

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## AUTUMN WEDDINGS

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SNH recommendations on Barra SAC to remain secret until after decision

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage is submitting recommendations on designating the Sound of Barra a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the Scottish Government this week – but they won't be made public until after the decision is taken.

The move means critics won't get a look at SNH's conclusions – which follow months of often heated public consultation – until after environment minister Stewart Stevenson decides whether to give the SAC the green light.

SNH is proposing the Sound of Barra as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to protect seals.

But campaign group South Hebrides Against Environmental Designations (SHAMED) say SNH's logic is deeply flawed and claim the move is politically rather than environmentally motivated.

Conservation group the Hebridean Partnership and Barra's community development social enterprise, Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatacasaidh (GBAB) are also opposed.

SHAMED chairman, crofter-fisherman Angus MacLeod, from Barra, told *The Oban Times*: 'There are more than 40 individuals and organisations

By STEVEN FLANAGAN  
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that have noted their opposition to the Sound of Barra proposal.'

'It does appear to be the norm that they are not required to publish the report before the minister's decision. So much for the public consultation and SNH's claims of being open and transparent.'

The development comes after SHAMED launched a fresh attempt to stop the proposed SAC, and the Scottish Government's decision to prepare a management plan for the Sound of Barra despite no decision having yet been taken.

Mr MacLeod urged locals not to participate in working up a management plan, saying he believes that would stop the designation proceeding.

A spokesman for SNH told *The Oban Times*: 'Our report on the Barra consultation is not due to be published until the minister's decision. The purpose of the consultation was to test the scientific case for the site. Nevertheless, we will as promised include all of the wider non-scientific based responses and concerns that people have raised during the consultation.'

## Fish farm worker dies in A85 incident

A YOUNG fish farm worker died in the early hours of Saturday morning after being hit by a taxi on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Richard Milarski, aged 21, who was from Penicuik but worked at Scottish Sea Farms' South

Shian site, died at the scene at around 5am after being hit by the Vauxhall Vectra.

Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding his death and are keen to hear from any witnesses to the incident, or from anyone who saw Richard before the time of his death.

Tributes from the young man's friends were posted to his Facebook site shortly after his death. Tash Russell said: 'I can't believe you're gone. I put your photo on the wall to make it feel real it's not. I don't know what to say. Rich, you were one of the best friends I ever had. I'm going to miss you but never forget you.'

Grant Mitchell said: 'The world lost one of the truly great.'

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal and anyone with any information should contact PC Ronnie Stevenson on 01631 510500.



Richard Milarski.



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Chartered accountants, R A Clement Associates, are holding a reception on Thursday, 6th September, in their Fort William office and all clients based in that region are invited.



Managing partner, Duncan Grout said, Having taken over the staff and clientele of J C Harvey & Company, we wanted to hold an informal event where the clients can meet the combined staff and partners from both firms. However, accountant Ann Burton may already be a familiar face to all as she worked for J C Harvey for 15 years before moving to R A Clement Associates 10 years ago." Duncan then added "Of course, anyone who would like to become a client is also very welcome at this event!"

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## Katie gathers in the trophies

Katie MacPherson, from the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance, won the open and confined sections for under-13s in Highland dancing at last Thursday's Argyllshire Gathering in Oban. See page 12 for full report and more photographs. 15\_13Argyllshire21

## Well-known fisherman dies off Coll coast

THE ISLE of Coll lost one of its most fondly loved sons at the weekend, well known fisherman, Archie Sproat.

The 70-year-old father of three was recovered from the waters off the coast of Coll on Saturday afternoon. It was to be his last fishing trip of the season before taking his boat out of the water.

Family and friends have paid tribute to the man who was

renowned for going out his way to help others.

Son Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'If he had to pick any way of going, it would have been on the boat fishing. It's what he loved.'

'It'd actually been quite a disappointing season for him, he hadn't got out on the boat as much as he'd have liked and he didn't get any mackerel.'

Archie was a popular figure on the island and was involved with many local groups.

Jean Peddie, the president of the island's Senior Citizens' Club, said: 'He was very much loved by the island and we are all going to miss him.'

'When the boat was recovered, there was two on board; so on his final trip he caught his mackerel.'

Archie was a popular figure on the island and was involved with many local groups.

Jean Peddie, the president of the island's Senior Citizens' Club, said: 'He was very much loved by the island and we are all going to miss him.'

The show, which is expected to be bigger and better than ever before, will be held this

Saturday, September 1, gates are open at 9am

and judging starts at 10am. Entries are up for all categories this year and there will be a range of entertainment including Argyll Brass, shooting demonstrations and Inveraray Pipe Band.

## Domestic abuse case sentence condemned

Man guilty of vicious assault on ex-partner avoids heavy punishment

A MAN who choked his ex-partner has avoided heavy punishment after being ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and pay £200 in compensation.

Michael McPhee left the dock with a swagger after being found guilty of a vicious assault on his ex.

McPhee, who receives £150 per week in incapacity benefit, was told he can pay as little as £5 per week towards the compensation order.

Oban Sheriff Court heard the attack, on June 14, saw McPhee – who has an 'extensive record of previous convictions' – squeeze his former girlfriend's neck with both hands so that she couldn't breathe.

His victim said in evidence: 'He had his hands round my neck and he was holding me against the wall. I couldn't do anything. I tried to push him off me but because he was choking me I couldn't. He was squeezing my throat.'

Eventually 27 year-old McPhee

let go of the girl's throat. She

said: 'He said no one was going to believe me and I said please just go but he got me on the ground, he was on top of me he was holding my face into the ground.'

## Dalmally Show will go ahead regardless of weather

ORGANISERS of Dalmally Show have said this year's event will go ahead regardless of the weather conditions.

The show, which is expected to be bigger and better than ever before, will be held this

**EXCLUSIVE**  
REPORT by  
FAITH ORR  
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against women – with specially trained police officers in all forces and now dedicated courts handling cases in several parts of Scotland. It's important that women should feel safe and have trust in the system. Lenient sentencing impacts not only on the victim in the case, but also on the confidence of other women to come forward and report domestic abuse.

'Sentencing for violence against women should be both a punishment and deterrent.'

'We would urge any woman experiencing domestic abuse to get in touch with her local Women's Aid group, who will provide support and advice. Argyll and Bute Women's Aid can be contacted on 0870 241 3548 or [www.aygllwomensaid.co.uk](http://www.aygllwomensaid.co.uk)'

This is not the first time Sheriff Gilmour has provoked concern from campaign groups. He infuriated road safety campaigners in 2009 when he acquitted a woman of being drunk in charge of a vehicle while almost three times the legal limit. He accepted her solicitor's explanation that she did not intend to drive and had placed the keys on the passenger side floor as a precaution.

The furious onlooker said: 'I'm not happy about his sentence, he got away with lies.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish Women's Aid told *The Oban Times* that sentencing for violence against women should be a deterrent. She said: 'Over the years we have seen significant improvements in the way the justice system handles domestic abuse and violence

□ See leader page 6.

## Partnership sets sail with ambitious community Isle of Islay ferry plan

AMBITIOUS plans to run a community-owned ferry from the Isle of Islay are taking shape.

The island-based partnership, led by Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group, says it has investors lined up to pay an estimated £18m to buy a new modern ferry.

The community company would pay back investors over seven years with income from the government's charter, after which point it would take full ownership of the ferry.

The Islay community group says this model would solve the problem of spending government capital cash on replacing its ageing ferry fleet.

CalMac currently operates two ferries on Islay, one of which is the Hebridean Isles, which is close to decertification.

Jack Fleming, chairman of the Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group, said an ageing ferry fleet and the expected increase in commercial and tourism traffic to the island has forced the action.

He said: 'This is not CalMac bashing. There is no funding available to the government to buy new boats but they need to come from somewhere.'

'We need to think outside the box at look at alternatives and this is an option we can work and happen remarkably quickly.'

The plan is reliant on backing from the government and the Islay company winning a tender for an Islay route.

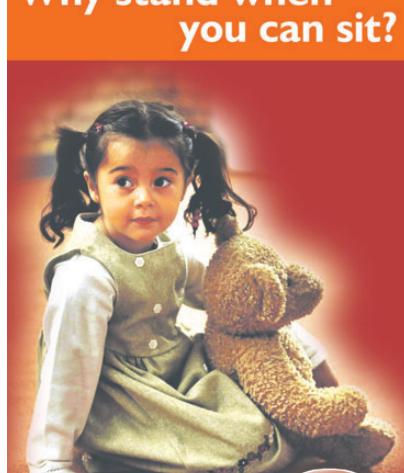
The Scottish Government has warned the island-based group behind the plan that it would not subsidise two ferry companies on the route.

CalMac did not comment on the community plan. A spokeswoman from Transport Scotland said it had not seen the proposal.

Meanwhile, Port Ellen pier on Islay is to be officially opened by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd today (Thursday) after a £5.5m upgrade.

Work on the pier was successfully completed in June, and reopened to traffic on July 1.

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### Action on absent road markings

SCOTLAND Transerv say they are taking action to address absent road markings on the A85 through Oban.

Motorists complain that tourists are becoming confused when driving through the town due to non-existent markings, particularly on the approach to the Corran Esplanade roundabout.

The company responsible for maintaining the trunk roads said: 'We are in the process of assessing the road markings in Oban and developing a programme of essential remedial works as budget permits.'

### Connel Bridge traffic delays

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect minor delays on the Connel Bridge over the next eight weeks as engineers carry out routine maintenance.

Springs are being replaced on the underside of the bridge before a special platform is built on the underside to allow maintenance on the legs to take place.

There may be short delays of 15 minutes to allow essential equipment to be unloaded, although delays will be kept to a minimum.

### Coll wind turbine meeting

PLANNERS will hold a meeting on Coll next month to determine whether or not a 77m wind turbine should be built at Gallanach Farm.

The application by Gallanach Green Generation Ltd will be considered at An Cridhe on September 13 after the council received 46 objections and a petition with 68 signatures protesting against the application.

The council's planning, protective services and licensing committee also received seven letters of support and last week moved that a hearing should be convened on the island due to the high level of public interest.

The meeting will start at 1pm.

### Glensanda staff give viewpoint a facelift

CONNEL'S Falls of Lora viewpoint is sporting a new look - thanks to staff from Aggregate Industries' site at Glensanda.

Working as part of their community engagement programme, the staff strimmed the area, cut back brushwood and built steps to make getting to the grassy knoll much safer.

Connel Community Council secretary Les Stewart said: 'We are really grateful to Glensanda for their help.'

'The Community Council would like to appeal to users of the car park to be considerate and not park there for hours or - sometimes - days on end.'



Pictured at the cheque presentation, from left, are Gordon McNab, vice chairman of Oban Life Savers, local branch manager, Derek Burns, and supervisor, Josephine Grant.

### Bank staff splash in with lifesaving cash

OBAN Life Savers received a cheque of £500 from the Clydesdale Bank - thanks to its staff.

The bank has vowed to support local communities and encourage staff to volunteer and support community groups in

their own areas. By way of reward for their support, the bank offers an employee grant of up to £500 if the staff member has been involved with the organisation for 12 months or more.

Oban Life Savers commenced the new

session at Atlantis Leisure on August 21, 2012. Full details of the club can be obtained from its website.

If anyone is interested in joining them they can email Pamela MacLeod at obanlifesavers@hotmail.com.

CLAIMS by VisitScotland that Oban has benefited from the Olympic games have been rejected by the town's own tourism body.

VisitScotland, whose chairman Dr Mike Cantley said the Olympics were part of the 'winning years' for Scotland, says there has been an increase in the number of day-trippers to Oban during the event.

However, the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) states it has seen no such evidence, with visitor numbers from England significantly down on last summer.

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland's regional director for Argyll, said: 'Oban has seen an increase in the number of day-trippers who have contributed to an increase in the number of tour and trip tickets being snapped up, the signs for tourism are certainly very encouraging.'

'We now need to take this to the next level and cement Scotland's

place as a top tourist destination - undoubtedly something that has been achieved through our extensive and targeted marketing in London.'

However, OLTA's chairwoman Linda Battison said: 'It's been very, very up and down - there

has been no benefit from the Olympics. We have noticed a big decrease in English visitors.'

'It's been a washout in England this summer and the assumption is that when it's wet in England, it's far worse in Scotland.'

VisitScotland said like for like figures could not be compared over the past year because the Visitor Information Centre was based at the ferry terminal last summer.

The former visitor centre in Argyll Square was closed down

because of structural problems

and has since moved to the corner of Corran Esplanade.

### Water network failings halt Mull house building

By FAITH ORR  
for@obantimes.co.uk

HOUSE building in areas of Mull has been halted because of insufficient capacity on the water network.

The situation first came to light two years ago after builders were denied water connections by Scottish Water.

No upgrade has yet taken place and the hard-pressed construction sector is still experiencing difficulties.

One developer who planned to build houses on a site near Tobermory was recently told no capacity was available for new homes.

His Scottish Water letter states: 'The site is served by Tobermory water treatment works which currently has insufficient capacity to service your development.'

The treatment works is currently undergoing upgrade

works. As a result, we cannot allow any connections to our water assets until the capacity problem at Tobermory water treatment works is resolved.

This extensive work is planned to be completed by 2013 subject to third parties agreement.'

#### Tenders

According to a source on the island, tenders were issued to Scottish contractors for the scheme which has an estimated worth of £13 million.

The high cost of the work is attributed to much of the pipe being laid through solid rock. It is believed the deadline for the return of tenders was July 30.

A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'Some developers have

been able to connect to the Scottish Water network but, due to capacity issues, others have not. This might have depended on factors such as the location of properties or planned developments.'

Scottish Water is finalising its plans for a strategic solution to address the increased demand for drinking water in the Tobermory and Craignure areas. Details of these plans will be confirmed in due course.

In the meantime, we are working to ensure that all customers and visitors are able to enjoy a continuous supply of clear, fresh drinking water.

We are currently using one tanker to take water from the mainland to Mull on the ferry and it is running back and forth each day.'

### Rockfield gears up for rag bag collection

THE SUCCESSFUL rag bag scheme, run by Rockfield Primary School, will be making another big collection soon.

The programme, started 18 months ago, sees old clothes donated to raise money for the primary seven trip.

Last year 5,110kg of textiles

were collected which raised £2,550 towards this year's trip - a reduction of about £80 per child, which is more than 50 per cent.

#### Top three

Rag bag is a national scheme, based in Stirling, and Rockfield was in the top three schools in

the country which collected the most last year. The next collection will be on September 28 when the school hopes to have plenty for the pupils to carry out to the rag bag drivers.

Parents are encouraged to ask

family, friends and neighbours for their unwanted textiles.

### Jobs boost as firm invests in new workboat

AN OBAN-based company is expanding its services after making a significant investment in a new vessel and taking on more employees.

North West Marine (NWM), which specialises in diving and marine works, has purchased the MV Mermaid, a large multipurpose workboat which will help support and grow the range of services they offer.

The purchase comes as part of a plan to expand the marine civils, renewables support, aquaculture and ROV side of the business.

NWM managing director, Tony Ratcliffe said: 'In addition to local and Scottish marine works the company is also attracting interest in its services for overseas projects.'

'This new vessel represents a

significant investment for the company and we want to recognise support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which

helped with the purchase. HIE have worked closely with the company over a number of years providing advice and expertise and for the first time this year supporting a graduate placement programme.'

The company has also recently taken on three new full-time employees including a new graduate civil engineer, an engineering assistant and an additional diver.

The new vessel went straight into service in Loch Craignish,

assisting with the construction of a slipway extension and will shortly be involved with further

civils, ROV and diving support around the west coast and islands.

The work at Ardfern Yacht

Centre will allow the centre to double their lifting capacity

from 20 tons to 40 tons and alleviate the restrictions on hours of operation.

more than 400 people entered for races at this year's Coll Half Marathon - nearly double the population of the island.

Saturday's only headache

was how the island would accommodate the runners, but as competitors started to arrive

it was clear the event would be a resounding success.

Led by Julie Oliphant, of

the Isle of Coll Hotel, most

households on the island were

involved as the sun was joined

by light winds to create perfect

running conditions.

Winner of the half marathon,

in one hour 19 minutes and 12

seconds was Ciaran Dougherty

from Bellahouston Road

Runners in Glasgow, but every

runner enjoyed taking part.

Water stops along the course

were manned by locals and

visitors with a prize being

awarded to the best in fancy

dress.

Winners were the Douglas

clan, who ran the Bally Hough



Winner of the Coll Half Marathon, Ciaran Dougherty from Bellahouston Road runners in Glasgow.

### Coll Half Marathon a runaway success

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Winners were the Douglas

clan, who ran the Bally Hough

station while dressed as Disney's

most iconic characters. Mickey, Minnie and friends served

drams, chilled wine and a buffet

- as well as water.

To cater for all levels of fitness

and interest, several other

competitions were run, a half

marathon walk and 10, five

and one kilometre races - all

finishing at An Cridhe.

The evening finished at the

new community hall with a

ceilidh, with music from Trail

West of Tiree. A spokesperson

for the organising committee

said: 'Hundreds of tired legs

boarded the Lord of the Isles

on Sunday, but they left with happy

memories and many stories to tell, all looking forward to the

2013 half marathon.'

'Maybe Coll will need an

extension to the pier if the

starting line is to accommodate

them all.'

## Man tried to flush heroin down police cell toilet

A MAN who had hidden a wrap of brown powder inside his body was seen to remove it and try and flush it down the toilet in a police cell.

Angus MacDougall, 40, of Dunmore Lodge, Albany Street, Oban was searched by police prior to being put in the cell and was found to have a polythene package with several brown wraps in his pants.

MacDougall, who admitted possessing heroin and attempting to pervert the course of justice on July 21, was sentenced to a total of five months in prison when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

## Fire threat allegations heard in court

A MAN who allegedly threatened to burn down police officers' homes appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Dean Smith, 26, of 4 Nelson Road, Oban, is also accused of uttering racist remarks and assaulting a police officer in the town's Station Square on August 26.

Smith, who works at Dunstaffnage Marina, denies the charges and will stand trial on November 14. He is expected to appear in court next on October 16.

## Bail breach leads to remand

A MAN who was remanded in custody after allegedly committing a crime while on bail proclaimed 'I'm going to jail! Youse have killed me,' as he was led from the dock.

Kevin Gillan, 24, of 7E Miller Road, Oban, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday accused of threatening another man.

The court heard that while in custody Gillan allegedly claimed he would 'stab and kill' his victim if released.

Gillan denies the charge and will stand trial on October 3. He is expected to appear again on September 18.

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568000



## Hugh hauls in the trophies at Taynuilt Show

Taynuilt village hall was alive with the smell of fresh produce, delicious baking and fascinating floral displays for the village's annual horticultural society show. Once again, the event was a tremendous success, with judges having a hard time picking clear winners in most categories. Hugh MacLeod won a number of trophies for his entries at this year's show, including the Challenge Cup, Munro Cup and a special prize for best set of leeks in show. Hugh subsequently competed in Kelso, having also won awards at the Oban and Ardrishaig's horticultural shows this year. See page 21 for Taynuilt Horticultural Show results. IS\_TAYNUILTHORT

## Site could hold vital clues to Iona's past

A COMMUNITY housing programme has been awarded a large grant to carry out an archaeological dig on a future housing site on the Isle of Iona.

The Iona Housing Partnership (IHP) was awarded £17,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to carry out the excavation on the Glebe site.

The West Glebe Field was purchased by IHP in 2011 and it is hoped there will eventually be five affordable houses built on it.

The excavation, which will start on September 3, is being led by Guard Archaeology and will enable local people and school children to learn more about the island's history.

Managing director of Guard Archaeology, John Atkinson,

said it was unusual to get an opportunity like this to dig on Iona.

He added: 'The initial assessment uncovered deposits which was enough to make us think that further archaeology was promising.'

There is lots of potential in this site but we won't know until we break the ground what exactly we're going to find.'

### Confident

Fiona Menzies, chairwoman of IHP said: 'We are delighted to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident the project will provide people with an exciting opportunity to learn more about Iona's past through archaeology.'

The Iona Housing Partnership

was formed in 2003 by the Iona Community Council to answer the growing demand for long term affordable homes for island residents.

The head of the HLF in Scotland, Colin McLean said: 'This is a very interesting project so we are delighted to give it our support.'

'Our local communities have on their doorstep hidden clues to the way our ancestors lived and how our lives developed into what they are today.'

'By delving into this history, volunteers, families and school children will not only expand their knowledge and learn lots of new skills, but it will also provide a valuable record of Iona for others to learn, enjoy and be inspired by.'

## Bands end season on a high note

THE END of the 2012 championship season finished on a high note for Argyll pipe bands at the Cowal Gathering on Saturday.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band's grade one band took sixth place, whilst the Juvenile band came fourth in their category.

Oban Pipe Band had their best result in years by finishing 5th in Grade 2, having just been promoted last year.

Meanwhile, Oban High School Juvenile and Novice Juvenile bands finished 5th and 4th respectively.

Isle of Islay Pipe Band had a strong showing in Grade 3A, finishing in second place.

The Cowal event also saw Mid Argyll Pipe Band join the top six bands in grade 4B, winning fifth place and their second prize in a major competition this year.

The win marked the band's first

success at the Cowal Gathering since 1993, having only returned to competitive piping last year.

# Shock claims over private firms' care standards

Experienced carer calls for drastic overhaul of system

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

The allegations have been described as 'very worrying' by Philip White, chairman of the board of trustees of the North Argyll Carers Centre.

He said: 'I'd expect the local authority at the very least to be looking into the suitability of staff being employed and the training.'

'The consequences of not doing that don't bear thinking about.'

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: 'Our priority is to ensure the residents, who are among the most vulnerable in society, are properly supported and receive good quality care.'

'We will do all that we can to root out bad services and demand improvements or take enforcement action.'

## New measures announced

NEW MECHANISMS on improvements to care in the home have been announced by Argyll and Bute Council.

Oban councillor and former carer, Louise Glen-Lee, said this week that the new measures would enable the authority to more closely monitor the quality of care delivered by private companies in our own homes.

The new measures, ratified by the council last week, include a provision to allow up to four unannounced spot checks a week, monitoring of entry and exit times of carers and closer scrutiny of the level of care provided, she said.

Mrs Glen-Lee said the measures were required as the country moves to increase the number of people being looked after in their own home.

She said: 'We have put in place a system for a host of new checks and balances on the care providers.'

'We want to make sure people are provided with what they need and in the correct way.'

## Taynuilt pier steering group looks to future

TAYNUILT Pier could come into community ownership in a bid to prevent the site being used as an 'uncontrolled recreation area'.

Taynuilt Community Council is leading the community proposal and has secured Argyll and the Islands Leader and Big Lottery Grant funding of £22,000 towards a Development Plan for the pier.

The proposal was put to villagers at a recent public meeting.

A small steering group comprising representatives from Taynuilt Community Council, Celtic Sea and Argyll and Bute Council has produced a tender

By EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

document, entitled Taynuilt Coastal Resources, in a bid to find a contractor to prepare a development plan.

Taynuilt Community Council said the pier and the surrounding area had been causing problems for many years.

A statement from the council reads: 'Although privately owned it has been used as an uncontrolled recreation area.'

As a result overnight camping, fly tipping and other anti-social activities have created the necessity to try and

resolve the situation. The owner has indicated its interest in either co-operating with the future development or of considering a possibility of community ownership.

It is envisaged the plan will include proposals for the upgrading of the existing facilities as well as improving the opportunities for its use by local businesses and identifying new commercial opportunities.'

The steering group will now appoint a contractor and arrange further opportunities for the community and stakeholders to participate in development discussions.

## Death of popular last laird of Coll

THE LAST laird of Coll, Charles Kenneth Moncrieff Stewart, has died.

The last of the seven generations of Stewarts, Charles, known as Kenneth, was a popular figure on the island.

The family retired to the Scottish Borders in 1991 after he suffered a stroke and sold off island cottages to their tenants at nominal sums before the estate itself was sold off.

The family still owns some parts of the island. A memorial service for Kenneth was held in the Borders.

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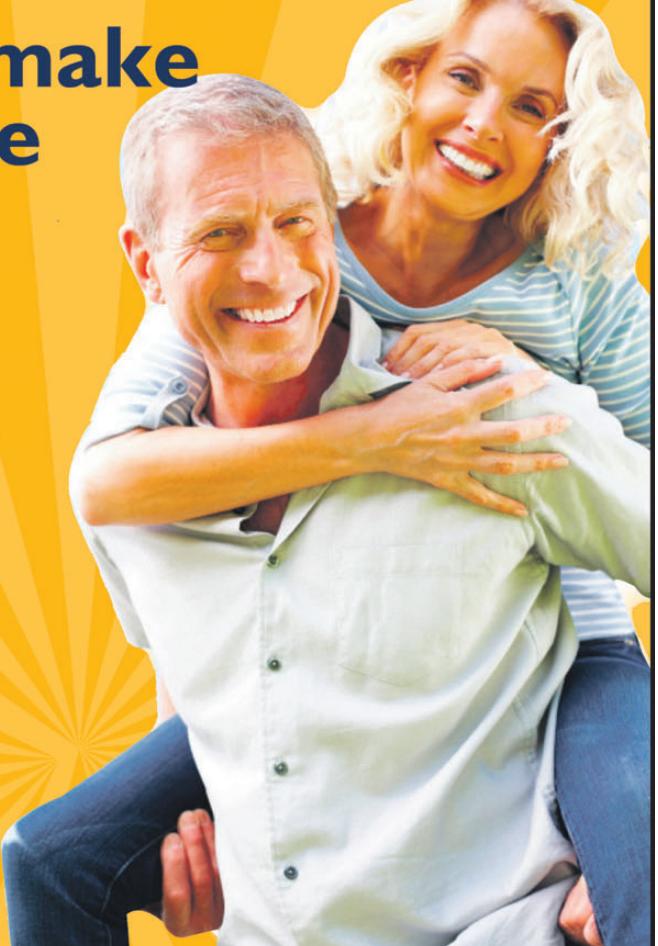
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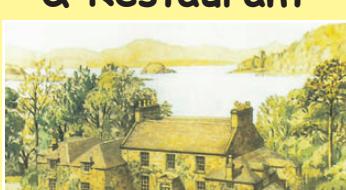
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Supreme reserve champion was this May-born Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright, of Woodend, Clovullin. 20\_f35show01



Alex Ferguson of Lochaline and Durris Fairwind was the local reserve champion. 20\_f35show05



Overall horse champion Shani Gallagher of Lochaline on Tygelli Princess. 20\_f35show03

## New forest walks

TEN KILOMETRES of new trails through forest and ancient woodland have opened near Drumnadrochit.

