

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Triplets share mum's delight

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Soroba families raise funds

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SPORTS NEWS

Cup final shaping up to be a classic

Laundrette blaze not suspicious

POLICE in Oban say there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding a fire at the town's laundrette on Tweeddale Street.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue was called to deal with the blaze at the premises at around 4am last Friday.

It is understood the fire started after a machine ignited. Oban Police confirmed there was no criminal investigation.

Wetherspoon hopes to open in Oban in New Year

OBAN may not be home to JD Wetherspoon this year - but the pub giant is anticipating opening its new premises this coming January.

A spokesman for the company confirmed this week a building warrant has been secured for converting the premises at Railway Pier.

Work must be completed in four months' time, but the firm is in discussion with the owner of the premises for the proposed pub, the former Caithness Glass shop, to start the work as soon as possible.

Rumours had been spreading in the town that Wetherspoon was considering pulling out but a spokesman dismissed the claims.

He said: 'Wetherspoon is still very much set on opening a pub in the town and keen to complete on the deal as soon as possible.'

Celebration of country dancing

AROUND 230 dancers will descend on Oban's Corran Halls as the town hosts a 90th anniversary celebration of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS).

The Lorn (Argyll) branch will host society members from Lochaber, Mid Argyll, South Argyll, Helensburgh, Islay and further afield on September 21.

'Skinny' on the run

OBAN man David 'Skinny' MacInnes will tomorrow (Friday) attempt to run from Ibrox, Glasgow to Oban's Corran Halls - in just 24 hours.

The 33 year old, who is running in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, will begin his ambitious 100-mile run at 2pm and aims to be home at 2pm on Saturday.



Mum Dolina MacDonald is one of the first to congratulate her boy after he finishes his big run.

Cheers and tears greet Daniel after gruelling marathon run

CHEERS and tears greeted marathon man Daniel MacDonald as he crossed the finishing line at Taynuilt Hotel after an 80-mile fundraising run.

At 6pm on Sunday the 22-year-old joiner completed the equivalent of three back-to-back marathons, from Glasgow to his home village, joined at various points by friends, family and Taynuilt Shinty Club teammates.

His remarkable feat of endurance has raised more than £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Yorkhill Children's Charity, two charities held dear by his family.

And on finishing his three-day ordeal an emotional and exhausted Daniel, whose legs were heavily strapped to ease the pain of a knee injury, struggled to fight back the tears as he was greeted by a small army of supporters.

After crossing the finish line, he told The Oban Times: 'Today was the hardest day but there were moments last night and this morning that I thought I wouldn't do it - I have never been in so much pain. The Rest and Be Thankful almost killed me and about six miles before Inveraray I was going to give up but my friends and family kept me going. It feels amazing to have finally finished.'

Daniel praised sports therapist Andrew Johnston, who helped him cope with his injury. 'I couldn't have done it without him,' said Daniel. He was like my Mr Miyagi!

Daniel ran his last 25 miles on day three in four hours and 17 minutes, having completed runs of 27 and 28 miles the previous two days.

Donations to Dan's Big Run can still be made by logging on to justgiving.com/teams/dansbigrun.

Residents demand heating bill probe

Tenants forced to choose between feeding their families or turning on electric heaters

SOCIAL housing tenants across North Lorn are choosing between feeding their families and turning on their heating amid demands for an investigation into years of alleged overcharging for electricity.

It is feared scores of families could have been paying hundreds of pounds extra each month for up to six years through exorbitant tariffs following the installation of heaters and meters under a renovation of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) properties.

Some claim bills jumped by as much as £700 per quarter in the winter after they opted for a new 'wet heating system', which replaced old storage heater units.

Now calls have now been made for ACHA, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and wet heating manufacturer Dimplex to get together to sort things out before the winter chill hits.

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanangan@obantimes.co.uk

Soroba resident and young mother Francis Cooke watched her bill soar by at least £600 per quarter in winter when her meters and heaters were changed three years ago.

She told Soroba Community Association on Monday: 'I'm terrified of the winter. I'm really dreading switching the heating on. We were told with the wet electric system we'd get a cosy house, it'd save us money and we could put it on whenever we want.'

'My electricity bill went from £20-30 per week with storage heaters to about £70 per week with wet electric.'

'At one stage we were all sitting there with the heating off, wearing blankets. It was a case

of, do I feed my kids or do I feed the meter?'

Lyn Ferguson moved into her Dunbeg home at Camus Road in April 2010, just after new heating and meters were installed.

She said: 'My first bill was for £1,000 for the quarter, the second was the same.'

After several complaints, ACHA sent out Heat Argyll, now known as ALIEnergy, to monitor appliances in Ms Ferguson's home - and found Ms Ferguson's 'wet electric' boiler was costing approximately £18 per day to run - or £888 per month.

The meter was installed wrongly and now, more than three years later, SSE has fitted a new meter - but Ms Ferguson doesn't know if she's getting a refund.

Councillor Fred Hall believes the problem is widespread across Argyll, saying three homes in Tiree have also been affected

by hugely inflated heating bills. He said: 'If people have been overcharged over a period of years I don't just expect a refund - I expect people to get refunded the interest on their payments too.'

'I'm keen to get a meeting between Dimplex, ACHA and SSE to fix this. The heating system has to be the right spec for the right house, for the right meter.'

ACHA has told The Oban Times that it is keen to work with anyone if there is a problem with the metering and has urged anyone who believes they are being overcharged as a result of a change to their heating system to contact them on 0800 028 2755 or email housing.lorn@acha.co.uk.

Have you had problems with your electricity bills? Contact [The Oban Times](mailto:theobantimes@obantimes.co.uk) on 01631 568000 or email sflanangan@obantimes.co.uk.

Fed-up resident demands safety barrier

A NORTH Argyll man fed up with vehicles skidding off the A82 into his driveway submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request into the number of road crashes near his home.

And when Bridge of Orchy resident Joe Barnwell got the figures, he was shocked to find police had logged 22 crashes within 200 metres of his property in the past 10 years - three of which wrecked his fence.

Now Mr Barnwell is stepping up his campaign for a roadside barrier outside his home - and has persuaded roads and transport representatives to meet him on a site visit to the isolated hamlet on September 23.

The retired forestry worker has endured years of worry living next to the busy route, especially since a guest was injured when a car careered off the road into his car as he was unpacking luggage



A picture of Joe's damaged roadside fence and driveway following a recent crash.

just seconds after he arrived. Mr Barnwell said: 'There are more than 20 incidents recorded near my house in the period requested in the FOI but you can treble

that with the number of near misses there's been. I have since discovered that the people who lived here before I bought it 10 years ago also raised concerns

about the number of crashes. It just seemed like everyone was waiting for a fatality before something got done - but this site visit is a big step forward.'

Representatives from BEAR Scotland, Transport Scotland and Police Scotland will visit Mr Barnwell after a site visit to the newly-constructed £1.8m bridge at Allt Chonoglais over the River Kinglass outside of Bridge of Orchy village.

At last Wednesday's Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting Dalmally policeman Iain Young and community councillors pledged their support to Mr Barnwell's campaign.



MOBILE CLINICAL SKILLS TRAINING UNIT

NHS Education Scotland

16th September 2.00pm-4.00pm
6.00pm-8.00pm

27th September 2.00pm-4.00pm

Emergency Life Support Training

Open to all members of the public

If you want to learn how to save a life please come along to this short training session on Resuscitation at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban.

To book a place or for further information please contact:

Fiona Sharples
Lorn & Islands Hospital
Glengallan Road
Oban, Argyll
PA34 4HH
Phone: 01631 789003

CalMac delays timetables until consultation ends

FERRIES operator Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed winter timetables for the several routes won't be published until a full community consultation has been concluded on proposed changes.

It had been thought the new timetables would be published this week, but the ferry operator has been unable to properly consult residents of Tiree about alterations to the Oban-Coll-Tiree

route, with the lack of a community council there causing problems. Winter timetables for the rest of CalMac's operations have now been published, and are due to come into force on October 20.

However, the changes mean CalMac is unable to take bookings for Coll-Tiree, Oban-Colonsay-Port Askaig-Kennacraig, Oban-Castlebay-Lochboisdale - causing frustration for islanders. A spokesman for CalMac said: 'I can advise

that we will not publish the timetables for these routes until consultation has been concluded, but that will not hold up the publication of the other timetables.'

Further speculation regarding a health and safety report, which alleged the MV Isle of Arran would be unable to sail in winds of 40mph or more on the Oban-Coll-Tiree, has been dismissed by CalMac.

Duart Castle receives £1/2m repair grant

DUART Castle on Mull is to receive a grant of £500,000 for repairs to prevent water leaking into the 14th century structure.

The seat of the Clan Maclean has been suffering from water ingress for years and vital repairs were needed to prevent further damage to the structure.

Historic Scotland's half-million pound grant will see the roof, walls and windows fixed and made water-tight.

Heritage
Announcing the funding, Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture and external affairs, said: 'Protecting our historic environment not only

makes the places in which we live more attractive for the community, but it also maintains Scotland's heritage for future generations.'

'I am delighted that Historic Scotland has made this funding available which will allow Duart Castle to play its part in delivering that ambition.'

Islay Whisky Auctions Coming Soon

We hope to be up and running towards the end of this year and hold our first auction in December 2013.

Buyers and sellers who register their interest will receive discounted commission rates and free reserves for the first 2 auctions!

Brand new online auction site!
We will specialise in rare and collectable Islay Single Malts but will also deal in any limited or special edition Scottish whisky.
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Groundbreaking Small Isles wave energy project

WAVE energy will power a salmon farm off the Small Isles under a groundbreaking new project - if planners approve.

Marine Harvest Scotland has applied for permission to Highland Council to site a prototype device, known as the WaveNET, near the Isle of Muck. The turbines will be held in place by 160m mooring legs, which will sit within the farm boundary. The generator consists of six individual modules, known as SQUIDS, each able to produce 7.5KW, giving a total of 45KW installed capacity.

Chris Read, Marine Harvest environmental manager, said: 'This is a very exciting development with huge potential.'

'Our environment in Scotland makes us a natural home for both salmon farming and wave energy and this could prove to be a winning combination.'

Wave power is still in its infancy but the new technology could offer a solution for producing electricity at remote sites far removed from the grid.

The WaveNet device is more effective at open sea farms than at sites closer to shore because waves are stronger.

The farm near Muck is one of several planned sites unveiled in 2010 as part of Marine Harvest's £80m investment programme.

Drivers fined in speed crackdown

A TOTAL of 34 motorists were fined during the recent crackdown on speeding near schools, Police Scotland Highland and Islands Division reports.

Officers targeted areas where 20mph restrictions were in place over the first fortnight after the summer holidays. The motorists were issued with fixed penalty notices or reported to the Procurator Fiscal for speeding offences.

Road cost rises to £34.4m

COSTS of building the Inverness West Link road have increased from £27.2 million to £34.4 million, Highland councillors were told last week.

Reasons cited included inflation since the project was first priced in early 2011 and, following consultation with the public, additional features for cyclists and walkers. Councillors approved final lay out drawings and authorised a planning application for the road.

The council also agreed to make a compulsory purchase order to acquire all land required for the new route, which will run from the southern distributor road at Dores Road to the A82 at Torvean via a fixed link across the River Ness and the Caledonian Canal. Phase one, from Dores Road Roundabout to Glenurquhart Road, including the new crossing of the River Ness, is on schedule to start construction in 2015. Phase two will see the crossing of the Caledonian Canal, including the tandem bridge arrangements at Torvean.

Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'The benefits for the city and the wider Highlands of a better road system to the west of the city which open up recreational and development opportunities are too great to miss.'

Businesses report better trading conditions

A MAJORITY of Lochaber businesses say trading conditions are generally better over April to July than last year, according to a new business bulletin - but the trend is far from universal.

Figures compiled by Lochaber marketing group the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) and Fort William Chamber of Commerce also show some optimism for the year ahead.

The bulletin was based on 55 responses from around 200 OCUK and chamber members across Lochaber.

OCUK's Frazer Coupland said: 'Approximately 25 per cent of Outdoor Capital

and chamber members filled in the first survey. However, it would provide much more significant statistics if we could increase the data input.'

'We would greatly appreciate if businesses could record the appropriate data throughout the month which would allow for simple and quick completion of the survey at the end of each month.'

He added: 'Very few manufacturers and construction companies participated - it is clear that a greater number of respondents across the board is required, but particularly in these sectors, in order to develop a more

useful bulletin in future.' Unsurprisingly, accommodation providers reported high room uptake in July, with most having 81-100 per cent occupancy.

More than half the figures represent a better performance than July 2012, with just nine per cent stating they were worse.

Comparative turnover from April to July followed a similar pattern with 56 per cent recording growth. Worryingly, one in six reported a decrease in turnover.

For activity providers and visitor attractions, 77 per cent saw increased trade in July, with a third of those up more than 20 per cent.

Only 15 per cent noted a decrease. One third of restaurants, pubs and cafés, however, saw a 6-10 per cent drop in turnover in July, the remainder reporting growth. Two in five saw turnover fall by up to 20 per cent, the rest a similar increase. In the retail and business sector, 40 per cent said turnover in April-July matched 2012, while 30 per cent saw an increase and 30 per cent a decrease.

Asked to rate optimism for the year ahead on a scale of one to ten, 63 per cent of accommodation providers scored eight or more, with most restaurants, pubs and cafés expressing similar levels of confidence.

Activity providers and visitor attractions were slightly less optimistic - 44 per cent said eight, with one in five giving future prospects a six. Manufacturing firms were more upbeat about the next 12 months than the previous four, rating it a seven or eight, but business optimism in the construction sector was relatively low, registering a five or six out of 10. The retail and business services sector rated future prospects from five to nine.

On the jobs front, restaurants, pubs and cafés showed the widest variation - one third had more, on third fewer and one third the same number of workers as last July.



Ceri Houlbrook holds some of the unearthed coins as fellow PhD students, from left, John Piprani, Jane Neild, Lara Bishop and Ellen McInnes look on. 16_137Coins01

Ardmaddy tree secrets unearthed by students

A PHD student has been unearthing the secrets behind the Ardmaddy Wishing Tree, which is said to bring fortune to travellers.

The hawthorn tree, situated on the old road between Ardmaddy and Degrish, lies within the Ardmaddy Estate and is the only wishing tree in the UK marked on the Ordnance Survey map.

University researcher Ceri Houlbrook and a team of fellow archaeology students last week carried out a minor excavation of

the site, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and discovered UK and foreign coins dating back to 1927.

Although the tree has fallen, it is still a popular visit for walkers and geo-cashers in the area, who hammer a coin into the bark, or drop it by the foot of the tree. Many of the coins were dated in recent years, suggesting the wishing tree is as popular as ever.

Ceri, whose PhD will look at the traditions of wishing trees,

said she chose the Ardmaddy tree from the 34 across Britain because of the folklore surrounding it.

Custom She said: 'The first ones I came across were in Derbyshire and Yorkshire and I thought it was a new custom but in Scotland and Ireland it is not a new custom.'

'I chose to dig at Ardmaddy because it was one of the older ones and I had read a book called The Heritage Trees of

Scotland, which described this wind-blasted hawthorn that had been visited by travellers for centuries.'

'Having looked at the dates on the coins it is probably an exaggeration to say it has been visited for centuries - but having dug here for five days, they got the wind-blasted description spot on.'

Ceri's team found more than 400 coins, including currency from the UK, US, France, Greece and Denmark. Among

the finds were ship halfpennies and horseshoes hammered into the tree.

Ceri will present a talk on her findings at Kilmartin Museum on Monday, October 14 and will produce a leaflet which will be available at Ardmaddy Castle and Gardens.

The oldest recorded wishing tree is on Isle Maree, Wester Ross, which was embedded with coins as a folk-remedy for mental illnesses, and was 'active' from the 17th century onwards.

Free Church to bid for Church of Scotland building

THE FREE Church congregation in Plockton and Kyle looks set to bid for the Church of Scotland church in Plockton - despite reservations about the price tag.

Following last week's AGM, local Free Church minister Reverend Roddy Rankin said the congregation's 'clear view' was to press ahead after the Church of Scotland advertised the building on the open market.

He told The Oban Times: 'The asking price of offers over £90,000 is a lot of money. We had hoped it would market at a lower price than that.'

'The prospectus is targeted more towards a developer and that is something that is difficult for us.'

'We want to spend our money wisely - it is a lot of money to raise.'

'We are confident we will be able to do that although it is money that could be spent in other ways.'

He added: 'We hope we are successful and I think the village does too. I don't think you will find anybody in Plockton who does not want the church to be used for worship. It has all kinds of memories and it is not something they want to lose.'

The grade 'A'-listed building on Innes Street dates from 1827 and is one of the few remaining in the Highlands built according to Thomas Telford's design.

The graveyard is not included in the subjects for sale and is likely to be taken over by Highland Council.

The pulpit and surround, baptismal font, communion table and chair, and pews could be ripped out should a developer's bid be accepted. The fixtures and fittings would remain in situ if the Free Church takes ownership.

Rev Rankin said: 'If we are successful in buying it we can upgrade it in some ways, for example better toilets and extra space for a meeting room.'

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae said: 'Most people would back the Free Church to buy it because it is the only church in Plockton now.'

'If a developer got it we would not have a church for funerals or marriages. A village without a church is quite sad.'

The Church of Scotland also placed its church at Kirkton on the open market last week at offers over £40,000.



Up for sale: Plockton Church of Scotland.

Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Seeing The World Around Us

I am writing this month's column relaxing on a ship with the waves gently lapping against the hull. The sun is blazing down, the scenery is superb and all the passengers are smiling. I am actually on the CalMac ferry heading to Tiree. I could easily be on a Mediterranean cruise rather than in the Sound of Mull. We are so gifted living in such an idyllic location as we have in North Argyll.

majority do recover when given the right treatment. Usually that means referral to an ophthalmologist for appropriate treatment.

I could wax lyrical for hours about the stunning scenery but can you imagine what it would be like if you could not see this beautiful scenery, or if you could not clearly see your children or grandchildren? All too often I see patients who have had a significant, and sometimes dramatic, reduction in vision who have put off a visit to their optometrist through fear of being told they "are going blind". The reality is very few ever go blind, though a few do have severe vision loss. The vast

You might have seen the Scottish Government announcement last week they now consider optometrists to be the "GP's of eye-care". They would prefer all patients with eye problems to visit the optometrist as the first point of contact on the journey of care. Nowadays the role of your optometrist is not simply prescribing and dispensing spectacles. It is much more about maintaining healthy eyesight. Your optometrist has the highly specialised equipment necessary for investigating both normal and not so normal eyes. Make proper use of your optometrist. If you think your eyesight is falling make an appointment today. Early treatment invariably means better outcomes. NHS Scotland funds these visits to your optometrist.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk



Coll's Tangedoed lobster will have a neighbour soon, with Deep Sea World set to make this Leopard lobster its room-mate.

Rare orange lobster found off Coll given to delighted Deep Sea World

A RARE, bright orange lobster found off the coast of Coll could be destined to feature in one of the world's most extraordinary displays.

Innes Henderson couldn't believe his eyes when he landed the almost fluorescent catch east of Coll aboard his FV Tarka fishing boat, saying he thought the nine-inch long crustacean had been 'Tangedoed'.

While Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary was unable to take the lobster, Edinburgh's Deep

Sea World jumped at the chance, having days earlier taken delivery of a similarly rare calico - or leopard - lobster. Each share similar odds of discovery of 30million to one.

Innes said: 'I've been working creels since for 20 odd years, with my father and grandfather and I've never seen anything like this. It looks like it's been Tangedoed!'

'Through the years I've seen white lobsters, purple, blue and green but never orange.'

He added: 'It's quite a feisty wee thing, like a redhead right enough.'

Mr Henderson, whose boat was used for filming by BBC's acclaimed Hebrides: Life on the Edge documentary, will receive the 'red-carpet treatment' when he visits his catch at its new home in Edinburgh.

And no wonder, given how happy Deep Sea World's Tina Coventry is with her additions, with the calico lobster caught in Kinlochberrie, north west

of Scotland, at around the same time.

She said: 'Innes' lobster is in quarantine for a couple of weeks yet but we're delighted to get him. We haven't decided where we will display them yet.'

'It's incredibly rare to find one of these lobsters but it's amazing we have two rare lobsters now.'

'We're going to ask fishermen to keep their eye out for a bright blue lobster as it'd be great to get the full colour spectrum in there.'

Much-needed Movern homes completed

TWO MUCH-needed homes for rent have been completed in Movern under a new tie-up between the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, Ardornish Estate and local firm Roderick James Architects.

The Achabeag Partnership built the energy efficient houses with assistance from the Scottish Government and Highland Council.

The properties, 'The Croft House' and 'Fair and Square', form part of the estate's affordable housing commitment at its new development at Achabeag, near Lochaline.

The government invested £25,000 per home, HSCHT £35,000 and Ardornish £50,000. Around £40,000 per house was

contributed in donations and in kind. The trust will lease the properties from the estate for 21 years.

HSCHT director Ronnie MacRae said rents would be pitched 'below mid-market but not quite down to social rent levels'.

Impact He told The Oban Times: 'We worked this through with the local community. This will have a huge impact for a small community like Lochaline. Doing social and affordable housing in an area like this is extremely difficult because of build costs and remoteness. We are delighted with this and the community is as well.'

Ardornish managing director Hugh Raven said innovative design meant the homes would be cheap to run.

He said: 'The minimal heating requirements are met by a woodstove and off-peak electricity, heat storage in a thermal floor slab and solar thermal panels for hot water.'

The properties were built following changes made by the government to leasing legislation to encourage affordable housing developments.

Housing minister Margaret Burgess said: 'This project demonstrates strong partnership working between the local community, the housing trust, Ardornish Estate and businesses, ensuring the best use of private finance alongside public subsidy.'

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Lorn Lines



Chrissie Muir, right, receives her bouquet from Marjorie Milton.

THE PRESIDENT of Oban and Lorn Senior Citizens Committee, Chrissie Muir, recently stood down from the position after five years at the helm. Ms Muir was presented with a bouquet of flowers by group member Marjorie Milton and thanked for five successful years. Past presidents of the committee have included well known figures, such as the late Mary Dairon and the late Cathy Gemmell. The committee was formed before the First World War as the Oban and Lorn District Old People's Welfare Committee and now runs an annual Christmas dinner, monthly ceilidhs and various other hugely popular events. New members are sought to maintain 100 years of good work of this committee.

OBAN has been shortlisted in the 'Britain's favourite market town' category in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2013. The 10 nominees in the favourite market town category were selected by travel writer Brigid Benson, who said of Oban: 'Walk up to the hilltop folly of McCaig's Tower for panoramic views, or sip a wee dram of whisky at the harbour side.' Now in their third year, the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards are a celebration of our countryside and its people. The public is being asked to vote for their rural favourites and details can be found on BBC Countryfile Magazine's website at countryfile.com/awards.



The crew of Oban's Lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, receive a cheque for £2,800 raised at the Oban Sea Kayak Race. Treasurer Les Stewart receives the cheque from the race's masseuse, Donna Barr. 16_t37seakayak1

OBAN Lifeboat has benefited to the tune of £2,800 thanks to competitors who participated in the Oban Sea Kayak Race. In total, 85 people took part in this year's race, which was led on August 24. Participants covered 20km in a route that begins and ends at Oban, circumnavigating the Isle of Kerrera on the way. Event organiser Gus Brydon said: 'The organisers of the Oban Sea Kayak Race would like to thank those businesses and individuals around Oban who supported this year's event.' It takes the total raised for the lifeboat by the event since it started in 2010 to £7,300. Meanwhile, all 700 raffle tickets printed giving an opportunity to win a rare bottle of Oban Lifeboat whisky have sold. Winning the bottle was Mr D Isaac, of Glenmore Road, Oban. The raffle raised a further £700 for the lifeboat.



The team from Oban Express has won the award for gaining the most sponsorship in this year's Oban Raft Race. 'Pirates of the Carriers Being' was crewed by Daniel Parrott, Gary McCormick, Stevie Hannah, George McMillan, Hamish Meryyn and Ian Gibb in the race, held last month in Oban Bay. James Strachan, who helped with the construction of the raft, joined the crew as they were presented with the cup by Bill Coutts, president of Oban and Lorn Lions Club. The raft race raised more £2000, £510 of which was collected by Oban Express.

Teenagers make switch from social media to scone making

OBAN teenagers are dispelling the myth they are only interested in computer games - preferring instead to cook, learn new skills and play board games. Xboxes, Playstations and computers are lying unused at Oban Youth Café as kids opt for activities their parents and grandparents took for granted. The switch from social media to scone-making is something café staff want to encourage - and now local people could be drafted in to encourage the trend. Lori Hannah, a youth worker at the café, said games consoles were getting covered with dust as the youngsters get busy in the kitchen. She said: 'We've been here for 13 years and we do see patterns of things and different trends. 'When I first started eight years ago, Facebook hadn't even really

started yet but when it came in it was one of the main things the guys wanted to do. 'They're not into it as much though. My own thought is they can access this stuff all the time and the novelty has totally worn off. 'We recently got a fitted kitchen - it took us three years to get it as it's not something people generally want to fund. We saw it as something we needed though. We now get the guys who will come here to cook scones after school without a recipe. They grow herbs and add them to their soup, make their own pizzas and even put together their own version of a Pot Noodle. 'We still get a couple of kids still really into their computer games, but the majority of the kids now would rather do more social things - a deck of cards can

keep us busy for a fortnight.' She added: 'People underestimate the kids. They maybe see them in big groups or maybe swearing and make a judgement. If you look past that you see what's underneath. 'The kids are looking up to us as adults and it's people's attitude towards them that makes the difference.' Ms Hannah visited the Soroba Residents' Association on Monday to talk about running a café drop-in the housing scheme's community flat. The association gave the proposal its full backing and while full details are to be finalised, the Soroba café will run on Saturdays, with the first hoped to be held in November. Ms Hannah told the meeting: 'I think it's something really exciting for this end of the town.'

North Argyll road policing unit returns

A NEW road policing unit will be operational in North Argyll from next month as Police Scotland looks at modernising its service.

While covering north Argyll and north Lorn, the new unit will be based in Fort William. Its introduction coincides with moves to make the processing and clearing of crash scenes more rapid in the wake of recent criticism that some incidents see roads closed for overly long periods for accident investigations. The reintroduction of the road policing unit comes more than two years after the Argyll unit was disbanded, which saw officers formerly attached to the unit having their duties merged into the regular shift pattern. It is hoped the shake-up will help reduce accidents on local roads, with particular emphasis placed on targeting speeding motorists.

Announcing the new road policing unit and plans to deal with the clearing of crash scenes more quickly, Oban's Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'It's all coming together. This has come about through discussions on how we can improve our service. 'We're looking at reorganising some things and that includes creating our own bespoke road policing unit again.' Confirming the new unit, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan

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

allayed fears it would mean fewer officers deployed on the beat, adding he would 'work to get a few more cops into Argyll and Bute.'

He said: 'If we look at budget - how do I get them in - I have to search somewhere else. We're embarking on that reorganisation now. There's a bit of work where in can look at shared services with Argyll and Bute Council.'

Meanwhile, local cops are also looking into using the Service Point system introduced by the council as another means of contacting police in remote areas should the station be unoccupied or officers out on a call.

CS McEwan said: 'One area some really good work is being done is about service points. For example, the council have a service point on Mull and one at Bowmore.'

'When members of the public want a council service, they go to this point. It'd be crazy if we didn't get involved. 'If there's no cops in the station, they could go to the service point and speak to an officer almost straight away.'

CS McEwan said he was in talks with Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, Sally Loudon, about the possibility of sharing the service.

Triplets share mum's race delight



Lizzie Rose is congratulated by her triplet daughters Sylva, Indira and Eowyn Rose Price after finishing the running section of the Craggy Island Triathlon.

A SUPER-fit mother, whose active lifestyle was put on hold after she gave birth to triplets last October, returned to competitive action in this year's Craggy Island Triathlon.

Kilchrean's Lizzie Rose took part in the running section of the Kerrera-based triathlon on Sunday, September 1 - her first sporting event since becoming a mother to triplets Sylva, Eowyn and Indira Rose Price on October 3 last year.

And Lizzie's daughters joined dad Philip Price at the event to cheer her on.

Lizzie said: 'It was a goal of mine to complete the full triathlon but the girls are so full time that I haven't been able to train and I didn't think I would do it.'

'My friend Gemma Bruce hurt her ankle in the build up to the triathlon, so I did the run for her. Running the race gave me a bit of the 'old me' back. I really enjoyed it.'

With no preparation ahead of the event, Lizzie was pleased with her time of one hour, seven minutes and 51 seconds for the gruelling eight-kilometre hill run of the triathlon.

Pre-pregnancy, Lizzie was a member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team and regularly competed in endurance events, such as triathlons and hill running. She also took part in adventure racing, a discipline that uses a combination of two or more events, including cross-country running, mountain biking and paddling.

'I really wanted to get active again and next year I plan to complete the whole triathlon,' she said.

'It was great having the girls there to support me - I think they are a triathlon team for the future!'

Sparrowhawk flits from Homebase store to MacQueen Bros

A SPARROWHAWK which took up residence on Oban's Homebase store has flown the coop - but not before making a stopover at MacQueen Bros Ltd's warehouse.

The beady-eyed predator flew into Homebase last Monday and for four

days showed no interest in the great outdoors.

The bird eventually left on Friday - but instead of making a break for freedom winged its way to MacQueen Bros for a two-day stay. Homebase manager Andy Spence said: 'I had [MacQueen

Bros owner] Graham MacQueen on the phone on Friday looking for a refund. I told him no problem, as long as he brought it back with a receipt.'

'It's obviously enjoying nice, warm warehouses and not being outside in the wind and rain!'

The sparrowhawk became something of a celebrity after news of its Homebase holiday appeared in last week's *Oban Times*.

'There was huge interest,' said Mr Spence. 'Lots of people came in to see him - then he left.'

Speaking on Tuesday, Robin MacQueen said: 'We think it has left already, I saw it on Saturday but not since. Hopefully it made it out. 'We had one guy though, Travis Smith, who is terrified of birds. He just said 'I'm not going near it.'

Residents honour seamen on Merchant Navy Day

SEAMEN who died during the Second World War were remembered on Islay when residents marked Merchant Navy Day.

People from the twin villages of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss gathered on September 3 to remember the 32,000 Merchant Navy sailors who gave their lives to keep the Atlantic channels open.

Of those who died, around 10,000 were Scots and a disproportionate number of them came from the Highlands and islands. The war memorial for the two villages is unique, as the names

depicted were all merchant seamen. Seumas MacArthur, who helped to organise the commemorative event said: 'Merchant Navy Day should be properly commemorated throughout the land, but sadly this does not appear to be the case. 'In our community many ex-seamen flew the Red Ensign to commemorate this day.'

The community hopes to hold an annual event and use the occasion to raise money for the island's lifeboat service. This year, the community raised £179.53.



Flags flew in Portnahaven for the recent Merchant Navy Day.

Argyll and the Isles cream of the crop make awards shortlist

ARGYLL and the Isles is the toast of the Highlands' food and drink businesses, with six businesses proving themselves to be among the cream of Scotland's crop.

The Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards has announced its shortlist for this year's competition, with nominees from across the northwest faring exceptionally well in the list.

From Argyll, Mull's Ninth Wave Restaurant has made the grade in two categories - the Environment Award where it is up against neighbouring Mull business Island Bakery Organics, and the hotly contested Restaurant of the Year Award where it will face Eighteen69@Auchranne on Arran and The Whitehouse Restaurant at Lochaline - as well as three other quality restaurants around the Highlands and Islands.

