



### GAELIC matters

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### MULL MOD

Photographs and results



### Store your Boat for the winter

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### Accused in High Court over fatal boating accident

A MAN accused of causing the death of a diver in a boating accident made his first public court appearance on Monday.

Jason Robinson denied culpable homicide at the High Court in Glasgow. The 41-year-old, from Cramlington, Northumberland, is said to have caused a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) to run aground on Calve Island, near Tobermory, in May 2009 resulting in the death of Garry Henaghan, 44, also of Cramlington.

It is claimed Robinson 'culpably and recklessly' navigated the vessel with disregard for safety.

He is said to have been under the influence of alcohol and failed to keep a sufficient look out, properly plan a safe route and ensure there was adequate lighting.

Robinson is accused of navigating the boat at excessive speeds for the conditions and of failing to adequately monitor the position of it during the journey. It is claimed the RIB ran aground at speed resulting in Mr Henaghan and Wayne Robinson being thrown out.

Mr Henaghan died as result of his injuries.

Robinson pled not guilty to the culpable homicide charge.

Judge Lord Bracadale adjourned the hearing until next month.

### Jura malt posts record sales

JURA'S 10-year-old whisky has become the fastest selling single malt in the world after posting record sales figures.

The news comes in the same week that Scottish whisky industry exports rose 22 per cent during January to June this year.

Jura is now producing about 84,000 cases per year and, taking current projections into account, aims to increase that to 100,000 cases in 2012.

Jura Distillery manager Willie Cochran said: 'We don't sell the highest number of cases but our sales for this year have been outpacing everyone else.'

Willie puts this success down to maturing the whisky in American Bourbon casks.



Local SSPCA officer John McAvoy with the corn snake found at Battery Terrace. John is now hoping to find its owner. If you are the owner or know who is, contact the SSPCA on 03000 999 999.

### EU gives green light for cheaper fuel on isles

ISLAND motorists are celebrating this week after the European Union approved a UK bid for a five pence per litre fuel duty derogation.

The measures will mean a price drop at the pumps in the Hebrides, the Western Isles and across the UK's other remote islands.

While the drop will be welcome, it won't bring all pump prices in line with the mainland,

with some stations forced to sell fuel at up to 20p per litre more due to increased transportation costs. A Treasury spokesperson said: 'The European Commission decision is a positive step towards delivering cheaper fuel to remote island communities.'

Argyll and Bute Lib Dem MP, Alan Reid said: 'This is the single most important step towards reducing the cost of petrol and diesel in the isles.'

# Snake's alive! Sneaky serpent causes chaos

## Oban resident finds unwelcome guest in air vent

A SNEAKY snake slithered its way into an Oban home, causing three weeks of chaos as residents tried to capture the elusive reptile.

Archie Milne was startled to say the least when he found the serpent hiding in a broken air vent outside his flat at 2 Battery Terrace.

But little did he realise that the four-and-a-half foot long corn snake would cause quite as much trouble as it did, even if it did provide a few laughs along the way.

Archie, who admits that all things scaly give him the 'heebie-jeebies', said: 'Some guys were working on the roof and I went

by STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

to connect a hose for them. Then I saw a broken air vent and found this snake sitting there.

'I thought it was rubber and a joke, but then it moved about one inch and I shot off!'

Archie phoned the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) but was advised that, unless the harmless snake had been captured, there was little they could do.

That call was the catalyst for a series of events that will live with Archie and neighbours

Eddie MacCormack and Gordon Stewart for ever.

Archie first tried to capture the snake using an extendable litter picker, but to no avail. 'I didn't realise they were strong,' he said.

**Vanished**  
After that, the snake vanished, and Archie went for a few days' break. When he returned on Saturday, he found it sitting in the garden and managed to successfully coax it into a plastic bag.

But with no SSPCA inspectors in the area during the weekend, he was advised to move it into a pillow case.

Gordon and Eddie were called

in to help move the creature they had identified as a non-venomous corn snake native to north America.

'It didn't like the pillow case,' said Archie, 'so Gordon fetched a large cardboard box and we managed to get him in there.'

'Eddie then thought the snake looked harmless enough and tried to pick it up. It bit him.'

'It was just a puncture wound, but it drew blood. We kept our distance after that.'

'Gordon then offered to keep the snake in his house as he wasn't too bothered about it - then it escaped!'

Gordon said: 'I wasn't too bothered by it at first, but when

it got out I was a wee bit more cautious.'

The slippery snake was finally captured with a towel and eased into a more secure container before it was collected by SSPCA staff on Monday.

Gordon said: 'By that time we had softened to the snake - but we weren't sad to see it go.'

Local SSPCA inspector John McAvoy said: 'They are not native to his area and while they can survive the alleged Scottish summer, they can start to retreat indoors during this time of year.'

The snake will be relocated in Scotland to be looked after by a reptile centre.

### Community quids in thanks to wind turbine

A COMMUNITY wind turbine has generated ten times as much money for local good causes than expected in its first year of operation.

Tiree Community Development Trust has just announced that applications are now being invited for the second tranche of funding from the Tilley Windfall Fund, with an astonishing £40,000 up for grabs.

It takes the total sum generated for the community to £50,000, some way from the £5,000 per annum it was originally thought it would raise.

Trust manager Ann Kirby said: 'It's absolutely brilliant. We weren't expecting it at all really.'

'Originally I had high hopes that it would do more than the £5,000 projected, but to put an extra digit on that figure is amazing.'

The news means islanders now have even more to be thankful for an asset many people would shun - the wind - which already drives windsurfers to the island in their droves.

Speaking through a smile on Monday's storm, Ann said: 'We call days like this a three

grand day.' Lynne MacKinnon, development officer for Tiree Community Development Trust, said: 'Bearing in mind that the projected figure was £5,000 for the first full year, we have been completely blown away by Tilley's success.'

'The trust is now welcoming Windfall Fund applications for projects that provide clear benefit to the wider community of Tiree.'

**Priorities**  
'Key priorities, identified in local consultation, are: youth, cultural heritage, business development and job creation, affordable housing, community care, energy efficiency and environmental protection.'

'Anyone with an interest in the island of Tiree can apply. This includes individuals, groups, organisations or businesses.'

The deadline for applications is Monday October 31 2011. For an enquiry form or for more information please contact Andy Wright at the trust office on 01879 220074 or email [andy@tireetrust.org.uk](mailto:andy@tireetrust.org.uk)

Enquiry forms can be downloaded from the website [www.tireetrust.org.uk](http://www.tireetrust.org.uk).

### Driver charged after bridge collision

THE CLOSURE of the Connel Bridge last week would have been much longer were it not for the swift action of Scotland TransServ and Scottish Hydro Electric.

The lifeline route between Oban and Fort William had to be shut after a lorry hit a girder, damaging an electrical cable which was left hanging over the road. Pedestrians were allowed to cross the bridge with care.

A TransServ spokesman said a structural engineer had to come from Perth to assess the damage, and while the bridge was able to be re-opened within four hours, remedial work will need to be carried out in due course.

It is hoped to schedule this to coincide with other planned work to minimise disruption.

Oban police inspector Julie McLeish said: 'From our perspective, there was a very



The broken girder on Connel Bridge. 15\_137connelbridge1

prompt and efficient response from TransServ and Scottish Hydro Electric.

'At one point, it appeared the bridge would have to be shut for a longer time, but they were able to get resources there very quickly.'

A man has been charged for driving without due care and attention in connection with the incident.

Several villages were virtually cut off briefly, after an accident near the Creagan Bridge blocked the A828 further north.

### Town to host new Seafood Festival

OBAN, newly designated seafood capital of Scotland, is to have a Seafood Festival in 2012.

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for tourism, said plans were at an early stage, adding he would like to hear suggestions and

ideas for what he hopes will be a complementary addition to some of the many other marine tourism events that happen in the town.

Contact Mr Mackay on [neilmoban@gmail.com](mailto:neilmoban@gmail.com). Yesterday, Wednesday, he

spoke to the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association about his plans. It was proposed the Seafood Festival would be on the shoulder months of April/May or September to prolong the relatively short tourist season in the town.

### NHS to press ahead with hospital dental plan

A PLANNED shake-up of NHS dental services in Oban will not be completed until late 2012 or early 2013, it was confirmed this week.

NHS officials still aim to push ahead with proposals to develop new dental facilities in the former Nelson ward at Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban - despite continued resistance.

'Spare capacity' at the hospital meant the original scheme to develop the NHS dental facility this year in the Harbour Bowl building on Shore Street was dropped.

However, councillors claim it could be detrimental to the long-term future of the hospital to remove capacity at the hospital.

In addition, an NHS dental surgery that currently operates out of a facility on Station Square will no longer be compliant with European

Union legislation in 2012. Former health spokesman Councillor Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh said: 'There were four options on the table for dental services. Putting the service into the hospital was the least favoured.'

'It might be a good idea to put the dentist into the hospital because it saves money for the health board. But my fear is services that need to be in the hospital will not be available in the future due to a lack of space.'

'For example, I need to go to Glasgow three times a week for kidney dialysis.'

'The consultant was only telling me last week there were so many patients from the Oban area who needed treatment that he was thinking of having a clinic in the hospital.'

'Now, I am not saying there would be no space available for the clinic

at the moment, but it would be very sad if there are a growing number of patients for other treatments who could be seen in Oban in the future - but there is no place to accommodate them.'

'The dental surgery could have found a perfectly good home in the town centre. It is a shame that the plans had to change.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who has to travel to Glasgow to see her consultant for MS treatment, added: 'Having a thriving dentist in Oban will be a great asset to the many adults and children from the islands who will no longer be visited by the dental van.'

'However, it only proves to highlight the lack of services in Oban when more and more people have to travel south to get the medical attention they need.'

'It is perhaps time, not only to look at the dental service, but also to expand the other services that are sorely lacking in Oban.'

NHS Highland locality manager David Whiteoak, said: 'There is an agreement in place with the Scottish Government for the Oban dental services in Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

'This will make sure we meet the European target for decontamination legislation in dental services.'

'It would have been very difficult to take a lease on the Harbour Bowl building while we had spare capacity in the hospital.'

'A working group of consultants and staff from Oban and beyond considered quite seriously the number of clinics we could potentially run in the future and found we still had spare facilities and capacity.'

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Mull Choir were well turned out on the day. 16\_134mullchoir1

# Magnificent Mull Mòd

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

MULL Mòd was well-attended with choirs coming from all over the islands and much further afield to take part in a host of competitions. A full programme of events for children, young people and adults saw Tobermory spring to life with competitors running back and forth along the Main Street. There were top-flight performances in many of the competitions including the local song own choice where Robert Lawson, from Fionnphort, sang for the first time in a competition. He has a beautiful voice and when he better masters the language and his words he will be a force to be reckoned with. Nigel Burgess, also from the Ross of Mull, took part in the competitions. It is a credit to the island that so many adults and children took part. Only one school from Mull and Iona did not manage to make it on the day and it is hoped they will be able to take part next year as they have in previous years. Donna Dugdale, from Tobermory, a mum of two, worked until late the evening before the competition in the Isle of Mull Soap Company singing and learning her words. Her efforts paid off as she sang 'like an angel' in the local song competition. Donna also took part in a duet with the silken voice of Natalie Livingstone and with a full Mull Choir, Atomic Piseag and Mull Ladies Choir. Donna was most thrilled with her Bronze Card enabling her to take forward her very realistic ambitions of attaining the Silver Medal. Stuart A Jackson, from Lochaline, probably better known for his music in the Gunna Sound band, won the

local song competition with a word-perfect performance. The people of Mull and Iona turned out in good numbers. One of the favourite and most hotly contested competitions - the Under 13s Action Song - saw a brilliant array of costumes and singers taking part. The winners were Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein A with the school's B group taking second and Tobermory primary five and six group third. Amongst the audience were loyal Mull Mòd stalwarts Morag and Duncan MacGill who's children and grandchildren were taking part. There was some controversy over the marking of the women's choirs. The choir from Coisir Sgr' a' Bhac used their words and music during the Ladies Choir Competition. Adjudicators Russell Cowieson and Mairi MacArthur had earlier in the day made the decision not to exclude people from marking and placing if they had to use their words. There was only one point between Bhac and the second placed ladies choir Atomic Piseag - which means it will be a good competition at the national Mòd in Stornoway.



Bun Sgoil an t-Sailein were winners in the action song competition. 16\_137bunsgoil1



It was great to see Lochdonhead Primary School in good numbers and in good voice. 16\_137lochdon1



Donna Dugdale, right, and Natalie Livingstone, both Tobermory, sang in the duet competition. 16\_137donnaontheright1



Shannon MacLean and Fiona MacAdam, of Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile, 16\_137mullduet1



Robert Lawson was in good voice for the local song competition. 16\_137robert1



Hannah Prill and Emma MacFarlane, of Tarbert Academy, who sang in duets, 13-18, own choice. 16\_137duet1

## MULL MÒD TROPHY WINNERS

**Junior trophy winners**  
**Oral competitions**  
 Angus Henderson Memorial Trophy: Ealasaid Maclean, Isle of Lismore; Mary Morrison Cuach; Marsaili Nicmill, Isle of Barra; The MacGill Trophy: Charles Knight, Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; SMO Silver Plate: Kirsten MacLean, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Mornish Trophy: Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; Seumas Gallagher Prize: Vaia Kennedy.  
**Vocal competitions**  
 Mrs CM Beaton Memorial Quach: Johnnie Bowman, Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; and Christy MacPherson, Acharracle, Rockville Trophy: Nuria Clowes, Ulva Ferry; Quinich Cup: Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow; Archie MacLean Salver, Scott Thomson, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Lady MacLean of Duart Salver, Mhairi MacKenzie, Ardnamurchan High School; Denis MacNeill Salver, Innes Ferguson, Kilchoan; Goldie Plate - highest music mark: Scott Thomson, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Ishbel Lloyd Memorial Trophy - highest Gaelic mark: Nurian Clowes, Johnnie Bowman, Kalista Knight, Scott Thomson. SMO Silver Plate (23a): Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow; SMO Silver Plate (23b): Georgina Durie, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Donald Morrison Cup, Olivia Sexton, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Livingstone Memorial Prize (Mull Song Girls 13-16): Fiona MacAdam, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Mod Ionadach na Droolluinn Cup: Niamh McKaveny, Tarbert Academy; Caltanach Trophy: Angus MacLennan, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Achadhbeag Trophy: Hannah Prill and Emma MacFarlane, Tarbert Academy; Mrs A M MacKenzie Shield: Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; Fealla-dha Trophy: Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; A: Sound of Mull Trophy: Tarbert Academy Folk Group; Harper Nelson Trophy: Bun Sgoil An t-Sailein; Salen Shield: Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Isle of Mull Silver Trophy: Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; Lady MacLean of Duart Prize (Highest single mark in Junior Choral): Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile.  
**Instrumental**  
 John Simpson Shield: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; John Darroch Memorial Cup:



Ulva Primary School were 'feline good'. 16\_137ulva1

Claire Frances NicMill, Isle of Barra; Allan Beaton Challenge Shield; Lewis Dillon Tobermory; Calum MacPherson Memorial Trophy; Fraser Mitchell, Tobermory. Young Musicians of Mull Trophy: The Westwells.  
**Senior trophy winners**  
**Vocal competitions**  
 Glen Arow Rosebowl (Ladies Prescribed/Oran Mori): Alison MacRae, Isle of Lewis; Williamson Cup (Men's Prescribed/Oran Mori): Calum MacLoid, Edinburgh; Archibald MacDonald Memorial Cup (Solo unpublished song): Stuart Jackson, Lochaline; Neil MacDonald Memorial Shield (Solo local song): Stuart Jackson, Lochaline; Calgary Cup (Solo Puirt a Beul): Frank McCamley, Skelmorlie; Anabel Carothers Cup (Solo own choice): Gillian MacDonald, Dunkeld; Mull Silver Salver (Ladies learners): Wendy Mackay, Golspie; + Seumas Gallagher Prize; Mull Silver Salver (Men learners): Donald MacLellan, Inverness + Seumas Gallagher Prize; Margaret MacKay Memorial Trophy (Duet): Gillian MacDonald and May Brown; Mrs Elizabeth Cattanaich Salver (Quartet): Fuaimneach, Detta MacLean Memorial Trophy (Ladies choir): Coisir Sgr' a' Bhac; Bentalla Trophy (Male voice choir): Coisir Ceann An Tuirc; Killichronan Shield (Mixed choir): Coisir Sgr' a' Bhac; Hilda Leslie Trophy (Highest Gaelic mark - mixed choir): Coisir Sgr' a' Bhac; Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir Baton (Puirt a Beul): Coisir Sgr' a' Bhac; Catherine Fletcher Memorial Trophy (Most expressive solo performance): Donna Dugdale, Tobermory.

**Beachd Ailein**  
 Ailean Caimbeul

CHAN eil e na longnadh sam bith gum bheil còrr air trì fichead sa cheud de shluagh na Gàidhealtachd an aghaidh na Gàidhlig. Gu ìre 's e an seòrsa mì-rùn sin a dh'fhàg i san t-suidheachadh chunnartach as am bheil i an-diugh!

Aig an àm a bha sinn ag iomairt airson reachdas dhan Ghàidhlig, bha aon cheist a bha ga togail bitheanta. Carson a bha feum air dìon laghail? Nach robh tèarainteachd na Gàidhlig an urra ris na Gàidheil fhèin agus an dàrna cuid cleachdadh iad i neo leigeadh iad leatha bàsachadh!

Tha cuimhn' agam fear den luchd-taice againn a' toirt freagairt ris an do dh'antaich mi fhìn gu tur. Thuir e gun robh fios againn uile gum bheil leithid gràin-cinnidh agus tñù (neo dalm-bheachd) ceàrr, ach a dh'aindeoin sin, b' fheudar lagh a stèidheachadh gus feuchainn ri daoine a dhìon bho na h-eucoirean sin. Thuir e gun robh a' mhòr-shluagh a' tuigsinn gur e pàirt chudromach de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a th'anns a' Ghàidhlig, ach as aonais taice laghail, cha sheas mion-chànan na mion-choir sam bith!

Gu mì-fhortanach dhan Ghàidhlig agus a' luchd-leasachaidh, chan eil mòran de na meadhanan naidheachd mothachail gur e burraidheachd a th'ann a bhith daonnan a' dèanamh tàire air mion-bhuidheann mar sinne.

Chan eil tuigse aca a rèir coltais gum bheil luchd-cleachdaidh is luchd-taice na Gàidhlig gam faicinn fhèin mar choinhears-nachd chultarail shònraichte a tha a' a' airidh air spèis is urram. Uill sin a' bheachd choibhneil!

Ach canaidh cuid nach eil anns na tha a' nochdadh ann an cuid de phàipearan-naidheachd ri chur air na rudaibh na Gàidhlig ach làn dhearbhadh air gràin-cinnidh nach biodh ceadaichte nam b' ann mu chinnidhean in-imrich air an robh iad ag aithris.

Tha cuimhn' agam fear-taice eile ag radh rium, is mi ag innse dha mu iomairt phoiliteigeach bacadh a chur air na rudaibh a' dèanamh, gur fheudar gun robh mi a' dèanamh rudeigin ceart ma bha iad a' feuchainn ri stad a chur orm! Aig co-labhairt aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ann an 1985 thuir Seòras Younger, an uairsin na Rùnaire Stàite Alba, nan dearbhadh gnìomh nan Gàidheil creideas nan cànan fhèin gun tigeadh taic Riaghaltas. Rinn Gàidheil sin thar nam bliadhnaichean a lean agus dh'èist an Riaghaltas agus ged nach eil Gàidhlig tèarainte, tha mòran farmadach às na choisinn sinn!

IT IS not really surprising that more than 60 per cent of responders to a Highland Council survey said they did not support Gaelic. Despite this language being a unique part of Scotland's national heritage, it continues to suffer widespread apathy and in some branches of the media, outright persecution. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 gives Gaelic equal respect to English in Scotland, and the Act is recognition that minority rights require protection to survive. Sadly many people, and journalists in particular, appear happy to bully the minority Gaelic community in its homeland with thinly disguised racism. Who said the Empire had gone?

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

**Group heads to Poland**

A GROUP of Oban youngsters will travel to Poland next Wednesday as part of an international exchange. The Youth Democracy Initiative involves groups of 11 young people from Oban, Glasgow and Bochnia, near Krakow, in Poland. The exchange visited Oban in June. The Polish leg of the exchange will last one week, during which time the youngsters will visit Auschwitz and be guests of a civic reception organised by the Mayor of Bochnia. Organiser Scott Douglas, of Argyll and Bute Council's Youth Services department, said the Oban group had undertaken some fundraising but had also secured funding from local businesses, Rotary Club of Oban and the British Youth Council.

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**Scottish Hydro**

**Motorists face Lochawe delays**

MOTORISTS have faced further delays this week along six miles of road at Taynult, with work on the surface being carried out resulting in single lane traffic restrictions.

And another set of A85 road works will get under way at Lochawe next week, starting on Tuesday, September 20.

Resurfacing work requires up to three weeks of overnight closures, from 9pm to 6am on weekdays, with a lengthy diversion via Inveraray and Lochgilphead in place.

The A82 between Tarbet and Crianlarich is set to close tonight from 10pm to 6am tomorrow, as safety works are completed.

Real time updates are available from Transerv on twitter at www.twitter.com/scot\_transerv.

**Parents 'satisfied' with high school**

MOST parents of pupils at Oban High School are pleased with their child's education and the confidence and encouragement they receive.

The results of a parental survey show that the school still has some work to do to convince all parents that they are doing the best for their child.

More than a fifth of all parents felt the school did not take their views into account, yet more than 90 per cent of parents believe the school is well led.

For more information about the survey, log on to www.obanhigh.org.uk/bute.sch.uk and look for survey under the information tab.

**BBC's Countryfile visits Loch Etive**

LOCH Etive will be the focus of this week's Countryfile programme on BBC One.

Presenter Matt Baker joined the RNLI's Flood Rescue Team in a training session at the Falls of Lora in Connell, while Ellie Harrison met local mussel farmers.

Taynult theatre company, Three Wee Crows, was also filmed at Bonawe Furnace for the episode, to be broadcast on Sunday September 18 at 7pm.

**Stricken dinghy drifted ashore**

INVERARAY Coastguard was called to help the occupants of a dinghy last Saturday after it began drifting in Loch Shira.

The dinghy, which had three people in it, eventually drifted ashore. Safety advice was given out by the coastguard.

**Planners back hydro scheme**

PLANNERS have approved a micro hydro scheme for a house in Knipoch, south of Oban.

The 10.5kw scheme will not be visible from the main road and there were no objections to the plans.



Principal cast members in the giant plant, Audrey II, are, from left: Alasdair Jordan, as Orin, Carys Rimmer, as Mr Bernstein, Kenna Barrow, as Audrey and Calum Henry, as Seymour. 15\_137thorror01

**Pupils ready to open their Little Shop of Horrors**

FINAL rehearsals for Oban High School's first show in six years are underway - as the school becomes the first in Scotland to offer a unique qualification in musical theatre.

The Little Shop of Horrors, sponsored by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, has been a year in the making and involves 40 pupils from S1 - S6, half of whom are cast members.

A specially constructed set will accommodate a six-foot, pupil-eating plant and there are lots of other surprises in store for the audience in this well-produced show.

The return of the annual school show - the

last production was Grease in 2005 - comes as the school takes on 19 pupils for its new National Progression Award in Musical Theatre, a qualification that is equivalent to a Higher and prepares pupils for a potential career in the industry.

Performing arts teacher Sam Martin, who is directing Little Shop of Horrors, said: 'This has been a huge undertaking because it is a very technical show.'

'We have a six-foot plant that will swallow actors!'

'We have involved the pupils in all aspects of production and publicity because we

want them to enjoy the experience. The talent up here is unbelievable; Ballet West and Oban High School Pipe Band give a creative outlet and the drama department at the school is thriving.'

Carys Rimmer will be playing eight parts in the show, including Mr Bernstein and senior pupils Kenna Barrow and Calum Henry will play the principal roles of Audrey and Seymour.

There will be four shows next week, from Wednesday to Saturday. Tickets are available from The Bridge Cafe, next to the Co-op, or from school pupils.

**New misery for unpaid hotel staff**

FORMER employees of the Barcaldine House Hotel who last month walked out over unpaid wages are still waiting to be paid after cheques from the company bounced.

Heather Buchanan, the owner of the hotel and its former parent company Blue Grange Ltd, previously dismissed allegations of financial difficulty despite August's walkout, claiming the hotel was trading as normal.

But, as of last week, Barcaldine House Ltd and Blue Grange Ltd were in liquidation.

Barcaldine House Ltd has since come out of liquidation after it was leased to another entirely separate party for three months but a cloud of uncertainty still hangs over the hotel, with a number of creditors still to be paid. Among those understood to be owed money are the company's financiers, service providers and construction firms.

Local suppliers have also been affected, with some owed fairly

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

large sums. While former staff members did receive cheques from Barcaldine House Ltd last week to cover monies due, they bounced. It was the latest in a long line of frustrations for the team, a number of whom have since spoken to *The Oban Times*.

One said: 'It was not a good place to work. There was constant frustration and uncertainty. Walking out wasn't a snap decision by anyone. Suppliers would stop giving us accounts because they weren't being paid, so most people operated purely on a cash-on-delivery basis. We often took money out of our own pockets to pay for it. You would eventually get it back, but sometimes you'd have to wait for cheques to clear.'

Another said: 'The whole team

resigned because they'd had enough and although they loved the hotel, they were unwilling to continue working with the additional stress and uncertainty of it all.'

Some staff members and suppliers have already taken legal action against Barcaldine House Ltd and Blue Grange Ltd.

Meanwhile, it is understood that a £120,000 grant allocated to the hotel from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), intended to be used as part of a £600,000 refurbishment programme, has not yet been paid to the company.

A spokesperson for HIE said: 'The HIE funding was to Barcaldine House Ltd. Our processes are that we pay retrospectively on evidence of paid invoices.'

'We remain in close contact with the company.'

Heather Buchanan was contacted for comment but did not respond at the time of going to press.

**Stand-off stalls progress on plans to redevelop derelict Argyll Hotel**

A STAND-OFF between local councillors and the developers of The Argyll Hotel means there has been no forward movement, despite the request of a meeting to iron problems out.

The Argyll Hotel has been standing empty for at least eight years.

Plans have been approved for its redevelopment on the condition that a contractor is appointed before the derelict building is torn down.

Developers Alan and Calum MacLeod say this is impractical and are seeking a meeting with members of Argyll and Bute

Council's Oban area committee to try to reach a solution.

In an email shown to *The Oban Times*, the head of governance and law at the council told the MacLeods: 'I gave the view that it would not be appropriate for the area committee to meet you as the determination of individual planning applications or for that matter appeals against refusal is not within the remit of the area committee.'

Disturbing Mr MacLeod said: 'We are trying to find a way forward and it is disturbing the elected members are not willing to even

sit around the table and talk to us. I can understand if there is a conflict of interest for councillors if they are on the planning committee but otherwise the elected members should be willing to meet us.'

'How can we get this resolved if no one is willing to talk.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said the issue was the subject of an appeal to Scottish ministers.

'The planning, protective services and licensing committee took a decision on the issue and that decision is now going through due process.'

**River City star Tony is on his travels to Tiree**

RIVER City star Tony Kearney will try his hand at running a hotel on Tiree and fishing with Barra trawlermen for a new television series.

The first episode of 'Turas Tony, or 'Tony's Travels', begins on BBC Alba on Monday September 19 at 10pm.

Tony takes over as manager of the Tiree Lodge Hotel. Just as he is learning the ropes, hundreds of surfers from all over the world descend for the annual Wave Classic.

Tony said: 'I had no concept of how hard it would be running a hotel. I've stayed in hotels and completed tasks everything for granted.'

But he admitted his fictional experience behind the Tall Ships Bar in River City came in handy. Later in the series, made by Solus Productions, Tony will join a North Atlantic trawler, cook in a top Glasgow restaurant and train with the Cairngorms Mountain Rescue Team.



Actor Tony Kearney with hotel manager Fiona MacPhail and cook Dolina Campbell when he took over the Tiree Lodge Hotel during Wave Classic week.

**Plenty of interest in town's CHORD project**

A DROP-IN event designed to bring the general public up to date on Oban's CHORD plans has proved a big success.

Some 150 people took the chance to discuss the proposals and the work already underway with members of the CHORD project team.

A gazebo was set up in Station Square, with maps and boards on display as well as sheets on which visitors were asked to put their comments.

In addition, 20 people went on organised 'walkabout' tours around the town, allowing them

to highlight what they saw as the main opportunities.

Anyone who would like to comment on the Oban CHORD plans but could not attend the drop in session can do so at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/ask-project-team-oban-chord-project. The Oban project is part of Argyll and Bute Council's far-reaching £30 million CHORD programme, which aims to assist regeneration and economic development in five of the area's key waterfront towns: Campbelltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothaysay and Dunoon.

**Shorter opening hours at Oban's Corran Halls**

OBAN'S Corran Halls will close on Mondays between 9am-5pm from October 3, as budget cuts start to impact leisure services.

However, that is the only change to the timetable, with reception to be open as normal between 9am-6pm Tuesday to Friday, and 10am-5pm on Saturdays.

Fitness classes and club bookings will continue as usual in the evenings and the Corran Halls will be available on Mondays during the day for major events or bookings made in advance.

The change was implemented after the council observed Mondays were the least busy. Councillor Rory Colville, spokesperson for the third sector and communities, said: 'By closing halls on a Monday we are minimising the impact on our communities. We know we have to make difficult decisions but we have to be clear that these are decisions necessary if the council is to operate its business in the most efficient way it can.'

For more information phone the Corran Halls on 01631 567333.

**Funding found for Festival of Sea**

THE second Festival of the Sea will go ahead in Oban next year after funding was found for the event.

Both the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) have agreed to fund part of the festival, organised by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg.

The 10-day event will get underway on May 18 next year, bringing to an end a two year hiatus since 2010's successful inauguration, which attracted more than 5,000 people.

SAMS are now looking for anyone interested in taking part to get in touch while they are developing the programme.

The community-driven festival celebrates the area's spectacular marine environment and demonstrates the defining role the sea plays to people living in and visiting this part of Scotland.

It aims to increase knowledge and awareness of the importance of the sea and to support people in building a more sustainable relationship with the marine environment.

It's hoped that the scope and appeal of the festival can be expanded from 2010's event, when activities were held in venues between Tormorony and Lismore to Taynult and from Kilmartin to Appin. Dr Anuschka Miller, head of

communications at SAMS who has been directing the festival, said: 'We want to offer the broadest possible range of quality events to attract even more people to attend than in 2010, when the 50 festival events had a total of nearly 5,200 visitors.'

'While marine science may be the background to many events, we want the programme to reflect the diversity of ways that the sea influences our lives.'

'Let us know if you - or a community group you may be part of - would like to get involved.' To volunteer or make suggestions about events, contact Helen McNeill, co-ordinator, on 01631 559430, or email Helen. McNeill@sams.ac.uk.

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**Accused guilty of underage sex**

A CHILD witness cried as she told Oban Sheriff Court of the night she had unlawful intercourse on the floor of a cafe in Oban.

The girl told procurator fiscal David Glancy the man, Darren Napier, aged 22, knew she was 'the baby' of their group of friends and that he was not her boyfriend when the incident happened.