The paths in Craigmonie and Balmacaan woods were built by Craigmonie owners Forestry Commission Scotland, Balmacaan owners Woodland Trust Scotland and the Craigmonie Woodland Association. Leaflets, way-markers and interpretation boards inform the public about five different walks, which are signposted from the Tourist Information Centre car park in Drumnadrochit.

## Argyll haulier condemns new off road insurance legislation

AN ARGYLL haulier says changes to legislation requiring all taxed vehicles to be insured – whether on the road or not – is ‘a con’.

Douglas Baird, owner of Taynuilt-based horticultural supplier and distributor Corachie Clematis, runs a fleet of four lorries to deliver goods around Scotland and northern England. He keeps a spare vehicle – taxed but uninsured – off the road in case one of his cabs

breaks down. The flexibility is required so the company is not penalised for late or unfulfilled deliveries. Under previous legislation, a taxed vehicle need not be insured if it was not being driven but new laws introduced in April state all vehicles must be insured – a decision that will cost the company more than £2,000. Mr Baird has received a letter from askMID – part of the Motor Insurers’ Bureau – informing him he was at risk

of prosecution. He said: ‘It’s just another con to get us to release money. I can insure a vehicle in 30 minutes – you cannot tax an HGV that quickly here and that is the only reason it is taxed.’

‘It’s the insurance companies that are making the money from this – why should we be supporting them? It’s another infringement of our rights and to introduce this when money is tight for all seems to make no sense.’



Ardgour's Robert Wright picked up a host of trophies at the show, including commercial champion and reserve cattle champion. 20\_f35show08



The best-bred in Lochaber – Malcolm Cameron of Strone, Banavie's 16-month old Limousin bull. 20\_f35show04

## Oban chip shop granted late licence

A CHIP shop in Oban will open until 2am starting from September 14 after it was granted a late licence.

The George Street Fish and Chip Shop successfully applied for the extension, which will see the premises stay open late on Fridays and Saturdays.

Owner John Stewart said: ‘Things are a bit quieter and I have been looking at ways of getting extra revenue in. This property was previously called Tubs Takeaway, which opened late and was popular because of its situation in the town centre and near to the taxi rank.’



This Blackface ewe from John Nudds, Torr-na-Faire, Lochaline won best local sheep. 20\_f35show02



Lochaber Schools Pipe Band performed throughout the day. 20\_f35show07

## Morvern Lines

THE MIDGEs in Morvern and elsewhere in the Highlands and Islands have excelled themselves this year.

I met someone the other day, who said the only way to deal with them was to lather your arms with brown sugar. Apparently it doesn't kill them but it helps to rot their teeth a bit quicker!

The author of a recent article in another leading Scottish newspaper, maintained midges must be a new phenomenon because they are seldom mentioned in history or verse.

If this was intended to lull you into thinking their existence might be short-lived – don't throw away the Avon Skin So Soft and the other repellents yet.

Midges have been around for a very long time. They have been found in fossilized tree resins and 500 years ago the MacDonalds, who lived in Ardornish Castle, used to tie their prisoners naked to wooden posts outside the castle walls and enjoy watching the results.

More recently, when Bonnie Prince Charlie was on the run after Culloden, he complained bitterly about the ‘itches’ in a cave above Glen Moriston. There are few references to them in the past because people largely lived in a peat-smoke environment, didn't shower twice a day and accepted them as a fact of life.



Lochaline Primary School pupils, circa 1920.

THE LONG-AWAITED and badly needed new £3.2 million Lochaline Primary School incorporating a purpose designed fire station, is nearing completion with MacGregor Construction (Highland) Ltd and numerous sub contractors applying the final touches. There has been a parish school in Morvern for at least 200 years. In 1794 there were about 50 pupils, including six girls, attending the school at Kiel; the schoolmaster was paid £8 a year and had to find his own accommodation.

Then, as now, the roof leaked and the authorities were slow to make any repairs.

Fortunately there was another school at Portabhata beyond Drimmin, paid for by the SSPCK (the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge) who contributed £6 a year for a ‘spinning mistress’.

The overtly Presbyterian SSPCK was founded in Edinburgh in 1709 to promote

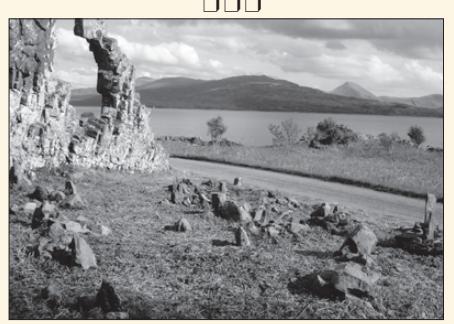
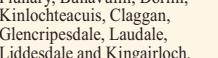


Christian knowledge, especially in remote parts of the Highlands and Islands. Its teachers, however, were not allowed to teach either Latin or Gaelic in case it encouraged Roman Catholicism.

This often meant children who did not understand English (many in those days) were being taught by teachers who did not understand Gaelic.

The schoolmaster at Portabhata in 1826 was a Peter MacLachlan who, according to a report by the parish minister the previous year: ‘On entering the humble edifice appropriated for his use, upwards of 50 children appeared before him, untutored and untaught – unacquainted even with the alphabet.’

Later the Morvern Peninsula was to have 10 local authority schools at Lochaline, Fiunary, Bunavulin, Dorlin, Kinlochcaulus, Claggan, Glencripesdale, Laudale, Liddesdale and Kingairloch.



Clach na Criche funeral cairns: resting place for the cortege in days gone by.

A LITTLE less than a mile west of Fiunary there is an unusual slab of rock rising vertically from the ground beside the public road which leads to Drimmin. Its old Gaelic name is ‘Clach na Criche’, meaning the boundary stone marking the division of the ancient parishes of St Columba and St Fintan.

Surrounding it are dozens of small cairns marking the occasions where corteges rested in the days when coffins were physically carried to their last resting place.

Despite modern transport the custom lives on and now again funeral parties travelling to and from Drimmin still halt here to allow mourners to gather stones from the shore to build a simple cairn in memory of the deceased.

Until a few years ago these cairns were hidden by thick vegetation. Now thanks to the local Forestry Commission team the area around the rock has been cleared exposing the cairns for all to see. Unfortunately many of them are being added to by visitors who are unaware of their history. Iain Thorner

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# Crowds flock to Lochaber Show

## 115th event a great success

THE 115th Lochaber Agricultural Show and family fun day pulled in the crowds at Inverlochy Castle Farm, Torlundy, on Saturday.

The animal judging took place in the morning and was followed in the afternoon by the family fun day events.

The Blackface sheep section was dominated by John Nudds of Torr-na-Faire, Lochaline, who took home the Local Champion trophy, the Glen Gloy Cup for best tup lamb, the Dr Van Voss Cup for best ewe in milk, Braeroy Cup for best gimmer bred in Lochaber and the Major MacDonald Cup for best ewe lamb.

Allan MacGillivray of Lanith, Salan, Acharacle won the local reserve cup.

A Blackface gimmer from D&L MacLean, of Knock Farm, Mull was named overall sheep champion – the same trophy it recently won at the Sunart Agricultural Show.

Supreme and Highland cattle champion was a four-year-old cow from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara, of Cnoc Lodge, Appin. The reserve champion was a May-born Limousin cross calf from Robert Wright of Woodend, Clovullin, who also won the commercial cattle trophy.



Ardgour's Robert Wright picked up a host of trophies at the show, including commercial champion and reserve cattle champion. 20\_f35show08



This selection of unusually sized vegetables was among the stars of the North Connel and District Horticultural Show on Saturday, when the event celebrated its 53rd anniversary. Showing off the eye-catching veg is Jane Eccles, left, and Joy Cameron. 15\_135northhort1

## Colourful display at 53rd North Connel show

NORTH Connel and District Horticultural Show celebrated its 53rd anniversary on Saturday with a colourful and tasty display of local green fingered skill.

Fruit and vegetables of all shapes and sizes dominated the produce stand, with a giant cabbage from Ritchie Robb one of the star attractions.

A colourful and aromatic floral display helped the event bloom too, while visitors got a rare out of the exceptional baked goods on offer.

Work of amateur local photographers and artists were displayed too at the event in Benderloch's Victory Hall.

Once again, Benderloch finished as the most successful village, while Carole Needham won the Champions Cup for most points in flower and vegetable sections. The show's Jane Eccles said: ‘This year's show was tremendously well supported, which is very encouraging for all the committee and friends who put in such a lot of hard work to make it possible.’

Trophy winners: Championship Cup, most points in flower and vegetable sections: Carole

Needham, McLeod Shield, runner up to champion: Fiona Shaw, Lees Milne, best in show cup: Jess Allaway. Oban Times Cup, most points, cut flowers: Allison McDougall, Dundonald Vase, single gladiolus: Eileen Hill, Agnes MacKay Quaich, violas: Anne Clement, Campbell Godley Quaich, most points, pot plants: Fay Harvey, Tensfeldt Cup, most points, vegetables: Carole Needham. An Cladach Quaich, most points, adult baking: Moira Newiss, Rose Bowl, most points, children's baking 8 -12 years: Grace Charlton. Baking Cup, most points, children's baking 7 years and under: Harry Needham. Achnaeabeag Cup, most points, floral art: Jane Eccles. Graham Stook Photography Cup, adult's photography: Sue Greenwood. Photography Shield, children's photography: Kate McPherson, Donald Morrison Cup, most points, children's classes 10 - 15 years: Kate McPherson, Silver Vase, most points, children's classes 9 years and under: Eilidh McPherson. Jean Campbell Cup, best exhibit in children's section: Innes MacKerrcher. Village Shield: Benderloch.

under the title ‘Fort William Sheriff Court – A Life Sentence’!

Hector, we are told, will tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Full details of the season's full programme will be available on the night, which commences at 8pm. All welcome.

Tales from Fort William courthouse

LOCHABER Local Historical Society will gather in the Ben Nevis Hotel next Thursday to hear of tales from Fort William courthouse.

Hector ‘Hydro’ MacLean - having completed his trilogy of a lifetime's work with the Hydro board - will relate experiences in another of his lives

## Oban, Lorn and the Isles community council by-elections

BY-ELECTIONS are to be held for a number of community councils in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area soon.

Residents of Mull, Iona, Coll, Glenorchy and Innishail, Luing, Kilmore and Seil and Easdale are invited to submit their nominations to become community councillors.

Submissions must be made by September 3. If nominations exceed the number of places available a ballot will be held on September 27.

### Soroba fun day raises £2,136

SOROBA Community Enterprise's third annual Fun Day helped raise £2,136.35 for the community centre in Scalpay Terrace.

The event, held on August 4, was supported in good number by local residents, who took advantage of the good weather to enjoy the day's event, including the draw of the raffle to win signed Rangers and Celtic shirts.

### Man falls from Isle of Skye cliffs

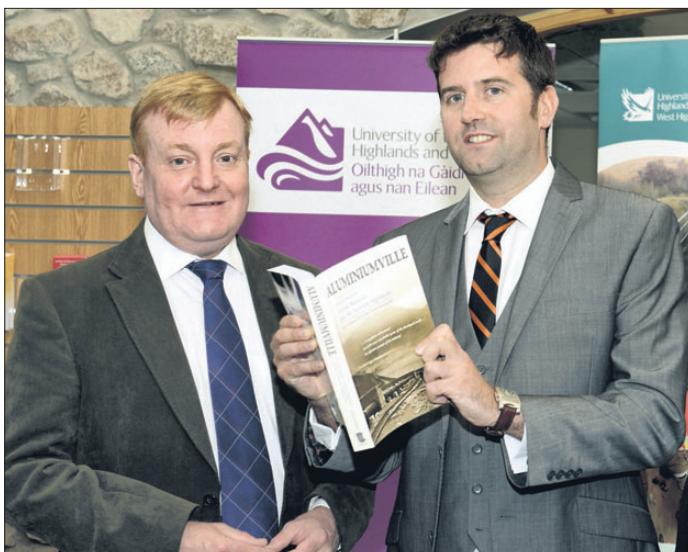
A 61 year-old man fell from cliffs at the Spar Caves, Glasnakille, Isle of Skye on Friday afternoon.

Police received a report of the accident via ambulance control just after 3pm and the casualty was airlifted by Stormway Coastguard helicopter to Broadford Hospital for treatment to non-life threatening injuries.

### North Uist hosts Prince's Trust presentation

THE OUTER Hebrides regional finals of the 2012 Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' awards take place at the Lagass Lodge on North Uist tomorrow at 2.30pm.

The winner will receive £1,000 from sponsors Lloyds TSB Scotland and the runner up £500 from sponsors Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. The winner will go forward to the national final at Glasgow's City Chambers on November 13.



A history of aluminium: Charles Kennedy MP with Dr Andrew Perchard at the book launch.

## New book charts how aluminium smelting has shaped Highland life

A NEW book about how aluminium smelting has shaped life in the Highlands over the past century was launched in Fort William on Monday.

'Aluminimville' by Dr Andrew Perchard charts the emergence of the industry in the region as part of the global trade in the metal, and the impact it had on local people, culture and landscapes.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Charles Kennedy wrote the foreword for the book and was present at the launch at West Highland College.

He said: 'The BA - today, of course, Rio Tinto Alcan - has been a vital underpinning of the local, regional and national economy across the course

of the past hundred years. It is our manufacturing jewel in the crown.'

'And, with the ongoing investment taking place, it retains that crucial vote of company confidence - whatever the difficulties being encountered elsewhere, within the UK and abroad.'

Lecturer

Dr Perchard is a lecturer in Business History and Strategy at the University of Strathclyde Business School and was formerly a post-doctoral research fellow on the history of aluminium project at the Centre for History, University of the Highlands and Islands.

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## Cash for Mallaig

THE MALLAIG Youth Project has received a cash boost of £5,318 from Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust.

The project was set up to assist youngsters in first and second year at Mallaig High School with the transition from primary school by providing a structured weekly club where pupils can meet and take part in fun activities. Arts and crafts, sports and games feature on the programme while specialist leaders provide archery, indoor bowling, drum and dance workshops, a cartoon workshop and a physical theatre workshop. Menus include healthy snacks such as fruit, yoghurt and vegetables.

Pupils recently attended a weekend residential trip to PGL Dalguise in Perthshire, where 19 children enjoyed the zip wire, giant swing, vertical challenge and sequoia scramble. Other outdoor pursuits included archery, rifle shooting and quad biking.

Niki Robertson, project manager at Mallaig High School and Community Centre Association, said: 'We are extremely grateful for the support by Scottish Sea Farms to enable the club to run this year and to allow us to bring such clear benefits to local youngsters.'

The Heart of the Community Trust support community initiatives geared to delivering lasting change to local communities and allow them to grow and develop.

A NEW group is to be formed on the isle of Coll to bring forward plans to build a new slipway at Arinagour harbour.

Island social enterprise Development Coll has already

had a £75,000 application to the Coastal Communities Fund approved at the first stage, with a more detailed application to be made by the end of September.

While Development Coll is pursuing the funding, the project would be managed

autonomously by a new harbour group or association.

If successful, the slip would be primarily for islanders, both for commercial and recreational use, although there is a noted potential benefit for tourists.

Formation of the harbour group or association will proceed regardless of the application's success, however, and its remit will be to help better manage the facility and develop it as a valuable community resource.

Among the other proposals put forward for the harbour group is to look at a village enhancement scheme, lighting on the middle pier – provided there is no negative impact – and a long term plan to look creating a breakwater with floating mooring.

Other suggestions put forward include improving the old pier using volunteers, moving the sewage outlet further from the embryonic stages though and we're taking this forward a step at a time.'

## Art shows raises mountain rescue cash



Fiona MacRae, left, and Lucy Gray at the exhibition. 15\_135art01

### Eye to eye with John Wallace



#### Reading ... One of Life's Great Pleasures

One of the greatest pleasures we can all enjoy is reading. Whether it is for pleasure, learning or business reading is an essential element of our way of life today. Reading can now take many formats; from the traditional paper based books to downloaded electronic files we view on Kindles™ or similar electronic devices. Whatever the delivery system reading can provide great pleasure, stimulation and enjoyment.

Most of us probably take reading for granted. It's something the vast majority of us learn at school and from then reading is an automatic response. For a significant number of youngsters reading does not come automatically and extra help is required. If a child is struggling to learn to read you should initially ensure they have a thorough eye examination paying particular attention to how their eyes work together. Your optometrist should be able to provide this service or refer you to a specialist in this area.

At the other end of life many elderly patients struggle to read due to poor vision. This is usually due to developing cataracts or macular degeneration. Sometimes surgery is the appropriate option to improve your vision. However this is not true in every case and your optometrist will be able to advise you about appropriate magnifiers or low visual aids. Optometrists can refer you for medical/surgical treatment or to the local sensory impairment team who have access to many helpful gadgets to maximise your available vision.

The vast majority of us simply need regular eye examinations and to have our spectacles kept up to date. It never ceases to amaze me how many patients I see who have not had an eye examination in many years. The College of Optometrists and the NHS recommend adults should have two yearly examinations unless recommended otherwise by your optometrist.

## BID outlines plans to fill empty shops

A TWO-pronged approach will be taken to address the number of empty shop units in Oban if the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) goes ahead.

Ballot packs were issued to all eligible companies trading in the town's 30mph zone last week, with a number of town traders indicating support for the plans.

If approved, to address the specific problems created by vacant premises the BID will pledge £14,000 towards window displays and window cleaning, then work with property owners to brighten up the shops. Ideas include installing temporary art and community displays.

The BID would also seek to boost occupancy of premises by creating an 'Oban commercial properties' database on its website.

Outlining BID's proposals, project co-ordinator Pauline Cameron said: 'We all understand the negative impact of empty shops on Oban's trading environment and the BID will do all it can to tackle the situation.'

## CalMac does deal on rally travel costs

ENTRIES for this year's Tunnock's Mull Rally are now open – with competitors able to save money on their transport costs.

A deal has been struck with Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) which sees entrants who are travelling with a trailer under eight metres saving £100 on their return sailing costs.

The event, which runs from October 12 to 14, will also see the ferry operator providing six free rescue units. CalMac have put in place a £100 discount for competitors towing rally cars on the Oban to Craignure route. The company is also offering a £99 discount to those sailing Lochaline to Fishnish.

The discount will only be available to competitors over a 10-day period covering the rally. Each competitor will be issued with a discount code which can only be used once. As part of the cost-saving package all competitors will have a CalMac sticker on their car this year.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Planning row deepens in North Connell

### EXCLUSIVE REPORT

STEVEN FLANAGAN [sfianagan@obantimes.co.uk](http://sfianagan@obantimes.co.uk)

off the beach. It's a creeping development which concerns me greatly.'

An application to build three 'studios' in the grounds of Dundonald was approved in April 2011, prompting fears from neighbours and community councillors that the land is being 'turned into a commercial development by the back door.'

ACC is to formally object to the latest application to Argyll and Bute Council and will express concern over continuing development at the scenic spot at the mouth of Loch Etive.

Mr Nicholby insists the retrospective applications were down to 'confusion' over planning laws, citing a difference in opinion between his lawyers and planners over what legislation allows applicants to build without permission within the vicinity – or curtilage – of their property.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It looks bad because of the retrospective applications – and that's because of this. It is not a commercial development – is it any different from a bed and breakfast?'

Meanwhile, increasing concerns over the number of people building first and asking permission later has prompted the council's planning department to ask the Scottish Government for new powers to charge more for retrospective applications.

The council hopes the higher fees will act as a deterrent.

The move follows a meeting of the planning, protective services and licensing committee when it allowed retrospective planning permission – to the council itself – for changes to The View, a mixed-use community facility in Dunoon.

Since August 23 2011, 103 retrospective planning applications have been lodged with the council. Angus Gilmour, Argyll and Bute Council's head of planning, said: 'People are abusing the system and it becomes quite hard for a council to reject a retrospective application unless something goes quite wrong. We've suggested higher retrospective fees might discourage that.'

Community councillor Ronnie Campbell once again raised the issue at ACC's latest meeting despite assurances from Scottish Water last year that replacing an ineffective UV filter with an aerated filter would solve the village's problems. He said: 'It's still creating a smell.'

The community council also says landscaping promised by Scottish Water to screen the plant has not been carried out.

Scottish Water reiterated that nobody had complained about the plant. A spokesman said:

'We will be discussing the facility with the community council shortly. The discussions will include any issues they might have regarding landscaping.'

### Dalmally film quiz fundraiser

A FILM quiz was held in Dalmally Community Centre to begin the fundraising for a film club in the village.

Fiona Halewood and Christie MacKenzie organised the quiz last Saturday and raised £250 towards gaining a public licence for a potential film club in the centre. Quizmaster was Andy Powell.



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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WOMEN who have ever experienced violence at the hands of a partner will be shaking their heads after Michael McPhee received a slap on the wrist from Sheriff Jamie Gilmour.

McPhee had choked his former girlfriend with such force that he left red marks on her throat. She was hysterical when police arrived. His punishment? To carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and pay his victim £200 compensation.

Women's Aid say sentences for violence against women must be both a 'punishment and deterrent' but there was little in McPhee's sentence that did either.

The impact on victims can be more than psychological. Offenders can – and often do – continue their cycle of abuse.

It can only be hoped in the future the advice of campaign groups is heeded by those in our justice system and the men involved in these sickening crimes are properly punished.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

WITH a programme including pieces composed by the orchestra's late founder John Mason and two new pieces in tribute to him, the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra will be playing the Royal Concert Hall on Saturday September 8 at 7.30pm.

The orchestra will be conducted by Blair Parham and they will be joined by the Troon Boy's Brigade Pipe Band, singers Debra Stuart and James Nicol and dancers from the Myra Shuttleworth School of Dance in Castle Douglas. Jim McColl, of Beechgrove Garden fame, will compere the show.

#### Acoustic affair

ACOUSTIC Affair has for the past ten years provided a platform for great Scottish talent to perform their own work.

The programme from now through to December is as follows: August 31, City Halls, 8pm, Graham Robertson. September 7: Oran Mor, 7pm Dick Gaughan, City Halls, 8pm, Ruth Martin. September 8, Oran Mor, 7pm, The Chair, September 30, Oran Mor, 7pm, Lizanne Knott. October 6, Oran Mor, 7pm, The Long Notes, 02 ABC, 7pm, Bags of Rock. December 7, City Halls, 8pm, Carol Laula. December 8, City Halls, 8pm, three of the best breaking songwriters.

#### Piping lessons

BAGPIPE lessons are about to resume at both the National Piping Centre and the College of Piping.

At the former, the year will be divided into three terms with lessons starting Monday to Thursday evenings, at hourly intervals, from 6pm to 8pm and on Saturday mornings at 10am and 11am. The first term through to Christmas will start on Monday September 8.

### Times Diary

DIARY doesn't often raise its eyebrows – it's a matter of debate whether or not Diary even has eyebrows – but a story last week saw them sky-rocket into the atmosphere.

The Forest Pitch project – part of the 'Cultural Olympiad' – saw £460,000 spent on creating a football pitch in the middle of a forest near Selkirk. It will host two games on the same day before being left to return to nature.

The responsible artist, Craig Coulthard, secured funding for the project from Creative Scotland and the Arts Council of England from National Lottery cash.

Asked if it could be considered a work of art on national radio on Friday, Mr Coulthard said: 'Well, I'm an artist and I say it's a work of art.'

Who are we to argue?

Diary often likes to offer an inspirational quote or two to cheer up your day but, even we raised an eyebrow when we realised how far we've come from good old Oscar Wilde.

It seems our latest find – an adaptation of a classic quote – proves we really do live in an internet age: 'Dance like the photo's not being tagged. Love like you've never been unfriended. Sing like nobody's following. Share like you care. And do it all like it won't end up on YouTube.'

**WE AT The Diary wish Atlantis Leisure stalwart Drew Anderson the best of luck in his new job.**

Drew was involved in the early years of the sports centre, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, but will take up a new role at The Randolph Hotel. However, maybe our good luck wishes are misplaced. Perhaps we should all be hoping the next poor soul to leave Atlantis gets away with less of a flogging.



### PRESS POLICY

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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

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

### Clarification

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify that Donald Martin, 19, is not being charged with breaking into a caravan as reported in 'Brothers deny caravan break-in' on August 23. Mr Martin is charged with breaking into a wooden store.



## Oban Railway Station in days gone by

**R H Kirchwehn of the Isle of Iona submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows Oban Railway Station 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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### Volunteers do a great job

Sir,  
I wish to respond to the council's head of governance and law's comments at the Kilinver Community Council meeting regarding 'slanderous and hidden agendas' by community councillors and individuals attending such meetings – *The Oban Times*, August 23.

He stated 'volunteers are here to try and do their best for their community and can't achieve the standard of paid officials'.

Well I disagree with that, as it slanders professionals and people who have their community at heart. They are not just volunteers there to make up the numbers – many communities have thrashed out various problems from planning, transport, NHS, education, employment issues within the council circles and are not paid a penny from the taxpayer.

So to say you need to be a paid official to be competent is nonsense and is a slight on everyone who serves on community councils.

One would like an apology through your letters page from the head of governance and law on this point and a copy of this letter will be sent to the director of his department.

Stephen Johnstone, community councillor, Ardentinny.

### Oban Development road latest

Sir,

The Oban Development Road project is not only strategic and ambitious but essential for the future prosperity and growth of Oban and surrounding area and is exactly that – a development road to address the 21st century opportunities currently on our doorstep.

Recognising the current economic climate and thus the challenges facing our partners, both public and private, in terms of their inability to assist with funding at this time, the last agreed status of the project is as follows:

□ The rephasing of Oban Development Road (ODR) with town centre traffic management being pursued within phase ONE.

### College patron

FORMER Labour MP Brian Wilson has been appointed as the first patron of Ionad Chalum Chille Ile (ICCI).

This honour was bestowed on the former parliamentarian in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the furtherance of the Gaelic language and culture during his tenure as Minister of State at the Scottish Office with special responsibility for the Gaelic language.

His efforts to this end resulted in the establishment of the island's St Columba Gaelic Centre which celebrated its tenth anniversary on August 10.