Other shortlisted finalists include The Puffer Bar and Restaurant in the Best Eatery Award, the Old Post Office and Lochbuie Larder, Mull, in the New Business Award and Gigha Seafood in the New Product

Award for its smoked Gigha halibut. Great Glen Game in Roy Bridge, Lochaber, is nominated the same category for its Scottish pork pepperoni.

Other local nominees include the Red Roof Café Gallery on Skye in the Best Eatery category, Buth Beag, Kyle of Lochalsh as Independent Retailer of the Year, Lewis' Hebridean Sea Salt in the New Business and New Product categories and Skye's Glenview in the Restaurant of the Year Award.

Judging panel The 15-strong judging panel is chaired by Stephen Rankin, director of UK sales at sponsor Gordon and MacPhail and comprises experienced individuals from all sectors of the food and drink industry.

Mr Rankin said: 'Being shortlisted for a Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Award, given the high level of entrants, is a truly fantastic accolade.'

The awards dinner and ceremony will take place at the Drumossie Hotel in Inverness on Friday October 25.

Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business

Getting the marketing right for your business is crucial to its success. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to consider for effective marketing.

Developing a realistic, working business plan is essential when you're starting up a business, this 2 day workshop shows you how to create a robust business plan. Good financial management is essential, learn to manage a profit and loss account; produce a cashflow statement; understand the meaning of working capital; describe the main sources of finance; and understand the different legal structures of a business.

October - 3, Rothesay; 9/10, Lochgilphead; 9/10, Oban

November - 5/6, Dunoon; 18/19, Helensburgh; 19/20, Campbeltown

The "Practical Basic Book-keeping" workshop

Book-keeping is a core business skill, and, even if someone else does it for you, you still need to understand and value the process.

If you want to know the starting point for good record keeping, this is the course for you. Those new to business and with little or no formal training in bookkeeping will particularly benefit.

October - 1, Mull; 30, Inveraray

November - 19, Dunoon; 28, Oban

December - 11, Helensburgh



Places are limited so to find out more or book your place please contact the Business Gateway team on T | 01546 605459 E | business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Police warn of fake £10 notes

PEOPLE in and around Oban, particularly shopkeepers, are being asked to keep a lookout for counterfeit £10 notes currently in circulation. Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said the counterfeit Royal Bank of Scotland notes appear similar to the real thing but do not have the metal strip insertion. Inspector McLeish said: 'Everyone should be aware of the importance of checking bank notes in their possession. The notes recovered so far all end in the serial number 339 and retailers should use all normal checking procedures when taking cash payments.' Police enquiries are continuing to trace the source of the notes.

Open University access session in Oban

THE OPEN University (OU) is inviting people to come along and find out about Openings, a range of access courses specially designed to help you see what it's like to study with the OU, get a taste of a subject area, develop your study skills and build your confidence.

OU tutor Nic Welsh said: 'The OU is ideal for people living in rural areas and our Openings Access modules are a great place to start.'

'If your personal income is £25,000 or less and you've no previous experience of higher education, you'll be entitled to study one of these modules free. You study when and where suits you, so it works perfectly for all types of students who require flexibility to fit learning around other demands on their time at home or work. Studying with the OU is also an ideal option for carers - the OU recognises that many carers want to participate in learning and training opportunities but often face real difficulties in doing so.'

You can find out more about how the OU works and meet tutors from the Open University at Oban Library on Saturday September 21 between 10.30am and 1pm.



Sam Coley, founder of SAMTEQ, has been named Argyll and Bute's young entrepreneur of the year. He set up his business as a school boy and now has international clients including Balmoral Castle. a37sam02

Winner established his company aged just 16

A YOUNG entrepreneur who created an IT system for Balmoral Castle after setting up a business in his bedroom has won a major industry regional award.

Sam Coley from Tighnabruach was named as the 2013 Argyll and Bute winner of the Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland Young Entrepreneur (PTYBS) Award last week, scooping the £1,000 first prize.

Oban's Leonie Woolf, founder of Art & Sea, was named runner up and received £500.

Sam, 21, established his SAMTEQ business at the age of 16 whilst a student at Dunoon Grammar School. The business focused initially on producing websites for small businesses and within six months opened an office in Dunoon.

Sam said: 'The businesses started when I did a website for

my dad, who owned a pub at the time.

'We did it in a really clever way so that non technical people could edit it. I started to get small businesses asking me to do the same and it all fell into place.'

SAMTEQ, which created the Explore Argyll website, has grown to attract much larger organisations and has a client base that includes Balmoral Castle, SportScotland and the RSPB.

Sam added: 'Our strength is turning complex tasks into simple ones. Our systems reduce the need for training within organisations as we try to make everything as intuitive as possible.'

Leonie, 23, set up her business creating custom graphics for kayaks in 2011 and her award winning designs are now seen on boats across the world.

Young entrepreneurs just the business

Morvern Lines

IN HIS latest piece of research, Richard Van Emden, an eminent historian, documentary maker and the author of many books about the First World War, has captured the public imagination with his story about Captain Robert Campbell, a British Army officer captured by the Germans, who was granted temporary leave from a prisoner of war camp to visit his dying mother, on one condition - that he return.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hugh Maclean, 16th chief and laird of Ardgour, while serving in France with the 2nd Battalion, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was also captured by the Germans and imprisoned.

During his internment he came in contact with a high ranking German officer whom he had met at the Clan Gathering on Mull in 1912 to celebrate the restoration of Duart Castle by Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Duart and Morvern.

Such was the courtesy and welcome Ardgour had extended to him and his party on that occasion, coupled with his own reputation as an officer and a gentleman in every sense of the word, his captor arranged for him to be granted two weeks' parole to marry his fiancée Muriel Burns, daughter of Baron Inverclyde, who was with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) at the Hague.

Following the wedding, which took place on September 5 1918 at the British Legation and a two-week honeymoon spent on the local canals, Maclean kept his promise and returned to the camp where he remained until the end of the war.

DRIMNIN is certainly leading the way in Morvern these days. Not since the arrival of the Gordons, a Morayshire family who bought the estate from the Macleans of Boreray in 1835, has there been such an air of prosperity at that end of the parish.

First it was the restoration of Drimnin House, which had been destroyed by fire in 1849 and replaced three years later by the present laird's house; then came the tasteful restoration and re-roofing of St Columba's chapel which provides a venue for concerts and ecumenical services, and a prominent landmark for passing ships; an historic mill situated on the banks of the Mungosdail River has been taken into care; roads and walls have been repaired; several new houses have been built including two pioneering affordable units - a first for Morvern.

All that is required now is a small shop and a good quality café and restaurant serving the now famous Drimnin beef and venison and local produce - at sensible prices.

Who knows, perhaps these may be incorporated in the footprint of the proposed distillery.

WHAT the local waters have failed to provide this season in the way of fish, the land has more than made up for, except for the potato crop which some local growers complain is not up to its usual standard.

The same cannot be said for bramble, hazel-nuts and rowan berries which are so plentiful this year that the bushes and tree branches are snapping under their weight which will no doubt give rise to the old myth that there is a hard winter ahead of us.

The colourful rowan trees are everywhere, particularly along the banks of Loch Arriens and round the abandoned village of Barr on the south side of Loch Teacuis - both of which are well worth viewing.

Visitors to Barr can park by the Forestry Commission gate, cross the stile and make their way along the old right of way to the Barr River enjoying views over to the vitrified fort on the top of Torr an Fhamhair (Gaelic - the giant's knoll) and Rahoy House - birthplace of Dr John MacLachlan (1804-74) the famous Gaelic bard whose compositions will no doubt be heard at the Royal National Mod next month.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.



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Oban's Leonie Woolf, founder of Art and Sea, was named runner-up.

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Fort William Justice of the Peace Court

A CAOL man has been fined £270 and given six penalty points after admitting driving a jeep without insurance.

Wayne Watson, of 71 Kilmallie Road, pled guilty to driving the vehicle in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate on February 28. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the 35-year-old builder had 'genuinely believed' he was insured to drive the jeep.

A BALLACHULISH man's careless driving led to a crash on the A82 which left his car written off and a second vehicle in a ditch.

Former lorry driver Archibald Young lost control of his car on a left hand bend on the A82 at Letterfinlay in the rain, Fort William Justice of the Peace Court heard.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said: 'He crossed the carriageway into the path of southbound traffic before coming back across and hitting the barrier. Mr Young's car then bounced off it and struck a vehicle in the southbound carriageway and pushed it into a ditch.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'He wasn't driving excessively fast, but perhaps for that particular bend in those conditions he should have gone a bit slower.'

The 55-year-old suffered whiplash and a passenger in his car had bruising to his elbow following the accident, which blocked the busy trunk road in both directions.

Young, of 2 Loanfern Cottages, who pled guilty to driving without due care and attention on May 4, was fined £350 and given six penalty points.

TWO MEN have appeared at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court accused of stealing a piece of construction equipment.

Jack Taylor, of 2 Stamer Crescent, and Lewis Hickson, 7 King William Street, both Darlington, pled not guilty to stealing a plate compactor from the A82 at Letterfinlay on February 17.

The 24-year-olds are due to stand trial on December 12, with a hearing on November 28.

TWO MEN have admitted exceeding the speed limit by around 30 mph on the A82 at Letterfinlay on the same day. John Stewart, of Antielean, Corpach was caught travelling at 92 mph on June 13.

Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson deferred sentencing the 23-year-old until October 3

for Stewart to appear in court. Van driver Stuart Wood, of 1 Park Row, Hilton, Ross-shire, pled guilty to speeding at 78 mph on the same stretch of road. The speed limit for vans is 50 mph. The 25-year-old was fined £240 and given five penalty points.

A CORPACH man has denied driving at speeds of up to 100 mph on the B863 North Ballachulish to Kinlochleven road during a cycling event.

Kenneth Ferguson, of 31 Lady Margaret Drive, is accused of driving his Subaru without due care and attention on May 14, on the same day and place where cycling time trials were taking place on road on the north side of Loch Leven.

The 29-year-old also faces charges of having an insecure rear bumper and car battery on his car. Ferguson is due to stand trial at Fort William Justice of the Peace Court on December 12, with a further hearing set for November 28.

THE WIFE of an elderly man accused of careless driving near Ballachulish Bridge will be called to give evidence for the prosecution at his trial.

Michael Cookson, 71, of Bankside Farm, Wattenhall, Cheshire, denies overtaking a recovery vehicle near a bend causing two vehicles to swerve to avoid him on the A82 on October 31 last year.

Fiscal Laura Ryan said Mrs Cookson, who was a passenger in the car, had been cited by the Crown to appear as a witness at the trial at on October 3.

TWO FORT William teenagers accused of smashing a glass panel at the town's bus station have had their not guilty pleas accepted by the Crown.

Tommy Morrison, 16, of 17 Wallace Place, and Sam Gibson, 17, of 5 Nevis Road, had denied recklessly damaging or destroying property by kicking, punching and headbutting the bus stand, smashing the glass panel on April 12.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the pair admitted kicking the bus stand, but claimed the glass was broken before they got there.

A FORMER Caol teenager has admitted drunkenly fighting with another woman during New Year celebrations in Kinlochleven.

Skye Watson started the fight in the house at around 5.30am on January 1, Fort William Justice of the Peace Court heard. Defence solicitor Hamish

Melrose said Watson had a lot to drink beforehand.

He said: 'It was a bit of banter which went downhill fast and ended with the two girls fighting.'

The 18-year-old, now of 58 Heddfan North, Cardiff, was left with several facial injuries after the altercation.

She was admonished after pleading guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by fighting at 17 Lismore Road.

A SURREY man has been fined £100 for having a passenger in the back of his Daihatsu van when he was stopped on his way to Rockness by police in Fort William.

Stuart Rennie, 23, of 3 Welland House, Albury Road, Guildford, admitted the offence after being pulled over on Achintore Road on June 7.

A FORT William man drunkenly walked out in front of a car before making a rude gesture to the driver while police officers were watching.

Bar worker Craig Cook, of The Willows, Achintore Road, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner on Carmichael Way on May 7. Sentence on the 22-year-old was deferred until October 3 for reports.

A CAOL teenager has denied smashing the front and rear windows of a digger by throwing stones at it.

Reece MacIsaac, of 8 Birch Road, pled not guilty to wilfully or recklessly damaging the machine on June 8 while it was parked on Belford Road, Fort William.

The 16-year-old is due to stand trial on December 12, with a preliminary hearing on November 28.

AN OFFSHORE worker has lost his licence after being caught speeding on the A82 in Fort William.

Duncan Elliott, of 43 Brandling Court, North Shields was seen driving at 52 mph in a 40mph zone on Achintore Road on April 3.

The 57-year-old, who admitted the offence, was given four penalty points and fined £200.

Elliott previously had nine points, meaning he went over the 12-point limit and automatically banned from driving for six months.

A KINLOCHLEVEN man who drunkenly shouted abuse at two police officers as he demanded a

bed for the night' has been fined £200.

Robert MacKinnon, of 1 Callart Road, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at Fort William Police Station at around 9pm on June 23.

Fiscal Laura Ryan said MacKinnon had banged on the door of the station demanding to be let in before aiming a series of insults at the officers.

She said: 'He seemed very drunk and was unsteady on his feet.'

The 56-year-old hotel worker was eventually taken into custody and released when sober.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said MacKinnon had been at a barbecue with work colleagues and was heading home when he realised he had forgotten his wallet.

Sentencing, Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson said: 'This type of behaviour is totally unacceptable.'

A MAN has been fined £210 after admitting punching another man on the head on Fort William's Middle Street after a drunken argument.

Peter Traynor, 31, of 46 Balmoral Gardens, Dundee, fell out with Donald Kerr after the pair spent the evening drinking together in the Crofter Bar on March 29. The victim needed five stitches to his lip.

A CLAGGAN man found with around £60 worth of cannabis has been fined £340.

Police found 8.1 grams of the class B drug after searching Donald Kerr's house at 65 Carn Dearg Road on June 4. The 42-year-old pled guilty to two charges of possession.

Unique new Aonach Mor slide

NEVIS Range has launched a unique new attraction - a 40 metre tubing slide.

Visitors to the snowsports centre will use a large inflatable ring to go down the ZoomTrax slide which drops four and a half metres over the length of the slide, the first of its kind in Scotland. The slide was created using timber sourced locally from BSW and parts flown in from Canada.

Nevis Range managing director Marian Austin said: 'This new ZoomTrax slide is an integral part of our plan to grow and diversify the business at Nevis Range.'

ZoomTrax is located at the top of the mountain gondola, 650m up Aonach Mòr.

Barbara turns to Oban Times readers for help in family search

AN ENGLISHWOMAN is seeking the help of Oban Times readers to help trace the family of her namesake.

Barbara Ryding, from Westhoughton in Bolton, wants to find out all she can about Barbara Ryding, formerly Barbara McInnes, who lived in Ballachulish around a century ago with her parents at Fern Villa, which is now a guest house.

Miss McInnes married George Ryding - the great uncle of present day Barbara's husband, Malcolm - who was from Standish, near Wigan.

The newlyweds emigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 1924 and went on to have two children, Christine and William George, who along with Barbara regularly travelled back to Scotland.

Her mother was Christine McInnes and family folklore describes Barbara as being 'very beautiful' - and maybe an actress.

Barbara said from her Bolton home: 'Any help tracing my family would be greatly appreciated I can be contacted on malcolmryding@uwclub.net.'

Plockton weather

PLOCKTON saw four inches of rain during August. The warmest day was 24.3C and coolest was 8.6C.

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Soroba's charity walkers before tackling Beinn Lora on Sunday.

Soroba youngsters take a hike to raise community centre cash

CHILDREN from Soroba in Oban have walked up Beinn Lora in Benderloch to help raise funds for Soroba Community Centre. They decided to climb the hill in fancy dress, with monsters, cats and horror characters represented in equal measure

- chaperoned by volunteers Mrs Potatohead, a fairy and a hotdog.

The unusually dressed bunch headed up the hill on Sunday - with rain putting paid to the group's plans to complete the challenge the previous day - and the colourful clan of

climbers delivered more than a few surprises to other walkers along the way.

Nicola Wilson, who helped to arrange the walk, said: 'The children were rewarded at the end with medals and a snack for the great effort they put it. Much fun was had by all.'

Assault trial witness tells of five-man brawl

AN EMOTIONAL woman struggled to get through her testimony when she described how a disagreement in an Oban pub resulted in a five-man brawl on Station Square.

The 20-year-old needed a break from giving evidence at the town's Sheriff Court on Thursday, in the jury trial involving three brothers and another man accused of assaulting former fish farm worker Stuart Reid, to the danger of his life.

Brothers Paul, 25, Sean 22, and Gavin MacMillan, 19, all of Smerclait, Pulpit Drive, Oban, and Steven MacLeod, 28, of 8 Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, all deny their alleged role in an assault on Mr Reid at Station Square.

They are accused of repeatedly punching him to the ground, striking his head against a bollard to his severe injury and permanent disfigurement all to

the danger of his life at around 1.30am on December 1 last year, with Paul further accused of showing malice and ill will to Mr Reid.

Paul and Gavin MacMillan further deny acting together earlier that night to assault, punch and kick Mr Reid on the head and body to the danger of his life in a premises on Railway Pier, Oban.

Started

Describing how the incident started, the woman, a friend of Gavin MacMillan, told jurors that she saw his brother Paul hit Mr Reid in the Railway Pier bar.

'I saw Paul hit Stuart, Stuart was standing at the bar. He fell backwards and fell to the floor in front of the bar,' she said.

CCTV footage was shown to the court of the accused being escorted from the premises and gathering in Station Square.

It showed four men - identified in court as the accused by Constable Danny McBeth, who

has known the brothers for 15 years - waiting in Station Square for some time before Mr Reid left the pub. The men were then involved in a melee.

Asked to describe what happened, the woman said: 'I don't know how it finished - but I remember seeing Stuart Reid covered in blood.'

Giving evidence on Monday, Mr Reid said he could not remember the brawl that led to him requiring hospital treatment, conceding he did not know if that was because of serious head injuries sustained or because he drank 'excessively' that night.

One of the four defending agents, Ian Sievwright, put it to Mr Reid that he was 'the Raging Bull', he was bigger and heavier than his alleged assailants and 'would not stop fighting'.

Mr Reid replied: 'What, stop protecting myself?'

A special defence of self defence has been lodged by the accused. The trial continues.



With HIE Chief Executive Alex Paterson are runner-up Ryan Sutherland, standing, winner Robert Anderson and Oban's Nicola MacKinnon, also runner-up.

Talented Oban student impresses business judges

AN OBAN student has finished runner up in a Highlands and Islands-wide competition to find the area's brightest talents.

Nicola MacKinnon, a student at Strathclyde University, spent time working with Oban Phoenix Cinema, where she helped to revamp the ticketing system and introduce a new loyalty card. She was one of 21 students who entered the ScotGrad Summer Placement Programme, managed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the final of which saw them make a Dragons' Den-style presentation to judges.

While the student of Strathclyde University was pipped at the post by Robert Anderson of Shetland, she left a lasting impression on the judges - and staff at the community run cinema. Nicola said: 'I've really enjoyed my placement and feel I have made a real impact. I was particularly pleased at the level of responsibility I was entrusted with.'

'The business is already starting to see the benefits of the loyalty card system introduced. I would encourage any student to consider taking part in the programme - young people can really make a big impact on businesses in Scotland.'

Eleanor Mackinnon, duty manager at Oban Phoenix Cinema, said: 'Nicola has worked so hard during her placement with us and we have found her invaluable. Her Gaelic language skills have also come in very useful. I am delighted that she has been awarded a runner-up place in the finals day presentations.'

Ruth Sime, head of business programmes at HIE, said: 'The quality of this year's student work has been excellent and the judges were impressed by all of the presentations. The programme provides enormous value for both students and employers. The work experience gained by the students sets them apart from others when applying for jobs.'

Kilmelford teenager named Loretto School head boy

A KILMELFORD teenager has been named as head boy of one of Scotland's most prestigious schools.

Angus Oatts, 17, attends Loretto School in Musselburgh, Scotland's oldest boarding school, founded in 1827.

As one of Scotland's top schools, costs to attend for senior pupils range from £14,000 to £30,000 per term. It has around 630 pupils, aged between 3-18 years.

Top prizes up for grabs in 'Dragon's Glen'

LOCHABER is to host 'Dragon's Glen', a business development competition to give one lucky winner the chance to turn their plans into reality.

The initiative came about through a tie-up between local firm LamontDesign, Fort William Chamber of Commerce, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council. The competition will run during Lochaber Ideas Week from November 18-23, which aims to encourage innovation, idea sharing and new business concepts.

The application process will lead into Ideas Week and the semi-final and final in front of a Dragon's Glen panel. The winner will receive £1,000 cash, £1,000 website design, hosting and support with LamontDesign, and business planning, support and advice from Business Gateway. The top prize also includes Fort William Chamber of Commerce membership and mentoring plus a range of business benefits for the first year of trading. Anyone 16 years or over can apply. For details visit www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/dragonsglen.

discover five easy ways to reduce your fuel costs...

Find out how you could join other drivers in the Highlands and Islands and reduce your fuel costs. Enter our quiz and you could also win a £250 gift voucher to spend with well known High Street retailers. Simply read the text and answer the questions below...

You'll save fuel and money on the road if you...

- Shift to a higher gear as soon as possible**
Driving at lower engine speeds reduces fuel consumption. Change up between 2,000 and 2,500 rpm.
- Drive a little slower**
Stick to the speed limits and make your fuel go further. For most cars the most efficient speed is 45-50 mph. The faster you go above this, the more fuel you will use. Driving at 50mph rather than 70mph reduces your fuel consumption by 10% at a stroke.
- Switch off if you're stationary for more than a minute**
When you are stuck in traffic or waiting for someone, switch off your engine. Switching off whenever it's safe to do so can soon lead to significant savings.
- Try FuelGood training**
You could save around 20p off every litre of petrol you buy by learning fuel efficient driving techniques through FuelGood training. Subsidised by Transport Scotland we have a limited number of sessions available for only £12 per person.
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Do you know you could save 15% off your fuel costs by using all of our fuel efficient driving tips?
To find out more call Home Energy Scotland from the Scottish Government free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to one of our advisors or visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland

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your chance to win £250 of gift vouchers

For your chance to win, simply provide the correct answer for each question below:

1. By how much could you reduce your consumption if you drive at 50mph rather than 70mph?
.....
2. What is the most efficient speed to make your fuel go further?
.....
3. What is the Home Energy Scotland phone number to call and find out more about all our driving tips that could save 15% off your fuel costs?
.....

Data protection statement Energy Saving Trust is collecting your data to provide you with advice on sustainable energy, cleaner transport, waste and water. We will retain your details for monitoring and analysis purposes. In future we would like to contact you from time to time with further offers and information that could help reduce your energy bills and your impact on the environment. Please mark here if you do not want to receive this help.

We will not pass your details on to any third parties without your prior consent.

Name
.....

Address
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Town
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Phone number
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.....

Fill in your contact details and return to Transport competition, **Home Energy Scotland, Fairways House, Fairways Business Park, Inverness IV2 6AA** no later than **31 October 2013** for your chance to win*. The winner will be notified in November 2013.

* Please call 0808 808 2282 or write to us for a full copy of the prize draw terms and conditions. Calls from landlines and most mobile networks are free.

BALLACHULISH

A FUNDRAISING coffee morning and sale on Saturday August 31 in Ballachulish Village Hall raised more than £2,000 towards essential repairs to St Mun's Church and chapel house in the village.

New parish priest Father Andrew Barrett told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a super morning, the sun shone and it was well attended.'

'I really enjoyed meeting everyone for the first time - there was such a great atmosphere.'

'I'd like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to raise such a fabulous amount. The next event is a bingo evening in November.'

SPEAN BRIDGE

REPORT from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council meeting, held at Achnacarry Village Hall on Tuesday September 3.

The community council will hold elections next month to fill vacant spots after treasurer Linda Taylor announced her resignation.

Ms Taylor leaving will mean the council only has four permanent members - one less than the Highland Council requirement. The three current co-opted members, Brian Donald, Jonathan Davies and Duncan McLeod, are expected to be among those standing for the vacancies.

Ballots will be posted to local residents on October 16 to be returned by October 31. The votes will be counted on November 1 with the results announced at the community council meeting on Tuesday November 5. Chairman John Fotheringham said: 'We are very sad to see Linda go, but we are very pleased she has been a member for the last two years and thank her for her hard work.'

ROAD signs warning drivers about the new Dalour Play Park in Spean Bridge are to be erected on the A86 in Spean Bridge by Transport Scotland.

The community council had asked BEAR Scotland to put the signs in place but was told they would have to be funded by local residents. Instead, Transport Scotland has agreed to pay for the signs.

IT WAS agreed by councillors to grant £200 to Lochaber Camanachd to help fund its upcoming bonfire night.



Pupils at Crianlarich Primary School love their new adventure playground, which they helped design along with the community.

Pupils delighted with new adventure playground

CRIANLARICH Primary School pupils are swarming to their exciting new adventure playground.

Funds for the £15,000 park were secured from Grounds for Learning by Sharron Hunter, who was principal at the school last year.

Built by Stitt Brothers of Killin, the new playground has been a massive hit with the youngsters, who previously had

CRIANLARICH

to make do with an open space. So impressed are the children, who helped design the all-natural play equipment, they are already hatching plans for expansion.

Class one at the school said: 'We have a water barrel that collects water from the roof of our school which we can

channel through pipes into our massive new sandpit. There are floodgates in the sandpit and we have to work together to transport the water from one end of the playground to the other.'

'We have fantastic big ropes that we can swing on and walk along to practice balancing. We have also been doing tricks on them.'

'We also have two big platforms which we have been jumping

off and also making dens using camouflage sheets and blankets. We have also been using them as stages to perform on.'

'We have also been building using branches, blankets, string and pegs.'

'We have a mini orchard and have lots of planters where we are growing our own vegetables.'

'We all love our new playground and are really excited about developing it even further!'

LOCHAWESIDE

RESIDENTS around Loch Awe have expressed an interest in starting up a neighbourhood watch scheme in a bid to tackle a high number of suspicious vans and bogus callers visiting the area.

At a meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council last Wednesday, Portsonachan resident Pam Gibson asked Dalmally policeman Iain Young if a scheme could be set up.

PC Young said he had attempted to set up such schemes in the past but had struggled to raise enough interest.

'If people are keen to do it I can help set that up,' he said. 'It would be great to have schemes set up in places like Dalmally, Portsonachan and Lochawe because these vans and bogus callers are all over the place.'

PC Young was told of an incident where a Glenorchy resident contacted the police station in Oban, on seeing a suspicious van, only to be told, 'What do you want us to do about it?'

PC Young said: 'I can't speak for the enthusiasm of other officers, but I would urge people to contact me in that situation. I know about that incident and was incensed by it. I have spoken to management about it and they are dealing with it.'

'Basically, if you see something that doesn't look right, report it.'

'If it turns out to be something innocent, then people won't mind being asked about it.'

Newsdesks

01631 568000
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Down Your Way

Drumnadrochit

A GROUP of 12 Glen Urquhart High fourth to sixth year pupils and two adults set off for Germany next week as the school marks the 20th year of its exchange programme with a secondary school near Munich.

The Drumnadrochit troupe will spend their time with their counterparts from Staatliche Realschule in the town of Gauting in the south of the country.

Meanwhile, singing and acting rehearsals are well underway for the school's production of the hit musical 'Grease'.

The cast for the show, which is being performed by the pupils for the first time in 10 years, was chosen after a series of auditions.

And the youngsters will get the chance to show the results of their hard work to parents, teachers and friends when the show is staged from November 26 to 29.



A DRUMNADROCHIT centre has been nominated for the 'best visitor attraction' award at the Highlands and Islands tourism Awards.

The Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition will compete with two whisky distilleries for the trophy - Glenlivet in Ballindalloch and Glenfiddich in Dufftown. The winners will be

announced at a ceremony in Inverness on Friday October 4. Centre director David Bremner said: 'Having been a previous winner of this award we are absolutely delighted to be shortlisted again and of course we very much hope to be successful. It's a team effort and our dedicated staff very much deserve this accolade.'



A SUCCESSFUL fundraising evening for Blairbeg Hall was held on Saturday night.

Teams from around the Drumnadrochit area entered into a quiz night at the hall, with local clubs and organisations donating prizes to be handed out on the night.

Organiser Carolyn Wilson told *The Oban Times* the money raised would go towards making improvements to the hall.

She said: 'The hall is very old. This year and next year we're raising funds to replace the windows.'



DRUMNADROCHIT plays host to a play which tells the story of a South Uist crofter who spent 50 years as a mute in a psychiatric hospital. 'Angus: Weaver of Grass', about the life of Angus MacPhee, will be performed

at Craigmorie Centre tomorrow night (Friday) as part of the BLAS Festival. Following World War II, Angus chose to become mute and spent much of his time creating elaborate costumes from grass and leaves.

Next week Down Your Way visits Kilninver and Isle of Seil with reporter Faith Orr. Contact Faith on 01631 568000 or email farr@obantimes.co.uk



The Port Appin Stitches' panel.

A PANEL stitched by a group of women in Appin and Port Appin has made up part of Scotland's largest ever community arts project.

The artwork at the heart of The Great Tapestry of Scotland was unveiled last Tuesday at the Scottish Parliament. The 143-metre embroidered tapestry depicts the entire history of Scotland.

Many of the Port Appin Stitches were keen historians and incorporated countless details and personal touches to embellish their panels. The women created a panel entitled 'The battle of Ypres and the building of HMS Hood'.

From the islands to the lowlands of Scotland, more than 1,000 voluntary stitchers, led by stitch-co-ordinator Dorie Wilkie, worked for more than 700 hours per panel to produce the artwork.

This ambitious project was spearheaded by one of the world's most popular authors, Alexander McCall Smith. McCall Smith, together with historian Alistair Moffat and artist Andrew Crummy, designed 160 historical panels

each depicting key moments from Scotland's past, from pre-history to the 21st century.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland will debut in a free public exhibition at the Scottish Parliament, which runs until September 21. Plans are also underway to tour the artwork and find a permanent home.

THE ANNUAL Appin SWRI Bring and Buy sale has raised £610 for children's parties.

President Linda MacLeod welcomed a large crowd to Appin Village Hall on August 29 and introduced Margaret Massey.

It then fell to young Erin Jackson to present Margaret with a lovely bouquet.

After doing the rounds of the various stalls and competitions, there was time for everyone to have a cup of tea before the raffle was drawn and competition results announced.

Linda closed the evening by thanking everyone who had helped in any way to make the event a success.

APPIN



Ardgour pupil gets on his bike for school

An Ardgour youngster has raised more than £800 for his school - by cycling 14 miles with his mum. Alexander MacLeod, a seven year-old pupil at Ardgour Primary School, and his mum Donna tackled the arduous route between Strontrian and his village on Saturday. School clerical assistant Rosie Maclean said: 'Well done Alexander! Ardgour Primary School and Nursery is proud of you.'

DALAVICH

A HORROR/comedy that was filmed in the Dalavich area is in the final stages of post-production and will have a village premiere in November.

'She-Wolf of the Woods, a short film from independent writer, director and producer Adriana Polito, is produced by Glasgow-based Stay Curious Productions.

The film explores the ritualistic aspects of a female werewolf, who lives in a small Scottish village.

Adriana says that she could not have completed the

project without the support and encouragement from: local writer Jamie McBain; Dalavich shop owner Yvonne McLean; everyone in the Dalavich Improvement Group; local composer James Gray; cabin owner David Winter; Rhod Watt from the Forestry Commission, and residents of Dalavich.