At court last Thursday, Sheriff Douglas Small found Napier guilty of having sex with the underage girl on June 18 or 19 last year. He was also found guilty of phoning the girl's friend and threatening to kill her boyfriend after the incident came to the attention of the police.

Napier, of 2F Burnbank Terrace, was drinking with friends at a house party in Oban when he and the complainant went to get pizza.

On the way to get the takeaway they stopped in at the cafe, for which Napier had keys, so she could use the toilet.

Upon their late return to the house, friends noticed a 'hickey' on the girl's neck.

Two friends of the complainant, who also took the witness stand, said the group had its suspicions that the couple had sex.

One witness said: 'He [Napier] knew what age she was because he had seen her in her school uniform and she was planning a birthday party.'

A second witness said: 'I asked Darren, 'Did you?', and he said yes.'

The witness said Napier would have known what he meant by that question.

Sentence was deferred on Napier until October 5 for background reports. He was placed on the sex offenders' register.

**Pair 'scared of being arrested'**

A WOMAN who is accused of assaulting an off-duty police officer said she was unaware of the complainant's profession.

Pariss Louis, aged 18, of 3B Croft Avenue, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday alongside co-accused Somaya Al-Hosani as the defence opened its case in the part-heard trial.

Louis denies two charges of assault, one inside a pub and one outside, and uttering racist remarks in a breach of the peace in Stevenson Street on November 13 last year.

Al-Hosani, of 2G Colonsay Terrace, Oban, denies threatening violence by brandishing a piece of wood and uttering racist remarks.

The staff involved in the incident were part of the Strathclyde Police netball team. Giving evidence, Louis said she was sure she did not make any racist comments before describing an altercation inside the pub involving the netballers.

The two accused were ejected from the pub by stewards. While waiting for a friend, they then saw the women from the netball team leave the pub.

'I went to ask them why they grabbed me. There was a short argument and we ended up on the ground.'

Louis said she and Al-Hosani went into a close beside Hannah's Newsagents because they were 'scared of being arrested'.

The trial continues on September 21.

**Holiday 'jape' proves costly**

A WOMAN who admitted going into an Oban supermarket warehouse and stealing a staff jacket has been fined £450.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week Sophie Haralambos, of 176 Merthyr Road, Cardiff, was holidaying in the area with two friends on April 9 when the incident occurred.

Staff twice spotted her in an area of the supermarket not open to the public. Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said when they challenged her, 'she was basically rumbled and took off at some speed', escaping along Soroba Road on foot. A staff fleece was later found to be missing.

Meanwhile, a friend, Keith Baker, who was sitting in a parked car nearby drove after her. When police later stopped him, it became apparent he was driving while disqualified and without insurance, which he admitted.

Defending 24-year-old Haralambos, Edward Thornton said she was a genuine first offender and that taking the jacket had been 'suggested to her as a jape'.

Laura Russell said that Baker, aged 57, of 10 Ferndale Street, Cardiff, had been banned from driving for three years in 1997, however he had not yet re-taken his driving test. He was fined £540 and banned for a further 12 months.

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# 'Safe hands' helped Morag battle cancer

## Fundraising effort repays support received in hospital

**REPORT**

by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY  
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

A CANCER survivor has dedicated herself to raising funds for volunteers who helped her through the darkest days of her treatment.

Morag Dougal, from Dalmally, was shocked when a tumour five by four by two centimetres was found in her womb.

Earlier this year, she spent six weeks as an inpatient at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre receiving intensive radiation and chemotherapy.

'No words can describe how good they were,' said Morag. 'You felt like you were in safe hands.'

While in hospital, Morag found a haven in the volunteer-run Friends of the Beatson Centre. She said it was a relaxing place within the hospital but away



Morag Dougal has decided to give something back to the charity that supports cancer patients in the months since her treatment. 15\_137morag01

from the rigours of treatment. 'The Friends of Beatson were so good. You can get all the different therapies, you can get your hair cut - if you still have any

hair left - or fitted for a hairpiece. You just wouldn't think you were in the hospital. It was the equivalent of the Hilton Hotel if you ask me. They have done so much to see me through.'

Morag was determined to give something back and almost as soon as she returned home from hospital in April, despite still feeling tired from her treatment, she began fundraising for the charity. She put a box in Dalmally shop for donations and planned a series of car boot sales. A number of Oban shops have also contributed goods to help her efforts.

'I was just going to do Dalmally Show but people have been so kind I got enough stuff to do the car boot sales as well,' she said. So far she has been able to hand over £600 to the people who made such a difference to her.

Morag's final car boot sale will take place at the Green Welly in Tyndrum on Saturday September 24.



Try your hand: fifth year pupil Dylan Cooke, left, gets to grips with a cricket bat, while Innes Paterson from Atlantis tries shinty, Kirsty Summers, also Atlantis, tries out rugby for the first time, and Fergus Matheson, from the Scottish Rugby Union's Modern Apprenticeship scheme, shows his prowess on the rowing machine. 15\_137freshers1

## Local groups aim to recruit high school freshers

OBAN High School held a Freshers' Fair on Monday to introduce pupils starting S1 to the various sporting and community groups in the area they can join.

Nearly 30 groups had stalls at the event, which gave pupils the chance to find out more about the clubs, even getting some hands on time with some of the sporting

groups' equipment. Older pupils were also afforded a browse of the stalls.

Organised by Active Schools and Argyll and Bute Youth Services, plans are already afoot to hold a similar event next year, such was its success.

Scott Douglas, of Youth Services, said: 'The event introduces local youngsters to

the various activities they can take part in locally and while it is useful for pupils who live locally, it's particularly useful for those who are attending the high school from the islands, for example.

'We're going to do an evaluation at the end and will investigate the possibility for future events.'

## System for allocating social housing 'must change' claims ACHA chief

THE SYSTEM for allocating social housing 'works against common sense' and must change, according to head of Argyll's largest housing association.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), said the points allocation system is damaging rural communities.

Mr MacGregor said: 'There are communities where young people grow up, they want to leave home and it's very difficult for them to access affordable housing.'

'There are areas of very low turnover where its high on

impossible - one, because there are not enough homes and two, the existing points allocation system works against that.'

Half of all homes must be given to people who are homeless. Meanwhile the length of time an applicant has been waiting for a home or their local connections cannot be taken into account.

It means housing associations face a never-ending battle to meet local needs. Mr MacGregor told a meeting of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands community planning group last week: 'It is a bit like trying to play golf with a hole that's not big enough.'

'I actually think the movement to a needs-based allocation system actually works against community need in some instances. If you came from Bournemouth and had the necessary 200 points for homelessness, you might have a better chance of getting a house than someone from Mull.'

'I think we need to make a judgement call on particular vulnerable community circumstances. Maybe we need the dreaded 'quotas'.'

Mr MacGregor said ACHA has called on the Scottish Government to set up a dedicated fund for building social and affordable homes in rural areas.

## Huge demand for property on Islay

AFFORDABLE housing on Islay should be a priority, according to Mr MacGregor.

He told members of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands community planning group he was working to agree a plan for more houses in Port Ellen.

'We have huge demand to live on Islay and for transfer on Islay.'

'We have a site in Port Ellen. We are in discussion with planners about some access issues, I think they can be resolved.'

While Bownmore and Port Charlotte have had some new homes built in the past few years, Port Ellen has not had any new affordable houses for 35 years, he added.

Councillor Robin Currie, who

lives on the island and is the council's spokesperson on rural and island affairs, housing and Gaelic, said housing demand in Port Ellen and on Islay is acute.

He said: 'For every house that becomes available there are 14 families after that one house.'

'It's one of the areas of highest demand in Argyll and Bute,' he added.

## SAMS at centre of algal biofuel research project

PIONEERING research into realising the full potential of algal biofuel is to take place in Dunbeg thanks to a £12million pan-European partnership.

The EnAlgae initiative aims to establish the productivity potential of north western Europe as an algae growing region for use in domestic and commercial fuels.

Researchers from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will play a major part in the four-and-a-half year project, by looking at how to store the

algae in such a way as not to diminish its useful properties.

Forecasts suggest that algal biofuels could replace more than 70-billion litres of fossil fuels for road transport and aviation by 2030.

But numerous obstacles need to be overcome, not least of which is finding a method of storing the unicellular organisms in such a way that stops them reproducing and potentially mutating from their useful form. Primarily researchers at SAMS will look

at cryopreserving - or flash freezing - the fuel.

A spokeswoman for SAMS said: 'In EnAlgae, the scientists at SAMS are looking at cryopreserving the algae that have the best characteristics to produce biofuel - or other products - in a way that they do not change.'

'Cryopreservation means to put them into liquid Nitrogen at -196°C. At this low temperature all biological activity is effectively stopped.'

'Naturally, microalgae just die and don't come back to life

but there are techniques that allow a small number of algae to survive and be stored for the long-term.'

Work on the EnAlgae project will run alongside the multi-million pound BioMara biofuel research partnership, which is led by SAMS.

The spokeswoman added: 'For the EnAlgae project we will continue our research into this aspect of storing valuable biological resources and hopefully increase the number of algae we can cryopreserve.'

## Brothers fined for fighting

TWO BROTHERS who began a fight outside an Oban pub, before turning on police officers, have been fined.

James MacDonald, aged 29, of Pitch 4, Ledaig Site, and John, aged 22, of Pitch 1, Ledaig Site, both pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to a breach of the peace on March 24 in Airds Crescent.

James also admitted resisting arrest and struggling violently with police officers and John pled guilty to a second charge of assaulting a police officer by attempting to rugby tackle him to the ground.

A third accused, William MacDonald, a cousin of the two brothers, failed to appear last Wednesday and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

James MacDonald was fined a total of £495, while John was fined £450.

## Snack van operators shut up shop

TWO snack van operators on Trece have decided to shut up shop after council officials demanded they seek planning permission for their businesses.

The council sent letters advising that planning was required after a holiday home owner complained about one van, the Haystack, at Scarinish.

However, the fallout has forced Ian MacArthur, who has been trading as Trece Outside Catering for five years, to close his van, unable to afford the £400 fee required to submit planning applications.

Stewart MacLennan, of the

Crab Shack, has also decided to close, blaming the bureaucracy.

That leaves the Haystack as the island's last trading snack van and owner Sam Bouchnak is to fight on to obtain planning permission, having last week secured a permanent street trader's licence, despite opposition from the same holiday home owner.

Ian said: 'The van was my only source of income but I've closed it after another letter from the council saying I needed planning permission.'

'It's as much about the principle as the cost, I don't think it's

right. I suppose I'll just have to sign on now. I've still got my own house to pay for and I've got two children to support.'

However, the plight of the small businesses draws little sympathy from local SNP councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh who said: 'I think what they were concerned about was the cost, but it isn't a one year licence - once you've got it you've got it for life.'

'People have to abide by the law no matter where they are and what they do.'

'You can't change the law just for Trece.'

## Musician fined for assaulting victim

A MUSICIAN who assaulted a man in his own home before shouting abuse as he left has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mark Faccenda, aged 26, of 1 Rae Place, Muirton, Perth, admitted assaulting the man at an Oban guesthouse on May 4 this year by punching him on the head and body.

He also pled guilty to shouting, swearing and screaming abuse as he left the property.

His co-accused, Stephen Paterson, of Room 5, 1 Lorn Court, Oban, pled guilty to assaulting a man at the guesthouse by throwing a carton of ice cream on him.

Sentence was deferred on Paterson for reports until October 18.

Faccenda, who sings with the Cracked Black Peppers, was fined a total of £585.

## Motorist admits error of judgement

A GAS engineer, who overtook on a blind bend while driving on the A85 near Dunbeg, put his manoeuvre down to 'an error of judgement'.

Ian Strathdee, aged 31, of 16 Dixon Crescent, Dunoon, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention while travelling east on the A85 on September 30 last year.

Strathdee's white van was second in a queue of vehicles, which included a police car. The officers in the car saw his overtake, crossing double white lines, and pulled him over at Connel, where he was charged.

Strathdee was fined £360 and had five penalty points imposed on his licence.

## Police found drugs in coffee jars

A MAN who stored cannabis in two coffee jars has admitted possessing the drug, with intent to supply.

Jamie McGuckin, aged 31, of Flat 8, 47 Stevenson House, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to the offence.

On October 22 last year police found the drugs within McGuckin's home address, as well as a sum of cash and a set of digital scales.

Sentence was deferred until October 18 for background reports.

## Mull woman must repay cash

A MULL woman who fraudulently claimed £1,425 in housing benefit was given six months to repay the cash.

Jane Gordon, 46, of Keepers Cottage, Pennyghael, had already paid half the amount back to the authorities and Sheriff Douglas Small said she could have until February to pay back the whole amount. He asked for proof of the repayment to be brought to court on the same day. Gordon pled guilty to claiming £163.80 per week for a rent she did not have to pay.

Sentence was deferred until October 18 for background reports.

## Reports ordered

A MAN who admitted attacking his victim in Oban has had his sentence deferred.

George Ramsay, aged 50, of 3/1 Abercorn Street, Paisley, admitted assaulting an 18-year-old man by pushing him on the body, then over a wall and repeatedly punching the young man on the head and body on October 25 2010.

The victim was treated in Lorn and Islands Hospital after suffering an epileptic seizure and amnesia.

Sheriff Douglas Small asked for court reports before sentencing.

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## Snack van operators shut up shop

TWO snack van operators on Trece have decided to shut up shop after council officials demanded they seek planning permission for their businesses. The council sent letters advising that planning was required after a holiday home owner complained about one van, the Haystack, at Scarinish. However, the fallout has forced Ian MacArthur, who has been trading as Trece Outside Catering for five years, to close his van, unable to afford the £400 fee required to submit planning applications. Stewart MacLennan, of the Crab Shack, has also decided to close, blaming the bureaucracy. That leaves the Haystack as the island's last trading snack van and owner Sam Bouchnak is to fight on to obtain planning permission, having last week secured a permanent street trader's licence, despite opposition from the same holiday home owner. Ian said: 'The van was my only source of income but I've closed it after another letter from the council saying I needed planning permission.' 'It's as much about the principle as the cost, I don't think it's right. I suppose I'll just have to sign on now. I've still got my own house to pay for and I've got two children to support.' However, the plight of the small businesses draws little sympathy from local SNP councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh who said: 'I think what they were concerned about was the cost, but it isn't a one year licence - once you've got it you've got it for life.' 'People have to abide by the law no matter where they are and what they do.' 'You can't change the law just for Trece.'

A MAN who admitted attacking his victim in Oban has had his sentence deferred. George Ramsay, aged 50, of 3/1 Abercorn Street, Paisley, admitted assaulting an 18-year-old man by pushing him on the body, then over a wall and repeatedly punching the young man on the head and body on October 25 2010. The victim was treated in Lorn and Islands Hospital after suffering an epileptic seizure and amnesia. Sheriff Douglas Small asked for court reports before sentencing.

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# 4 Reasons to FEEL GREAT

## WHEN YOU LOOKED IN THE MIRROR THIS MORNING, WHAT DID YOU THINK?

How many times do you have to cringe at your reflection before you take the first step towards a better you? Do you find yourself hiding your body from your loved one in shame, and longing for more self confidence? Are you hopeful to lead a long and energetic life, as a healthy role model for your children? We all know that feeling fat and unhappy affects everything in our lives badly, but we often don't know where to look for help. Well, your search is over...

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We all know the statistics. More than half of the population is either overweight or obese. As a country we are in the grips of a frightening epidemic. People who are overweight or obese are at increased risk of type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke and congestive heart failure. Regular exercise is the magic pill to losing weight, toning up, feeling great and most of all, reducing many serious health risks that you could be facing in your future.

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OT

**Fort woman's fundraising honoured**

A FORT William woman has won a national award in recognition of her charity fundraising.

Over the past three years, paramedic and bed and breakfast owner Alyson Stewart has raised thousands of pounds for Genesis Research Trust, which promotes research into the health of women and babies.

Alyson told The Oban Times she was 'chuffed' when she found out she had won. She said: 'I chose the trust because

we've lost a lot of friends in my age group to cancer and my daughter also lost a friend to cancer.'

She has cycled across Cuba, Jordan and China, and in November plans to cycle from Vietnam to Cambodia.

Alyson will be given her award at The Savoy in London at a ceremony organised by women's website www.mydaily.co.uk and plans to stay in the city for three nights with her husband Iain.

**Kidney patients switched to Raigmore**

KIDNEY patients at the Belford Hospital are being treated at Raigmore Hospital after the renal unit roof in Fort William began leaking.

Three patients are being taken in Inverness by patient transport while work to replace the roof continues.

Staff from the renal dialysis service are also going to Inverness to ensure continuity of care for patients.

Marie Law, clinical services manager at the Belford, stressed the measure was temporary.

She said: 'The work was

being carried out with little disruption to the renal service, however, due to the recent severe weather the old sections of the roof began to leak. It is obviously not appropriate for patients to receive treatment while this is happening so they have had their treatment transferred to the renal unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness until the work is complete.'

Mrs Law hoped to have patients being treated back in Fort William by next week and apologised for any inconvenience caused.

**New Legion colours to be unfurled**

THE BRITISH Legion Scotland Fort William branch will unfurl new colours for the Remembrance Parade on November 13 after raising £900 for a new banner.

The old flag was stored while still soaking wet last year and members only discovered the colours had run when preparing to join the Veteran's Day in Edinburgh in June.

The cash target was passed after *The Oban Times* contributed £100 to the appeal this week. Other local

businesses and individuals also gave generously, some anonymously.

Collections at Lochaber Agricultural Show and the Ben Nevis Race brought in further monies. Organisers of both events gave the legion a stance free of charge.

Mark McCann of the Fort William branch thanked all those who donated in cash or in kind.

'I'm pretty sure *The Oban Times* money will take us over the total,' he said.

**Association extends centre plans**

THE PRICE tag for a proposed indoor training and multi-sports centre at An Aird is up to £1million after would-be developers Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) extended their plans.

The body wants to add a polypropylene surface suitable for gymnastics, tennis, netball, roller-skating, football, indoor bowling and hockey next to the artificial turf pitches.

The revised building would measure 80 metres by 40 metres, 20 metres longer than

the initial structure. LSA have submitted an £11,000 funding bid to LEADER for a grant towards legal fees, planning advice, site investigations and architects' fees, chairperson Jane Blanchard told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'We hope to hear the result at the beginning of October, and, if favourable, aim to submit our planning application, in principle, by the end of January.'



Last lap: John in Fort William as prepares for the final 300-mile leg round Argour, Sunart, Ardnamurchan and Moidart back to Lochailort. 20\_137john01

**Coastline bike challenge just the beginning**

LOCHAILORT man John Bryden is already planning his next fundraising trip after finishing a gruelling 8,000-mile charity motorbike ride on Monday night.

Mr Bryden's 31-day marathon round the coastline of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland on his 125cc machine exceeded his £10,000 target for Kirsty's Kids, which he and wife Jan set up after their daughter Kirsty's tragic death in a road accident last September.

Kirsty worked with disadvantaged young people in Scotland and helped run an orphanage in Mozambique. The 19-year-old had been planning the bike trip herself in aid of needy children.

Speaking from his Craiglea home, Mr Bryden told *The Oban Times* an even bigger challenge was on the cards - a bike ride round Norway, Sweden and Russia early next summer.

He said: 'I'm looking for a group who are interested in joining me this time. I'm

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

hoping we can get a motorbike manufacturer to donate a small bike that we can give away as a prize.'

Mr Bryden will be hoping for better weather on his European expedition. His waterlogged British tour saw only five dry days - but people's generosity more than compensated for wet feet.

In Northern Ireland, Mr Bryden pulled up at the Everglades Hotel in Londonderry after riding for 375 miles in driving rain.

He said: 'I saw this huge, stunning hotel and I thought 'I can't afford this', but went in and asked the price. A gentleman came out and asked if I was doing a charity run, and when I told him what I was doing he told me to get upstairs. They put me up in the most beautiful room - the bed was about 14 feet wide!

'Then he had me wheel my bike

inside and put it in the ballroom to keep it safe. It was absolutely marvellous.'

One hairy moment came in Cornwall, where Mr Bryden used his bike lights to pitch his tent at night.

He said: 'One morning I woke up and I was quite amazed to find myself at the top of a cliff. Some of the roads there are very twisty and your speed's not much more than walking pace. At times I thought I was never going to get out of there.'

He added: 'I travelled with complete strangers who have become dearest friends. I feel deeply humbled and overwhelmed by the devotion the public has shown to Kirsty's Kids, and I'm honoured to fulfil Kirsty's last challenge. This is a tiny step forward in the future of Kirsty's Kids as a charity organisation.'

Because of the overwhelming response in Ireland, Mr Bryden is planning a road trip there as a warm-up for the European tour.

**Mini owners' king-sized donation to rescue team**

THEIR cars may be pocket-sized, but big-hearted Mini owners made a king-sized contribution to a Lochaber charity.

Members of the Mini Clan drove to Fort William for their sponsored rally in May and picked Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team as one of the two charities to benefit.

Around a dozen Mini enthusiasts returned to the Lochaber capital on Sunday and handed over a cheque for £3,000 at LMRT's HQ on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate.

The club holds its 'Thistle Run' from Blair Drummond every May. Each year a convoy of Minis follows one arm of an imaginary St Andrew's cross

on the map to head either northwest, northeast, southeast or southwest to the coast. The Lochaber capital was the 2011 northwest destination, and some 193 minis rolled into town on May 29.

Mini Clan membership secretary Andrew Everson, a railway signalman based at Kilmarnock, told *The Oban Times*: 'All our minis were sponsored, and this year our two charities were Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and the neo-natal ward at the Southern General Hospital. We are giving £3,000 to each.

LMRT team member Miller Harris said: 'It is absolutely brilliant. 'We carry out 30 per cent plus of all rescues in the country.'



Andrew Everson, right, presents the £3,000 cheque to Miller Harris of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team with Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson.

**Protesters greet SAS delegation**

BANNERS and placards greeted a Scottish Ambulance Service delegation as they arrived in west Ardnamurchan on Tuesday evening for talks about emergency 999 cover.

About 100 people lined the road through Kilchoan, Glenborrodale and Ardsloghish dressed as injured casualties. SAS delegates met members of West Ardnamurchan Community Council, NHS Highland and Highland Council leader Michael Foxley in Kilchoan Community Centre for a second time about replacing district nurses who currently provide emergency cover for the area. WACC secretary Jonathan Haylett said the proposals put forward by SAS remained 'unacceptable'.

A meeting between the parties last month ended in stalemate, with angry locals saying no 'realistic ideas' had been put forward. The parties agreed to meet again on September 27 for a full public meeting at the same venue.

For full reaction to the meeting see next week's *Oban Times*.

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The Oban Times  
Thursday, September 18, 1986

**Parents' concern escalates**  
STRATHCLYDE Region's Education Authority was to be asked to set in motion the machinery which could ultimately result in the closure of three of Argyll's primary schools.

Pupils at the three schools - Newton on Islay; Minard in Mid Argyll and Ardentinnny, Cowal, would be absorbed into other schools in their area. The closures would save an estimated £60,000, though the plan's authors say the advantages would be mainly education.

The parents concerned are strongly opposed to the suggestion and plan to fight it.

Wednesday's meeting of the education committee was to be asked to agree to a consultative document setting out the proposals being sent to relevant school councils for their comments - the first in a sequence of formal steps that would be necessary before the plan could be put into effect. The leaking of an education department document listing 15 secondary and 69 primaries which might be regarded as possible subjects for closure has led to even more concern on the part of parents, though the department has denied that the document is in any way significant. Argyll primaries named include Glassary, Kilmorich, N. Bute, Kilchrenan and Portnahaven.

**Lochaline pupils may go over the sea - to school**  
CATCHING the school bus is a commonplace experience for pupils. But now, some Morven youngsters may be catching the school boat instead.

It seems that a growing number of Morven parents are keen to have their children educated at Tobermory Secondary School, rather than at Lochaber High as at present. This is because taking the Lochaline to Fishnish ferry would allow pupils to return home each evening - at present they have to stay in Fort William during the week.

Now Morven Community Council, at the request of regional councillor Dr Michael Foxley are to conduct a survey into the number of children likely to be involved when they complete their education at Lochaline School.

Dr Foxley has already contacted Caledonian Mac-Brayne about the possibility of getting an earlier first sailing of the ferry to tie in with transport to Tobermory.

At the community council meeting, district councillor Miss Catriona MacLean wondered if there might be difficulties because the pupils lived in one region (Highland) and would be educated in another (Strathclyde).

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

Across

- Cover up for battle... (4,3)
- ...cover over (5)
- Terrible (5)
- Previously selected control (7)
- Testing area (7,6)
- Sanctuary (6)
- Eat out! (6)
- Music from a large box (6,7)
- Latin isolation (2,5)
- Fix firmly (5)
- Squares of lines (5)
- The art of using weapons (7)

Down

- Painful tightening of muscle (5)
- Leave the ground (7)
- Foot travel aids (7,6)
- Quit (6)
- Steel (13)
- Goodbye to the French (5)
- Statistically, given time, previous conditions will return (7)
- Support system (7)
- Distinguished person (7)
- Fore-sided shape (6)
- Delegate (5)
- Blushed complexion (5)

Last week's solution

**Lorn Lines**

AN OBAN seafood restaurant is backing a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) campaign to allow fish stocks to recover and to protect the future of fishing.

Ee-Usk became the latest Scottish restaurant to join the More Fish Campaign, driven by WWF Scotland.

The campaign is urging the European Parliament to transform Europe's fisheries management and is complementing the work already done by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Fish Fight campaign.

During the coming months, WWF Scotland is gathering the support of restaurants, chippies and members of the public from across the country with the aim of getting thousands of people to sign its petition.

These will then be added to the many thousands of other signatures from concerned individuals from across Europe and presented to the European Parliament later this year.

Owner of Ee-Usk Alan MacLeod said: 'I want to be sure that the fish I use comes from sustainable sources and the marine environment is protected.'

'That is why I am really happy to support the WWF campaign. I encourage all my customers and those living locally to support the WWF More Fish campaign.'



Restaurant manager Odile François, left, welcomes campaign assistant Shellene Wyrick to Ee-Usk. 15\_1376sh01

THE OBAN branch of Marie Curie Cancer Care has urged people to bring a spade to Oban Fire Station this Saturday to help plant about 1,000 bulbs at the Field of Hope.

The garden, on the hill beside the fire station, will be a spot of remembrance for those who have lost a loved one through cancer. The bulb planting will make up part of a fundraising charity day, starting at 11am, to raise awareness of Marie Curie Cancer Care and its role in nursing terminally-ill patients.

Branch member Lilian Kermodie said: 'Children from Oban's primary schools will be planting the bulbs but we need plenty of adult helpers to bring along their garden spades to help out.'

'The field of remembrance will be important for Oban because many people in this town have lost someone through cancer.'

The fire brigade will advise on home safety at the event, which will also feature a vintage engine, home baking and teas, and entertainment from Oban High School's junior pipe band and dance troupe.

The bulbs have been donated by Dobbies Garden Centre, Homebase and Tesco.

FURTHER to last week's picture of the winners at Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's annual flower show, the prize, donated by Caledonian MacBrayne, for the picture best liked by the public in the photographic section was 'Bella Listening', by Duncan Lamont, from Taynuilt.

The society also points out that the £4,325 raised for charity is the total amount realised since 1991.

**Special Highlander steams into Oban**

TRAIN enthusiasts of all ages were at Oban train station on Sunday to welcome The West Highlander to the town.

The train, pulled by two Black 5 steam-hauled locomotives, was slightly ahead of schedule from Crianlarich, pulling into Oban at around 11.40am.

Around 200 people had joined the Railway Touring Company excursion from Crewe and travelled up to Glasgow on Saturday. The following day, the train took 36 guests to Oban and then travelled north to Fort William. It headed south again on Monday.

One of the two drivers on board is Morar native Alex MacDonald, who now lives in Fort William. He started driving trains in 1957 and only retired five years ago.

He said: 'I prefer driving these steam trains to the ones we have nowadays; they feel more alive and you have to be very careful with them. They've got real character.'

'A lot of people have never seen a steam engine like this. They are more romantic and attract people of all ages.'

As the train left Oban there was no repeat of last year's visit when a rescue engine had to come from



Appin youngster Euan MacNeil meets the crew of The West Highlander when it arrived in Oban on Sunday. 15\_1377steam02

Crianlarich to push the heavy train up the hill from Oban. One of the youngest enthusiasts at the

platform on Sunday, 13-year-old Euan MacNeil from Appin, said: 'I have been looking forward

to it coming because it is more exciting than the usual trains that come here.'

**No compulsory job losses, insists NHS**

NHS Highland insists there will be no redundancies in Argyll and Bute despite a region wide reduction in staff members.

The authority is reducing staffing by 2.7 per cent, but officials say it will achieve these job cuts by normal turnover due to retirement or staff leaving rather than enforced redundancy.

A NHS Highland spokesman said: 'We regularly review how are staff are deployed to ensure

our workforce can respond to new models of care such as working in the community rather than in a hospital setting and we also support our staff to work flexibly or with new technology and systems. In those services where it is sensible and practicable to reduce the number of posts, this is being achieved well within normal staff turnover rates and through redeployment of staff into other essential roles,' he added.

**RSPB hits out at appeal over wind farm scheme**

A WIND farm developer's decision to appeal the refusal of planning consent at an Argyll site has been slammed by the RSPB Scotland.

The Oban Times reported last month that Wind Prospect was taking its case to the Court of Session for a second time, after ministers rejected its 14 turbine development at Stacain.

The conservation charity said the proposals pose a significant threat to golden eagles, protected by a Special Protection Area.

Aedán Smith, head of planning and development at RSPB Scotland, said: 'The developer's continued insistence on this wholly inappropriate wind farm is damaging the reputation of the industry.'

**Dealer caught in police sting jailed**

Defendant offered officers three 'wraps'

ANOTHER drug dealer has been jailed at Oban Sheriff Court, as a result of the Oban Police-led Operation Independence.

Linda Boa, aged 39, pled guilty to supplying diamorphine, a class A drug, to undercover police officers in May this year and admitted two breaches of probation by doing so.

At court last Wednesday she was sentenced to a total of two years in prison.

Between May 20 and May 21 this year undercover police officers went to Linda Boa's former address in High Street, Oban, to ask for diamorphine.

On three occasions they were given a wrap of brown powder, weighing between 0.2 grams and 0.3 grams, for which they paid £20 for each bag. All the substances tested positive for diamorphine.

A search of the address on June 10 found £160 in mixed notes within an aerotub and £40 in a wallet.

A number of phones were also seized.

Laura Russell, defending, explained her client was addicted to heroin at the time, despite being on probation, but was too 'embarrassed and proud' to

admit it to her probation officer.

Ms Russell added: 'When the undercover officers came to her it was relayed that they were new to the area and that one of them was suffering from withdrawal symptoms.'

'They appealed to her sympathy, as she recognised the symptoms of someone who was 'rattling'.'

Boa had been put on probation for being concerned in the supply of diazepam on May 1 2009 at St Valery Place, Oban, when police found 485 tablets within her home. And on August 26 2009, at Kirkton, Appin,

police searched her house and found 484 diazepam tablets in an envelope.

When police asked her who sent her the package, she told them. 'It's more than my life's worth to tell you who sent them.'

For supplying the police officers with drugs, Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced Boa to 16 months in prison and a four-month sentence was given for each of the breaches of probation, to run consecutively.