The certificate of patronage was presented by Catherine Johnston, chairwoman of the centre's board of management, at a reception attended by invited guests in the Gaelic college on August 16.

Further presentations were made to Brian and to Alan Campbell, who delivered the tenth anniversary lecture, by Neil Woodrow, centre manager.

Board member Dr Dorothy Dennis launched the 'Friends of ICCI' project and all the participants, including singers Mairi MacGillivray and Alasdair Currie, were commended by Argyll and Bute councillor Robin Currie who has been involved in the centre since its inception in 2002. The newly-appointed patron and founding editor of the West Highland Free Press has strong maternal links with the island as his mother was a member of the well-known MacIntyre family from

dangerous transit of the bridge. The 40 mph restriction is counter-productive. Crossing the bridge at 40 mph may be legal but may also be lethal, and it gives no time for our two slow moving powered wheel chair users to cross from the residential side of the village to the Village Shop and Church.

In addition to the road narrow signs already agreed, thanks to the efforts of Cllr. Louis Glen-Lee, there should be oncoming vehicles in centre of the road signs, but best of all on the wish list, traffic lights.

The speed limit restriction should be reduced to 30 mph and commence south of the Tegnish road turnoff, along with a solid no passing line and no passing signs right through the village.

The relatively minor costs of these changes cannot be used as an excuse not to take action, and should have been done long ago, and the authorities will be held entirely responsible for any consequences if prompt action is not taken.

An 18 wheel truck north bound, meeting a coach on the bridge with 40 passengers south bound, both travelling at 40 mph does not bear thinking about.

Do the councillors want that on their consciences?

John Christie, Melfort Pier and Harbour.

### Kilmelford bridge hazard

Sir,

There are many road safety demands on the council's time and money, but the bridge in the centre of Kilmelford is really and truly a very serious road hazard, which increasing heavy vehicle traffic gets more dangerous by the day on this vital A816 road linking Oban to the south.

When approaching the bridge, oncoming traffic does not come into view until within two hundred meters of the bridge.

The location of the shop and forecourt immediately on the south side of the bridge and the Culfaul Hotel and forecourt immediately to the north adds greatly to the already extremely

dangerous transit of the bridge. The 40 mph restriction is counter-productive. Crossing the bridge at 40 mph may be legal but may also be lethal, and it gives no time for our two slow moving powered wheel chair users to cross from the residential side of the village to the Village Shop and Church.

Given the links to improve town centre connectivity and access, the elements of (ODR) within phase one is progressed – a traffic model has been developed as an integral part of ODR.

□ The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Argyll and Bute Council to ensure that the elements of ODR not being pursued in phase one are brought to an appropriate stage, such that these elements can be progressed in the agreed phased manner.

□ The route of the ODR continues to be safeguarded through the development plan process.

Argyll and Bute Council Executive in March of this year authorised and confirmed the allocation of £1.84m, for phase one of the Oban CHORD project to include traffic management, transport interchange, reconfiguration of the bay/harbour area.

These projects – both individually and together – will have a positive impact on the town's residents, visitors and investors. There are risks and costs to any programme of action but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.

Do the councillors want that on their consciences?

John Christie, Melfort Pier and Harbour.

### HIGHLAND HEATHERS

Sir,

On behalf of Oban and Lorn Lions Club I thank everyone who helped make our second great Oban Bay Raft Race a roaring success.

A special thank you to *The Oban Times* for handling the advertising of the event, to our local radio station 'Oban FM' for their excellent roadshow presentation, the Peruvian Band who played in Queens Park Place and to Lewis for his great musical performance at the slipway. Thanks also to all the shops that displayed our posters and the public for their support on the day. Most of all, the crews of all the rafts that participated in the race on the day. They were all top quality and were all winners, and as well as being very sporting and full of fun, they raised a lot of sponsorship which will go into our local charity fund.

Alex Milligan, president, Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

### ISLAY LETTER

Bonahaven. The former politician, who is married to the author and journalist Joni Buchanan, now lives in Uig, Isle of Lewis, where he is involved in the promotion of the Harris Tweed industry.

### Book festival

THE ISLAND'S increasingly popular book festival, now in its seventh year, takes place in Port Ellen Primary School on September 8 and 9.

The two-day event will see a return visit from Scots Makar Liz Lochhead who, as well as discussing her own writings, will expound on the impact that the works of our other national bard Robert Burns has had on her own life and literary output.

Sue Lawrence will share her culinary experiences, blood-thirsty vampires and mysterious stone circles will be the domain of Geoff Dwyer-Holder, and Catherine Czerkawska will create romance based on the history of the Isle of Gigha.

Also appearing will be local authors Justin and Linda Ruthven-Tyres whose 'Phoenix from the Ashes' describes a personal and tragic loss which led to a sea adventure packed with incident.

Five distinguished children's authors will also contribute to the main event as well as carrying out pre-festival visits to all the island schools. The island festival was set up in 2006 and its current honorary patron is Lord Robertson of Port Ellen. More information on [www.islaybookfestival.com](http://www.islaybookfestival.com).

### Lords of the Isles

CURRENTLY on display at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile is an exhibition outlining the history of the Lords of the Isles, the powerful Donald dynasty who ruled the roost on the western seaboard of Scotland from the 13th to the 15th century and had their headquarters at Finlaggan, better known locally as Port an Eilean.

The bilingual exhibition, created by Benbecula history graduate Angus Murray, highlights the Lordship's contribution to the language and culture of the Gaels and examines the allied families who made their own contribution to the dynasty's success. Photographs are by Thomas MacDonald-Wilson. Running concurrently is a brief history of the island's lighthouses which has been compiled by Laura Howitt, the centre's summer course tutor.

### Congratulations

THERE was an air of celebration in the Co-op store at Bowmore when its manager Charles Holyoake won the coveted Kildalton Cross trophy for the first time at a stiffly contested golf competition at the Machrie links. Well done Charles.

Well done also to Anne Newman and Calum Murray who have now qualified as recognised Ulpan Gaelic tutors. Meal ar maidheachd.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 81065.



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA 48 BLIADNA BHON A CHAIDH binn báis a thoir air neach ann am Breatainn ach, 's dócha gu nádarrá, nuair a thachras crón oilteil, tha daoine a' togail an guth a dharradh an lagh atharrachadh air. Canaigh cuid gur e da-ríribh ceum air a bhiodh anna dha Breatainn nam biadh binn báis ceadaichte ós ùrn duthcha se! Théid caochlachd argamainean cumhachadh a chur air adhart an agaibh a' chuid ghearr a bhagail ris a' mhór-chuid diubh sin. Ach thíos amannan far am bheil mi a' faireachadh cho feargach is air mo sgreachadhach cho mòr is gum bheil misce cuideachd déonach bas a mholaodh dhoiribh.

'S dócha gun canadh cuid gum bheil dearbhadh air buribe as an taghadh briathraichas a th'agaim airson a bhith a' maidheadh beatha cùch a cheile. Muraidh mi! Marbhaidh mi! Curidh mi far na h-amach! Curidh mi'n ceann dheth! Croichid mi!. Tha an t-ubhas ghnáthan-scaint eadar-dealaichte againn ach, ged a thathas gan cleachadh gu bitheanta, gu fortanach chan eil sinn gan cur an gnionadh! Ach an beil sin a' ciallachadh nach eil sinn a' beachdachadh air ciall ar comraideach láitheach aon neamh bheil sinn ann a da-ríribh nar crearteachan borb a tha an eisimeil lagh gus ar cumail fo smachd siobhalta? Saoradh mi gum bheil a' cheist sin car doiribh a freagan thaobh tomhas mhathach den t-sluagh.

Tha mi a' sgriobhadh seo is ceistean mòra a' nochdadh mun bhinn bliadhna air fhichead priosain a tha cuirt ann an Nirribhidh air a thoir air Anders Behring Breivik

# Fury at GPs' meeting delay

NHS HIGHLAND has come under fire for delaying a crisis meeting on GP services at a remote Lochaber surgery until the day its two doctors left their posts.

Dr Rob Colebrook and Dr Simon Topham, partners in Acharacle Medical Practice, formally announced they were quitting in May - citing 'the unsustainable personal strain' of arranging out-of-hours cover without assistance.

The duo clear their desks tomorrow - as health chiefs finally meet community representatives in the closed doors session in Strontian's Sunart Centre.

Furious West Ardnahurchan Community Council chair Rosie Curtis told The Oban Times: 'The fact they decided to hold this on the last day of the GPs is bloody ridiculous. They have made their own minds up about this and seem to have their own agenda.'

Acharacle Community Council chair Hugh MacPherson was equally unhappy - and feared the practice may be staffed by locum GPs for months.

He said: 'The annoying thing is that our doctors are finished and there's still nothing on the

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

This should have happened months ago.

'Whatever system they come up with it's going to be six months before it's in place. It's not ideal to have different doctors each time. I think this is what's causing a lot of anxiety in the community.'

NHS Highland was also slated for failing to invite the four local Highland councillors to tomorrow's meeting until the last minute.

Sunart, West Ardnahurchan and Acharacle community councils lobbied health bosses for the councillors to attend.

But it was only on August 9 that they received an email from primary care manager Melanie Meecham stating 'I have catered for the four Highland councillors you have invited'.

No indication was given that NHS Highland themselves would be issuing an invite - and by Tuesday morning councillors were still in the dark.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, furious at the lack of communication, eventually received an official invite around 5pm after

notifying NHS Highland the press had been informed of the situation.

He told The Oban Times: 'I think it's simply a damage limitation exercise to avoid any bad publicity. NHS Highland have had two months since this first became an issue to have a meeting with the community and it is sad that they have left it to the very last minute to do so.'

Gill McVicar, director of operations for north and west Highland, confirmed 'community leaders, including community councillors and Highland councillors' were now invited to tomorrow's 'exploratory' meeting. She said: 'Due to annual leave commitments it has not been possible to hold this meeting any earlier, but it is important to stress the Acharacle Practice will continue to provide services both in and out of hours, through locum doctors and the extended primary care team. The meeting is planned as an early stage in engagement with communities, to listen to community concerns, any suggestions they might have and to explore some possible options for the future. It will be followed up with a more open forum at a later stage.'

## Chamber to raise urgent road concerns

FORT William Chamber of Commerce is to raise concerns about traffic disruptions on the A82 with Transport Scotland today (Thursday) after statistics were revealed showing planned closures last year were more than 50 per cent higher than 2010.

Transport Scotland's head of network maintenance Graham Edmond and members of the A82 Partnership will attend the meeting at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie.

The figures from Transport Scotland show planned closures increased from 54 to 107, while

unplanned closures for accidents, weather and police incidents went up from 59 to 74.

A82 Partnership chair Brian Murphy said the trunk road was 'in crisis'.

He said: 'It is a road that needs significant investment now, not only to upgrade it to modern standards which we have been campaigning for for many years, but substantially increased resources for maintenance before the West Highlands grinds to a halt.'

### Urgency

'This is an issue that the Scottish Government needs to tackle with some urgency.'

The closure figures are in addition to permanent works at Loch Lochy, Glen Gloy and Pulpit Rock, as well as ongoing

Forestry Commission tree felling projects.

Fort William Chamber of Commerce chair Robert Hawkes said: 'Issues with the A82 and the effect these unceasing closures have on the economy of the whole West Highlands are among one of our top priorities.'

'Representations made by both the Chamber and the A82 Partnership to Transport Scotland and the Transport Minister seem to be treated with less and less concern and we hope to convey to Mr Edmond that we really do mean business.'

The trunk road will be closed overnight between Tarbet and Crianlarich during September, and traffic will be reduced to one lane at Bridge of Orchy for works.

The huge canvas will now remain on public view in Arisaig House where it has hung for over a century.

The former stately home, set in woodlands a mile from Arisaig and now a luxury guesthouse, was previously the abode of the late Miss Joan Becher, who bequeathed it to the museum for display there.

The move was strongly opposed by many in Arisaig and Morar - as were earlier proposals to sell it to help fund an expansion at the museum.

The painting is kept safe on the premises and the owners of Arisaig House maintaining

THE WEATHER defied gloomy forecasts to provide a dry, bright day for the 115th Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday, with the sun even coming out for the afternoon.

Large crowds descended on Inverlochy Castle Farm at Torlundy to see a top class field of cattle, sheep and horses compete for a variety of prizes.

The Isle of Mull provided a strong contingent for the animal competitions, with islanders Donald and Lachlan Maclean, Fiona Boa and Angus MacColl all winning trophies.

Lochaber was also well represented with winners in the cattle, sheep and horse categories.

The afternoon saw a variety of events in the main ring of the field, including a deer stalking display from local deer stalker Donald Cameron.

Show chairman Paolo Berardelli hailed the event as a 'great show'.

For a full report and photos from the day, see page 4.

## Crowds descend on Torlundy for Lochaber show

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Show chairman Paolo Berardelli hailed the event as a 'great show'.

For a full report and photos from the day, see page 4.

## Arisaig campaigners celebrate painting victory

CAMPAIGNERS in Arisaig are celebrating after winning their battle to keep a valuable oil painting of local historical interest in the village.

West Highland Museum (WHM) had planned to remove 'Letters and News at the Lochside', which it owns, to its premises in Fort William for display there.

The move was strongly opposed by many in Arisaig and Morar - as were earlier proposals to sell it to help fund an expansion at the museum.

The painting is kept safe on the premises and the owners of Arisaig House maintaining

secure insurance arrangements that cover damage to, or loss of, the painting with the museum being the beneficiary;

□ A satisfactory agreement is made with the owners of Arisaig House to allow reasonable access for members of the public to view the painting;

□ If there is a change of ownership of the house or the other two conditors are compromised, the trustees will review the placement of the painting.

John Hutchison, acting chairman of the WHM board of

trustees, told *The Oban Times*: 'Some of the trustees wished the matter to be reconsidered. The decision does come with conditions and we need to implement these.'

### Welcome

The 1868 artwork, by Henry Tanworth Wells, depicts nine men in boats being welcomed by a ghillie on Loch Eilt-side, near Lochalort.

Numerous descendants of at least one man in the painting still live locally.

Comunn Eachdraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society)

- among the most vocal in opposing the painting's removal - expressed delight at the news.

Member Elizabeth MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It's fantastic - I still can't take it in. We could not let it go without a fight - it is part of the heritage of the area and there was no good reason why it should be taken away.'

'We are absolutely delighted it's going to stay where it belongs and where it has hung for so long. Arisaig House plan to hang an information panel beside the painting to explain its history.'

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Search for missing man switches to shore

THE SEARCH for a man missing in Loch Gairloch had, by Tuesday afternoon, moved to the shore and was being assisted by police dogs.

Ewen Beaton, 32, is presumed drowned after a tragic canoeing accident that has already claimed the lives of his two sons and a young girl.

Another man who was with the group managed to swim to shore along with his eight-year-old daughter after the boat they were in overturned on Sunday.

Mr Beaton's sons Jamie, two and Ewen, five died later the same night after being airlifted from the loch to hospital.

**Hospital**

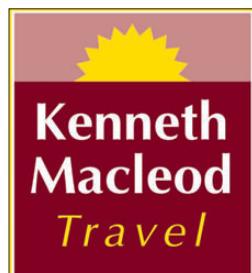
Five-year-old Gracie Mackie, from Muir of Ord, passed away on Monday afternoon in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.

Police said the search for Mr Beaton, from Beauly, had begun again as *The Oban Times* went to print.

Ross-shire Area Inspector Neil MacKinnon, said: 'The previous searches on Sunday and Monday were extensive water and air searches, supplemented by land searches.

'We have family liaison officers working with both families and the local communities to support them as best we can at this incredibly difficult time.'

Tuesday's searches consisted of two police dogs and two handlers, along with a coastguard team.



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Enjoy this luxury hideaway on the shores of West Loch Tarbert, which has been architecturally redesigned by Garfield Nairn.

It has been extensively upgraded with eco features including solar panels, a wood burning stove which assists the central heating, and wood cladding insulation. The roof has been replaced and has additional insulation. New bathrooms have been fitted throughout the house and a glass fronted dining room has been added giving magnificent views of the West Loch.

The villa is on two levels, on the ground floor there are two en - suite bedrooms, three public rooms and a cloakroom.

The upper floor has two wings each with two bedrooms and a bathroom. The rooms to the front of the house have panoramic views of West Loch Tarbert whilst the rooms to the rear overlook the garden. The building now complements the natural surroundings and the internal furnishings and stone fireplace are inspired by the beauty and colours of the Argyll countryside.

In the grounds of the Villa, there is Anchor Cottage which is also available to rent. The cottage is all on one level with two en suite bedrooms, a study and a large open plan kitchen and sitting room which have superb views down the loch. Dunmore estate is an ideal place for families and friends to enjoy holidays or celebrations and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding countryside. A boat ramp is available for those who wish to bring their own boats.

## Dunmore Holiday Rental

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Dunmore Villa as seen from M.V. Finlaggan after leaving Kenacraig pier.

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### An opportunity to create a new home in magnificent surroundings

Dunmore Estate is situated on the North side of West Loch Tarbert, 7 miles from the village of Tarbert Loch Fyne and 98 miles from Glasgow Airport. With 900 acres and over two miles of coast, much of the land is protected by Scottish Natural Heritage because of its ancient oaks, areas of natural beauty and

abundant wildlife. Planning permission in principle has been granted for 5 plots over 1 acre at Nether Auchans. A new road has been constructed which follows the old track and extends to the loch at Rubha Mhein where a new slipway enables home owners to launch their boats.



Views of Gigha and Cara from plots 1 to 3.



The Hebridean Isles after a trip to Islay, viewed from plots 4 & 5

### Dunmore Villa: paying tribute to a 'mesmerising' landscape

AN IDYLLIC getaway for family and friends, a place to socialise or recuperate, Dunmore Villa is a luxurious house that celebrates the beauty of the Scottish coastline.

Nestled in 900 acres of the Kintyre countryside.

The interior of the house particularly recognises the outstanding natural beauty in which the villa is situated.

Elaine Tait, daughter of Len Sculthorpe spent several months designing the interior of the house, which she hopes pays tribute to a 'mesmerising' landscape.

'This is an extraordinary location, with views to die for so what we tried to do is

bring the outside in,' Elaine said. 'The blues of the sky and the loch, the greens of the leaves all form part of the colour palette, with some reds for the autumn as well. It is all about making it blend in with nature.'

Explaining the countryside also offers something for everyone, Elaine said the boat ramp offers guests the chance to go sailing, the bay an opportunity for paddling, the water an opportunity for fishing and the patio an area to sit back and watch.

For more information on Dunmore Villa and to make a booking telephone Kenneth Macleod Travel on 0141 621 0555 or email [elaine@kmtravel.co.uk](mailto:elaine@kmtravel.co.uk).



The Hebridean Isles after a trip to Islay, viewed from plots 4 & 5

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Best Wishes to Dunmore & Carsaig Estates for future and present developments

## Down Your Way

### Kilninver and the Isle of Seil

THE PLANNING application for the proposed wind farm at Clachan Seil is expected to go to a local public hearing in October.

The application has received almost 1000 comments from statutory consultees as well as members of the public.

Many of the recent comments are in support of the proposals but a large amount of objections were received in the earlier stages. Debate has raged over the issue with the main group of objectors – People Against Clachan Turbines – previously refusing to attend a public meeting on the subject after being intimidated by anonymous sources on internet forums.

A LAUNCH point as part of a proposed core path on Seil island has been criticised by a local hotel owner.

Core paths are an initiative of Argyll and Bute Council which aims to ensure paths which benefit communities are protected from obstructions and not lost when land is developed.

Launching points have been incorporated into many of these paths as a place for water sports enthusiasts to park and unload their equipment and gain access to the water.

But the proposal for a launch point in front of the Tigh an Truish Hotel drew an angry response from owner Lars Brunner.

He expressed concern that those using the facility would fill up the hotel car park, which is privately owned, leaving no space for guests and negatively impact on the business.

He said: ‘This action is going to put us in a situation where we are going to have to ask people to leave the car park – neither a good move for ourselves or larger Argyll.’

As a result of the objection the council plan to move the launch point to the other side of the bridge but admit a parking area would need to be made available first before any plans can progress.

This is not the only launch point to which people have objected. The council have had to amend their plans on a number of occasions. ‘Some were incorrectly recorded and a few were in private gardens or had no parking close by,’ a spokeswoman said.

RESIDENTS in Kilninver and the surrounding area could soon have much better mobile phone signal and even access to mobile internet.

Vodafone are currently looking at over 170 rural areas in Britain to trial their open femto scheme.

The new technology will see femtocells – effectively small low power transmitters – placed outdoors on telephone poles.

The cells will increase the capacity of the phone network as well as boosting coverage in areas where there may currently be little or none.

Guy Laurence, chief executive, Vodafone UK said: ‘Hundreds of thousands of people across the country use Vodafone Sure Signal every day to boost their 3G signal at home.

‘Now we are extending this groundbreaking femtocell technology to make a real difference to rural communities.

‘Bringing mobile coverage and the benefits of the mobile internet to rural areas involves not just us, but local people, politicians and other infrastructure players all working together.

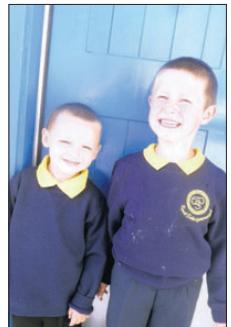
‘We are confident that everyone will step up and help give rural communities a real boost and look forward to extending our trial.’

**Next week Down Your Way visits the Isle of Coll with Steven Flanagan. You can contact Steven on 01631 568000 or sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk.**

# Primary one pupils in the picture



Jessica Aldwinkle, Charley MacKinnie and Fiona Wyllie were all smiles on the first day of their school life at Easdale Primary School.



Eoghan Primary School, Barra, welcomed two new pupils into the school this year, Alexander Beverstock and Christopher Brown.



The new P1A class at Park Primary School. 16\_t35park01



Happy smiles from the new primary one pupils at St Bride's Primary School.



Luing Primary School welcomed new pupil Noah Soares Domingues to primary one.



Park Primary School's new P1B class. 16\_t35park02



Broadford Primary School's new English and Gaelic medium primary one pupils.



Elgol Primary School welcomed these smiling youngsters through its doors at the start of term.



Mallaig Primary School's new English and Gaelic Medium primary one pupils.

### ISLAY

LAST winter, residents of Islay, Jura and Colonsay experienced several severe spells of stormy weather.

Considerable damage was caused to Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution's (SHEPD) electricity network, disrupting electricity supplies to many of its customers on the islands.

Since March, SHEPD has been implementing steps to reinforce the electricity network and improve the reliability of electricity supplies to the islands to limit the impact of similar future storms. The company is investing around £2million in these improvements.

SHEPD's Project manager Andrew Gilthorpe said: ‘The work undertaken so far has included extensive tree harvesting on the mainland and Jura and to stop windblown trees from damaging overhead lines and replacing overhead equipment on Islay. Much of this work has been carried out by specialist teams who can carry out the works while the network is still ‘live’, avoiding disconnecting customers.’

The next phase of the project will take until November to complete.

Andrew continued: ‘We will be refurbishing the overhead network between Bowmore and Portnahaven, installing bird diverter devices at specific locations to try and prevent geese and other wild birds from striking the lines. We will also install a new high voltage underground cable between Bowmore and Port Charlotte to improve the quality of service to the area. New remote control devices will be installed to enable electricity supplies to be restored more quickly in the event of a fault. Residents on Islay will see more of our vehicles, equipment and staff during this time. Unfortunately some customers will experience interruptions to their electricity supply. We will do all we can to minimise any disruption and will tell customers in advance.’

THE ANNUAL Islay Sheepdog Trials were held recently at Whin Park Bridgend.

The trials committee thank the McCormick family of Blackrock and everyone who helped and donated prizes for the competitions with a special mention to Mathew and JJ for excellent catering.



Head teacher Sharon Burt welcomes pupils back to the school for the first time in a year. 15\_t34achaleven1

### CONNEL

## Achaleven Primary School re-opens

A YEAR after it was mothballed because of a lack of pupils, Connell's Achaleven Primary School has re-opened – with four enthusiastic pupils.

Head teacher Sharon Burt has returned to the school to take the pupils through their early education and said she's delighted to return.

She said: ‘It’s brilliant. It’s

lovely to be back and in the community again.

The community has been working really hard to open the school again and the parents have done a great job.

‘Thankfully, the kids love it too.’

Achaleven was mothballed last year after parents withdrew their children from the school.

professionals and student volunteers are making good progress.

### GLENGARRY

BLAS 2012 comes to Glengarry Community Hall on September 13 with Oidhche nan Caileagan (Girls Allowed).

Kristen Harvey and the Sanna Catriona Macdonald's new fiddle and mandola trio Vamm and North Uist traditional Gaelic singer Linda MacLeod will take to the stage for a night of song, jigs and reels, strathspeys and marches. The show starts at 7.30pm.

### ABERFELDY

WHILE many have relaxed on holiday or been glued to the Olympic Games over the summer months, progress on work to bring The Birks cinema back to life as a modern state of the art facility in Aberfeldy has continued apace.

Building firm Hadden's has made ‘brilliant’ progress inside the building and a new trading arm of the project has been established. Recruitment of a general manager of The Birks cinema is also now underway.

Charlotte Flower, chairwoman of the Friends of the Birks Cinema, said: ‘I think the new job of general manager is probably one of the most exciting jobs in cinema in Scotland and we are really looking forward to making the appointment.

‘Brilliant progress is being made inside the building; the amazing cooling labyrinth is in place – a whole series of pipes laid in concrete under the auditorium – accessing the well of ‘coolth’ under the building, so that on fine summer days when we need the auditorium to be a little cooler – we draw cool air from deep below the floor.

‘The foundations for the

internal walls are in place and we are beginning to see the shape of what is to come. It is very, very exciting.

‘During August the roof will be replaced. This requires scaffolding around the entire building which unfortunately means that the Chapel Street bus stop will need to be temporarily moved for the next ten to 12 weeks.

‘Our apologies for any inconvenience.’

The AGM of the Friends of The Birks Cinema takes place on August 30 at Dewars Distillery from 7.30pm. For more information about The Birks, see the website www.birkscinemafriends.org.

### UIG

BREASCLETIE Community Association in Uig, Isle of Lewis, has been awarded £145,194 from the Scottish Government's Rural Priorities scheme to create a new path network connecting local villages, school and the visitor centre for the Callanish stone circle.