She said: 'The whole village got behind us, lending us things, taking behind-the-scenes pictures for us, making us soup - it was incredible. It really is a magical place and I'll never be able to thank them enough.'

The film premiere is at the GFT in Glasgow this month.

DALMALLY

A PARTNER in Taynuilt Medical Practice, which runs Dalmally Surgery, has appealed for representation from the Glenorchy area on its patient group.

Speaking at last Wednesday's meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, Dr John Lyon made a plea for Dalmally Surgery representatives on the group, MedCats, which helps shape potential changes in services at the practice.

The plea comes after the only previous Dalmally representative, Tim Boardman, left the area.

Dr Lyon said: 'We value our patient group and the practice likes to bounce ideas off them. 'What we are missing from it is a Dalmally representative and I would like someone from the wider Dalmally area to join.'

Dr Lyon added that more than one representative would be welcome and said meetings moved between the practice's three surgeries.

Anyone interested in joining MedCats can contact chairman Steve Eccles on 01631 720438 or email medcats@gmail.com.

Information about the group can be found on the Taynuilt Medical Practice website.

ULLAPOOL

ULLAPOOL Guitar Festival organisers have announced that guitar legends Jerry Donahue (the Hellecasters, Fairport Convention), Doug Morter (Magna Carta) and Elliott Randall (Steely Dan) have been booked to play as a trio at the popular event next month.

Weekend tickets are still on sale for the festival, which runs from October 4-6.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG received 130 millimetres of rain during August, slightly down on average for the month.

In the first eight months of the year, 761mms of rain has been recorded by local man Randal Coyne, which is also less than the average.

Average daily temperatures for August ranged from 12°C to 18°C, about average for the time of year.

The coldest day was 8°C and the hottest 28°C.

TIREE



TIREE High School has welcomed Laura Kiani to the island to help teach English to the P1 to P4 pupils until next February.

Miss Kiani is originally from Glasgow and has previously worked in Falkirk. She says she's very excited to be teaching in Tiree while covering Mrs MacKinnon's maternity leave.

determine not only if they will get financial backing, but how much.

Chris Martin, manager of the project, said: 'We currently have a membership of 106 people. Funders normally look for charities to have at least 100 members - our Articles of Association state that to be a member (or friend of CYP) one has to pay an annual subscription of £1.'

'We appreciate this may be onerous however this small contribution helps establish our credibility with funders.'

To support the project, text MEMB13 £1 to 70070 or drop in to the project at Gridend.

CALLANDER

CALLANDER Youth Project has asked for supporters to become a member to help the charity with funding bids.

Costing £1 per year, the membership helps potential funders gauge community support for the project and can

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determine not only if they will get financial backing, but how much.

To support the project, text MEMB13 £1 to 70070 or drop in to the project at Gridend.

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COMPLAINTS were made about motorists speeding on the A82 and A86 roads through Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge.

Local man Peter Wilson said motorcyclists would often reach speeds of up to 100mph when heading east out of Spean Bridge.

Mr Fotheringham said he would discuss the possibility of getting reductions on speed limits on the A86 between the settlements.

THE ISSUE of a lack of public toilets in Spean Bridge looks unlikely to be resolved soon.

Mr Fotheringham said there was no funding available in Highland Council's comfort scheme to open the Spean Bridge Woolen Mill facilities

to the public. Donald Cameron of Lochail suggested toilets in the former Little Chef building could be opened up, while local councillor Allan Henderson said the proposed Lochaber BID could provide 'a glimmer of hope'.

He said if the BID is successful it may consider taking on responsibility for things such as public toilets.

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June Matheson: winner of four trophies at Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society's annual show.

Flowers to the fore at Plockton show

PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society's recent annual show in Plockton hall saw entries considerably down on last year, both for the vegetable and crafts sections but there were still plenty of flowers on display.

Many of the usual exhibitors said that their vegetables either weren't mature enough yet or had bolted due to the hot weather earlier in the month.

There were still impressive selections of vegetables from two primary schools, Plockton and Auchtertyre.

Visitors numbers were also down - hopefully only because the wet weather had put people off coming along.

Organisers noted the positive comments on content and appearance, with one lady from the south saying how nice it was to see such an un-commercialised event.

Best individual entry in the vegetable section went to S J Halifax from Lochcarron with his leeks. Ruby MacRae from Kyle presented the cups and prizes.

Results: Dall Trophy (for number of points in Vegetable Section) - 1 Lenice Townend; 2 G MacIntosh; 3 Lexi Ball. Jubilee Cup (for greatest number of Firsts in Veg Classes) - 1 Lenice Townend; 2 G MacIntosh; 3 Lexi Ball. Conchra Cup (for best individual Entry in Veg Classes), for leeks with tops attached - Mr S J Halifax, Lochcarron. The Duirinish Vase (for Cut Flowers) - 1 Equal June Matheson and Sybil Cameron; 3 Marie Campbell. Lochalsh Cup (for Roses) - 1 June Matheson; 2 Kathleen Webster; 3 Sybil Cameron. The Harrington Quaich for Pot Plants - 1 June Matheson; 2 Gill Harrington; 3 Equal Brenda Kay and Marie

Campbell. The Cload Trophy for Decorative Flowers - 1 Marie McGhie; 2 Gill Harrington; 3 Jill Charnley. The Catriona MacDonald Commemorative Quaich for Posies - 1 June Matheson; 2 Sybil Cameron.

The Adult Handicrafts Trophy (for maximum points in section) - 1 Margaret Rankin; 2 Equal Jill Charnley and Lizzie Bird. The Attadale Cuach for Best Quality article in Crafts - Lizzie Bird. The Gillies Prize for Art - 1 Jill Charnley; 2 Equal Maureen Dearie and Chrissie MacKenzie. RBS Award for Photography - 1 Kirsty Harrington; 2 Equal Gill Harrington and Jill Charnley. The Ormerod Trophy for winner of most points in Childrens' Crafts and Art - 1 Lola McLaughlin; 2 Elan McLaughlin; 3 Bridgie Rankin. The Peacock Cup for Childrens' Flowers - 1 Equal Elan McLaughlin and William Taylor; 3 Katy Amos.

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Drink drive warning

OBAN Police are reminding would-be drink drivers that its officers will remain vigilant in daytime hours after a male driver was arrested for the offence in Oban on Monday morning.

The driver was stopped at 8.25am on the Corran Esplanade and following a breath test was arrested. He is now subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal. Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'Our officers will remain vigilant to the dangers posed by drink drivers at any time of the day.'

Man's body washes up on shore

THE BODY of a man has washed up on the shoreline underneath the Skye Bridge.

Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat was called out after an object was reported floating under the bridge on Monday morning. By the time the boat arrived the man's body had washed up onto the beach near Kyleakin.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'At around 9.10am on Monday, police received a report of a body in the water near the shoreline at Kyleakin. Following assistance from Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI lifeboat, the body of a man was recovered. There are no further details at this time.'

'Police investigations are continuing.'

Election reminder

MEMBERS of the National Trust for Scotland are being reminded the polls are about to close in the conservation charity's election of new board trustees.

Thirteen candidates are standing for three vacant trustee positions and the trust's 314,000 members have been given until tomorrow (Friday) to cast their votes. The outcome of the election will be announced at the charity's annual general meeting in Stirling on Saturday September 28. Trust chairman Sir Kenneth Calman said: 'This is the first time since the new board of trustees was established after the trust's reforms in 2011 that the opportunity has come to newly elect or re-elect trustees.'

To vote and to register for the organisation's AGM, visit nts.org.uk/agm2013.



The volunteers meet at Station Square before beginning the clean up around Oban Bay. 15_t37bidsclean01

Volunteers support third BID4Oban beach clean

THE THIRD BID4Oban beach clean took place on Sunday as volunteers helped to clear the beach area around Oban Bay.

Clean ups were carried out in March and

July this year but there are plans to make them a monthly occurrence.

Staff from the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary joined the regular volunteers on Sunday and

their mascot, Selkie the Seal even showed up to boost morale. Everyone who helped was treated to coffees and soup provided by Piece and the Regent Hotel.

Stunning photos on show at Oban cinema

CINEMAGOERS are enjoying a showing of a different kind at the Oban Phoenix - a series of stunning photographs taken by relative newcomers to digital cameras.

As their first exhibition of their work, the Soroba Digital Camera Users Group have put together an eclectic gallery of pictures with everything from wildlife, sights of the world and arty abstracts to local scenes and portraiture on show.

Brian McMillan, who leads the group, said: 'Some of the guys exhibiting here only picked up a camera a few months ago and most of the feedback we're getting is from people saying they really enjoy the images.'

The exhibition in the cinema's main foyer will run until Wednesday September 18.



This striking image of Dunollie Castle is among those images shown by the Soroba Digital Camera Users Group at Oban Phoenix Cinema this week.

Bumper season in Argyll and the Isles

ANECDOTAL evidence that the 2013 summer season in Argyll and the Isles has been a busy one seems to be backed up by the statistics.

Historic Scotland and VisitScotland have this week reported an increase in the number of people visiting the area, as the 'staycation' market and sunny weather look to have combined to produce a bumper tourism trade.

VisitScotland claims to have had an increase of 4.1 per cent in the number of visitors coming into its information centre on Oban's North Pier.

Between April 1 and August 31 this year 107,400 visitors were welcomed, up from 103,176 for the same period in 2012.

The tourism agency said the increased figures in Oban offered a good indicator of how the region had fared.

Historic Scotland has also reported a bumper summer of visitor numbers to its sites in Argyll and Bute.

From June - August 2013, the organisation, which is Scotland's biggest operator of visitor attractions, reported 46,034 visitors to ticketed sites in the area, an increase of 10.9 per cent on the same period last year.

Dunstaffnage Castle welcomed 9,137 visitors over the period, an increase of 12.3 per cent.

Iona Abbey, which has recently benefited from a significant investment in its visitor offering and a re-interpretation project to mark the 1,450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba from Ireland, also saw a surge in visitors over the summer - up 13.5 per cent to 34,957 visitors.

David Adams McGilp, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'The fantastic weather we

have enjoyed through much of the summer has undoubtedly brought extra visitors to Oban and Argyll.'

'I understand many local accommodation providers and attractions are still positively promoting themselves to attract maximum numbers of visitors in what is left of the summer season.'

'It is too early to say yet how this will manifest itself in monetary terms, but there is definitely a busy feel to the region.'

Across Historic Scotland's 78 ticketed attractions, records were broken at its flagship site Edinburgh Castle - up 26 per cent on 2012 for the period June - August. August alone saw 229,940 visitors go through the doors of the castle, an increase of 35.8 per cent, more than any single month ever recorded.

Argyll and Bute taxi fare review delayed

A REVIEW of taxi fares in Argyll and Bute will not take place until November, it has been decided.

Dunoon Taxi Drivers Association had asked Argyll and Bute Council to consider commencing a review of prices before the autumn.

A report in January, which included consultations from taxi firms across the area, led the planning committee to decide not to increase fares.

Current fare levels became official on April 30 and it was

decided a review would next be carried out after six months.

Michael McIntyre, chairman of Dunoon Taxi Drivers Association, wanted a review sooner than that and called for a study to be carried out immediately - but a council planning meeting agreed to wait until the six months was up.

Councillor George Freeman said: 'Shouldn't we be asking other vendors what their situation is rather than just one? I would be reluctant to go ahead based on just one vendor.'

More A82 road closures

TWO FURTHER weeks of closures on the A82 at Pulpit Rock have been announced for October and November.

The current works which have seen the route shut between 10pm and 6am ends next Friday, with overnight closures recommencing from 10pm on Monday October 7 until 6am on Monday October 21.

The trunk road will then be closed between 10pm and 6am from Monday November 4 to Monday November 11 to allow the upgrading work to be carried out.

The road will be fully closed for less than a week in January, with dates not yet confirmed.



FINAL TWO WEEKS

CLOSES 21ST SEPTEMBER

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JOIN US ON FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2013 FOR OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR AND HELP PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER



The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest fundraising event. The charity asks people across the UK - and sometimes further afield - to hold a coffee morning, where donations on the day are made to Macmillan. In 2012 115,000 people signed up to coffee morning, raising a record £15 million. This year Macmillan has challenged sup-

porters to raise even more money to help change the lives of people affected by cancer.

To pledge your support, get together with friends, family and colleagues on Friday, September 28 and make time for what really matters.

Our ambition

There are currently two million people in the UK living with cancer. By 2030 there will be four million. Macmillan

wants to make sure it is there for all of them.

One in three of us will get cancer and for most it will be the toughest thing we ever face. When you're facing the toughest fight of your life, you need a team of inspiring people in your corner with you.

Macmillan nurses provide medical, emotional, practical and financial support and we push for a better cancer care system.

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OBAN MEMORIALS 01631 563123 Glad to Support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning	Altavona Guest House 01631 565067 Happy to Support Macmillan Cancer	Gunn's Garage Appin 01631 730279 Happy to Support Macmillan Cancer	Bossards 01631 564641 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer	MUNRO'S 01631 564463 Proud Supporters of Macmillan Cancer	NEVIS Bakery 01397 772087 Proudly Supporting the World's Biggest Coffee Morning	OCS 01631 566561 Glad to Help Macmillan Cancer Support	FLYING LOOK 01631 571152 Proud to Support Breakthrough Breast Cancer	the Image 01631 566322 Happy to Help the World's Biggest Coffee Morning
Precious Things 114 George Street 01631 562510 Proud to Support Macmillan Cancer	Park Lodge Hotel Tobermory, Isle of Mull 01688 302430 Supporting Macmillan Cancer	Hunter Joinery 07786 514402 Proud to Support Macmillan Cancer	Mull Hire Tools & Plant 01680 300422 Happy to support Breakthrough Breast Cancer	The Ferry Shop Fionnphort, Isle of Mull 01681 700470 Proudly supporting Macmillan Cancer	Blair Villa South 01631 564813 Delighted to support Macmillan Cancer	Scott Robertson Accident Repairs 01631 569441 Happy to support Macmillan Cancer	Highland Arts Exhibition 01852 300273 Always Proud to Support Macmillan Cancer	THE FREEL 01631 562184 Happy to Help Macmillan Cancer Support
Redshank Scotland 01499 302525 Bespoke handcrafted kilts by qualified kiltmakers. Inveraray	OES 01631 564203 Happy to Support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning	POST OFFICE Dalmally Post Office 01838 200340 Supporting Macmillan Cancer	Flora's Hair Salon 01631 562223 Delighted to Support Macmillan Cancer	Tralee Bay Holiday 01631 720255 Happy to Support Macmillan Cancer	Cuilfail Hotel 01852 200274 Happy to Help	The Oystercatcher 01700 821229 Proud to Support such an Excellent Charity	Local Shellfish The original green seafood shack 07881 418565 Supporting Macmillan Cancer	Me Myself & I Beauty & Massage Studio 01631 358016 Very proud to support an amazing charity that is so close to people's hearts
CAMERON AUTO REPAIRS 01499 302995 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	T Maxwell Plant Hire Mobile: 07831 672717 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND 01631 563297 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer	ISLE OF MULL SCALLOPS 01688 302776 Proud to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	Pitts' Stop NEWSAGENTS 01631 565451 Proud to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	Neill T. Belshaw 07713 520556 Happy to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	THE LORNE Stevenson Street, Oban 01631 570020 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer	Taynuilt Hotel Old Coaching Inn 01866 822437 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	Craignure Inn 01680 812305 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer
Mallaig Harbour Authority 01687 462154 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	DK LAFFERTY 01631 564712 Delighted to Support Macmillan Cancer	Scotch Heather Shop Inveraray 01499 302033 / 2044 The Freshest flowers from the specialist florist	the colintraive hotel www.colintraivehotel.com Special Offer - 2 Nights for 1 B&B November	Kerrie's Tyre Service 01631 570000 Supporting the World's Biggest Coffee Morning	THE IONA shop 01631 562071 Proud to Support Macmillan Cancer	Maison Chic 01631 563679 Pleased to Support Macmillan Cancer	FIN'S PLACE 01631 566220 07766 757013 Happy to support Macmillan Cancer	DM HALL chartered surveyors 01631 564225 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer
Island Bakery ORGANICS 01688 302223 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer	PROFT MOTOR SERVICES 01397 703877 Happy to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE 01631 569599 Pleased to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support	LOCHINDAAL HOTEL 01496 850202 Proud to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support	bowman stewart Chartered Surveyors & Consulting Engineers 01546 606067 Proud to be involved with Macmillan Cancer Support	ARDNAMURCHAN ESTATES 01972 510208 Pleased to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support	Calum MacLeod BUILDING CONTRACTOR LTD 07979805407 Proud to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	TAVERN 01397 703600 Proud to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	A&D Watt 01499 500285 Proud to be supporting Macmillan Cancer
The Flower House Flowers for all occasions... 01631 570966 Delighted to be able to Help Macmillan Cancer Support	Graham Scott Dip FA FINANCIAL ADVISOR 07738 121549 Proud to support Macmillan Cancer	Argyll Resources Group 01631 566370 Happy to Support Macmillan Cancer Charity	TELFORD CONSTRUCTION 01855 821202 Happy to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support	The Oyster Inn 01631 710666 Proud to Support Macmillan Cancer	John Rodgers ACIOB Architectural & Building Consultant 01681 704059 Pleased to be supporting Macmillan Cancer	WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT www.macmillan.org.uk		

West Highland College welcomes new students

A TOTAL of 140 further education students started college life this week with West Highland College UHI across its 10 centres.

Around 80 of those gathered in the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Monday morning to hear assistant principal Georgina Morrison and senior college staff extend a warm welcome before their induction.

College principal and chief executive Lydia Rohmer also delivered a welcome address - by video conference from Stirling. Other new students at Broadford, Auchtertyre and Kilchoan watched Ms Rohmer's address.

She said later: 'The use of innovative technology is enabling more and more students to access learning from their own homes and local college centres and I am delighted to have been able to greet them all personally today.'

Meanwhile, around 70 students begin their studies this week in the college's newest facility - a £2.5 million extension to the campus in Portree.

Lack of teacher leaves Muck primary pupils in limbo

PRIMARY pupils on the Isle of Muck do not know who will be teaching them after the October holidays as no teacher is currently in place.

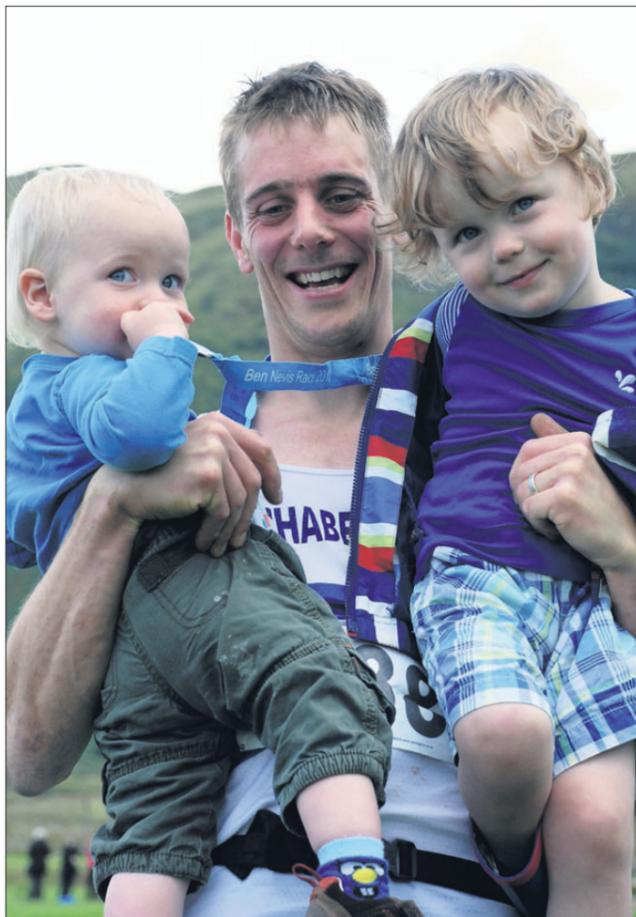
Highland Council received no applicants after advertising for a new teacher for the six-pupil school over the summer when incumbent Len Whatley left the remote island in July.

Part-time teacher Liz Boden was drafted in from nearby Eigg as interim cover but has to return to her regular post after the October holidays, leaving the Muck youngsters in limbo.

School parent council secretary Julie McFadzean told *The Oban Times* neither parents nor the school know what is happening.

She said: 'We've heard that they're planning to re-advertise the position, but there's not much time for that.'

'If they put someone in on supply they'd have to get the ferry across, and with the winter coming that's not a great situation.'



Well done daddy! Ruari Watt gets a big welcome from sons Calum and Finn after finishing the Ben Nevis Race in his fastest ever time. 10_137race01

Ranger Ruari's hero's welcome at Ben Nevis Race finish line

LOCAL Forestry Commission Scotland ranger Ruari Watt got a hero's welcome from sons Calum, aged one, and three-year-old Finn after finishing Saturday's Ben Nevis race in a personal best time.

Inverroy man Ruari, 33, ran strongly to come home ninth overall in a field of 483 runners.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Conditions were perfect - no wind and good visibility. It is the only event I look forward to every year.'

'I don't particularly like running but in the Ben Race it does not matter how fast or slow you are, everybody is super enthusiastic. The crowd just cheers you on.'

Ruari was second Lochaber AC man home behind race winner Finlay Wild, who became the first ever Scottish athlete to win the 10-mile race four times in succession.

The crowd ringing Claggan Park gave the Fort William GP a rousing reception when he broke

the tape in one hour 30 minutes and six seconds.

Ben Nevis Race committee chairman Michael Whitehead was delighted the event was accident-free - and praised the efforts of everyone involved.

He said: 'From our point of view the whole day went perfectly. We had no incidents anywhere and no major injuries.'

'And for Finlay Wild to win it for the fourth time in a row is just a fantastic achievement.'

See full coverage, back page.

Regular ferry passengers still not happy with fares plan

Mixed response to revised Corran proposals

REVISED proposals for the controversial Corran Ferry fare structure have met with a mixed response from unhappy locals, who say regular users are taking on an excessive burden.

An audience of more than 50 at the Sunart Centre in Strontian on Monday night made it clear to Highland Council's transport boss Sam McNaughton they were still unsatisfied with his planned changes.

Under the new proposed regime which goes before the TEC Services committee next Thursday, the majority of fares will be increased by 30p from November 1, putting a single car crossing up from £7.30 to £7.60.

But a book for 30 tickets - the most common way regular users pay - will go up from £57.80 to £66.80, meaning the cost of each crossing rises by 30p to £2.23.

Local man Simon Willis told the meeting the increases were uneven and unfair.

He said: 'A single user coming over once pays a 4.1 per cent increase. We who get a book

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

of tickets face a 15.5 per cent increase.

'A 30p increase on a £1.93 ticket - which is what we pay - is huge, and it's not fair.'

Ardgour woman Mary Ann Kennedy said a more long-term solution for funding the lifeline service was needed.

She said: 'What you've ended up doing in trying to find a compromise that looks fair, is you have penalised your regular local users.'

'We are reaping your harvest after years of you failing to sit down and invest and think about the long term. If this goes through, in four or five years time you're going to come back to us again and say there's still a gap.'

Five and six-axle HGV vehicles face a rise from £29.20 per crossing to £42, a move which some suggested could hit forestry and farming in the area.

Mr McNaughton was also criticised for failing to produce an economic impact study on fare rises despite agreeing to do so at a council meeting in March.

Local councillors Thomas MacLennan, Brian Murphy and Andrew Baxter said they would make the TEC Services committee aware of the community's concerns at next week's meeting.

TEC Services committee chair Graham Phillips said: 'The proposed increase will not fully close the gap between operating costs and income and the TEC Services Committee will also be asked to agree that a review is undertaken to examine all operating costs and income with a view to moving towards full cost recovery and making the service sustainable for the future.'

The original scheme proposed earlier this year would have seen daily commuters' costs fall to under £1 per crossing, but those making weekly trips would have seen a 94 per cent increase to £3.65.

Retired GP wins masters mountain bike bronze

RETIREE Roy Bridge GP John Shirley has won a bronze medal at the 2013 UCI Mountain Bike Masters World Championships in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

The 60-year old completed the two 15km laps in 68 minutes 17 seconds for a podium finish behind South African Linus van Onselen and Pedro Trujillo of Venezuela.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'I am really pleased. It's all in the preparation really.'

The veteran speedster's next event is the Dukes of Hazzard Downhill stage at Kinlochleven on November 17.

Amongst his rivals will be his son James - who is a downhill specialist.

John said: 'It's completely different from cross-country. I'm not expecting to do much!'



John on the UCI Mountain Bike Masters World Championships podium at Pietermaritzburg.

Councillor suffers heart attack

LOCHABER councillor Bren Gormley is recovering after suffering a heart attack in Inverness.

SNP Councillor Gormley was rushed to Raigmore Hospital last Thursday morning after complaining of chest pains before a council meeting. He underwent an emergency operation and was kept in hospital for several days for treatment.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Wednesday, Councillor Gormley's fellow Fort William

and Ardnamurchan member Brian Murphy said: 'I think he was hoping to get out today or tomorrow. But he'll be off work for the next couple of months.'

Lochaber area leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan, who had been staying at the same hotel as Councillor Gormley, noticed his colleague's absence from the meeting and made enquiries.

Councillor MacLennan said: 'On behalf of the Lochaber area committee we wish Bren a speedy recovery.'

Highland Council leader and SNP group leader Drew Hendry said: 'We were obviously concerned but pleased that Bren was able to get the right treatment at Raigmore.'

Councillor Gormley was elected to represent Fort William and Ardnamurchan in 2007 when he became the SNP's education spokesman.

He was re-elected in May last year and is the current joint chairman of the Lochaber District Partnership.

TAYNUILT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

RESULTS 2013

OPEN CLASS FLOWERS

One vase annuals: 1 Brown; One vase sweet peas, mixed, 12 spikes: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 A Pringle; One bloom dahlia - giant or decorative, 10" or over: D McDougall; One bloom dahlia - giant or large cactus, 10" or over: D MacDougall, 2 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - medium decorative, 6-8": W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - medium cactus, 6-8": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown, 3 W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - small decorative, 4-6": 1 W Hay, 2 Brown, 3 D MacDougall; Three blooms dahlias - miniature decorative, not over 4": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - small cactus, 4-6": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown, 3 A Pringle; Three blooms dahlias - small ball, 4-6": 1 Brown, 2 W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - miniature ball, not over 4": 1 Brown, 2 W Hay, 3 A Pringle; Five blooms dahlias - pompom, not over 2": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown, 3 H MacKenzie; Three blooms dahlias - collarette: 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - miniature cactus: 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown; One vase four asters: 1 A Pringle, 2 H MacLeod, 3 Brown; 2; One vase four Scotch marigolds: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 L Scott; One vase four African marigolds: 1 H MacLeod, 2 Brown; One vase four French marigolds: 1 L Scott, 2 Brown, 3 A Pringle; One vase four sp antirrhinums: 2 Brown; One vase four roses: 1 Brown; One vase one rose: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 H MacKenzie; One vase six pansies or violas: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 L Scott; One vase three gladioli, large flowered: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 D McDougall; One vase of one gladiolus: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 W Hay; One pot plant in bloom: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacLeod, 3 G Morse; One orchid: 1 H MacLeod, 2 Brown; One foliage plant: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Garden News Top Vase Competition: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 M Montgomery.

OPEN CLASS: VEGETABLES:

Collection of vegetables: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 W Hay; Four potatoes, coloured, one variety: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 L Scott; Four potatoes, white, one variety: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 W Hay; Two cauliflowers: W Hay; One cabbage: H MacLeod; Two heads celery: 1 H MacLeod, 2 W Hay, 3 D McDougall; Three carrots - long: H MacLeod; Three carrots - stump rooted: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Three beet, round: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacLeod; Three leeks, long: 1 H MacLeod, 2 D McDougall; Three leeks pot 4 - 6 inches to button: 1 H MacLeod, 2 W Hay, 3 D McDougall; Three onions (not from sets): H MacLeod; Two lettuce (cabbage): H MacKenzie; Four tomatoes: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 H MacLeod; Nine pods peas: 1 H MacLeod; Nine pods broad beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Nine pods French beans: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Nine pods runner beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Four shallots: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Three onions (grown from sets): 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 D McDougall; One cucumber: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 L Scott, 3 H MacLeod; One marrow: 1 H MacLeod; Three parsnips: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 W Hay; A Garden News Top Tray: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie.

AMATEUR CLASS FLOWERS

One vase annuals: 1 L Servant; One vase sweet peas, nine spikes, mixed: 1 L Servant, 2 R Horn, 3 M Montgomery; One vase perennials: 1 L Servant, 2 M Brown; One vase three dahlias: 1 D McDougall, 2 G Morse, K Clayton; One dahlia, large or giant decorative or cactus: 1 D McDougall, 2 K Clayton, 3 L Servant; One vase dahlias, three blooms, medium cactus: D McDougall; One vase dahlias, three blooms, cactus: D McDougall; One vase dahlias, three blooms, poms: 1 D McDougall, 2 K Clayton; One vase dahlias, large poms, three blooms or honeycomb: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three blooms, miniature cactus: D McDougall; One vase four Scotch marigolds: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant, 3 L Scott; One vase four French marigolds: 1 L Scott, 2 K Campbell, 3 D McDougall; One vase four African marigolds: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; One vase six violas or pansies: L Scott; One vase four phlox: 1 L Servant, 2 M Brown; One pot plant in bloom: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery, 3 D McDougall; One foliage plant: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery; One vase three gladioli: D McDougall; One vase one gladiolus: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; One vase four asters: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall, 3 L Scott; One vase single rose: 1 R Horn, 2 M Montgomery, 3 L Scott; One vase three spikes floribunda roses: M Montgomery; One vase three carnations: D McDougall.

AMATEUR CLASS: VEGETABLES

Collection of vegetables, four kinds: Mercer Cup: L Servant; Three potatoes, coloured, one variety: 1 L Servant, 2 L Scott; One cabbage: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; Three carrots, long: L Servant; Three carrots, slump rooted: L Servant; Two heads celery: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three parsnips: L Servant; Three garden turnips: L Servant; Three onions (grown from sets): D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three beet, round: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; Three leeks, cylindrical: 2 L Servant; Three leeks, long: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall; Three leeks pot 4 - 6 inches to button: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three onions (not from sets): 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three courgettes: L Servant; Nine pods French beans: L Servant; Nine pods runner beans: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery; Four shallots: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall, 3 L Scott; One pot parsley: 1 L Servant, 2 R Horn; One cucumber: L Scott; Collection of vegetables, Challenge Cup, Tray: L Servant.

FLORAL CLASSES

An arrangement of mixed flowers in a basket: I McNab; A gent's buttonhole & lady's corsage: I McNab; An arrangement with driftwood: I McNab; An arrangement with a Commonwealth Games theme: I McNab; An arrangement in a one pound weight jam jar: I McNab; An arrangement for frontal effect: I McNab; Photo 6" x 4" mounted not framed of a sweet pea stem: 1 Mr D Campus, 2 R Huntingdon; An arrangement for a dining table: I McNab; An arrangement of foliage, seedheads and berries: S Sage.