Sheriff Small said: 'I have made it perfectly plain that people who deal in drugs will be dealt with severely.'

**Food aid for Somalia**

MARY'S Meals has teamed up with Africa's largest relief organisation, Gift of the Givers, to bring 120 tonnes of food into Somalia to help those struggling through drought and famine.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive of the Dalmally-based charity, flew into the Somali capital Mogadishu last Wednesday aboard a plane

carrying the first 20 tonnes of food aid.

It is estimated that 3.7 million people, almost half the population, in Somalia, are now affected by famine.

If you would like to support the East Africa Emergency Appeal set up by Mary's Meals, visit www.marysmeals.org or phone 01838 200605.

**Accused told to behave**

AN OBAN man has been told to behave himself for six months at Oban Sheriff Court.

John Johnston, aged 63, pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, shouting, swearing and brandishing a chair in an incident at a flat in the town on June 6.

Prosecutor Fiscal David Glancy said the accused was 'heavily

under the influence of drink'. Defending, Edward Thornton said Johnston, who moved to Lochgilphead shortly after the incident, had not been in trouble since he moved away.

Deferring sentence on the accused for six months, Sheriff Douglas Small said he would give him the chance to prove he could stay out of trouble.

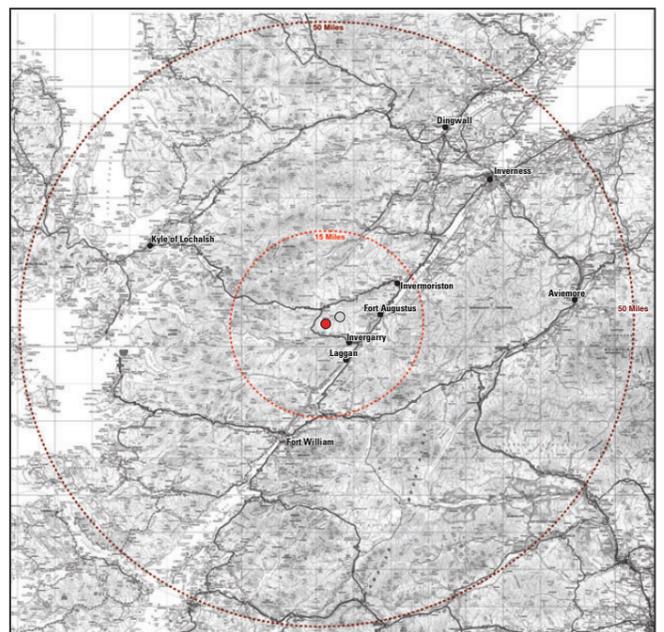
**Canoeists capsized**

A CANOEIST was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital, suffering from suspected hypothermia, after capsizing last Wednesday a mile south of Easdale Island.

The casualty was one of three

canoeists in the group and after two of them overturned, the third went ashore to raise the alarm. Oban Lifeboat, other boats in the area and the Coastguard helicopter were alerted.

**Location and scope**



**Background**

- RidgeWind, one of the UK's leading independent wind farm developers, has been investigating the potential for a wind farm at Beinneun (location shown overleaf) since early 2009
- RidgeWind believes that a wind farm at Beinneun has good potential to be consented and built, not least because it is adjacent to the Millennium Wind Farm, which has been operating since 2008
- A layout for the site has been developed comprising 25 turbines
- RidgeWind has agreed to help the community to form, and will continue to support, a co-operative, principally comprising local individuals and organisations
- The purpose of the co-operative is to promote and provide projects relating to renewable energy and to provide financial and other support to the development of the proposed Beinneun Wind Farm, with a view to ensuring that the local community secures the benefits that an operational wind farm at Beinneun would bring

**Opportunity to Participate**

- To support its objectives, the co-operative is seeking to raise between £100,000 and £200,000, which it would contribute towards the costs of the planning process for the proposed wind farm
- If planning consent and a connection to the electricity network are obtained, the co-operative would be awarded an uplift of 50% on its contribution (ie £1.50 return for a £1 investment)
  - Potential for co-operative to keep some or all of its monies invested in the project from that point, and earn interest thereon
  - Only half of the co-operative's contribution will be returned if planning consent and network connection not obtained
- Opportunity for community participation, through subscription for shares in the co-operative
- Priority will be given to local individuals and organisations
- Minimum subscription £250, maximum £13,300

If you are interested in receiving more information, please register your interest at the contact details set out below.

An offer document, which will contain full details of the terms of the share offer, is expected to be available in late-August 2011, with the offer period likely to close in late-September 2011.

Intention would be to prioritise applications for subscription on the basis of proximity to the proposed site.

- First Priority: 15 mile radius
- Second priority: 50 mile radius

- Proposed Beinneun Wind Farm
- Existing Millennium Wind Farm

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It is intended that further information, including an offer document, will be published in due course in respect of the opportunity to subscribe for shares in the co-operative established to promote and support the development of the Beinneun Windfarm.

**Mull Lines**

POLICE Sergeant Mark Stephen has asked motorists to be considerate of other drivers on the island. The sergeant says he deals with daily complaints about driving on the island and sees the problem as a high priority. Sgt Stephen said: 'We speak to drivers almost daily about driver behaviour. We get a number of phone calls about the way people drive on the island. 'Most of these reports are to do with the aggressive manner of driving on the single-track roads. 'When we get a complaint we investigate it and take the appropriate action - whether people are islanders or not is irrelevant to the police. Mr Stephen said he understood the concerns of islanders about the often slow-moving vehicles that come off the ferry and have no experience of driving on the single-track roads. He said he would do everything he could to improve driver behaviour.



A MILITARY exercise got underway on Mull on Saturday. The Ministry of Defence was carrying out a medium scale exercise with involving helicopters and a small number of ground troops.

Activity is expected to continue in the Ardmeanach area of Mull until September 30.

Out of hours helicopter flying has been authorised and unusual noise should be expected in some areas.

The MoD said: 'This is a medium scale exercise operating in and around LFA 11, 14 and LFA 20T. There will be Rotary Wing and Fixed Wing aircraft participating day and night.'



A BUSY day for Craignure Coastguard saw the volunteers called out twice last Saturday, September 10 to investigate a report of a drifting dinghy, complete with oars, in Seallastle Bay on the Isle of Mull.

The dinghy was located on a running mooring, close inshore, with badly stowed oars the owner located and confirmed that been no one on board.

Later on the same day they were called to investigate an upturned kayak at Duart Castle, Isle of Mull. The kayak was located and it was confirmed it had drifted from the shore. No-one was in difficulties.



A REMOVAL company was unable to get going after a fault on the Iona Ferry saw the company from the central belt stranded on the island of Iona for three days.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Due to a ramp fault on the MV Loch Buie on Saturday, we were unable to carry a high vehicle which had to wait on the island until repairs to the ramp were carried out.

'The ship remained in service, and other, smaller, vehicles were able to travel as normal. The repairs were carried out as soon as possible on Monday and the MV Loch Buie is able to carry the lorry, weather permitting, whenever the driver is ready to do so. We have apologised for any inconvenience caused.'

**BALLACHULISH**



**Pupils' book fair fun**

Ballachulish Primary pupils welcomed Clifford the Scholastic book fair mascot to school last week. Children's books were on sale every day for parents with part of the funds raised going to the school funds.

**EASDALE**



**Eat Safe award for Ruth**

Ruth MacKechnie, Catering Manager at Easdale Primary School, receiving an Eat Safe award from The Environmental Health Department for promoting excellence in food hygiene.

**PLOCKTON**



**World Cup winner visits village**

England's 1966 World Cup-winning centre half Jackie Charlton visited Plockton on his way to Skye earlier this month. After a trip on Calum's seal boat he posed for a photo with local newsagent Edmund MacKenzie and Oban Times correspondent Charlie M MacRae.

**LISMORE**

THE COMANN Eachdraidh annual ceilidh was a great success with musicians from Oban, Lochaber and Wick joining the abundant local talent.

Sean a Tighe Charlie MacColl, from Lochaber, commented that it was good to see so many of the very youngest performing in Gaelic, the primary children being represented with songs from Vance Cass and Katy Cook with Shona Wright playing the guitar while her mother, Katy Crossan, sang. Liosachs Duncan Livingstone and Laura Cook also sang and Duncan Ferguson was a great accordionist.

Piper Angus MacColl, from Lochaber, opened the evening and displayed his versatility when he later played the accordion. Other visitors who sang were Jimmy Cameron, Morag Smith, Charlie MacColl and, to end the first half, the star attraction, Raymond Bremner.

After tea and cakes the second half offered more great tunes and then the dancing began.

This event, which has become a summer attraction, gives a great insight into how well the island is developing its Gaelic heritage which is a measure of how positive the impact that Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor and its museum at Ionad Naomh Moluag, is having.

**RUM**

ISLE of Rum owners Scottish Natural Heritage has applied to Highland Council planners for permission to alter a lead parapet, valley gutters and downpipes at Kinloch Castle.

**CONNEL**

ST ORAN'S and Dunbeg Guild held their first meeting of the autumn session on Thursday September 8.

As well as all the usual administration, the group talked about their plans for the year. The meeting was held in the church hall, Connel.

The Guild meets on the second Thursday of the month.

CONNEL flower show had fewer entries than usual, but standards were high and a good day was had by all. The show, organised by St Oran's and Dunbeg parish, which benefits from funds raised on the day, unfortunately clashed with the popular Dalmally Show.

Marion Fisher said it was disappointing there were not more entries, particularly in the children's classes. 'It is a nice wee show, a friendly event,' she said. 'I think it's quite good

**HARRIS**

SIXTH year pupils at Sir E Scott School in Tarbert will benefit from a programme of activities next Friday geared to help them drive safely.

The interactive roadshow Driving Ambition will provide the young drivers with information on how to be safe

and responsible behind the wheel. The event will have input from Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service, Northern Constabulary, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

A DVD, Just Another Day, will feature Donald Geddes from Ullapool telling how he was left blind in one eye, partially sighted in the other and left with debilitating medical conditions following a high speed crash.

It is hoped the pilot session will become an annual event involving all four Western Isles high schools.

**Primary one pupils in the picture**



There's a bumper crop of primary ones at Rockfield, in Oban, in Claire Campbell and Adele Gillies' class this year. Claire is pictured with the youngsters 15\_136p1rock01



Adele Gillies is currently standing in for Rockfield primary one teacher Elaine Campbell. Mrs Gillies is pictured with the class. 15\_136p1rock02



There are a total of 14 new primary ones in Ms Chisholm's primary one/two class at St Columba's Primary, Oban Joint Campus. Two of the primary one pupils were absent the day our photographer called. 15\_136p1stc01

and responsible behind the wheel. The event will have input from Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service, Northern Constabulary, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

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It is hoped the pilot session will become an annual event involving all four Western Isles high schools.

**MORVERN**

DIGGERS have begun removing scrub and vegetation

on ground in Lochaline in preparation for the creation of about 20 community allotments.

A pile of topsoil from groundworks on the new Lochaline Primary School being built opposite will be used in forming the allotments.

**MORAR**

MORAR Community Council is to write to Highland Council to complain about a lack of public bins at the roadside.

At a meeting at Lady Lovat Primary School last week, members said they felt the existing bins were inadequate and during the busy summer seasons often overflow with rubbish.



Five new youngsters are joining Rockfield Gaelic Medium Unit in primary one, with teacher Mrs Catriona Garvin. 15\_136p1rock03

**ISLAY LETTER**

Radio Scotland's 'Jazz House' programmes.

The increasingly popular island festival is being promoted by Jazz Scotland and the Islay Arts Association.

**Golden wedding**

Sincere congratulations to Port Ellen's Mary and James Macaulay who celebrate 50 years of happy marriage on September 19.

The golden couple operate a long established family business at the island port and are also valued members of the Islay Baptist Church congregation.

At dùrachdan and many further happy years together. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay. PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.**

Email your district news to editor@obantimes.co.uk or call our reporters on 01631 568000 or 01397 703003.

**SLEAT**

SLEAT will celebrate its reputation as the 'Garden of Skye' at 'Harvest Meal' in Talia Dhuisdeil (Duisdale Hall) on Saturday.

The event will feature dishes made with locally sourced food from local crofts and gardens. Camuscross and Duisdale is one of 12 communities taking part in this month's Scotland-wide local food festival Blassa - Gaelic for tasty. Music will follow in the Hotel Eilean Iarmain.

**BARCALDINE**

BARCALDINE Primary pupils took part in St Oran and Dunbeg's annual flower, vegetable and baking show.

They won prizes for their flowers and vegetable collection, and also came top for their lettuce, winning the Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy.

Organiser Marion Fisher said it was great to have the children taking part. 'Barcaldine Primary came up trumps,' she added.

**ARDCHATTAN**

THE NEXT meeting of Ardochattan Community Council will take place next week, on Tuesday September 20, at 7.30pm.

The meeting will take place at Ardochattan Primary School, Bonawe.

THERE was extra evening traffic on the Bonawe Road last week, as the operators of Bonawe Quarry, Breedon Aggregates, was granted a late licence for trucks to leave the site until 1am. This was in connection with road works on the A85 at Connel.

The quarry will also be operating with extended hours between Sunday September 18, and Thursday, September 22.

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**Reader survey**

As part of our 150 years celebrations we are offering our readers the opportunity to have their say on all things Oban Times.

Later this month we will be producing a reader survey which will cover everything from the editorial content to the design of the paper.

The survey will be available as a hard copy, distributed locally inside the paper, as well as online.

The information gathered from this survey will help us to produce a newspaper that meets your standards every week, reporting on news and sport that is important to you.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help shape your local newspaper as we look forward to the next 150 years.

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**The Singing Kettle**

THERE was much swashbuckling and nautical nonsense on the stage of the Bowmore village hall on Saturday when the top ranking children's entertainment group The Singing Kettle paid their first visit to the island.

The group, consisting of Cilla Fisher, her husband Artie Trezise, Kevin MacLeod and Gary Coupland, presented their perennially popular pirate show at two packed out houses where the accent was on youthful exuberance and 'join in and sing' entertainment.

The Singing Kettle is one of the country's most successful children's entertainment group. Since its formation in 1982 it has gone from strength to strength, appeared before the Prince of Wales and has even entertained the Jordanian Royal Family.

A former manager of the group, Campbell MacDougall, has strong family links with the island and the Kilchoman district in particular.

**Islay history re-issued**

A THIRD edition of author and historian Margaret Storrie's book 'Islay

Biography of an Island' has hit the bookshops and will be welcomed by all who enjoy a well written and erudite insight into the history and times of the Queen of the Hebrides.

Since it was first published 30 years ago it has sold thousands of copies and each re-issue contains revisions and additions and the latest is no exception.

The front cover of the new edition features an eye catching marine chart by the Dutch cartographer Johannes van Keulen (1654-1715) and the back cover illustration uses the photography of James Deane who has recently taken up residence on the island.

Emirvale resident Dr Storrie's island biography has garnered praiseworthy reviews and critics have described the book as 'an invaluable study', 'a scholarly work of a very readable kind' and 'an immensely readable book not to be missed'.

The re-issues sell at £20 and is available at leading bookshops and on the area's CalMac ferries. It is also obtainable from theapress@btinternet.com

**Meur Ile**

PORT Charlotte hotelier Grahame Allison is the new chairman of Meur Ile of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

A former vice chair, he takes over from long serving chairman Neil MacLean who now becomes second in command. Conisby's Bronwen Currie continues as branch secretary and financial matters remain the responsibility of Alasdair Gillies, Bowmore.

Alison Gray will continue to act as Mod secretary and David Ferguson will attend to the trophy management.

The branch has also decided that Mòd Ile 2012 will take place Saturday June 2.

**Jazz festival**

The Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival opens tomorrow night, September 16, with European singing star Victoria Tolstoy in concert at the sponsoring distillery.

A medley of top stars from the world of jazz will do their stuff at a series of gigs throughout the island during the two-day festival.

A variety of venues will include village halls, local distilleries, Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, the Outback Art Gallery and the RSPB Centre at Loch Gruinart.

Island input will come from local jazz enthusiasts Sheena Swanson and Brian Palmer.

A number of the concerts will be recorded by the BBC for later transmission on Radio 3's 'Jazz Line up' and

**New community councillors take up their positions**

**Jura**  
JURA community council has a new member. Alexander Dunnachie was deemed elected after he was the only person to put himself forward to fill the two empty seats on the council.

**Tarbert**  
THERE is a new member on Tarbert and Skipness Community Council following a round of elections this summer. Duncan I MacDougall becomes a community councillor without a by-election having to take place after he was the only nominee for four empty seats on the council. The council's latest meeting took place last Thursday.

**Ardriishaig**  
ARDRISHAIG has one new community councillor after by-elections took place last month. Eric Marriott was elected unopposed after he was the only person to put himself forward for the five empty seats on the council. The timing of by-elections was criticized by the community council's secretary, Jeannette Laughton. She said: 'The whole thing was not well organised. The timing was so wrong, during the holidays.' Ardriishaig Community Council held its latest meeting last week.

**Glenorchy and Innishail**  
THERE are two new members for Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council. Florence Marshall and Martin Goodwin both join the council without a by-election, after they were the only two nominees for four empty seats.

**Kilniver and Kilmelford**  
KILNIVER and Kilmelford Community Council has three new members. Peter Hammick, Lucy Files and Stuart Cannon join the council after they were elected unopposed. The three were the only nominees for four empty seats on the council.

**Avich and Kilchrenan**  
AVICH and Kilchrenan Community Council will be re-formed after five people were found to fill vacant seats. The council had to cease meeting after the number of members fell below a minimum level set by its constitution. But following a by-election process last month, Vinh Burton Smith, Peta Burton Smith, Iain R Alexander, John L Fleming and Veronica CK Metcalfe have been elected unopposed.

**ARDNAMURCHAN**  
EFFORTS are continuing in West Ardnarmurchan to locate burial cairns from a bloody clan battle in 1519 which proved disastrous for the local MacLains. The skirmish, between the MacLains and Lochalsh rivals the MacDonalds and their allies the MacLeods of Lewis, MacLeods of Raasay, and Macdonalds of Dunnyveg, was fought somewhere below Creag an Airgid, a rocky outcrop three miles from Kilchoan on the Sanna road. John MacLain and his two sons were killed in the battle skirmish and his forces routed. Searches by local historian Jon Haylett to find either the site or the cairns have so far drawn a blank.

**ISLAY**  
ON AUGUST 30, Professor Steve Mithen of the University of Reading gave a talk at the Islay Natural History Centre in Port Charlotte on his recent excavations to discover more about the earliest known inhabitants of Islay. During the late 1980s, Professor Mithen came to Islay with the Southern Hebrides Mesolithic Project, excavating at various Islay sites over several years. With assistance from Islay people and the Museum of Islay Life, his team found large numbers of flint tools made and used by the Mesolithic people approximately 7,000 to 10,000 years ago at various sites in the west of Islay. Following the Islay work, Professor Mithen carried out archaeological investigations in other Inner Hebridean islands, learning more through excavations and core samples about the traces that prehistoric people left in the islands. Worked flint, quartz and other stone items were found, along with remains from early peoples' diet of shellfish, deer and hazelnuts. Last year, Professor Mithen and team returned to Islay to investigate the first two Mesolithic sites identified in the eastern side of the island, where flint, quartz, coarse stone and bone artefacts were found. Further work was done on one of these sites recently. ISLAY'S senior Gaelic choir has been successfully fundrais-

**Gardeners celebrate success**

THE Corpach in Colour Flower Show was held in Kilmallie Hall on Saturday, September 3. Results: Most points in show, Treasures of the Earth Cup: Susan Munro; Most points in garden produce, Kilmallie Community Council Salver: Susan Munro; Most points in Floral Art, Ewen and Isabel Campbell

Trophy: Sandra Fortune; Most outstanding exhibit in Floral Art: Sandra Fortune; Most points in Baking and Produce, M&S Dental Care Cup: Sandra Fortune; Most points in Arts and Crafts, Tradewinds Shield: Margaret Simpson. Best exhibit Playgroup age - Luke MacGillivray; Best exhibit Nursery

Class: Ruby Clark; Best exhibit P1-3: Abbie MacKay; Best exhibit P4 & 5: Fraser Clark; Best exhibit P6 & 7: Rosie Clark; Best exhibit age 12-14: Margaret Jane Malcolm; Best exhibit in Children's classes Corpach Hotel Shield: Abbie MacKay; Most points overall Corpach in Colour Cup: Susan Munro.



The Corpach in Colour Flower Show winners pictured with their trophies

NETHER LOCHABER Flower Show on Saturday, September 3 was once again well supported with an abundance of entries in the home baking, produce and vegetables sections. Winner of the Nether Loch-

aber Community Council Rose Bowl for the most points in the show was Carolyn MacCallum. Runner up, winning the Callart Quaich, was Christine Cameron. Teas were provided in aid

of village hall funds. Show organiser Morag MacKintosh thanked everyone for all the time and work put in to provide such good examples of wares and hoped for the same next year.



Nether Lochaber Flower Show winners, left to right, Mary Michie, Fiona MacLeod, Jessie MacDonald, local resident who presented the trophies, Christine Cameron, Carolyn MacCallum, Doreen Hislop, Gay Egginton, Andrew Coke and Elsa Rossiter.

ing members' travel to the National Mòd in Stornoway in October. The recent Safari Supper saw nearly 70 people touring the island in Mundell's bus to enjoy salmon at Lagavulin Distillery, scallops and venison at Islay House and cranachan and coffee at Bruichladdich Distillery, all helped on its way by plentiful 'refreshments' and entertained as they went by music from Clare Jordan and Ciara MacTaggart. At each stage of the travelling supper, items and services donated by supporters, friends and choir members were auctioned.

Huge thanks are due to a great many people: Georgie, Jennifer and Brendan at Lagavulin; to Tom Friedrich for welcoming everyone to Islay House; to Francois and his staff and to Bruichladdich Distillery, especially Mary and Margaret for the warm and welcoming final stop on the tour. Special thanks are due to Niels and Ann at Skerrols for underwriting many of the costs and Inverarity Wines, Fortethis and Mundells, and Sean the driver for picking up and delivering everyone on time, to Claire and Ciara for the wonderful entertainment, to Ian and Sean for serving drinks, to all those who donated items and services for the auction and, of course, to everyone who participated making the event such fun and a huge success. None of it would have happened without Grahame, our master-fundraiser and organiser so many thanks to him.

Also that week, in addition to the raffle, which raised more than £2,000, the 'Guess the Weight of the Cow and Calf' (actually two bullocks) stall at the show raised £431. The winning guess, by quite a margin, was submitted by a Miss Andrea Burdon, but unfortunately the mobile phone number given was two digits short and we have been unable to contact her. If anyone knows Andrea, could she please contact Graham Allison at the Port Charlotte Hotel? Final thanks are due to James Brown for lending the bullocks and to John L Watson (seeds) for again supporting the fundraising.

RECENTLY competing in the Scottish Schools Lomond Triathlon Challenge for years S4-S6 in teams of two, were James Williamson and Iain Harrison of Islay High School. Starting from Firkin Point, competitors negotiated a set course, canoeing 1.7 miles on Loch Lomond, then cycling 1.7 miles and finally ran 3.4 miles. James finished 18th and Iain 11th out of 54 entrants. ISLAY Pipe Band finished its competitive season at the Cowal Games, where it finished fifth in Grade 3B. The performance rounded off a good season for the band, which has been one of the most consistent in the grade. The band thanked sponsors Kilchoman Distillery and Iain Laurie.

**ABERFELDY**

THE legendary rally driver who inspired Top Gear's mysterious super driver, The Stig, will race in Aberfeldy next month. Stig Blomqvist will travel to Highland Perthshire to take part in Coltness Car Club's Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally, an event which pays tribute to

one of Scotland's most famous sportsmen. Stig had been desperate to take part in 2008's rally, but had to withdraw after his then co-driver was unable to take part due to an illness in the family. Now the 1984 World Rally Champion will finally be able to take part, joined by co-driver Phil Mills, who himself won

**BARRA**

ON September 3, the fifth annual Barra and Vatersay produce show was held in Castlebay Community Hall.

A staggering 206 people of all ages took part - nearly 20 per cent of the population - of which 154 under 18 years. In total there were 678 exhibits, 55 per cent more than last year. There were 135 exhibits in the garden section, including chunky carrots, perfect peas and fantastic flowers.

The new stand-alone baking section attracted 105 exhibits, including a perfectly detailed lifeboat in the decorated cake class.

The craft section had 77 exhibits including knitting, handbags and the most unusual collage and the crofting and fishing section boasted 94 exhibits including wonderful wellies, creative items made from rope and a whole array of photos.

The young people really worked hard to muster 267 exhibits. The judges, Mary Thomas, Eleanor Robertson, Christine Knox, Bill and Patricia Blacker, Abigail Treffry, Tor and Pam Justad and the Rev Bill and Isobel Patterson had a difficult job deciding on the prize-winners.

A new perpetual trophy was presented this year to the show by the Dewar Family in memory of Katie Dewar - the Katie Dewar Baking Award.

This year there was one clear points champion and winner of the MacNeil and Mrs MacNeil of Barra Shield; Marion MacNeil won it for the second year running with 1,100 points. Runner-up was Sarah MacLean with 770 points. Chris Denehy, 700pts, was third.

The best exhibit in each open section and the best in the show winners were:

Garden: Katie MacNeil for her floral table arrangement; Baking: Merian MacNeil for the second year running, this time with a sponge, Craft: Jacqui McIntosh for her hand stitched picture; Croft and Fishing: Chris Denehy for his item made from rope.

Overall winner of the best exhibit in show and winner of the Rose Bowl kindly donated by Hector MacNeil Coaches was Jacqui McIntosh for her beautiful butterfly picture.

The Junior Awards, sponsored by Cothrom Ltd, were presented to:

Garden: Annie MacNeil; Baking: Norma Ferguson; Craft: Skye Brannigan; Crofting and Fishing: Skye Brannigan.

Residents and visitors were queuing up outside to get into see all the wonderful exhibits and who had won the prizes. It was fantastic to see all the local produce and examples of hand crafts in the same place.

Thanks go to the following sponsors Lews Castle College, Cothrom Ltd, Co-operative Membership, Mrs Nancy MacNeil for the Points Champion, Hector MacNeil Coaches for the Best in Show, Scottish Co-op Castlebay for the Children's snacks and Castlebay Community Hall for the venue, Craigard Hotel for hosting the judges in the morning, Carmichael Carpentry, Croit na h-Aibhne for catering for all the volunteers and Sarah's Office Ltd, AJ Builders, Alasdair Allan MSP, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Barra Medical Practice, Castlebay Hotel, HIAL and MacInnes Brothers Limited.

Thanks also to the judges Mary Thomas, Eleanor Robertson, Christine Knox, Bill and Patricia Blacker, Abigail Treffry, Tor and Pam Justad and the Rev Bill and Isobel Patterson.

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the World Rally Championship as co-driver to Petter Solberg in 2003. They will race in an iconic Ford Escort MkII rally car, provided by Phil's own company, Viking Motorsport. This year's Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally will be the final round of the 2011 national Scottish Rally Championship and will be based entirely in Aberfeldy and the surrounding forests on October 1. Organised by Coltness Car Club, the one-day national rally is supported by Perth and Kinross Council and EventsScotland, the national events agency.

**TIREE**

AMATEUR windsurfers taking part in the 25th annual Tiree Wave Classic will this year be vying for a chance to win a new, custom, Pura Vida quad board. Build up for this year's event is gathering momentum and already a wave of enthusiasm is sweeping the island. Britain's best wave riders will be in attendance to compete in the pro, amateur, masters and women's heats, with a plethora of top prizes up for grabs.

Among those set to compete are Farrell O'Shea, Nik Baker and Duncan Coombes, together with Ben Proffit, the 2010 British Wave Association Champion. The event takes place on October 8-15, with the organisers promising a few surprises to celebrate the landmark anniversary.

**KILCHRENAN**

A HALF-DAY life-saving course was held in the Ardansaig Hotel, Kilchrenan, last week.

The course was run by the Scottish Ambulance Association. Hotel staff and volunteers from Kilchrenan and Dalavich took part in the course which included coronary pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), use of a defibrillator and how to deal with a patient who is choking. As well as Dalavich and Kilchrenan having a defibrillator in their village, the Ardansaig Hotel has one on the premises. In the event of someone suffering from a cardiac arrest in the area, these trained volunteers will do their best to keep the patient alive until an ambulance arrives.

It is intended refresher courses will take place once a month. More volunteers would be very welcome. Anyone interested should contact Robert Connor on 844074.

**Down Your Way**

**This week - Tainuilit**



Trophy winners from the recent Tainuilit Horticultural Show, which was staged in the village hall, were: Society's Challenge Cup for most points in the open class vegetables: H MacLeod; Tainuilit Hotel Cup for most points in open flowers: I Brown; Munro Cup for best exhibit in horticultural classes: H MacLeod; Cruachan Cup for most points in amateur class, flowers: L Servant; Melville Cup for most points in amateur class, vegetables: L Servant; Nant Cup for best garden: L Scott; Society's Cup for best flower garden: L Scott; Lodge St Modan Cup for best garden in housing scheme: D Campbell; Mercer Cup for best collection of vegetables: D McDougall; Brochroy Cup for most points in floral section: A Campbell; Society's Cup for most points in preserves section: Mrs Potter; Fleming Cup for best exhibit in children's section: E Boyce; Muckairn Cup for most points in baking section: R Purdie; Neil Jackson Memorial Cup for best exhibit in amateur class, horticultural: D McDougall; Mrs C Campbell Memorial Cup for most points in baking classes: J Cameron; Challenge Cup for best exhibit in collection of vegetables: D Campbell; Jack Brown Memorial Cup for best vegetable garden: L Servant; Andrew Cameron Cup for most points in amateur classes 66-68: L Scott; Donald MacGregor Memorial Cup - novice section: C Blunsum.



Tainuilit Nursery children have been harvesting their potatoes, carrots, radishes, peas and lettuce from their newly refurbished vegetable garden. The staff and children thanked all the parents and friends who helped them.

Next week **DOWN YOUR WAY** visits Glencoe with reporter **Richard Haddock**.

You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## System for allocating social housing must allow for more flexibility

THERE is something not quite right about a housing system which allows someone from the other end of the UK to present themselves as homeless to Argyll and Bute Council and find themselves suitably housed, but does not cater for the young family which has grown up in the area and urgently seeks affordable accommodation.

Given the difficulties in the current property market - the average age of a first time buyer continues to rise - the answer must be to offer more social affordable housing.

With more than 4,000 people in Argyll and Bute currently on the waiting list, this can only be a long term goal and can only be achieved with the full support of the Scottish parliament.

In the short term, the system of allocating the available affordable housing must surely be reviewed to allow more flexibility than the current points-based arrangements.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### National Youth Pipe Band

IT IS nine years since the formation of the National Youth Pipe Band for Scotland and it now has two bands, the Senior Band and a Development Band with members aged between 11 and 17.

Both bands are non-competing and rely on members working on programme material at home prior to concerts. One such concert took place recently in a well-filled Strathclyde Suite and involved the Development Band. Their programme on this occasion was varied and started with a collaboration with the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland, with mentors Jim Sutherland and Jane Gardner, on their own composition titled 'New Blood: A Fanfare for Youth'. This was its first public performance although one would not have thought so such was the quality of musicianship from everyone on stage. The non-competing nature of the band allows for divergence from traditional pipe band playing and this was very much the theme for the remainder of the concert programme in which the full band played with, during some of the items, a backing group of guitars, keyboard, fiddle and drum kit.