The multi-use pathway will provide a safe, dedicated and improved route for both the local community and visitors to the popular tourist attraction.

### KILCHOAN



Corporal Simon Phillips: played at Tattoo.

A SOLDIER from Kilchoan was a drummer in the massed pipes and drums at this year's Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo.

Corporal Simon Phillips of The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS) took his

place alongside nearly 1,000 performers including musicians, singers and dancers.

Simon, a former pupil of Lochaber High School, is married to Kathleen and the couple have two children, Emma, aged nine, and six-year-old Jessica.

### Mull Lines

‘They are involved in planning and talking about their learning.’

But the inspector pointed out that improvements could be made in the school.

She added: ‘In the primary class, staff provide

an online shop featuring products manufactured on Mull.

Project manager Matt Doyle said: ‘It is

exciting times and will help visitors to keep in touch with these beautiful isles and attract new visitors.’

The new station will also bring a boost to promising bands, singers or songwriters as there is also a new companion record label, Raptor Records.

The radio station welcomes original work and will accept demo CDs.

For more information on submitting these, see the website.

□ □ □

PLANNING permission has been granted for former toilets in Tobermory to be turned into an ice cream parlour.

Kyle Morris bought the building, which was lying vacant, from Argyll and Bute Council. It will be now re-roofed, have windows put in and signs erected.

A spokesman for the council said:

‘Maintaining a good mixture of uses and filling vacant units within the designated main town area is considered to support the vitality and viability of the town centre.

‘Whilst alternative developments, or demolition of the existing utilitarian building, might both have presented broader opportunities within the town, no such proposals have come forward.’

Petition

A petition had been circulated and signed by 534 people to save the toilet block from demolition and maintain a public convenience for locals and visitors.

But the sale of the building was agreed in November by Argyll and Bute Council to the highest bidder with former leader Dick Walsh commenting: ‘It is a statutory requirement for the council to secure the best price reasonably obtainable for its assets.’

□ □ □

A RECENT inspection of Iona Primary School praised staff and pupils for their hard work and commitment to the school.

Inspector Jacqueline Horsburgh was

impressed by the extra curricular activities such as the children undertaking the roles of junior tour guides at Iona Abbey.

She was also pleased with routines in the pre-fives, stating: ‘Staff across the school and pre-five centre are enthusiastic and want the best for all children.

‘Children in the pre-five centre are settled and play very well together.’

ARDNAMURCHAN

THE ARDNAMURCHAN Lighthouse Trust is inviting locals to join in with its 15th anniversary celebrations next month.

The open day will be held at the lighthouse

on the evening of Saturday September 15, with music and refreshments available.

Those gaining awards were Duncan Allaway, Nicole Troman, Daisy Williams and Bill and Jan Roberts.

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# AUTUMN WEDDINGS

**AUTUMN** can be a fantastic time to have a wedding, the colours of the leaves are starting to turn and can provide a stunning backdrop to your wedding day.

The heat of the summer months is also starting to fade so you will be more comfortable spending all day in formal wedding attire.

There are many things to remember before your wedding takes place and regardless of what point your preparations are at, read on for our 'to do' list.

You need to start making key decisions straight away. Things like what sort of ceremony you want to have, what sort of colour scheme you would like and how much you are going to spend on your big day all need clearly set out.

Next on the list is checking out venues – make sure you both agree on somewhere rather than one person making a big sacrifice in this area.

Once you have booked your venue, book the same date and time with your minister or registrar – also give notice at your local register office. If your reception is to be held somewhere else remember and book that too.

Wedding insurance is an increasingly popular addition and couples say they rest easier knowing if something goes wrong they won't be out of pocket.

Next up is deciding how many people you want to invite and drafting a guest list. Be prepared to compromise on this one.

Ladies, it is time to start looking for that elusive wedding dress. Try on lots of different materials and styles to get a feel for what really suits you. Don't forget to choose your bridesmaids, they can be good company when hunting for the dress.

And grooms, the time has come to choose a best man. Some men may not be too sure what that entails so go over what needs to be done and what his duties will be.

If you are planning a honeymoon after your big day now would be a good time to check your passport is valid – many countries will require you to have six months to run on your passport or you may be denied entry. Make sure and book time off work for your honeymoon.

When it comes to six months before your wedding you must order your bridesmaids dresses. There will need to be subsequent fittings. You should also have your wedding dress ordered by now, if not get choosing. Make sure you remember and get any appropriate accessories to go with your dress.

Decide on what sort of transport you would like for your big day and book it. Now is also a good time to book photographers, caterers and any musicians or dj's you might be having.

Looking good is important on your wedding day so don't forget to book a hairdresser and someone to do your makeup if you would like that. Remember to go for a trial beforehand.

You might also want to think about making a wedding gift list and ordering your wedding cake.

About three months before your wedding it is wise to start thinking about table decorations, favours and place cards.

You should also be arranging fittings for the groom and best man as well as buying the wedding rings. Don't forget to send out invitations to your guests.

You should choose and order the flowers you want on your day, also start thinking about vows, readings and ceremony music.

Decide on a first dance – and get practising if you're not keen. Confirm your ceremony details with your minister or registrar about two months beforehand.

Have final fittings about a month beforehand and confirm all of your bookings from wedding suppliers and timings with the venue.

Don't forget to find time for your stag or hen do's and also arrange a date for the wedding rehearsal if necessary.

Shortly before your big day you should confirm numbers with caterers and make sure they know of any special dietary requirements. Make sure you have paid any suppliers that require money in advance.

It is a good idea for the groom to get a haircut about a week before the wedding and you should also start packing for your honeymoon. It is polite to write out thank you cards and buy some gifts for any helpers you have had.

The day before the wedding you should drop off any decorations, table plans, favours and a

guest book if you're having one at your venue.

Make sure you take out cash for any payments you need to make on your big day and remember to hand the rings over to the best man.

The night before you should lay out your wedding outfit and make sure all accessories are there too. This will save any panic in the morning.

Head to bed early, a good night's sleep is vital and will help you be fresh for your wedding. Don't forget to set your alarm and eat breakfast the next morning. Your stomach will thank you later.

Your day has finally arrived, enjoy yourself and let other people worry about the details.

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## WEDDING NOTICES



**SHEARD - NICHOLS**  
Laura Sheard and Anton Nichols were married at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on August 25th 2012. They were joined by a large number of family and friends at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls to celebrate their marriage. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



**SMITH - MCHATTIE**  
Cherie Marie Smith and Andrew Charles McHattie were married at The Caledonian Hotel, Oban on August 3rd 2012. They held their marriage celebrations at the hotel where they were joined by family and friends. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



**JOHNSON - STRICKSON**  
Victoria Johnson and David Strickson were married at Caig Falls, Loch Arkaig on August 17th 2012. The intimate wedding party of close family and friends celebrated in Fort William. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Dawn and Robert were married at The Manor House Hotel on August 22nd 2012. The wedding celebrations continued at this beautiful venue with family and friends. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

## Glencoe driver overtook three vehicles on a bend

A GLENCOE man has been fined £585 after overtaking three vehicles on a bend on the A82 north of Spean Bridge.

Jamie Smith, managing director of the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Glengloy on September 15 last year.

Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court Smith's Audi A4 convertible had been spotted overtaking the cars at excessive speed on the approach to a blind summit by an off-duty police officer.

Mr Laing said: 'There were a number of features on the road to warn drivers not to attempt a manoeuvre like this overtaking. It caused a number of persons concerns.'

Smith, of Minard Cottage, Tigh Phuirst, who earlier in the proceedings had his plea of not guilty to the more serious charge of dangerous driving accepted by the Crown, admitted careless driving.

Sheriff Douglas Small said he had considered disqualifying the 45-year-old from driving, but instead endorsed his licence with nine penalty points.

## Council reduces carbon emissions

HIGHLAND Council has cut its carbon emissions by 13 per cent over the past five years through its carbon management plan.

Reduced energy use in offices and mileage, fuel savings and less waste disposal have all produced savings and lower emissions.

The council switched from oil fired heating systems to biomass boilers, saving £1.8 million and 16 per cent - 1,720 tonnes - CO<sub>2</sub> since 2007/08.

Staff now regularly uses telephone or video conferencing, public transport and lift share to avoid unnecessary travel, while two new electric cars were added to the car pool earlier this year.

Council depute leader David Alston said 'much more' needed to be done to avoid irreversible climate change.

He added: 'The Highland public can help to reduce emissions by reducing their energy, waste and travel as small actions together can amount to a positive change.'

## Young shinty stars on show

SPEAN Bridge will play host to some of the best young shinty talent in the north of Scotland over the next two weekends.

The first event on Sunday will see under 14s compete to represent the north against the south in Fort William next month.

Teams from four districts – Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, Badenoch and Inverness – are taking part, with under 17s the following Sunday.



Lochaber Street League prizewinners celebrate with their trophies and medals. 20\_f35street01

## Street league prizewinners on the ball

AROUND 150 young footballers, parents and friends packed out Lochaber High School hall on Friday night for the Lochaber Street League (LSL) prizegiving.

The summer-long event is organised by a number of organisations including Northern Constabulary to give youngsters aged from seven to 16 something productive and

fun to do during the school holidays. LSL chairwoman Rosemary MacPhee said around 80-100 children attended every Monday and Wednesday throughout the summer, with around 90 taking part in an end-of-season tournament at Claggan Park.

Reverend Chris MacRae and Inspector Donald Campbell were on hand to present the trophies and medals to the children, and Provost Allan Henderson gave a short speech to congratulate the youngsters and organisers.

Caol youngster Alfie Duncan, aged 9, took home the coveted player of the year award, and everyone who took part was given a medal.

## Community landowners welcome review group's 'radical' remit

COMMUNITY Land Scotland (CLS), the organisation representing community landowners across the country, has welcomed publication of the Scottish government's remit to its land reform review group.

First Minister Alex Salmond announced the new body on Skye last month as a means of overhauling existing legislation so more communities could submit bids to own the land they live and work on.

Now the government has published an 'innovative and radical' brief to the high-powered group, which will present a draft final report to Ministers in 2013.

The task force is charged with:

identifying how land

reform will enable more people in rural and urban Scotland to have a stake in the ownership, governance, management and use of land; leading to greater diversity of land ownership.

Assisting with the acquisition and management of land (and also land assets) by communities, to make stronger, more resilient and independent communities which have an even greater stake in their development.

generating, supporting, promoting and delivering new relationships between land, people, economy and environment.

Describing the structure of

land ownership as 'a defining

factor' between land and people, the remit states community ownership has aided sustainable development by 'strengthening communities and giving them a greater stake in their future'.

It adds: 'The relationship between the land and the people of Scotland is fundamental to the wellbeing, economic success, environmental sustainability and social justice of the country.'

The various strands of land reform that exist in Scotland will be already making for tens of thousands of people across almost half a million acres of Scotland.'

He added: 'There is also mention of this leading to a greater diversity of landownership and ownership types in Scotland.'

'At long last we appear to be getting close to fundamental radical reform which will make fragile parts of Scotland not only thrive but also produce a more just and fair society.'

like the use of the word 'radical'. Community Land Scotland has very high hopes for this review group and will do all it can to provide concrete evidence of the difference that community landownership is already making for tens of thousands of people across almost half a million acres of Scotland.'

He added: 'There is also mention of this leading to a greater diversity of landownership and ownership types in Scotland.'

'At long last we appear to be getting close to fundamental radical reform which will make fragile parts of Scotland not only thrive but also produce a more just and fair society.'

## Trial date looms for three men accused of violent attack

THREE men accused of violently attacking and permanently disfiguring five people near Fort William High Street are due to stand trial on Monday September 10.

Kris Divers, aged 22, of 32 Netherwood Road, Motherwell; Stephen McElroy, aged 29, of 54 Hamilton Road, Airdrie, and Ian MacDonald Ward of 68 Mosshead, Glasgow, all deny five charges of assault with a bottle to injury, severe injury, permanent disfigurement and endangerment of life.

Three Fort William Shinty Club players

were injured in the fracas – Alex Duncan, Stephen Stewart and Ewan Campbell.

A fourth man, Ryan Black, and a woman Arianne Lloyd were also injured during the melee on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29, 2011.

### Abusive

Ward, aged 22, also denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner in the Crofter Bar on the same night by making abusive comments to a woman, and refusing to stop fighting when told to by police on Ainslie Lane.



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## Askernish Open attracts hundreds

A GOLF tournament held in South Uist attracted hundreds of competitors to the island last weekend.

The three-day Askernish Open was held on Friday-Sunday, with 120 golfers taking part on Saturday alone.

Despite its remote location, players came from across the UK, as well as North America and Finland.

Askernish Club chairman Ralph Thompson said: 'The renown of the course and the hospitality of South Uist continues to grow. Many competitors have already booked their place for next year and we expect the competition to be at full capacity in 2013.'

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# Quick u-turn expected on school site

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REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

told *The Oban Times*: 'We are delighted to have the opportunity for the site and costs to be examined more closely, therefore closing the gap between the publicised abnormal costs of both sites.'

'Ardgour Road is substantially smaller in scale than Blar Mhor, so when the officials scaled it back that knocked nearly £200,000 off the cost.'

Councillor Clark criticised the role on non-elected committee members in the decision.

He said: 'You can't do a great deal when you have three men of the cloth and the youth convenor, none of whom are members of the committee, have a vote on education.'

'It was half expected, but I think the administration was hoping that the ministers would not participate just as the three health representatives did not participate.'

Councillor Hunter hit back: 'The non-elected member representatives voting rights are enshrined in the Scottish law of the land at the moment. Until that law is changed that is what we are stuck with.'

Fiona Byrne, chairwoman of Fort William Gaelic parents group Comann nam Pàrant a' Ghèarsaich, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are obviously really pleased and look forward to working with the council to develop the new Gaelic school for Fort William.'

## Ballachulish shinty cup fever

SOUTH Lochaber's attentions will be trained on Taynuilt this Saturday as the local shinty club, Ballachulish Camanachd, prepare for their first cup final in a decade.

Marine Harvest south division

two side Balla line up against

Oban outfit Lochside Rovers in the Bullough Cup Final, with

manager John McGilp hoping to

see his side emerge victorious.

The final comes after a

tumultuous season for the club,

which started with the senior side folding.

Some nine players left the

division one club last winter,

leading to chairman Ian Black

and the committee reducing

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# Argyllshire Gathering 2012



Video of this available online  
[OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)

The march from Station Square to the games field is led by gold medal winner Finlay Johnston of Glasgow, front left. 15\_t35argyllshire01

## Athletes' anger at rule change prompts boycott pledge

EXPERIENCED athletes taking part in the heavy events at the Argyllshire Gathering have sworn never to return following a change in the rules.

There are two sections athletes can compete in for heavy events – the confined local section and the open section, which welcomes competitors from around the world.

New rules, which athletes only found

out about on the morning of the games, now mean that anyone who placed first, second or third in an open event last year is now barred from competing as a local – even if they were born in Oban.

Three athletes, Stephen King, Neil Elliot and Lorne Colthart, were affected by the change in rules.

Mr King has been coming to the games for over 20 years but now 'won't

be back'. He said: 'We feel like we're not welcome at these games, we have come to support our local games but they don't want us.'

'I have taken a day off work for nothing. I won't be back and I know others, out of principle, won't be back.'

The organisers want to promote the foreign athletes and forget about the locals.'

Judge Brian Robin insisted the change in rules was a committee decision which aimed to encourage local development.

He added: 'They know exactly what I'm trying to do and if they moan about it then they're not very good athletes.'

**Criticism**

Responding to criticism that the athletes were not told about the change until arriving at the games he said:

'Do they want me to phone them all individually? I don't do personal phone calls.'

There were three athletes competing as locals, meaning guaranteed prize money for each.

Mr King added: 'With the new rules you don't have to train or be a good thrower to enter as a local, just put on a kilt and give it a go.'



Baby Cecilia Steuart Fotheringham from Ach-nacon, Appin, and cousins Elizabeth, George and Henry Boyle, had a great day at the Argyllshire Gathering. 15\_t35argyllshire24



Crowds enjoyed sunshine for most of the day. 16\_t35argyllshire11



## Stalwart Tommy honoured

A volunteer at the Argyllshire Gathering has been honoured for 20 years of service to the event. Obanite Tommy Askew spends a whole week helping at the games, from setting up the field on Monday and Tuesday to stewarding at the piping competitions. But he is most recognisable as the man at the front of the march to the games field. To mark his two decades of service, His Grace the Duke of Argyll presented Tommy with a quinch after he led the march to Mossfield Stadium. Tommy, a keen piper himself, said: 'They only told me I was getting the award two minutes before the Duke handed it over. It was a real surprise.'

15\_t35argyllshire03



The Three Crows entertained the audience in the heritage tent. 15\_t35argyllshire19



The runners start the hill race. 15\_t35argyllshire17



Oban High School's head of PE, Murray Hamilton, made his debut as an announcer. 15\_t35argyllshire16



Local heavies Craig Nicolson, left, and Angus MacPhail take a break in between throws. 15\_t35argyllshire2



Stuart Liddell from Inveraray won the Senior Piobaireachd competition, reserved for previous winners of a Society of London Gold Medal. Playing against 14 of the world's top pipers, Stuart's tune Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie earned him the top prize. 15\_t35stuart01



The under-fives race was won in style. 16\_t35argyllshire10



Oban man Lorne Colthart throws the hammer. 16\_t35argyllshire07



Robert Hay and Lorraine King were at the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre stall in the heritage tent. 16\_t35argyllshire22



Tommy the clown, 71, collects money for charity as he tackles the hill race. 16\_t35argyllshire01



Angus J MacColl is congratulated by his father, Angus senior, after being presented with The Highland Society of London's MacGregor Memorial Medal. 15\_t35argyllshire04



Ontario's Colin Clansey impressed piping judges. 16\_t35argyllshire05



Poland's Sebastian Wenta putting the stone. 16\_t35argyllshire09

## Home-grown pipers hit the high notes

THE WORLD'S premier pipers once again came to Oban for the Argyllshire Gathering – but Argyll's home-grown talent scooped many of the main prizes.

There was a popular winner in the MacGregor Memorial Competition when Angus J MacColl picked up the medal for pipers aged under-22 at only his second attempt.

The 17-year-old from Benderloch, who played MacLeod of Raasay's Salute, is proving to be as strong a solo piper as his well-known father, Angus senior.

He said: 'I thought I would spend a few years in the MacGregor Medal to get experience of piping at this level, so I was very surprised to win.'

The youngster has indicated he will compete in the silver medal next year.

Angus Nicol, who organised the MacGregor Medal competition on behalf of the Highland Society of London, said: 'Young Angus was a popular winner in a competition that attracted many pipers from all over the world.'

'The judges said the standard was particularly high this year, adding that some could be playing at silver medal standard

– or higher – but Angus was the best piper there.'

Inveraray's Stuart Liddell celebrated winning the Senior Piobaireachd Competition, reserved for previous winners of a Society of London Gold Medal.

Playing against 14 of the world's top pipers, Stuart's tune Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie earned him the top prize.

Second was Iain Speirs from Edinburgh playing the same tune as Stuart and third was Murray Henderson, Kirriemuir, with The Stewart's White Banner.

### Gold medal

Gold medal winner this year, Glasgow's Finlay Johnston, is a familiar face to Oban audiences, as the 26 year old has competed for the Argyllshire Gathering's premier title since 2007. Playing Farewell to the Laird of Islay, he beat John Mulhearn of Troon and Glenn Brown of Canada into second and third places, respectively.

Decker Forrest of Skye was third in the silver medal competition, which was won by Dunblane's Peter McCalister and Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Moscow, Ayrshire, who was the winner of the March, Strathspey and Reel for former winners.

'The judges said the standard was particularly high this year, adding that some could be playing at silver medal standard



Angus J MacColl is congratulated by his father, Angus senior, after being presented with The Highland Society of London's MacGregor Memorial Medal. 15\_t35argyllshire04



Ontario's Colin Clansey impressed piping judges. 16\_t35argyllshire05



Poland's Sebastian Wenta putting the stone. 16\_t35argyllshire09

## Piping Scene - page 13



Flutes in the Fort: playing at Nevis Range tomorrow evening.

## Flutes in the Fort stage Nevis Centre concert

LOCHABER flute ensemble Flutes in the Fort will present an evening of music at the Pinemarten cafe bar at Nevis Range tomorrow evening.

The event is the first opportunity for the group, formed late in 2007, to introduce members of its new junior section, which welcomed its first players in spring this year. Musical director Liz Wilshaw said the event was 'an experience not to be missed'.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We are

really pleased to have our new younger players joining us for the first time at this concert.'

'We decided to start the junior section to enable both flute and recorder players to gain experience and receive coaching in an ensemble setting where they can also try out our alto and bass flutes.'

The group bought its big flutes with a grant from the People's Postcode Trust on condition that the instruments are

available to the wider community. Liz added: 'Extending our group to include younger players from beginners upwards is a great way to help achieve this.'

Talented young Roy Bridge musician Helena Rose will perform as guest artists on the clarsach while Edinburgh-based flautist Lynne Bulmer, formerly of Glenelg, will also perform.

Admission to the 7.30pm concert is by programme on the door at £4/£2.



There was a beautiful display of blooms at The Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society show.

## Hundreds enter annual Plockton society show

THE PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held its annual show on August 18.

The event proved very successful and drew a total of 490 entries. Mrs Lilius Simpson presented the prizes.

**Trophy winners:**  
Photography: Royal Bank of Scotland Phot Frame - Pete Bradbury; Posies: Catriona MacDonald Memorial Quaich - Janet Holmes; Pot Plants - Gill Harrington; Gillies Prize for Art - Maureen Dearie; Children's Craft: Ormerod Trophy - Euan McLaughlin; Children's Flowers: Peacock Cup - Rachel Morrison; Vegetables: Dall Trophy - D G McIntosh; Flower Arrangements: Clad Trophy - Janet Holmes/Gill Harrington; Flowers: Lochalsh Cup - June Matheson; Best article in handicrafts: Attadale Cuach - Lizzie Bird; Handicrafts Trophy - Jane Macrae; Flowers: Duirinish Vase - une Matheson/Kath Webster; Vegetables: Conchra Cup - D G McIntosh; Vegetables: Jubilee Cup - D G McIntosh.

## Young classical musicians perform in Oban

SOME of the country's brightest young classical musicians have been performing in Oban as part of Lorn Live, the brainchild of Connell pianist Andrew Dunlop.

Saturday afternoon in St John's Cathedral, Oban, saw the second of four weekly concerts in the inaugural 'Lorn Live' Chamber Music Festival.

Irish viola player Ruth Gibson and the sub-principal clarinet of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, William Stafford, joined forces with Andrew to present a programme of Mozart and Bruch.

The trio met as undergraduates at the RNCM in Manchester and were delighted to be reunited once again for Saturday's enjoyable performance.

The festival was opened the previous week by talented Scottish mezzo-soprano Jemma Brown and Andrew Dunlop.

Jemma, no stranger to Argyll, is the great-niece of the late Jean Brown who was well known in the area from her nursing days.

The duo presented a varied programme featuring songs by Strauss, Schumann, Rachmaninov and Britten, in addition to piano transcriptions by Liszt and Balakirev.

This week's concert will feature Hallé violinist Anya Muston, Irish cellist Paul Grennan with Andrew Dunlop who will present a programme of piano trios featuring works by Rachmaninov, Jennifer Higdon and Smetana.

## Barra and Vatersay Mod celebrates second anniversary

BARRA and Vatersay Mod celebrates its second anniversary on September 21, with entries to the community event closing this Friday.

It may only be gearing up for its second year, but the two-day Gaelic competition is hoping for another impressive turnout after a highly successful inauguration last September.

Among those set to compete this year is a choir from Lochaline, led by Riona Whyte, a native of the town who now lives on Mull.

Barra and Vatersay Mod secretary, Jane MacNeil, said: 'Hopefully we'll have another successful year. It was a great atmosphere last year – it just seemed to be right. Having children there and a big table for them to glue stuff together seemed to help. We're having two ceilidhs as well this year so it should be a great Mod.'

For further information, to enter or to volunteer to help in any way, email Jane at jdouglasmacneil@aol.com.

To see the syllabus, log on to acmod.org/localmuds/detail/barra.

## The Piping Scene

### Piping at The Argyllshire Gathering

THIS year for the first time in history, piping at The Argyllshire Gathering was extended over three days.

This was to accommodate heats for the Silver Medal competition held on Tuesday August 21. On Wednesday we had the Silver Medal final, the MacGregor Memorial, The Gold Medal, Senior Piobaireachd and the former winners March Strathspey and Reel. At the Games field on Thursday were held the A and B grade light music, juniors and local competitions. All in all, a comprehensive programme of events.

I was asked to judge the Silver Medal final along with Bob Worrall and Colin MacLellan. This was held in the Corran Halls theatre immediately after the conclusion of the Gold Medal. Ten competitors took part – five from each heat held the day before. The organisers were badly let down by some pipers who failed to turn out to play in their respective heat. The whole idea of the heats system was to allow more pipers to take part (20 in each heat) and make the system more manageable than judges having to listen to 30 competitors at one sitting often lasting from 9am to 7pm. The CPA (Competing Pipers' Association) need to investigate this thoroughly and take action accordingly. It may also be time for them to run and finance the heats themselves.

First on was Sarah Muir who was given MacLeod's *Controversy* to play. Unfortunately she had a flat and fluctuating high G note that distracted throughout the performance. She played the ground quite nicely but the high G problem was evident again in the Taorluath singling. There were also a couple of technical blemishes at the start of the Crunluath variation. Next was Ben McClelland who was given *The Bicker*. This time it was the low G that was flat in pitch and he had a tendency to jump off phrase endings in the early part of the tune. The Taorluath and Crunluath the phrase endings were clipped in the Singlings. He had a technical issue with his D Taorluath movement. Next was Peter

McCalister with *You're Welcome Ewen Locheil*. He had a steady pipe which may lacked a little brightness. The overall impression was of blandness, but this is a difficult tune to get much out of. Nevertheless, it was well enough phrased with adequate, if not scintillating technique. The final competitor was Jamie Forrester who was given *The MacGregors' Salute* to play. He opted for the little finger taps rather than the spread birds which didn't quite come off. His drones were a bit unsteady from the start although the middle variations were well enough played. The Taorluath a mach variation was cumbersome. He had a change of mind on a few occasions in the Crunluath which marred the end of the tune.