BAKING & JAMS

Sultana cake: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Madeira cake: 2 B MacLean; Gingerbread (8oz flour) melting method, no fruit: 1 S Huntingford, 2 B MacLean; Fruit loaf, no yeast, dark: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Chocolate sponge filled with chocolate butter icing: 1 S Huntingford, 2 B MacLean; Victoria sponge, no filling, plain, in two parts: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Queen cakes, four, with fruit: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; One apple tart 7": 2 S Huntingford; One loaf, brown, made with yeast, machine: 1 B MacLean, 2 T Sage; Four square fruit slices: S Huntingford; Six pieces tablet (not fudge): B MacLean; Six pieces coconut ice: K Campbell; One raspberry jam: 1 K Campbell, 2 Mrs Potter, 3 J MacFarlan; One rhubarb and ginger jam: 1 C Potter, 2 J MacFarlan; One lemon curd: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 C Potter; One bramble and apple jelly: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 K Campbell, 3 C Potter; One marmalade: 1 S Huntingford, 2 C Potter; One blackcurrant jam: 1 K Campbell, 2 J MacFarlan; One blackcurrant jelly: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 K Campbell; One strawberry jam: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 Mrs Potter.

SPECIAL CLASSES

Best all round garden in Taynuilt postal area: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant, 3 Mr & Mrs MacLean; Best flower garden in Taynuilt postal area: 1 L Scott, 2 Mr & Mrs MacLean, 3 L Servant; Best vegetable garden: 1 L Servant, 2 L Scott, 3 Mr & Mrs MacLean; Best flower plot: 1 G Morse, 2 A Gray, 3 Mrs Potter; Best garden in Achlonan housing scheme: 1 Mr & Mrs MacLean, 2 Mrs J Cameron, 3 Miss A Gray; Best garden in Cruchan Cottages housing scheme: 1 G Morse, 2 Mrs C Potter, 3 Mrs J Reffin.

CHALLENGE CUPS & TROPHIES

Society's Challenge Cup for most points in the open class vegetables: H MacLeod; Taynuilt Hotel Cup for most points in open flowers: 1 Brown; Munro Cup for Best Exhibit in Horticultural Classes (30): H MacLeod; Cruachan Cup for most points in amateur class, flowers: D McDougall; 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; Mercer Cup for Best Collection of Vegetables (Amateur 84): L Servant;

Brochroy Cup for most points in Floral Section: Islay McNab; Society's Cup for most points in Preserves Section: Jessie MacFarlane; Muckairn Cup for most points in Baking Section: Brenda MacLean; Neil Jackson Memorial Cup for Best Exhibit in Amateur Class, Horticultural: D McDougall; Mrs C Campbell Memorial Cup for most points in baking classes (120-124): Brenda MacLean; Challenge Cup for Best Exhibit in Collection of Vegetables (110): L Servant; Jack Brown Memorial Cup for Best Vegetable Garden: L Servant; Andrew Cameron Cup for most points in Amateur Classes 66-68: L Scott; Special Prize for best set of leeks in show: H MacLeod; Special Prize for best vase of dahlias in show: D McDougall.

CAN YOU HELP HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

By committing time to the Children's Panel you can improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people in your area. You don't need experience or qualifications, you just need to care. To get involved, call 0844 848 3407, text HELPER to 61611 or visit childrenspanelscotland.org

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S PANEL. IT'S LIFE CHANGING.

children's hearings scotland

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Early autumn boost for Fort William

GOOD news seems to be at a premium in these troubled times, what with US bombing of Syria a real prospect, poverty in Scotland on the up - despite the supposed economic turnaround - and the BBC charged with handing departing executives huge payouts to which they were not entitled.

So it is refreshing to report on events much closer to home which deliver a real feelgood factor.

The 2013 Ben Nevis Race on Saturday was the perfect example, where a tremendous community volunteering effort ensured a blamish-free day for almost 500 men and women daft enough to run up and down the highest mountain in the British Isles at considerable risk of injury or hypothermia.

But the weather played fair, medics at Claggan Park had to deal with little more than scrapes and bruises and the crowd lent enthusiastic support as Spaniards mixed with Scots, English and runners from other nations in a true spirit of comradeship and sporting endeavour.

The commitment from unpaid helpers and safety personnel such as Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team was colossal, giving a timely reminder that great things can be achieved if people pull together - and the race organising committee should be congratulated for the efforts in delivering another hugely successful event. The icing on the cake came when local GP Finlay Wild - who could be set to make the race his own in coming years - crossed the finish line to become the first Scottish man to win the Ben Nevis Race four times in succession.

But above all, the day was about international fellowship - something sadly lacking in the world right now.

GLASGOW LETTER

Celtic Connections

CELTIC Connections 2014 is delighted to announce that Del Amitri, arguably the best-loved outfit from the golden generation of Scottish bands to emerge in the 1980s, will play in the new SSE Hydro on January 24.

With original members and crew, the band will be making their Celtic Connections debut.

This will be part of their first UK tour for more than a decade. They will be supported by The Big Dish who staged their own triumphant return at Celtic Connections 2012.

Ceol's Craic

THE NEW season of Ceol's Craic starts this Saturday, September 14, in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, with an evening of Americana music and its link to Gaelic music. Macanta will get the evening underway at 7.30pm and will be followed by Velonios at 8pm and then Norrie (Togo) MacIver from 9pm.

Comun an Taobh an Iar

ELLANGOWAN Social Club, Douglas Street, Milngavie, at 7.30pm, will be the venue for the opening ceilidh of the Bearsden Highlanders.

With both winners of the Silver Pendant at last year's Royal National Mod, Jennifer Campbell and Robert Robertson, and Mod Gold Medalist Eilidh Davies from the same year scheduled to appear it should be a successful concert.

They will be joined by Bill MacMillan, piper Graham Richardson and accordionist Fiona Johnstone with Kirsteen Grant as accompanist.

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

FRESH from their successful visit to China, the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, with about 100 performers, will take to the stage this coming Saturday in the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm.

They will be joined by tenor Jim Nicol, mezzo soprano Arlene Ralph, the 1st Troon Boy's Brigade Pipe Band and the young dancers from the Myra Shuttleworth School of Dance in Castle Douglas with Beechgrove Garden's Jim McCall as compere.

Piping lessons

ENROLMENT for classes for both under 16s and adults will take place at the National Piping Centre from 6pm to 8pm this evening (Thursday). Tuition is available for

all levels, from Level 1 for complete beginners to Level 5 for those working on Chapters 26-30 of the Highland Bagpipe Tutor Book.

Each Monday to Thursday lessons, for one hour each, start at 5pm through to 9pm and on Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm.

Loch Lomond Food and Drink Festival

AS PART of the Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight, Loch Lomond Shores will host a Food and Drink Festival on Saturday September 14 and Sunday September 15 from 10am to 6pm each day.

Diary dates

Thursday September 12: Comun an Taobh an Iar, Opening Ceilidh - see above

Friday September 13: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Beacon Arts Centre, Customhouse Quay, Greenock, 7.30pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday September 14: Ceol's Craic - see above. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.45pm. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra - see above.

Monday September 16: Perth Theatre, Traditional Sessions with Ross Ainslie and Hannah Fisher, 8pm.

Tuesday September 17: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Edwina Hayes.

Thursday September 19: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, St Margaret's Parish Church, Dalry, 7.30pm. Tolbooth Stirling, 8pm - Kan (Brian Finnegan-flute, Aidan O'Rourke-fiddle, James Goodwin-drums and Ian Stephenson-guitar).

Friday September 20: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Ayr Town Hall, 7.30pm. Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh-McFall's Chamber.

Saturday September 21: Glasgow Skye Association Opening Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm to 11pm - Donnie and Diane's Band. Prices as for last session.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Carnaby Street there on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Nicky McMichan on Friday with Robert Robertson on both Saturday and Sunday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

Near hostile hysteria

Sir, Taynuilt Community Council was justified not to put the Dawn Fresh issue to a vote at its recent meeting.

Given the volume of non-scientific anecdotal views, a feeling of near hostile hysteria existed. The wall of negativity was offensive given the calm, reasoned presentation and detailed responses of Dawn Fresh executives.

An objective view must be taken and not bulldozed by any NIMBY issues.

The scientific safeguards exist for the re-development of this former mussel farm site and the benefits to the local, national and UK economies cannot be ignored at a time of slow economic growth.

This development is sympathetic to our environment and economy and makes minimal impact for those that wish to enjoy Loch Etive's untold deserted acres to the north east.

R A Stennett, Taynuilt.

Consider the bigger picture

Sir, As someone who would be directly affected by the collapse of the fish farming industry, I feel compelled to respond to recent anti fish farming propaganda.

No-one wants to mar the beauty of Argyll. The proposed new site on Etive will sit on an existing mussel farm site which is still licensed. The frenzy that has been whipped up is nothing short of ridiculous. Consider a few things. How many of you eat trout and salmon? Where do you get it from? Since Rainbow Trout is not native to UK waters there is no option for wild caught!

In a world where healthy eating is key and fish containing high omega oils encouraged, how can we maintain the demand without farming? Without farms the seas and waters would be lifeless through overfishing the wild stocks.

The situation is not black and white; it is every shade of grey in between. Taynuilt Community Council has been impartial but you cannot ignore the fact that Dawnfresh have made investments in the village as a gesture of good faith and commitment to the area. Get down off your chargers and see the bigger picture.

Work with cruise ship passengers

Sir, I write regarding *The Oban Times* article of August 29 on cruise ship passengers.

There always will be a percentage of cruise passengers who will go on organised trips, such as the attraction of what's on offer in the area. The answer is to work with them and not against them.

In 2007 we had nine ships visiting Oban and with sheer hard effort and understanding, in-



Famous Oban faces gear up for panto

This photograph of two famous Oban characters was sent to us by Betty Moncrieff. It shows G Y Slater and Larry Forgive in rehearsal for the Oban pantomime in the 1980s. 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

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Fax: 01631 568001

cluding organised annual meetings with coach companies, couriers and cruise ship agents at tourism conferences in Glasgow and Edinburgh, it was built up to 30 visits for 2012.

A major decrease in the amount of passengers on full day away trips to Glenoe and Fort William was achieved. Half day trips to Kilmartin, Arduaine and Inveraray, with passengers returning for lunch and the rest of the day in town, were the most popular thus keeping the Argyll pound firmly in Argyll.

When sometimes hundreds of passengers at a time arrived in Oban they were welcomed and given local information by a Cruise Ship Ambassador along with Argyll and Bute Council staff, traffic wardens, local councillor and a piper. Strathclyde Police also provided assistance when required.

The current arrival point for

cruise passengers in Oban is not fit for purpose. That is why over 18 months ago at a full council meeting CHORD money was approved to provide a safe step ashore facility on the north side of the North Pier which was to be in place for 2012. The 2013 season has come and gone and still it has not materialised.

Oban cannot expect much from passengers when we do not extend properly, a safe hand of welcome. Cruise ship agents have many other ports bending over backwards to get the business. We need look no further than our sister port of Tobermory to see how it should be done.

Neil Mackay, Oban.

Changed days

Sir, Following visits from cruise ships there are frequently letters or comments in *The Oban Times* lamenting the number of passengers who spent very little time in Oban, as so many had been whisked off by a fleet of out-of-town buses.

The simple business answer is that the ships' owners have promoted these tours on board and probably engaged the buses. With several ports of call, this practice is good for their business. The heady days of a 'Caronia' sailing in with a ship-load of American millionaires determined to buy all the tweeds, tartans and cashmeres in Chalmers are long past. Even then, despite the legend, Chalmers did not have to look out any of the most desperate customers, although it was a near thing!

Target based policing

Sir, May I congratulate you and the officers concerned regards the article on target based policing.

Firstly The Oban Times for printing same, and secondly the officers for having the courage to bring this ridiculous state of modern day policing to public notice.

I have no doubt there may be some 'in-house' repercussions for their actions. As an officer, now retired after 30 years in the force I can relate and understand their frustrations.

Young serving officers have no community support through no fault of their own. As for CI Davidson quoting this type of policing as a mis-understanding, I think he should come out the woods and see the daylight.

The type of policing being carried out today is targeting ordinary people and not criminals. People do need to be caught for breaking the law, but not in the fashion of today's methods.

It is interesting to note certain fixed penalties have quietly increased with the proceeds going to central government? Now we have a national force it would be interesting to find out if key performance indicators (KPIs) have been introduced throughout Scotland.

Now in civilian life I realise

why members of the public are reluctant to communicate with the police; 1 they don't see any walking the beat now; 2 implementing a farcical call centre set up.

H Kent, via email.

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Mrs Wilson, Strachur: It seems to me the police are saying they don't want to do their friends and family for speeding. I have suffered a fatal accident in my family many years ago and it sticks with you.

'I think the support is very much still there for the police, I think they do a fantastic job. It's a bad reflection on these officers who don't want to book their own people.'
Nick MacLean: I totally agree! Being stopped three flaming times in a 10 minute time slot walking from Chalmers up to McColl's (formerly Bay View) for only walking is a disgrace, as for being stopped outside the distillery, asked if I've had any alcohol, for me to reply no and then being told that he could smell alcohol, I wonder if some of the officers even have brain cells. Of course your gonna smell booze your standing outside a distillery. It's called filling quotas.

Lynn Alcorn: Is that why I got a parking ticket despite my Blue Badge being on display.

Martin Holzke: We obviously have too many cops and too little real crime in Oban.

Keith McMillan: Police Constable = upholding common law and keeping the peace. Police Officer = Enforce statute law and collect crown revenue through fines. What is the problem? we have allowed our police force to become a private security company for the Crown.

Electric car charge points

Sir, I fully support Mr Pinnington's appeal for charging points for electric vehicles at hospitals and other community venues.

I have given considerable thought to buying an electric vehicle as more manufacturers are producing models, although the lack of public charging points makes one wonder if they are practical. On islands and in towns on the mainland there are a number of petrol/diesel stations but very few charging points if any, which makes the Government request to individuals to lower their carbon foot print difficult to do.

I have installed solar panels and wind turbines to do my bit and would like to increase this by running an electric car as it would absorb any surplus I might generate and even using paying charging points on a long journey would be cheaper to run than most petrol or diesel cars. How long do I have to wait before I feel I can do this?

WM K Eastwood, by email.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NACH tric a chluinnear inbheach ag innse dhan chloinn mu na b' fheadar dhaibhsan a dhèanamh nuair a bha iad òg, agus mar nach d' rinn e cron sam bith orra!

Theagamh, ach feumaidh sinn cuideachd aideachadh gum bheil an saoghal anns am bheil sinn beò an-diugh gu math eadar-dhealaichte seach mar a bha cùisean leth-cheud bliadhna air ais.

Bhuail sin orm gu sònraichte is mi a' leughadh mar a bha am poileas air Ghàidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan bho chionn ghoirid a' cumail sùil air astar chàraichean faisg air sgoiltean, is iad air còrr air deich air fhichead a ghlucaidh a' siubhal nas luaithe na tha ceadaichte. Gun teagamh 's e rud math a th' ann gum bheil a' feuchainn ris an seorsa smachd sin a ghabhail air dràibhearach 's i a' cheist càite bheil thu dol a stad le leithid de dh'iomairt.

Tha casg astair aig fichead mìle san uair stèidhichte air na rathaidean mu thimcheall sgoiltean uile a-nise, ach mar a tha obair a' phoileas an seo air a dhearbhadh, chan eil cuid de dhràibhearach a' toirt feart. Am bheil dòigh ann air daoine oideachadh seach peanasan lagha?

Nuair a bha mise a' dol dhan bhun-sgoil, bha sinn a' coiseachd còrr air dà mhìle thuice 's air ais, agus bha teaghlach eile a bha a' siubhal mòran na b' fhaide anns a h-uile aimsir agus 's iomadh òganach a shuidh san sgoil ann an aodach fhuich! 'S dòcha nach d' rinn e cron follaiseach orra ach cha d' fhàg sin ceart an suidheachadh agus nach math gum tainig adhartas air cùisean.

Nuair a bha sinne a' coiseachd dhan sgoil na mo latha-sa, chunntais eadhon cha mhòr air a meuran na bha de charbadan de gach seòrsa san sgìre agus b' aithne dhuinn na daoine aig an robh iad. An-dràsta 's a-rithist gheibheadh 'lioft' bho chuideigin agus nach sinn a bhiodh air a' dòigh!
Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil àireamh nan carbadan air fas gu mòr ann an coimhearsnachdan an latha 'n-diugh, ach chan aithne dha daoine a chèile mar a bha agus chan urrainn dha pàrantan an aon carbsa a bhith aca a thaobh sàbhailteachd an cuid cloinne a' coiseachd an rathaid neo fù 's a' cluiche air a' bhàr a-muigh.

Air sgàth gainnead ionmhais, tha Comhairlean air gearradh air ais air còmhdaidh chloinn-sgoile agus tha sin a' ciallachadh gum feum mòran a bharrachd dhuibh tòiseachadh ri coiseachd dhan sgoil. Ged a tha e fìor air ràdh gum dèan an eacarsaich feum dhaibh, saoil nach eil dleasan air luchd-stiùiridh Chomhairlean cuideachd beachdachadh air ceistean sàbhailteachd na cloinne. Neo am bheil an t-uallach air pàrantan a-mhàin taobh a-mach na sgoile?

AS POLICE act to remind motorists of speed-limits around schools, many parents will be concerned about children's safety as they walk long distances to and from school.

As councils cut back on school transport, the risk to children increases and the responsibility rests on parents alone.

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

holiday

west highland

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THE OBAN TIMES

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

7 Living quarters in space (7,6)

8 Resting (8)

9 Single time (4)

10 Look after (7)

12 Appropriate (5)

14 Throat dangler (5)

16 Contender in words (7)

19 Flower of the eye (4)

20 Dance (8)

22 Not open to dispute (13)

Down

1 Departed (4)

2 Bestow (6)

3 Divorce? (7)

4 Last letter (5)

5 Loathsome (6)

6 Not a set menu (1,2,5)

11 A clergyman (8)

13 Enliven (7)

15 Period of instruction (6)

17 Attraction (6)

18 It holds up a jumper (5)

21 Influence (4)

LAST week's SOLUTION

AUTUMN EDITION OUT NOW

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YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 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.

WHILE Oban Lifeboat stick to saving lives at sea, the local RNLI fundraisers came to the rescue of a four legged friend in need, during the Argyllshire Gathering

The fundraisers were doing a roaring trade at its Save a Duck stall but the thirsty black Labrador obviously didn't care much for the rules of the game, as it dived in amongst the plastic ducks for a much-needed drink of water.



Residents on Glenshellach Road had to close their windows on Saturday, August 31, as raw sewage ran down the street. Scottish Water were soon on the scene to begin the clean up. Photograph courtesy of a resident with a peg on his nose.

Driver ditches Land Rover after swerving to avoid deer

SIX ARDNAMURCHAN Estate workers ended up in a ditch after the driver of the Land Rover they were travelling in swerved to avoid a deer early on Monday morning.

Two of the occupants suffered minor injuries after the driver lost control of the vehicle on the B8007 road at around 6.30am.

Two ambulances were deployed to deal with the incident and the road remained open throughout.

Meanwhile, a woman was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital following an accident at Glenfinnan which closed the A830 Road to the Isles for four hours on Sunday afternoon.

A man was also taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William by ambulance after the crash, which happened at 3.45pm around half a mile east of the Glenfinnan Monument.

Traffic was diverted round Ardgour, Acharacle and Lochailort until the road was re-opened at 7.45pm.

South Lochaber café in awards top three

A SOUTH Lochaber café has been named in the final three for the best bar, café or restaurant at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards.

Glencoe Café will fight it out with Café Artysans in Inverness and Cups Teamroom in Scrabster for the award at the glittering ceremony in Inverness on Friday October 4.

Cook Deirdre Coupland told The Oban Times the café had a 'strong local following' as well as being popular with visitors to the village.

She said: 'I think people like our customer service and the fact that all our cakes are made on the premises with locally sourced ingredients.'

'It would be good to win and it would make all the hard work worth it.'

If the café is named as top café in the Highlands it will go forward to the Visit Scotland national final.

'Fairy forest' could face axe within two years

LOCHABER'S 'fairy forest' could be knocked down within two years, according to the estate owner.

The Coille Rais Fairy Forest near Gairloch was created seven years ago by two local women on land owned by Achnacarry Estate, but now the estate says the woodland has reached maturity and needs to be felled.

Estate owner Donald Cameron of Lochiel told Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council that felling surrounding trees and leaving the fairy walk was not an option as strong winds could cause the remaining trees to fall.

Community council chairman John Fotheringham said alternative locations had been turned down by the women who look after Coille Rais.

But in a letter read out at the meeting, the two women denied they had refused to move the forest walk.

They said: 'We have at no time expressed a view that we shall not be moved.'

Mr Fotheringham said there was nothing more the community council could do.

The atmospheric walk has grown in popularity with thousands now visiting every year from across the UK and further afield, many leaving behind toys and ornaments of their own.



Trophy winners at the Corpach in Colour Flower and Produce Show line up for The Oban Times. 20_037show01

Show appeal to keep Corpach colourful

JUDGE Isabel Campbell has appealed for local gardeners to support Corpach in Colour Flower and Produce Show next year by submitting entries across all sections.

Speaking after the presentation prizes in Kilmalie Community Centre on Saturday, Isabel said: 'This is the third year I have judged the baking and produce and each year it's getting better and better.'

'But please have a go next year and try and get your neighbours to have a go too. We want the show to go on and it is very worthwhile.'

'It is a great little show and we want to

keep it alive. Plant or sow whatever you can to fill up these tables.'

Results: Treasures of the Earth Trophy, most points in the Flower Section - Marion Malcolm, Corpach. The Kilmalie Community Council Trophy, most points in the Garden Produce Section - Banavie Primary School. The Ewen & Isabel Campbell Trophy, most points in the Floral Art Section - Ann Smith, Banavie. Most outstanding exhibit in the Floral Art - Ann Smith.

The M & S Dental Care Trophy for the most points in the Baking and Produce - Louise

Pescod, Corpach. The Tradewinds Trophy for most points in Arts & Crafts - Marion Malcolm. The Marion Cameron Laxdale Memorial Cup for best exhibit in the Arts & Crafts - Ann Smith.

Best Exhibits: Playgroup - Drew Drysdale; Nursery - Kalina; Primary 1-3 - Banavie School; Primary 4&5 - Abby MacKay; Primary 6&7 - Ciara Muir; Aged 12-14 - Katrin Muir.

The Corpach Hotel Trophy, best exhibit in the Children's classes - Ciara Muir. The Corpach in Colour Trophy, most points overall - Louise Pescod.

Ukulele orchestra adds another string to Arisiag Primary School's musical bow



Arisiag Primary have created a new ukulele orchestra.

ARISAIG Primary has added a new string to its musical bow - after setting up the first school ukulele orchestra in the Highlands.

Head teacher Martin Jones bought the small instruments after seeing them for sale online and offered them to any pupils who were interested.

And despite the youngsters already playing a number of instruments such as piano, guitar and cello, the demand almost outstripped supply.

Mr Jones told The Oban Times: 'I couldn't believe how quickly I sold them to the pupils. I sold 20 almost immediately.'

'Nearly all of them play instruments already, but we've included a few who didn't play anything before. Now nearly every pupil at the school plays an instrument.'

'They are really easy to play because they're quite small and they are soft on their fingers. The children are all having a great time with them.'

The orchestra, featuring pupils aged seven to 12, plan to show off their skills with performances for local senior citizens in coming months.

Judge's rating leaves band feeling off key

Glen Mor Pipe Major to complain about marking at 'the worlds'

GLEN MOR Pipe Band is writing a letter of complaint to their governing body after controversial marking at the World Pipe Championships left them feeling distinctly off-key.

The highly unusual action, being taken only reluctantly by Pipe Major Willie Evans, follows the Fort William-based ensemble's appearance in the Grade 4B competition at the showpiece event in Glasgow last month.

Glen Mor marched through from the 66-strong field to the final 15 after coming second in their heat. Playing last, the band performed well and earned a first, a seventh and an eighth from adjudicators.

But their day turned sour when the fourth judge graded them 15th and last - relegating Glen Mor to eighth when a top three finish looked on the cards.

The disappointing ranking

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

cast a shadow over their big day out - and means the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) may not promote them to Grade 3B when they make their assessment in December or January.

However, Glen Mor's performances earlier in the season - second at the British Championships at Forres and first in the Scottish Championships at Dumfries - may yet prove enough.

Nonetheless, Mr Evans feels an injustice was done at 'the worlds' and is asking the RSPBA to investigate. He declined to speculate as to why here had been such a discrepancy in the marking. Mr Evans told The Oban Times:

'It totally destroyed our day. We still might get upgraded but it is a real shame.'

'We ended up eighth overall, but if that judge had marked us similarly to the others we would have ended up third.'

'We are still hoping to aim for 3B because you can play your own material, which the band would be much happier with. In 4B, the RSPBA sets the tunes.'

He added: 'It will be a big jump for us but we will be ready for it.'

RSPBA chief executive Ian Embelton had not responded to requests for an interview as The Oban Times went to press.

On a lighter note, the band is holding an end of season celebration in Lochaber Rugby Club's clubhouse at Banavie tomorrow, Friday September 13, at 6pm. Spooky fancy dress, a bouncy castle and bouncy slide will all feature.



Glen Mor Pipe Band were delighted to reach the Grade 4B final - but there the harmony ended.

Ferry delayed after tyre fouls propeller

OBAN-BOUND passengers on CalMac's *MV Lord of the Isles* were delayed for three hours on Saturday afternoon after a tyre fouled the ship's propeller shortly after leaving her Lochboisdale berth.

Strong winds meant the ship could not return to port on her second engine so the captain elected to drop anchor until divers freed the propeller. The ferry got underway again just after 6.30pm.

A CalMac spokesperson told

The Oban Times: 'She had been delayed in Lochboisdale due to weather but shortly after leaving at 3.25pm the port propeller was fouled with a tyre. She could not return to port on one engine due to the weather so she anchored in Loch Boisdale while she waited for divers to clear the obstruction. This was eventually done and she sailed to Oban at 6.35pm. Passengers were kept fully informed throughout and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Barra lifeboat, already in the sea loch after evacuating a seriously ill Faroese fisherman from a trawler in the Minch, stood by the ferry in case passengers had to be taken off.

Torshaven coastguards in the Faroes has requested help for the man who was suffering from abominable pains.

Barra lifeboat ferried him to a waiting ambulance at Lochboisdale to be taken to Benbecula hospital for treatment.

Rural crime spree prompts Police Scotland to hold series of presentations offering security advice

SOUTH Lochaber properties have been hit with three robberies in less than a week as the spate of rural thefts affecting the West Highlands continues.

A house in Onich was broken into with a large quantity of jewellery and a camera stolen between Thursday August 29 and Monday September 2.

A quantity of cash was taken from an unlocked guesthouse in Glencoe village between 11pm on Sunday September 1 and 6.30am the next morning.

Thieves broke into a house in North Ballachulish between Friday August 30 and Tuesday September 3 with jewellery and food stolen.

Meanwhile, a metal box containing cash was

stolen from a business at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William between 10am and 4pm on Wednesday September 4.

Two roller joints were stolen from a boat trailer on a footpath at the rear of Glenkingie Street, Caol between Friday August 9 and Thursday September 5.

In response to the thefts, Police Scotland are to hold a series of meetings across Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh in coming weeks offering advice on rural security.

Local crime prevention officers will hold hour-long presentations providing guidance on how to prevent falling victim to the thieves, with a question and answer session afterwards.

The dates and locations of the meetings, which start at 7pm, are: Acharacle Primary School,

Thursday September 12; Ballachulish Village Hall, Friday September 13; Mallaig Mission Cafe, Tuesday September 17; Spean Bridge Primary School, Wednesday September 18; Sunart Centre, Strontian, Monday September 23; Lochcarron Village Hall, Wednesday September 25; Kyle of Lochalsh Hall, Thursday September 26; Portree Community Centre, Friday September 27; Broadford Village Hall, Tuesday October 1.

'Operation Engage' was launched by police last month to tackle the large number of rural thefts - nearly 80 since April - with extra officers drafted in and road checks set up.

More than £75,000 worth of items have been stolen, with homes, sheds, garages and industrial sites all being targeted by the thieves.



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Keeping you in the picture

Information Event - Mull Water Improvements

Scottish Water would like to invite you to come along to an information event regarding Mull Water Improvements.

Date: Wednesday 18 September 2013
Time: 4pm until 7pm
Venue: Western Isles Hotel Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute PA75 6PR

You are welcome to come along and meet the project team including representatives from Scottish Water and our contractors. We will be available to answer any questions that you may have about our investment and see plans of the work.

If you have any questions, or if you are not able to make it along but would like more information then please call our **Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855** quoting "Mull Water Improvements".

Improving services in your area

Plan to transform canal building into bunkhouse

A 200 YEAR-old building on the Caledonian Canal could be given a new lease of life as a bunkhouse - but only if £500,000 can be found to pay for the refurbishment.

Telford House, near Gairloch, has lain empty for 12 years but Scottish Canals are now planning to renovate it.

Keith Mackie, development surveyor for Scottish Canals, acknowledged the project faced difficulties, but said they were 'determined to make it happen'.

He said: 'There's a strong feeling that everyone wants Telford House put back into use, as we do. It's going to cost approximately £400,000 to £500,000 to put it back into economic use as a bunkhouse.'

'As a project, it unfortunately doesn't make money. We would need grant funding to do it and we're looking at various options.'

Mr Mackie said more funding options

would be available if there was community involvement with the project. He told Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council: 'If there was a will within the community to take it on as a project, we could help you. If it's a community run project, or there was some kind of community use, that would make funding a lot easier.'

In the meantime, the company plans to install three wooden camping pods in the grounds behind the house, with a further three planned if the scheme proves successful. Locals had complained about the original plans to place the pods near the canal lock. Telford House was constructed during 1815-20 and used by engineer Thomas Telford and his supervisors during construction of the canal. It was later used as lock keepers' accommodation.

Pet owners invited to have animals checked for free

HIGHLAND Council and veterinary charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) are inviting Lochaber dog owners to bring their pets along for a free well-being check today and tomorrow.

The mobile service will set up in an Air

car park, Fort William, from 9am-4pm. An on-board PDSA vet nurse will examine weight, body-shape, teeth, eyes, coat and general fitness of canine visitors.

Free expert advice about how to care for other pets will also be offered.

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - September 12

9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glenfinnan walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.
7.30pm, Phil Cunningham, Aly Bain and Manran, Corran Halls, Oban.
8pm, The Drawer Boy, Mull Theatre, Duimfinn, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Europa, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - September 13

Mull Mòd, juniors, various venues.
Wild West Weekend, Lunga Stables
8.30pm, Tannahill Weavers, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
Signal Fires, Galley of Lorne, Ardfern 9.30pm

SATURDAY - September 14

Mull Mòd, seniors, various venues.
Best of the West Festival, Inveraray Castle
10am - 4pm, North Argyll Diecast Model Show, Victory Hall, Benderloch
7.15pm, Ken Campbell and Linsey Aitken, Kilmartin Museum.
7.30pm, Blas Festival, Bunessan Hall, Mull.
7.30pm, The Drawer Boy, Appin Hall.
8.30pm, Dick Gaughan, Easdale Island Community Hall.

SUNDAY - September 15

8.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Feshie walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.
10am - 4pm, North Argyll Diecast Model Show, Victory Hall, Benderloch
11am - 3pm, Forest Fun Day, Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine.
Best of the West Festival, Inveraray Castle
7.30pm, The Idiot at the Wall, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - September 16

8pm, Scottish Country Dancing classes, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

TUESDAY - September 17

10am, The Creation Station arts and crafts for pre-schoolers, Oban Guide Hall.

