 61 to win ahead of Frank and Joe Sweeney.

The ladies August medal held recently was won by Iona Cameron.

Results: F&G Joiners White Box stableford open: 1, Alex Stewart, 43 points; 2, Brian Gillespie, 42 points; 3, John Wilson, 40 points. Ladies - 1, Rosemary Macintyre, 40 points; 2, Helen Brian, 33 points; 3, Kim Topping, 30 points.

Grouse foursome - 1, Brian Stewart and Neil Young, 73-13=61; 2, Frank Sweeney and Joe Sweeney, 83-14.5=68.5; 3, Pat Cassidy and Peter Stewart, 83-13=70. Ladies August medal - 1, Iona Cameron, 79-15=64; 2, Ann Lovatt, 93-25=68; 3, Helen Brian, 98-19=79.

Skye Cup win for John Finlayson

GOLF

THE ISLE of Skye Golf Club's Skye Cup was won by John Finlayson with a score of 194.

JA MacLeod finished in second, just two shots behind Finlayson in the best three of four rounds competition.

Martin Bird recorded the best score in round four at the weekend, with a net round of 61.

Last week Finlayson had the best score in round one of the Dewar Rose Bowl, shooting a net 66.

Results: Skye Cup Overall - 1, John Finlayson (65,61,68) - 194; 2, JA MacLeod (66,68,62) - 196; 3, Mike Mace (63,66,71) - 200. Skye Cup round four - 1, Martin Bird 74-13=61; 2, JA MacLeod 72-10=62; 3, Sandy Ross 67-4=63 (BIH). Dewar Rose Bowl round one - 1, John Finlayson 77-11=66; 2, Martin Bird 81-13=68; 3, Murdo Gordon 77-8=69.

No winners in Fort William lotto draw

LOTTERY

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw at the weekend. Numbers were 1-13-14. The jackpot goes up to £300 this week.

Lochaber 'A' win Joe Toal Sixes

LOCHABER 'A' were able to benefit from home advantage to win the annual Joe Toal Memorial Sixes competition on Sunday.

Nine teams travelled to take part in the event, played in front of a decent crowd in warm sun-

shine at the Spean Bridge park. Lochaber 'A' defeated Kinlochshiel 'A' 3-0 in the final to add to the Ballimore Cup they won last month. Ben Delaney scored twice and Scott Paterson once before captain Hugh Innes lifted the trophy in front of

SHINTY

the home fans. Lochaber 'A' topped their group ahead of Fort William, Kinlochshiel 'B' and Lochaber U17s. Kilmallie finished as group runners up.

The other section saw Kinlochshiel 'A' and Lovat go through at the expense of Invergarry and Lochaber 'B'.

The semi finals matched Lochaber 'A' against holders Lovat, while Kinlochshiel 'A' defeated Kilmallie in the other semi.

Lochaber 'A' manager Michael Delaney told The Oban Times: 'It was a really good day, the weather held out and there was a good display of shinty.'

'It's quite a fast paced game, it's all about passing and moving. It's totally different from regular shinty.'

'The standard was very good. We had six of the quickest and fittest players from each club.'



Lochaber 'A' winner of the Joe Toal Sixes.

Boxers rub shoulders with the professionals

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's annual pre-season trip to England saw them rub shoulders with professional boxers and training at the personal gyms of Ricky Hatton and Amir Khan.

After a seminar with nutritionist Kerry Kayes in Manchester, the club visited top professional trainer Anthony Farnell to watch unbeaten professional Ronnie Heffron be put through his paces.

Afterwards 'Arnie' regaled the boxers with tales of his own boxing career and some of the problems he faces as a trainer. In the afternoon the Fort William team travelled to Sheffield to take part in a training session with the world famous Ingle camp, previously home to the likes of Prince Naseem Hamed, Herol Graham and Johnny Nelson.

Unique

The Ingle gym's unique brand of switchhitting boxing saw the youngest in the Lochaber group sparring with unbeaten professional boxers whilst some of the seniors sparred with current British champion and former World champion Junior Witter. An incredible session was

topped off with professional champions Kid Galahad and Richard Towers visiting the Lochaber boxers and posing for photos.

The next morning the boxers took part in a gruelling hill running session with the professional boxing team of trainer Lee Beard. After that they were whisked to Ricky Hatton's personal boxing gym where they were put through their paces.

Training regime

On Saturday the boys visited Bobby Rimmer's Boxing Academy. Bobby, coach of current British pro champion Brian Rose, explained to the Lochaber club the training regime of his boxers, pitfalls and problems of the boxing business and entertaining stories from his coaching career.

Bobby proved to be an engaging and friendly personality and has invited Lochaber Phoenix to train with his boxing team on their next visit.

The next day LPBC travelled to Amir Khan's gym for a sparring session with the top amateurs in Bolton. Every Lochaber boxer performed admirably in sparring

and gained yet more experience for the upcoming season which starts next month.

Coach Vince Lopez said: 'Every year our official Steve Docherty arranges these trips and every year we come home

BOXING

thinking we'll never beat that next year. Every year he comes up with the goods. I can't imagine what we'll be doing next year!'



The John McLellen Pairs competition at the BA Club in Fort William saw a great turnout with Geordie Strangeways and Robert Hunter winning a close final. They defeated Agnes Thain and Alan Robertson by one shot. The winners are pictured receiving the trophy from Angus MacPhee.

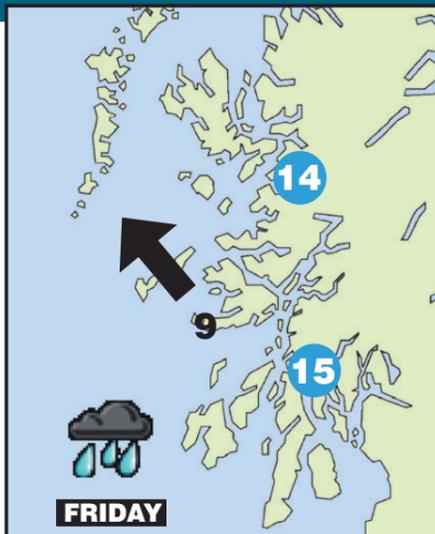
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 23, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	09.03	3.5	15.33	0.9	21.20	3.4
Thur	03.13	1.0	09.03	3.5	15.33	0.9	21.20
Fri	04.07	1.3	09.57	3.2	16.33	1.2	22.18
Sat	05.18	1.5	11.15	3.0	17.46	1.5	23.54
Sun	06.41	1.6	13.34	3.0	19.09	1.6	*** **
Mon	02.17	2.9	08.09	1.5	14.55	3.3	20.38
Tues	03.37	3.1	09.23	1.3	15.50	3.5	21.52
Wed	04.25	3.3	10.17	1.0	16.32	3.8	22.43

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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