This was a disappointing competition. Some players just didn't produce their best on the night. Some handicapped themselves with their pipes being less than acceptable for the occasion. Things can always go wrong, but if you have a chanter with an obvious flat note there is no excuse. The result was:

1 Peter MacAlister 2 Craig Sutherland 3 Decker Forrest 4 Elizabeth Sheridan. Another point that occurred to us was that Oban should adopt some sort of dress code for these contests. We had a mix of people playing in waistcoats, with hats, without hats, and in shirt-sleeve order. Some sort of formal ruling should be made on this, or how long will it be before we have folk playing in T shirt and jeans?

### Games Day

GOOD piping was heard on the Games field on Thursday when the weather stayed kind throughout the day and a good number of players and spectators were evident. The light music results will be reported elsewhere in *The Oban Times*.

Alex Gandy was given Catherine's *Lament for Donald of Laggan*. He showed inconsistent treatment of the phrase endings in the Ground. The variation doubling was too fast and lacked feeling. In the Taorluath and Crunluath the phrase endings were clipped in the Singlings. He had a technical issue with his D Taorluath movement. Next was Peter



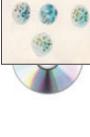
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**Kathleen MacInnes - Cille Bharde**  
An eagerly awaited second album from Kathleen showcasing her superb and unique vocal style with excellent accompaniments. A native of South Uist, Kathleen performs primarily in Scottish Gaelic. The title Cille Bharde is a township of South Uist in the Hebrides. It also translates to Kilbride or Church of St Bride. The extensive full colour booklet has Gaelic lyrics with potted history of the songs and English translations.



**Emily Smith - Traveller's Joy**  
Fifth album from this talented instrumentalist and songwriter, continuing to make her mark on the Scottish folk scene. The album brings us a rich tapestry of songs from the Scottish travelling community, with Emily's own interpretations and some new self-penned songs. Much use is made of the Scottish dialect and a comprehensive booklet is enclosed with the words of all the songs, information about the songs and a glossary of old Scots words used on the CD.



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**Dark Shadows**  
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12A	Thursday 30th August	2045
12A	Thursday 30th August	1745
U	Friday 31st August	1745
	Saturday 1st September	1030, 1400
	Sunday 2nd September	1030, 1400
15	Friday 31st August	1800, 2030
	Saturday 1st September	1700, 2000
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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. Last chance to catch this hilarious horror, book now and don't miss out!

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# FARMING

## Ben goes fourth with Scottish team



John Casey with seven-year old Ben at High Dunasherry. 08\_c34ben01

ARGYLL kept up its strong tradition at the Scottish National Sheepdog Trials at the weekend, as John Casey from High Dunasherry Farm near Tayinloan finished fourth out of 150.

After a fine run at the event in Striven, Perthshire, John and Ben will now represent Scotland at the British Championships in Cardiff next month.

John finished with 192 points out of a maximum 220 - just four behind the winner.

'It just went right on the day,' he said. 'You are always hoping to have a good run but sometimes the sheep don't react the way you think they are going to. I had the same finish of fourth in the Scottish trials in 2009 at Annan, and went to the British Championships that year as well.'

'Last time I was two points away from making the

top 15 so that's something I'll be hoping to do this time.'

The event in Cardiff is contested by 60 dogs and handlers.

The 15 top pairs from the championships of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland.

Primarily a team competition, the top 15 overall will then go through to a further contest to find UK supreme champion.

John said: 'In a way your odds are better than at the Scottish, because there are only 60 dogs, not 150. On the other hand these are all a very good standard, so there's no doubt it will be tough.'

Anyone interested should be able to follow John's efforts on TV, as cameras from BBC Alba will be filming the Scottish team's progress in Cardiff.

**Store and feeding sheep forward at Oban**

OBAN - Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 3702 store and feeding sheep on Tuesday, August 21.

Store Lambs (338) averaged £53.14 (+8p on the year) to £78.50 from G Black, 3 Ballygrundle, Isle of Lismore for Tex. Feeding Ewes (230) averaged £46.33 (-9p on the year) to £79.50 from M Matheson, 379 Garrynamone, South Uist for Tex.

Leading prices: Lambs: Suff Lambs (1003) averaged £56.73. £66.99 Borve, Isle of Barra; £64 The Homesteads; £63.50 Poltalloch Farms; £62 Tirlaggan West, Isle of Lismore and Achnacreebeg. Tex Lambs (1089) averaged £60.01. £78.50 3 Ballygrundle, Isle of Lismore; £70 Seaview; £68.50 Barbreck Farms & Balnagow, Isle of Lismore & Baligarde, Isle of Lismore & Baligrundie, 2 Isle of Lismore. Mule Lambs (191) averaged £53.24. £69 Seaview; £64 Poltalloch Farms; £60 Fiar, Isle of Lismore; £58.50 Fiar, Isle of Lismore.

Chev Lambs (663) averaged £44.88. £55 Caillaich, Isle of Mull; £54 & £50.50 Tiraghail, Isle of Mull; £47.50 Pennygoon, Isle of Mull; £47 Inshaig. BF (186). £45 Storneskars; £42.50 & £41 Treshnish, Isle of Mull. Cross: £63.99 Borve, Isle of

Barra; £63 Upper Largie, Rossan x. £68. £64.50 & £64 Achmabheinn. Beltex £61 Barguillean. Leading prices: Ewes: Tex - £79.50 379 Garrynamone, Isle of Barra; Chev - £60 Dunach; Cont - £64.50 Aird; Suff - £73.99 Borve, Isle of Barra; Mule - £61 Caddleton; Cross - £53 Ardachy; BF - £35.50 Aird.

**Second lamb sale at Dalmally**

UNITED Auctions held their second lamb sale at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday, 31st June. head of all classes lambs and sheep were sold. The lambs, consisting mainly of longer keeping types, sold to average £51.02 which recorded a drop of £2.30 on the corresponding sale last year.

However, lambs in general were lighter on the year, and sold to average 178.39 pence per kilo against 175.74 at the corresponding sale last year.

PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES: LAMBS - SUFFX: £74.50 - 14 Poltalloch : £68.00 - 85 Borve, Barra : £65.50 - 14 Poltalloch. TEX: £69.00 - Keppochan : £67.50 - Ormsary Farmers : £66.50 - Keppochan : £66.00 - Baluachrach & 14 Poltalloch : £65.50 - Ormsary Farmers, Craig & 83 Borve, Barra. BELT: £62.00 - Achurian, Lismore, CHEV: £69.00 & £67.00 - Cairnbaan (J. Jordan). BF: £53.00 - Lephinkill : £48.00 - Balantyre Farm Partnership : £51.02 - 14 Poltalloch.

SUFFOLK crosses (250) averaged £50.99 and sold to £59.00 from Stoneyfield Cottage, Stornoway. Blackface lambs (773) averaged £31.30 and sold to £53.00 from Glebe Farm, 11 Upper Barvas.

Cross lambs (1,122) averaged £36.92 and sold to £54.00 from 7 North Bragar.

Feeding sheep (113) sold to £48.00 from 58 Balallan, Lochs.

"All classes were shown very well & met and extremely satisfactory demand. Overall average showed an increase of 83p on the corresponding sale of last year."

Other leading prices per head: Stornoway: Chev - 5 East Street, Sandwick, £56; SuffX - 5 East Street, £57.00; Cross - 8 Sand Street, Stornoway, £53.00. Uig & Bernera: BF - 7 Hacklett, Uig, £38.50; Cross - 17 Crishader, Uig, £39.50.

Harris: Chev - Atlantic View, Bunavoneader, £40.00; SuffX - Atlantic View, £54.00; BF - 1 Horgabost, £48.00; Cross - 2A Marrig, £44.00. Westside: Chev - 8 Dalmore, £44.00; TexX - 12 Doune, Carloway, £55.00; SuffX - Cloverdale, 25 Lower Barvas, £58.00; BF - 23 Doune, Carloway, £47.00; Cross - Steishal Park, Barvas, £50.00.

Lochs: Chev - 24 Laxay, £56.00; TexX - 5B Arivruaich, £52.50; SuffX - 6 Habost, £57.50; BF - 78 Balallan, £43.00; Cross - 10 Kershader, £53.00.

Point: Chev - 32 Garrabost, £56.00; TexX - 38 South Galson, £54.00;

BF - 15A Sheshader, £47.50; SuffX - 32 Garrabost, £57.50; Cross - 6 Sulishader, £50.00.

Ness: TexX - 38 South Galson, £55.00; SuffX - 43 Habost, £57.50. Back: Chev - 47 Back, £46.50; SuffX - 9 Back, £57.00;

**Newsdesk**  
01631  
568000

**Opening sale of lambs and sheep**

UNITED Auctions held their opening sale of 1,456 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday, where a good offering of mainly long keeping lambs sold to average £56.84, a drop of 76p on the corresponding sale last year.

A good ringside of buyers was in attendance and more could have been sold to advantage.

Lambs

Suffolk Cross: £67 - Ardchattan.

Texel Cross: £74.50 - Caolis, Coll; £74 - Crosspol, Coll;

£70.50 - Tombuie; £70 - Le-

phinkill; £69.50 - Caolis; £68

- High Balantyre; £67.50 and

£66.50 - Crosspol; £62.80 - Bar-

guillean; £62 - Lephinkill.

Cheviot Cross: £62, £61 and

£59.50 - Caolis; £57.50 - Tom-

buie; £53.50 - No2 Bonawe

Croft: Mule: £51 - Garraron

and Melfort Farms Blackface:

£45.50 - Invernoaden, £43.50

- Storneskars.

Rouge Cross: £53 - Brenach-

oile, Sheep

£78 - Caolis; £76 - Crosspol

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## Building Plots for sale

See page 8 for more details

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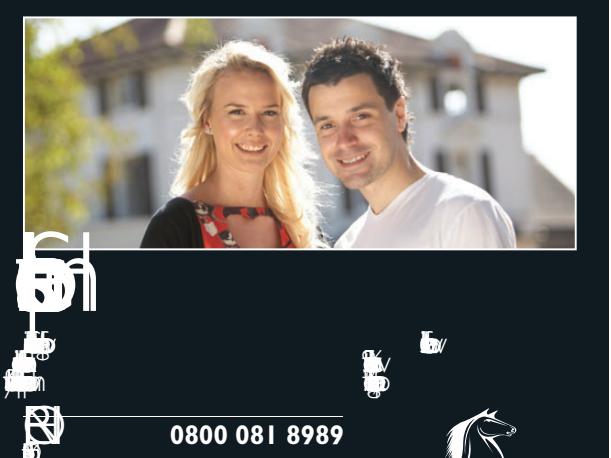
Most recently a much-loved home of 18 years, it would appeal to buyers looking for an economical family home or a holiday retreat.

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# Pet Idol

## 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/petidol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol).

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.

**Votes remain open for every weekly round until we announce the voting deadline. See foot of page for details.**



## 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 the voting deadline which will be announced in a future issue. 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.



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### VOTING COUPON

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I would like to vote for:

Pet number\*: .....

Pet's name: .....

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\*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet's photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.

You may send in multiple coupons in one envelope

Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes by 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/petidol](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol).

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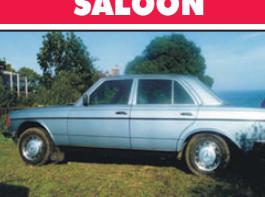
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For further details and an application pack, please call the service on 01546 603082 or visit [www.crossroads-scotland.co.uk](http://www.crossroads-scotland.co.uk). Closing date: Tuesday 11th September 2012. Crossroads Caring Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Crossroads Caring Scotland is a registered charity SC013081.



## Senior Husbandryperson

Fishnish, Isle of Mull

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This position is salaried with a 1:3 weekend working demand. The successful candidate will see this as a key step to career development within SSF and should be open to training investment.

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If you would like to know more please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) to obtain an application pack.

Closing Date: Friday 14th September 2012

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## Lifeboat coxswain stands down

OBAN Lifeboat's coxswain has stood down from the helm after taking on a new job.

Ronnie Mackillop will take up a job as barge master on board the *Rose of Lorne*, operating between Rhu Garbh and Glensanda, but will remain a volunteer crew member on the lifeboat.

'I have been coxswain for more than eight years now and you live your life with a pager, so it was time for a change.'

'I have lots of fond memories, which all revolve around the camaraderie with the guys at the station.'

'We had a tremendous amount of fun.'

## More school leavers find employment

THE NUMBER of school leavers from Argyll and Bute getting into employment, training and education increased in 2010/11 to 88.9 per cent.

The numbers, released by Argyll and Bute Council last week, show the highest level of post-16 education and employment since the school leaver destination report came into being 10 years ago.

The figures were released as the council unveiled a new local youth unemployment strategy to help remove barriers to education and employment for some of the county's most vulnerable teenagers.

Focusing on four key areas – empowering people, supporting employers, simplifying the skills system and strengthening partnerships between the private and public sectors – the council aims to meet the Scottish Government's Opportunities for All policy.

This makes a commitment to offering a place in learning or training for every 16-19 year old not currently in employment, education or training.

## Emergency cash pays for Mull bridges

COSTS incurred by Argyll and Bute Council after bridges were ruined by severe flooding on the Isle of Mull are to be covered by a rarely activated government scheme.

Three bridges were damaged, or in some cases completely washed away, in flash floods on July 5. The B8035, south of Salen, was blocked – trapping a group of 13 people.

Now the Bellwin Scheme, introduced in 1983 to provide financial help to local authorities in the aftermath of large-scale emergencies, has been activated to pay for repairs.

The damage would have otherwise cost over half a million pounds to repair. Mull's SNP councillor, Mary-Jean Devon said: 'This is fantastic news, the scheme means our roads budgets are safe and improvements can continue to be made.'

The Bellwin Scheme requires more than one area to have been affected by the same incident, this time it was triggered as East Ayrshire Council claimed for damages caused in the same storm.

Any claim to the scheme by a local authority affected by the same storm must be made by November 5.



Fred Morrison played competitively in Oban for the first time in 25 years. 15\_135fred01

## One of world's best know pipers returns to Argyllshire Gathering

THERE was an air of excitement around the Argyllshire Gathering's piping fraternity this year as one of the world's best-known players returned to compete for the first time in 25 years.

South Uist native Fred Morrison won the gold medal in 1986 and competed in the March Strathspey and Reel in 1987 but left the competitive scene behind as his music career took off.

However, Fred admitted the tradition of the Argyllshire Gathering and the selection of tunes available to him this year in the Senior Piobaireachd was too strong a pull.

He said: 'It's something I have been meaning to do for a long time because every piper looks to Oban and Inverness [Northern Meeting] as the two major events on the calendar.'

'I find this really nerve-wracking now. I'm used to playing expressive and exciting music in front of festival crowds but here you are under scrutiny, abiding to a style. It's a real challenge but I enjoyed it.'

The RMT will meet Transport Minister Keith Brown on September 6 to demand staff have their rights protected as part of any sell-off.

Highlands and Islands MSP, David Stewart MSP, said: 'This is a wake up call, I have very real fears that some lifeline ferry routes, which people are dependent on, will be sold off by the government during the re-tendering process next year.'

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## Strike ballot papers go out to CalMac staff

STAFF at Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) have until September 12 to decide whether or not to go on strike after receiving ballot papers last week.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union are protesting against plans to privatisate four routes currently run by CalMac, Oban - Craignure, Ardrossan - Brodick, Wemyss Bay - Rothesay and Largs - Cumbrae.

The RMT will meet Transport Minister Keith Brown on September 6 to demand staff have their rights protected as part of any sell-off.

Highlands and Islands MSP, David Stewart MSP, said: 'This is a wake up call, I have very real fears that some lifeline ferry routes, which people are dependent on, will be sold off by the government during the re-tendering process next year.'

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## Councillors read it first in The Oban Times

COUNCILLORS have criticised Argyll and Bute Council after finding out about decisions it has made by reading about them in *The Oban Times* first.

Council officers came under fire from opposition councillors at the authority's full meeting last week, who said they were concerned they were not informed about the sacking of communications manager Jo Smith until they read about it in *The Oban Times* on the day of the meeting.

Ms Smith was cleared of allegations of using social networks to 'spy', but was dismissed for using the word in a presentation last September.

Oban North and Lorn councillor, Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'The phrase 'Read it first in *The Oban Times*' certainly seems to be case here.'

Councillors received an email from the executive director of customer services last Tuesday explaining the council was dealing with an enquiry from the press, but there was no detail about Jo Smith's dismissal.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'There would appear to be some breakdown in communication.'

# Call for fish farm application probe

THE MSP for Argyll and Bute has called for a 'rigorous investigation' into the planning application for a fish farm at Ardmaddy.

Michael Russell wrote to Argyll and Bute Council demanding 'at the very least there should be a public local inquiry' into the proposals.

The move comes following a meeting with his constituents in the area who expressed concern over the methods the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is using to calculate pollution.

He said: 'The biggest objection at the moment is to the methodology and modelling used by SEPA in its report which seems to indicate only a small increase in environmental damage and degradation.'

'Local people with marine biology qualifications and considerable experience of the area simply do not believe the

assertion that this fish farm will not add significantly to pollution and to environmental damage.'

Mr Russell's statement was welcomed by campaign group SaveSeasound, which contends that the stretch of water around Seil, Shuna and Melfort comprises one sea loch and should be treated as such when it comes to calculating environmental damage.

They said: 'Those of our number who live locally, observe, dive, sail over, fish on or walk beside Seil, Shuna or Melfort believe that the stretch is already overloaded with more fish farms than the environment can cope with.'

'One does not have to be against all fish farming to agree with us.'

'We argue that Ardmaddy is simply the wrong place for the large installations that are now emerging in an industry hungry for growth.'

Campaigner, Mr Ewan Kennedy added: 'The main problem is SEPA relying on computer modelling to predict the effects, when the same modelling system has already been proved wrong at Ardmaddy, where the existing level of production was already polluting beyond acceptable limits.'

'Instead of reducing production to a level the local ecology could cope with the operators intend to move a little further south and almost double the quantity of fish in the farm.'

**Application**

Jim Frame, West Highland and Argyll Unit Manager of SEPA said: 'An application for the relocation and expansion of a marine cage fish farm at Ardmaddy was received by SEPA and advertised in March this year for public consultation and representation.'

'The application has been determined and SEPA now

proposes to grant a licence with conditions. We have provided those persons, who made representations, with notice of our proposed determination.'

### Predictions

'With respect to the criticism of the methodology and modelling used to determine the application, SEPA has acknowledged that, for some locations, the modelling tool it uses may produce predictions of impacts which are less than accurate.'

'However, we are satisfied this is not the case when it has been used to assess the application to relocate and expand the site at Ardmaddy.'

'Therefore, we believe the predicted impacts on the marine environment, including the nearby Firth of Lorn Special Area of Conservation, are accurate and acceptable for the purposes of determining this application.'

## Hopes high council mortgage scheme will help first time buyers

A SCHEME that could reduce mortgage deposits by 20 per cent and help first time buyers on the Argyll property market has been adopted by Argyll and Bute Council.

The three-year Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) could see the council support 33 house buyers a year by providing mortgage lenders with a lump sum.

The scheme is targeted at people who can afford mortgage repayments but not the initial deposit.

### Repaid

Acting as a guarantor to the mortgage broker, the council will cover an estimated 20 per cent of the cost of a property with the money repaid over five years at four per cent interest.

With an annual LAMS fund of £1 million it is estimated 33 people per year could benefit from the scheme.

LAMS is one of many initiatives adopted by the council as part of an £18 million investment in housing throughout the county.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/02925/FUL	Goran-eorna West Laroch Ballachulish	Alteration and extensions to residential steading (amended design to 11/01018/FUL)
12/03007/FUL	The Crofter 7 High Street Fort William	Change of use from first floor flat to bar area and formation of external seating area (amended design to 12/02049/FUL)
12/03097/FUL	Culcheanna Telecommunications Mast Orich	Installation of 600mm dish at 21m on existing mast
12/03127/FUL	Seafield House, Seafield Gardens, Achintore, Fort William	Alterations and extension
12/03131/FUL	Land 110m North West of Ardlochy House Garlochy Spean Bridge	Erection of house
12/03132/FUL	Land 160m West of Ardlochy House Garlochy Spean Bridge	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

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## PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01376/PP	Installation of replacement windows and doors	The Manse Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Ledlag
12/01468/PP	Renovation of ruin to form dwellinghouse and ancillary accommodation, erection of domestic wind turbine and alterations to existing store (partially retrospective)	Ruinous Dwelling at Balinoc Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
12/01660/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of Darla Glencruitten Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Fionnphort
12/01714/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of seafood trailer/van for a temporary period of 5 years	Land East of Shore House Fionnphort Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Fionnphort
12/01736/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Croft No 5 Craignich Isle of Lismore Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore
12/01762/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of mobile snack van	Land North East of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1QE	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
12/01780/PP	Revised road access arrangements to serve plots 1 and 2 previously approved under planning permissions 11/01546/PP and 12/00495/PP	Land North of Arle Farmhouse Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/01783/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground of Lynn House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5TU	Oban Area Office

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01377/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and doors	The Manse Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Ledlag
12/01496/PP	Siting of mobile trailer and formation of hardstanding (retrospective)	Explore Mull Tobermyre Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NW	Tobermyre Area Office
12/01785/LIB	Roof repairs including re-slating of main roof, works to dormer windows, replace or repair rainwater goods, repairs to chimney head.	Flats 1 and 2 Rockburn Main Street Tobermyre Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermyre Area Office

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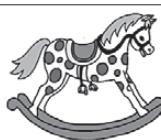
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## BIRTHS



## BRADLEY

Roy and Shirley (Nee Coull) are delighted to announce the precious gift of their son Aiden James William, born on August 26, 2012. A grandchild for Elizabeth, Kilmelford and Ena and Jimmy, Clarkston.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**MUNRO-GALLACHER** – On September 1, 1962, at St John's Church, Ardrossan, Kenneth to Maureen. Present address 'Sealladh Briagh' Gallanach Road, Oban.

## DEATHS

**DOWNEY** – Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, Oban on August 26, 2012 in her 92nd year, Annie Downey (Nan), formerly Paterson, 9 Dunmar Court, Oban. Much loved Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. PEACE AFTER PAIN.

**SPROAT** – Suddenly on Saturday, August 25, Archie, aged 70, from the Isle of Coll, much loved husband of Marilyn, father of Billy, Graeme and Colin and grandpa. Words cannot express our loss at this time. Funeral service and date to be confirmed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**FOTHERGILL** – The family of the late Alan Fothergill would like to thank relatives, friends and the Community of Luing for their support at this time. Thank you to Rev Ken Ross and Hoey undertakers for such personal, efficient handling of the funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Easdale Medical Practice for their excellent care of Alan in his last days. A retiring collection of £608.50 was donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**MACKINNON** – Flora and family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their love and support following the sad passing of Iain, after a short illness. A special thanks to Rev. Charles MacKinnon for his heartfelt and comforting services both in Glasgow and Tiree. Thanks also to Rev Elspeth MacLean of Tiree Parish Church for her kind words, Lachlan MacKinnon for his Gaelic prayer, Mrs Joyce MacInnes organist, and Mr Coinneach MacKinnon piper.

**STEWART** – Kenneth's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards and letters of sympathy following his sad death. Thank you to the Rev. David and Mrs Seats for conducting the service and to Bernard Hill the organist. Thanks also to Mr Andrew Bunyan, the piper, and Charles Brodie & Son Ltd, the funeral director, and to all those who attended the service at St John's Church, Selkirk. A special thank you to the medical profession, particularly the nurses and carers who looked after Kenneth with such kindness for so many years.

**TAYLOR** – The family of the late Charlie Taylor would like to thank all relatives and friends for their love and support at this sad time. Special thanks to Jackie, Donna and Dave for all their help, Rev Dr Varwell for his spiritual care, Mabel Wallace for her comforting readings, Ewen and Scott for their caring and professional funeral arrangements and Irene and the Brethren of Lodge Locheil for providing a wonderful meal - you did Charlie proud. Finally, many thanks to the nurses from Craig Nevins for their care and attention to Charlie. The generous sum of £710 will be donated to District Nurses and Cancer Research.

## MEMORIAMS

**CARSWELL** – In loving memory of Dugie, a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

- Rhoda, Alasdair and family, Taynuilt.

**FORRESTER** – Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father, father-in-law, grandfather who died on September 2, 2002.

Forever in our thoughts.

- Joan and family, Oban, Uddington and High Wycombe.

**HOGARTH** – In loving memory of my father David Hogarth, who died suddenly on September 3, 2011.

- Solely missed by Stuart, Yvonne, Alan and Lorrie.

**MACDONALD** – In loving memory of Lena, who died September 1, 2001.

Always in my thoughts.

- Loving husband Ian.

**MACDONALD** – (Lena) treasured memories of a much loved mum and granny on her anniversary September 1, xxx

- John, Donald, Kenneth and families.

**MACKINNON** – Treasured memories of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and gramps, Alexander (Andy), who died on August 30, 2009.

Loved and remembered always.

- Kay, Colin, Sandy, Kath, Mairi and Kirsten.

**MACNEIL** – Mary Patricia Lees.

Fond memories of a dear Mum and Nana Pat,

who passed away on August 31, 2011.

May perpetual light shine upon you and may you rest in peace.

- Missing you always from your loving son lain,

daughter-in-law Sharon and grandchildren Murray, Paisley, Ethan, Adam and Laurence. xxx

**MACPHERSON** – In loving memory of my dear wife Carrie. A special mum, granny and great granny, who passed away on September 2, 2011.

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.

- Even and all the family.

**MCLEOD** – In loving memory of my dear mother, Morag MacLachlan of Glenfeochan, Kilmore, Oban, who died August 31, 1983.

- Inserted by Gordon MacLachlan.

**STEWART** – Cherished memories of our lovely daughter Lee, taken from us on September 2, 2011.

You brought love, joy and happiness into our lives,

We miss your kind and thoughtful ways,

Your beautiful smile and your wonderful sense of fun.

Everyday we miss you more.

We will love you forever - Mum and Dad.

I will always love you mum with all my heart

- Love Ilona xx

Happy memories of my big sister. We were always close throughout our life.

You made me laugh, gave me good advice and guidance.

I miss you and always will.

God bless Lee.

- Love Ross xx

Miss you millions sis always, in my thoughts.