WEDNESDAY - September 18

9.30pm, pub quiz, Galley of Lorne Inn, Ardfern.
10pm, pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban

THURSDAY - September 19

10am, The Creation Station arts and crafts for pre-schoolers, Connel Church Hall.
9pm, pub quiz, Coasters Bar, Oban.
11.30pm, Skipinnish disco, Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

TV series to celebrate BBC Alba's fifth anniversary

BBC ALBA is to screen its first ever Gaelic pilot drama for a long running TV series commissioned to celebrate the channel's fifth anniversary in the industry.

The bold move was announced as the station unveiled its autumn package of programmes at a launch event in Glasgow last week.

Still in its initial stages of production, the three-part drama titled 'Bannan / The Ties That Bind' is being produced by Christopher Young of Young Films, the man behind the hugely successful TV comedy and film, The Inbetweeners.

Joining Chris on the drama project is new Gaelic screenwriter Chrisella Ross and actor

turned director Tony Kearney. BBC ALBA head of service, Margaret Mary Murray, said:

'This new drama series, Bannan, which will screen in 2014, is a fantastic step forward for BBC ALBA, helping us in our ambition to establish drama within our schedule, and it is something which has been much anticipated by our viewers.'

'We are delighted to be working in partnership with Creative Scotland on this project and are privileged to have acclaimed producer Chris Young overseeing the production.'

'The drama offers a platform to enhance existing and emerging talent and provides opportunities for employment and training across a wide range of

disciplines in the creative sector in Scotland.'

Creative Scotland chief executive Janet Archer said: 'There are increasing opportunities for established and emerging actors, directors, writers, and producers to create new work, and a growing momentum for audiences in Scotland, the UK and internationally to have chances to see Gaelic drama.'

Bannan will follow the story of Mairi Macdonald's return after eight years to the island she left at 18 to escape her family, social claustrophobia and customs.

She initially comes back for a funeral - but realises she had forgotten about the 'bannan' - the family and emotional ties that bind her to the place.



Christopher Young, producer of BBC ALBA's pilot drama 'Bannan / The Ties That Bind' and new Gaelic screenwriter Chrisella Ross who has written the drama.



The seven Ballet West dancers who will be attending the Genée International Ballet Competition.

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Glencruitten Church Centre

Everyone welcome. Free entry. Children's activities, games, air-flow, face painting, artwork, storytelling, hand massage, refreshments.

ABCD Sponsored Walk 2013
From Lorn & Islands Hospital
Sunday 22nd Sept at 2pm
Golden Mile Option
Sponsor forms from Trustees, Atlantis and Graham's shop.
Also from our web site:
www.abcd.baik.com
Refreshments afterwards in the hospital. All very welcome.
Join us if you can!

STOIRM OG present
THE IDIOT AT THE WALL
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
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cvh.artsevents@gmail.com

North Argyll Die-Cast Model Show Craft Show & Art Show
In the Victory Hall, Benderloch
Sat 14th & Sun 15th September 2013
10am - 4.30pm Sat
10am - 4.00pm Sun
Vehicles on display in Car Park. Raffle
Adults £2.00, Children £1.00
All proceeds to Victory Hall Funds

Scottish Country Dancing
Introductory Classes
Monday 16th Sept At 8PM
Church Of Scotland
Glencruitten Road, Oban
Contact Sue Porter on 01631 563103

Barcaldine Community Association and Barcaldine Primary
Forest Fun Day
Sutherland's Grove
Sunday 15th Sept
11am - 3pm
Treasure Hunt & Fancy Dress at 11am
Various Stalls and Activities

To advertise in the
WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
Telephone: 01631 568000

Blas Festival celebrates life of Gaelic story and song collector

THE LIFE and times of Gaelic story and song collector Margaret Fay Shaw is being celebrated through a new piece of music-theatre for the Blas Festival this week.

And the final venue for A Little Bird Blown off Course will be the Isle of Canna, where Shaw spent the last 72 years of her life with her husband, the Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell.

Lifting extracts from Margaret's autobiography, letters, personal photography and previously unseen film footage of island life, the new piece of music-theatre by Fiona J Mackenzie will cast fresh light on the importance of the couple's priceless collection to Gaelic culture past and present, and examine the role new Gaelic speakers play in reinvigorating the language.

The production will feature live music and song, including extracts from the Gaelic song collection that Margaret and John created, preserved and then bequeathed to Scotland.

The performance in the Camus Centre on Saturday at 4.15pm is being presented by the National Theatre of Scotland and the Blas



Margaret Fay Shaw: celebrated in Blas.

Festival, in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, the island's owners.

A Little Bird Blown off Course is supported by Creative Scotland, The Turtletown Trust, The Canna Discretionary Trust, Bord na Gaidhlig, Tobar an Dualchais and the Canna Collection.

Awards for Lochaber Schools Pipe Band members



End of summer awards have been handed out to members of Lochaber Schools Pipe Band. Drummer Emillie Donoghue received the June Standen Memorial Shield for best turned out piper or drummer, and Connor Anderson won the best newcomer award, with the trophy donated by the Bruce Family. Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland handed out the awards. The pipe band put on weekly performances throughout the summer on Fort William High Street.

The Rannoch Trio perform at Snowgoose Restaurant



Diane James: will play high on Aonach Mor with The Rannoch Trio.

SOME OF Scotland's finest chamber musicians will perform 2,000 feet up a Lochaber mountain on National Chamber Music Day on Saturday - weather permitting. Glasgow-based string group The Rannoch Trio will bring their exciting repertoire to the Snowgoose Restaurant at Nevis Range on Aonach Mor.

Lochaber Music For All, who run a series of regular classical concerts at Kilmallie Hall throughout the year, are

supporting the day in the Fort William area.

They have organised The Rannoch Trio, comprising Diane James on violin, cellist Myra Chahin and Janina Duncan on viola, to perform at the Snowgoose from 1pm-2pm and then at Morrison's supermarket from 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Now in its third year, National Chamber Music Day gives new audiences a chance to enjoy chamber music in unexpected venues.

Legends to play Ullapool Guitar Festival

ULLAPOOL Guitar Festival organisers have announced that guitar legends Jerry Donahue (the Hellecasters, Fairport Convention), Doug Morte (Magna Carta) and Elliott Randall (Steely Dan) have been booked to play as a trio at the popular event next month. Weekend tickets are still on sale for the festival, which runs from October 4-6.

National Centre of Excellence designated all-Steinway



Ally Forsyth and Andy Thorburn playing two of the Steinway pianos at Sgoil Chiuil Na Gàidhealtachd in Plockton.

THE NATIONAL Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music is taking the high road to London to be officially designated an all-Steinway school.

Six musicians will accept a plaque on behalf of the Plockton-based centre from Steinway and Sons at the piano makers' Marylebone Lane HQ on September 23.

Tutors Andy Thorburn and Mhairi Hall, former students Suzanne Houston and Ally

Forsyth, and students Christy MacRae and Catriona Hawksworth will also perform a special evening of Scottish traditional piano music for guests.

NCETM director Dougie Pincock told The Oban Times: 'They are all very excited and looking forward to it.' Sgoil Chiuil Na Gàidhealtachd took delivery of a Steinway B grand piano in January, taking its complement of leased Steinways to 11.

New six part series highlights Harris life

VIEWERS of BBC Alba will be taken on an enchanting journey of what life is like on Harris as part of a new six part series.

Chi Mi'n Tìr, or From Harris with Love, documents eight months in the lives of the islanders and each weekly programme will follow the stories of some of the most engaging characters in this community.

The series focuses mostly on North Harris, an area of rugged beauty and spectacular scenery with the occasional trip to South Harris, best known for the stunning beaches on the west and rocky landscape of the Bays of Harris in the east.

Chi Mi'n Tìr, will start on Monday, September 16 at 8.30pm.

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS



Available from most retailers and tourists

Stornoway publishers: another chapter of success

STORNOWAY publishers Acair are enjoying another chapter of success after one of its authors launched a new book and another won the 2013 Donald Meek Prize at the recent Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Andrew Dunn, a former Aberdeen University student from the Isle of Lewis, signed copies of his first novel *Còisir nan Gunna* at his book launch in Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh, which was hosted by Acair and Comhairle nan Leabhraichean as part of the festival.

It tells the story of a young man who sets off for

France to fight during the Second World War.

Fellow author and Leodhasach Donald S Murray said: 'Andrew Dunn's novel allows readers to step through the doorway of another, different age.'

'Well researched and blessed with a gift for lively conversation, it reveals what life was like for young islanders experiencing the Second World War - all the more remarkable when it comes from one so young.'

The novel also marks a new era for Gaelic literature as the first book to be released in Acair's new Gaelic fiction series, Aiteal.

Meanwhile on the same

day, Acair author Martin MacIntyre was awarded the 2013 Donald Meek Prize for his upcoming novel *A' Challaig Seo*, Chall Ó.

It was the second time an Acair author has been awarded the prize after Moray Watson's success last year with *Bàrdachd Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn*. Andrew Dunn was also shortlisted for the prize in 2011.

A' Challaig Seo, Chall Ó will be launched later in the year as part of *Sgrìobh*, a series of novels for children aged between 10 and 14 years old, which will be published by Acair in collaboration with *Stòrlann*.



Andrew Dunn signs copies of *Còisir nan Gunna* at the Edinburgh Book Festival.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	One Direction: This is Us	Thursday 12th September	18:00 3D
	2 Guns	Thursday 12th September	20:30
	Planes	Friday 13th September	16:00 3D
		Saturday 14th September	13:00 2D & 15:30 3D
		Sunday 15th September	13:00 3D
	Mortal Instruments:	Friday 13th September	18:30
		Saturday 14th September	18:00
		Sunday 15th September	15:30
		Monday 16th September	18:00
		Tuesday 17th September	18:00
	Elysium	Wednesday 18th September	18:00
		Friday 13th September	21:15
		Saturday 14th September	21:00
		Sunday 15th September	18:30
		Monday 16th September	21:00
	Tuesday 17th September	21:00	
	Wednesday 18th September	21:00	

One Direction: This is Us (PG)

An intimate all-access look at life on the road for the global music phenomenon. Weaved with stunning live concert footage, this inspiring feature film tells the remarkable story of Niall, Zayn, Liam, Harry and Louis' meteoric rise to fame.

2 Guns (15)

Robert Trench, an undercover DEA agent, takes advantage of gunman Michael Stigman's idea to rob a bank to bust him and a mob boss. Complicating things, Stigman turns out to be a Naval intelligence agent who shoots Trench and takes the money. The interservice debate suddenly finds Trench and Stigman in a bloody web of corrupt clandestine rivalries as they are hunted, blackmailed and isolated for the money on both sides of the law.

Planes (U)

From above the world of "Cars" comes "Disney's Planes," an action-packed 3D

animated comedy adventure featuring Dusty (voice of Dane Cook), a plane with dreams of competing as a high-flying air racer. But Dusty's not exactly built for racing—and he happens to be afraid of heights. So he turns to a seasoned naval aviator who helps Dusty qualify to take on the defending champ of the race circuit. Dusty's courage is put to the ultimate test as he aims to reach heights he never dreamed possible, giving a spellbound world the inspiration to soar.

Mortal Instruments: The City of Bones (12A)

Set in contemporary New York City, a seemingly ordinary teenager, Clary Fray (Lily Collins), discovers she is the descendant of a line of Shadowhunters, a secret cadre of young half-angel warriors locked in an ancient battle to protect our world from demons. After the disappearance of her mother (Lena

Headey), Clary must join forces with a group of Shadowhunters, who introduce her to a dangerous alternate New York called Downworld, filled with demons, warlocks, vampires, werewolves and other deadly creatures.

Elysium (15)

In the year 2154 two classes of people exist: the very wealthy who live on a pristine man-made space station called Elysium, and the rest, who live on an overpopulated, ruined Earth. Secretary Rhodes, a government official, will stop at nothing to enforce anti-immigration laws and preserve the luxurious lifestyle of the citizens of Elysium. That doesn't stop the people of Earth from trying to get in, by any means they can. When unlucky Max is backed into a corner, he agrees to take on a daunting mission that if successful will not only save his life, but could bring equality to these polarized worlds.

Scottish WHISKY AWARDS 2013

Thursday 31 October, 6.30pm at the Hilton Grosvenor, Edinburgh

BUY TICKETS

Join Scottish Field and Informed Edinburgh as we play host to this glittering event, the culmination of a unique Scottish based blind tasting whisky challenge.

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SHEARWATER

seabirds, stories and songs

A Performance and Workshop by
Malcolm Green & Tim Dalling

ISLE OF RUM

Saturday September 21, 2013
Workshop: 9:30am - 1pm
Performance: 4 - 6pm
Community Hall
Free Admission

For more information contact range@isleofrum.com

"It's not often these days we recover our awareness of the basic kinship of all nature's community. And all this thanks to a couple of blobs and a blackboard."

"What comes across so vividly is their passion for and wonderment at the British wilds and at seabirds."

Workshop
Join Malcolm and Tim as they lead a morning expedition along Rum's rocky shore. What stories would a stone have to tell? What song would an Oystercatcher sing for you? Come discover nature through stories and songs.

Performance
SHEARWATER exposes a world of beauty, loss and timeless truth through mythical stories and songs. This show was created not simply as a piece of entertainment but to help raise awareness of the very real threats to the survival of seabirds.



A RECORD number of students from Ballet West in Taynuilt have qualified for a prestigious international ballet dancing competition. The seven students from the Taynuilt dance school are among 63 from around the world who will compete in the Royal Academy of Dance's (RAD) annual Genée International Ballet Competition, taking place in Glasgow from September 20-29.

The seven teenage dancers taking part are: Natasha Watson, Andrew McFarlane, Andrew Cook, Kerryanne Warne, Wave Baldwin, Charlotte Johnson and Charlotte Eades. In addition, Isabella Swietlicki qualified but will not be taking part in the competition this year. Gillian Barton, principal of Ballet West, said: 'This is a remarkable achievement for these outstandingly

talented Ballet West students. This is a record number of Genée entrants for Ballet West and I wish them every success.' The Genée competition is open to students worldwide who achieved distinction in the RAD's Advanced 2 exams. Previous Genée medalists from Ballet West include Jonathan Barton and Sara-Maria Smith.

Thousands expected for Best of the West Festival 2013

THOUSANDS of people are expected to go to Inveraray Castle this weekend when the Best of the West Festival celebrates its third birthday.

With free ferry trips to be won, free entertainment for the kids, a host of top musicians and catering tents offering the very best of what Argyll and the islands has to offer - this year's event will be 'better than ever', - so says Mike Story, chief executive of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, which puts the gathering together. He said: 'It will be bigger and better than last year, we're really pulling out all the stops.'

Held over Saturday and Sunday in the grounds of the castle, the event welcomes more than 70 top musicians from the area, hoping to entertain more than 6,000 people over the two days. The line up ranges from the world-famous to local bands, young talent to experienced campaigners and even Gaelic music and trad acts to contemporary acts.

Tiree's Skerryvore will headline Saturday's musical offerings, while internationally acclaimed Red Hot Chili Pipers will lead the Sunday line-up. A newly designed stage and bar area will be the focal point for the day's proceedings, but the events are spread throughout the grounds of the Duke of Argyll's gardens.

Among the activities offered this year is geocaching, a foraging course, adventure activities and archery - as well as the popular climbing wall. A laser blast arena will be popular with the kids - while Bruce the Knappdale Beaver will be on hand to keep smiles on all faces.

The popular arts and crafts tent returns with over 20 exhibitions, while the ever popular whisky tent will surely be one of the busiest on the day, with all 22 west coast distillers represented. Polish food producers will bring a different flavour to the food tent, but Argyll's produce will still be the star of the show - with everything from Churchill Venison and the Inverawe Smokehouse to Real MacKay Stovies and Fyne Ales all up for grabs. Argyll Food Producers will also discuss their new European Food Initiative, which aims to boost the area's exports as well as help producers reach new markets.

The Caledonian MacBrayne stand will be popular too - especially with a competition to win free tickets to visit the isles. The craft tent will feature Harris Tweed, plants and flowers, pottery including the award-winning Loch Long Stoneware range, jewellery, paintings, photography, glassware, interior design and much more.

For more information, see www.bowfest.co.uk.

Argyll to benefit from Blas Festival for first time with Gaelic supergroup



Mánran: playing in Oban at the Corran Halls tonight with Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham.

FOR THE first time since the Blas festival was launched nine years ago, venues in Argyll are benefiting from performances in the 2013 programme.

One of the highlights will undoubtedly be the appearance of the highly popular Mánran, together with Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, as well as youngsters from Féis Latharna, tonight (Thursday) at the Corran Halls in Oban.

And on Saturday, the final

night of Blas 2013, Bunesan Hall on Mull will be bouncing to Donald Black's Band and the superb musical skills of Paul MacCallum and Maggie MacDonald.

Darren Maclean, Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout, accompanied by young local musicians from Féis Oigridh Ile 's Dhiura, appeared at Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall on Friday, the opening day of the festival. Blas celebrates all that is good about the Gaelic

language and culture of the Highlands. And the inclusion of the land of the Gael in the programme has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute Council.

Councillor George Freeman said: 'As the lead councillor for culture, I am delighted to see the Blas Festival come to Argyll and Bute for the first time and would extend a warm welcome to all visiting musicians and audiences who

will help to celebrate the Gaelic language, tradition and culture.'

Blas Festival director Donna Macrae said: 'Blas 2013 is delighted to be dipping its toe in the Argyll and Western Isles waters this year and we hope that people in those areas enjoy the events we have planned.' For full details of shows and venues involving Blas 2013, see www.blas-festival.com.

REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

FREE

Primary ones



in the picture



Fort William RC Primary School's new intake of P1s. 20_135fortrc01



Monkeying around in the playground at Strath of Appin Primary School are this year's intake, from left: mainstream pupils Roan MacColl and Calum MacTavish, with Cailean Jennett, who attends the Gaelic Medium Unit. 15_136appin01



The new primary ones at Easdale Primary School this year are Emma McDougall and Hazel McGhee.



Lochnell Primary School welcomed 20 new pupils this year - and the enthusiastic bunch have been loving their first weeks. 135lochnell1



Crianlarich Primary School's new P1 class: George Hynes, Emily Mason and Ewan Lilly.



Above: These colourful youngsters were delighted to start their school days in the Gaelic medium unit at Salen Primary School.



Castlebay Community School's new intake of P1 pupils.

Right: Five new pupils were welcomed into Arinagour Primary's P1 class this year, one of the largest new classes for the Coll school in years.



New P1s line up at Invergarry Primary School.



Right: These three little girls are all smiles as they start P1 in Salen Primary School.



The new intake at Glenelg Primary School.



The new primary ones at Taynuilt look smart for their first week of school. 16_135taynuilt01

Above: It's all smiles for the new P1 intake at Kilchuimen Primary School in Fort Augustus.



Killin Primary School welcomed nine new pupils this year, with the cheery bunch already making an impression on their fellow pupils.

Keep The Oban Times up to date with all your school news. Call our newsdesks on 01631 568000/ 01397 703003 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

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KEEPING OUR NATION

SAFE

SAFETY CHECK ALARM FLAME ENGINEER

GAS SAFETY WEEK 16-22 SEPTEMBER 2013

SOME 21 million homes in the UK rely on gas to heat their homes and while invaluable, it can be deadly.
Starting Monday, Gas Safety Week aims to remind those households that rely on gas not to take shortcuts to ensure your home is kept warm - but safely.

Every year, your home should be checked to ensure everything is working as it should. Just as you would put your car in for an MOT every year, an annual check can not just save you money, but save lives.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Badly fitted boilers won't just be inefficient; they could create a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Known as the silent killer, even a mild leak can cause significant health problems, including headaches, shortness of breath and illness. Higher doses are

likely with any leak though, which can be fatal. Every year, thousands of people are diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning. You can't smell it, see it or taste it - but a simple detector is essential to ensure you're not in any danger.

Highly Flammable

Gas is, of course, highly flammable and making sure you don't have a leak isn't just about making sure you won't be gassed. Fires and even explosions can happen in a home with a gas leak.

So, to ensure safety, make sure you get your home checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer. They will not only service your appliances to make sure they work as well as they could, but they can give you advice on how to make things run more efficiently.

Incredibly, around 43 per cent of Britons don't bother with an annual check, while 10 per cent have appliances that have never been checked for safety.

Upgrade and save

It might also be worthwhile upgrading your equipment, particularly if it is getting a bit long in the tooth. Modern appliances and in particular boilers are significantly more efficient than boilers released even just ten years ago. While there is a cost to upgrade, this can pale into insignificance when compared to the money you could save on your bills - particularly with energy prices continuing to rise.

Making sure you use a Gas Safe registered fitter is essential. It is thought there are around 7,500 illegal gas fitters operating across the UK, carrying out up to 250,000 illegal gas jobs every year.

Protect yourself

By using a Gas Safe registered fitter, not only are you protecting yourself and your family, but you can rest assured that the work being done will meet every safety standard.

So when it comes to gas, make sure your equipment is checked and you have a detector in place - it's the best way to ensure you, your family and your possessions stay safe.

What is gas safety week?

RAISING AWARENESS OF GAS SAFETY TO THE UK'S 21M HOMES

Gas Safety Week is an annual safety week to raise awareness of gas safety across the UK. It is co-ordinated by Gas Safe Register with support from the gas industry including retailers, manufacturers, consumer bodies and the public.



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Business

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01631 568021

Chance to win share of £750,000 jackpot

GROWING businesses across Argyll are being urged to apply for a competition that will award up to £750,000 to young Scottish businesses.

Scottish EDGE has opened its third round to entries and those companies who have the potential to achieve or increase sales by £200,000 within a period of three years - or £400,000 for those businesses outwith the Highlands and Islands - could win awards of up to £50,000.

Previous rounds have awarded over £1.2million to 35 of Scotland's brightest entrepreneurs. The closing date for applications is 3pm

on Wednesday September 18. Argyll and Bute's Business Gateway team is urging local companies to get their bids soon.

Application forms and criteria are available from www.hie.co.uk or by contacting the local Business Gateway team on 01546 605 459. Business Gateway say their advisers can help with preparing the application. Scottish EDGE is delivered by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise on behalf of Scottish Government, and in partnership with Entrepreneurial Spark, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Business Gateway.

HIE workshops target improving e-commerce

BUSINESSES in the Highlands and Islands looking to start selling online or increase international sales through their websites are being invited to free workshops by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The international e-commerce workshops aim to help companies do more business abroad over the web.

The half-day seminars, the first in Inverness today, are being delivered by Julian Lawson Hill, a consultant with 20 years' experience of helping Scottish companies to export.

Norma Macdonald, HIE's senior development manager for international business, said: 'Each workshop will

focus on a different aspect of e-commerce, from developing an effective website, improving the profile of your business and addressing language concerns, to developing a pricing strategy, understanding payment methods and considering legal requirements.

'We strongly encourage anyone with an interest in boosting sales by selling internationally online to take advantage of this opportunity for support and come along to the Smart Exporter workshops.'

The next workshop will be held at Eden Court, Inverness, on September 23 from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. To book a place visit www.hie.co.uk/ecommerce.

Mobile cinema secures funding for two years

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands' mobile cinema will be bringing the big screen experience to remote communities for at least another two years after securing £45,000 grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Screen Machine, operated by cinema development agency Regional Screen Scotland, is the country's only mobile cinema, boasting 80 seats and air conditioning.

This year marks 15 years on the road for the service - and to celebrate it is expanding the selection of films and holding a series of one day film festivals under the banner of Screen Machine 15. New venues include Eigg, Rum, Coll and Tiree.

Rachael McCormack, HIE's director of strengthening communities, said: 'HIE has supported the Screen Machine since the beginning and we are delighted to assist this project which also aims to deliver a substantial increase in the number of community cinemas - from monthly film clubs to regular cinema screenings in art centres and community venues.'

'The Screen Machine has proved a huge success making a night to the movies a regular event in the communities where a trip to the cinema was previously a major undertaking. 'The project is also able to provide support to community cinemas and film societies based in the Highlands and Islands.'



Laura Pagan believes renewed optimism in the property market means it is the perfect time to launch her new business, Fiuran Property. t37laurapagan1

Market optimism sees doors open on new estate agency

Businesswoman Laura launches Fiuran Property

FRESH optimism in the revival of the property market was delivered this week after Oban entrepreneur Laura Pagan launched her new estate agency.

Fiuran Property will be based online, with Laura set to utilise the full extent of modern technology to deliver a unique digital shop window.

Laura also believes her fee structure can offer a significant saving over traditional estate agency charges.

The business marks her first foray into

estate agency, although she worked for the Law Society for five years and has significant experience of conveyancing.

With more and more positive news emerging about the property market, she believes now is the right time to launch her first business.

She said: 'If you look at the newspapers and on the internet now there will be something said about the market and it seems to be improving again.'

'Starting my own business is

something I've always fancied doing. I decided to set up the business when I realised there was a gap in the market for a professional online estate agent in Oban.'

Experience

Laura, who has a business and marketing degree, has bought and sold a lot of properties in the past and believes this experience will stand her in good stead for the market.

The mother of two received support

from the SJ Noble Trust to establish her new business, which is a member of the Property Ombudsman Service. She said that, together with advice she received from Business Gateway, proved invaluable, but she was surprised at the lack of comparative support for someone who isn't looking to start a business at the outset of their career.

'I had a career and gave it up to have my kids so coming back into employment I wanted to start something for myself.'

'I'm 35 and I found that a lot of the funding out there is for younger people, so for a lot of people who want to set up their own business there's not much there.'

Money

'It was fantastic getting money from the SJ Noble Trust though and I wouldn't have found out about them if it wasn't for Business Gateway.'

Fiuran, which means sapling in Gaelic, can be found at fiuran.co.uk.

M and K MacLeod Limited agree £5 million deal

THE BIGGEST construction company in Argyll has agreed a £5million finance deal with Santander Corporate and Commercial in a bid to grow their already expanding company.

M and K MacLeod Limited, based in Lochgilphead, has signed with the bank in a bid to release capital to complete a wealth of projects in the local area.

The business, established by twin brothers Murdo and Kenny MacLeod in 1975, will use the new cash injection to complete work on projects such as Lochgilphead Baptist Church and the town's Church of Scotland Church Hall.

Murdo MacLeod said: 'My brother and I grew up in Lochgilphead and are proud that we have built our business here and can support the local community with important projects at competitive prices. We are delighted to have a new

partner to continue growing our business in this area.'

Deborah Gallacher, relationship director for Santander Corporate and Commercial, said: 'We are delighted to be able to support this local business and employer. The MacLeod family is well known and respected in the local area and its surroundings and have built up a strong business with a sound reputation among both the public and private sectors.'

M and K MacLeod Limited has grown to become the largest private sector employer in the Argyll, employing around 200 staff and supporting a similar number of subcontractors.

After starting life as general builders, the brothers diversified the business into timber frame and window manufacturing, property development, and have created a substantial landbank and property portfolio. The business also operates two quarries and a petrol station.



MacLeod Construction has been at the heart of a number of community projects including the restoration of Lochgilphead Parish Church. Kenny and Murdo met with Reverend Hilda Smith and Ian Davidson earlier this year to mark the start of the repairs.

06_t37macleod01

Free support to help local businesses tender for contracts

AROUND £8 billion each year is spent by the public sector in tendering for goods and services, yet many small and medium sized businesses find it difficult to enter the public procurement market.

Following the successful launch of the Supplier Development Programme (SDP) in Argyll at the start of this year, the local Business Gateway team is urging anyone who hasn't yet registered to sign up now and access the free help available.

Feedback from those attending the spring events was excellent. The workshops provided 'practical, detailed tips on the tendering process. This is information from experience and not available elsewhere,' enthused one workshop attendee.

By joining the SDP, Argyll and Bute Council has enabled all businesses and third sector organisations based in Argyll and Bute to access a range of free support. The programme aims to assist all businesses to improve their performance in winning contracts with public sector organisations.

The support on offer includes access to a programme of free training workshops and events, targeted at different levels of

experience, from those who are considering tendering but have not done so yet, to those who have tendered unsuccessfully, to those who are already supplying the public sector.

It also includes practical help with developing the quality management, equality and health and safety policies required when tendering; access to tailored information and guides on the website, designed to de-mystify the procurement process and break through the jargon and quarterly newsletters and email alerts.

All a business or third sector organisation needs to do to access support is register their details at www.sdpscotland.co.uk. Registration is simple and only takes a couple of minutes.

A new series of SDP workshops has been planned for the autumn, including workshops aimed at those with some experience now looking to maximise their tender scores and those who are unsure whether supplying the public sector is right for them and want to find out more.

Only those registered with SDP can attend the workshops so anyone interested in taking part should register their details now.

Tackling youth unemployment

HIGHLAND Council recently gave its backing to a new Scottish Government campaign calling on more employers to offer unemployed young people jobs, training or high quality paid work experience.

'Make Young People Your Business Week' followed two council initiatives - the employment grant scheme and graduate scheme - designed to support small and medium size enterprises hire more young workers. Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'Tackling youth unemployment is a key priority of The Highland Council's programme which supports the Scottish Government's efforts to encourage business to employ or offer paid work experience.'

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Lindsey Elder, HR Officer, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk

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Closing date for applications is 12noon on Monday 30th September
Interviews will be held on 7th October in Lochgilphead

For more information about Working Rite visit our website www.workingrite.co.uk find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @workingrite

Working Rite. A company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, number SC343819. Registered Office: 1 Constitution Street, Edinburgh, EH6 7BG. Scottish Charity Number SC042604.

Temporary Seasonal Guides - £8.01

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out tours of the Distillery for visitors.

We are looking to recruit confident individuals who should possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team. You will need to have a flexible approach to hours of work over a seven day working week and some evening work is also integral to this role.

Interested candidates should call 0141 272 8104 and ask for Andrea Verrall of Brightwork Ltd. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Customer Services Assistant Kintyre
Salary £16,459 - £18,216 35 hours per week (Temporary Post for Maternity Cover)

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 26th September 2013

Interviews for this post will be held in Campbeltown.

Work you can believe in.

CrossReach offers quality care and counselling and is one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, we provide specialist dementia care that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

Part Time Care Worker
£15,013 - £17,215 pro rata • Qualification bar applies
35 hours over 5 day rota system with early, late and weekends
Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves.

Part Time Night Care Assistant
£13,863 to £14,404 pro rata • 19 hours, 2 nights per week
Making a real difference to people's lives, you'll work as part of a team providing 24-hour cover spanning all aspects of the daily routine.

Gardener/Handyperson/Driver
£12,657 pro rata • 20 hours, mornings or afternoons considered
Working as part of a team, you will be required to do general handywork and gardening duties, and ensure that the mini bus is maintained to a high standard.

In return we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. For the Care Worker and Care Assistant posts applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is an Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010. For the Gardener/Handyperson/Driver role you must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos. These posts are subject to PVG Scheme Membership.

For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568. Closing date: 26th September 2013.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk **CROSSREACH**

Argyll Voluntary Action
Charity No SC029947. Company No 277345

Guided Self Help Worker

Argyll Voluntary Action, in partnership with Argyll and Bute CHP, is seeking a full time Guided Self help worker to complement and join the Community Mental Health Team located Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The worker will support those with mild to moderate mental health issues using a range of resources and will work both face to face and remotely with clients. They may also undertake group work with clients and maintain and build links with the community.

Whilst a Health background is not essential as training will be given experience in working within mental health or allied fields will be an obvious advantage. Many of the interventions to be delivered are CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) based and an understanding of those principles is expected as well as of the challenges facing those with mental health issues.

Hours are 37.5 per week. Salary £21840.00 per annum. A clean driving licence is essential as the post will require travel across Argyll and Bute.