Alisdair McLaren, band director, and all the teachers throughout the country are to be congratulated on producing so many young talented musicians but, of course, this would not be possible without the hard work of the youngsters themselves who will all just have completed a busy piping season with their own pipe bands.

#### Milngavie shinty tournament

AS I INDICATED last week teams were expected from the traditional shinty playing areas at the annual primary tournament held at Auchenhowie in Milngavie and it was teams from those areas who shared the main trophies.

In both the upper age group finals Rockfield Primary School played Portree primary with the Oban team winning the P7 trophy and the Sgitheanaich the P5-6 trophy. Newtonmore won the Development Trophy for the very youngest age group but the Glasgow area teams performed well and there was a fair spread of the Plate trophies at the end of what was an excellent sporting occasion enjoyed by the youngsters and the many adult spectators.

#### Clydebank ceilidh

THE 'BANKIES' had a good turnout for their opening ceilidh of the 2011-12 season with Charlie MacColl from Fort William in the chair.

He shared the Gaelic singing with his Lochaber's James

Cameron and Sheena Walker while the group Rock Salt, from Arrochar, went down well with the audience. Piper for the evening was Robert Wood, from Cardross, and the accompanist Gordon Kinniburgh.

#### Gaelic classes

REGISTRATION for Gaelic classes taking place at Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu is on Monday September 17 with classes starting on Monday October 3 from 7pm-9pm.

Further information from Chantal Geyer or Allan Brooking on 0141 276 1525.

#### John Angus MacLeod

HIS FRIENDS throughout the Gaelic speaking community and beyond will be saddened by the passing of John Angus MacLeod, age 91 years.

Originally from Tarbert, Harris, John Angus lived in Largs in recent years after a career as a chemical engineer. As a writer and teacher he was a wonderful ambassador for the Gaelic language and our sympathy is extended to his daughters Shonagh and Marion and the extended family.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday September 15:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Cara Luft and Hugh McMillan, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Cumbarauld Theatre, 7.45pm.

**Friday September 16:** Mike McGoldrick, John Doyle and John McCusker, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association ceildh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.45pm.

**Saturday September 17:** 'The Shetland Bus', Jenna and Bethany Reid, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. St Columba's Church of Scotland Coffee Morning, 11am to 1pm, 300, St Vincent Street.

**Sunday September 18:** Grand Fund Raising Ceilidh, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm in aid of venue fund.

**Thursday September 22:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Michael Marra. Communn Taobh-an-lar ceildh, Ellangowan Social Club, Douglas Street, Milngavie, 7.30pm.

**Friday September 23:** Mike McGoldrick, John Doyle and John McCusker, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

**Saturday September 24:** Gordon Duncan Trust 'A National Treasure' concert featuring Julie Fowles, Wolfstone, Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker and others, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

**Pub scene**

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend music will be provided by Penny Dogs on Friday and the Regaels on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Ballochmyle on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday.

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

### YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith.

A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



## Lochan Dubh salmon killed to feed commandos

This week's flashback photograph, submitted by Iain Thornber of Lochaline, was taken in 1941 and shows salmon killed by explosives in the Lochan Dubh on the River Ailort, Lochailort, West Inverness-shire, to feed the commandos billeted at nearby Inverailort Castle. The man in uniform is posing with a rod pretending he caught them legally. The lady on the right is Miss Wilhelmina MacRae, the indomitable proprietrix of the well-known Lochailort Inn. Miss MacRae, on being asked by some government official at the time if she knew there was a war on in respect of her lavish entertainment replied: 'A war man, there hasn't been a war here since 1745!' We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
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### New path not suitable for experienced cyclists

Sir,  
I recently cycled from Connel Duror and back, using part of the new cycle track.

This was without a hint of lycra and at my age - well beyond the biblical span - no-one could accuse me of being an athlete, or even a 'serious' cyclist.

On the basis of this experience I think Kevin Whitehead is quite right to be concerned that for an experienced cyclist the road is safer than the path.

Sections are good for what I imagine is the intended purpose, which is to go for a gentle potter with the grandchildren on a Sunday afternoon.

To imagine that the whole route is suitable for a touring cyclist heading from say Oban to Fort William is manifest nonsense to any experienced person.

Your editorial attitude that all cyclists should get off the road simply panders to the more dangerous and inconsiderate section of motorists who will use this as an excuse to harass cyclists in pursuit of their perceived 'rights'.

Cyclists have every right to be on the road and the minor inconvenience for motorists of having to pay attention to driving properly should be cultivated.

Incidentally, as a motorist I agree the rumble strips are dreadful.

**Bruce Blackadder, Tobermory.**

### Remove the rumble strips

Sir,  
I fully agree with 'Name and address supplied' - lead letter in your last edition.

There are at least three other grounds for complaint. The first is that the noise is unacceptable to local residents. It carries for a considerable distance, especially in certain atmospheric conditions and when articulated lorries are crossing. It is particularly noticeable at night.

Secondly there is the general issue of acoustic pollution. To deliberately introduce noise into the rural environment, as has been done here, is unacceptable and creates stress not only for humans but for wildlife too. A friend of mine can no longer take his dog in the car because the rumble strips terrify him.

Thirdly, my recent experience suggests these strips are actually a driving hazard and reduce road safety rather than enhance it. Drivers, unfamiliar with the strips, feel the vibrations, hear the noise and panic, sometimes reducing speed very suddenly and that is very dangerous for following drivers. Recently I was following a visiting motor caravan at a perfectly reasonable 55mph when it hit the first strip and went down to 25mph in just a few yards. Fortunately I was a fair distance behind, and avoided a collision, although I too had to brake pretty hard.

There is potential here for a nasty multiple pile-up and this should be recognised and the strips de-activated accordingly.

As a cyclist myself I fully recognise the need to make cycle path crossings as safe as possible, but this can be better done by securing appropriate signs, as is done elsewhere - at the Ardgartan Forest Park crossing on the A83 near Arrochar, for instance, and in Appin Village. The rumble

strips are massive overkill and are not only unnecessary but as I have personally discovered, potentially very dangerous indeed. The sooner they are removed the better.

**John Gosling, Barcaldine.**

### Lights will go out without wind energy

Sir,  
A number of your correspondents have written critical letters about wind energy.

For example, Alan Thomson has suggested that 'the generation of electricity from wind is the least efficient of all the mature technologies' but he does not suggest an alternative.

All of our highly subsidised nuclear stations are coming to the end of their working lives and no new ones are being built; all of the potential large scale hydro schemes have already been developed; no carbon capture scheme has yet been built for our coal fired stations, and gas has been wasted for many years in the generation of electricity when it could be used at twice the efficiency to provide central heating for homes and businesses.

Sadly wave and tidal power are still in their infancy.

On the other hand wind generation has been developed successfully on the continent for many years as several nations there do not have access to the sea.

Wind energy alone will not solve our electricity generation problems but it can make an important contribution. For the future we will need to use a wide diversity of means for electricity generation and wind energy will certainly be one of these. Without wind energy the lights will certainly go out.

Let those who are so critical of wind turbines come up with a realistic alternative to keep the lights on.

Finally, lest Mr Thomson should be in any doubt I have no connection with the electricity industry.

**Colin Davidson, Ardferr.**

### Education the only answer

Sir,  
Further to my letter of August 18, I would like to thank Alan Thomson (Letters, September 8) for supporting my point of view.

I would also like to respond to Professor Ian Reid's letter of September 1.

I object to Professor Reid's condescending and superior tone. I love Scotland's beautiful stretches of unspoilt sand, however, I have never tried to bury my head in them.

It must be said, a special favourite, will not be ruined by the Argyll Array wind farm offshore.

Has Professor Reid read the book 'The Wind Farm Scam' by Dr Etherington, reader of ecology in the University of Cardiff? Has he read MSP Struan Stevenson's speech in Ayrshire on August 9, which is the most compelling and powerful I have seen against wind farm 'violation, despoiling and abuse' of the countryside?

I am surprised the SNP has not uttered a word in defence of its point of view on wind farms.

I wonder why? Could it have been true what was said?

Throughout his speech, he repeats it's all about money/subsidies as wind farms are erratic and need full time back-up from other power sources producing CO2.

Italy has just passed a decree that will end subsidies for wind farms and a number of other EU countries are cutting back on their subsidies.

Every educated member of the planet knows the population is growing and is our major problem, from food and water to power. If my retired man's memory serves me correctly, it is very simple to control population! It is the elephant in the room that no politician dare discuss, despite its urgency. Education is the only answer.

Oh yes, I still believe 'boffins' will come up with a vastly superior form of electricity production. Remember that man will never fly and the horse was the only means of transport? That was not so long ago, but now, to rely on windmills...really!

**G W Stewart, Seil Island.**

### Dormant wind turbines

Sir,  
Professor Ian Reid's recent letter on renewable energy was interesting and he appears to be claiming a sense of urgency, inter-alia, for more wind farms.

I personally do not have any scientific or technical knowledge on wind farms, and am probably one of many hundreds of inhabitants living in the Highlands wondering whether these structures will have a detrimental economic effect on the very landscape that attracts tourism.

On my rambles in all weathers I often see wind turbines either dormant or barely moving, which makes me wonder whether, at some time in the future, we're going to be left with another eyegore taking up permanent residence when made redundant.

I hope the owners and their shareholders of this type of industry will be around to remove it at their expense.

**Alan Robinson, Spean Bridge.**

### Geopark spending concerns

Sir,  
It was with a considerable measure of sympathy that I read your item (July 21) reporting the cash crisis at Lochaber Geopark Association.

I raised this matter at a recent meeting of the Council of the Mining Institute of Scotland, which includes some of the country's leading geologists. Among the questions asked was whether the loss of membership of the European Geoparks Network would have a great impact.

According to lochabergeopark.org.uk (European Geoparks Network): 'Examples of activities undertaken by geoparks include the establishment of geological trails, both guided and non-guided, education tours, school outreach days and the promotion of geological heritage to the wider tourism sector.'

In addition, the association has set up an impressive mineral collection in the VisitScotland office in Strontian and I was told there was another collection at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse.

But such activities are bound to require skilled staff which is likely to be costly. Your report lists a wide range of public bodies which provided initial funding for the project.

In my experience, the number of visitors who take an active interest in scientific or cultural matters is only a limited proportion of the great number of people who visit the West

Highlands annually.

The question must therefore arise as to whether the expenditure required in promoting geotourism in the present manner is justified by the number of visitors who benefit from it.

Among the most encouraging activities of the Geoparks Association must be the publication of their book *The Birth of Ben Nevis* and the Geotrail leaflets. It is to be hoped that these publications will be widely read and that they will encourage the visitor to explore the geology of the region independently. Surely this is the way forward.

The riches and the fascination of Scotland's geology are there for all to find, but it is very much to be hoped that geotourism in Lochaber and elsewhere can be organised in such a way as to reduce as far as possible the need for outside funding.

**Richard A A Deveria, President, Mining Institute of Scotland, Aberfeldy.**

### Oban's litter problem

Sir,  
I read with interest Ian Reid's letter, *The Oban Times* September 8, regarding the mess being left at Jacob's Ladder by inconsiderate drinkers.

I recently wrote to the head teacher at Oban High School about the substantial amount of litter being dropped by pupils on and around school grounds during their lunch break.

He said it was an 'on-going problem' and is taking steps to address it, but I think that with so many adults in Oban setting a bad example and dropping litter his efforts will always be undermined.

Some police in Oban take the offence of litter dropping seriously, but one young man said 'What's wrong with that?' when I told him about one of my neighbours - an adult - throwing litter out of his window into the street and not clearing it up!

Is there any hope for Oban?  
**Sophie Hamilton, Drimvargie Terrace, Oban.**

### Get on board and help

Sir,  
May I congratulate Graham MacQueen, chairman of the Oban Business Industry District initiative.

As well as being a respected local employer he has the foresight to see major possibilities for Oban and the surrounding district with the Lorn ARC initiative.

What will sink our ship is the ever increasing amount of armchair know it all 'do-gooders' who are constantly negative and have wonderful opinions on how to do things better but never really do anything. We now have a steady stream who correspond with *The Oban Times* giving themselves self indulgent pompous titles and try to baffle the locale with statistics.

It becomes even more outrageous when there is collusion with those who have still to find a notch on the barometer of achievement.

Let us not be under any illusion, there are many areas on the west coast that are envious of the vibrancy of Oban, Lorn and the islands and would whisk our opportunities away given half a chance. For that reason the time for malicious playground tactics and petty bickering needs to stop.

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### A real marriage?

IT IS a fact that more people in Britain still go to church than attend football matches.

I know this is hardly believable but the polling of weekly congregations and of attendance at the sport that is 'more important than life itself', to quote the late Mr Shankley, a so-called 'magic manager' shows it to be true. But this is not about the inanities of football managers but about whether same sex couples should be allowed to go through the same style of marriage as a man and a woman.

The attitudes of religious organisations vary widely. Those who belong to the Roman Catholic faith and those who are from the reactionary wing of the Presbyterian church are, as usual, dogmatic that the definition, mouthed from earliest times, that the holy institution of marriage was put in place for the companionship of one to another and for the procreation of children are either upheld literally or the resultant union is immoral in the eyes of God, or whatever supreme body is recognised.

This was the accepted definition of marriage for the majority of those who called themselves Christian although they perhaps didn't think much about the theology behind the ceremony to which they had been invited.

Same sex marriages - ok? NOW THERE are proposals to allow same sex marriages, to recognise that those of the same gender should be allowed to have their union recognised as legitimate and enjoy the legal status enjoyed by everyone who has no legal impediment to their marital status.

What a rumpus these have caused to those who enjoy an overdose of righteous indignation in an attempt to set adherents of Roman Catholicism and Presbyterianism at each other's throats. And, of course, at the throats of members of their own faith who are staunch in supporting the status quo or are all for moderating their views to recognise that the doctrines devised many centuries ago are not the priorities of today.

The Victorians didn't dain to tolerate two men who lived together but were very tolerant of two ladies who did so. Naturally, it wasn't good manners to ask too closely whether they shared the same bed - for them to do so has never been a criminal offence. Later, in the last century the earlier primness gave way to a blunt frankness that rocked the moral applecart. Two ladies sharing their lives, their homes and their beds were accepted without question. As far as men were concerned it was a serious legal offence if two-or-more men indulged in same sexual practices and, if caught, served long terms of imprisonment. In the late fifties of the last century the anti-gay legislation was repealed and male couples have become commonplace.

Hence, the proposals that two men can move on their relationship from a legally recognised partnership to a form of marriage. 'Too much, too much', say the reactionaries. 'Marriage is for the procreation of children'. It is pointed out that there is a case for ensuring that families are strictly controlled, if not ardently discouraged, because there are too many people to feed. When all logical arguments fail, the reactionaries simply say: 'The Bible says same sex marriages are wrong.' They forget that many of the younger generations don't owe any respect to the Holy Book and therefore disregard this moral stricture. Those who follow the 'old ways' will continue to shout: 'Woe, woe, thrice times woe', while those who are for the new proposals will follow them and eventually an unhappy compromise will ensue.

'What have we done to the weather?'

MORE and more folk are beginning to ask 'What have we done to deserve this weather?'

There was a hellish winter, sporadic sunshine and a cold spring, a mediocre summer and now a fenishish gale in September when we should be enjoying that 'time of mellow fruit-fulness' - that season we used to refer to as 'autumn'. Now it is best referred to as 'early winter'!

We are lucky in this area that our community can see through the many dubious agendas although I would urge caution.

I am looking forward to working on CHORD with its newest members Ian Cleaver and John Forteith who themselves have an extensive record of achievements, however, we all realise these are challenging times that require innovative ideas and whilst some of us are not unfamiliar with difficult decisions at difficult times there should be no more calls to abandon ship. It shouldn't be left to a few like the band on Titanic. This boat needs everyone.

Graham offers good and simple advice - get on board.  
**Neil Mackay, Councillor, Oban North & Lorn.**

### Spin on travel cost figures

Sir,  
In a recent press release, Councillor Dick Walsh tries to show how well Argyll and Bute Council is doing in reducing travel costs.

It is most disappointing to see such blatant spin being placed on councillors' travel cost figures by the Leader of the council's administration. Unfortunately, the public cannot see details relating to councillors' travel as this has been included within the total travel costs for the council.

Councillor Walsh states the administration continues to strive to make savings in councillors' expenses through improved technology, shared transport and better organisation of meetings to drive down unnecessary travel and subsistence costs. It is clear that as far as reducing councillors' travel is concerned, the administration has failed. When you compare the mileage travelled by councillors during 2007/08 (297,494 miles) at the start of this council and the latest figures for 2010/11 (296,650 miles), there is only a minuscule reduction of 0.28 per cent or 844 miles.

The cost of councillors travel has reduced but this is only as a result of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) reducing the break even rate where no profit is made by 20 per cent to 40p per mile in 2009. The reduction in councillors' travel costs was not influenced by any action of the council.

Given the mileage travelled by councillors over the past four years has virtually remained static, without the 20 per cent reduction imposed by HMRC in 2009, the travel costs for councillors during 2010/11 would be approximately £146,248 which is almost exactly the same as the costs for 2007/08 which were £146,583.

It is also difficult to take such statements about driving down costs by the leader of the council seriously when the first thing the new administration did eight months ago was to award themselves an additional £8,000 in allowances.

**Councillor George Freeman, Leader, Argyll and Bute Independent Councillors Group.**

### Fort William a sorry sight

Sir,  
On visiting Fort William recently after a six year absence, I was saddened to see how drab the town looked, with empty shops, the old Post Office building empty and boarding still round the old MacTavish kitchen site.

Tourism is the lifeblood of Fort William and many will bypass the town unless it is smartened up and something is done to attract the tourists.

**Sue Scott, Somerset.**

### Spotlight celebrates 50 years

Sir,  
Spotlight Musical Theatre Group would like to ask the help of *The Oban Times* in contacting past members of our group and those in Oban Operatic Society and OOPS, as we were formally known.

We are celebrating our 50th year with an anniversary celebration dance on October 1 and would like as many of our former members to attend as possible.

However, it is difficult to contact everyone personally and therefore hope that through this letter, anyone who would like to attend will contact Raymond Shaw on 01631 569446 or email wshaw1@talktalk.net. Thank you.

**Spotlight Musical Theatre Group.**

*McCaig*



The Pink Aerobics Challenge participants and instructors during their marathon workout. 15\_137pink01

## Dancers tickled pink as fundraising effort raises £1,000

THE RUNNING total of Oban's Pink Aerobics Challenge has passed £5,000 in its third year after dancers raised upwards of £1,000 on Saturday.

The pink-themed event at Atlantis Leisure incorporated a range of dance styles from body step and body pump to Zumba.

Organiser Karen MacInnes said: 'I was slightly disappointed with the turnout of 35 but the ones who did take part did really well and really got into the spirit of the event. They all looked great and managed to dance for about two-and-a-half hours! Everyone was commenting how it was

great craic, so it will definitely be repeated next year.' The event is used to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. The dance instructors were: Karen MacInnes, Christina Campbell, Katie Galbraith, Yvonne MacIntyre, Eliska Homolova, Julie Diddock and Andrea James.

## Mòd tribute planned in memory of Ishbel

A TRIBUTE night to the late Ishbel MacAskill will be held as part of the Mòd nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Mòd) 2011 programme of events.

The concert, at An Lanntair in Stornoway, will take place on Tuesday October 15.

The event follows on from the success of the concert held in the renowned Gaelic singer's memory at Eden Court, Inverness, in June this year.

Ishbel, a native of Point, sadly passed away at her home in Inverness earlier this year.

She was a true ambassador of the Gaelic language and culture. The local organising committee of this year's Mòd are organising a special charity evening of music and song to celebrate the life of Ishbel in the island she loved, where she spent her formative years.

Convenor of the Mòd nan Eilean Siar organising committee Alex MacDonald said: 'Ishbel made her debut performing at the fringe of the 1979 Mòd in Stornoway and went on to become one of Gaeldom's finest singing exports.'

'The Inverness concert was a very special evening and far from being a sombre affair was a true celebration of her life.'

'Ishbel was an international ambassador for the Gaelic language and sang at venues in various locations throughout the world from Australia to America and many points in between.'

'She sang at numerous internationally acclaimed festivals, including Celtic Connections in Glasgow, the Celtic Colours festival in Cape Breton and the World Festival For Island Cultures in Jeju Island, South Korea. She had a unique and powerful singing voice with



The late, great Ishbel MacAskill in full flow at Roy Bridge Village Hall in September 2009. 10\_137iblas01

an intensely emotive quality which captivated her audiences wherever she performed.

'She was an outstanding Gael who was very proud of her Gaelic roots and Gaelic heritage and culture in particular. She was passionate about Gaelic and promoted the language, not just through singing, but also through her acting and involvement in Gaelic projects such as the Fèisean movement.'

'Her singing repertoire was vast, as was her knowledge of Gaelic songs and this was reflected in the memorable way she came across on the stage in whichever international arena she was appearing.'

'Ishbel was a wonderful, warm hearted woman who brought Gaelic to the world stage in a way that will be difficult to replicate.'

# New Music award for Skerryvore

REPORT  
by EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

SKERRYVORE'S self-titled third album won record of the year at the Scottish New Music Awards, while singer Alec Dalgligh was awarded the Frankie Miller Songwriter of the Year prize.

But the Three band has decided to hand over one of its awards to the venue that helped launch its career.

Accordian player Daniel Gillespie said: 'It has rounded off what has been an incredible few weeks with amazing gigs in the USA, France and Denmark and has really given the guys a boost ahead of our double-bill gig in Fort William with Wolfstone at the end of this month.'

'We have decided to give one of the awards to Nina and the team at the Park Bar in Glasgow as thanks for all the support they have shown the band since the very beginning.'

Skerryvore's Kenny Kane was also nominated in the manager of the year category. Also flying the flag for Argyll

was Connel's Joy Dunlop, whose debut album, Dugadh (Awakening), was named Roots Recording of the Year.

Joy said she was 'really chuffed' to win the award, adding that it was great to see Gaelic song being recognised.

Celtic Connections, led by artistic director and Taynuilt native Donald Shaw, was named Musical Event of the Year.

The Scottish New Music Awards recognise the efforts of all areas of the industry with 23 categories of prizes up for grabs in the industry section. It was held at Glasgow's Classic Grand, on Jamaica Street, on September 4.

Sandi Thom took home the Artist of the Year and the Jazz/Blues Recording of the Year honours for her album Merchants and Thieves. Also nominated were Oban-based website Music Scotland, Oban's Finlay Wells, of Nutshell Music, in the Music Teacher of the Year category, while Oban FM was shortlisted in the Radio Station category. Two local venues were nominated for the Recording Studio of the Year award, An Tobar on Mull, and Watercolour, at Ardgour.

## £2,000 boost from Co-operative for Argyll FM

RADIO station Argyll FM has received £2,000 from The Co-operative Membership, after being announced as one of the winners of the retailer's Big Community Vote.

Maureen Johnson, from Friends of Argyll FM, said: 'We are thrilled with

the funding we have received from The Co-operative.'

'We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to vote for us, which shows how supportive our local network is and how valued our work is within the community.'

**gig argyll** your essential guide to live music in argyll

**Tuesday night >** Scottish Show at 8pm  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

**Saturday night >** Club night 11pm - 2am  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

**Sunday night >** Scottish Show at 8pm  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

**Thursday 15 September >** THE IMAGINEERS  
Markie Dans

**Friday 16 September >** PETER JAGGER  
Markie Dans

**Thursday 22 September >** GARY ANDERSON  
Markie Dans

**Friday 23 September >** WALLACE  
Markie Dans

a celebration of the poetry of Scotland's Islands...

## The Poets' Tour

~ Island Voices ~  
Norman Bissell (Luig) will be reading his poetry alongside a lively mixture of local musicians and Ross of Mull Poets.

Creich Hall, nr Fionnphort  
Isle of Mull  
7.30pm, Friday 16th September 2011  
Suggested donation £3. Refreshments available

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**CD review**

**Chris Stout's Brazilian Theory Live In Concert**  
Shetland fiddler Chris is live in concert with friends from home and Brazil for a cocktail of innovatively-fused styles and traditions. The concert was recorded live at The City Halls Glasgow in January 2010. Chris Stout (fiddle), Thomas Rohrer (saxophone), Catriona McKay (harp), Carlinhos Antunes (guitars, vocals), Ian Stephenson (guitar, melodeon), Rui Barossi (double bass), Neil Harland (double bass) and Martin O'Neill (bodhran).

**Malcolm Ross MacPherson Binneas Is Boreraig Piobaireachd vol 3 (CD)**  
Part of a 110-tune collection recorded by Malcolm MacPherson (Calum Og) in 1959 as a companion to the Binneas Is Boreraig music book series. Malcolm came from a long line of master pipers and his books and recordings are a great resource to the modern piper who wishes to explore the various old styles. The Piobaireachd on this CD have been digitally re-mastered from original vinyl recordings which themselves have been recorded off reel to reel tapes.

**BBC Transatlantic Sessions (Series 2) (DVD)**  
The release of this complete television series - originally produced in 1998 by Pelicula Films - for many music fans will be a long-awaited welcome back. For others, it will be a pleasurable hello to some unique musical combinations. This DVD release of Series 2 will coincide with the first TV transmission on BBC Scotland and BBC Four of the brand new Transatlantic Sessions Series Five. Folk and Roots musicians come together in what have been called 'the greatest backdrop shows ever'. Shetland fiddle virtuoso Aly Bain and dobro ace Jerry Douglas host a Highland gathering of the cream of Nashville, Irish and Scottish talent. The Transatlantic Sessions House Band: Aly Bain (music director - fiddle) and Jerry Douglas (music director - dobro, lap steel guitar) with Michael Doucet (vocals, fiddle), Russ Barenberg (guitar, mandolin), Breda Smyth (fiddle, whistles), Danny Thompson (bass) and Tommy Hayes (percussion).

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**Regional Press**  
Closer to home



Atlantis Leisure mascot ALF gets on his bike as part of this weekend's ALF's Rally.

## ALF's rally promises to be great family day out

MOTORCYCLISTS from across the country are revving up for this weekend's ALF's Rally, leaving from Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Organisers are hoping to attract around 200 motorcyclists to the event, which will start at Atlantis Leisure at 10am.

The bikers will ride out at noon to The Green Welly Stop at Tyndrum before heading back to Oban, where everyone will enjoy a Hog Roast.

The first 100 bikes to arrive will receive a fee gift pack

courtesy of Strathclyde Road Safety department.

Throughout the day there will be family activities at Atlantis Leisure, where a signed Scotland football top will be raffled.

**Games**  
The day will be filled with games and fun for the kids, including a bouncy castle, pool inflatable, soft play, climb cube, and beat the goalie.

Bikers can still pre-register on line at www.alfsrally.co.uk and are encouraged to offer 'sponsored pillion' spaces.

## The Studio Hair & Beauty

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Minerals make up range - a make up that looks and feels totally natural...because it is and our specialist nail treatments include Jessica Natural Nails, Gel and Acrylic Extensions, Minx Nails and coming soon, Shellac. For the discerning Gentleman we also offer a 40 minute traditional hot wet shave. Phone The Studio on 01631 563630 or call in to discuss your requirement in more detail. Open until 8pm Tuesday to Friday.

The Breadalbane Street salon offers a range of professional treatments to meet all your health and beauty needs and are pleased to introduce Andrena Young as the newest addition to their young and dynamic team. The friendly team includes a fully qualified masseuse who offers Reflexology, Hot Stone Massage, Hot Ear Candle, Swedish Massage and Indian Head Massage. The highly trained stylists are happy to discuss your requirements, whether you are looking for a completely new look, colours or a creative style for your special occasion and use specialist hair care products from Wella, System Professional and Sebastian.

Sebastian Hair £29.99

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Coffee Morning**  
(with lunchtime soup)  
Saturday September 17th  
10.30am - 2.00pm  
Oban Congregational Church Hall  
Tea or coffee and cakes - £2.50 Soup - £2.00  
(Special - soup/bread & tea/coffee & cakes only £4.00)  
Sales Stalls - Books, gifts, bric-a-brac, handicrafts, jewellery  
All in aid of church funds

**APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
The Landscape of Ardnamurchan:  
Cara Jones  
Scottish Archaeology Month  
Saturday 17 September  
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm  
All welcome!  
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk  
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**Argyll Animal Aid Sponsored Dog Walk**  
Sunday 2nd October  
At 12 noon  
From Oban Sailing Club  
To Puffin Dive (for treats) and back  
Approx 3.5 miles  
Sponsor forms available from Oban Vets, Tweedale Street  
Pets at Home Store, Oban  
On line at www.smallpaws.co.uk

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
AT THE WELLY, TYNDRUM  
Sun 25th September  
9am - 4pm  
£5 per vehicle. No commercial business.  
All vehicles must be pre-registered.  
Tel: 01838 400 271

Mull Theatre present  
**Singing Far into the Night**  
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfert  
Tuesday 20th September  
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**ABCD Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease SPONSORED WALK**  
From the Lom & Islands Hospital  
Sunday 2nd Oct. at 2pm  
Golden Mile option.  
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All very welcome.

**SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE**  
7.30pm Wednesday 21 September  
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Friends of Crear season ticket: £65  
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Buffet supper: £15  
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E concerts@crear.co.uk  
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**CHARITY SALE**  
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10am - 2pm  
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**Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions**

**Wed 28th September 2011**  
from 10am at Errol Airfield

**Further entries invited into this month's auction up until 22/9/11**  
This month's auction includes 2 x liquidations and items direct from council

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## Craigens cattle judged best beef herd in Islay competition

CRAIG Archibald, of Craigens, won best overall herd in this year's Islay beef herd competition, taking second place in both the team of cows and team of calves.

But there was also a consistent showing again from this year's overall runner-up, Neriby's Bob Cunninghame, who had the second best individual cow and the best team of cows. Third place overall went to John Findlay, Kilbride, who also placed third in the individual cow competition.

John MacKellar, Auchnaglach, won best team of calves and best individual calf. Judge Rod Lines, from Kilacrow, had to choose between 25 herds.

Other winners: Individual cow - John Morris, Knocklearach; Best cow with calf at foot - Neil Wood, Octofad; Highland herd - G and M Porter, Carrabus; Small herd - W and C Angus, Ballymeanach; Autumn herd - Calum Mactaggart, Uiskenauie; Native breed herd - Angus Kerr, Scarrabus.



Winners left to right: S Young, Craigens, Robert Cunninghame, Neriby, J Morris, Knocklearach, and J MacKellar, Auchnaglach.

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**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGED TO 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011**

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## Scottish National Texel sale goes global

TEXELS from the Campbell Brothers, in Cowal, enjoyed a global audience of admirers with the sale of their champion Cowal Saltire - sold at 14,000gns - broadcast online.

The two-day Scottish National Sale at Lanark was watched live on every continent, with keen interest in a sale which achieved a gross income of £928,058.

A top price of 46,000gns was achieved for a ram lamb, Foyle View Superstar, from teenage breeder Michael Smyth, Northern Ireland.

Cowal Saltire though was the highest indexed ram on offer, at 428.