- Love Jamie xx

Alex, Mairi, Ross and Ilona would like to thank our lovely family and close friends who continue to give us love and support throughout this last difficult year.

**STEWART** – Remembering my beautiful niece Lee.

You will always be in our thoughts and loved forever.

- Love Auntie Kathleen, Uncle Hammy, David, Mark and Richard xxx

God Bless Lee.

- Auntie Sheila, Mandy and Tanja.

**STEWART** – Lee you were taken without any warning.

Your going left hearts filled with pain.

But though you have gone from us,

In our hearts you will always remain.

- Love Auntie Christine, Uncle Iain, Rhona and Katherine.

**STEWART** – I miss you more than words can say, and think about you everyday.

Forever in my heart

- Donald.

## Results round-up

## Salen Show

**Spirit of the day:** Awarded by Highland Services, Tobermory for the person who has shown most commitment in making the event a success: Inaugural winner: Harry Hickford, Tobermory. **Cattle classes:** MacDougall Cup: Champion Dairy Cattle; J & C Reade, Sgriob-ruaadh Farm, Tobermory. Leroy Challenge Cup: Calf of continental breeding: Iain MacKinnon, Tobermory. Eaton Challenge Cup: Cross beef animal: M. Poulton/E. Dougall, Lochdar, Ardtun, Buinessan. Killiechronan Challenge Cup: Beef animal, any cross, any age: M. Poulton/E. Dougall, Lochdar, Ardtun, Buinessan. Caledonian Mart Challenge Cup: Best butcher's beast: Iain MacKinnon, Tobermory. Glenaros Cup (original): Best Highland calf born after 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. previous year: Chris James, Torosay. McCutcheon Cup: Best Highland group of cow, heifer, stirk or calf: Tom Nelson, Glengorm. Collingridge Cup: Confined Highland/cross Highland, cow or heifer: D & J MacGillivray, Pennygown Farm, Aros.

**Tenge Cup:** Highland heifer: Ian MacKay, Tobermory. Glenaros Cup & Highland Cattle Society Rosette: Highland Championship D & J MacGillivray, Pennygown Farm, Aros. **Youngster Cup:** Best young person under 16 years leading and showing a calf: Asha Nelson, Glengorm. **Sheep classes:** MacGillivray Challenge Cup: Female blackface champion: D & L Maclean, Knock Farm. Glenforsa Challenge Cup: Best cow with calf at foot: Angus MacColl, Glengorm. Treshnish Cup: Champion pure bred native breed: D & J MacGillivray, Pennygown Farm, Aros. **Columbia Cream Cup:** Best cow with calf at foot: Angus MacColl, Glengorm. **Challenge Cup:** Champion blackface: Ian MacKinnon, Tobermory. **Challenge Trophy:** Young person under 16 years leading and showing a calf: Asha Nelson, Glengorm. **Dog Classes:** MacGillivray & MacKinnon Memorial Trophy: Young person under 16 years leading and showing a calf: Asha Nelson, Glengorm. **Challenge Cup:** Overall blackface champion: D & L Maclean, Knock Farm. Killiemore Plate: Reserve overall champion (Cheviot): R & S MacDougal, Tobermory. Clydesdale Bantam Challenge Cup: Champion non-blackface (Cheviot): Fiona Boa, Antium Farm, Lochbuie. **Challenge Cup:** Overall sheepdog: Fiona Boa, Antium Farm, Lochbuie. **Challenge Cup:** Best stick or crook: Tom Corbett, Lochbuie. **Glamis Challenge Cup:** For handicraft: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Challenge Cup:** For baking: Margaret Black, Salen, Aros. **Challenge Cup:** Best blackface tup: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Challenge Cup:** For shearing: Johnnie Miller Memorial Cup: Shearing blackface tup bred in show district: R & S MacDougal, Tobermory. **Duart Cup:** Male blackface tup bred by exhibitor: R & S MacDougal, Tobermory. **Garnory Cup:** (Duncan Campbell): Male blackface not necessarily bred by exhibitor: R & S MacDougal, Galbraith Gimmer. **Challenge Cup:** Overall points winner in produce section: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Hill Race:** Whyte Family Trophy: Adult hill race: Craig Tomison, Ulva Ferry.

**championship:** D & J MacGillivray, Pennygown Farm, Aros. **Reserve:** M. Poulton/E. Dougall, Lochdar, Ardtun, Buinessan. **Johnnie MacQuarie Memorial Trophy:** Young person under 16 years leading and showing a calf: Asha Nelson, Glengorm. **Challenge Cup:** Overall blackface champion: D & L Maclean, Knock Farm. Killiemore Plate: Reserve overall champion (Cheviot): R & S MacDougal, Tobermory. **Challenge Cup:** Champion blackface gimmer: D & L Maclean, Knock Farm. John M. Sinclair Memorial Trophy: Champion blackface lamb: J. & E Moore, Creag-a-Mor, Aros. Royal Bank of Scotland Challenge Cup: Best stick or crook: Tom Corbett, Lochbuie. **Glamis Challenge Cup:** For handicraft: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Challenge Cup:** For baking: Margaret Black, Salen, Aros. **Challenge Cup:** Best blackface tup: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Challenge Cup:** Overall points winner in produce section: Diana Oldacre, Lochdon. **Hill Race:** Whyte Family Trophy: Adult hill race: Craig Tomison, Ulva Ferry.

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# Children's football festival at Mossfield voted a big success

OBAN Saints Football Club's Under 10s and Under 11s held a seven-a-side football festival at Mossfield Stadium last Sunday watched by a big crowd of spectators.

Teams taking part along with the two Oban teams were Queens Park, Livingston, Inverness Clach, Dumbarton United,

Dunoon, Lochgilphead and Ardencaple.

The tournament got under way at 10.30am on three excellent grass pitches prepared by Argyll and Bute Council groundstaff. Games were 10 minutes each way.

The festival was run under the rules of the Scottish Youth

Football Association where no scores were kept and at the end of the day all the participants were presented with medals and certificates by the sponsor's niece Kerry.

Saints Under 10 spokesman John Horne thanked Gary MacIvor for all his hard work in organising the festival, the ladies

who supplied the teams and officials with food in the rugby club as well as the four referees John Scott, David Dunlop, Tim Woodcock and Thomas Sharp. A special vote of thanks went to D & K Lafferty Construction who sponsored the event.

Festival organiser Gary MacIvor said: 'It was a great

## PRIMARY FOOTBALL

day, the weather was good and the football was of a very high standard. Everybody enjoyed themselves and we hope to make this an annual event.'

Oban Saints now run tournaments at primary school, youth and senior level.



Oban Saints 2003s' Ross Campbell, left, and Ryan Bartley get in a tangle during the match against Livingston. 07\_135youthtourney



Lochgilphead's Gregor McGeachey steals a march during his side's encounter against Dumbarton. 07\_135youthtourney



Sam Coates, left, steals possession as Oban Saints Under 11s takes on Queen's Park at the Oban Saints Children's Football Festival last weekend. 07\_135youthtourney

## Excellent sailing conditions for Round Shuna Pursuit Race

WITH THE breeze filling in for this year's Round Shuna Pursuit Race run by Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club, the 51-boat fleet enjoyed an excellent sail round the Island last Sunday.

Most boats finished the 10-mile pursuit within two hours with a mix of decisions amongst skippers as to which way to complete the island circumnavigation.

In the end it paid off to race north-about with Colin Crawford's Dehler 35 Nimrod storming through to take line honours and the prized case of bubbly.

The Oban Sailing Club Commodore was delighted with his win, which saw fellow OSC members Eric Chapman with Amber Haze and Joey Gough's Tangle o'the Isles finishing second and third in Class 1 behind him.

But it was Brian Wiseman's Westerly Storm Sorrr of Appin that stole the honours of the

weekend for the best performance overall with two wins – one for Class 2 in the pursuit race and a first in the keelboats' passage race from Ardfern to Craobh.

A stalwart competitor in this event, Brian was hugely pleased and thanked CCYC for a fantastic weekend. Hugh Kilpatrick's beautiful Nicholson 43 Sarah finished in second in the feeder race from Ardfern with regular competitors Donald Philips and son on Whigmaleerie third.

Runner-up to Sorrr of Appin in Class 2 in the Shuna pursued was Alan Gent White's An Sulair with Nick Whyte's Tarka of Lorne third.

Class 3 was won by David Graham's Twister Tarifa with David Farquer's Gaffer Pipistrelle second and Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy third. Hot Toddy took the win in the feeder race from Oban to Craobh from Tangle o'the Isles and Amber Haze.

## SAILING

Always a regular class at this weekend, the Flying Fifteens were out in force with six competing in the pursuit race. Clive Brown of Ardfern won this in FFaolein, his FF Classic from Brian Johnston's Reckless.

Nick Purdy's Shuna had the previous day won the Flying Fifteen feeder from Ardfern by just a minute from David Attwood's Okey Dokey with another minute or so separating third placed Clive Brown.

Oban names were to the fore in the dinghy section with the feeder race from Ardfern to Craobh being lifted by Andrew Chapman on his Laser Radial Zzaap. Tierney Carter took second in her Laser 4.7 with Jamie Chapman and Sandy Keys finishing third in the Laser 2 Meer Magic Jamie Sinclair finished close behind in fourth in his Laser 4.7.



Prizewinners in this year's Round Shuna Race at Oban Sailing Club.



## Dylan to coach Vietnamese national team

Former Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Dylan Kerr has been appointed assistant coach to the Vietnam national team. Dylan, who played for Leeds United, Kilmarnock and Hamilton Accies is pictured with the national team manager and the other coaches.

## Fun and frolics at Oban Bowling Club

THERE was a fun weekend at Oban club when a group of ladies from Old Kilpatrick came to visit. Out for a weekend of fun they lodged in one of the hotels on Friday night and on Saturday came to the club for a game with Oban members.

Lunch was served in the clubhouse then the game got under way. There was so much nonsense we do not know who won. The next day, Sunday they returned for lunch and this time teams from Oban were pitted

against Old Kilpatrick. The team skipped by Helen MacLean were the winners. A good time was had by all and many new friendships struck.

### Intrepid

On Saturday evening the gents' balloted triples played their final and the winning team was skipped by Billy Hay second Sandy Carr with the intrepid Donnie Douglas as lead.

Sunday saw some of the club competition finals on the green. The mixed pairs finalists were

## BOWLS

Gus and Elizabeth MacGillivray against Neil and Anne MacDougall. The MacDougalls proved to be the better team winning the title for this year.

In the evening the ladies balloted pairs played their final.

Elizabeth MacGillivray and Anne Stewart were the winners.

Also on the green the men's senior pairs was contested and Angus MacGillivray and Duncan MacCall were victorious.

## Camanachd youngsters reach MacMaster Cup final

### Ken MacMaster Cup semi-final

### Oban Camanachd 4

### Kilmallie 3

(after extra time)

OBAN Camanachd Under 14s progressed to the final of the Ken MacMaster Cup with a well deserved win over a robust Kilmallie side at the Jubilee Park in Ballachulish on Friday night.

In a hard fought encounter Camanachd took the lead after 12 minutes through Ewan MacLellan only for Kilmallie to equalize six minutes later and go ahead after 18 minutes.

Almost immediately Liam Higgins equalized and there was no further scoring as Ref Lachie Woods blew for half time.

The second half began in brisk fashion and in 62 minutes Keiron Hendry put Camanachd ahead, a lead they held until two minutes from time when Kilmallie were awarded a hotly disputed penalty, which was converted, resulting in extra time.

By now play became tussly with Ref Woods having no option but

to send off Craig MacIsaac of Kilmallie.

With numerical advantage Camanachd deservedly went ahead and held on to secure a place in the final.

Indiscipline in the Kilmallie ranks resulted in another player being red carded leaving Camanachd

deserved winners after a hard fought victory.

Having already won the South Division League, Camanachd can now focus on the final where they play Newtonmore prior to equalize six minutes later and go ahead after 18 minutes.

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## Oban Cricket Club suffer only second defeat of the season

Morton CC visit Taynuilt this Saturday

## CRICKET

ARGYLL league champions Oban suffered only their second defeat of the 2012 season when they lost by five wickets to Perthshire side, Comrie on August 26.

Comrie, on their own pitch, are a difficult side to beat with a side full of former Perth league players and a slow wicket that makes batsmen work for every run.

Oban batted first and Kenny MacKenzie with 19 and Allan Laycock with 30 had them handily placed at 50 for 2.

However, a stunning catch on the boundary dismissed Laycock and after that the Oban innings stalled and wickets started to fall regularly and Oban were all out for 76.

Andrew Leach returned to the attack to dismiss Jones just before the end but Comrie edged home, passing the winning target of 77 with five wickets down.

Oban welcome Morton Cricket Club from Edinburgh to Taynuilt this Saturday.



Lochgilphead's Aaron Harris is tackled by Oban Spartak's Kyle Cooper at the Fun Fours held at Oban High School last Sunday.

07\_135sundayfun1



Rockfield Primary School took home the shinty cup at last Thursday's Argyllshire Gathering. 16\_135argyllshire04



Oban Saints U14s were in training last Sunday ahead of new Dumbarton Football Development League season starting this week. 07\_135saints1



Oban Lorne Ladies were recently put through their paces by Chris Reid, the Scotland women's national team assistant coach, and Scottish Rugby Union development officer and international player Lindsay Smith. Members of Oban Lorne's under-15, under-18 and senior teams attended at the training session. 15\_134rugbygirls01

# Premiership title could go down to the wire

## Oban Camanachd win South Division One title

**NEWTONMORE** won't be taking Bute lightly despite the entire Orion Group Premiership separating the two sides.

Bute are still looking for their first league win of 2012, while 'More know they are just three wins away from retaining the league title.

Manager Norman MacKenzie said his side were taking things one game at a time.

He said: 'Bute went down to Tighnabruaich last Saturday and Kyles only beat them 2-0, so they can't be a bad side. But we just have to win, we can't slip up at this stage of the season.'

'More kept up their winning ways last weekend with a 3-1 win over local rivals Kingussie at The Eilan.

Youngster Savio Genini opened the scoring early on, but strikes from captain John MacKenzie, Chris Sellar and Paul MacArthur gave the home side the win.

Newtonmore's final two games of the season will see them play Macaulay Cup champions Glenurquhart home and away.

**BUTE** will play defending champions Newtonmore on Saturday, having taken on the other top two side, Kyles, last weekend.

The islanders fought bravely against Kyles but succumbed to two goals either side of half time.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** face a tricky tie against Kinlochshiel this Saturday but nothing other than a win will be good enough for the Tighnabruaich men.

Kyles are joint top of the Orion Group Premiership with Newtonmore but the Badenoch side have a game in hand and anything other than a Newtonmore win against bottom-placed Bute this weekend would be a shock.

Kyles maintained their title challenge last weekend with a solid 2-0 win over Bute, thanks to goals from Duncan Kerr and Gordon Whyte.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** travel to title-chasing Kyles on Saturday after posting a creditable 1-1 draw against Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup finalists Inveraray at Kirkton last weekend.

Coach Johnston Gill will take as strong a squad as possible to Tighnabruaich to ensure Kyles are given a stiff test.

Kyles will be a different proposition from Inveraray because it certainly won't be an end of the season game for them and they will be looking for the points.

'We are going to have to go some to get anything from the game.'

Against Inveraray, a late, late goal from Keith MacRae salvaged a deserved point for Kinlochshiel.

Cousins Jordan and Connal Fraser in the forward line and Donald Nixon and Zander Grant

were among the young players who acquitted themselves well, although Grant went over on his ankle towards the end and looks to be out for the remainder of the season.

Gill said: 'It was a good result against a very good team although I would say it was a very end-of-the-season game.'

Inveraray had a very good first half but gradually we came more into things and had the best of the second half. We should really have won at the end.'

**KINGUSSIE** fans got a possible glimpse of the future when 15-year-old Savio Genini scored just two minutes into his debut against Newtonmore last weekend.

Having won the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup and securing a place in the final of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, Inveraray have shown stunning cup form this season.

Genini's goal was not enough for Kings to get anything from the match as 'More proved too strong and went on to record a 3-1 victory.

Jones told *The Oban Times*:

### SHINTY

bit of a high. We have two games left against Kingussie and Inveraray – and they are two teams we like to compete against.

'Our aim is to consolidate third place and if we can do that it would give us a wee boost ahead of next season.'

Loat's biggest handicap could be match fitness – the Kingussie game will be the Kiltarly men's first in three weeks.

**INVERARAY** manager John Smylie insists his team still has ambitions to climb the Orion Group Premiership and has hit out at critics who brand his side a 'cup team'.

Glenurquhart co-manager Fraser MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to finish as high as we can in the league and keep the momentum going from the cup final.'

Having won the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup and securing a place in the final of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, Inveraray have shown stunning cup form this season.

Genini's goal was not enough for Kings to get anything from the match as 'More proved too strong and went on to record a 3-1 victory.

Jones told *The Oban Times*:

'They have had a few results going against them so they'll be wanting to build up the momentum before the Camanachd final.'

David Smart is suspended while Ruairidh Cameron is rated as doubtful due to injury.

drop a point against Shiel after Neil Campbell's 20th minute opener.

**GLENURQUHART'S** first game since their Macaulay Cup victory sees them travel south to play Inveraray this Saturday.

Camanachd Cup finalists Inveraray were 1-0 winners when the sides met in Drumnadrochit back in March, but the fortunes of both sides have improved dramatically since then.

Glenurquhart co-manager Fraser MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to finish as high as we can in the league and keep the momentum going from the cup final.'

'If we can play the way we did in the final we can get a result but Inveraray are a tough team to play down there.'

'They have had a few results going against them so they'll be wanting to build up the momentum before the Camanachd final.'

David Smart is suspended while Ruairidh Cameron is rated as doubtful due to injury.

last weekend after rivals Skye drew with Caberfeidh.

The Spean side, meanwhile, were busy thrashing bottom club Strathglass 6-0 at Cannich.

Shaun Nicolson grabbed a hat-trick, and there were also goals from Scott Paterson, Stuart Callison and Martin Johnston in the space of six second half minutes.

The results mean Lochaber are just three points behind the islanders with three games in hand.

Manager Michael Delaney will be hoping his side can keep up the pressure on Skye by beating Beauly in Spean Bridge this weekend.

Lochaber won 5-0 when the sides last played in the league – a result Delaney would be quite happy to see repeated.

SKYE CAMANACHD welcome Strathglass to Pairc nan Laoch on Saturday still harbouring hopes of promotion from Marine Harvest North Division One – but their hopes suffered a

twice more. Lochaber have a

free weekend and only have one

league game left to play in 2012,

against promotion favourites

Lochaber.

**OBAN CAMANACHD** secured

the Marine Harvest South Division One title with a convincing

7-0 drubbing of rivals Oban

Celtic on Saturday.

Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and

Craig MacMillan both netted hat

tricks, while Iain 'Scally' Mac-

Millan added one of his own.

The delight of lifting the trophy

will only be matched the teams'

relief to be back in the premier

league and having put behind

them a painful Macaulay Cup

final defeat.

The Oban side can now go

to Dalmally and Glasgow in

their final two games, safe in

the knowledge they cannot be

caught at the league summit.

Camanachd co-manager Gussie Campbell said: 'The message to the boys on Saturday was simple: Win it, and win it early.'

'We were 3-0 up at half time

and that allowed me to give all

the subs a good run out.'

There was a lot of relief after

the game because there was a

lot of pressure on us this season.

Everyone expected us to win

every game and win them with

a big score but there are some

plucky sides in this league and

you are not going to get your full

squad every week.'

I have to give credit to Oban

Celtic, who were well beaten on

the day, but stayed to applaud

us lifting the league trophy and

they handled themselves very

well.'

With two games left to play

against the league's second and

third placed teams, Camanachd

will look to protect an unbeaten

record in the division this sea-

son.

Taynuilt's goals came from

forwards Michael MacQueen

(2), Stuart Scott and David

Campbell, while veteran de-

fender Gary Cameron was given

20 minutes up front and scored

twice.

Taynuilt carded seven points

from their final four matches,

including a draw with cham-

pions Oban Camanachd, since

they were humiliated by a 14-0

defeat to Inveraray in the Celtic

Cup final.

Davy added: 'We have been

the form team since the Celtic

Cup final, which says a lot about

this group of boys.'

Willie Gillies will take over as

the new Taynuilt coach.



Oban Camanachd's Malcolm Clark bears down on goal, as Oban Celtic defender Ian MacKenzie and goalkeeper Allan 'Spider' Duncan attempt to stop him. The red and blacks ran out convincing 7-0 winners. 07.134camctel1



### Results

Saturday 25th August

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 1-1 Inveraray  
Newtonmore 3-1 Kingussie  
Kyles Athletic 2-0 Bute  
Fort William 2-0 Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest**  
North Division 1  
Beauly 5-1 Lochcarron  
Strathglass 0-6 Lochcarron  
Caberfeidh 3-3 Skye

**Marine Harvest**  
North Division 2  
Kingussie 3-3 Newtonmore  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
Skye 2-1 Lochcarron

**Marine Harvest**  
North Division 3  
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron  
Postponed - Lochcarron unable to field a team points to Caberfeidh  
Boleskine 3-2 Beauly

**Marine Harvest**  
South Division 1  
Taynuilt 6-0 Aberdour  
Oban Camanachd 7-0 Oban Celtic

**Marine Harvest**  
South Division 2  
Aberdour v Bute  
Postponed - Bute unable to field a team points to Aberdour  
Ballachulish v Col Glen  
Postponed - Col Glen unable to field a team points to Ballachulish

**Youth Results**

Tuesday 21st August

**Under 17 Marine Harvest**

**London Shield**

Lochal 1-6 Kinlochshiel

Beauly 1-6 Lochcarron

Glenurquhart 3-0 Strathglass

Caberfeidh 1-0 Skye Caman

**Friday 24th August**

**Under 14 MacMaster Cup**

**Semi-Finals**

Oban Camanachd 4-3 Kilmallie

Newtonmore 6-1 Beauly

**Under 14 Development**

**Final**

Inveraray 6-0 Aberdour

**Fixtures**

Saturday 1st September

**Orion**

## John wins Cameron Trophy by one shot

GOLF

JOHN MacCallum won Glencruitten Golf Club's Cameron Trophy at the weekend with scores of 58 and 69 = 127. Finlay O'Rourke was second with scores of 64, 64 = 128, and Phillip Murphy was third with scores of 64, 66 = 130. Alastair MacVicar won the President's Prize on Sunday with a net 61.

In the Junior Section Finlay Sinclair won the Jackie Sinclair Trophy with scores of 60, 66 = 126 and Steven Murphy was second with scores of 70, 61 = 131.

The Stableford Finals and Medal Finals will be held on Saturday.

## Impressive scoring at Dalmally

SOME impressive stableford scoring at Dalmally Golf Club has ensured that the handicap secretary has been kept busy in recent weeks.

John Mackenzie had committee members scurrying to the record books as they strolled to victory in the Marie Curie Shield on Sunday.

A huge stableford score of 43 points gave Mackenzie a comfortable victory over Kenny Black (39 points) and Andrew Smith (38).

Meanwhile, in the weekly nine hole league, Scott Livingstone returned the highest ever nine hole total of 23 points to leap up the leaderboard, currently headed by club captain Billy MacKay.

## Centenary Trophy at Tobermory

THE fourth round of the Centenary Trophy: 1 John Wilshire 82-22-60, 2 Ross Kirsop 79-17-62, 3 Eoghan MacLean 78-13-65.

The Tobermory Golf Club Champion 2012 is Graham Davidson with an aggregate score from three rounds of 209.

The Handicap Champion is Peter MacCrone with an aggregate three round score of 193.

The Junior Distillery Trophy: 1 Ross MacCrone 45 points, 2 William MacCrone 42 points, 3 Lewis Brown 38 points.

## Taynuilt Golf Club

GENTS: Lochinell Quaich 2012: 1 Robert MacLarty, 119 (12) (60, 59); 2 Mark Cringeon, 125 (21) (65, 60).

Ladies Nant Trophy: 1 Moira MacVicar, 34 pts (34); 2 Cathie Henderson, 32 pts (21).

## Islay Golf Club

LAGAVULIN Quaich: 1 Kevin Johnston 43+38=81pts; 2 Ian Farrell 39+37=76pts; 3 Nigel Carmichael 38+37=75pts.

## Saints youths back in action

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams get back to action this weekend after the summer break with the following fixtures: Under 13s v Dumbarton United; Under 14s no game; Dalvait v Under 15s; Under 16s v Lenzie Colts.

### SPORTS DESK

01631 568000

# Golden anniversary of Oban Lorne RFC

## Celebrating 50 years of Oban Lorne Rugby Club

'Our home games were played in Stirling'

SINCE training in sandals, so as not to damage the pitch, playing home games in Stirling and taking turns to have after-match baths in local players' houses, Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club has come a long way in its 50-year history.

The golden anniversary celebrations will kick off this Saturday with a first XV match against rivals Mull, followed by a club dinner in the evening. There will also be women's, minis and under-16 matches throughout the day.

At the dinner in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, players and committee members, past and present, and invited guests will no doubt toast the successes of building a clubhouse, seeing players gain international and district honours, representative teams at every age level from mini to senior and the development of the women's game,

which has led to the club electing its first female president.

However, formed in 1962, under the captaincy of John King, Oban Lorne merely began as an outlet for a small group of players to get the odd game of rugby.

Joe Black, chairman of the sub committee organising the anniversary celebrations, played in the first ever Oban Lorne team as a 19 year old, after he was told never to play shiny and football because of a knee cartilage injury.

Joe, who captained the side during the 1970-71 season, said: 'We played at Home Farm in Kilmore for a while, Raera Farm, Ganavan and at the industrial site where Lidl and Argos are built now before we got to use Glencruitten.'

'But our initial home games were played in Stirling! We had three boys: Duncan MacKin-

non, Duncan Johnstone and Ian McGlashan, who used to travel up from Kintyre, so they would be driving hundreds of miles every weekend.'

'We were allowed to train on the games field at the high school - but only if we wore sandals. We weren't allowed to wear studs in case we damaged the field.'

'In the early days there were no changing facilities, so the boys who lived nearest the pitch would let a few players have a bath at their house!'

It may not come as a surprise, then, that Joe considers the construction of the clubhouse in March 1996, thanks partly to the work of Angus MacEachen and Walter Spiers, to be the landmark moment for the club.

He added: 'Opening the clubhouse made a statement that the club was here to stay.'