For an application pack and details email Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk or telephone 01631 564839.

Closing date for applications 26 September 2013. Interviews will take place mid October.

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Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Corrie CONSTRUCTION

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Previous experience preferred.
Applications in writing to louise@corrieconstruction.com

Corrie Construction Ltd, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP

Scotbet.com

CASHIER REQUIRED FOR BETTING SHOP IN CAMPBELTOWN

No experience necessary as full training will be given
References essential

Call Scotbet on 0131 440 5197

Lynn of Lorne Care Home

Under New Management

Become Part of This Exciting Redevelopment
We currently have vacancies for

RGNs RMNs

Health Care Assistants

The successful applicants will provide a truly person-centred service to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This is a challenging and exciting opportunity to become part of a unique and rapidly developing community service. We are undergoing an exciting redevelopment and are looking for committed staff to become part of our multi skilled team.

For an application form please contact Kathy or Barbara at Lynn of Lorne on 01631 720278 or email lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

Oban, Lorn & The Isles Locality

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership
Bank Integrated Midwife (Rural) – Band 6
 £25,783 - £34,530 pro rata
Hours As Required
Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban

An excellent opportunity has arisen within the Oban Community Maternity Service for an enthusiastic, flexible registered Bank midwife, who wishes the opportunity to utilise her full range of skills in a mixed rural and town environment. The candidate must be confident to work autonomously in providing care to families in Oban and Lorn and Islands, in a range of environments, she must also work well as a member of a team. The candidate will be able to provide a full range of evidence based health, education and social care advice in keeping with current drivers.

The service is proactive in supporting local birth, whether at home or within the maternity unit, any applicant should be keen to promote this service.

There is an on-call commitment with this post and a full driving license is essential.

Informal enquiries to Jaki Lambert, Integrated Midwife (Rural) on 01631 788911, e-mail jakilambert@nhs.net
 Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - recruitmentlab@nhs.net
 Please quote job reference number 13bk/186.
 Closing date for receipt of applications: 26th September 2013.

www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

Mallaig Boatyard Ltd
Required Marine Engineer/Plant Fitter
Marine Engineer, Required for busy Boatyard in the Highlands of Scotland.

Skills required:
 Knowledge on Marine engines ie. CAT, Kelvin, Cummins etc, Fabrication of Hydraulic Hoses, Hydraulic systems for winches and net drums
 Experience with a Boatyard environment would be an added bonus

Skills that would come in Handy:
 Fabrication/welding skills, Working independently, Team player, Leadership skills

Please contact Melissa-Jane Trow
 T 01687 462 304
 email: mallaigboatyard@hotmail.co.uk

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Call Nicola @ Driver Hire on 07850 700 299

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Assessors/Verifiers
2 Posts
 Salary £18,500 pro rata

Childcare – Oban or Dunoon
 Argyll Training requires a resourceful, organised and flexible SVQ Assessor and Verifier in childcare. You must be occupationally competent and hold a professional qualification in Children's Care Learning and Development. Ideally the successful candidate should have AI/D32/D33 and VI/D34 or equivalent however, training can be given. Hours are 16 per week which can be worked flexibly with the potential to increase to reflect new business.

Closing date for applications: Monday 23 September 2013
 Interviews Dunoon: Monday 30 September Interviews Oban: Wednesday 2 October
 To apply please send c.v. to Caroline Askew at caskew@argyll-training.co.uk

Hospitality – Oban
 Candidates must have current practical experience in the Hospitality Industry and knowledge of SVQ's. Ideally the successful candidate should have AI/D32/D33 and VI/D34 or equivalent however, training can be given. Hours are 16 per week with the opportunity to increase to full time hours as you build your client base.

Closing date for applications: Monday 23 September 2013
 To apply please send c.v. to Jill Millar at jmillar@argyll-training.co.uk
 Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC017700

The Scottish Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Planning Scotland's Seas – Consultation 2013

A series of drop-in events are being held to give local residents the opportunity to find out about Marine Scotland's consultation "Planning Scotland's Seas". The consultation will be seeking your views on a National Marine Plan, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Offshore Renewables.

This is an opportunity to put your views on local or national issues directly to Marine Scotland staff and on MPAs to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) staff and help decide how Scotland's seas are managed in the future.

Drop-in Events:
Thursday 12 September
 Islay - Columba Centre,
 Marine Scotland: 1-5pm drop in session & 6-8pm presentations.

Thursday 19 September
 Oban - Corran Halls
 Marine Scotland: 1-5pm drop in session & 6-8pm presentations.
 SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs: 1-8pm

For more information please visit:
 www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation

Information on MPAs, including site specific Management Options Papers, is available at:
 www.jncc.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation
 www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/03101/FUL	Land 27m North West of Carn Deargh, Isle of Muck Mallaig	Proposed dwelling house
13/03273/PIP	Land 165m East of Ernsaig 5 Stronaba, Spean Bridge	Erection of house (renewal of permission 10/01816/PIP)
13/03279/PIP	Land 700m SW of Glenspean Lodge Hotel Roy Bridge	Erection of house & livestock/implementation shed & formation of access (renewal of permission 10/01381/PIP)
13/03280/FUL	Land 525m South East of Moss of Keppoch, Moss of Keppoch, Arisaig	New dwelling - Plot 1
13/03352/PIP	Land 40m South East of Meran's House, Carnoch Glencoe	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00219/OUTLO)
13/03366/LBC	Church, Fassifern Road Fort William	Internal alterations including forming new walls, new openings and removing a large section of intermediate floor to form Indoor Climbing Sports Centre and cafe facilities. New roof to be formed over existing section of building.

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 13/03366/LBC is 21 days.
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01531/PP	Erection of 10 metre high mast and receiver	Marine Resource Centre Barcaldine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/01855/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Scottish Water Service Reservoir Balephuil Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/01904/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land North East of Dunhairt Kiltrennan Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

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
13/01824/PP	Erection of 3 self catering chalets	Land East of Dunard Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PX	Tobermory Area Office
13/01923/LIB	Upgrade of existing windows including secondary glazing	Court House Albany Street Oban Argyll and Bute	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 Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01849/PP	Alterations and change of use of garage to form dwellinghouse and private garage	63 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
13/01935/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	21 King Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

The Scottish Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
A82 NORTH OF TORLUNDY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to carry out resurfacing work on 1.64 kilometres of the A82 Trunk Road, north of Torlundy, Lochaber is,

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

J J MORAN
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland
 Trunk Roads Bus Operations
 Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
 5th September 2013.

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CROFTING COMMISSION
 COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

DECROFTING APPLICATIONS
 Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number

Mr D F Berry
 4 & 10 Ruaig, Tiree
 0.130 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.45242

Mrs M M McKinnon
 Upper Kiltchattan, Colonsay
 0.0743 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.42701

Mrs M MacNeill, Mrs M Ritchie, Mrs I Elliott, Mrs M Hoofdweg & Mrs M MacNeill
 2 Mallaig, Glenelg
 0.044 ha - rectification
 4.86.45292

Mr G D Macdonald
 Cnoccoran, Kiltfinichen & Kiltvickeon
 0.159 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.45102

Mr A H MacLean
 9,10,11 Inverroy, Kilmornaig
 0.100 ha Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.45327

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Forestry Commission Scotland
 Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following properties:

Property:	Area (approx):	Grid Ref:	Location:
2 Torlundy	0.10ha.	NN 147 772	Torlundy, by Fort William
Plots at Gortonronach	11.08ha	NR 931 918	Lochgair, by Lochgilphead

Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at - ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non Government Organisations.

www.forestry.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID
 We will be holding a **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**
 To Update our Constitution
 on 30th SEPTEMBER 2013
 at The Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban at 7.30PM

Co-roinn Ghàidhlig Latharna Lorne Gaelic Partnership
Extraordinary General Meeting
 To be held in Furan, Oban Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, PA34 4AB
 On Thursday 10th October 2013 at 6.30pm
 Please come along if you have an interest in the development and promotion of Gaelic activities in the Lorne area.

ACHA
 argyll community housing association
Annual General Meeting
 To be held on
Thursday 19th September 2013
 commencing at 2.00pm
 in the Argyll Hotel, Inverary
 All members are invited to attend

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FARMING

Market reports

United Auctions Lochboisdale

UNITED Auctions held their first lamb sale at Lochboisdale Auction Mart, selling 2,371 head.

Lambs in general lacked size and flesh on the year and the entry consisted of smaller lambs which resulted in the overall average price recording a drop of £2.35 per head on the corresponding sale last year. The top priced lambs came from Mr A L MacLean's consignment from No123 Craighton, Barra, when his cross lambs sold to 75p per head.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs: SUFFX: £65.50 - 409B Smerclate: £64.50 - 88 Bualadubh: £63.50 - 15 Carinish: £63.00 - 330 North Boisdale & 348 North Boisdale: £62.50 - 409/410 Smerclate: £60.50 - 409B Smerclate: £60.00 - 88 Bualadubh & 271 Daliburgh.

TEXX: £64.00 - 6 Milton: £63.00 & £61.00 - 383 Garrynamonie: £60.50 - Karingeidha: £60.00 - 119 Craighton, Barra & 390 Garrynamonie.

CHEVX: £58.00 - St Peters: £56.50 - 5 Torlum: £56.00 - St Peters: £55.50 - 330 North Boisdale. CROSS: £58.00 - 301 Kiphead: £57.50 - 355 North Boisdale & 217 Stonebridge: £56.50 - 88 Bualadubh: £56.00 - 123 Craighton, Barra. MULE: £75.00 - 123 Craighton, Barra: £55.00 - 325 North Boisdale.

BF: £57.50, £57.00 & £49.00 - 356 South Boisdale: £43.50 & £40.00 - 6 Ormiclate. WEDDERS: £40.00, £36.00 & £34.50 - 271 Daliburgh. EWES: TEXX: £40.50 - 390 Garrynamonie: £38.50 - 330 North Boisdale: £37.50 - 15 Carinish: £35.50 - 383 Garrynamonie. CHEVX: £34.50 - 330 North Boisdale. SUFFX: £39.50 - 409/410 Smerclate. BF: £26.50 - 330 North Boisdale.

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,417 store cattle and 7,477 store lambs at its Stirling sale last Wednesday, including their annual Show and Sale of Blackface lambs, sponsored by the BF Sheep Association. Judge for the day was Willie Braes, Burnshot.

Champion lamb went to Messrs Wilson, Stobohope £59, which sold to the judge.

Bullocks averaged 237.05p (+8.89p) to 274.50p per kg for a 392kg LimX from Redhouse and £1,520 for a 646kg LuingX from Auchencloigh.

Black and White Blks averaged 162.36p (+0.98p) to 215.40p per kg for a 390kg HFX from Kilburn and £1,130 for a 654kg FRX from Ballegreggan.

Heifers averaged 221.80p (+2.0p) to 257.30p per kg for a 478kg LimX from Polliwiline and £1,380 for a 574kg ChX from Pokellyhill.

Forward Cattle averaged 190.74p to 234.70p per kg for a LimX from 2 Holdings Langbank and £1,390 for a LimX from The Ross.

Cast Cows averaged 135.07p to 233.0p per kg for a LimX from Killegruer and £1,470 for a LimX from Over Finlary.

Show results:

1 Messrs Wilson, Stobohope £59 (to the judge); 2 Messrs Bennie, Merkins £54 (to the judge); 3 Wester Glanaldon Farms, Corriemurdoch £54.

Leading Prices:

Bullocks: Up to 250kg Gateside £540, 225.0p; 251-300kg; Pollaloch £770, 271.10p; 301-350kg; Laigh Alticaine £910, 264.50p; 351-400kg Redhouse £1080, 275.50p; 401-450kg Newhouse £1250, Auchencloigh 273.60p; 451-500kg Auchencloigh £1300, High Unthank 271.90p; 501-550kg Auchencloigh £1390, 263.30p; 551-600kg Easter Langhill £1480, 247.50p; 601-650kg Auchencloigh £1520, 244.20p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg Pollaloch £480, 194.30p; 251-300kg Hawthorne £665, 222.40p; 301-350kg Sunwick £810, High Unthank 248.50p; 351-400kg Kilburn £920, Sunwick 243.80p; 401-450kg Bargany £1080, 253.70p; 451-500kg Auchencloigh £1260, Polliwiline 257.30p; 501-550kg Haspielaw £1270, Pokellyhill 248.50p; 551-600kg Pokellyhill £1380, 240.40p; 601-650kg Kilburn £1130, 179.90.

OTM Cows - Over Finlary £1470, Killegruer 233.0p; Shanry (Sim) £1270, 164.10p; Quixwood (AA) £1210, Hardens 156.60p; Pokellyhill (CH) £1190, 150.30p; Thomanean (Sal) £1070, Pollaloch 145.70p; Quixwood (BS) £1150, 161.60p; Knock o' Ronald (BB) £1130, Drumoider 156.10p.

OTM Bulls - Over Finlary (Lim) £1950, 196.60p; Quixwood (CH) £1670, 141.50p; Halkroft (Sim) £1650, 143.20p; Quixwood (AA) £1110, 119.60p; Kerpulloch (Hol) £1050, 150.90p.

Lambs: - Letar (BF) £52.50; Shawhead (BF) £51.50; Drumloist (BF) £51.00; Gladhouse Mains (SuffX) £67; Ballymenach & Succoth Ardeonaig (SuffX) £66; Rossiochill (SuffX) £65.50; Knowhead (TexX) £71; Balgowan (TexX) £68; Ballymenach (Scotch Mule) £57.50; Rossiochill (Scotch Mule) £57; Garvie (Scotch Mule) £56.50; Gladhouse Mains & Clochkan (Chev) £57.

ers, seven young bulls, 14 OTM clean, 68 cast cows and bulls, and nine calves, a fair show of cows with very good prices.

Bullocks averaged 235p per kg and sold to 267.5p per kg, both heavy Limousin, Knockhouse Farm, Dunfermline or to £1697 per head for 680kg Simmental, Blairsgreen Farm, Saline.

Heifers averaged 233.5p per kg and sold to 275.5p per kg, 570kg Limousin, Borlick Farm, Aberfeldy or to £1571 per head for the same animal.

Butchers Cattle sold in excess of 250p per kg, to average 257p per kg and sold to 268.5p per kg for Limousin Heifer, Cander Mains Farm, Stonehouse.

Young Bulls sold to 241.5p per kg, 690kg Limousin, Dyke Farm, Milton of Campsie or to £1749 per head for 795kg Limousin, Little Kype Farm, Strathaven.

OTM Clean Cattle sold to 210.5p per kg or £1390 per head for Young Limousin Cow, Bolfornought Farm, Stirling.

Leading Prices: Cows per head: Lim - £1390 Bolfornought; Frie - £1260 Hillend; Sim - £1105 Middle Mains; Blonde - £1075 Forthvie; Roan - £1165 Pleanmill; AA - £1045 Balleny; Hols x - £1115, £1105 Meldrum.

Calves: Calves sold to a top of £480 for a Lim Bullock from D & L Graham, Mains of Burnbank.

Other Leading Prices: Calves: Lim Blk - £390 Mains of Burnbank; Frie Blk - £68 Lathalmond.

Caledonian Marts Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 5,033 store lambs and feeding ewes in at their show and sale of blackface wedder lambs in Oban last Tuesday.

Judge William Shearer, Burnbrae Farm, Strathaven, give first prize for a pen of 50+ to Clachan Farms. Reserve champion and first prize pen of 25+ was from J Carmichael, Lismore.

Full results: Champion and first prize pen of 50+: Clachan Farms, £56 to A & B Kerr, East Cairnbeag, Laurencekirk.

Second prize pen of 50+: C Hodge, Achalic, £46.50 to A Jack, Torbanehill, Bathgate.

Third prize pen of 50+: Glengorm Estates, Mull, £50 P & J Don, Aberdeen.

Reserve Champion and first prize pen of 25+: J Carmichael, Fiart, Lismore, £49 to J Errington, Cumbria.

Second prize pen of 25+: J McNicol and Sons, Turnault, £40 to P and J Don, Aberdeen.

Third prize pen of 25+: H & NA McCorkindale, Scammadale, £42.50 to J Errington, Cumbria.

Sale average for 2,532 Blackface lambs £36.72 (-£2.71 on the year). Top Averages: Store Lambs averaged £39.46 (-£2.25 on the year) to £69 for Suff x from J MacLean, 56 Tangasdale, Barra. Feeding Ewes averaged £22.27 (-£6.52 on the year) to £65 for Chev from APS Elwis, Erray, Mull. Ewe Lambs averaged £33.97 (+£0.02 on the year) to £62 for Chev from F MacLean, 2 Allasdale, Barra.

Leading prices: Lambs: Suff - £67 Frackersaig, Lismore; Chev - £63.50 56 Tangasdale; Tex - £61 Danna, Lochview; Blue De Main - £60 Bonawe HF; Chev x - £59.50 Ballimackillichan, £59 Rhuilios, Barra; Tex x - £58 Bonawe HF; Mule - £56 Achalic; Cross - £51 Duachy; BF (out with Prize List) - £46 Balliemore, Kerrera, £45 Danna, £44 Ardachy. Ewe Lambs: BF - £50 Duachy. Ewes: Chev - £63 Bonawe HF; Cross - £56 Erray, Mule; Blue De Main - £50 Bonawe HF; Chev x - £50 Rhuilios, £49 Cailaich; BF - £30 Bonawe HF, £29.50 Ederline Estates.

Caledonian Marts Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 217 live cattle at its weekly primstock sale in Stirling last Thursday, comprising 119 bullocks and heif-

All eyes on Blackface ring at Dalmally Show

ONE OF the most keenly contested Blackface competitions at any agricultural show in the country took place last Saturday at Dalmally.

The Dalmally Show at the Mart Park had been threatened by heavy rain in the morning. However, there was a long enough dry spell in the afternoon to ensure a late, but healthy turnout of visitors.

There was never any doubt that the show ring inside the mart would be busy, as the Blackface championship reached its climax.

At least eight champions of previous shows this year were involved in the Dalmally competition and this year marked a first Dalmally Show for Blackface sheep exhibitors from Islay, keen to test their best stock against the mainlanders.

The final eight sheep in the Blackface championship all came from different owners but it was a familiar name on the trophy again this year. J Jackson and Son, from Pole, Lochgoilhead, retained their title with last year's champion sheep, Bonnie Mary of Argyll. The three-crop ewe, by a £10,000 Elmscleugh sire ensured Pole won the championship for the



Blackface champion at Dalmally for the second successive year was Bonnie Mary of Argyll, from J Jackson and Son, Pole, Lochgoilhead. 15_137dalmally08

third year running. Reserve champion went to E MacMillan, Lurg and confined champion and reserve confined champion both went to J & J MacPherson, Balliemanoach.

Such was the interest in the competition, the show committee welcomed Alan Alderson and John Stephenson from the Swaledale Sheep Association. Admitting their visit was one of 'curiosity', the pair were keen to compare the Blackface against their breed from the north of England. Dalmally Show president Dan McLaughlin said: 'There is a very high standard

of Blackface here and it has attracted a lot of interest. Dalmally is a show every Blackface breeder wants to win. I think the fact there were eight different owners in the championship proves the strength in depth of the competition.'

With no Galloway cattle class this year, the cattle championship was between a Highlander from Heather Corrigan, Cul-na-Ha, Ross-shire, and an April-born Limousin cross calf from Martin Hill, Tombuie, Stromilchan.

It was the three-year-old Highlander heifer, Millis Dubh, 9th of Earn, that got the nod from judges.

The heifer, which will be at the Oban show and sale in October, is sired by Josh of Earn and out of Millis Dubh 8th of Earn. Overall reserve and confined Highland champion was the three-year-old heifer Sorca Dubh of Cladich.

Away from the show ring, a senior shinty tournament survived the weather, as did the terrier race and dog show.

Among the many stalls on show was the popular communities tent, which showcases local charities and groups. The catering tent was also extended to include food and drink companies from Foods from Argyll.

Premier show and sale

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 486 suckled calves at its premier show and sale last Friday.

Bullocks averaged 252p per kg or £1087 (up 43p per kg or £223 on the year) and sold to 282p per kg for four Limousins from M L Wilson, Baluskie, Barrhill, Ayrshire and to £1440 for a 605kg Limousin from Andrew Wilson, LaighGree, Beith.

Heifers averaged 243p per kg or £965 (up 41p per kg or £187 on the year) and to 283p per kg for a 370kg Limousin from Andrew Dunn, Redhall, Gargunock and to £1440 for a 560kg Limousin from Jennifer Hyslop, Baluskie, Barrhill, Ayrshire.

Leading Prices per head: Bullocks: £1440 LaighGree; £1420 Baluskie; £1340 South Medrox; £1310 Glenstockadale Several; £1300 Glenstockadale Several & Baluskie; £1290 Glenstockadale Several; £1270 South Medrox; £1220 Auchenviroch; £1210 Glendusk; £1170 Camreggan; £1160 Redhall; £1150 Murrayshall; £1140 South Medrox & Glendusk; £1130 Glenstockadale Several & Auchenviroch; £1100 Dollarbank; £1100 Easterton.

Heifers: £1390 & £1300 LaighGree; £1190 South Medrox; £1180 Knowhead; £1170 Glenstockadale Several; £1150 Baluskie; £1140 Newton of Logierait; £1130 Baluskie; £1100 Glenstockadale Several; £1070 South Medrox; £1060 Murrayshall & Camreggan; £1050 Redhall & South Medrox; £1020 Upper Inchwood; £1010 Camreggan.

Leading prices per kg: Bullocks: 282p Baluskie; 280p Auchenviroch; 276p Glendusk; 272p Baluskie; 271p Auchenviroch; 267p Redhall; 266p Camreggan, Baluskie & Glendusk; 261p Murrayshall; 260p Camreggan; 259p Murrayshall; 257p Inchwood & Craigievern; 254p South Medrox; 253p Redhall & Murrayshall; 252p Glenstockadale Several. Heifers: 283p Redhall; 275p Newton of Logierait; 269p Upper Inchwood; 268p Baluskie; 260p LaighGree & South Medrox; 259p Newton of Logierait & Murrayshall; 258p Baluskie & Redhall; 257p South Medrox & Knowhead; 252p South Medrox; 251p Auchenviroch; 250p South Medrox; 249p Camreggan; 248p Glenstockadale Several.



Highland champion was the three-year-old heifer Millis Dubh 9th of Earn.



There was much interest in the Blackface championship, judged by Ian McLarty, St Fillans, who is pictured, centre, running the rule over the finalists. 15_137dalmally07

Reserve cattle champion was a Limousin cross calf from Martin Hill, Tombuie, Stromilchan. 15_137dalmally06



Above: Overall reserve and confined Highland champion was Sorca Dubh of Cladich. 15_137dalmally05



Right: Eighteen-month-old Tyndrum girl Arina Brown was well prepared for a wet Dalmally Show, donning her pink wellies. 15_137dalmally02

See next week's Oban Times for show results.

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,417 store cattle and 7,477 store lambs at its Stirling sale last Wednesday, including their annual Show and Sale of Blackface lambs, sponsored by the BF Sheep Association. Judge for the day was Willie Braes, Burnshot.

Champion lamb went to Messrs Wilson, Stobohope £59, which sold to the judge.

Bullocks averaged 237.05p (+8.89p) to 274.50p per kg for a 392kg LimX from Redhouse and £1,520 for a 646kg LuingX from Auchencloigh.

Black and White Blks averaged 162.36p (+0.98p) to 215.40p per kg for a 390kg HFX from Kilburn and £1,130 for a 654kg FRX from Ballegreggan.

Heifers averaged 221.80p (+2.0p) to 257.30p per kg for a 478kg LimX from Polliwiline and £1,380 for a 574kg ChX from Pokellyhill.

Forward Cattle averaged 190.74p to 234.70p per kg for a LimX from 2 Holdings Langbank and £1,390 for a LimX from The Ross.

Cast Cows averaged 135.07p to 233.0p per kg for a LimX from Killegruer and £1,470 for a LimX from Over Finlary.

Show results:

1 Messrs Wilson, Stobohope £59 (to the judge); 2 Messrs Bennie, Merkins £54 (to the judge); 3 Wester Glanaldon Farms, Corriemurdoch £54.

Leading Prices:

Bullocks: Up to 250kg Gateside £540, 225.0p; 251-300kg; Pollaloch £770, 271.10p; 301-350kg; Laigh Alticaine £910, 264.50p; 351-400kg Redhouse £1080, 275.50p; 401-450kg Newhouse £1250, Auchencloigh 273.60p; 451-500kg Auchencloigh £1300, High Unthank 271.90p; 501-550kg Auchencloigh £1390, 263.30p; 551-600kg Easter Langhill £1480, 247.50p; 601-650kg Auchencloigh £1520, 244.20p.

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3 Morven View, Salen.

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BIRTHS



BLUE - Robert and Roisin are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Cormac Michael on September 3, 2013 at Royal Jubilee Hospital, Belfast. First grandchild for Bobby and Joan and third for Laurence and Marie.

MCGILL - Hayley Rose McGill, born at Crosshouse Maternity Hospital, Kilmarnock on August 11, 2013 to Gillian (Tolmie) and Tom McGill.

ENGAGEMENTS

FERGUSON - WELCH - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Christina, daughter of Lena and Archie Ferguson, Castleton to Jonathan, son of Karen and David Welch, Ardriahga.

WEDDING

MACDOUGALL - MICHIE - On September 7, 2013 at St John's Cathedral Oban by the very Rev Nicki McNelly, Aileen daughter of Peter and Christine, Lochawe to Callum, son of Malcolm and Theresa, Oban.

PLATINUM WEDDING

EATON - TEMPLE - Kenneth Frank (Toby) to Madalyn-Jean (Jane) on September 14, 1943 at St Paul's, Knightsbridge.

DEATHS

HURST - Peacefully, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on Sunday, September 8, 2013, in her 86th year, Mary, (nee Livingstone), dear wife of the late Naim Hurst, beloved mother of Rosemary and Iain and mother-in-law of Nicol and Margaret and much loved granny of Kirsty, Colin, Ailsa and Laura. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church (Glencruitten road), on Thursday (today), September 12, 2013 at 1.30 p.m. thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only; donations, if desired, to Oban MS Therapy Centre.

MACFARLANE - On August 24, 2013, suddenly in Sri Lanka, Alastair, dearly loved youngest son of the late Dugald MacFarlane and Mrs Margaret Johnson, Tarbert, much loved brother of Malcolm and stepson of the late Dan Johnson. Memorial Service at Tarbert Free Church, on Saturday, September 14 at 1.00pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

MACLEOD - Peacefully on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at the Highland Hospice, Annie MacLeod 'Ganga', 10 Lochiel Road, Inverness, previously of Redburn, Lochmaddy, aged 77 years. One time British Telecom, BBC and The Indoor Bowling Centre, beloved wife of the late Ron, much loved mother of Elaine, Rhona and Gerard, cherished grandmother to Ailish and Cameron, good friend to many. Funeral mass on Tuesday, September 17 at 1.00pm in St Columba R C Church, Culoden, thereafter to Inverness Crematorium. All respectfully invited. Family flowers. Donations, if desired for St Columba Church Fund and The Highland Hospice at the service or please forward to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduhel Road, Inverness.

MACLEOD - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital on September 5, 2013, Jean MacDonald MacLeod, aged 80, The Wheelhouse, Ganavan, Oban, beloved wife of Peter, much loved mother of Garry and Lorne, and devoted granny of Calum.

McFARLANE - Peacefully at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish on Monday 9 September 2013. The Late Joyce Winifred McFarlane of Hull, Glasgow and latterly, Ballachulish, beloved wife of Andrew McFarlane (dec). Much loved mother of Carol Ann (dec) and Drew, mother-in-law of Christine and grandmother of Katie, Martin and Gillian. So sadly missed. Funeral service 12.00hrs at St Munda's Ballachulish, Saturday 14 September followed by interment at Duror Cemetery.

ROBERTSON - Annie Reid (nee Struthers) (Oban). Peacefully on Friday, September 6, 2013, at North Argyll House, Oban, aged 102, Annie Reid Robertson, beloved wife of the late Alexander Robertson, much loved sister of the late Robert Struthers, Dunlochieg Farm and the late Agnes. Loving Aunt of all her family. Funeral at Christchurch, Dunlochieg, September 12, 2013, at 11am.

TURNER - Eleanor in Toronto on August 30, 2013, after a long battle with cancer, Eleanor, 79 years young, (ex Chatham, New Brunswick), dearly beloved wife of Charles (ex Fort William), much loved mother of Dorothy, Charles and Graeme and adored Nana to her nine grandchildren, 97 Toynebe Trail, Scarborough, Toronto, M1E 1G4.

WILSON - Peacefully in the caring hands of the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus, on Sunday, September 8, 2013, May Wilson, Lochaline, aged 98 years, loving wife to the

late Peter Wilson, a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CLARK - Betty, Shirley and family would like to thank everyone most sincerely for their many kind expressions of sympathy following their recent loss. Grateful thanks to Dr Hannah, Dr Barkham, District Nurses, and all at Easdale Medical Practice for their care and attention, and also to the staff in Ward 1, Lorn and Islands Hospital who cared for Donald in his last few weeks. Thanks also to the Macmillan Nurses and to the Alzheimer's Scotland team for their support.

Thank you to Rev. Kenneth Ross for his lovely service and to Donny MacDougall for piping at the cemetery. We are very grateful to Catriona and Hoeyes for their sensitive and efficient services, to all who attended the church and graveside and to the Tigh-an-Truish for refreshments afterwards. The sum of £408 was collected for Macmillan Nurses and Alzheimer's Scotland.

DYKES - Sheila, Peter and Allan wish to express their sincere thanks for all the kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy shown to them on the sad loss of Alistair. Thanks to Rev Adrian Fallows for his lovely service, piper John MacCallum and John McLellan & Co Funeral Directors for their most efficient and caring arrangements. To Loch Vene Hotel for their catering. The sum of £390 collected at the church will go to Macmillan Nurses, Lochaber area.

MACDONALD - Freddie, Murdo, Angus, Marion and families sincerely thank all family, friends and neighbours for sympathy cards, phone calls, kindness and support received on the sad loss of our dear mum, Chrissy. Grateful thanks to staff at Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital. Thanks also to Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod for his heartfelt service at Parish Church and graveside. To Mr Donald MacKinnon for his uplifting memorial service at Lynn Court, D and A Munn Ltd, Funeral Directors for their efficient arrangements, to Angus MacColl for piping his beautiful Gaelic airs at graveside. The Lochnell Arms Hotel for catering and refreshments. The sum of £394.93 collected at church was donated to Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital. Mòran Taing Dhuibh Uile.

MACLEOD - The family of Hugh MacLeod, sincerely thank all family and friends for their kindness and support received on the sad loss of Hugh. We express our thanks to all at Gartnavel Hospital, Wards 3a and 5c for all the care and compassion shown to our dad and his family. Thanks also to Rev Bill Gray for his beautiful service, Eileen O'Dea for playing the organ and Duncan MacLean for piping at the church and graveside. To all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside, Hamish Hoey & Son for their efficient service arrangements, John Donald for driving dad on his last journey, Scarinish Hotel for catering and refreshments and Maureen Gracie for beautiful flowers. A very special thank you to Margaret and Lachie who did so much for dad whilst in hospital. The sum of £485.00 was raised for Treete Parish Church fabric fund.