The sale enjoyed an electric atmosphere on both days, with an estimated 1,000 strong audience at the pre-sale show,

bolstered with an audience of in excess of 2,500 in attendance on sale day.

Three cameras were used to capture the highlights as they unfolded - which are still available online.

British Texel Society chief executive John Yates said: 'Webcams are not new, but we wanted a better quality broadcast that showed the sale at its optimum, so we invested in better technology and professional services. We were not disappointed. Members loved it and our web stats showed a massive increase on the previous year with close to 3,000 views over the two-day event.'

A summary video of the sale can be seen on the society's homepage at [www.texel.co.uk](http://www.texel.co.uk).

## Stobohope wins Blackface title

UNITED Auctions sold 1,556 store cattle, 181 cows and 7,464 store sheep at its Stirling sale last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 182.21p (+3.58p) and sold to 234.5p per kilo for a 275 kilo Limousin cross from Craiglaw and £1,205 for a 628 kilo Belgian Blue cross from Stannock.

Heifers averaged 180.45p (-1.55p) and sold to 221.4p per kilo for a 542 kilo Belgian Blue cross from Edinbeg and £1,200 for a 542 kilo Belgian Blue cross from Edinbeg.

Forward cattle averaged 169.87p and sold to 183.3p per kilo for Limousin cross from No2 Langbank and £1,325 for a Charolais cross from Westmost House.

Cast cows averaged 133.71p and sold

to 198.4p for a Belgian Blue cross from Todhale and £1,405 for a Belgian Blue cross from Todhale.

Store sheep incorporated the annual show and sale of the Blackface lambs sponsored by the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association.

The championship was won by M/s Wilson, Stobohope, with a pen of 104 realising £65 per head, purchased by W Braes, Burnshot. Second M/s Bennie, Merkins. Third Firm of Shawhead £54.50. Suffolk cross lambs averaged £61.39 (+£1.42 on the week), while Texel lambs averaged £59.17 (-£0.55 on the week).

Mule lambs averaged £55.64 (-£1.71 on the week) and Blackface lambs £47.90 (+£0.12 on the week).

## Mule breeders annual show

DINGWALL and Highlands Marts Ltd sold 4,216 ewe lambs and gimmers at the Highland Mule Breeders Association annual show and sale on Monday, when gimmers and strong lambs met an extremely keen demand ahead of last year, whilst second draw lambs were more hesitant.

The gimmer judge, Mr J Brims, Thuster Mains, Calthness, awarded the Challenge Cup for best pen of Mule gimmers to Messrs J and B McCallum, Mountrich Farm, Dingwall, which realised £200 to the judge.

The ewe lamb judge, Mr G Simpson, Kirkland, Huntly, awarded the Secretary's

Cup to a pen from Mr WG Macpherson, Blackford Farm, Croy, which realised £180 to the judge.

Highland Mule gimmers averaged £169.53 (+£7.83 on last year) and sold to £200 for the champion pen.

Other breeds of gimmers averaged £121.59 and sold to £185 for a Charolais Cross Mule from Gorthleck Mains, Inverness.

Highland Mule ewe lambs averaged £106.21 (+ £2.66 on the year) and sold to £180 for the champion pen. Other breeds of ewe lambs averaged £86.42 and sold to £110 for Texel Cross Mules from Mains of Clunas, Cawdor.

## Cheviot lambs sell to £73 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 7,187 store lambs including 1,896 from Lewis Livestock Producers at its Dingwall sale on Friday, where all classes of Cross lambs met a strong enquiry with Cheviot lambs selling at similar prices to Thursday's sale.

Cheviot wedder lambs averaged £44.60 and sold to £69 from Park Farm, Strathpeffer, (Mrs R Mackenzie).

Cheviot ewe lambs averaged £42.02 and sold to £73 from Eilean Darrach Farm Company, Dundonnell.

Texel cross lambs averaged £57.20 and sold to £72 from Clune Farm, Aldourie.

Suffolk cross lambs averaged £52.50 and sold to £72.50 from Park House, Fleucharry, Dornoch.

Beltex cross lambs averaged £54.13 and sold to £70 from St Ninians Farm, Drumnadrochit.

Blackface lambs averaged £30.69 and sold to £45 thrice from Caberfeidh House, Leverburgh, Roneval House, Leverburgh, and 2 Balbeg, Glenurquhart.

Cross lambs averaged £44.62 and sold to £60.50 for Crosses from Killigarry, Isle of Harris.

Lewis Livestock Producers lambs averaged £39.23 and sold to £64.50 for a Texel cross from 14A Carishader, Isle of Lewis.

Lewis Livestock Producers feeding sheep sold to £58 for Cheviot rams from 10 Valto, Isle of Lewis.

## Prime prices up

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 59 prime cattle and 435 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 192.5p (+2.4p) and sold to 206p per kilo for a 575kilo Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntfield.

Prime heifers averaged 194.6p (+3.1p) and sold to 214p per kilo and £1,273.30 gross for a 595 kilo Charolais cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose.

New season lambs averaged 170.9p (+6.5p) and sold to 191.2p per kilo.

# GAELIC matters

## Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

'S e Sabhal Mòr Ostaig an aon cholaiste ann an Alba far am faodar cùrsaichean ceuma a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air fad. Chan ann dìreach gum bi cothrom

air leth agad piseach a thoirt air do chuid Ghàidhlig air na cùrsaichean, togaidh tu sgilean practaigeach is sòisealta a bhios nam buannachd dhut gu bràth. Gheibh thu ùine a chur seachad air Sgeama Greis Gniomhachais na Colaiste agus gheibh thu cothrom a dhol a Chanada no Eirinn sa bhliadhna urram agad.

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**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**



## Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) has been offered to families in Argyll for over 20 years and has expanded successfully within this time. Recent research has highlighted the cognitive benefits of GME and bilingualism. Whether it be that you wish to choose GME for your children because of these benefits or because of heritage and culture, or because of family links to the language, or because you feel strongly about the revival of the language there is always a good reason to opt for GME and bilingualism. Schools that offer GME in Argyll and Bute benefit from access to Gaelic provision for pre-school and continuity into associated secondary schools. At present there are opportunities to further develop Gaelic language skills to Advanced Higher level in school and to progress further into colleges and universities across Scotland.

Gaelic Learners' Education (GLE) has a long and successful history in Argyll with many young people experiencing language learning and Gaelic heritage and culture in Argyll Schools. Over the last 10 years primary teachers in Argyll and Bute have participated in the nationally recognised Gaelic Learners in Primary Schools (GLPS) initiative. Pupils in over 45 schools now access GLPS provision. GLE is currently offered in 5 of Argyll and Bute's secondary schools, Dunoon, Islay, Oban, Tobermory and Tiree. Pupils can access qualifications throughout the framework to Advanced Higher and Gaelic (Learners) holds equal

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Judge Donald Pattullo, Millhaugh, left, with James Weir Memorial Trophy winner Peter Menzies, Corrylorn. 15\_1376blacky01

# Peter's pen takes Dalmally award

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

PETER Menzies of Corrylorn Farm, Kilniver, has won this year's James Weir Memorial Trophy at Dalmally Mart with his pen of Blackface lambs.

Admitting it wasn't the best crop he had ever had because of the poor weather conditions this summer, Peter said he was delighted to win the trophy in his second year. 'They are not as good as I've had in the past,' said Peter. 'But I am pleased with what I have got in the circumstances.'

Peter has not been showing his Blackface sheep this year, although sons Neil and Blair have won first place prizes in young farmers classes. Runner up on Saturday was Willie MacLeod, Lurganish, Appin, and in third place was A MacFadyen and Son, Braglenmore, Kilniver. Judge Donald Pattullo, of

Millhaugh, Logiealmond, Perthshire, admitted there was little between the entries.

'It was a very difficult decision,' he said. 'It was particularly close between the champion and second place. Corrylorn had a large, level pen of stylish lambs with good, tight skins.'

The trophy, presented in memory of the former chairman of United Auctions, was awarded as part of the auctioneer group's sale of store lambs last Saturday, when nearly 7,000 lambs went through the sale ring.

The sale, now recognised as the principal sale for top quality bred Blackface lambs in Argyll, recorded the offering of 4,368 head averaging £43.89 or 161 pence per kilo against £41.81 or 157.4 pence per kilo last year.

The offering of 2,308 cross bred lambs sold in keeping with current values and recorded a rise of £1.87 on the year. Feeding sheep also sold well.

## Good show of Blackface lambs at Oban show

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 6,095 store and feeding sheep at its show and sale in Oban last Thursday, where a good show of 3,414 Blackface Lambs (+£1,032 on the year) averaged £40.17 (+£0.40 on the year). Store lambs averaged £41.01

(+£1.38 on the year) and sold to £60 from Clachan Farm, Kilniver. Feeding ewes averaged £35.22 (+£2.32 on the year) and sold to £77 from A MacDonald, 19 East Hynish. The champion title and first

prize pen of 50+ went to Clachan Farms, which sold to £60. The full show results are as follows: Champion and first prize pen of 50+, Clachan Farms, £60. Reserve Champion and second prize pen of 50+, Glengorm Estates, £48.

Third prize pen of 50+, McNicol, Turnault, £46. First prize pen of 25+, J Carmichael, Fiart, £51.50. Second prize pen of 25+, S McGregor, Salterich, £47. Third prize pen of 25+, Hodge, Achalic, £46.50.

## Keen demand as bullocks sell to 239.8p per kilo

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 313 store cattle, 28 adult head of breeding cattle and 119 over 30 month cattle at its Dingwall sale last Wednesday, when a mixed load of store cattle was on offer.

All classes realised a similar keen demand. Bullocks averaged 185.6p and sold to 239.8p per kilo for a pen of 196 kilo Limousin crosses from Goathill Farm, Isle of Lewis, and £1,030 for a 636kilo Limousin cross

from Borowston Mains, Thurso. Heifers averaged 180.3p and sold to 263.3p per kilo for a pen of 150kilo Limousin crosses from Goathill Farm, and £920 for a 516kilo Limousin cross from Bogroy Farm, Tore.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,420 for a Limousin cross heifer with white calf from Knockie Estate, Whitebridge, and to £1,300 for a Limousin cross cow with male calf, which was also from Knockie Estate.

## First sale of lambs and sheep at Lochboisdale

UNITED Auctions held their first sale of lambs and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart last Friday, when Barra lambs topped the sale at £76.

Some 2,787 head were sold against 2,139 last year. The increased entry

comprised mainly of smaller lambs which resulted in the sale average levelling at £47.83 against £48.64 last year. A good offering of store lambs were on offer and sold at values comparing favourably to present mainland levels.

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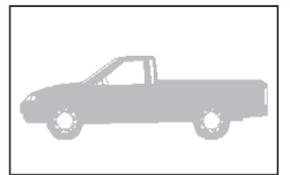


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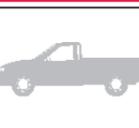


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08 LANDROVER 90, truck cab pick up, canvas canopy, 6 speed, green, 40K	£10,950
06 LANDROVER 110 TDS, High Capacity Pickup, Truckman Canopy, White, 100K	£7,950
08 VALHALL VVARO 2.0CDTI 115 van 6 speed, remote locking, white 60K	£5,950
58 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT, 3.2 4 motion, 4WD, auto, tripomatic, leather, sat nav, alloy, 60K NO VAT	£8,450
08 VW TRANSPORTER T3 4 MOTION SWB, crew van, 130hp, 44K, twin SLD, 6 speed, White	£8,950
57 VW CRAWLER, CR35, TDI, 109 LWB High top van, E-pack white	£7,950
08 VW TRANSPORTER T32 1.9TDI LWB High top van, air con, remote locking, white	£7,450
08 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY VAN SWB, Side-door ply lined, white	£4,750
08 TOYOTA HILUX, single cab pick up, 4wd, manual, truckman canopy, E-pack, met. Silver	£8,950
53 SUZU DF Mega Double Cab Pick-up 2.5 TDI Manual, Side Bars, A-Bar, rear cover, met gold, 60K	£4,250

Many other vehicles in stock All above vehicles plus VAT at 20%  
Kilwinning, Ayrshire  
Tel: 01294 554098 or 077696 88110  
Fax: 01294 554560  
www.emcommercials.co.uk

## S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

2006 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 life 5 dr Red, 69,000 2 owners.....	£3,570
2005 Suzuki swift 1.4gl, grey, 5dr, 76,301 miles.....	£3,100
2007 Fiat panda 1.1 black 5dr, 50,250 miles.....	£2,975
2004 Ford fiesta 1.25lx 3dr, blue, 72,400 miles.....	£2,875
2005 Vauxhall corsa 1.3 diesel, 3 dr, 81,513 miles.....	£2,875
2003 Vauxhall corsa 1.2 3dr, silver.....	£1,950
2001 Vauxhall astra 1.4 silver, 5dr new MOT.....	£1,750

**MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales**

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban  
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

## new car index

**ISUZU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440

**RENAULT W.D Semple**  
Inverary & Lochgilphead  
Tel. 01499 302150

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

**SUBARU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel. 01292 880080/880440

# Motoring Times

For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

**Need an MOT?** Contact Donald or Neil  
From Cars to Light Commercials  
Quarry Road MOT Centre  
Quarry Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 564614

**The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE** **FLIT**



**Vacancy**  
**Environmental and Development Officer**  
**Salary Dependent on Skills and Experience**

Meridian Salmon Group is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together, we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a strong and sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of full-time Environmental & Development Officer. As part of a small team, they will work alongside their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring an exemplary level of compliance. The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible.

With operations throughout Scotland, your base and the requirement to travel will be discussed at interview as travel and overnight stays are necessary. You should be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have a positive approach to tasks, be confident and approachable in your manner, along with the ability to manage your own workload effectively.

**The Role**

This role will be joining the Business Support Team in completing Planning and SEPA applications along with associated data collection to support such applications. The role primarily focuses on supporting the production team to develop our existing marine and freshwater farms as well as exploring future expansion possibilities, along with ensuring environmental compliance to the highest of standards. Strong communications skills are necessary as the successful candidate will be expected to effectively communicate with Local Authorities, Marine Scotland, SEPA, SNH, RSPB etc.

Compile reports and keep accurate records of work completed and be able to work to deadlines and assist in advising Farm Managers on Environmental and Planning Issues.

**Qualifications/Skills Required**

Excellent IT skills in Word and Excel  
 Strong written, verbal and inter-personal communication skills  
 Candidate must be flexible with working hours and days  
 Be a good team player  
 Planning or Environmental experience  
 Full driving licence

**Qualifications/Skills desired but not essential**

Knowledge of planning & or Environmental Management.  
 Familiarity with hatchery, farming & processing operations would be advantageous.  
 If you feel you have the experience required to contribute to a progressive, results orientated company then please send your application by 7th October 2011 to:  
 Ms Debi Longmore, Human Resources Assistant, Northern Isles Salmon Ltd, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG  
 debi.longmore@northernislessalmon.com



**HARVESTING MANAGER (Argyll Area)**

With sawmills at Windymains and Troon, Glennon Brothers are in the process of expanding their already well established UK business activities. As part of this planned development an exciting career opportunity now exists for a Harvesting Manager to supplement the existing forestry team.

Applications are sought from highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals who are keen to develop their career with a very progressive and dynamic business. You should possess sound commercial acumen and be willing to travel extensively throughout the greater Argyll area in support of our timber harvesting operations.

With a diploma/degree or relevant experience in commercial forestry, the ideal candidate will have the necessary drive to make an immediate contribution to the business.

An attractive salary and benefits package await the right candidate.

**Closing Date: 17 October 2011**

To apply, please write with covering letter and full CV to:  
 Mr Pat Glennon, Glennon Brothers, Portland House, Harbour Road, Troon, KA10 6DN  
 Email: harvesting@glennonbrothers.co.uk

**All applications will be treated with the strictest of confidence.**



**Learning and Events Officer**  
 1 full-time or 2 part-time posts at £20,000 pa pro rata.  
 Fixed 2 year contract based in Oban, Argyll.

The successful applicant will deliver an innovative lifelong learning programme at Dunollie. A background in museums, arts or education is essential, as is fluent Gaelic for either the full-time or one part-time post.

Applications to info@dunollie.org by Friday, 30 September.  
 See www.dunollie.org for more details.



**CORPACH BOATBUILDING COMPANY LTD**  
**Multi-skilled Engineer/Fitter**

We require an experienced engineer to join our skilled workforce in the repairing and servicing of boats and related plant and machinery. Proven knowledge of mechanical systems, hydraulics, steel, fabrication and fitting work is essential.

The successful candidate must demonstrate a flexible and enthusiastic approach to their work and an ability to learn new skills.

Based in Corpach, Fort William, this is a permanent, full-time (40 hours per week) post and can involve working outside and off-site.

**Rate of pay: £9.00 - £10.00 per hour, dependent on experience**

**Office Administrator**

Due to an expansion in business, an experienced administrator is required to work in a small, but busy office. The work is multi-disciplined, varied, and challenging. The successful applicant needs to be focused, adaptable and able to work both on their own initiative and as part of a small team. A proven background in Bookkeeping and Payroll administration and a sound knowledge of Sage Accounts & Payroll software are essential. Good clerical/IT skills are also required in particular with Microsoft Word, Excel and report writing.

Initially 16 Hours per week, (plus additional hours at times) Preferably 4 days per week.  
**Rate of pay negotiable, dependent on experience. This is an exciting opportunity to help develop a new business within a well-established forward looking company.**

Apply in writing with CV to: Mr Sandy Edmond, Yard Manager, Corpach Boatbuilding Company Ltd, The Slipway, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NB, Tel: 01397 772861  
 Email: office@scottishboatyard.co.uk, Web: www.scottishboatyard.co.uk



**Graduate Vacancy**  
 Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network require a graduate with IT and communication skills.

Full Time, 1 year post, Salary £15,500  
 Location Flexible  
 Closing date 26 September 2011  
 For further details contact william.stewart@absen.org.uk

**Lochgilhead Joint Campus require a temporary, part time ICT support person.**

Flexible hours. Areas of particular experience required include networked computers and printers; server maintenance; interactive whiteboards and projectors; large screen TV information displays.

Written applications including a cv to:  
**Michael O'Donnell, Lochgilhead Joint Campus, Kilmory, PA31 8AA**  
**Telephone 01546 602598**

Closing date is Friday 30 September 2011.  
 Rate of payment £12.95 per hour.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02757/FUL	Site 215m west of Kilcamb Lodge Hotel Stronitlan PH36 4HY	Erection of 3 holiday homes (amendment to 09/00237/FULLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03125/FUL	Land 130m west of Cathiona Roshven Glenluig	Erection of house for owner/manager of chalet business, including formation of new access	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03140/LBC	Change House Barn Isle of Canna	Repairs to agricultural barn	Mallaig Service Point Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/03148/PIP	Plot 4 75m north east of Glenfinnan Lodge Glenfinnan	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00163/OUTLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03149/PIP	Land 40m west of The Old Mission Kinlochell Fort William	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00231/OUTLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03150/LBC	Coraghan Barn Isle of Canna	Alterations and repairs to agricultural barn	Mallaig Service Point Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/03155/PIP	9A Upper Carnoch Glencoe Ballochulish PH49 4HU	Erection of house and demolition of byre	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03176/FUL	10 North Carran Ardour Fort William PH33 7AA	Extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk



**Farm Technician**  
**Arkaig**  
 Salary £16,452 - £20,873 plus overtime

We currently have a vacancy for a Farm Technician at our freshwater site at Arkaig. The position is offered on a full time, permanent basis.

The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive attitude to this type of work and who feel comfortable working over water. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided. A driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of 28th September to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



**Staff Vacancies**  
**Part Time - Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a part time position. The job is 3 days a week - 9.00am - 5.30pm  
 Flexibility on days would be an advantage.

**Saturday/Holiday School Job**  
 We currently have a vacancy for a School Child for Saturdays and School Holidays - 9.00am - 5.30pm  
 In the first instance please contact Alan Cathro at the address below  
 The Iona Shop, 2 Queens Park Place, OBAN, Argyll, PA34 5RS



**has an opening for a calm, cheerful person with outstanding people skills.**  
 Administrators and Microsoft experience essential  
 Please send your CV to  
**Ichrachan House, Taynuilt, By Oban, PA35 1HP**  
**Tel: 01866 822641**  
**Email: balletwest@btconnect.com**



**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

PART OF ARGUS CARE GROUP.  
 Require the following  
**Head Cook**  
 Full Time. Rate of Pay Negotiable  
 Experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

You can contact Arlene Campbell, RGN, Manager on e-mail: lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk or phone 01631 720278 for more details.  
 Please also visit our website: www.arguscare.co.uk.



**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

Source: Recruitment Outlook, The Newspaper Society 2008

**Regional Press**  
 closer to home



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**PLANNING**

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
11/01479/PP	Renewal of planning consent 06/01468/COU - (conversion of sawmill to residential dwelling)	The Steadings Tiroran Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA69 6ES	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/01559/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (Renewal of planning permission 06/02095/DET).	Land South of Woodlands Barcalidne Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01586/PP	Erection of three 15kw wind turbines (15.4 metres high to hub height)	Land South West of Leob Cottage Penninghach Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DN	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/01643/PP	Partial demolition, alterations, extension and change of use of barn to form dwellinghouse	Bremenoir House Ardturn Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DH	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/01645/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse to include detached workshop/storage area, formation of new access and installation of septic tank.	Site North of Mill Farm House Barcalidne Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01656/PP	Erection of single storey extension to include external covered outdoor storage area.	Ard Shona Blackmill Bay Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TZ	Sub Post Office Cullipool
11/01667/PP	Formation of vehicular access (altered arrangement to planning permission reference: 11/00572/PPP)	Land West of Cuiin Beag Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/01677/PP	Demolition of existing outbuilding and alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Assagol Cottage Bunesan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DW	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/01687/PP	Erection of new porch, and erection of single storey, single room extension	Cherry Tree Cottage Glenforsa Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6WJ	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01644/PP	Amendment to fenestration and internal layout to provide 4 additional units of backpackers accommodation approved under application reference: 11/00078/PP	41 Stevenson Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NA	Oban Area Office
11/01658/PP	Erection of two storey dwellinghouse with associated car parking and landscaping.	Dungallan Country House Gallanach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PD	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardriahga PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Argyll & Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.



**MACLEOD**  
 REQUIRE  
**ELECTRICIAN**  
 (QUALIFIED TO 17TH EDITION)  
 APPLY: JONATHAN MACLEOD  
**Mobile 07946 345834**  
 or e-mail - [lil@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:lil@mkmacleod.co.uk)

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

David Archibald Connor trading as David Connor of Moleigh Yard, Oban, PA34 4QR is applying to change an existing license as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 6 trailers at Oban Livestock Centre, Upper Soroba, Oban, PA34 4SD Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau**  
**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
 Tuesday 4th October 2011, 2:00 pm  
**Argyll & Bute CAB, Riverside, Lochgilhead**

- Members of the public are welcome to attend
- Refreshments will be served prior to the AGM at 1:15
- Membership of ABCAB is open to residents of Argyll & Bute and representatives of local organisations
- Membership forms are available from the bureau

All Welcome  
**Tel: 08456 123 808**  
**Email: info@abcab.casonline.org.uk**  
**Web: argyllandbutecab.cas.org.uk**

Co. Ltd by Guarantee: SC231152  
 Scottish Charity No: SC030477



**Michael Russell MSP**  
 Will be holding surgeries



On Mull and Iona on Saturday 17th September  
 To book an appointment  
**Tel: 01369 702011 or email**  
**marie-claire.docherty@scottish.parliament.uk**



**Special/Annual General Meeting**  
 To be held on  
**Wednesday 21st September 2011**  
 commencing at 2.00pm  
 in the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray  
 All members are invited to attend



**Communications Officer**  
 Salary £23,228 - £34,768

Are you an excellent communicator with genuine enthusiasm for the marine environment and marine science?

Would you like to be part of a small but very busy communications team in an institute that delivers marine research, higher education and services to business?

The Communications Officer is a key member of the Communications section who will act as press officer, contribute to copy-writing and editing for both digital and printed publications and play an important role in brand enforcement.

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and science-literate communicator with first class media experience, good team-working skills and a flexible approach to work.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.smi.ac.uk](http://www.smi.ac.uk) Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Communications Officer (Job Ref. D10/11.AM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Thursday 29th September 2011  
 Interviews will be held week of 24th October 2011

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



**STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE**  
**ARE NOW RECRUITING RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM.**

IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE (MON - FRI, BETWEEN 0800-1700) AND ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ONE OF THE BIGGEST FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES IN EUROPE, PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN DAY AT TARBERT FIRE STATION ON TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011 BETWEEN 2PM - 4PM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

DETAILS CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON [WWW.MYJOBSCOTLAND.GOV.UK](http://WWW.MYJOBSCOTLAND.GOV.UK)



**MacPhee & Partners**  
Solicitors and Estate Agents

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Fax: 01631 565434  
property@macphee.co.uk

MacPhee & Partners  
8 George Street, Oban PA34 5SB  
www.macphee.co.uk

**Thinking about selling your property?**  
Contact our Estate Agents Jo-Anne MacDougall and Iona Bethune on 01631 565251.  
**Our Estate Agency and Legal Services include:**

- SALES, LETTINGS & FREE VALUATIONS
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- COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LAW
- FAMILY LAW
- EMPLOYMENT LAW
- AGRICULTURAL, ESTATES & RENEWABLE ENERGY
- FORESTRY
- CROFTING SPECIALISTS
- WILLS & EXECUTRIES

**56 EASDALE ISLAND**  
OFFERS OVER: £160,000



- SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE
- WALK IN CONDITION
- EXCELLENT HOLIDAY LETTING POTENTIAL
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 2 BEDROOMS
- 2 ATTIC ROOMS
- BATHROOM
- PARTIAL DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN WITH 2 SHEDS

**SEILACHAN, BALVICAR, ISLE OF SEIL**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £185,000



- STRUCTURALLY REPAIRED DETACHED DORRAN BUNGALOW
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION & UPGRADING
- LIVING AREA
- KITCHEN
- SUN ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING, STORAGE HEATING & MULTI-FUEL STOVE
- GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING

**CNOC CROM, CLACHAN, ISLE OF SEIL**  
NEW FIXED PRICE: £280,000



- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- RURAL LOCATION
- ENVIABLE PICTURESQUE VIEWS
- KITCHEN/DINER
- LOUNGE
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- SOLID FUEL CENTRAL HEATING
- GARDEN WITH DECKING
- GARAGE
- PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS

**AVICH APARTMENT, PORT SONACHAN**  
FIXED PRICE: £159,750



- FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT IN FORMER VICTORIAN MANSION
- FULLY FURNISHED
- EXCELLENT HOLIDAY LETTING POTENTIAL
- VIEWS OVER LOCH AWE
- FISHING RIGHTS AND MOORING
- LOUNGE + KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING AND ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN

**22 TOBERONOCHY, ISLE OF LUING**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £112,000



- CHARMING END-TERRACED COTTAGE
- DELIGHTFUL SEA VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 2 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- CONVERTED LOFT SPACE
- GARDENS TO FRONT AND REAR
- GARDEN SHED
- DOUBLE GLAZING

**ARCHITECT DESIGNED DETACHED VILLAS, AROS, ISLE OF MULL**  
FIXED PRICES FROM: £310,000



- PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
- CONVENIENT ISLAND LOCATION
- OUTSTANDING SEA VIEWS
- NHBC REGISTERED
- SITTING ROOM WITH SUPERB VIEWS
- KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- 3 OR 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- GARAGE
- GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING

**CLISHAM, CEUM DUN RIGH, BENDERLOCH**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £210,000



- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- WET ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN
- SUMMER HOUSE
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING

**ELLERIC HOUSE, FASNACLOICH, BY APPIN**  
PRICE GUIDE: £350,000



- DETACHED COUNTRY HOUSE
- FANTASTIC RENOVATION PROJECT
- RURAL COUNTRYSIDE LOCATION
- GROUNDS EXTENDING TO APPROX 8 ACRES
- 2 STONE OUTHOUSES WITH DEVELOPMENT/HOLIDAY LET
- POTENTIAL (subject to obtaining all necessary planning consents)
- EXTENSIVE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, KITCHEN, 5 BEDROOMS & LIBRARY
- DOUBLE GARAGE

**PLOT AT LERAGS, BY OBAN**  
PRICE GUIDE: £75,000



- RURAL BUILDING PLOT
- IDEAL LOCATION FOR A FAMILY HOME
- PARTIAL VIEWS OVER ARDENTALLAN BAY TO LOCH FEOCHAN
- APPROXIMATELY 1/4 ACRE
- PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE
- SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CONNECTION CLOSE BY

**11F COLONSAY TERRACE, SOROBA, OBAN**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £75,000



- NEW REDUCED PRICE
- SECOND FLOOR MAISONNETTE
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- DRYING / STORAGE ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ON STREET PARKING

**TORR-AN-ARBHAIR, GRULINE, ISLE OF MULL**  
OFFERS OVER: £300,000



- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- EXTENSIVE GARDEN WITH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL (subject to obtaining all necessary planning consents)
- IN NEED OF SOME MODERNISATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- UTILITY
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS

**7 KIRKTON, APPIN**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £112,000



- END-TERRACED HOUSE
- IN GOOD ORDER
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING
- MOSTLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- GARDEN

**FUSCHIA COTTAGE, EASDALE ISLAND**  
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £155,000



- TRADITIONAL DETACHED COTTAGE
- ISLAND LOCATION
- SEA VIEWS
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- BATHROOM
- BEDROOM
- ATTIC BOX ROOM
- COURTYARD GARDEN
- GARDEN SHED
- ELECTRIC HEATING

**CLACHAN DUBH COTTAGES, BALVICAR, ISLE OF SEIL**  
FIXED PRICES FROM: £180,000



- \*\*\* 2 RESERVED \*\*\*
- CHARMING NEW BUILD TERRACED COTTAGES
- RURAL ISLAND LOCATION
- 1 1/2 STOREY
- 3 BEDROOMS
- CHOICE OF KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CONSTRUCTION TENDER NOTICE**  
Tenders are sought for the refurbishment of Kilmallie Free Church of Scotland, Caol. Approx. value of the work is £500,000.00.

Respondents will be required to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire, to be submitted no later than 12 noon on 23rd September 2011. Up to eight respondents will be invited to tender.

Contact details to request to participate:  
Covell Matthews Architects  
aberdeen@covellmatthews.co.uk

This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme



**BREEDON AGGREGATES**  
Blast at Banavie Quarry- Monday 19 September at 12 Noon



**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
Mooring Application: Two Private Moorings, Carsaig Bay Notice is hereby given that MR D. CHIRNSIDE has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installing two private moorings at:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Carsaig bay sound of Jura	56.02.403	005.38.463
Carsaig bay sound of Jura	56.02.411	005.38.438

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at [Tayvallich post office, Tayvallich, Argyll PA318PN].

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:  
FKBJ147 [Douglas Chirnside] [Sandwood, Tayvallich, Argyll PA318PN.]

**PROPOSED LET OF CROFT**  
Dr & Mrs I McKee are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of croft 51, Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan and Sunart to Ms Nan MacLachlan of 1 Glebe Hill, Kilchoan.

If you are a crofter, shareholder, or owner of a croft in the township, or if the commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION COMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**  
Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number Mr & Mrs I MacDonald 8 Caoles, Tiree 0.074 ha - Site for dwellinghouse 4.86.34190

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper.