### RUGBY

Argyll and Bute Rugby Club president Dave Sturrock, Oban Lorne 50th anniversary sub committee chairman Joe Black and Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright with a special anniversary club flag. 15\_134rugby02



### Oban Lorne through the years

May 1962 - Club formed under the captaincy of John King.

June 1971 - Major General R.G.S. Hobbs of Lerags, former England international and president of the Rugby Football Union, becomes first club president.

1973-74 - First season of league rugby in the Glasgow District Leagues.

1975 - Pat Cadzow becomes first Oban player to receive recognition at district level, playing for Edinburgh against Australia.

March 1996 - Official opening of £330,000 clubhouse.

May 2001 - Promoted to National Division 5 West, the first time the club competed in the National Leagues.

October 2004 - Oban Lorne Ladies formed with captain Linda MacDonald and coach Andy MacDougall in charge.

### Mull out to spoil the party

OBAN Lorne take on Mull this Saturday, the first league meeting between the sides in several years. Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright gives his thoughts ahead of this highly anticipated Argyll derby:

'While Oban are looking to kick off their 50th celebrations in style, the visitors will be looking to upset the party.'

'The home team will be strong particularly in the forwards, the big Oban pack will be looking to dominate the set piece and breakdown to provide the backline with good, quick ball to play off.'

'Whatever the result it should be a cracker of a game and a great advert for rugby in the area.'

## Last gasp goal sees Saints through to quarter finals

Centenary Trophy - 2nd Round

### Gourock Thistle 1

#### Oban Saints 2

SAINTS travelled to Battery Park, Greenock, to take on Gourock Thistle in the second round of the Centenary Trophy and a goal 10 seconds from full time earned the Oban side a place in the quarter finals.

The game started in glorious sunshine, but ten minutes into the game the heavens opened with the rain hanging about for most of the afternoon which made things difficult for the players.

The first half was pretty evenly contested, although Jags keeper Michael Poltney made a good save touching a Chris Graham piledriver round the post.

Saints should have taken the lead in the 27th minute when Dene Cassells rose unchallenged in the box and had a free header on goal, but his effort was way off target.

Both teams were playing good football, knocking the ball about confidently, with Saints creating another good chance when Myles

McAuley raced into the box and tried to square the ball to Craig MacEwan, when perhaps the better option would have been to have a shot on goal himself.

Just on the half time whistle Gourock keeper Michael Poltney was injured when he accidentally clashed with Dene Cassells when both players were going for a corner, but thankfully the Jags' netminder recovered after treatment.

#### Determined

The visitors started the second half in determined mood and were soon buzzing around the Gourock penalty area, but the home side were defending in depth, well marshalled by Gary Lepick.

As the game wore on it was the Oban side who started to take control of the vital midfield area but on too many occasions the final pass was letting them down.

Midway through the half Saints got caught out when Dene Cassells left his defensive duties and charged upfield, he lost possession and the ball was knocked

back up the park where Gourock striker Ryan McNeill raced clear before lobbing keeper Daniel Cassells. This was a bad goal for Saints to lose at a vital time in the game.

However, this Saints team has resilience and they pushed forward at every opportunity to try and get an equaliser and Craig MacEwan came close

opportunity to draw level when he blasted a shot over the bar when it landed easier to score.

Mattie Rippon was then introduced to the Saints attack and the young striker made an instant impact on the game when he combined with Chris Graham and Myles McAuley before thumping a shot goalwards. The ball took a wicked deflection off a Gourock defender and ended up in the back of the net - game on.

Mattie Rippon was giving the defenders a torrid time with his pace and strong running and only a last ditch tackle prevented him going through on goal.

#### No mistake

With the referee looking at his watch and ready to blow for full time the Oban side scored the winner when PJ Sinclair and Mattie Rippon made progress up the left. The ball was squared across the goalmouth where Sean Ford saw his shot blocked. Luckily for Saints the ball spun loose to Craig MacEwan who made no mistake from six yards blasting the ball high into the net to make

This Saturday Saints play their first league game of the season when they travel to take on St Joseph's at William Street, Duntocher. Kick-off is 2pm and the game will be refereed by Darren Murray from Glasgow.

Following his recent strong performance in the Mull Half Marathon, where he finished third in a personal best time of one hour, 17 minutes, Gregor

outclassed the rest of the field to finish first in at time of 18 minutes, 12 seconds.

Alastair Hall finished second in a time of 21.08 and young Anthony Monaghan was third in 23.39.

In the women's event first place went to Karen Forgrave in a time of 25.54, Lisa Eckford Soper was second in 27.11, with Christine Jesson coming home in third place in a time of 28.06.

Although last week's race concludes the shorter events in the 2012 Atlantis race series runners can still look forward to the Oban Half Marathon, which will be held on Sunday, October 7.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Atlantis Leisure website and full details are available at the reception desk.

The route for this final 5k of the series was along the cycle path at Ganavan and took place last Tuesday.

The runners assembled at the Dunbeg end of the path, ran to Ganavan car park and on for a further 500m to the bus stop where the runners turned and retraced their steps back to Dunbeg.

This is an exceptionally hard 5k route with a steep climb from Dunbeg through the wooded area of the cycle path and then an even steeper gradient out Ganavan car park on the return leg.

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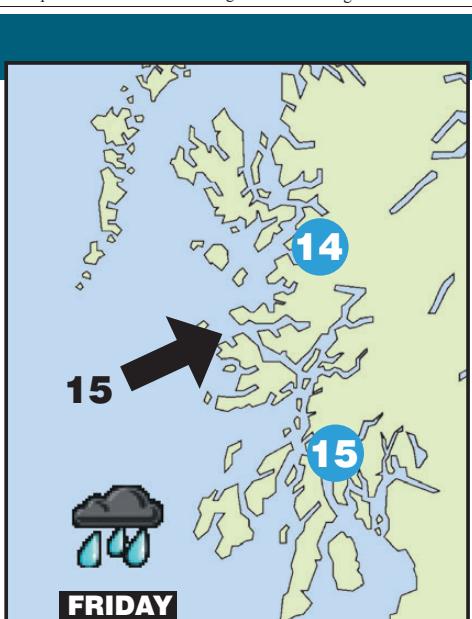
## Weather

Thursday Sunny  
Winds moderate north westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

Friday Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 14°C to 15°C

Weekend Heavy rain  
Outlook Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 14°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist  
Oban to Coll/Tiree  
Kennacraig to Islay  
Moderate  
Moderate  
Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, August 30, 2012

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur 04.59	3.5	11.01	0.8
Fri 05.28	3.7	11.42	0.6
Sat 00.02	0.8	0.558	3.9
Sun 00.38	0.7	0.268	3.9
Mon 01.12	0.8	0.657	3.9
Tues 01.47	0.9	0.725	3.9
Wed 02.19	1.1	0.753	3.7</td

# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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## Fury at GPs' meeting delay

NHS HIGHLAND has come under fire for delaying a crisis meeting on GP services at a remote Lochaber surgery until the day its two doctors left their posts.

Dr Rob Colebrook and Dr Simon Topham, partners in Acharacle Medical Practice, formally announced they were quitting in May - citing 'the unsustainable personal strain' of arranging out-of-hours cover without assistance.

The duo clear their desks tomorrow - as health chiefs finally meet community representatives in the closed doors session in Strontian's Sunart Centre.

Acharacle Community Council chair Rosie Curtis told The Oban Times: 'The fact they decided to hold this on the last day of the GPs is bloody ridiculous. They have made their own minds up about this and seem to have their own agenda.'

Acharacle Community Council chair Hugh MacPherson was equally unhappy - and feared the practice may be staffed by locum GPs for months.

He said: 'The annoying thing is that our doctors are finished and there's still nothing on the

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

table. This should have happened months ago.'

'Whatever system they come up with it's going to be six months before it's in place. It's not ideal to have different doctors each time. I think this is what's causing a lot of anxiety in the community.'

NHS Highland was also slated for failing to invite the four local Highland councillors to tomorrow's meeting until the last minute.

Sunart, West Ardnamurchan and Acharacle community councils lobbied health bosses for the councillors to attend.

But it was only on August 9 that they received an email from primary care manager Melanie Meecham stating 'I have catered for the four Highland councillors you have invited.'

No indication was given that NHS Highland themselves would be issuing an invite - and by Tuesday morning councillors were still in the dark.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, furious at the lack of communication, eventually received an official invite around 5pm after

notifying NHS Highland the press had been informed of the situation.

He told The Oban Times: 'I think it's simply a damage limitation exercise to avoid any bad publicity. NHS Highland have had two months since this first became an issue to have a meeting with the community and it is sad that they have left it to the very last minute to do so.'

Gill McVicar, director of operations for north and west Highland, confirmed 'community leaders, including community councillors and Highland councillors' were now invited to tomorrow's 'exploratory' meeting.

She said: 'Due to annual leave commitments it has not been possible to hold this meeting any earlier, but it is important to stress the Acharacle Practice will continue to provide services both in and out of hours, through locum doctors and the extended primary care team. The meeting is planned as an early stage in engagement with communities, to listen to community concerns, any suggestions they might have and to explore some possible options for the future. It will be followed up with a more open forum at a later stage.'

He said: 'The annoying thing is that our doctors are finished and there's still nothing on the

## Chamber to raise urgent road concerns

FORT William Chamber of Commerce is to raise concerns about traffic disruptions on the A82 with Transport Scotland today (Thursday) after statistics were revealed showing planned closures last year were more than 50 per cent higher than 2010.

Transport Scotland's head of network maintenance Graham Edmond and members of the A82 Partnership will attend the meeting at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie.

The figures from Transport Scotland show planned closures increased from 54 to 107, while

unplanned closures for accidents, weather and police incidents went up from 59 to 74.

Fort William Chamber of Commerce chair Robert Hawkes said: 'Issues with the A82 and the effect these unceasing closures have on the economy of the whole West Highlands are among one of our top priorities.'

'Representations made by both the Chamber and the A82 Partnership/Transport Scotland and the Transport Minister seem to be treated with less and less concern and we hope to convey to Mr Edmond that we really do mean business.'

The trunk road will be closed overnight between Tarbet and Crianlarich during September, and traffic will be reduced to one lane at Bridge of Orchy for works.

**Urgency**  
'This is an issue that the Scottish Government needs to tackle with some urgency.'

The closure figures are in addition to permanent works at Loch Lochy, Glen Gloy and Pulpit Rock, as well as ongoing

forestry commission tree felling projects.

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The move was strongly opposed by many in Arisaig and Morar - as were earlier proposals to sell it to help fund an expansion at the museum.

The huge canvas will now

remain on public view in Arisaig House where it has hung for over a century.

The former stately home, set in woodlands a mile from Arisaig and now a luxury guesthouse, was previously the abode of the late Miss Joan Becher, who bequeathed it to the museum.

West Highland Museum (WHM) had planned to remove 'Letters and News at the Lochside', which it owns, to its premises in Fort William for display there.

WHM trustees took the decision to allow the painting to stay where it is at their latest meeting, providing:

The painting is kept safe on the premises and the owners of Arisaig House maintaining

secure insurance arrangements that cover damage to, or loss of, the painting with the museum being the beneficiary;

A satisfactory agreement is made with the owners of Arisaig House to allow reasonable access for members of the public to view the painting;

If there is a change of ownership of the house or the other two condonors are compromised, the trustees will review the placement of the painting.

John Hutchison, acting chairman of the WHM board of

trustees, told *The Oban Times*: 'Some of the trustees wished the matter to be reconsidered. The decision does come with conditions and we need to implement these.'

**Welcomed**

The 1868 artwork, by Henry Tanworth Wells, depicts nine men in boats being welcomed by a ghillie on Loch Eilt-side, near Lochailort.

Numerous descendants of at least one man in the painting still live locally.

Comunn Eachdraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society)

- among the most vocal in opposing the painting's removal - expressed delight at the news.

Member Elizabeth MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It's fantastic - I still can't take it in. We could not let it go without a fight - it is part of the heritage of the area and there was no good reason why it should be taken away.'

'We are absolutely delighted it's going to stay where it belongs and where it has hung for so long. Arisaig House plan to hang an information panel beside the painting to explain its history.'



How much is that doggie? Jamie and Donald MacDonald from Roshven were selling their three pedigree Labrador puppies at the Lochaber Agricultural Show. 20\_f35show06

## Crowds descend on Torlundy for Lochaber show

THE WEATHER defied gloomy forecasts to provide a dry, bright day for the 115th Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday, with the sun even coming out for the afternoon.

Large crowds descended on Inverlochy Castle Farm at Torlundy to see a top class field of cattle, sheep and horses compete for a variety of prizes.

The Isle of Mull provided a strong contingent for the animal competitions, with islanders Donald and Lachlan Maclean, Fiona Boa and Angus MacColl all winning trophies.

Lochaber was also well represented with winners in the cattle, sheep and horse categories.

The afternoon saw a variety of events in the main ring of the field, including a deer stalking display from local deer stalker Donald Cameron.

Show chairman Paolo Berardelli hailed the event as 'a great show'.

For a full report and photos from the day, see page 4.

## Arisaig campaigners celebrate painting victory

CAMPAIGNERS in Arisaig are celebrating after winning their battle to keep a valuable oil painting of local historical interest in the village.

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'We are absolutely delighted it's going to stay where it belongs and where it has hung for so long. Arisaig House plan to hang an information panel beside the painting to explain its history.'



## An Aird shinty park re-opens

AN AIRD Shinty Park in Fort William was officially opened for business before the derby match between Fort William and Kilmallie last Saturday.

Club stalwart Bobby MacLean cut the ribbon to reopen the park in a ceremony with Fort chairman Richard Gall and Provost Allan Henderson in front of a packed stand.

The stadium hosted its first match in a year last month when Inveraray defeated Kinlochshiel in the Camanachd Cup semi-final, and Fort played two home games before the official opening.

The ground had been unavailable to allow Highland Council to carry out major repairs.

Fort had been playing home games at Black Parks in Inverlochy, but the return to the wider playing surface at An Aird seems to have suited them, as they picked up wins over Inveraray, Kingussie and Kilmallie in their first three games back.

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### Cat shot in eye with air weapon

POLICE on Skye are appealing for information after a cat lost an eye after being shot by an air weapon.

The Bengal pedigree cat lost its right eye after the incident, which occurred on the weekend of the Dunvegan Show, July 28 and 29, in the Lonemore area of Dunvegan.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Portree police on 01478 612 888 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

### Young chefs gear up for contest

BUDGING young cooks from across Lochaber are prepping for the annual Young Chef competition, with the first heat to be held in Lochaber High School on September 11.

The competition, which is open to all children aged 11-17, will then have heats at Ardnamurchan High, September 13, Kinlochleven High, September 18, and Mallaig High School, September 19.

The winners from each of the heats will then compete in the Lochaber final on October 4 for the chance to represent the area at a national competition.

### Flower and produce show

THE ANNUAL Nether Lochaber Produce and Flower Show will be held this Saturday.

The doors of the village hall open to the public at 1pm, with the prizegiving held around 3pm.

### Search on for health heroes

PEOPLE in the Highlands are being asked to nominate local health heroes for the Scottish Health Awards.

Judges are looking for Scotland's finest NHS workers and volunteers from across every area of healthcare including therapists, GPs, specialist carers or carers and cooks. Deadline is September 10. Finalists will be invited to an award ceremony in Edinburgh on November 8. To nominate a healthcare hero visit [www.scottishhealthawards.com](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com).

### Flag week success

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber raised £634.50 during its annual fundraising flag week.

The Fort William-based charity, with the help of volunteers, collected money on the town's High Street over five days. The funds raised will be used to maintain and upgrade the charity's equipment.

Co-ordinator Billy Ward thanked everyone who helped out. He said: 'We also have to thank the public in the Fort William area who gave so generously to help make this total.'

Shopmobility Lochaber provides local residents and visitors with disabilities a free hire service of wheelchairs, powerchairs, walkers and electric ride-on scooters.



One of the interpretation panels on the Banavie to Gairlochy road next to the Caledonian Canal.

# Geopark volunteers ensure route panels are completed

LOCHABER Geopark (LG), the body created to promote the area's varied geology and rock landscapes, has completed a project to install 20 interpretation boards along routes around Lochaber.

The colourful panels, set on hand-crafted local stone plinths, explain how magnificent scenery reflects Lochaber's long

and dramatic geological history. Based on the latest science, the boards are linked to form a series of walks, named Rock Routes, which lead to 20 outstanding viewpoints.

The new routes highlight Lochaber's globally renowned geological heritage, which was recognised in 2007 when LG gained European and Global

Geopark Network status accredited by UNESCO.

That status was lost last year because of lack of core funding at the level required for European Geopark status.

#### Benefit

However, despite any direct support from the Scottish Government, LG volunteers refused to give up and completed

the valued project to the benefit of local people and visitors to Scotland.

LG chair Jim Blair said: 'Finding funds in today's economic climate is difficult.

'However, with scenery being a mainstay of marketing and promotion for Scottish tourism, it seems incredible that the small funding support required

to maintain European Geopark status cannot be found.'

Local MP Charles Kennedy will officially open the Rock Routes and an exhibition of all the interpretation panels at the Ben Nevis Distillery Visitor Centre, Fort William, on Monday.

The free exhibition will be open to the public until September 16.

## More disruption on A82 as tree felling continues

ROADWORKS are to be put in place on the A82 south of Fort William again to allow work to fell trees to continue.

The latest works at Glen Righ, a mile north of Corran Ferry, start on Monday and will run Monday-Friday for two weeks. One lane will be closed with 24-hour traffic lights put in place.

Work has been ongoing on the site for a number of months, and is expected to last three years in total.

Site manager Alan Dickerson said: 'This latest phase of geotechnical work will see the first section of the hillside secure and ready for the harvesting teams to begin their work.

'We'd like to be able to get the

thing wrapped up in one week but we are advising people that it may require two weeks of effort.

'Our contractors, Geo-rope are still working hard behind the scenes but need to come back to the roadside hill face to finish drilling temporary fence anchors, install catch fences, check rock crags and scale rock faces.

The lane closure is necessary to ensure their safety and the safety of motorists.

'Once again we'd like to thank road users and the local communities for their patience and understanding and to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience that this latest traffic management.'

## Ballachulish residents call for traffic calming

BALLACHULISH residents are calling for traffic calming measures for a road in the village.

A recent report carried out by Highland Council recently showed most vehicles travelling down Albert Road were obeying the 30mph speed limit, but community council chair Mel MacAskill said locals were still not happy.

He said had been 'inundated' with people complaining about speeding on the road.

He said: 'The report said it's only a small number of vehicles going over the speed limit, but it's that percentage we're worried about. It only takes one car to kill.'

'We would like to get it down to 20mph, but we would be happy to put in traffic measures in place.'



Left to right, Antione Cordier, Samantha McFerren, Rebecca Stafford, Amy Morrell and Stephen Stewart. Not pictured is Sally Massey.

20\_f3Skinloch01

## Six new teachers join Kinlochleven High School

KINLOCHLEVEN High School welcomed an influx of new first year pupils recently – along with six new teachers.

French teacher Antione Cordier has joined the school from Sanquhar Academy in Dumfriesshire, while Samantha McFerren

has moved from Inverclyde to take up a position as maths teacher.

Rebecca Stafford is now P.E. teacher at Kinlochleven, a post she also holds part time with Kilchuumen Academy in Fort Augustus.

Amy Morrell has moved from Glasgow to teach art and design to Kinlochleven youngsters, and Caol man Stephen Stewart has taken up a post as computing and IT teacher.

Sally Massey from Buckie High School has taken over the role of geography teacher. The new teachers said the first week at the new school had gone well, despite being a bit hectic. Mr Cordier told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a very nice surrounding. The midges are much worse than the kids, but they're not quite as big!'

## Harris Tweed Hebrides opens flagship store in Stornoway

HARRIS Harris Tweed Hebrides has opened its flagship store in Stornoway town centre.

Sandy Matheson, Lord Lieutenant of the Western Isles and a former chairman of the Harris Tweed Authority, cut the ribbon on the new outlet on Saturday morning.

The refurbished property was formerly well known in the town as the Baltic Shoe Shop and was latterly a florist's.

Glasgow based architect

John Neil MacLeod from Ness designed the interior. HTT retail manager Ruth MacDonald said: 'We are all delighted with the appearance of the new store and hope that it will prove to be an asset not only for the company but also for Stornoway town centre.'

Shawbost-bades HTT will celebrate their fifth birthday later this year and accounts for around 90 per cent of Harris Tweed production.

The firm, which employs 70 people, gives year-round work to more than 100 weavers thanks to an innovative scheme to keep them employed throughout the year.

HTT chairman Brian Wilson said: 'Our investment...reflects the overall success of the company and is a tribute to what Ian Angus MacKenzie and everyone working at Shawbost have achieved over the past five years.'

## Planning guidance under spotlight

HIGHLAND Council has prepared new planning guidance for small-scale wind turbine proposals and is asking for people's views on it.

The guidance explains types of application required and sets out minimum requirements for information to be submitted with applications. Advice on visual assessment and consideration of noise issues is also provided.

Planning, environment and development committee chairman Thomas Prag said: 'small-scale turbines can cause "quite a bit of controversy" locally, and a consistent approach to judge each application on its merits is needed.'

He added: 'It's really important that we get feedback on it from the public, organisations and the renewables industry.'

The draft guidance can be viewed at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk), at local libraries and service points. The consultation runs until October 4.

Comments should be emailed to [devplans@highland.gov.uk](mailto:devplans@highland.gov.uk) or posted to Development Plans Team, The Highland Council, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.



Sheana Fraser, left. Andrew Bootman, centre and Paul Brianfight against 'crippling disease'.

20\_f3Rotary01

## Rotary club calls on locals to help fight crippling disease

LOCHABER Rotary Club is calling on local people to support its campaign to eradicate polio.

The club has raised thousands in previous years towards fighting the disease, and this year is selling Ruby Giant Purple Crocus bulbs at the price of £7 per 100, with proceeds again going towards the cause.

Club president Sheana Fraser said: 'Although completely eradicated in the UK and Europe, this is still a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease that strikes children mainly under the age of five in countries in Asia, Africa and the eastern Mediterranean region.'

'It can cause paralysis and sometimes death

and, because there is no cure for polio, the best protection is prevention. For as little as 40p worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.'

Spean Bridge man Robbie Robertson is co-ordinating the local campaign.

He said: 'Rotary is determined to continue its campaign to finally get rid of this dreadful scourge which remains endemic in Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan and still blights the lives of millions of children.'

'I am appealing to the people of Lochaber to help this campaign by purchasing and planting crocus bulbs.'



**Singers on their travels to northwest Ireland**

A group of west Highlands and Islands singers travelled to northwest Ireland recently as part of an exchange designed to strengthen links between the two regions. Singers from Lochaber, Lewis and Oban made the journey to Gweedore in Donegal to take part in the 'Loinneog Lusna' festival of music. Pictured are ladies from the Laxdale Ladies Choir from Lewis, who were walking the tweed to the great interest of the assembled Irish people in the Tigh Hùdigh pub. Lochaber provincial mod organiser Charlie MacColl also sang at the gathering. The trip followed the visit of the Irish choir An Crann Og Gaith Dobhair to Lochaber in June, when they performed to hundreds of locals in the Nevis Centre.

## CURSAICHEAN AIR ASTAR

Faigh barrachd fiosrachaidh air a' phrограм ionnsachaidh air astar againn airson a h-uile duine a tha ag iarradh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh no an cuid Gàidhlig a neartachadh. Tha iomadh latha tòiseachaidh is clàr-ama againn agus bidh na cursaichean againn gad fhàgail nas fileanta sa chànan agus a' leigeil leat a' dol air aghaidh gu ire ceum oilthigh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

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**Glencoe driver  
overtook  
three vehicles  
on a bend**

A GLENCOE man has been fined £585 after overtaking three vehicles on a bend on the A82 north of Spean Bridge.

Jamie Smith, managing director of the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Glengloy on September 15 last year.

Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court Smith's Audi A4 convertible had been spotted overtaking the cars at excessive speed on the approach to a blind summit by an off-duty police officer.

Mr Laing said: 'There were a number of features on the road to warn drivers not to attempt a manoeuvre like this overtaking. It caused a number of persons concerns.'

Smith, of Minard Cottage, Tigh Phuirst, who earlier in the proceedings had his plea of not guilty to the more serious charge of dangerous driving accepted by the Crown, admitted careless driving.

Sheriff Douglas Small said he had considered disqualifying the 45-year-old from driving, but instead endorsed his licence with nine penalty points.

**Council reduces  
carbon emissions**

HIGHLAND Council has cut its carbon emissions by 13 per cent over the past five years through its carbon management plan.

Reduced energy use in offices and mileage, fleet fuel savings and less waste disposal have all produced savings and lower emissions.

The council switched from oil fired heating systems to biomass boilers, saving £1.8 million and 16 per cent - 1,720 tonnes - CO<sub>2</sub> since 2007/08.

Staff now regularly uses telephone or video conferencing, public transport and lift share to avoid unnecessary travel, while two new electric cars were added to the car pool earlier this year.

Council depute leader David Alston said 'much more' needed to be done to avoid irreversible climate change.

He added: 'The Highland public can help to reduce emissions by reducing their energy, waste and travel as small actions together can amount to a positive change.'

**Young shinty stars  
on show**

SPEAN Bridge will play host to some of the best young shinty talent in the north of Scotland over the next two weekends.

The first event on Sunday will see under 14s compete to represent the north against the south in Fort William next month.

Teams from four districts – Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, Badenoch and Inverness – are taking part, with under 17s the following Sunday.



Lochaber Street League prizewinners celebrate with their trophies and medals. 20\_f35street01

## Street league prizewinners on the ball

AROUND 150 young footballers, parents and friends packed out Lochaber High School hall on Friday night for the Lochaber Street League (LSL) prizegiving.

The summer-long event is organised by a number of organisations including Northern Constabulary to give youngsters aged from seven to 16 something productive and

fun to do during the school holidays. LSL chairwoman Rosemary MacPhee said around 80-100 children attended every Monday and Wednesday throughout the summer, with around 90 taking part in an end-of-season tournament at Claggan Park.

Reverend Chris MacRae and Inspector Donald Campbell were on hand to present the trophies and medals to the children, and Provost Allan Henderson gave a short speech to congratulate the youngsters and organisers.

Caol youngster Alfie Duncan, aged 9, took home the coveted player of the year award, and everyone who took part was given a medal.