MACPHERSON - The family of the late Ewen MacPherson, would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls and baking received following the recent sad loss of a respected dad, dear grandpa and great grandpa. Very special thanks to Dr Neil Bennett for his care, compassion and support way above the call of duty. To all at Connel Surgery and District Nurses especially Fiona Miller, without whose help we wouldn't have been able to nurse Dad at home. To the 'A Team' a most wonderful band of carers for their unflinching dedication spanning several years. To Rev J. McCormick for his fitting and comforting service, to Dr R Campbell for the very apt eulogy, to Ross and Neil for the wonderful music - Dad would have loved it, to Lochnell Arms Hotel for excellent buffet and finally to D & A Munn's for sensitive and efficient funeral arrangements, we extend our heartfelt thanks. To all who paid their last respects to Ewen at Church and graveside and gave so generously, we thank you. We have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and have taken comfort that Dad made such an impression on so many people.

McLOONE - The family of Amy McLoone would like to give sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dolly Lockhart, Jessie Reid, Hilary Brown, the day Hospice, Liz & Alex Clark, Pauline & Brenda, Lucy Heycock and team, Ward B Staff, Lorn & Islands Hospital, Dr Emma Boyle, Dr D Grose, Lorna Paterson and the community nurses, Senga and the carers for all their help and support during Amy's illness. Lexie for staying with mum until the end and Maureen McIntyre for the support she gave to Amy. For the care and compassion shown by all these people and who made mums time a bit more bearable. The Rev D Cameron for such a touching and sincere reflection

on Amy's life and for delivering such a beautiful service and burial. Hamish Hoey funeral directors for making Amy's last journey a dignified and touching one. Agnes McArthur for the beautiful flower arrangements. To all who took the time out to attend her service and support the family throughout this difficult journey. For all the beautiful sympathy cards and words of comfort. Thank you for the retiring collection which raised £648.60 for Macmillan cancer support & Marie Curie cancer care.

MEMORIALS

BEATON - In loving memory of my dear husband Kenneth Iain, who passed away on September 16, 1990. Always remembered. - Inserted by his loving wife Jessie.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my husband and our father Angus, who died September 12, 1990. Time slips by and life goes on But from our hearts you are never gone. - Cathie and family, Caol, Corpach and Lochside.

CRAVEN - In loving memory of our mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971. Memories are the best things. They last from day to day. They don't get lost, they don't grow old, and never fade away. - Always in our thoughts from Marleen, Allan and family.

MACCORQUODALE - To your resting place I travel I place your flowers with care No one knows my heartache As I turn to leave you there How constantly I think of you With eyes and heart that fills. The love I had for you in life In death goes stronger still You left us precious memories That made us laugh and cry The love you planted in our hearts No millionaire can buy For someone very special Never ever will be forgotten - Your loving husband Hugh.

MACCORQUODALE - No farewell words were spoken No time to say goodbye You were gone before you knew it

And only "God" can tell us why It broke my heart to lose you But you didn't go alone For part of me went with you The day "God" called you home I will never ever forget you mum You were always the best. All my love - Your loving daughter Mary.

MACCORQUODALE - God saw you getting tired And a cure was not to be So he put his arms around you and whispered, come with me. Although we loved you dearly We could not make you stay Your golden heart stopped beating. Hard working hands were at rest He broke our hearts to prove He only takes the best. A special Gran. - Your loving grandson Neil

MACCORQUODALE - I remember a special lady A loving wife, a caring mother and a dotting gran, who passed away 2 years ago. You're not ever forgotten gran Nor ever shall you be, As long as life and memories last

I will remember thee No one knows the silent heartaches Only those who have lost can tell Of the grief that's borne in silence For the one we loved so well. - Your loving grand-daughter Megan.

MACCORQUODALE - What she suffered, she told but a few. She did not deserve what she went through Tired and weary, she made no fuss She tried so hard, to stay with us Your photo stands in pride of place A lovely smile lights up your face You always seem to be so near How I wish you're still here - Your loving sister, Peggy Baker "Glendasil", Tobermory, Mull.

MACDONALD - Catherine, died September 12, 2006. Mum, no words, no verse could ever say How much I miss you every day A loving thought, a silent tear Forever wishing you were here. - Inserted by John xx.

MACDOUGALL - Remembering with all our love William Rose died September 13, 1970 and Peteressa (nee Currie) died September 7, 2003. - Inserted by their family, Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MAGREGOR - In loving memory of my dad Alasdair, who died January 17, 1998 and my mum Bunty, who died October 1, 2003. Always in our thoughts.

- Pamela and John, Glencoe.

MACQUARRIE - Treasured memories of our beloved parents Annie Helen, died September 12, 2006 and Calum, died November 10, 1996. Loved and remembered every day.

- May, Iain, Agnes and families. **MORRISON** - Treasured memories of Sandy, a dear husband, father and papa, who passed away September 16, 2000. Fondly remembered today and always. - Mary Ann and family at home and away.

POLLOCK - In loving memory of my Mum Catherine, who died September 15, 1994 and my dad Ian, who died December 5, 1981. Loved and remembered always. - Pamela and John, Glencoe.

RANKIN-ROSS - Marion. Cherished memories of my beloved mother Marion Rankin-Ross who fell asleep on September 15, 2003. Gone from this world but not from my heart. - Love Alex x

ROSS - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny, Marion, who died September 15, 2003. Time may hide the sadness Like the smile that hides the tears But loving memories hold you dear Despite the passing years. - Loving husband Rusty and family.

STEWART - In loving memory of Mary Jane, who died September 11, 1999, a much loved mother and granny. Loved and remembered every day. - Margaret, Allan, Emma, Beth and Aidan xx

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From left, Kathryn Macleod with husband Alexander, the Bard's great grandson, from New York; Dianne Macleod and husband Norman Macleod, the Bard's grandson, of California; Rob Dunbar, Eoghan Stewart, Norman Macdonald and Wilson MacLeod following the unveiling of the stone in Morningside Cemetery.

Skye Bard Neil Macleod remembered 100 years on

IT IS exactly 100 years tomorrow (Friday) since The Oban Times gave over much of its front page to the death of the Skye Bard, Neil Macleod (1843-1913).

The paper's extended tribute to his passing on 13 September 1913 ran on to page 2 and included a photograph. Here, Norman Macdonald of Portree recounts events held to commemorate the Bard's immense contribution to Gaelic poetry and song.

AROUND 100 people gathered in Edinburgh and Skye to pay tribute to the Skye Bard Neil Macleod on the centenary of his death, and to welcome his last surviving grandson to the country of his forebears from his home in California.

Ceremonies were held on Thursday, August 29 in Morningside Cemetery in Edinburgh where the Bard and his wife, Kensalyre-born Catherine Stewart are buried, at Aros in Portree and in Glendale, where Neil Macleod was born in 1843 and lived until going to work in Edinburgh in 1861. Among

his most famous works are such classics as An Gleann san robh mi òg and Fàilte don Eilean Sgitheanach.

At the newly-erected memorial stone in Edinburgh, graveside homilies were offered by Edinburgh University's professors of Celtic and Gaelic, Rob Dunbar and Wilson MacLeod.

Readings from the Bard's works were made by Professor Norman Macdonald, Portree, who arranged and chaired the proceedings, and Eoghan Stewart, teacher of Gaelic at James Gillespie's High School in the capital.

A pupil from the school, Alexander Syme Scott, one of the country's up-and-coming young players, appropriately played a salute on the bagpipes. Kenna Campbell sang Fàilte don Eilean Sgitheanach and Sheriff Roddy John Macleod closed a fitting tribute with a Gaelic prayer.

On Saturday, a party from California, which included the Bard's great-grandson Alexander Macleod, a lawyer in New York, arrived in Skye and an evening of songs with Arthur Cormack,

as well as speeches and readings, attracted a crowd of enthusiasts in an evening presided over by Cailean Maclean.

Following Sunday morning service in Glendale Free Church, the party then visited Neil Macleod's birthplace in the settlement of Poluskinn and visited Glendale Cemetery where members of the Macleod family, including the Bard's father Dòmhnall nan Oran, himself a celebrated Gaelic bard who died in 1872, aged 94, are buried.

At each place, Edinburgh-born Norman Macleod, who has lived and worked as a lawyer in the US for over 50 years, addressed those present on his grandfather's reputation and legacy.

One of the highlights of the ceilidh in Aros was Norman Macleod of California's first meeting with Flora Ann MacLennan of Crepigel, Skeabost Bridge, whose grandmother, Elizabeth, living in Borve until 1942, was Neil Macleod's sister.

Flora Ann is the closest remaining relative of the Bard still living in Skye, there being no descendants of Neil's with the Macleod name left in Scotland.



Standing, from left Bishop Joseph Toal, parish priest Fr. William Maclean, Maggie Wilkinson, Steve Wilkinson with Anne and husband Andy after the presentation ceremony.

Octogenarian receives Papal medal

THERE WAS huge delight at St Mary's Catholic Church in Portree on Sunday, August 18 when 80-year-old Mrs Anne Morrison was awarded with a Papal BeneMerenti medal.

The award of BeneMerenti is the highest accolade given to a member of the non-clergy from the Vatican.

Mrs Morrison, from Uig, received the award in recognition of her outstanding service to her local parish church and community.

The presentation was made on behalf of Pope Francis by Bishop Joseph Toal of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

Anne's husband Andy, daughter Maggie Wilkinson and son-in-law Steve Wilkinson attended the ceremony.

recognition of her outstanding service to her local parish church and community.

The presentation was made on behalf of Pope Francis by Bishop Joseph Toal of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

Anne's husband Andy, daughter Maggie Wilkinson and son-in-law Steve Wilkinson attended the ceremony.

Church repair fund boost

A recent coffee morning in aid of essential repairs to St Mun's Church and chapel house in Ballachulish raised over £2,000. New parish priest Father Andrew Barrett, is pictured with parishioners.



GRADUATION



Paul Stephen Smith Graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in July with a Bsc (Hons) 1st Class in Civil Engineering, having also attained an Institute of Civil Engineers best student award. Paul is the son of Stephen and Maureen Smith, Oban and the grandson of Duncan and the late Ella MacTaggart, Oban. Paul attended Park Primary and Oban High Schools. He has taken up a position as a Graduate Civil Engineer with AMEY Consulting in Motherwell.

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Mull of Kintyre Bike Challenge

CYCLING

CYCLISTS can take in some of Scotland's most spectacular roads as part of this year's Mull of Kintyre Bike Challenge.

Popularly known as MOK-Bike, the event raises funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, while setting participants along Kintyre's scenic and quiet roads.

The challenge is now in its third year and organiser Ros Wilts said she hoped this year's event would top last year's entry.

'It's a growing event and we're keen to encourage people to take part,' she said. 'We did get around 100 cyclists last year but we're aiming to better our entry every year.'

'People from Kintyre and Argyll just keep coming back but we would love to see some new faces. The after-ride buffet and social has been a much-praised feature of the event since it started.'

A choice of routes are available to suit cyclists of all levels of fitness, from a challenging, hilly route around the Kintyre peninsula, to a family-friendly ride around Campbeltown Loch and an off-road route for mountain bikers.

Entries for the event must be in by Wednesday, September 18, with the challenge held on Sunday, October 13.

For more information and to enter, search for MOKBike 2013 on Facebook, email rusan@sandros@gmail.com or phone 01586 552 747.

Teenager has the 'potential to become a world-class sailor'

Tom secures sponsorship from Ardfern Yacht Centre

SAILING

A TEENAGER from Ardfern said to have the 'potential to become a world-class sailor' has recently been accepted onto a top training programme with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland.

Tom Graham, a pupil at Lochgilphead High School, is one of only three sailors to be invited on to the Laser Identification programme, which trains world class sailors.

The 15-year-old, who has secured sponsorship from Ardfern Yacht Centre (AYC) for the next year, recently completed a summer training programme with RYA as part of the scheme. Designed to develop his laser sailing skills, the intense coaching saw Tom attend two days of training every week for five weeks.

Performing well at his age, Tom is currently ranked eighth in Britain in the under 16 category of Laser Radial youth sailors and 64th for under 21s.

He recently returned from the UK Laser Nationals in Devon with a gold fleet result of 52nd

out of 127 and seventh junior to add to his achievements.

Tom's success comes after a youth spent on the waters around his home in Ardfern. A keen Craignish Boat Club member, he began sailing with his parents when he was a toddler.

'I started sailing at the local boat club on Loch Craignish when I was five, firstly in a Wayfarer dinghy, then an Oppie, followed by a Taz, a Topper and now the Laser,' Tom said.

'I really enjoyed the club racing so in 2011 I decided to do my first Topper Traveller event in the regatta fleet for beginners,' he added.

'I was then selected for the RYA West of Scotland squad in the Topper, which saw me attend all the Scottish Topper Traveller events and a few national events last year.'

By the end of 2012 Tom had gained a third place in the Scottish Youth Series Topper class. 'At the end of last season I



Ardfern's Tom Graham has won the support of his local yacht centre as he prepares for the British Laser qualifiers in the south of England.

started sailing the Laser and did all the RYA Academy training and the Scottish Open Race Training (SORT) which was

brilliant.' Commenting on Tom's success, AYC director Joanna Ashton said: 'We are delighted

to be sponsoring Tom over the next year. He has shown an enormous amount of enthusiasm and potential in his sailing so far and

we are very pleased to be able to help this young Craignish Boat Club member further his sailing ambitions in the future.'

Golf News



Glencruitten

MICHAEL Kelly won the 1st class Medal Finals on Saturday with a score of 66 - 5 = 61. Steven McCuish won the second class Medal Final with 87 - 12 = 75, and Hugh Vernard won the third class with a score of 95 - 26 = 69.

On Sunday Mary and John Plunkett won the Family Cup with a score of 85 - 16 = 69.

The previous Saturday Cameron Milne won the Stableford Finals with a score of 38 points.

In the Junior Section Daniel McVicar won the Johnston Trophy. David McCuish won the Pickfords Trophy on the last hole of a 36-hole event with a victory over Gavin Owens.

On Saturday September 14 the Dennis Cathro Pairs (two ball better ball) takes place and on Sunday the first round of the Junior Championship is to be played.

Tobermory

MEN'S Section, September Medal - 1 Peter MacCrae 73-10-63; 2 Alasdair MacLeod 84-19-65; 3 Donald Brown 73-08-65.

Peter MacCrae won the Order of Merit Trophy 2013 and Donald Brown snr won the Brockville Quach for lowest hole by hole score for the 2013 season.

The medal final for the President's Cup was won by Graham Davidson 68-06-62; 2 Peter MacCrae 75-09-66; 3 Paul MacKinnon 73-05-68.

The Tobermory Trophy for runner up finalists was won by John Weir 80-13-67; 2 Tom Nunn 80-12-68; 3 Alasdair MacLeod 88-19-69.

Junior Section: September Medal - 1 Lewis Brown 68-11-57; 2 William MacCrae 65-05-60; 3 Lewis Wilshire 72-06-66.

Taynuilt

LADIES: ARC Shield played September 3 - 1 Mairead Sim 29pts (14); 2 Lesley Dawson 28pts (24); 3 Sandra Elliott 27pts (25).

Gents: September Tankard played 8 September - 1 Paul Walton 42pts (15); 2 Ashley Dowell 37pts (18); 3 Kevin Mills 37pts (14).

Craignure

MBS Stableford Open played on September 7 - 1 Nigel Shannon 41pts; 2 Graham Davidson 39pts; 3 Ian Mowatt 38pts.

Also well done to William MacCrae on his new course record of 69.

Islay

SUMMER League played Wednesday September 4 - 1 G Hamilton 40 Pts; 2 D Johnston 36 Pts; 3 A Livingstone 34 Pts.

Dragon's Tooth

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club's September medal competition was won by David Wilkie with a net score of 64.

Luke Alexander's net round of 66 gave him second place, while Bill Bryce was a further two shots back in third.

Dunaverty

NEIL Andersen returned an excellent gross 61, equalling his score of last year, to retain the junior championship at Dunaverty Golf Club.

Andrew Wallace, who followed closely with a gross 67, was the handicap champion with 67-7=60. In the younger age group, Fraser MacBrayne and James Ward returned very promising scores.



Prizewinners in the Round Shuna Race.

Shortened course round Shuna

DESPITE a lack of wind this year's popular Round Shuna Pursuit Race managed a finish half way round the island, the first time there's been a shortened course in the event's history.

Organised by Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club, the first half of the race was a float for the fleet, putting paid to any thoughts of a pursuit race by starting on handicap.

The strong tide forced some boats early on to retire or motor to avoid being swept onto rocks at the entrance to Craobh.

There was a mixture of opinion amongst skippers over which way to round the island, with the tide taking half to the south in the drifting conditions.

Although the breeze filled in both to the south and north, in the end it paid off to sail 'north-about'.

Honours

Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 Amber Haze sailed through the line at Toberonochy to take line honours, the Camus Trophy and the prized case of bubbly for the first boat home.

Fellow Oban Sailing Club members Billy Fortieith with Shadowfax and Joey Gough's Tangle o' the Isles finished second and third in Class 1 behind Amber Haze. Class 2 was won by another OSC member Paul Slec's Tipsi with Alan Gent-White's beautifully turned out An Sulair second and Brian Wiseman's Sor of Appin third.

Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy finished first in a close finish in Class 3 with Adam Way's classic Island Class Stroma second and Findlay Clark's Red October third.

Dinghies and Flying Fifteens
In the dinghy section it was Ryan McIntyre from Lochaber Yacht Club who took honours with his Laser Now or Never. Andrew Chapman's ZzApp was second. Tony Tucker's Flying Fifteen won the Craobh Haven Village Stores Decanter as first in the Fifteens and Peter Burrell's Frequent Flyer was second with David Aitwood's Okey Dokey third.

The feeder race from Ardfern to Craobh was won by Alex

SAILING

Murdoch's Macaria with Stroma second and Sor of Appin third. In the Fifteens section Peter Burrell's Frequent Flyer finished first with David Aitwood's Fifteen Okey Dokey second and Russell Anderson's Toff in third place. Finishing first equal in this section was Tom Graham's Laser Biffy.

Lack of wind
The Oban to Craobh feeder had no finishers because of lack of wind. The overall best performance of the weekend went to Adam Way's Strollia taking the Craobh Haven Challenge Cup.

Peter Burrell's Frequent Flyer took the Flying Fifteen Trophy and Donald Smith won the Brendan Bucket with his Maxi Tilty Too.

Graham Wotherspoon, CCYC commodore, thanked the committee and Angus Spence for being in the committee boat. 'Despite the lack of wind, everyone has had a wonderful weekend and we look forward to next year's event.'

Saints senior team get back to premier league action

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team get back to action after last week's break when they take on St Joseph's from Clydebank in a Premier Division League match. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off with referee James Gallagher from Dumbarton in charge.

The Oban side will be without Ross Maitland and Myles McAuley for this game but they should have Donald Campbell back in the squad after missing the recent draw against Thorn.

With Oban Camanachd's shinty season over brothers Daniel and Lewis Cameron will be joining the squad.

Saints have been drawn at home to Ayrshire outfit Dalmilling in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup. This game is scheduled to go ahead at Glencruitten on Saturday 12 October.

The Oban side have also been drawn at home in the second round of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup to the winners of the Thorn Athletic v Independent first round tie. Whoever wins this game will travel to play Saints at Glencruitten on Saturday 19 October.

A call has gone out to all budding young footballers in P5-P7.

Argyll and Bute Council's Football Service, in partnership with the Scottish Football Association, is going to be holding four selection days for an up and coming new programme.

The 20/20 Development Centre is a crucial first step on the pathway, widening the pool of talented male and female players

Oban retain Millennium Top Ten Trophy

BOWLS

OBAN Ladies have retained the Millennium Top Ten Trophy for a fifth year in a row.

The women travelled to Ardrishaig on Sunday to take part in the annual competition, which includes teams from all over Argyll made up of a singles player, a pairs team, a triples team and a fours team, called a rink.

The first rounds were played in May but Oban received a bye into the semi-final, which was

against Stronvaar, from Campbeltown.

After a hard fought tussle Oban won three out of the four games played and progressed to the final against Kirn and Hunter's Quay from Dunoon.

Oban were again successful in winning three out of the four games played to win the competition.



The winning Oban Ladies team.

Oban Saints youth teams - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: - Scottish Cup 1st round - Strathaven Dynamos 4; Under 13s 5. On target for Saints were Cameron Hill (3), Keir MacLean and Scott Mossman.

Dumbarton Riverside 1, Under 14s 2. Netting for Saints were Andy Ritchie and Daniel MacCrae.

Scorer

Under 15s 1, Hamilton Caledonian Thistle 3. Saints scorer was Jay Cooper. League game - Ardencaple 9, Under 17s 0.

This weekend's fixtures - Under 13s v Drumchapel United; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Helensburgh v Under 17s.

Results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Oban Saints no game; Campbeltown Pupils 8, Dunoon 0; Jamestown 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Dunoon Athletic 1, Clydebank 3; Eaglesham (B) 3, Tarbert 2.

Saturday's fixtures: Oban Saints v St Joseph's; Eaglesham v Campbeltown Pupils; Dunoon v Hillington; Clydebank v Lochgilphead Red Star; Rossvale v Tarbert.

Calling all young footballers

YOUTH FOOTBALL

(with a parent or guardian) and a short presentation about the programme.

For further information please contact Argyll and Bute Council's Football Development Officer Martin Rae on 07767391843 or email - martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Young players in P5-P7 who want to attend are asked to arrive at Oban High School at 9.15am this Saturday for registration

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.

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.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
B Simmonds, Ardconnel Road, Oban
I Darroch, Bowmore, Isle of Islay

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

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. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final at An Aird shaping up to be a classic

SHINTY'S 'big day out' is shaping up to be a classic as two of the sport's biggest names clash in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final at Fort William's An Aird Park on Saturday.

A bumper crowd is sure to turn out to see one of shinty's oldest and most storied rivalries between cup holders Kyles Athletic and newly crowned league champions Newtonmore - some 108 years after they first met in the final.

It will be the 21st time the sides have faced off for the trophy, with 12 of 'More's' 29 Scottish Cup wins coming against the

Tighnabruaich side. Kyles, meanwhile, have beaten 'More eight times, including a 6-5 win in their most recent meeting at Kingussie in 1980.

Kyles captain Robbie MacLeod said the success of the current side started many years ago in the playground of the local primary school.

He said: 'What really helps us, as a team, is how close we all are. All the younger lads have been together since we were in the same class at Tighnabruaich Primary School.'

'There were only about 50 kids at the school at the time but it

was just a stroke of fortune that we had a good group coming through at the same age, all at the one time.

'Because of that background, everyone backs each other. There is great spirit in the changing room and on the bus to and from matches. Right up to U17 level, we were winning trophies.

'I think we were such a successful youth team that one Camanachd Cup is not classed in the area as real success. You need to build on that to be accepted as successful.

'We are all looking forward to another final. There is a great buzz around the club and the village.'

After leading his side to an unbeaten defence of their league title, 'More manager PJ Macintosh is keen to take the trophy back to The Eilan.

And he thinks losing to Kyles in last month's Artemis Macaulay Cup final may spur his side on.

He said: 'I think the boys feel a sense of injustice from that match and it is something they are determined to put right.'

'In some ways, maybe it was the kick we were needing. We've learned from it although we had two goals disallowed and a man sent off that day and we didn't really play badly.'

'There's not huge surgery required, therefore, just some tightening up on some key things. Both sides like to move the ball into space and it may all rest on how the defences perform on the day. It should be a great occasion.'

Fort William referee Innes Wood will officiate on the day, with the match throwing-up at 2.15pm.



Newtonmore manager PJ Macintosh and club captain Jamie Robinson along with Kyles Athletic skipper Robbie MacLeod and club trainer James Perlich pictured with the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup.



The two captains, Jamie Robinson of Newtonmore, left, and Robbie MacLeod of Kyles Athletic will be desperate to get their hands on the cup after the final whistle at An Aird on Saturday.

Nationwide appeal for lost shinty photographs

SHINTY'S rulers have launched an appeal asking people to help them find the missing images which will enable them to chart the complete history of the Camanachd Cup.

The sport's most famous prize will be up for grabs for the 106th time on Saturday and a special photo display illustrating its story is to be shown for the first time.

For some years, Shinty historian Hugh Dan MacLennan has been collating images of victorious cup winning teams, stretching back to the first final in 1896.

Located

Donations of images have come from forgotten boxes, attics, private collections and old yearbooks and, combined with snaps from other donors, only 19 are still to be located.

Those that are available, including

images from the 19th century, will form a special display at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday night, the eve of the final between Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore at An Aird Stadium.

The exhibition, put together with the help of the trophy's sponsors, Scottish Hydro, will be seen by attendees of 'Shinty's Heroes', a special show remembering the sacrifices of shinty players during the Great War.

Now officials are asking people who may have shinty connections to check their closets and chests for the missing images; the oldest being Beaul's winning team of 1898.

Camanachd Association chief operating officer Torquil MacLeod said: 'This collection builds a fascinating overview of the Camanachd Cup and all the people who have been part of the competition's

rich story since Kingussie won the first final way back in the 1890s.

'It is a special competition in Scottish sport and what would be great now is if we could get people to help us locate those final pictures so we can complete the set, which has been brought together over many years.'

Ironically

A large number of the missing photos, ironically, are of Saturday's finalists Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore, who lock camans for the game's biggest honour.

There are eight lost images of Kyles' winning sides while Newtonmore are minus six.

Historian MacLennan, whose work has made the display possible, reckons the pictorial recap will re-awaken memories for many different generations.

'The pictures really bring past victories to life. They have come from many different sources over time. There were a lot of images from the private collection of the late Jack Richmond of Newtonmore, for example.'

'While it is something everyone will enjoy, I think it also highlights the need for a wider collection of material like this because people are coming forward with archive stuff all the time.'

Web-based

'It would be great if it could be collated in a web-based archive so it would become accessible to everyone. Technology has opened the door for this type of presentation.'

Those wishing to see the images can purchase tickets for 'Shinty's Heroes' through ticketmaster, with the show taking place at 7.30pm at the Nevis Centre.



Kyles Athletic's Roddie MacDonald gets his block in as Newtonmore's Cameron Binnie tries to clear the ball during the recent Macaulay Cup final. Another close game is anticipated at Saturday's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final at An Aird. Photo: Stephen Lawson

THE MOORINGS
HOTEL

We would like to wish both teams the best of luck in the Camanachd Cup Final.

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Suppliers of Kyles Camans Shinty Clubs

would like to wish Kyles Athletic Shinty Club all the best on Saturday 14th against Newtonmore and hope that the match will be a good advert for shinty.

Kames, Tighnabruaich, Argyll
01700 811569

All the best to the Camanachd finalists, from one of your biggest fans.

Two worthy finalists and one great occasion. Add passion, pride and powerful performances and you have the ingredients for a brilliant day of sport. Here at Scottish Hydro, we're delighted to be playing our part as a loyal supporter of the game of shinty across Scotland - from grass roots upwards. For now, all that remains to be said is good luck both teams!

Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore will go head to head in the Final at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday 14th September at 2.15pm.

Fort William throw themselves a lifeline with close win over Oban Camanachd

Newtonmore are crowned Orion Group Premiership champions

OBAN CAMANACHD coach Fraser Inglis says the team has the talent, but must also show the desire to succeed, after watching them lose 1-0 against Fort William at Mossfield.

A shortage of available players meant a reshuffle in the Oban ranks and the team was caught unaware as Bryan Simpson scored an early goal for the visitors.

But Camanachd seemed to gain the upper hand in the second half and only a lack of experience and cutting edge in the forward line prevented them from levelling the tie.

Inglis said: 'It took about half an hour for the boys to settle into their positions and the first half was very disappointing, but I think we were by far the better team in the second half.'

'We had an inexperienced forward line and they will need to learn how to break down a defence but that has been a problem all season.'

'It is now up to the players to show a willingness to improve for next season and decide what they want to achieve.'

'We have a talented young team that can improve if the players have that desire.'

Never-say-die **FORT WILLIAM** kept their flickering hopes of Orion Group Premiership survival alive with a batting 1-0 win at Oban Camanachd.

A seventh minute Bryan Simpson goal proved enough in the end to ensure both points travelled home with the visitors.

Now all the Fort have to do

is win both their remaining matches and hope that Kinlochshiel slip up at Kirkton against Inveraray.

That's a tall order in anybody's book, not least because the league's two best teams, newly-crowned champions and Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup finalists Newtonmore, and runners-up Lovat provide the opposition in the last two fixtures.

But hope springs eternal for Fort William co-manager Victor Smith, whose team's efforts have generally left him satisfied this season in all but the goal-scoring department - as was evident again on Saturday.

He told The Oban Times: 'Oban are in the same boat - if they had a goalscorer they would not be in the predicament they are in.'

'It was quite an even game - we had a good amount of pressure early on and scored, then they had all the pressure at the end of the half but could not score.'

'In the second half we had the best of it but couldn't get a goal then they had most of the game but couldn't hit the net either.'

He added: 'Now we have got to beat the top two teams to have any chance of staying up - Newtonmore at home and Lovat away.'

NEWTONMORE secured their fourth Orion Group Premiership title on the bounce with a 3-1 win away to Kinlochshiel last Saturday.

In truth, the title was won many weeks ago but the two points at Balmacara put them

five clear of nearest challengers Lovat, who only have two games left to play.

Manager PJ Macintosh has led his unbeaten side to 14 wins in 15 matches as they once again proved too good for the rest.

'More have now only lost five of their last 87 leagues games, a run that stretches back to the start of the 2009 season.'

The title win was secured with a goal each from top scorers Danny MacRae, Glen Macintosh and Fraser Macintosh in the first half.

The trophy will be presented to them at a later game, and any title celebrations were mainly put on hold as 'More prepare for this Saturday's Camanachd Cup final.'

The Eilan men still have three league games to play, starting with a visit to Fort William on September 21, followed by home and away games against Kyles Athletic.

KINLOCHSHIEL will look to make absolutely sure of their place in the Orion Group Premiership next Saturday by taking at least a point from Inveraray at home in their last game of the season.

'Shiel are three points and five goals better off than Fort William, who have two games left against Lovat away and Newtonmore at home - but manager Johnston Gill does not want to depend on results going their way elsewhere.'

Lee Bain opened the scoring in the 19th minute before Thomas Borthwick grabbed his 10th league goal of the season five

SHINTY

not rely on other teams to do us a favour.

'A couple of results have gone against us this season which should have never gone against us but now we have Inveraray at home.'

'We have drawn with them twice and lost in the Camanachd and in the league down there in the past two seasons so we are due a win against them.'

Gill was content with how his team played in last weekend's 1-3 home defeat against Newtonmore, a result which ensured the visitors retained the league crown.

He said: 'We had a good go on Saturday and I was pleased with the way we played. We kept them down to three, all scored in the first half, and they were at full strength.'

'We were very unfortunate - we hit the post three times and their keeper had some first-class saves. I thought overall a draw would have been a fair result.'

Danny MacRae and Glen Macintosh got 'More off to a fast start before Duncan Ach MacRae cut the deficit only for Fraser Macintosh to restore the visitors' lead before half time.'

KINGUSSIE secured their Orion Group Premiership place for next year with a 3-2 win away to Inveraray last weekend.

Lee Bain opened the scoring in the 19th minute before Thomas Borthwick grabbed his 10th league goal of the season five



Fort William's Stevie Stewart clears the ball despite the attention of Oban Camanachd's Gavin Stobbart. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

minutes into the second half. Kings looked to be headed for victory before two late goals for Inveraray drew them level.

But in injury time Bain popped up to score the winner to move Kings up to fifth in the league.

Manager Russell Jones said: 'It was a good game, both teams played pretty well. We were pleased with how we played, we created plenty of chances but we just couldn't score and then they got a couple of late goals.'

Jones gave particular praise to youngster Callum Grant, a member of Kings' under 14 side, who was given his first taste of senior action in defence.