Applications marked with an asterisk - interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.

Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

**DALNABREAC & LANGAL COMMON GRAZING**  
A meeting will be held in Mingarry Hall on Tuesday, September 20th at 7pm to elect a new committee.  
Ann MacKay, Grazings Clerk.

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# Store your Boat for the winter

With the end of the sailing season approaching plans for winter storage are being made. It's time to book space at the boatyard and make a list of work to be carried out.

Factors influencing the decision on where you store will depend on location, whether undercover or outside, facilities and cost.

Pressure washing the hull on lift out is really essential to prepare the surface best for anti-fouling next spring. Most yards offer this service. A good wash of topsides and wax protects over the winter months. This is a good time to check for any damage sustained, and plan any repairs. If you are unsure about anything, get an expert to advise you.

For those storing outside, cover the boat if you can, make sure it's well secured, allow for ventilation and watch for chafing at regular intervals. Make sure your cradle, trailer or support legs are in good condition.

As a rule all boat equipment not used during the winter should be removed unless you heat the boat. It should all be stored in a well-ventilated place. The

interior can then be cleaned thoroughly including cookers and toilets and any painting or varnishing carried out. A dehumidifier and heater are a great boon to keep the interior dry. Check the condition of all fittings and make a job list of items required for next season.

### Safety Equipment

Check lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear before storing. Renew anything that looks suspect, and then partially inflate over the winter. Keep your flare packs ashore and replace when out of date. The RNLI will carry out a free safety check on your boat and this is well worthwhile.

Life rafts need serviced by an authorised centre. After cleaning, dinghy tenders should be stored partially inflated and any repairs carried out.

Get a qualified gas engineer to inspect gas systems on board. Boat batteries can be removed if not required and put on a trickle charge. Flush the water tank through with a water sanitizer and either empty or fill the diesel tank for the winter. Winterise all engines.

Check over deck equipment that has been hard at work during the season and overhaul as required. Remove anchors and chain over the bow and store on a pallet with the chain belayed. Check all standing and running rigging and renew if needed. Inspect all masthead instrumentation when the mast is down. Wash warps, sheets and halyards in fresh water to remove salt and store hanging.

### Sails

This is a good time to order new sails if needed and clean and overhaul existing suits. Local sail makers offer cleaning and repair services and even storage.

Sail lofts are always on hand to give advice on all aspects of sail requirements and maintenance.

Good layup preparation will make fitting out next year much easier. Above all ask advice from your local boat-yard operator, service engineer, chandler or sail-maker if there's anything you're unsure about. Enjoy the winter planning your sailing season for 2012!

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**New Developments at Creran Marine**  
During the past year and a half Creran Marine has been busy adding to and improving the facilities that they provide for their customers on the shores of Loch Creran. This includes a new pontoon, supplied by local company Fusion Marine, a new Toilet / Shower Block and the biggest investment has been in a new purpose built building comprising of five individual units each measuring 14mx8m and designed for the repair and maintenance of boats.

The units are available for short or long term hire and since completion earlier this year have been proving popular with owners of both leisure and commercial craft. Each unit has single and three phase electric outlets along with powerful extractor fans and high quality lighting.

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Winter Storage at Dunstaffnage Marina

Although we are taking bookings daily for winter storage we still have some spaces both ashore and afloat available. For information please contact Joanne directly on 01631 566555 or email to [info@dunstaffnagemarina.com](mailto:info@dunstaffnagemarina.com)

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PERSONALS

Stewart Findlay Bowman 5/4/1946 - 16/9/2009
Always and forever in my heart, till we meet again
All my love
X F X

Ernie MacPherson would like to thank family and friends for the lovely cards and gifts on the occasion of his birthday/retirement party.
Also to Jake, Jane, Cathie, Hamish, Teuch, Alistair (MC), John Renton and last but not least the pipers Ewan and our grandsons Calum and John 'the drummer'. You have all helped to create a lifetime of memories.
Thank you.

Happy 21st Birthday Lisa
All our love, Mum, Dad, John and Martin xxx

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THANK YOU
Donnie MacColl would like to thank everybody for all the lovely cards and gifts received for my 90th birthday. A special thanks to everyone who attended my party. It was great to see so many family and friends together. Thank you to Hector, Richard and Sandy for great music and to Neil and the MacGochan's staff for excellent care and attention. My family gave me a very memorable day.
Moran Taing.

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BIRTHS

**CHALMERS** - Nicholas and Hannah (nee Milton) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Erin Elizabeth, born on August 20, 2011. First grandchild for Laura and David Chalmers, Giffnock. First granddaughter for Angela and the late Sandy Milton, Kilmelford, Oban. Precious cousin for Finlay.

**JOHNSTON** - At the Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading on September 10, 2011 to Iain and Jessica (nee Cox) a son, Rory MacColl another grandson for Wini and Jim Johnston, Ottersburn, Ballachulish and Maggie and Graham Cox, Spain.

**MACLEAN - BRAID** - Joanne and Danny are delighted to announce the birth of baby Aidan, born on August 15, 2011. A little brother for Aaron.

**STEELE** - Alan and Diane (nee McKiernan) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Abbie Margaret, on August 31, 2011. First grandchild for Pauline. Thanks to all staff at Southern General Maternity, Glasgow.

GOLDEN WEDDING

**PENMAN - DOUGLAS** At St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on 19 September 1961, James, son of Joe and Teen Penman, Penicuik to Catherine, daughter of William and Mary Douglas, Oban.

DEATHS

**ANDREW** - (Tarves). Suddenly but peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 Sam Andrew aged 80 years, former Deputy Director of Building and Works Strathclyde Regional Council, (formerly of Glasgow and Glencoe), darling husband of Fay, much loved dad of Fiona, dear father-in-law to Sandy and devoted grandpa to Louise and Ashleigh.

**CAMPBELL** - Maimie, past away peacefully at home on September 12, 2011 surrounded by her family, beloved mother, sister, mother in law, granny and great granny. Missed by all.

**DAW** - Hugh, passed away peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, at home 10 Ardevis Road, Fort William on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Much loved and sadly missed by Katherine and Paul.

**HILL** - Gilbert (Gibby). Peacefully, at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, surrounded by his loving family on Monday, September 12, 2011, Gibby, a darling husband of Ann and a cherished dad, stepdad and grandpa. Funeral service at Broomhill Parish Church, Randolph Road, Glasgow on Monday, September 19 at 2pm, thereafter to Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnotter, arriving 3.30pm. Family flowers only please.

**MACCALLUM** - Peacefully, with his family in Balloch, on September 13, 2011, in his 89th year, Gilbert, beloved husband of the late Cathie, dear father of John and Andrew and a much loved father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather.

**MACDONALD** - Angus (Angie) aged 82 years, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his family at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish on September 11, 2011. Loving husband of Sheena, much loved father of Anne and the late Morag and grandpa of Sarah and Grant. Sorely missed.

**MACLEOD** - Suddenly but peacefully at his home in Largs on September 9, 2011, John Angus Macleod, originally from Tarbert, Harris, beloved husband of the late Nancy Milligan, dear father of Marion and Shonagh, devoted grandfather to Lorna and Iain, and a very proud great-grandfather to Cameron and Ewan. Funeral service at Greenock Crematorium on Friday, September 16 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation.

**MACMILLAN** - Charlotte MacMillan (nee MacKinnon). Died quietly on Saturday, September 3, 2011 in Toronto, Canada after a long illness. Originally from Kinlochleven, Charlotte will be sadly missed by husband Ian (Curly); sons Ian and Bill and family, sister Pat and family as well as sister-in-law Sheila and her family.

**MILLMORE** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on September 8, 2011, Derek, dear husband of Patricia.

**SPROAT** - There will be a Memorial Service for Harry Sproat of Tobermory on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 12.30pm in the Tobermory Parish Church. No flowers please, donations gratefully received for Tobermory R.N.L.I.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CARSWELL** - Rosemary, Ronald and Gavin wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, letters, phone calls, cards, flowers and baking received following the recent sad loss of Dugie. Many thanks to Taynuilt Surgery, District nurses, Doctors and Marie Curie nurses with a special mention to Dr Bennett and Susan Black. Rev Robert Brookes for a comforting service, Mary Nicolson for his eulogy and to piper Donald McNeill, organist and elders of Muckairn Church. Taynuilt Hotel for an excellent buffet, to D & A Munn for their sensitive funeral arrangements, and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. And everyone who contributed to the retiring collection for Marie Curie Cancer Care which totalled £1,207.73

**HOGARTH** - Janet, Lawrence, Yvonne, Stuart, Julie and grandsons would like to thank all relatives and friends from the Appin area for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers and cards received on their recent sad loss.

**MACPHERSON** - Ewen and family of the late Carrie MacPherson (nee Munro) would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls and baking received following their recent sad loss of a loving wife and mother. Very special thanks to Dr Davies and all at Connel Surgery and District Nurses, without whose help we wouldn't have been able to nurse Mum at home. Thanks also to Marie Curie Nurses and of course to Carrie's Carers for their unfailing dedication over the past 3 years. To Rev J MacCormick for his fitting and comforting service, to Neil and Sandy for the wonderful music, to Lochnell Arms Hotel for excellent buffet and to Duncan Gunn for sensitive funeral arrangements, we extend our heartfelt thanks. To all who paid their last respects to Carrie at Church and graveside and gave so generously to Connel Surgery Charitable Trust we thank you. We have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and have taken comfort that Carrie made such an impression on so many people.

**MACDONALD** - Precious memories of my mum and our nana Cathie, who passed away on September 12, 2006. Loved and missed always - Marion, Kenny and family, Fort William.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of my nana and great nana Cathie, who passed away on September 12, 2006. Loved and missed always. - Fiona and Liam, Alma Road.

**MACDONALD** - Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas MacDonald, who passed away on September 18, 1991, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of our dear parents, George, who died August 16, 1992 and Chrissie who died September 17, 2005. Always in our thoughts. - Marleen, Allan and family.

**MACLEAN** - Always remembered and sorely missed by all, our much loved youngest son Calum Lachlan Donald, tragically killed aged 29, September 20, 2001

But thoughts and memories never fade. Till we meet again you are always in our hearts - Forever young - Mum and Dad

**MOUNT** - Colin Mount, passed away on September 15, 2006. Loving memories we will never forget. Sadly missed along life's way

**MACDOUGALL** - Remembering with love our dad and grampy, Callum, who died on September 19, 1997. Sadly missed, Margaret and Hannah, Bussan

**MACDOUGALL** - Remembering with all our love William Rose MacDougall, died September 13, 1970 and Peteressa MacDougall (nee Currie) died September 7, 2003.

**MORRISON** - Cherished memories of Sandy, a dear husband, father and grandpa, who passed away September 16, 2000. Sadly missed along life's way

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Inserted by Eoghainn and Anne, brothers Niall, Sheumais and Eoghainn, their wives and families.

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GRADUATIONS



Andrew Latham graduated from Edinburgh University with a Masters in Engineering (First Class Hons). He is the son of Christian and Antony Latham, Leac a Li, Isle of Harris and grandson of the late David and Hester Scott, Glenaros, Isle of Mull and Leslie and Leslie Latham, Dublin, Ireland.



Dr Helen Latham, graduated last year with MB ChB from Dundee University and a BSc in International Health from Leeds University. Helen and Andrew are former pupils of Sir E Scott School, Tarbert, Isle of Harris.

MEMORIALS



Ben Sunderland graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Master of Arts with Honours in English Literature. Ben, formerly of Ganavan attended Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Make a difference: be a memory maker

MEMORIES. Summer is for many people a time of happy memories, days spent in the open air, by the seaside, on the water. Time away from the usual routine, perhaps the opportunity to get a holiday or see a friend.

Now we are into autumn and we are left with just the memories, those pictures we took, the souvenir we bought. Memories can be great to treasure, sometimes they can be great

to lose, often they are really great to make. Good memories come from going to good places, being with good people doing good things.

One day Jesus was in the temple at Jerusalem when a woman came in sight. She was having a hard time in life and had almost nothing to put in the collection box. She put in what she had, which was two tiny coins, smaller than a one pence piece and worth less.

Jesus pointed her out to folks because when life was hard for her she was doing what she could, thinking about more than just herself. Today, people are still talking about that woman.

Good memories are really important, doing good things worth remembering even more so. What a difference this makes to family, friends, our communities. Be a memory maker.

Rev Jeff McCormick

OBITUARIES

Duncan Campbell

DUNCAN Campbell was born in Stevenson Street, Oban on March 19, 1925. He was the son of Duncan and Ruby Campbell and grew up with his sister Nancy.

The family later moved to Dalintart Drive and Duncan attended school at Rockfield and Oban High.

On leaving school Duncan started work as a goods clerk in the railway station and remained there, with the exception of his two years National Service in the RAF, for 43 years.

When he retired from railway service, he worked for a few years as a clerk with Fortieith's Frozen Foods, in George Street.

In his younger days he was a drummer in Oban Pipe Band until the late Alasdair Hunter required a drummer for his Scottish Country Dance Band.

Duncan joined Alasdair and Charlie MacLean and played the drums for a few years until Alasdair could find another drummer. Duncan then transferred to playing double bass.

About this time, a young Emma Ramage came from Alva to her uncle, Tommy Buchanan, the draper, go on holiday.

Emma caught Duncan's eye, they started walking out and the rest, as they say, is history.

Duncan and Emma were married on March 30, 1959, and set up home in Drumvargie Terrace. The family move up to High Tor, in Laurel Crescent, in 1966.

Duncan and Emma were blessed with two fine children, Morvern, born



Duncan Campbell.

shinty remained with him all his days. He was a member of the British Legion and a watch-keeper at the Oban War and Peace Museum.

Both Duncan and Emma were faithful members of Oban Parish Church and worshipped regularly.

At heart, Duncan was a devoted family man and Emma and Morvern shared with me their memories of many happy holidays.

As Emma said: 'We always went by train because we got there for nothing.' Indeed, on one occasion, the family

went by train all the way to Barcelona and back. Sadly, Duncan's health began to fail in June and after a 10-day stay in Glasgow Royal Infirmary, he spent some four weeks in hospital here in Oban before coming home to High Tor.

Emma and the family sincerely thank all the district nurses, outreach carers and all the staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and devotion to Duncan and their kindness to the family.

DMK

Jane Young Nelson MBE

JANE Young Nelson (nee Goodbody) was born in New Jersey on September 12, 1915.

Her mother was from Hermiston near Edinburgh and her father was a New York attorney. She was the eldest of three children.

The family came to live in Britain when Jane was 14. She attended school in Sussex followed by Brillantmont finishing school in Switzerland. They lived in London and at Invergarry on Loch Oich. It was here that she continued to develop her love of fishing, on the River Garry, having been introduced to it on a dude ranch in Montana. Jane, her sister Kathleen and their father saw the Loch Ness monster on December 30, 1933.

In Jane's own words: 'We were driving along Loch Ness looking for it one very stormy day when suddenly I saw two bumps sticking out of the water so we all got out to look at it. Luckily we had some field glasses and we watched it for 40 minutes swimming around in the loch.'

'More and more bumps kept appearing until we finally saw nine and then it began swimming away more quickly but it was snowing so hard by this time that we lost sight of it.'

The sighting was reported in the Inverness Courier. She saw it again on another occasion: 'This time only one huge bump was sticking out and was going very fast across the loch.' She never saw it again.

Jane was presented to Edward VII on her coming out. Jane married Ernest Nelson in 1939 and went to live at Achnaloch, near Oban, where she was to remain for the next 72 years.

She travelled widely and had many friends from all over the world who visited Achnaloch frequently. In particular she kept in close contact with her many relatives in America and regularly visited them there. She had wide ranging interests and enjoyed conversation on all manner of subjects from science and natural history to politics and current affairs with visitors and friends. She was an avid reader, often surprising visitors with her latest choice of reading material.

Jane was an outdoor person who had a deep knowledge of the natural world around her. She and Ernest created a wonderful woodland garden at Achnaloch with a renowned collection of rhododendrons. The garden was open for many years under the National Garden Scheme. Jane could be found in the garden at all times of the day, weeding, pruning, planning or tackling her old enemies - bracken and Japanese knotweed. She particularly liked standing out in the garden after dark looking at the stars. She enjoyed outdoor sports, including deer stalking, shooting and fishing and had a great love of animals.

She enjoyed riding in her youth and after Ernest's death in 1977 she became very involved in the Achnaloch herd of Highland cattle, going on to win many prizes for her stock. She remained interested in the herd until the end and latterly would always ask visitors to take her up on the hill to see them and to discuss their breeding and potential.

Jane became increasingly frail and moved to a nursing home in Edinburgh in May 2011. She died peacefully on August 1.

Jane was presented to Edward VII on her coming out. Jane married Ernest Nelson in 1939 and went to live at Achnaloch, near Oban, where she was to remain for the next 72 years.

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Oban Times helps reunite friends

An Oban man was reunited with three friends from the early '70s after an article in The Oban Times. Ian MacMillan, who works in MacQueen Bros. Charity Shop, replied to the plea to find him through The Oban Times newspaper.

Ian was invited to the birthday party of his friend. When he got there he met up with three former naval colleagues that he had not seen for decades. Pictured are Ian Sarjeant, Ian MacMillan, Phil Tester and Bill Moses at The New Inn, Etchington, Folkestone.



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## Vital win as Oban Camanachd face tricky run in to the end of season

**OBAN** CAMANACHD president Nigel Evans described the past week as the best of the season following a 2-0 victory over Fort William on Saturday.

The premier division result follows junior success in the South of Scotland Sixes at under-14 and under-17 and Lochside Rovers' victory in the Bullough Cup last weekend.

In the only premier division match to survive the weather, debutant Malcolm Clark scored a well-taken opener on Saturday at Mossfield on 35 minutes and Aidan MacIntyre capitalised on a goalkeeping error to slot the ball into an empty net after 52 minutes.

At the other end of the park, the defence of Andrew Pearson, Daniel Cameron and James MacMillan neutralised the threat of Gary Innes at full forward and goalkeeper Gavin Stobart made half a dozen outstanding saves to maintain his clean sheet.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan said: 'We went into this match knowing that full points were vital and that 100 per cent effort was a must.'

'I have to say that the lads did really well. We had some lovely passing moves.'

'We had our goalkeeper Gavin Stobart on great form with some top class saves.'

'If there was anyone watching from the Scotland team, I'm sure he would slot straight in if he continues in this form,' he

added. 'David MacInnes has stepped in to help us out and his tackling presence has made a difference.'

The one black mark on Camanachd's day was the loss of pacy forward Matt Rippon with a serious ankle injury that will rule him out for the rest of the season.

However, his injury gives teenager Clark - Rippon's 13th minute replacement on Saturday - more first team opportunities.

Diarmid added: 'We haven't got an easy run in but three of our four remaining games are at home and we know what it takes to stay in this league, which is a big must.'

For their part, **FORT WILLIAM** could not match Oban Camanachd's resolve on the day and failed to end their season with a win.

Assistant coach Willie MacDonald accepted Oban were a hot handful in what was a vital game for the Mossfield Park men in their fight to avoid the drop.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a difficult game for us because it's hard to motivate players for a game that did not mean anything - but it meant everything to them.'

'Their keeper pulled off some cracking saves and I felt they deserved to win.'

'Overall in clear-cut chances we created more and their keeper was by far the busier. But they were fighting like hell for every ball to avoid relegation.'



Oban Camanachd's Andrew Pearson battles for possession with Fort William's Gary Innes at Mossfield on Saturday. 15\_137shinty04

## Skye Camanachd end with a win as coach steps down

**SKYE CAMANACHD** coach Nui MacDonald has stepped down from the post because of work commitments.

The club has yet to appoint a successor to Mr MacDonald, who works as a civil engineer with RJ MacLeod.

He saw his side wrap up their season with a 3-1 win over Caberfeidh at Pairc nan Laoch on Saturday.

Goals from Jordan Murchison, Somhairle MacDonald and Danny Morrison put the Skymen out of sight by half time.

Caberfeidh came more into things with the wind behind them after the break and Kirk

Taylor pulled a goal back for the visitors with 15 minutes left. MacDonald, told *The Oban Times* the win was 'thoroughly deserved' after what had been an up and down season.

He said: 'It was about time - although it was a bit late in the day.'

'We really could have scored five or six in the first half. The forwards were on form and showed some great passing movements.'

'In the second half they had the wind, but I would say we were still on top - although they put us under pressure in the last 15 minutes. It was great to get a win looking towards next season.'



Fort William's James Clark attempts to stop Oban Camanachd's Ian Campbell at Mossfield on Saturday. 15\_137shinty03

# 'More out to end 25-year cup drought

## Kingussie provide stiff test at shinty's showcase event

SHINTY giants Newtonmore and Kingussie will face off in the biggest game of the season, the Camanachd Cup final, on Saturday.

The local rivals are the most successful teams in the competition's history, with reigning premier division champions Newtonmore having won 28 times to Kings' 22 wins.

'More are also still neck and neck in the race for the premier division title with Kyles Athletic, but Kings have focussed their attentions on cup competitions.'

Kingussie manager Steven Borthwick expects to have a nearly full squad, with only Louis Munro and Iain Borthwick doubtful with injuries.

Borthwick told *The Oban Times* he sees 'More as favourites. 'We're quite happy to go in as underdogs,' he said.

'Newtonmore have been in really good form recently and our form has been quite poor. But I think we're a cup team and we're good at rising to the big occasion.'

'Newtonmore are a very strong team; they are very good defensively, strong in midfield and if you give them half a chance their forwards will put the ball in the net.'

'I've got my fingers crossed we



Kingussie forward Ronald Ross will be hoping to get his hands on the Camanachd Cup come Saturday. He is pictured with musicians Kirsty-Ann MacFarlane, left, and Eilidh Ramsay, who will play at the event.

can get all our guys on the park, because on our day we can be a match for anyone.'

Newtonmore last won the trophy in 1986, and manager Norman MacArthur said it's been a long wait.

He said: 'Everyone's been waiting 25 years for this. We've won it 28 times then gone 25 years without winning so hopefully we can make it 29 this weekend.'

'I think Kingussie are the favourites. They've got

experience on their side but we've not played many of these big games.'

MacArthur expects to have a fully fit squad to choose from.

He said: 'We've got all our players back now and we're starting to score some goals again.'

'But I'll try to get the defence right and then try to nick a goal at the other end.'

'It's been working for us for the last couple of years so let's hope it works on Saturday.'

## Kinlochshiel second string secure their place in North Division 2

KINLOCHSHIEL'S second team secured their place in North Division 2 with a nailbiting 3-2 win over Glenurquhart at Kirktown on Saturday.

Scottie Kennedy opened the scoring in 10 minutes, but 'Shiel fell 2-1 behind after Lewis MacLennan netted a quickfire double to leave home fans in a sweat.

But John MacRae hauled 'Shiel level with a vital strike just before the break and David

Faulkner edged the home side ahead on the hour mark.

'Shiel then had to withstand a nervy last half hour as Glen pressed for an equaliser but clung on for a well-deserved victory.'

'Shiel coach Colin Fraser told *The Oban Times*: 'It's tremendous - that was our cup final. It was a huge game. If we had not won we would only have had one more chance against Kilmallie.'

'To be fair it could have gone either way and in the last 15 minutes we had to defend really well.'

'Our half back Mark MacDonald was outstanding, as were Ross Fraser and Ewan Faulkner.'

He added: 'I'm delighted. With the first team now in the premier division, we did not want to get relegated as there would have been too big a gap between the teams.'

## Lorn Ladies reach final in first season

LORN Ladies Shinty Club reached the final of the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup in their first competitive season.

The ladies travelled to The Eilan, Newtonmore, last Saturday but came up against a more experienced Badenoch and Strathspey, eventually losing 9-0 in the eight-a-side match.

Ali MacVicar and Donna MacKay came closest to scoring for the Lorn Ladies.

'The scoreline was not a true

reflection of the game,' said Lorn secretary and coach Annemarie Ferguson.

'We dominated the game for periods but just couldn't score and with no subs we really tired towards the end.'

Lorn Ladies had beaten Ardnamurchan 14-0 in the first round of the competition and secured a bye in the semi-final when Lochaber failed to raise a team.

Annmarie said: 'If you had told

me we would reach a cup final in our first season, I wouldn't have believed you.'

'The girls weren't too disappointed on Saturday and were just happy to get a medal.'

If they can attract more players to the squad, Lorn Ladies hope to join the league structure next season.

The team trains on Thursdays at Oban High School from 7pm - 8.30pm and anyone aged 13 upwards is welcome to join in.

### Fixture

Saturday 17 September  
**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final**  
 Newtonmore v Kingussie  
 Deek Cameron  
 Bught Park  
 Inverness  
 Throw-up 2.30pm

### Results

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
 Glenorchy v Glenurquhart  
 Postponed  
 Kilmallie v Newtonmore  
 Postponed  
 Kyles Athletic v Kingussie  
 Postponed  
 Oban Caman 2, Fort William 0.

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Skye 3, Caberfeidh 1

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Lovat 8, Fort William 0  
 Kinlochshiel 3, Glenurquhart 2

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Kyles Athletic v Lochside Rvrs  
 Postponed  
 Kilmory v Bute  
 Postponed

### League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles Athletic	14	11	3	0	25
Newtonmore	14	10	3	1	23
Fort William	18	10	2	6	22
Glenurquhart	16	7	2	7	16
Kingussie	15	5	5	5	15
Kilmallie	15	7	1	7	15
Oban Camanachd	14	5	2	7	12
Inveraray	15	5	1	9	11
Lovat	15	5	1	9	11
Glenorchy	14	0	0	14	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	14	14	0	0	28
Lochaber	13	8	1	4	17
Beaully	14	6	5	3	17
Caberfeidh	14	6	3	5	15
Lochcarron	13	4	5	4	13
Skye	14	4	2	8	10
Inverness	14	1	4	9	6
Strathglass	14	1	2	11	4

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	13	13	0	0	26
Glasgow MA	15	9	3	4	21
Lochside Rvrs	15	8	2	5	18
Taynuilt	15	7	2	6	16
Ballachulish	16	8	2	7	16
Oban Celtic	14	4	4	6	12
Kyles Athletic	14	5	0	9	10
Kilmory	13	2	2	9	6
Aberdour	15	2	1	12	5

Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	33
Fort William	17	11	3	3	25
Glenurquhart	15	10	0	5	20
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Lovat	17	7	1	9	13
Skye	17	6	1	10	13
Kinlochshiel	17	6	1	10	13
Glenurquhart	17	6	0	11	12
Kilmallie	16	3	10	9	9

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	14	12	1	1	25
Tayforth	14	11	1	2	23
Bute	14	7	3	4	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Ballachulish	14	5	1	8	11
Inveraray	14	5	0	7	10
Glasgow MA	14	4	8	7	10
Aberdour	14	1	0	13	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Beaully	18	13	2	3	28
Boleskine	18	14	1	4	27
Caberfeidh	18	12	2	4	26
Lochcarron	18	7	2	9	16
Lochbroom	18	6	4	8	16
Inverness	18	5	1	12	11
Strathglass	17	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	8
Lewis	18	1	1	15	3



**All you have to do**  
 We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

  
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## Arrows fly as Sean lifts another title

BARCALDINE archer Sean O'Byrne is celebrating yet another title after a stunning performance at Culzean Castle, Ayrshire, saw him clinch the Albion Traditional Longbow Championship.

The win caps a brilliant season for the 2006 World Champion, who adds the Albion Championship to the Ardmaddy Castle Western title he picked

up last month. To win, he had to land more arrows than his competitors in the 122cm target, shooting 36 arrows in each of the three heats, at distances of 80, 60 and 50 yards.

**Consistent**  
While he had a poor start from 80 yards, he more than made up for it with a stubbornly consistent series of arrows. It rounded off a terrific season

for Sean, who triumphed despite a niggling neck injury that stopped him practising in the week leading up to the event. He said: 'I was pleasantly surprised and delighted to have won. Alan Beattie from Cumbria had won the competition for the last two years and I didn't think I'd beat him.'

'When I started I only had three hits from my first dozen arrows. I thought it was because of my neck. What I didn't realise though was that, because of the atmospheric conditions, everyone else's arrows were flying short.'

**Compensate**  
'So I started to compensate for the arrows drifting off, which I don't like to do, and I started getting regular hits.'

The longbow season has now closed but Sean, who holds two long standing records for accuracy in the Portsmouth and Worcester Round events, is hoping for a good 2012, when he will once again hope for World Championship glory.

He said: 'My general shooting has improved and I've been scoring consistently high all year. In most competitions, if I've not won I've come very close to winning.'

'The World Championships are next year so I'd like to take part in April so I'll have to see.'

Meanwhile, Sean, who first picked up a longbow 15 years ago, is offering introductory lessons in traditional archery for anyone interested in the sport. For more information, contact Sean on 07920 771 548.



Sean is pictured with the medal and quail he won at the Albion Traditional Longbow Championship at Culzean Castle in Ayrshire, which adds to the spearhead arrow he won at Ardmaddy last month.



Oban Lorne forward David Hunter ploughs a lone furrow in the defeat to Clydebank. 15\_137rugby03

## Wright decision - but the wrong result!

RBS West Division 2  
**Oban Lorne 3 Clydebank 15**

A SCRATCH Oban Lorne team opened their league campaign with a disappointing defeat at the hands of rivals Clydebank on Saturday.

Although the result didn't go their way, it was a proud day for the Wright family of father Robert and sons Allan and Craig, who played together for the first

time, filling three of the seven back positions. Oban welcomed player/coach Corrie Louw back into the team and he took up an unfamiliar role in the front row, while David Hunter returned in the back row.

Clydebank made a dominant start to the game and found themselves applying pressure in the Oban 22. Eventually their efforts were rewarded with a penalty for an early 3-0 lead.

The men in green hit back with a penalty of their own through Angus MacCallum shortly after and David Hunter's strong runs were setting up attacks for the home team.

Clydebank restored their lead with the first try of the afternoon, following a poor clearance kick from Oban Lorne.

Clydebank's dominance continued into the second half and they eventually got a deserved

**RUGBY**  
second score with 10 minutes to go.

Oban eventually awakened up after this and produced some good attacking play of their own but it was too little, too late.

The men in green will look to bounce back from this loss next weekend but face a tough trip to Stranraer against Wigtownshire.

## Catherine's a big shot!

ARGYLL hot-shot Catherine Fraser capped off a successful season by winning the Scottish Double Rise and Single Barrel Championships at North Ayrshire Shooting Ground.

This success means that the Oban shooter has now won a

**SHOOTING**  
total of 13 Scottish titles during her 16-year career. Catherine will continue to compete in minor shoots during the winter as she aims towards next July's World Championships in Wales.

## Saints boys are selected

OBAN Saints players Keith Milar, Willie Gemmill and Myles McAuley have been picked for the Scottish Amateur League Select squad to play against Carlton YM for the Douglas Harvey Memorial Trophy on Sunday 25 September.

**FOOTBALL**  
The match will be played at the Kibble, Paisley, with a 2pm kick-off.

Mr Harvey was a well respected figure in Scottish amateur football circles.

## Saints league game rained off

**FOOTBALL**

OBAN Saints premier division league game against Castlemilk was called off last Saturday morning after a pitch inspection found Peter Brownlie Park in Cambuslang to be waterlogged.

This Saturday Saints are away to Kings Park Rangers. The game will be played at Glasgow Green with a 2pm kick-off.