Highland Council will consider a notice of amendment next Thursday requesting the school be built in Caol, not at a £50m retail/community hub on the Blar Mhor nearer Fort William.

All SNP, Labour and Lib Dem members of the adult and children's services committee, plus Lochaber councillors Bill Clark and Andrew Baxter signed the notice immediately after the meeting. It states: 'We the undersigned, request the council rescinds the decision to defer agreeing the site for the new standalone Gaelic school for the Fort William area, and instead agrees that the new standalone Gaelic school be sited at Ardguill Road in Caol.'

Councillor Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'This will be presented to the full council - and there is no question we will win it.'

The move follows the committee's unexpected move to throw out a recommendation to site the new school at Ardguill Road in Caol.

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The officials' report showed peat removal at the Blar would make it £900,000 more expensive to develop than the preferred Caol site, a former BMX bike track.

However, opposition councillors, supported by three church

# Quick u-turn expected on school site

LAST Thursday's controversial decision to defer choosing a site for Fort William's Gaelic primary school could soon be overturned, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Highland Council will consider a notice of amendment next Thursday requesting the school be built in Caol, not at a £50m retail/community hub on the Blar Mhor nearer Fort William.

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However, opposition councillors, supported by three church

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

told *The Oban Times*: 'We are delighted to have the opportunity for the site and costs to be examined more closely, therefore closing the gap between the publicised abnormal costs of both sites.'

'Ardguill Road is substantially smaller in scale than Blar Mhor, so when the officials scaled it back that knocked nearly £200,000 off the cost.'

Councillor Clark criticised the role on non-elected committee members in the decision.

He said: 'You can't do a great deal when you have three men of the cloth and the youth convenor, none of whom are members of the committee, have a vote on education.'

'It was half expected, but I think the administration was hoping that the ministers would not participate just as the three health representatives did not participate.'

Councillor Hunter hit back: 'The non-elected member representatives voting rights are enshrined in the Scottish law of the land at the moment. Until that law is changed that is what we are stuck with.'

Fiona Byrne, chairwoman of Fort William Gaelic parents group Comann nam Pàrant a' Ghearasdaid, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are obviously really pleased and look forward to working with the council to develop the new Gaelic school for Fort William.'

## Ballachulish shinty cup fever

SOUTH Lochaber's attentions

manager John McGilp hoping to see his side emerge victorious.

The final comes after a

tumultuous season for the club,

which started with the senior

side folding.

Some nine players left the

division one club last winter,

leading to chairman Ian Black

and the committee reducing

the club to just fielding one

junior side. The team has also

been forced to play a number

of home games in Kinlochleven

- some 13 miles away - to allow

drainage work to be carried out

at Jubilee Park.

Balla defeated Bute 3-0 to

reach the final, while Lochside Rovers thrashed Inveraray 9-0.

## Trial date looms for three men accused of violent attack

THREE men accused of violently attacking and permanently disfiguring five people near Fort William High Street are due to stand trial on Monday September 10.

Kris Divers, aged 22, of 32 Netherwood Road, Motherwell; Stephen McElroy, aged 29, of 54 Hamilton Road, Airdrie, and Ian MacDonald Ward of 68 Mosshead, Glasgow, all deny five charges of assault with a bottle to injury, severe injury, permanent disfigurement and endangerment of life.

Three Fort William Shinty Club players

were injured in the fracas - Alex Duncan, Stephen Stewart and Ewan Campbell.

A fourth man, Ryan Black, and a woman Arianne Lloyd were also injured during the melee on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29, 2011.

**Abusive**

Ward, aged 22, also denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner in the Crofter Bar on the same night by making abusive comments to a woman, and refusing to stop fighting when told to by police on Ainslie Lane.

### Askernish Open attracts hundreds

A GOLF tournament held in South Uist attracted hundreds of competitors to the island last weekend.

The three-day Askernish Open was held on Friday-Sunday, with 120 golfers taking part on Saturday alone.

Despite its remote location, players came from across the UK, as well as North America and Finland.

Askernish Club chairman Ralph Thompson said: 'The renown of the course and the hospitality of South Uist continues to grow. Many competitors have already booked their place for next year and we expect the competition to be at full capacity in 2013.'

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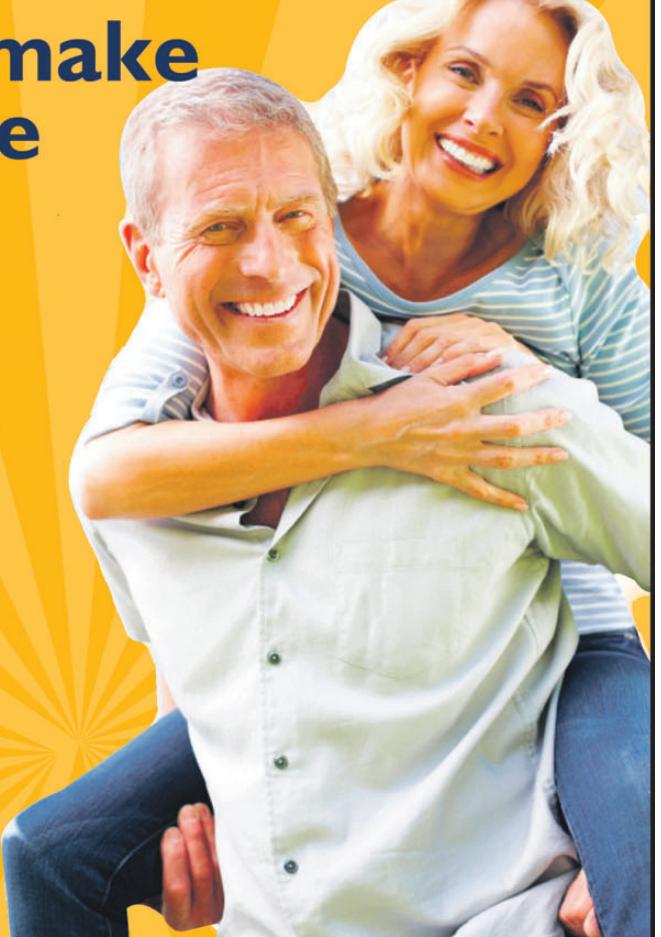
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## SNH recommendations on Barra SAC to remain secret until after decision

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage is submitting recommendations on designating the Sound of Barra a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the Scottish Government this week – but they won't be made public until after the decision is taken.

The move means critics won't get a look at SNH's conclusions – which follow months of often heated public consultation – until after environment minister Stewart Stevenson decides whether to give the SAC the green light.

SNH is proposing the Sound of Barra as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to protect seals.

But campaign group South Hebrides Against Environmental Designations (SHAMED) say SNH's logic is deeply flawed and claim the move is politically rather than environmentally motivated.

Conservation group the Hebridean Partnership and Barra's community development social enterprise, Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaigh (GBAB) are also opposed.

SHAMED chairman, crofter-fisherman Angus MacLeod, from Barra, told The Oban Times: 'There are more than 40 individuals and organisations

By STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

that have noted their opposition to the Sound of Barra proposal. 'It does appear to be the norm that they are not required to publish the report before the minister's decision. So much for the public consultation and SNH's claims of being open and transparent.'

The development comes after SHAMED launched a fresh attempt to stop the proposed SAC, and the Scottish Government's decision to prepare a management plan for the Sound of Barra despite no decision having yet been taken.

Mr MacLeod urged locals not to participate in working up a management plan, saying he believes that would stop the designation proceeding.

A spokesman for SNH told *The Oban Times*: 'Our report on the Barra consultation is not due to be published until the minister's decision. The purpose of the consultation was to test the scientific case for the site. Nevertheless, we will as promised include all of the wider non-scientific based responses and concerns that people have raised during the consultation.'

## Fish farm worker dies in A85 incident

A YOUNG fish farm worker died at the scene at around 5am after being hit by a taxi on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Richard Milarski, aged 21, who was from Penicuik but worked at Scottish Sea Farms' South



Richard Milarski.

**NEWSDESK**  
**01397 703003**

Shian site, died at the scene at around 5am after being hit by a taxi on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding his death and are keen to hear from any witnesses to the incident, or from anyone who saw Richard before the time of his death.

Tributes from the young man's friends were posted to his Facebook site shortly after his death. Tash Russell said: 'I can't believe you're gone. I put your photo on the wall to make it feel real it's not. I don't know what to say. Rich, you were one of the best friends I ever had. I'm going to miss you but never forget you.'

Grant Mitchell said: 'The world lost one of the truly great.'

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal and anyone with any information should contact PC Ronnie Stevenson on 01631 510500.



## Katie gathers in the trophies

Katie MacPherson, from the Eilidh Maclnnes School of Dance, won the open and confined sections for under-13s in Highland dancing at last Thursday's Argyllshire Gathering in Oban. See page 12 for full report and more photographs. 15\_135argyllshire21

## Well-known fisherman dies off Coll coast

THE ISLE of Coll lost one of its most fondly loved sons at the weekend, well known fisherman, Archie Sproat.

The 70-year-old father of three was recovered from the waters off the coast of Coll on Saturday afternoon.

It was to be his last fishing trip of the season before taking his boat out of the water.

Family and friends have paid tribute to the man who was

renowned for going out his way to help others.

Son Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'If he had to pick any way of going, it would have been on the boat fishing. It's what he loved.'

'It'd actually been quite a disappointing season for him, he hadn't got out on the boat as much as he'd have liked and he didn't get any mackerel.'

'When the boat was recovered, there was two on board; so on his final trip he caught his mackerel.'

Archie was a popular figure on the island and was involved with many local groups.

Jean Peddie, the president of the island's Senior Citizens' Club, said: 'He was very much loved by the island and we are all going to miss him.'

# Domestic abuse case sentence condemned

Man guilty of vicious assault on ex-partner avoids heavy punishment

A MAN who choked his ex-partner has avoided heavy punishment after being ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and pay £200 in compensation.

Michael McPhee left the dock with a swagger after being found guilty of a vicious assault on his ex.

McPhee, who receives £150 per week in incapacity benefit, was told he can pay as little as £5 per week towards the compensation order.

Oban Sheriff Court heard the attack, on June 14, saw McPhee – who has an 'extensive record of previous convictions' – squeeze his former girlfriend's neck with both hands so that she couldn't breathe.

His victim said in evidence: 'He had his hands round my neck and he was holding me against the wall. I couldn't do anything. I tried to push him off me but because he was choking me I couldn't. He was squeezing my behalf as 'rubbish'.

The furious onlooker said: 'I'm not happy about his sentence, he got away with lies.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish Women's Aid told *The Oban Times* that sentencing for violence against women should be a deterrent. She said: 'Over the years we have seen significant improvements in the way the justice system handles domestic abuse and violence.

against women – with specially trained police officers in all forces and now dedicated courts handling cases in several parts of Scotland. It's important that women should feel safe and have trust in the system. Lenient sentencing impacts not only on the victim in the case, but also on the confidence of other women to come forward and report domestic abuse.

'Sentencing for violence against women should be both a punishment and deterrent.'

'We would urge any woman experiencing domestic abuse to get in touch with her local Women's Aid group, who will provide support and advice. Argyll and Bute Women's Aid can be contacted on 0870 241 3548 or www.arygllwomensaid.co.uk.'

This is not the first time Sheriff Gilmour has provoked concern from campaign groups. He infamously road safety campaigners in 2009 when he acquitted a woman of being drunk in charge of a vehicle while almost three times the legal limit. He accepted her solicitor's explanation that she did not intend to drive and had placed the keys on the passenger side floor as a precaution.

□ See leader page 6.

## Dalmally Show will go ahead regardless of weather

ORGANISERS of Dalmally Show have said this year's event will go ahead regardless of the weather conditions.

The show, which is expected to be bigger and better than ever before, will be held this

Saturday, September 1, gates are open at 9am and judging starts at 10am. Entries are up for all categories this year and there will be a range of entertainment including Argyll Brass, shooting demonstrations and Inveraray Pipe Band.

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## Man tried to flush heroin down police cell toilet

A MAN who had hidden a wrap of brown powder inside his body was seen to remove it and try and flush it down the toilet in a police cell.

Angus MacDougall, 40, of Dunmore Lodge, Albany Street, Oban was searched by police prior to being put in the cell and was found to have a polythene package with several brown wraps in his pants.

MacDougall, who admitted possessing heroin and attempting to pervert the course of justice on July 21, was sentenced to a total of five months in prison when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

## Fire threat allegations heard in court

A MAN who allegedly threatened to burn down police officers' homes appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Dean Smith, 26, of 4 Nelson Road, Oban, is also accused of uttering racist remarks and assaulting a police officer in the town's Station Square on August 26.

Smith, who works at Dunstaffnage Marina, denies the charges and will stand trial on November 14. He is expected to appear in court next on October 16.

## Bail breach leads to remand

A MAN who was remanded in custody after allegedly committing a crime while on bail proclaimed 'I'm going to jail! Youse have killed me,' as he was led from the dock.

Kevin Gillan, 24, of 7E Miller Road, Oban, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday accused of threatening another man.

The court heard that while in custody Gillan allegedly claimed he would 'stab and kill' his victim if released.

Gillan denies the charge and will stand trial on October 3. He is expected to appear again on September 18.

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568000



## Hugh hauls in the trophies at Taynuilt Show

Taynuilt village hall was alive with the smell of fresh produce, delicious baking and fascinating floral displays for the village's annual horticultural society show. Once again, the event was a tremendous success, with judges having a hard time picking clear winners in most categories. Hugh MacLeod won a number of trophies for his entries at this year's show, including the Challenge Cup, Munro Cup and a special prize for best set of leeks in show. Hugh subsequently competed in Kelso, having also won awards at the Oban and Ardrishaig's horticultural shows this year. See page 21 for Taynuilt Horticultural Show results. IS\_TAYNUILTHORT

## Site could hold vital clues to Iona's past

A COMMUNITY housing programme has been awarded a large grant to carry out an archaeological dig on a future housing site on the Isle of Iona.

The Iona Housing Partnership (IHP) was awarded £17,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to carry out the excavation on the Glebe site.

The West Glebe Field was purchased by IHP in 2011 and it is hoped there will eventually be five affordable houses built on it.

The excavation, which will start on September 3, is being led by Guard Archaeology and will enable local people and school children to learn more about the island's history.

Managing director of Guard Archaeology, John Atkinson,

said it was unusual to get an opportunity like this to dig on Iona.

He added: 'The initial assessment uncovered deposits which was enough to make us think that further archaeology was promising.'

There is lots of potential in this site but we won't know until we break the ground what exactly we're going to find.'

### Confident

Fiona Menzies, chairwoman of IHP said: 'We are delighted to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident the project will provide people with an exciting opportunity to learn more about Iona's past through archaeology.'

The Iona Housing Partnership

was formed in 2003 by the Iona Community Council to answer the growing demand for long term affordable homes for island residents.

The head of the HLF in Scotland, Colin McLean said: 'This is a very interesting project so we are delighted to give it our support.'

'Our local communities have on their doorstep hidden clues to the way our ancestors lived and how our lives developed into what they are today.'

'By delving into this history, volunteers, families and school children will not only expand their knowledge and learn lots of new skills, but it will also provide a valuable record of Iona for others to learn, enjoy and be inspired by.'

## Bands end season on a high note

THE END of the 2012 championship season finished on a high note for Argyll pipe bands at the Cowal Gathering on Saturday.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band's grade one band took sixth place, whilst the Juvenile band came fourth in their category.

Oban Pipe Band had their best result in years by finishing 5th in Grade 2, having just been promoted last year.

Meanwhile, Oban High School Juvenile and Novice Juvenile bands finished 5th and 4th respectively.

Isle of Islay Pipe Band had a strong showing in Grade 3A, finishing in second place.

The Cowal event also saw Mid Argyll Pipe Band join the top six bands in grade 4B, winning fifth place and their second prize in a major competition this year.

The win marked the band's first success at the Cowal Gathering since 1993, having only returned to competitive piping last year.

# Shock claims over private firms' care standards

Experienced carer calls for drastic overhaul of system

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

The allegations have been described as 'very worrying' by Philip White, chairman of the board of trustees of the North Argyll Carers Centre.

He said: 'I'd expect the local authority at the very least to be looking into the suitability of staff being employed and the training.'

'The consequences of not doing that don't bear thinking about.'

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: 'Our priority is to ensure the residents, who are among the most vulnerable in society, are properly supported and receive good quality care.'

'We will do all that we can to root out bad services and demand improvements or take enforcement action.'

## New measures announced

NEW MECHANISMS on improvements to care in the home have been announced by Argyll and Bute Council.

Oban councillor and former carer, Louise Glen-Lee, said this week that the new measures would enable the authority to more closely monitor the quality of care delivered by private companies in our own homes.

The new measures, ratified by the council last week, include a provision to allow up to four unannounced spot checks a week, monitoring of entry and exit times of carers and closer scrutiny of the level of care provided, she said.

Mrs Glen-Lee said the measures were required as the country moves to increase the number of people being looked after in their own home.

She said: 'We have put in place a system for a host of new checks and balances on the care providers.'

'We want to make sure people are provided with what they need and in the correct way.'

## Taynuilt pier steering group looks to future

TAYNUILT Pier could come into community ownership in a bid to prevent the site being used as an 'uncontrolled recreation area'.

Taynuilt Community Council is leading the community proposal and has secured Argyll and the Islands Leader and Big Lottery Grant funding of £22,000 towards a Development Plan for the pier.

The proposal was put to villagers at a recent public meeting.

A small steering group comprising representatives from Taynuilt Community Council, Celtic Sea and Argyll and Bute Council has produced a tender

By EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

resolve the situation. The owner has indicated its interest in either co-operating with the future development or of considering a possibility of community ownership.

It is envisaged the plan will include proposals for the upgrading of the existing facilities as well as improving the opportunities for its use by local businesses and identifying new commercial opportunities.'

The steering group will now appoint a contractor and arrange further opportunities for the community and stakeholders to participate in development discussions.

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## Death of popular last laird of Coll

THE LAST laird of Coll, Charles Kenneth Moncrieff Stewart, has died.

The last of the seven generations of Stewarts, Charles, known as Kenneth, was a popular figure on the island.

The family retired to the Scottish Borders in 1991 after he suffered a stroke and sold off island cottages to their tenants at nominal sums before the estate itself was sold off.

The family still owns some parts of the island. A memorial service for Kenneth was held in the Borders.

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## Kilmallie lose out to Fort in Lochaber derby match

There was nothing to play for except local bragging rights

**REPORT BY**  
**RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

KILMALLIE'S two-year stay in the Orion Group Premiership ended with a whimper last Saturday as they went down 2-0



Fort defender Kyle Grant at full stretch to stop Peter MacIntyre getting his shot away. 20\_f35shinty04

### Hole-in-one for Fort William golfer

TRAIGH Golf Club's open competition attracted 45 locals and visitors to take part last weekend.

One of the highlights of the day was a hole-in-one for Fort William golfer Stuart Steele, who aced the 173-yard 3rd hole with his seven iron.

Fort William's Steven Jamie son took home the first place prize in the scratch competition after a round of 74. Local man Robert Summers also shot 74,

but Jamieson's better inward half gave him the win.

Summers won the 0-14 handicap category, with a net score of 63, while Traigh's Stuart Cameron won the 17-28 handicap category with a net round of 57.

Ian MacDonald won the nearest the pin competition, while Jamieson also had the longest drive of the day.

Locals dominated the junior event, with Aaron McLean winning with a score of 47,

Aidan Ingram was second with Michael Grant third.

Results: Overall - 1, Steven Jamieson (Fort William) 74-4-70;

Category one (handicap 0-14) - 1, Robert Summers 74-11-63 (BII); 2, Jim Fowler 77-14-63; 3, John MacDonald 79-12-67.

Category two (handicap 15-28) - 1, Stuart Cameron 74-17-57; 2, William John McLean 89-26-63; 3, David MacDonald (Fort William) 83-17-66.

Juniors - 1, Aaron Maclean 47; 2, Aidan Ingram 52; 3, Michael Grant 53.



Christine Whitehead, Innes Woods and Donnie MacKenzie won a triples competition held at the railway Bowling Club in Inverlochy. They are pictured receiving their award from Duncan and Patrizia Gillies, along with runners up Eddie Downs, Helen Ross and Anges Boyle.

## Weather

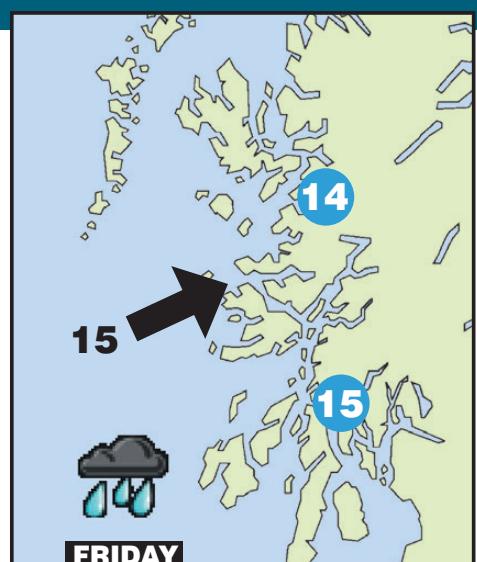
**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate north westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 14°C to 15°C

**Weekend** Heavy rain  
**Outlook** Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 14°C to 16°C

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist  
Oban to Coll/Tiree  
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate  
Moderate  
Moderate



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**Fort hopeful of having a strong squad for away game at Keith**

### FOOTBALL

FORT William will make the journey north to take on Keith this Saturday, with manager Danny Conlon hopeful of having a nearly full squad to choose from.

Talking to The Oban Times on Monday, Conlon said: "It's early in the week, but it looks like I might be in the position of leaving players out this weekend."

"So far we're only missing long term injury Darren Duncan, who should start training again this week."

Fort had no game last weekend, giving them time to reflect on their 6-0 home loss to Nairn.

Conlon said: "It was a shame we didn't have a game last weekend because we have some guys who were needing game time, so it's not done us any favours."

"We're looking forward to going up there to play but we know how difficult it's going to be."

"We went up there last season and did well, we just struggled to contain Cammy Keith. And we got a draw against them down here and we really should have won that game."

A rollover jackpot of £4000 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 4-15-20.

### AI Campbell wins Murray Quaich

### GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club's David Murray Quaich was won by AI Campbell by two strokes on Saturday.

Campbell had an overall score of 128 at the end of the 36-hole competition, ahead of second-placed Alan MacLaine and John Allan MacLeod.

Earlier in the week Martin Bird won a tight Dewar Rose Bowl two round competition by one shot from Alex Munro and John Finlayson.

Alex Munro finished first in the second round of the bowl, but his overall score of 137 was not good enough to beat Bird's 136.

Results: David Murray Quaich - 1, AI Campbell (60.68) - 128; 2, Alan MacLaine (67.63) - 130; 3, John Allan MacLeod (65.68) - 133.

Dewar Rose Bowl - Round two, 1, Alex Munro 74-8-66; 2, Martin Bird 81-13-68; 3, Gordon Allan 76-7-69.

Overall 1, Martin Bird (68.68) - 136; 2, Alex Munro (71.66) - 137; 3 John Finlayson (66.71) - 137.

### Fort William GC

### GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's singles versus par competition on Saturday saw a win for James Duncan.

Duncan's score of 4up was enough to finish ahead of Robert McCover (3up) and Steven Paterson (2up).

Sunday saw the three club and a putter competition held, which was won by Brian Stewart, Stewart and John A Cameron both scored 38 points, but Stewart's better inward half gave him the win. Paddy MacPherson was third with 37 points.



Fort attacker Daniel Stewart and Kilmallie defender Martin Stewart fought hard throughout the 90 minutes. 20\_f35shinty02

settled on a yellow card and a warning for the Fort man.

After the half time interval, Fort finally made the breakthrough to win captain Bryan Simpson on the scoresheet in the 68th minute.

Simpson received the ball on the angle from Daniel Stewart and his quick turn and shot caught out Toye in the Kilmallie goal.

"It's been difficult to get a team out on the park sometimes this season, and being off An Aird hasn't helped us. But the main thing is we're safe and we can look ahead to next year."

"The target for next season is to get to a cup final, build on our league position and get more consistency."



Kilmallie forward Michael Rodger escapes the attentions of Fort's Stevie Stewart. 20\_f35shinty02

### New faces in Lochaber's line-up

LOCHABER Rugby Club kick off their RBS Caledonia League Division 2 Northwest campaign against Stornoway at Banavie on Saturday with high hopes of improving on last season's points tally.

Team manager Ali Revitt says prospects have been boosted the addition of several experienced players, including a Frenchman and a Kiwi.

Antoine Cordier, who teaches French at Kinlochleven High School, plays at hooker, while Brodie Watkins will line up at inside centre.

The match is the centrepiece of presidents' day at the club, which will see ex-captains and presidents attend.

North Ballachulish man James Young is also a new addition and will add his weight to the pack.

Mr Revitt added: "Everyone is welcome to come along and support the team."

### RUGBY



Gallic flair: hooker Antoine Cordier will line up for Lochaber

### Street League awards handed out

#### YOUTH STREET LEAGUE

AWARDS for the best performing players from this year's Lochaber Street League were handed out at Lochaber High School on Friday night.

The summer football league is open to youngsters aged seven to 16 from across Lochaber and runs twice a week throughout the school holidays.

Ailie Duncan from Caol Primary was given the overall player of the year award, and also won player of the tournament after the recent end of season competition at Claggan Park.

Street League chair Rosemary MacPhee thanked everyone who attended the event throughout the holidays and all local sponsors.



Caol Primary's Ailie Duncan took home a host of awards, including the player of the year. 20\_f35street01

### Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

**Thursday, August 30, 2012**

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date am pm

Thur 04.59 3.5 11.01 0.8 17.08 4.0 23.24 0.9

Fri 05.28 3.7 11.42 0.6 17.42 4.1 \*\*.\*\* .\*

Sat 00.02 0.8 0.58 3.9 12.20 0.6 18.14 4.2

Sun 00.38 0.7 0.28 3.9 12.56 0.6 18.46 4.2

Mon 01.12 0.8 0.65 3.9 13.30 0.7 19.17 4.1

Tues 01.47 0.9 0.72 3.9 14.02 1.0 19.47 3.9

Wed 02.19 1.1 0.75 3.7 14.33 1.2 20.18 3.7

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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