## Killin Gents Open

**GOLF**

KILLIN Golf Club held their Senior Gents Open on Wednesday September 7.

Results: Category 1 (0-14): 1 Bruce Ford (Killin) 61; 2 B Lawson (Crieff) 66; 3 Donald Sutherland (Linlithgow) 67

Category 2 (15-28): 1 A Sheriffs (Blair Atholl) 70 BIIH; 2 Ken Roberts (Callender) 70; 3 Bobby Johnston (Dalmally) 72

Nearest the pin 15 - 28: Peter Stallard (Killin). Nearest the pin 0 - 14: Donald Sutherland (Linlithgow) Nearest the pin in 2: Bobby Johnston (Dalmally)

Handicap winner (Kiltyrie Trophy): Bruce Ford (Killin) 61

Mactaggart Trophy (Best Local h/cap 15 - 28): W Archibald (Killin) 73

Lix Toll Trophy (Best Local h/cap 1 - 14): Bruce Ford (Killin) 61

Magic 2's: D Sutherland (Linlithgow) x2; A Sheriffs (Blair Atholl); J Christie (Helensburgh)

## Youth results and fixtures

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

LAST weekend's results: Riverside 2; Under 13s 7. Saints scorers were Ben Coates (3), Evan MacLellan, Fergus Lawson, Zander Kilmurray and Jay Cooper. Goldenhill 1, Under 14s 2. Netting for Saints were Ross MacMillan and Stuart Munro. Renton 8 v Under 15s 0; Clydebank Phoenix v Under 16s, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game. Scottish Cup - Under 15s v Newmains Hammers; Clydebank Phoenix v Under 16s.

## Black Pumas stung by Scorpions in Sunday League

THE seniors of the Oban Express Primary Football took to the Community Pitch on Sunday and just about managed to beat the elements and enjoy their next round of fixtures however the fun fours for the younger participants was cancelled.

The Black Pumas got the show on the road with a narrow single-goal win over The Galaxy when Innes Horne controlled a loose ball and calmly stroked it into the corner of the net. It was to prove their only result of the day as the youngsters of the

Blacks were stung by both the Scorpions, with Cammy Williamson and Euan Finlay scoring without reply, and Thistle who had Cameron Hill and Scott Mossman netting doubles with Connor Moore replying for the Blacks.

Thistle scored four without reply at Wasps with Hill again finding the net twice and further goals from Kier McLean and Sol Smith but found a well organised Saints 2002 side difficult to break down. Oran Bryce did have the opportunity to break the deadlock when he raced clear but saw his angled drive crash back off the crossbar and the Saints defence cleared to safety.

Pumas White also took to the field and Ross Barclay scored from the penalty spot to open up a lead against Tralee but an own-goal from the same player ensured a share of the spoils for Tralee.

**Mixed Day**  
The Whites came up against a stuffy Galaxy side next and neither could find a way past the opponents goalkeeper. A Jamie Anderson double for Jags made it a mixed day for the Whites.

The Jags also enjoyed a win over Wasps with Rowan Martin and Liam Tanno on the scoresheet but found Red Star just that bit too powerful with Callum Guy scoring the only goal of the match. Red Star had

**PRIMARY FOOTBALL**

earlier beaten Saints 2002 with Joseph Harper and Kian Francis on target without reply but failed to find the net against Lochnell in a goalless draw.

Lochgillhead Scorpions were in fine form against the Wasps and a brace from Campbell Lister together with goals from Tyler Robertson and Cammy Williamson secured the victory. However they came unstuck against the all-conquering Saints Boys who also recorded wins over Lochnell and Tralee where goalkeeper turned striker Cameron MacMillan scored a hat trick, as did Craig McMillan.

The final game of the day was the North Lorn derby between Lochnell and Tralee with the older Lochnell side claiming the bragging rights thanks to goals from James Divers, Daniel Sloss and a double from Finlay Robertson without reply from the plucky Tralee side.

It is hoped that all the teams will be able to play next Sunday at the community pitch, with a 10am start.



Despite torrential rain Janice Fraser and Moira Spreadbury splashed to victory in the Duncan Campbell Trophy competition at Oban Bowling Club. The trophy was presented by Duncan's widow Emma pictured centre.

## Janice and Moria win Campbell Trophy

AMID sunshine and torrential rain, Saturday was the day for Oban Bowling Club to play for the Duncan Campbell Trophy.

The late Duncan was a well kent figure in the town and, as well as being a fine musician, was also a keen bowler.

In 1996 he gave a lovely cup

to the club to be played as a pairs competition each year, his partner for this day was always Moira Spreadbury.

Sixteen teams took part this year and after winning her way to the semi-final and final, Moira and Janice Fraser were met by Andrew Forbes and Roddy

**BOWLS**

MacLeod. Andrew and Roddy were no match for Moira and Janice and the two ladies were the winners. Emma Campbell, Duncan's widow, very kindly came to congratulate the winners and present the trophy.

## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals.  
Winds light, south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

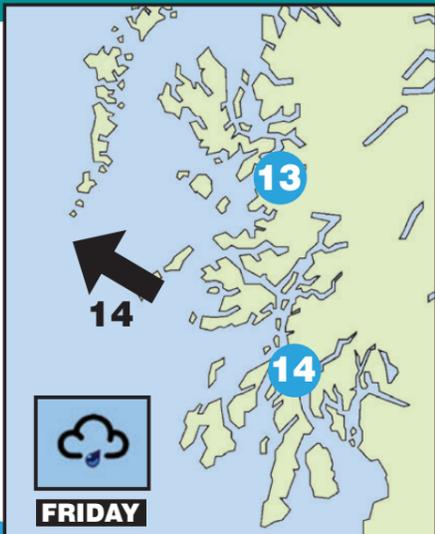
**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain showers.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, south westerly.  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 15, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.12 1.0 06.54 3.9	13.26 1.0 19.16 4.0
Fri	01.42 1.1 07.21 3.8	13.53 1.2 19.44 3.8
Sat	02.12 1.2 07.49 3.7	14.17 1.5 20.11 3.6
Sun	02.42 1.4 08.19 3.5	14.42 1.7 20.40 3.4
Mon	03.17 1.6 08.54 3.3	15.14 1.9 21.16 3.1
Tues	04.10 1.8 09.40 3.1	16.19 2.1 22.12 2.9
Wed	05.25 1.9 10.50 2.9	18.12 2.2 ** **

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8060

Thursday 15 September, 2011

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77 pence



**GAELIC matters**  
Feature on page 12

**MULL MOD**  
Photographs and results



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## Fort woman's fundraising honoured

A FORT William woman has won a national award in recognition of her charity fundraising.

Over the past three years, paramedic and bed and breakfast owner Alyson Stewart has raised thousands of pounds for Genesis Research Trust, which promotes research into the health of women and babies.

Alyson told The Oban Times she was 'chuffed' when she found out she had won. She said: 'I chose the trust because

we've lost a lot of friends in my age group to cancer and my daughter also lost a friend to cancer.'

She has cycled across Cuba, Jordan and China, and in November plans to cycle from Vietnam to Cambodia.

Alyson will be given her award at The Savoy in London at a ceremony organised by women's website [www.mydaily.co.uk](http://www.mydaily.co.uk) and plans to stay in the city for three nights with her husband Iain.

## Kidney patients switched to Raigmore

KIDNEY patients at the Belford Hospital are being treated at Raigmore Hospital after the renal unit roof in Fort William began leaking.

Three patients are being taken in Inverness by patient transport while work to replace the roof continues.

Staff from the renal dialysis service are also going to Inverness to ensure continuity of care for patients.

Marie Law, clinical services manager at the Belford, stressed the measure was temporary.

She said: 'The work was being

carried out with little disruption to the renal service, however, due to the recent severe weather the old sections of the roof began to leak. It is obviously not appropriate for patients to receive treatment while this is happening so they have had their treatment transferred to the renal unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness until the work is complete.'

Mrs Law hoped to have patients being treated back in Fort William by next week and apologised for any inconvenience caused.

## New Legion colours to be unfurled

THE BRITISH Legion Scotland Fort William branch will unfurl new colours for the Remembrance Parade on November 13 after raising £900 for a new banner.

The old flag was stored while still soaking wet last year and members only discovered the colours had run when preparing to join the Veteran's Day in Edinburgh in June.

The cash target was passed after *The Oban Times* contributed £100 to the appeal this week. Other local

businesses and individuals also gave generously, some anonymously.

Collections at Lochaber Agricultural Show and the Ben Nevis Race brought in further monies. Organisers of both events gave the legion a stance free of charge.

Mark McCann of the Fort William branch thanked all those who donated in cash or in kind.

'I'm pretty sure *The Oban Times* money will take us over the total,' he said.

## Association extends centre plans

THE PRICE tag for a proposed indoor training and multi-sports centre at An Aird is up to £1million after would-be developers Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) extended their plans.

The body wants to add a polypropylene surface suitable for gymnastics, tennis, netball, roller-skating, football, indoor bowling and hockey next to the artificial turf pitches.

The revised building would measure 80 metres by 40

metres, 20 metres longer than the initial structure. LSA have submitted an £11,000 funding bid to LEADER for a grant towards legal fees, planning advice, site investigations and architects' fees, chairperson Jane Blanchard told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'We hope to hear the result at the beginning of October, and, if favourable, aim to submit our planning application, in principle, by the end of January.'



Last lap: John in Fort William as prepares for the final 300-mile leg round Argour, Sunart, Ardnarmurchan and Moidart back to Lochailort. 20.137john01

# Coastline bike challenge just the beginning

LOCHAILORT man John Bryden is already planning his next fundraising trip after finishing a gruelling 8,000-mile charity motorbike ride on Monday night.

Mr Bryden's 31-day marathon round the coastline of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland on his 125cc machine exceeded his £10,000 target for Kirsty's Kids, which he and wife Jan set up after their daughter Kirsty's tragic death in a road accident last September.

Kirsty worked with disadvantaged young people in Scotland and helped run an orphanage in Mozambique. The 19-year-old had been planning the bike trip herself in aid of needy children.

Speaking from his Craiglea home, Mr Bryden told *The Oban Times* an even bigger challenge was on the cards - a bike ride round Norway, Sweden and Russia early next summer.

He said: 'I'm looking for a group who are interested in joining me this time. I'm

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

hoping we can get a motorbike manufacturer to donate a small bike that we can give away as a prize.'

Mr Bryden will be hoping for better weather on his European expedition. His waterlogged British tour saw only five dry days - but people's generosity more than compensated for wet feet.

In Northern Ireland, Mr Bryden pulled up at the Everglades Hotel in Londonderry after riding for 375 miles in driving rain.

He said: 'I saw this huge, stunning hotel and I thought 'I can't afford this', but went in and asked the price. A gentleman came out and asked if I was doing a charity run, and when I told him what I was doing he told me to get upstairs. They put me up in the most beautiful room - the bed was about 14 feet wide!

'Then he had me wheel my bike

inside and put it in the ballroom to keep it safe. It was absolutely marvellous.'

One hairy moment came in Cornwall, where Mr Bryden used his bike lights to find a grassy place to pitch his tent at night.

He said: 'One morning I woke up and I was quite amazed to find myself at the top of a cliff. Some of the roads there are very twisty and your speed's not much more than walking pace. At times I thought I was never going to get out of there.'

He added: 'I travelled with complete strangers who have become dearest friends. I feel deeply humbled and overwhelmed by the devotion the public has shown to Kirsty's Kids, and I'm honoured to fulfil Kirsty's last challenge. This is a tiny step forward in the future of Kirsty's Kids as a charity organisation.'

Because of the overwhelming response in Ireland, Mr Bryden is planning a road trip there as a warm-up for the European tour.

## Mini owners' king-sized donation to rescue team

THEIR cars may be pocket-sized, but big-hearted Mini owners made a king-sized contribution to a Lochaber charity.

Members of the Mini Clan drove to Fort William for their sponsored rally in May and picked Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team as one of the two charities to benefit.

Around a dozen Mini enthusiasts returned to the Lochaber capital on Sunday and handed over a cheque for £3,000 at LMRT's HQ on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate.

The club holds its 'Thistle Run' from Blair Drummond every May. Each year a convoy of Minis follows one arm of an imaginary St Andrew's cross on the map to head either northwest, northeast, southeast or

southwest to the coast. The Lochaber capital was the 2011 northwest destination, and some 193 minis rolled into town on May 29.

Mini Clan membership secretary Andrew Everson, a railway signalman based at Kilmarnock, told *The Oban Times*: 'All our minis were sponsored, and this year our two charities were Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and the neo-natal ward at the Southern General Hospital. We are giving £3,000 to each.

LMRT team member Miller Harris said: 'It is absolutely brilliant. We carry out 30 per cent plus of all rescues in the country - so far this year we have done 96, compared to 83 last year and an average of 60 or 70 five years ago.'



Andrew Everson, right, presents the £3,000 cheque to Miller Harris of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team with Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson.

## Protesters greet SAS delegation

BANNERS and placards greeted a Scottish Ambulance Service delegation as they arrived in west Ardnarmurchan on Tuesday evening for talks about emergency 999 cover.

About 100 people lined the road through Kilchoan, Glenborrodale and Ardsloghain dressed as injured casualties. SAS delegates met members of West Ardnarmurchan Community Council, NHS Highland and Highland Council leader Michael Foxley in Kilchoan Community Centre for a second time about replacing district nurses who currently provide emergency cover for the area. WACC secretary Jonathan Haylett said the proposals put forward by SAS remained 'unacceptable'.

A meeting between the parties last month ended in stalemate, with angry locals saying no 'realistic ideas' had been put forward. The parties agreed to meet again on September 27 for a full public meeting at the same venue.

For full reaction to the meeting see next week's *Oban Times*.



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## Club backs Watssman in pitch row

FORT William FC committee members have given club chairman John Watssman their unequivocal backing after he was slated by local councillors in a row over flooding problems at Claggan park.

Colin Neilson, David MacDonald, Calum MacLean, James Annette, George Cairns, John Corbett, Marie MacMillan, Albert Wardrop, Elaine MacNeill contacted *The Oban Times* after councillors invited Mr Watssman to consider 'whether he is now the right person to lead the club'.

Mr Watssman earlier claimed Claggan Park owners Highland Council were not doing enough to maintain the park or to support football in Lochaber. The councillors vehemently denied that, highlighting as evidence a current £150,000 investment at Claggan and £4.5million for sports facilities in Lochaber since 2007.

Reaffirming their 'total support and 100 per cent backing' for Mr Watssman, the committee

By STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

– surely that should apply for the locals as well as for the visitors.'

A spokesman for the six Lochaber councillors told *The Oban Times*: 'It is unfortunate that Fort William FC refused to attend a meeting today [Tuesday] to discuss facilities at Claggan, including a £150,000 investment being made by Highland Council. It would have been explained to the club that there are future improvements to the facilities in the Greater Fort William area, including an all weather pitch at the Blar Mhor, and two new grass pitches at Lochaber High School coming on stream in the spring of next year. Highland Council stands by its record of improving facilities for all sports clubs in the area and recognises the fine work being done by the youth section at FWFC.'

'There is nothing that has happened in recent weeks which will prevent the local councillors from working with the club if they indeed are prepared to do so.'

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**Ferry helps stricken yacht**

CLYDE Coastguard organised the Camusnagaul Ferry to help the yacht *Lady Naomi*, with five people on board, after the vessel broke down in Loch Linnhe off Fort William on Saturday. The yacht was towed to a safe mooring in Camusnagaul Bay.

**Commando memorial work starts**

WORK on expanding the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge has got underway. Highland Council, which owns and maintains the memorial, was told by the Commando Veterans Association the memorial garden needed to be extended to cope with the large number of tributes being laid.

The £25,000 upgrade will see an additional outer circle added with a new area created for the scattering of ashes. Speaking at meeting of The Highland Council, Councillor Allan Henderson said it was 'absolutely vital' the work was completed before this year's Remembrance Day Service in November.

The funds will be taken from money collected from a donation box at the site set up to pay for the memorial's upkeep.

**Comunn na Gàidhlig appoints new chairman**

GAELIC development agency Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) has appointed a new chairman to help guide its activities in the months ahead.

Isle of Skye councillor Hamish Fraser takes over from fellow Skye-man Donald MacDonald, who held the post for four years.

Mr Fraser, chairman of Highland Council's Gaelic Committee for the last four years, said: 'I'm very pleased to take on this role, and I hope I can contribute to CnaG's work in the months ahead.'

**Plockton High medal success**

PLOCKTON High S5 pupil Joshua Holder won two bronze medals at the UK School Badminton Games in Sheffield.

Joshua, of Lochcarron, was part of a six man Scottish team and came third in both the singles and doubles competitions. School rector Duncan Ferguson said Joshua had worked 'extremely hard'.

**Fundraising produce fair**

A FUNDRAISING produce fair will be held in Arisaig next Thursday.

Vegetables, home-baking and knitted items will be among the items on sale at Astley Hall from 11am-3pm, with all proceeds going to Friends of the Mallaig and District Swimming Pool.



Moira Hartley, of Kinlochleven Community Trust, welcomes brewer Harry Heskey to the new premises. 20.137/brew01

**Raise a glass to new one-man Kinlochleven brewery**

BREWING has resumed in Kinlochleven 14 months after Sinclair Breweries Ltd closed its Atlas Brewery in the village with the loss of four jobs.

Local man Harry Heskey has ploughed tens of thousands of pounds of his own cash into setting up River Leven Ales.

The one-man business operates from the same premises as Atlas, the former carbon plant for Kinlochleven's now demolished aluminium smelter.

Mr Heskey, 53 a former dentist who worked as a brewer for Atlas, declined to say exactly how big his investment was, but confirmed it had been 'a substantial five-figure sum'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have

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

done this all off my own back. I have no grants whatsoever. Whether I employ anyone else will depend on sales. I have brewed a stock for the next few weeks and sales will determine how much I will be brewing from then on in. So far the response has been encouraging.'

Building owners Kinlochleven Development Trust was delighted to sign the lease with Mr Heskey. Chairman Andrew Baxter said: 'The Trust was disappointed to lose Sinclair Breweries

following the relocation to their existing Orkney operation. The move had a direct impact on our community work because of a substantial loss of income through lost rental. 'We were delighted to provide assistance for this new enterprise. With a high rainfall, water plays an important part in the lives of village residents. 'Water is the reason Kinlochleven exists, so it is appropriate it is being turned into River Leven Ales. 'Harry has worked so hard to transform an empty shell into a functioning brewery. I am looking forward to joining him in raising a glass to his new venture.'

**Skye Camanachd team coach praised**

SKYE Camanachd chairman Ross Cowie has praised 'the outstanding contribution' of Nui MacDonald, who has decided to step down as team coach because of work commitments.

MacDonald, 27, went out on a high when Skye defeated Caberfeidh 3-1 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday.

Cowie told *The Oban Times*: 'Nui has been

immense both as a player and manager. But he's only 27 and I certainly don't want him to finish there. Hopefully there's much more to come.

'We really appreciate his efforts in the last couple of years.

'I'll maybe try to talk him into changing his mind again!'

See shinty, page 19.

**Museum painting back in spotlight**

A DELEGATION from cash-strapped West Highland Museum (WHM) will brief Arisaig Community Council in the Astley Hall on a valuable Victorian painting in the museum's possession.

Highland Council's WHM trustee Councillor Donald Cameron, WHM management committee chairman Chris Robinson and board member Tearlach MacFarlane of Glenfinnan will update members on *Letters and News* at the *Lochside* on Monday night.

The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells has been the subject of controversy since WHM considered selling it to raise much-needed cash for development plans.

The Fort William-based museum adopted a donations-

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

only admissions policy this year which saw visitor numbers rise, but income fall.

The sale was subsequently put on ice after vehement protests from local people keen to retain an important item of local history. The painting, of a boat on Loch Eilt-side, depicts men whose descendants are still live in the area.

The late Miss Joan Becher, bequeathed the artwork to any museum interested in taking it. WHM assumed ownership in 1995 on Ms Becher's death.

Because of its size it remained in Miss Becher's former home, Arisaig House, now a

guesthouse, where it is open to public view.

Comunn Eachraidh Arasaig (CEA) (Arisaig Historical Society) and WHM take opposing views on whether the painting can be sold according to the museum's disposal and acquisition policy.

CEA committee member Allan MacDonald expected 'one or two extra' at Monday's meeting.

'We are trying to get as many members as possible to turn up,' he said.

'We don't know why they are trying to get round the community council.

'Maybe if they can get the community council to sanction a sale, then they have the grounds for proceeding with that.

'But they also seem to think that the natives of Arisaig have

no knowledge of the museum and its responsibilities.'

Councillor Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'We will take the opportunity to explain to the community council the position with regard to trying to raise funds and the disposals policy.'

'There is a willingness to work with the community council here. We hope there will be a clearer understanding of both the community's and the museum's position. There are no immediate plans to sell the painting.'

Pressed on whether the community would be given first option to buy should that situation arise, he said: 'That is a position I would personally like to get into.'

The painting is believed to have been valued at between £10,000 and £60,000.

**Pupils keep their spirits up during rain-soaked school triathlon**

HEAVY rain didn't deter primary school children from across Lochaber coming to Fort William to take part in the annual school triathlon event on Friday.

Seventeen schools from as far afield as Invergarry, Mallaig and Achraacle entered teams of three pupils - one swimmer, one cyclist and one runner. The event was organised by Active Schools and sponsored by No Fuss Events.

The first competitors faced a timed 200m swim - eight lengths of the pool - at Lochaber Leisure Centre. The cyclists then set off on a four-mile ride up Glen Nevis and back before the runners raced from the glen back to the leisure centre.

Each school's times were then tallied up with Upper Achintore's team of Stewart Adams, Ruari Cant and Hailie Aitchison

named winners. Spean Bridge Primary finished second with St Brides in third.

Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas said: 'All the kids were really enthusiastic and the rain didn't seem to dampen their spirits at all.'

Results: Overall - 1 Upper Achintore - Stewart Adams, Ruari Cant, Hailie Aitchison; 2 Spean Bridge - Carla Berardelli, Will Dalley, Steven Neil; 3 St Brides - Freja Ward, Calum MacLean, Alex Dent, Swim - 1 Gregor Innes, Mallaig 4m 6s; 2 Corran Wineberg 4m 6s; 3 Lucy Kyle, Inverloch, 4m 21s. Bike - 1 Ruari Cant, 17m 55s; 2 Will Daley, Spean Bridge, 19m; 3 Keir Gibson, Fort William RC, 19m 52s. Run - 1 Ryan Henderson, Lochydside, 10m 40s; 2 Alex Dent, St Brides's, 10m 57s 3 Robyn Blackhall, Caol, 11m 4s.



Friday 4pm: Scottish Water men Hughie MacIntosh and David Cameron show the hole in the broken main - and the eight-foot hole behind. 20.137/hole01

**Fort water main bursts**

WATER supplies in Fort William town centre were interrupted last Thursday night and Friday after a 12-inch water main underneath the High Street fractured in two places.

The PVC pipe burst outside Ossian's Hotel in the pedestrianised street about 7pm, followed shortly by a second burst at The Crofter Bar nearby. Passers-by looked on as water gushing up through the cobblestones. Scottish Water contractors worked through the night to locate the leaks.

By morning eight feet deep holes had exposed the damaged sections, which were lifted out and replaced.

Some local businesses were without water from 7.30pm until 10am on Friday morning.

Ossian's barman Graham Fraser said: 'We had a bit of water in the basement and a wee bit outside, but no damage.'

The Belford Hospital was believed to be among those affected, but contingency plans meant services were unaffected.

Fort William Scottish Water engineer Hughie MacIntosh told *The Oban Times* on site that a production flaw in the pipe, which was laid in the late 1970s, was a likely cause.

The main has split length-ways and water pressure had punched a diamond-shaped hole in its side.

Crofter's staff kept workers supplied with coffee and sandwiches throughout Friday. The holes were filled in by Monday.



Champions: Winning team Upper Achintore celebrate with their trophy. 20.137/t01

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**Council leader voices fears over withdrawal of emergency tug**

HIGHLAND council leader Michael Foxley has warned the UK Government that axing Stornoway's seagoing tug risks environmental disaster.

Only three weeks remain before the emergency towing vessel (ETV) is withdrawn from the west coast to save cash.

Councillor Foxley recalled the 'Yeoman Bontrup' incident last July, when the freighter caught fire while berthed at the Glensanda quarry in Morvern.

The fire was put out by the emergency tug the *Anglian Prince*, which towed the vessel away.

Councillor Foxley said: 'Had the fire not been put out, the boat would have sunk at the berthage. Glensanda would have been out of operation for at least three months with an economic cost running to millions of pounds. When the fire was put out the fuel tanks were close to rupturing. Had this happened, 800 tonnes of fuel oil would have been discharged into the waters of Loch Linnhe.

'The economic consequences would have been enormous. The cost to salmon farmers alone would have amounted to at least £50 million.

'The oil spillage would have destroyed many shellfish farms. It would have had disastrous consequences for marine mammals and sea birds.'

'To avoid this, this particular ETV costs £2.5 million per annum. It was involved in five major incidents in the southern Minches in the past year.

'It is vital that everybody concerned about this writes to their Highlands and Islands MP as well as to the Minister of Transport in the UK Government.'

**Trust and estate owner open talks on community buyout**

THE ROCKY road to a controversial community buyout on Lewis could become smoother after the warring parties opened negotiations on a possible amicable sale.

The Pairc Trust and Pairc Estate owner Barry Lomas have been at loggerheads for years over the trust's hostile takeover bid.

The move won backing from environment minister Roseanna Cunningham, but ongoing - and potentially crippling - legal action could stall any buyout for years.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh is currently being asked to rule whether the Scottish Parliament acted lawfully under the European Convention on Human Rights by permitting the trust to take over the estate against the owner's wishes.

A judgement could take two years, then Stornoway Sheriff Court would hear further appeals - potentially dragging the issue out into 2014.

At stake is the 20,000 acres of South Lochs moorland and small pockets of better in-by-croft land owned by Mr Lomas, who made the initial approach for talks.

Central to the debate will be Scottish and Southern Energy's bid to site a 26-turbine windfarm on Pairc - a potentially moneyspinner for the landowner.

It is understood a deal on the buyout could be struck if the community agrees certain concessions.

A spokesman for Pairc Trust said exploratory discussions were at 'an early stage'.

He added: 'We have always made it clear that Pairc Trust are happy to discuss proposals from the estate for an amicable transfer.'

'If an acceptable outcome can be negotiated, Pairc Trust will bring the offer to the people of Pairc for their consideration.'

Meanwhile, Community Land Scotland, the body representing Scotland's community landowners, has demanded a shake-up of Crown Estate functions in Scotland.

Chairman David Cameron said: 'It is time for radical reform of the Crown Estate and part of that reform needs to empower local communities to take control of appropriate assets the Crown Estate currently manage, and manage those assets alongside the communities land based assets.'

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**Cars clamped in DVLA crackdown**

EIGHTEEN cars in Fort William were clamped by police in one day as part of a crackdown on unlicensed vehicles. The enforcement day last Wednesday, carried out with the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), found the cars parked on public land without a valid MOT or insurance. The owners of the vehicles will have to pay a fine of £260 to get the clamps removed.

**Star quality at town bed and breakfast**

A FORT William bed and breakfast has been given a prestigious gold star award from VisitScotland. The Gantocks on Achintore Road was given the award for 'striving to exceed customer expectations on an on-going basis', according to VisitScotland quality manager Colin Houston.

**New shinty clubhouse open soon**

KILMALLIE Shinty Club's new £130,000 clubhouse is due to be completed within the next month. Work on the project got underway in February and was expected to last around six months, but has been held up by poor weather as well as some minor changes to the plans. The new clubhouse will include changing rooms, a meeting room and a small kitchen. Funding for the new facility, which will be available for community use, came from a combination of grants and the club's own fundraising.

**Football club lotto numbers**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William Football Club Lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 05 - 07 - 17. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £500.

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



Lochaber High School's class of '83 enjoyed a great night in Caol Community Centre.

**'Year of '83' reunite**

LOCHABER High School former pupils celebrated turning 40 this year at their 'Year of '83' reunion in Caol Community Centre. About 70 people travelled from as far as Wales, England, Edinburgh Aberdeen and Inverness to enjoy a night of nostalgia with 80s music. Several house parties, we are told, continued afterwards into the wee small hours. Event organiser Aileen Campbell, from Spean Bridge, said funny moments abounded - including one in a local bar beforehand. Aileen, 39, and co-organiser Katrina Matheson, from Fort William, were in a party of eight in the Lochy Bar waiting for a former classmate from across the water to join them. When he walked in Katrina shouted 'George Brown!' - not his real name - to gales of laughter from all concerned. The nickname, Aileen told *The Oban Times*, originated from 1983, when the group were 51 newcomers at Lochaber High in Mr Cox's class. 'Before you start I want you to your name on your jotter,' Mr Cox had said, writing 'George Brown' on the blackboard as an example. C.G. did exactly as told - and copied down 'George Brown' on his new exercise book! Aileen said: 'Everybody had a great time and it was a fantastic night. It was great to catch up with people we had not see for a while.'

**Claggan strongman narrowly misses out on 'Ultimate' title**

Rising star John impresses judges

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER strongman John Hutton narrowly missed out on the UK's Ultimate Strongman 2011 title after reaching the final in Belfast. Claggan man John became the first Scottish competitor to reach the final of the UK championships in his first appearance in the competition. He qualified after winning four of the eight group 'B' events and finishing in first place - also a first for a Scot. The judges were so impressed by John's performance they awarded him the 'Ultimate Warrior' trophy, given to the most impressive performance throughout the weekend of events, which will be televised at Christmas. The 28-year-old offshore worker is one of the sport's fastest rising stars, having only taken up strongman training late last year. John told *The Oban Times* the weekend had gone much better than he had expected. 'I'm delighted with how I did,' he said. 'I wasn't expecting it at all. There was a big crowd and



Man mountain: John had success at the UK Ultimate Strongman competition. 20\_f37strong01

**Piper Connal calls it a day**

GLENFINNAN Station Museum had paid tribute to a local piper for his six years of service in providing tunes for passengers arriving on the Jacobite steam train from Fort William. Clagganman Connal MacBride, 22, entertained rail travellers on the platform at the station daily from Monday to Friday between 11am and 11.25am during the summer season. Glenfinnan Station Museum Trust secretary John Barnes told *The Oban Times* Connal's playing had been 'very much part' of the Jacobite image. 'The visitors' experience was really enhanced by Connal's contribution,' he said. 'We do a Jacobite raffle every day, with proceeds going to several local charities and the upkeep of the locomotive. 'There's no doubt having a piper playing at the station helps.' The museum is now looking for a piper to replace Connal.



Connal MacBride: played for the final time at Glenfinnan Station.

**Youngsters get say at forum**

YOUNG people will take centre stage at Lochaber south (Ward 22) forum scheduled for Monday, November 14, in the Nevis Centre. The meeting will be dedicated to youth issues of concern and follows a successful 'young people speak out' forum held at Ballachulish in September 2009. Topics discussed then included policing, access to community facilities and further education and a similar wide range of questions is anticipated again. Assistant Lochaber wards manager Emma Tayler said: 'We are asking for questions to be submitted three weeks in advance of the meeting in order that appropriate partners can prepare answers for the night. If specific questions are raised which organisations or services are in a position to answer, we would ask that a representative of those organisation or services attends the forum to give direct feedback to the young people.' Councillors in Ward 12 will also be offering young people the chance to raise questions at their forum the following evening at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, at 7.30pm.



Best-selling author: Father Tom. 20\_f33tom01

**Priest's book raises £3,400**

A BOOK written by a Roy Bridge priest has raised more than £3,400 in under four months for Mary's Meals. Monsignor Tom Wynne, of St Margaret's Church, originally wrote 'The Forgotten Cameron of the '45' after years of research for himself and friends, but after an anonymous donor paid for publishing costs the book was put on general sale. The book, which tells the story of Father Alexander Cameron, a chaplain to Bonnie Prince Char-

**MSP reassured over local 'bobbies' on the beat**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has expressed disappointment at Scottish Government plans to create a single national police force and single fire and rescue service. Mr Thompson, who had backed a four-force restructuring of both services, however welcomed reassurances from Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill that not all backroom jobs will be centralised. He said: 'I hope that when the time comes, a good share of these jobs are located in the Highlands. 'The people of the Highlands deserve to retain their fair share of the backroom jobs, and I would hope that the hierarchy of the new police force will take this into consideration when deciding on locations for services.' He added: 'I am happy to have been reassured by the Cabinet Secretary that we will not lose our 'bobbies' on the beat and that there will be local accountability. The safety and security of the people of the Highlands, and indeed Scotland, must remain paramount in any decision taken.' Mr Thompson's comments came after he urged Mr MacAskill in parliament to ensure that some jobs in information technology, human resources, finance and legal services would be in the Highlands and Islands. Mr MacAskill replied: 'I give him the assurance that we have discussed with the SPSA [Scottish Police Services Authority] why it is in the best interests of Scotland and the service for some jobs to be spread around the country. 'I assure him that the opportunity that he seeks will be there—and will, I think, be taken. 'We will ensure that jobs in the police service and the fire and rescue service are not centralised in one place but are shared across the country, when that is appropriate.'

**Fisherman rescues surfboarder**

A LOCAL fisherman rescued an exhausted female surfboarder from the chilly waters of Loch Linnhe on Saturday night. Fergie MacLean, from Camusnagaul, had only taken his 20-foot Polarcirkel boat out on a whim when he came across the woman on her board off Treslaig. A local kayaker was alongside by the time Mr MacLean arrived at the scene as darkness fell. The woman, believed to be from the Fort William area, was hauled aboard Mr MacLean's boat cold and tired, but unhurt. It is understood she had been surfboarding with her husband earlier in the day. The couple enjoyed a reviving cup of tea at Mr MacLean's house. Mr MacLean told *The Oban Times*: 'I was looking forward to a nice glass of wine and it was pure instinct that I went out in the boat.' Local coastguard sector manager Phil Wren was contacted after the rescue. He said: 'Thanks from the coastguard go to the kayaker and Mr Maclean with his fishing vessel. 'Without him we would have needed a rescue craft - which we don't happen to have at the moment.'

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Saturday night > Skipinnish Ceilidh House FREE ENTRY followed by Night Club 10.30pm-2am - £5 Entry

Saturday 24th September > Dick Gaughan in concert Skipinnish Ceilidh House Tickets from Ceilidh House

Saturday 10 September > Maggie MacInnes Sunart Centre, Strontian 7.30pm. & Colum Sands Blas-festival.com Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band

Wednesday 14 September > Cherish The Ladies Acharacle Primary School 7.30pm. Kristan Harvey Blas-festival.com

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**Accused in High Court over fatal boating accident**

A MAN accused of causing the death of a diver in a boating accident made his first public court appearance on Monday.

Jason Robinson denied culpable homicide at the High Court in Glasgow. The 41-year-old, from Cramlington, Northumberland, is said to have caused a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) to run aground on Calve Island, near Tobermory, in May 2009 resulting in the death of Garry Henaghan, 44, also of Cramlington.

It is claimed Robinson 'culpably and recklessly' navigated the vessel with disregard for safety.

He is said to have been under the influence of alcohol and failed to keep a sufficient look out, properly plan a safe route and ensure there was adequate lighting.

Robinson is accused of navigating the boat at excessive speeds for the conditions and of failing to adequately monitor the position of it during the journey. It is claimed the RIB ran aground at speed resulting in Mr Henaghan and Wayne Robinson being thrown out.

Mr Henaghan died as result of his injuries.

Robinson pled not guilty to the culpable homicide charge.

Judge Lord Braacadale adjourned the hearing until next month.

**Jura malt posts record sales**

JURA'S 10-year-old whisky has become the fastest selling single malt in the world after posting record sales figures.

The news comes in the same week that Scottish whisky industry exports rose 22 per cent during January to June this year.

Jura is now producing about 84,000 cases per year and, taking current projections into account, aims to increase that to 100,000 cases in 2012.

Jura Distillery manager Willie Cochran said: 'We don't sell the highest number of cases but our sales for this year have been outpacing everyone else.'

Willie puts this success down to maturing the whisky in American Bourbon casks.



Local SSPCA officer John McAvoy with the corn snake found at Battery Terrace. John is now hoping to find its owner. If you are the owner or know who is, contact the SSPCA on 03000 999 999.

15\_137snake1

# Snake's alive! Sneaky serpent causes chaos

Oban resident finds unwelcome guest in air vent

A SNEAKY snake slithered its way into an Oban home, causing three weeks of chaos as residents tried to capture the elusive reptile.

Archie Milne was startled to say the least when he found the serpent hiding in a broken air vent outside his flat at 2 Battery Terrace.

But little did he realise that the four-and-a-half foot long corn snake would cause quite as much trouble as it did, even if it did provide a few laughs along the way.

Archie, who admits that all things scaly give him the 'heebie-jeebies', said: 'Some guys were working on the roof and I went

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

to connect a hose for them. Then I saw a broken air vent and found this snake sitting there.

'I thought it was rubber and a joke, but then it moved about one inch and I shot off!'

Archie phoned the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) but was advised that, unless the harmless snake had been captured, there was little they could do.

That call was the catalyst for a series of events that will live with Archie and neighbours

Eddie MacCormack and Gordon Stewart for ever.

Archie first tried to capture the snake using an extendable litter picker, but to no avail. 'I didn't realise they were strong,' he said.

**Vanished**

After that, the snake vanished, and Archie went for a few days' break. When he returned on Saturday, he found it sitting in the garden and managed to successfully coax it into a plastic bag.

But with no SSPCA inspectors in the area during the weekend, he was advised to move it into a pillow case.

Gordon and Eddie were called

in to help move the creature they had identified as a non-venomous corn snake native to north America.

'It didn't like the pillow case,' said Archie, 'so Gordon fetched a large cardboard box and we managed to get him in there.'

'Eddie then thought the snake looked harmless enough and tried to pick it up. It bit him.'

'It was just a puncture wound, but it drew blood. We kept our distance after that.'

'Gordon then offered to keep the snake in his house as he wasn't too bothered about it - then it escaped!'

Gordon said: 'I wasn't too bothered by it at first, but when

it got out I was a wee bit more cautious.'

The slippery snake was finally captured with a towel and eased into a more secure container before it was collected by SSPCA staff on Monday.

Gordon said: 'By that time we had softened to the snake - but we weren't sad to see it go.'

Local SSPCA inspector John McAvoy said: 'They are not native to his area and while they can survive the alleged Scottish summer, they can start to retreat indoors during this time of year.'

The snake will be relocated in Scotland to be looked after by a reptile centre.

**Community quids in thanks to wind turbine**

A COMMUNITY wind turbine has generated ten times as much money for local good causes than expected in its first year of operation.

Three Community Development Trust has just announced that applications are now being invited for the second tranche of funding from the Tilley Windfall Fund, with an astonishing £40,000 up for grabs.

It takes the total sum generated for the community to £50,000, some way from the £5,000 per annum it was originally thought it would raise.

Trust manager Ann Kirby said: 'It's absolutely brilliant. We weren't expecting it at all really.'

'Originally I had high hopes that it would do more than the £5,000 projected, but to put an extra digit on that figure is amazing.'

The news means islanders now have even more to be thankful for an asset many people would shun - the wind - which already drives windsurfers to the island in their droves.

Speaking through a smile on during Monday's storm, Ann said: 'We call days like this a three grand day.' Lynne MacKinnon,

development officer for Tiree Community Development Trust, said: 'Bearing in mind that the projected figure was £5,000 for the first full year, we have been completely blown away by Tilley's success.'

'The trust is now welcoming Windfall Fund applications for projects that provide clear benefit to the wider community of Tiree.'

**Priorities**

'Key priorities, identified in local consultation, are: youth, cultural heritage, business development and job creation, affordable housing, community care, energy efficiency and environmental protection.'

'Anyone with an interest in the island of Tiree can apply. This includes individuals, groups, organisations or businesses.'

The deadline for applications is Monday October 31 2011. For an enquiry form or for more information please contact Andy Wright at the trust office on 01879 220074 or email andy@tireetrust.org.uk.

Enquiry forms can be downloaded from the website www.tireetrust.org.uk.

**Driver charged after bridge collision**

THE CLOSURE of the Connel Bridge last week would have been much longer were it not for the swift action of Scotland Trans and Scottish Hydro Electric.

The lifeline route between Oban and Fort William had to be shut after a lorry hit a girder, damaging an electrical cable which was left hanging over the road. Pedestrians were allowed to cross the bridge with care.

A Trans spokesman said a structural engineer had to come from Perth to assess the damage, and while the bridge was able to be re-opened within four hours, remedial work will need to be carried out in due course. It is hoped to schedule this to coincide with other planned work to minimise disruption.

Oban police inspector Julie McLeish said: 'From our



The broken girder on Connel Bridge. 15\_137connelbridge1

perspective, there was a very prompt and efficient response from Trans and Scottish Hydro Electric.'

'At one point, it appeared the bridge would have to be shut for a longer time, but they were able to get resources there very quickly.'

A man has been charged for driving without due care and attention in connection with the incident.

Several villages were virtually cut off briefly, after an accident near the Creagan Bridge blocked the A828 further north.

**Town to host new Seafood Festival**

OBAN, newly designated seafood capital of Scotland, is to have a Seafood Festival in 2012.

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for tourism, said plans were at an early stage, adding he would like to hear suggestions and

ideas for what he hopes will be a complementary addition to some of the many other marine tourism events that happen in the town.

Contact Mr Mackay on neilmoban@gmail.com. Yesterday, Wednesday, he

spoke to the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association about his plans. It was proposed the Seafood Festival would be on the shoulder months of April/May or September to prolong the relatively short tourist season in the town.

**OFFSHORE WIND CAREERS EVENING**

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7pm start

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**The Oban Times**  
Thursday, September 18, 1986

**Parents' concern escalates**  
STRATHCLYDE Region's Education Authority was to be asked to set in motion the machinery which could ultimately result in the closure of three of Argyll's primary schools.

**Lochaline pupils may go over the sea - to school**  
CATCHING the school bus is a commonplace experience for pupils. But now, some Morven youngsters may be catching the school boat instead.

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- Cover up for battle... (4,3)
- ...cover over (5)
- Terrible (5)
- Previously selected control (7)
- Testing area (7,6)
- Sanctuary (6)
- Eat out! (6)
- Music from a large box (6,7)
- Latin isolation (2,5)
- Fix firmly (5)
- Squares of lines (5)
- The art of using weapons (7)

**Down**

- Painful tightening of muscle (5)
- Leave the ground (7)
- Foot travel aids (7,6)
- Quit (6)
- Steel (13)
- Goodbye to the French (5)
- Statistically, given time, previous conditions will return (7)
- Support system (7)
- Distinguished person (7)
- Fore-sided shape (6)
- Delegate (5)
- Blushed complexion (5)

**Last week's solution**

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

**Stornoway Police hunt man**

STORNOWAY police are appealing for information regarding an incident in the lane between Willowglen Road and Stewart Drive between 6pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday September 6.

Officers are anxious to trace a male wearing a purple/burgundy Henleys hooded top who was seen in the area at the time.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Stornoway police on 01851 702222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Money stolen from Sconser house**

PORTREE police are investigating the theft of a three figure sum of money from a house in Sconser.

The cash was stolen sometime between 11pm on Saturday September 4 and 5.10am the following day. Police are appealing to anyone who may have information about the theft to contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

**Support group launches Fort William branch**

A CHARITY support group for people who have suffered brain injuries is launching its Lochaber branch in Fort William this Saturday.

Headway Highland is a Scottish charity which provides information, support and services to brain injured survivors, their families and their carers. The Lochaber group will support people affected by brain injuries and raise funds to help their families. The launch day at the BA Club will include guest speakers talking about their experiences with brain injuries, an exhibition and information about the charity and an opportunity to join up.

The event gets underway at 11am and is open to all members of the public.



Learning curve: a record 150 students have enrolled at West Highland College Fort William.

**Record number of students at West Highland College**

WEST Highland College Fort William welcomed a record 150 full time students last week - its biggest ever first year recruitment.

In higher education, about 40 are taking the four-year Adventure Tourism Management

BA honours degree course, which WHC was validated to deliver this year.

Further education courses being taken include child health and social care, construction skills, rural skills, administration and music.

Some of the first years are distance learning via video-link, video-conferencing and the internet, studying courses being delivered from other UHI centres. Examples include archaeology and Scottish historical and cultural studies, WHC Fort

William customer services manager Fiona McCormick told *The Oban Times*.

In addition, about 50 first year full time students have enrolled at WHC learning centres elsewhere in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross.



Duncan Ferguson met up with Mulleach Duncan MacQuarrie at the Siollse conference.

**Conference reunion**

THE RECENT first Gaelic research conference hosted by Siollse at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, saw Plockton High School rector Duncan Ferguson catch up with some old acquaintances.

Mr Ferguson, an Islay man who worked in Mull for six years, was delighted to meet Tobermory-born Gaels Duncan MacQuarrie, a retired inspector of Gaelic tuition in schools, Janet MacDonald, former teacher of Gaelic at Tobermory

High School and chairman of the Mull Mod committee Iain MacKinnon. The three Mulleachs all started Tobermory Primary School on the same day about 60 years ago.

Mr Ferguson, the first chairman of Bordna Gaidhlig, described Mr MacQuarrie as 'an indefatigable champion' of the Gaelic and its renaissance throughout his life.

Mr Ferguson also said he was 'delighted' to see presentations from both Argyll islands at the conference.

**Community council meets**

GRASSCUTTING, the removal of debris and potholes along the A82 will be among the items discussed at Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council's (FA&GCC) monthly meeting on September 29.

The council has been in correspondence with Scotland Transerv to express their dissatisfaction that grass verges and the village green are not being cut often enough. FA&GCC chairman Stewart Findlay told *The Oban Times*: 'They just put out signs about the uneven road surface. They are very slow to get anything done.'

Transerv customer services manager Cathel MacAskill said their subcontractor Alpha Plus was responsible for cutting the verges. He added, however, that Highland Council, not Transerv, was responsible for maintaining the village green - and the council had also contracted Alpha Plus to carry out that job.

**Firm gears up for school pitch repairs**

CONTRACTORS are expected to begin lifting the synthetic pitch at Kinlochleven High School next month once specialist equipment to carry out the complex task is brought in.

Alpha Schools Highland Ltd, which is responsible for maintaining the school and facilities, has hired Morrison Construction Ltd to undertake the repairs.

It is understood Morrison has reserved a machine, of which there are very few in the UK, to lift the artificial turf without damaging it before work can start on improving drainage through the hardcore underneath.

It is currently unclear how much material, if any, will have to be replaced with suitable hardcore. The synthetic carpet

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

will be relaid once remedial work is completed.

Morrison construction manager Mark Garland was due to meet the specialist contractor on site yesterday (Wednesday) to fix a date for work to start.

The pitch has suffered from drainage issues since it opened in 2008 at an estimated cost of £1million.

It is thought problems arose after ground up rubble from the demolished former school was used as hardcore and subsequently failed to allow rainwater to drain through.

Repairs are expected to take about four weeks, depending on weather conditions. Highland

Council has said Alpha Schools, not council taxpayers, will meet the cost of repairs.

With the pitch temporarily out of commission, south Lochaber will be without two playing fields - leaving Island Park in Kinlochleven as the only park available for local sports activities.

The pitch, which is owned by Kinlochleven Community Trust, 'is in a really good condition', development officer Moira Hartley told *The Oban Times*.

'It is a community facility and the agreement is that people can use it,' she said.

Jubilee Park in Ballachulish is out of use until summer 2012 due to pitch improvements being carried out by Highland Council.

**Government urged to back land fund with £10 million**

SCOTLAND'S community landowners are urging the Scottish Government to put substantial cash into a Scottish Land Fund to help local communities buy the land they live and work on.

Community Land Scotland (CLS) says £10million is required if the fund is to have a meaningful impact during the remaining four years of this parliament.

CLS, whose members include communities such as Eigg, Knoydart, North Harris and Gigha, says the community buy-out movement has effectively stalled and needs a fresh impetus. In response, the Government made a pre-election commitment to publish proposals for the land fund before the end of the year.

CLS chairman David Cameron said: 'The commitment to the

principle of a new Scottish Land Fund was significant and welcome. However, we now need to shape definite proposals and start promoting new initiatives and supporting communities that want to buy their land.'

'Community land ownership is one of the most powerful drivers of new enterprise and initiative in some of our most challenged and fragile communities. The evidence of the past is that a fund of £10 million will be needed to span the four coming years, if it is to drive progress forward.'

The call for funding comes within a CLS policy briefing to Ministers to help inform detailed planning for the new land fund and the spending review currently underway. The briefing also calls for HIE to administer the promised fund and sets out what kind of proposals should

qualify for cash support. Mr Cameron said creating the new fund ought to be one of the important issues the Parliament debates over coming months.

He added: 'We will be briefing MSPs on the enormous benefits which are to be gained in Scotland from more communities taking control of their land.'

'We look forward to helping the Scottish Government deliver its commitment to the new fund. The evidence shows that when communities purchase the land on which they live and work, powerful new initiatives follow, halting decline, creating jobs and diversifying the local economy.'

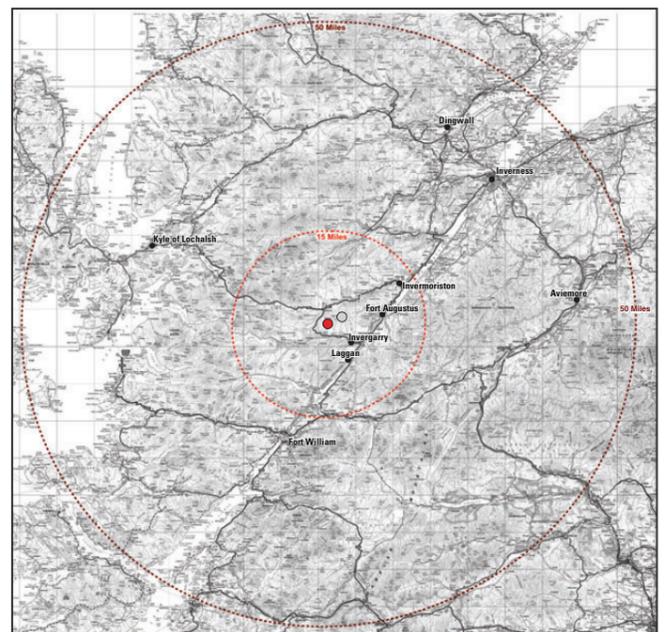
'The expansion of community land ownership is among the most exciting things to have happened to Scotland in recent years, and we need to see fresh momentum built.'

Newsdesk  
01397  
703003

**Beinneun Windfarm**  
**Opportunity for community participation**

**RIDGE WIND**

**Location and scope**



**Background**

- RidgeWind, one of the UK's leading independent wind farm developers, has been investigating the potential for a wind farm at Beinneun (location shown overleaf) since early 2009
- RidgeWind believes that a wind farm at Beinneun has good potential to be consented and built, not least because it is adjacent to the Millennium Wind Farm, which has been operating since 2008
- A layout for the site has been developed comprising 25 turbines
- RidgeWind has agreed to help the community to form, and will continue to support, a co-operative, principally comprising local individuals and organisations
- The purpose of the co-operative is to promote and provide projects relating to renewable energy and to provide financial and other support to the development of the proposed Beinneun Wind Farm, with a view to ensuring that the local community secures the benefits that an operational wind farm at Beinneun would bring

**Opportunity to Participate**

- To support its objectives, the co-operative is seeking to raise between £100,000 and £200,000, which it would contribute towards the costs of the planning process for the proposed wind farm
- If planning consent and a connection to the electricity network are obtained, the co-operative would be awarded an uplift of 50% on its contribution (ie £1.50 return for a £1 investment)
  - Potential for co-operative to keep some or all of its monies invested in the project from that point, and earn interest thereon
  - Only half of the co-operative's contribution will be returned if planning consent and network connection not obtained
- Opportunity for community participation, through subscription for shares in the co-operative
- Priority will be given to local individuals and organisations
- Minimum subscription £250, maximum £13,300

If you are interested in receiving more information, please register your interest at the contact details set out below.

An offer document, which will contain full details of the terms of the share offer, is expected to be available in late-August 2011, with the offer period likely to close in late-September 2011.

Intention would be to prioritise applications for subscription on the basis of proximity to the proposed site.

- First Priority: 15 mile radius
- Second priority: 50 mile radius

- Proposed Beinneun Wind Farm
- Existing Millennium Wind Farm

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## Lochaber ladies come second at Lochcarron

SAILING



Hannah Dougan, Katie MacLennan and Naomi Fallow: second at Lochcarron.

A JUNIOR sailing team from Lochaber travelled with the Lochaber Yacht Club's Topper dinghies to Lochcarron to take part in a team racing event on Saturday.

Two teams from the host club, Lochcarron and two from Plocton sailing club were the opposition.

The Lochaber team of Naomi Fallows, Hannah Dougan and Katie MacLennan finished second to the experienced 'A' team from Lochcarron.

Lochaber team manager Jamie Riley, in his last season as a junior, was delighted with the result, not least because Katie only started sailing this year.

'It's the first time we've tried team racing,' he said. 'Getting second on our first attempt away from home is good going.'

## Gents' senior open at Spean Bridge

GOLF

SPEAN Bridge Golf Club held its gents' senior open last Friday, with competitors enjoying a fine day's golf in benign conditions.

Reflecting on the well-supported event, club president Neil Fraser said: 'We would like to thank all sponsors, especially Alastair Young and Langan and Smith. Thanks also to everyone who helped on the day to make the event a real success.'

Results:  
First overall - Willie Atkinson of Spean Bridge GC. Group A - runner-up, Donald Cameron (40 points); 2, Brian Stewart (38 points); 3, Gordon Brown (36 points) B.I.H. Group B - runner up, Peter Boyle, Loch Sunart (40 points); 2, Jack Denholm, Glencorse (36 points); 3, Harry Campbell (29 points) B.I.H.



Harry Campbell of Spean Bridge GC presents the Langan and Smith Shield to overall winner, Willie Atkinson.

# Goalkeeping headache for Fort manager

'Good keepers are few and far between - it's a major concern for us at the moment'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY

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FORT WILLIAM FC are almost certain to be without talismanic keeper John Campbell for the Scottish Cup first round clash with crack junior outfit Bo'ness United at Claggan Park on September 24.

Campbell is gradually building up his knee after receiving welcome news that damage was not as bad as first feared and is undergoing physio.

Light training also forms part of the big keeper's recovery - but he is weeks away from getting close to match fitness.

Fort have sorely missed Campbell's commanding presence between the posts early season - and finding a reliable replacement is not proving easy.

As of Monday afternoon, Fort manager Danny Conlon had so far been unable to track down

a suitable candidate for the No 1 jersey as his team prepares to travel to Wick for their Highland League match this weekend.

Conlon reckons Campbell is at least a month away from making his return, leaving the manager with a major headache as Fort look to kickstart their league campaign - and find a way to beat Bo'ness.

'I'm still trying to get a keeper for the game away at Wick on Saturday,' the frustrated boss told The Oban Times.

**Major Concern**  
'Good keepers are few and far between - even the Inverness clubs will tell you that. It is certainly a major concern for us at the moment.'

'John has not kicked a ball for us all season and it looks as if he will definitely miss the Scottish Cup. Michael Ellis is out too after he got a two-game suspension for his sending off (against Brora). Losing them both is a really bad blow for us.'

FOOTBALL

He added: 'Bo'ness have won their league for the last two years on the trot and they beat Queen's Park last year in the cup. They are one of the bigger outfits in the east of Scotland and are on a par with Linlithgow Rose.

'They also have John Stewart, ex-Aberdeen, Falkirk and Clyde, at centre forward who has been banging the goals in for them.'

'But to be honest, I am more worried about ourselves - we have to try and get ourselves right. If we play well on the day we can get a result.'

Saturday's squad for the Wick game will not include Kevin Ferguson, who is recovering from a hernia operation. However, Michael Gillespie should be available. The long trip north means the team will have to leave at 8am and will not be back in Fort William until midnight, Conlon said.



Safe pair of hands: Fort have missed keeper John Campbell this season. 10, f37/footie01

## Chris prepares for international debut

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club youngster Chris Bradley is honing his training regime as he prepares to box for his country later this month.

Chris, 15, has been picked to represent Scotland in an international against Ireland in Cork and has impressed club coaches with his commitment ahead of the big event.

His work ethic is such that he travelled to Motherwell with fellow club internationalist James Aitchison to take part in Scottish international training - then immediately returned home to train with the Meadowbank Club in Fort William in an evening session. Club coach Vince Lopez said a Scottish vest was just reward for Chris's dedication to the sport. He said: 'This is a great honour for Chris as

only 15 boxers from four different age groups have been chosen for this competition. In all honesty it is something he deserves because his commitment is second to none.'

The visit of Meadowbank ABC to Fort William for a pre-season training camp came as boxers from both clubs strive to get in the best possible shape for the coming season.

**Unbeaten**  
Meadowbank head coach Mark Geraghty, who also coaches Scotland's women's boxing team, brought four members of that squad to camp and unbeaten professional bantamweight Dave Cowan.

Cross country runs, padwork, tough sparring sessions and intense circuit all featured in a punishing training rota over



Champs! Glangarry captain Elaine Wink lifts the Valerie Fraser Cup at The Eilan on Saturday.

## Camanachd Cup joy for the Garry

GLENGARRY Girls outclassed Aberdeen in the women's Camanachd Cup final on Saturday to make it a hat trick of Valerie Fraser Cup wins.

Aberdour settled the quicker at The Eilan and forced the Garry Girls to defend, but as always their defence was very solid and gave nothing away.

The Garry team began to get a grip of the game, and it came as no surprise in the 20th minute when youngsters Ashley Fraser and Laura Gallacher combined well with Laura firing into the net from 15 metres.

Aberdour kept plugging away and went close in 32 minutes when Katy Smith fired just over

the bar following a free hit. The Garry were starting to turn up the pace and went close, before the forwards combined well to put youngster Isla MacKay through on goal to despatch the ball into the net for 2-0.

**Squandered**  
The Garry's midfield dictated play after the break, but up front the girls appeared to be having something of an 'off day' and squandered numerous chances before Paige MacDonald fired home from an acute angle to make it 3-0.

Aberdour, however, did not give up and created several chances of their own, but overall Glangarry had the upper hand

and added another on 78 minutes when full centre Lucy MacNulty found herself alone on the edge of the box from and fired the ball high into the roof of the net.

Unfortunately Aberdour's Katy Smith sustained a nasty hand injury in the final minutes.

The Garry Girls ran out 4-0 winners, but Aberdour can be proud of their display in just their first year in this league and there can be no doubt they will be back.

Laura Gallacher of Glangarry won the player of the tournament award that was well deserved. Elaine Wink captain was presented with the cup and black caman by sponsor Peter Gow.



Right: Chris Bradley: picked to fight for Scotland in Cork later this month.

## Ballachulish are runners-up at Kingussie sixes

SHINTY

BALLACHULISH P7 shinty team enjoyed a highly successful outing to Badennoch on Sunday when they came runners-up to the host club in the Kingussie sixes.

Balla lost 4-0, but played superbly well to reach the final and had more cause for celebration when keeper Cameron Sutherland was named as player of the tournament.

Ballachulish Primary School head teacher Sam Clark told The Oban Times: 'I'm absolutely delighted for the boys. They have been practising a lot under the guidance of Philip MacLean and it is nice to see them get their reward.'

Meanwhile, Lochaber Camanachd primary five boys won their tournament at the same venue when they beat Inverlochly 1-0 in the final. Lochaber's Max Campbell was named player of the tournament.

## Unplayable pitch at Banavie

RUGBY

LOCHABER'S first home game of the season against Garioch was postponed after heavy rain left the Banavie pitch unplayable.

The team will travel to the north-east this weekend to take on Aberdeenshire second XV, and their next home game is against Aberdeen Wanderers on October 1.

## Fort under 14s play in MacMaster final

SHINTY

FORT WILLIAM under-14s will take on Skye Camanachd under-14s in the MacMaster Cup final at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday.

The game will be a curtain-raiser for The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final between Kingussie and Newtonmore at 2.30pm.

Skye defeated Kinlochshiel 9-0 to reach the final, while the Fort overcame Oban Camanachd 7-0 in their semi.

The final will be held on the main field, while the under-14 Scottish Hydro Development Trophy final between Milngavie and Bearsden and Lochcarron will be held on the adjacent pitch. Throw-up for both matches will be 11.45am.

## Isle of Skye GC

GOLF

THE BENFORD Cup at Isle of Skye Golf Club was abandoned after only a few holes play after the rain left greens flooded. Ten golfers started the competition at the Sconser club on Saturday but were unable to complete their rounds.

## Texas scramble

GOLF

HARDY Fort Augustus golfers didn't let the rain and wind stop them from taking part in a Texas scramble on Sunday afternoon.

Six teams of three golfers took part, with Alec MacDonald, Campbell Burnett and Gordon MacDonald winning with a score of 57.5.

## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals.  
Winds light, south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C

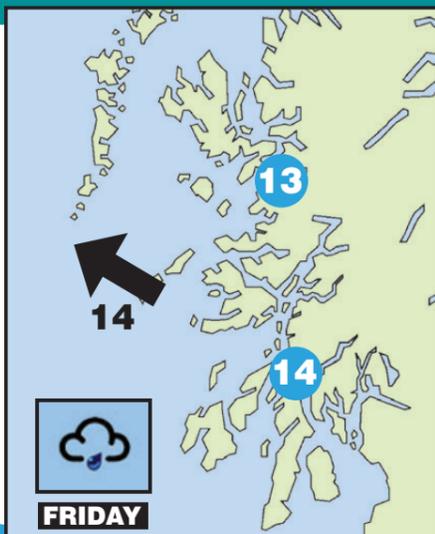
**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain showers.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, south westerly.  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 15, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.12 1.0 06.54 3.9 13.26 1.0 19.16 4.0	
Fri	01.42 1.1 07.21 3.8 13.53 1.2 19.44 3.8	
Sat	02.12 1.2 07.49 3.7 14.17 1.5 20.11 3.6	
Sun	02.42 1.4 08.19 3.5 14.42 1.7 20.40 3.4	
Mon	03.17 1.6 08.54 3.3 15.14 1.9 21.16 3.1	
Tues	04.10 1.8 09.40 3.1 16.19 2.1 22.12 2.9	
Wed	05.25 1.9 10.50 2.9 18.12 2.2 ** ** *	

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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