Kings' final game of the season away to Kyles Athletic will be played on October 5.

Jones said: 'We've finished training now and the night's are getting darker, but we'll try and get the guys into training again before the game.'

'It's not ideal for us, but that's just the way the fixtures have worked out.'

INVERARAY player-manager Garry MacPherson praised his teenage stand-ins as they fought bravely to almost earn a draw at The Dell last weekend.

MacPherson was forced to call up a host of teenage talents as six first team regulars were attending weddings.

Fifteen-year-old Scott MacLachlan particularly impressed for the visitors as he took up his post between the sticks in the absence of first-team goalkeeper Graeme 'Toad' MacPherson.

And after hitting two goals in the final 10 minutes, through top scorer Lewis MacNicol and MacPherson, Inveraray felt frustrated they didn't come away with at least a draw.

MacPherson said: 'We should have got something from the game. The chances we missed were unbelievable.'

'On a positive note, I am delighted with all the young boys who came into the team - we finished the match with a 14-, a 15- and a 17-year-old up front - but Scott was a standout in goals.'

'He saved a penalty and couldn't have done anything about the three goals we conceded. His performance was what I would have expected from our first team goalkeeper.'

GLENURQUHART'S final game of the season could have a big say in this year's relegation fight.

They take on Kyles Athletic in Tighnabruich on Saturday September 21, just a week after their opponents play in the Camanachd Cup final.

Kyles are one of only two teams that can still be caught by relegation threatened Fort William, who will be hoping their former manager Drew McNeill can do them a favour by leading his Glen side to victory.

GLENGARRY'S safety from relegation is almost secured, with Ewen Cameron's men needing just a point from their final game to make absolutely sure.

Garry's final game of the 2013 season will be a trip to take on Beaulieu on September 28, and even if they lose they can only be caught by Kinlochshiel if the Balmacara side manage to win both their last games.

'Garry were given a lesson in shinty by top of the table Newtonmore at Invergarry last weekend.'

The damage was all done in the first half, with the home side three down after just 15 minutes. The onslaught continued and the league champs went into half time with a 6-0 lead, which they held to the end.

TAYNUILT coach Willie Gillies was delighted to have nearly a full squad to pick from as his side took both points away from Strachur last Saturday.

Alan Duffy fired Taynuilt into

a two-goal lead in 20 minutes, only for Strachur's Angus Campbell to pull a goal back before half time.

Marc Beaton came off the bench to excel in an unfamiliar forward role and he briefly restored Taynuilt's two-goal advantage until Duncan MacNicol scored for Strachur to make the scoreline 3-2.

Stand-in Taynuilt goalkeeper James MacLaren then saved a Strachur penalty, before David Turnbull rounded off a 4-2 win.

Gillies said: 'This result shows what we can do with a full team. We were all over them in the first half but then the heavens opened and they seemed to adapt better to the change in conditions.'

BALLACHULISH made the long trip for a midday throw up at The Meadows for what proved to be a close fixture against Bute.

Both teams started well and it wasn't until the 30th minute that Lorne Brown fired home to give the away side the lead.

Brown repeated the exercise in the 40th minute to give Ballachulish a 2 - 0 half time lead.

Bute pulled one back through Thomas MacMillan in the 54th minute but Lorne Brown completed his hat trick in the 61st minute to restore the away side's two-goal lead.

Duncan MacDonald secured the points for Balla' in the 72nd minute before Bute's Neil McKirdy concluded the scoring on 74 minutes to make the final score 4 - 2 for Ballachulish.

League and cup double for Inveraray youngsters

INVERARAY'S under-14 team enjoyed one of their most successful weeks in recent years when they lifted the South of Scotland League and the south six-a-side titles.

Last Thursday Inveraray played Milngavie and Bearsden in their last league tie of the season. Although Inveraray had won the league earlier in the campaign, this game was to ensure that the season was finished with a 100 per cent win rate.

As with most games this season the opposition found the Inveraray team too strong and Fraser Watt (3) and Andrew Fraser netted in a 4-1 win. The league shield was presented to captain Kieran Kirkhope.

On Sunday, it was the South of Scotland six-a-sides and Inveraray met Aberdeen in the final. After going a goal down, 'Ary hit back through Fraser Watt then in the second half Inveraray got the winner in unusual circumstances when their goalkeeper stopped a shot and fired the ball back up the field into the Aberdeen goal.



Fixtures

Saturday 14 September
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
Innes Wood - 2.15pm
(at An Aird, Fort William)

Ken MacMaster
Under 14 Cup Final
Oban Camanachd v Skye
Deek Cameron - 11.15am
(at An Aird, Fort William)

Scottish Hydro Development Cup Final (Under 14 - 9 a side)
Lochcarron v
Milngavie & Bearsden
Ronnie Campbell - 11.15am
(at BA Park, Fort William)

Youth Fixtures
Friday 13 September

Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1
Kilmallie v Beaulieu

Division 2
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
Fort William v Newtonmore

Division 3
Strathglass v Glenurquhart

Results

Friday 6 September

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass 0 - 3 Beaulieu

Saturday 7 September
Orion Group Premiership
Kingussie 3 - 2 Inveraray
Kinlochshiel 1 - 3 Newtonmore
Oban Cam 0 - 1 Fort William

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Bute 2 - 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll
Strachur 2 - 4 Taynuilt

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart 0 - 6 Newtonmore
Lovat 3 - 3 Beaulieu
Skye P - P Kinlochshiel
Kinlochshiel unable to field a team - fixture rescheduled for 28th September

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute 2 - 4 Ballachulish

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Kilmallie 5 - 2 Strathspey

Youth Results
Marine Harvest Under 14 League South
Inveraray 4 - 1 Milngavie & Bearsden

Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield
Caberfeidh 0 - 8 Lochaber

Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1
Kingussie 6 - 1 Beaulieu
Skye A - P - P Kilmallie
Kilmallie unable to field a team walkover to Skye

Division 2
Kinlochshiel 0 - 1 Fort William
Lovat 1 - 7 Newtonmore

Womens Camanachd Association
Valerie Fraser Cup Final
Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 - 3
Badenoch & Strathspey

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final
Strathglass 4 - 0 Glasgow MA



Gareth decides to hang up his caman



Gareth Evans led out his teammates for the final game of the season against Fort William. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

THE LAST remaining player from Oban Camanachd's Scottish Cup-winning era has retired following the team's final game of the season.

Gareth Evans was a young squad member when the Oban side lifted the Camanachd Cup in Inverness in 1996 and was also the last Oban Camanachd captain to lift a major trophy - the Celtic Society Cup in 2005.

Last Saturday he was named captain for the day, as he led the team out against Fort William.

Gareth said: 'I was lucky that when I started playing for the first team in 1994 we were winning trophies and competing in lots of finals.'

Miss the craic
'Although we haven't been as successful in recent years, there is a great bunch of lads at the club and I think the thing I will miss the most is getting the craic with them on a Saturday.'

Gareth had to take annual leave from his job at Matheson's Furnishings in Oban

every Saturday just to play in matches and he thanked his employer for being flexible with time off over the years.

Oban Camanachd coach and former teammate Fraser Inglis said: 'Gareth has shown remarkable commitment to the team. He used up holidays just to play every Saturday and that is the kind of commitment we need from the next generation.'

'His main attribute was his reading of the game but he was so competitive. He would do anything to win.'

Badenoch and Strathspey lift Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

THE women's shinty cup finals took place at The Eilan, Newtonmore last Saturday.

In the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup it was Badenoch and Strathspey against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

In a close game which saw the best of women's shinty on show, it was Badenoch & Strathspey who emerged victorious with a final scoreline of 3-1. Scorers for the winners were Megan Ralph, Rhona Stewart and Jane Nicol. Joan Nicolson scored Glasgow Mid Argyll's consolation.

The trophy and medals were presented by competition sponsor Peter Gow.

Earlier in the day the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup final took place between Glasgow Mid Argyll 2nds and Strathglass.

It was the Cannich side who were worthy winners in what was an exciting match. The final score was 4-0.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	14	1	0	61	13	29
Lovat	16	9	6	1	36	15	24
Inveraray	17	7	4	6	29	28	18
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Kingussie	17	8	0	9	31	34	16
Glenurquhart	17	6	3	8	24	28	15
Kinlochshiel	17	5	4	8	30	43	14
Kyles Athletic	13	5	2	6	22	19	12
Fort William	16	3	5	8	17	35	11
Oban Camanachd	18	3	2	13	19	48	8

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaulieu	15	12	1	2	43	15	2
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	15	1	3	11	17	49	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	16	13	2	1	71	7	28
Bute	16	11	2	3	68	22	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	15	9	1	5	34	26	19
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Taynuilt	15	5	2	8	29	44	12
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	16	2	3	11	21	68	7

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	17	14	1	2	62	19	29
Lovat	17	9	7	1	42	29	25
Skye	17	11	2	4	38	22	22
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Beaulieu	16	7	4	5	37	26	18
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Glenurquhart	17	5	1	11	27	38	11
Fort William	18	5	1	12	31	60	11
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	16	3	4	9	24	46	8

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	14	12	1	1	58	7	25
Ballachulish	12	10	1	1	65	12	21
Col Glen	14	8	1	5	47	32	17
Inveraray	13	7	2	4	36	27	15
Bute	14	4	1	9	23	44	8
Tayforth	14	4	1	9	16	52	5
Glasgow MA	14	3	0	11	22	67	5
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	15	42	4

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	18	15	0	3	92	28	30
Lochcarron	18	14	1	3	81	26	29
Boleskine	18</						

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There were 180 primary school pupils at an open hockey session at Oban High School.

Anyone for hockey?

New goals and strips for Oban Hockey Club

HOCKEY at every age group continues to flourish in Oban as the local club helped to secure new strips and goals in the same week it hosted an open session for 180 children.

Oban Hockey Club chairwoman Tara Pollock and men's captain Mark Scott ran a training session, in conjunction with Active Schools, at Oban Community Pitch last Friday.

The event involved 180 primary six and seven pupils from the Oban area and 30 young sports leaders from Oban High School.

This was the second year the club has run the open session, which was sponsored by Oban Sports Shop, and the attendance was up on last year.

Oban Hockey Club has also successfully applied to Awards For All to purchase two sets of hockey goals, to be used by the senior team and the high school.

Until now, the nearest available hockey goals were in Lochgilphead.

Sponsorship

Thanks to club volunteer Kirsty MacKinnon, who approached local businesses for sponsorship, there are also new strips for a primary school team and a high school team.

Oban Cash for Kids provided funds for a primary school strip, Carpet Services Oban sponsored Oban High School and D. MacLean Heating provided money for training tops.

Tara said: 'Hockey is growing in popularity in Oban and more of our teams will be entering competitions.'

'The club owes a big thank you to Kirsty MacKinnon, for organising the new strips, and is also grateful to these new sponsors.'

Oban Hockey Club's men will make their debut in this season's West District Cup. The women's team, which competed in the tournament last year, will enter again.

The club is keen to get new players to its primary school training at the Oban High School pitch between 5-6pm on Thursdays. The training is for pupils in primary three upwards.



Primary school-aged hockey players from Oban celebrate getting their new kit.

West Highland Yachting Week will be two weeks earlier next year

YACHTING

SCOTLAND'S largest yachting event, West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) will next year take place from July 12 to July 18, two weeks earlier than usual. This is to avoid a clash with the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Glasgow from July 23 to August 3.

David Waltho, chairman of the Joint Regatta Committee (JRC) that organises WHYW, explained: 'We are now Scotland's largest yachting regatta. We don't in any way want to clash with such an important event as the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow for the first time.'

'The whole nation will be caught up in this major event. We feel that many of our competitors will certainly wish to attend some part of the games and moving WHYW from its usual slot at the end of July will enable them to do this and still enjoy all the traditional wonderful racing that WHYW has to offer.'

West Highland Yachting Week provides a spectacle of sail on the west coast of Scotland based around Craobh Marina, Oban and Tobermory giving a mix of passage racing and Olympic courses over six days for 10 yacht classes.

Remarkable double for Ralph

GOLF



An octogenarian has achieved the remarkable feat of two holes-in-one on the same hole at Islay's Machrie Golf Course - 22 years apart. Port Ellen man Ralph Middleton, who has been a member of the club since 1956, recently aced the fifth hole at the Machrie and promptly revealed to younger members that it was nothing new.

Riders qualify for national championships

EQUESTRIAN

THREE Argyll riders have qualified for the National Eventing Championships as they continue their good form this season.

Janice Burnip and Louise Smellie continued their tour of the British Eventing circuit by competing at Drumclog, Lanarkshire.

Janice obtained another second place in the BE80(T) - Section H on Ali Dante and Louise Smellie placed seventh on Bennie II in the same class.

Along with fellow Oban equestrian, Lindsay MacDonald, the trio has qualified for the national championships in Leicester later this month.

Ben denied debut win

KARTING

KART racer Ben Allward was denied a debut win in the British 24-hour Karting Race at the Teeside Autodrome after his team was penalised.

Having taken their mandatory maintenance check during a yellow warning flag, Ben's Squadra Abarth BRKC team were eventually given a five-lap penalty because the flags had turned to red while they were in the garage.

Opponents complained the team had gained an unfair advantage and the subsequent penalty dropped Ben's team down to third.

Ben, from Appin, said: 'We were given an apology from the owner of the track, who was on our side about the penalty given, but unfortunately he was outnumbered by teams who wanted us penalised.'

'After the race I was pretty annoyed about the outcome and I still feel we deserved more but a third-place trophy in my first ever 24-hour race is nothing to be disappointed about.'

Ben plans to gain his ARDS racing license this year at Knockhill, then take part in a Formula Ford Test Drive at Brands Hatch.

Next year he plans to secure sponsorship for a Formula Ford drive in 2015.

Potential sponsors can contact Ben at ben.allward@live.co.uk.



Corrie Louw forces his way over the line for Oban Lorne's first try against Carrick at Glenclruitten last Saturday. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Good start to the season for The Green Machine

West Division Two Oban Lorne 12 Carrick 6

ALARGE home crowd cheered on the Green Machine in their first home game of the season, as they defeated a tough Carrick team 12-6.

Oban, boosted by the return of twins Cammy and Struan Smith, were looking to build on their opening day win away to McLaren, aware that the visitors had put an impressive 56 points past Stewartry the previous week.

From the outset, the teams tested each other's physicality with some crunching tackles and powerful forward play. With both teams boasting two of the largest packs in the league, it was clear that strength and raw power would be the order of the day.

Despite some clever and expansive offensive play, Oban found themselves behind after 12 minutes. Carrick converted the penalty to take the three-point lead.

Oban persevered with their game plan of combining their usual brute force with some flashy back line moves; stand-off Ruairidh Aitken, in particular, demonstrated some dazzling sidesteps and electric pace.

Eventually, it was the turn of the forwards to impress as they began to dominate at the scrum. After Carrick were caught out for an infringement near their own try line, the Oban pack

surged forward from the re-sulting scrum and the familiar sight of Corrie Louw touching the ball down over the try line was greeted with a rapturous cheer from the partisan home crowd.

But as the first half closed out, Carrick struck back with another penalty to lead at the break.

Scrapper affair

The second half became a much scrappier affair as the rain began to pour down at Glenclruitten. Luckily, this didn't stop the home side from continuing to punish their opponents in attack and defence.

Ryan Jackson had a solid game in his preferred position of hooker and his textbook tackling helping to nullify the

threat posed by the Carrick back line.

After 10 minutes of the second half, it was time for Cammy Smith to leave his mark on the game. The elusive centre broke through the visitor's defences to sail over the try line for Oban's second try of the game. Craig Wright stepped up and nailed his conversion to give Oban Lorne a 12-6 lead.

A gentleman's disagreement between the Carrick tighthead prop and Robin MacQueen led to a double sin-binning, reducing both teams to 14 men.

Next week, The Green Machine host Stewartry at Glenclruitten from 3pm.

RUGBY



Cammy Smith scored the Green Machine's second try. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Weather

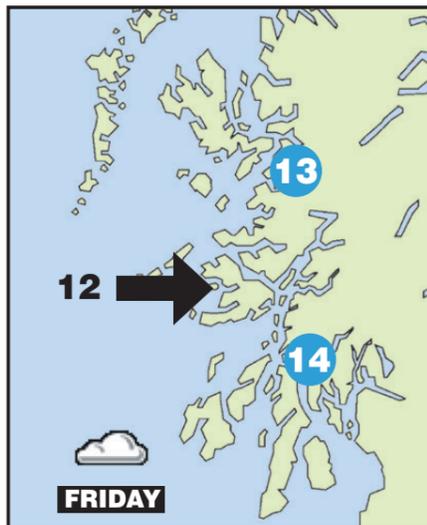
Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 14°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 5, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.44	0.8	17.49	4.0	***	**
Thur	05.42	3.8	11.44	0.8	17.49	4.0	*** **
Fri	00.18	0.9	06.14	3.9	12.16	0.7	18.19 4.1
Sat	00.49	0.9	06.40	3.9	12.47	0.7	18.47 4.1
Sun	01.17	0.8	07.05	3.9	13.19	0.7	19.15 4.0
Mon	01.45	0.9	07.36	3.8	13.54	0.8	19.48 3.9
Tues	02.18	1.0	08.12	3.6	14.35	1.0	20.25 3.7
Wed	02.58	1.2	08.55	3.5	15.24	1.2	21.09 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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Appeal to keep Corpach colourful
Page 3

Judge's rating leaves band feeling off key
Page 3

SPORTS NEWS

Cup final shaping up to be a classic

West Highland College welcomes new students

A TOTAL of 140 further education students started college life this week with West Highland College UHI across its 10 centres.

Around 80 of those gathered in the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Monday morning to hear assistant principal Georgina Morrison and senior college staff extend a warm welcome before their induction.

College principal and chief executive Lydia Rohmer also delivered a welcome address - by video conference from Stirling. Other new students at Broadford, Auchtertyre and Kilchoan watched Ms Rohmer's address.

She said later: 'The use of innovative technology is enabling more and more students to access learning from their own homes and local college centres and I am delighted to have been able to greet them all personally today.'

Meanwhile, around 70 students begin their studies this week in the college's newest facility - a £2.5 million extension to the campus in Portree.

Lack of teacher leaves Muck primary pupils in limbo

PRIMARY pupils on the Isle of Muck do not know who will be teaching them after the October holidays as no teacher is currently in place.

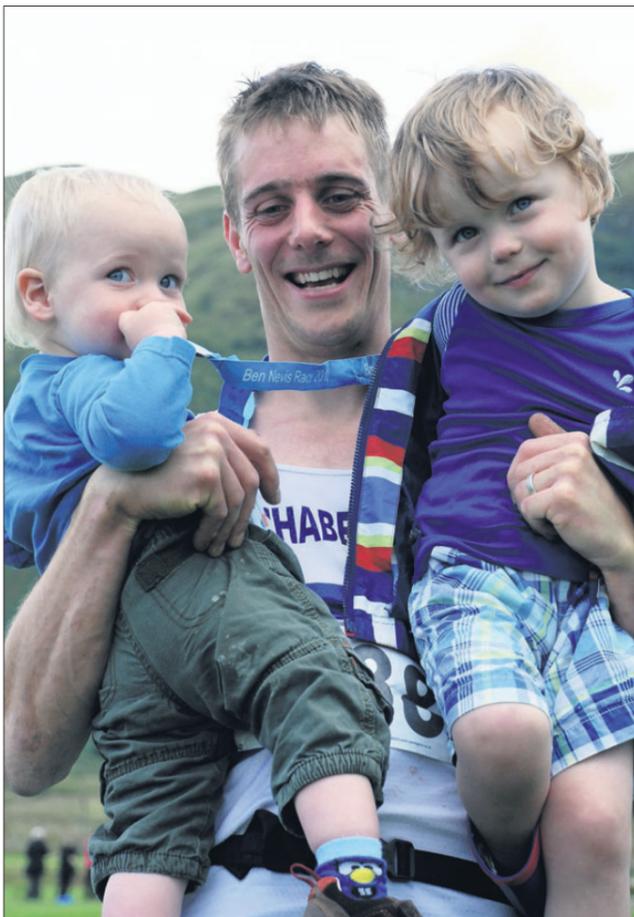
Highland Council received no applicants after advertising for a new teacher for the six-pupil school over the summer when incumbent Len Whatley left the remote island in July.

Part-time teacher Liz Boden was drafted in from nearby Eigg as interim cover but has to return to her regular post after the October holidays, leaving the Muck youngsters in limbo.

School parent council secretary Julie McFadzean told *The Oban Times* neither parents nor the school know what is happening.

She said: 'We've heard that they're planning to re-advertise the position, but there's not much time for that.'

'If they put someone in on supply they'd have to get the ferry across, and with the winter coming that's not a great situation.'



Well done daddy! Ruari Watt gets a big welcome from sons Calum and Finn after finishing the Ben Nevis Race in his fastest ever time. 10_13/race01

Ranger Ruari's hero's welcome at Ben Nevis Race finish line

LOCAL Forestry Commission Scotland ranger Ruari Watt got a hero's welcome from sons Calum, aged one, and three-year-old Finn after finishing Saturday's Ben Nevis race in a personal best time.

Inverroy man Ruari, 33, ran strongly to come home ninth overall in a field of 483 runners.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Conditions were perfect - no wind and good visibility. It is the only event I look forward to every year.'

'I don't particularly like running but in the Ben Race it does not matter how fast or slow you are, everybody is super enthusiastic. The crowd just cheers you on.'

Ruari was second Lochaber AC man home behind race winner Finlay Wild, who became the first ever Scottish athlete to win the 10-mile race four times in succession.

The crowd ringing Claggan Park gave the Fort William GP a rousing reception when he broke

the tape in one hour 30 minutes and six seconds.

Ben Nevis Race committee chairman Michael Whitehead was delighted the event was accident-free - and praised the efforts of everyone involved.

He said: 'From our point of view the whole day went perfectly. We had no incidents anywhere and no major injuries. 'And for Finlay Wild to win it for the fourth time in a row is just a fantastic achievement.'

See full coverage, back page.

Regular ferry passengers still not happy with fares plan

Mixed response to revised Corran proposals

REVISED proposals for the controversial Corran Ferry fare structure have met with a mixed response from unhappy locals, who say regular users are taking on an excessive burden.

An audience of more than 50 at the Sunart Centre in Stronachan on Monday night made it clear to Highland Council's transport boss Sam McNaughton they were still unsatisfied with his planned changes.

Under the new proposed regime which goes before the TEC Services committee next Thursday, the majority of fares will be increased by 30p from November 1, putting a single car crossing up from £7.30 to £7.60. But a book for 30 tickets - the most common way regular users pay - will go up from £57.80 to £66.80, meaning the cost of each crossing rises by 30p to £2.23.

Local man Simon Willis told the meeting the increases were uneven and unfair.

He said: 'A single user coming over once pays a 4.1 per cent increase. We who get a book

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

of tickets face a 15.5 per cent increase.

'A 30p increase on a £1.93 ticket - which is what we pay - is huge, and it's not fair.'

Ardgour woman Mary Ann Kennedy said a more long-term solution for funding the lifeline service was needed.

She said: 'What you've ended up doing in trying to find a compromise that looks fair, is you have penalised your regular local users.'

'We are reaping your harvest after years of you failing to sit down and invest and think about the long term. If this goes through, in four or five years time you're going to come back to us again and say there's still a gap.'

Five and six-axle HGV vehicles face a rise from £29.20 per crossing to £42, a move which some suggested could hit forestry and farming in the area. Mr McNaughton was also

criticised for failing to produce an economic impact study on fare rises despite agreeing to do so at a council meeting in March.

Local councillors Thomas MacLennan, Brian Murphy and Andrew Baxter said they would make the TEC Services committee aware of the community's concerns at next week's meeting.

TEC Services committee chair Graham Phillips said: 'The proposed increase will not fully close the gap between operating costs and income and the TEC Services Committee will also be asked to agree that a review is undertaken to examine all operating costs and income with a view to moving towards full cost recovery and making the service sustainable for the future.'

The original scheme proposed earlier this year would have seen daily commuters' costs fall to under £1 per crossing, but those making weekly trips would have seen a 94 per cent increase to £3.65.

Retired GP wins masters mountain bike bronze

RETIRED Roy Bridge GP John Shirley has won a bronze medal at the 2013 UCI Mountain Bike Masters World Championships in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

The 60-year old completed the two 15km laps in 68 minutes 17 seconds for a podium finish behind South African Linus van Onselen and Pedro Trujillo of Venezuela.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'I am really pleased. It's all in the preparation really.'

The veteran speedster's next event is the Dukes of Hazzard Downhill stage at Kinlochleven on November 17.

Amongst his rivals will be his son James - who is a downhill specialist.

John said: 'It's completely different from cross-country. I'm not expecting to do much!'



John on the UCI Mountain Bike Masters World Championships podium at Pietermaritzburg.

Councillor suffers heart attack

LOCHABER councillor Bren Gormley is recovering after suffering a heart attack in Inverness.

SNP Councillor Gormley was rushed to Raigmore Hospital last Thursday morning after complaining of chest pains before a council meeting. He underwent an emergency operation and was kept in hospital for several days for treatment.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Wednesday, Councillor Gormley's fellow Fort William

and Ardnachurchan member Brian Murphy said: 'I think he was hoping to get out today or tomorrow. But he'll be off work for the next couple of months.'

Lochaber area leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan, who had been staying at the same hotel as Councillor Gormley, noticed his colleague's absence from the meeting and made enquiries.

Councillor MacLennan said: 'On behalf of the Lochaber area committee we wish Bren a speedy recovery.'

Highland Council leader and SNP group leader Drew Hendry said: 'We were obviously concerned but pleased that Bren was able to get the right treatment at Raigmore.'

Councillor Gormley was elected to represent Fort William and Ardnachurchan in 2007 when he became the SNP's education spokesman.

He was re-elected in May last year and is the current joint chairman of the Lochaber District Partnership.

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Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Wed 18 - Sat 21 September
Stronachan Mon 23 September
Lochaline Tue 24 September



Monsters University (U)
Action pours off the screen as Mike and Sully must prove themselves scary enough to stay at university.

The Lone Ranger (12A)
From the team which brought you *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Johnny Depp is Tonto, on a mission for justice.

The Heat (15)
Sparks fly when snooty FBI special agent Sarah Ashburn (Sandra Bullock) teams up with a raucous new partner.

The Great Hip Hop Hoax (15)
California hip-hop duo Slibil 'n' Brains may seem like a pair of LA homeboys, but their accents are fake and they are really students... from Scotland. *'Fantastic real-life story'* Evening Standard

Breakfast at Tiffany's (PG)
Did you go to the cinema in the 1960s? Researchers from University College London, collecting memories of 1960s cinema-goers, invite you to watch this Audrey Hepburn classic with them.

Book in advance at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50



Climbing centre plan for former Fort church

PLANS to turn a former Fort William church into an indoor climbing centre and café have been submitted to Highland Council.

MacIntosh Memorial Church on Fassifern Road has lain unused since 2007 when the congregation merged with that of Duncansburgh Church.

Owner Mr P Hatto of Durham is seeking permission for internal alterations including building new walls to form an indoor climbing sports centre and café. The plans for the grade C listed building, which opened in 1890, will go before a future planning committee meeting.

Pampered pooches impress canine society show judges

MORE than 300 dogs with their owners descended on the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Sunday for the annual Lochaber and District Canine Society open show.

The all-day event saw pampered pooches of all shapes, sizes and colours from across Scotland lined up to impress the judges.

Among local winners in the puppy sections were Penny the Border collie, owned by Heather Turner from Roy Bridge, Ruby the Welsh terrier, owned by Janet Robertson from Glen Nevis and Conan the Alaskan malamut, owned by Kayleigh Buchanan from Fort William.

Conan won special best puppy, Ruby was special best terrier puppy

and Penny took the best pastoral puppy award. Show secretary Sharon Donald, from Roy Bridge, told *The Oban Times*: 'We had 320 entries from all over Scotland. People came from as far away as Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire.'

'All our judges came up from England except one, who came across from Elgin.'

'It was a very good show. Our entry numbers were up on last year but I think nationally shows are getting less and less, so we are definitely bucking the trend.'

'We had increased entries last year as well.'

The show will be held at the same venue on September 7 next year, Ms Donald said.



Puppy love: from left, Heather Turner and Penny, Janet Robertson and Ruby, Kayleigh Buchanan and Conan.

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Driver ditches Land Rover after swerving to avoid deer

SIX ARDNAMURCHAN Estate workers ended up in a ditch after the driver of the Land Rover they were travelling in swerved to avoid a deer early on Monday morning.

Two of the occupants suffered minor injuries after the driver lost control of the vehicle on the B8007 road at around 6.30am.

Two ambulances were deployed to deal with the incident and the road remained open throughout.

Meanwhile, a woman was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital following an accident at Glenfinnan which closed the A830 Road to the Isles for four hours on Sunday afternoon.

A man was also taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William by ambulance after the crash, which happened at 3.45pm around half a mile east of the Glenfinnan Monument.

Traffic was diverted round Ardgour, Acharacle and Lochailort until the road was re-opened at 7.45pm.

South Lochaber café in awards top three

A SOUTH Lochaber café has been named in the final three for the best bar, café or restaurant at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards.

Glencoe Café will fight it out with Café Artysans in Inverness and Cups Teamroom in Serabster for the award at the glittering ceremony in Inverness on Friday October 4.

Cook Deirdre Coupland told The Oban Times the café had a 'strong local following' as well as being popular with visitors to the village.

She said: 'I think people like our customer service and the fact that all our cakes are made on the premises with locally sourced ingredients.'

'It would be good to win and it would make all the hard work worth it.'

If the café is named as top café in the Highlands it will go forward to the Visit Scotland national final.

'Fairy forest' could face axe within two years

LOCHABER'S 'fairy forest' could be knocked down within two years, according to the estate owner.

The Coille Rais Fairy Forest near Gairloch was created seven years ago by two local women on land owned by Achnacarry Estate, but now the estate says the woodland has reached maturity and needs to be felled.

Estate owner Donald Cameron of Lochel told Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council that felling surrounding trees and leaving the fairy walk was not an option as strong winds could cause the remaining trees to fall.

Community council chairman John Fotheringham said alternative locations had been turned down by the women who look after Coille Rais.

But in a letter read out at the meeting, the two women denied they had refused to move the forest walk.

They said: 'We have at no time expressed a view that we shall not be moved.'

Mr Fotheringham said there was nothing more the community council could do.

The atmospheric walk has grown in popularity with thousands now visiting every year from across the UK and further afield, many leaving behind toys and ornaments of their own.



Trophy winners at the Corpach in Colour Flower and Produce Show line up for The Oban Times. 20_037show01

Show appeal to keep Corpach colourful

JUDGE Isabel Campbell has appealed for local gardeners to support Corpach in Colour Flower and Produce Show next year by submitting entries across all sections.

Speaking after the presentation prizes in Kilmalie Community Centre on Saturday, Isabel said: 'This is the third year I have judged the baking and produce and each year it's getting better and better.'

'But please have a go next year and try and get your neighbours to have a go too. We want the show to go on and it is very worthwhile.'

'It is a great little show and we want to

keep it alive. Plant or sow whatever you can to fill up these tables.'

Results: Treasures of the Earth Trophy, most points in the Flower Section - Marion Malcolm, Corpach. The Kilmalie Community Council Trophy, most points in the Garden Produce Section - Banavie Primary School. The Ewen & Isabel Campbell Trophy, most points in the Floral Art Section - Ann Smith, Banavie. Most outstanding exhibit in the Floral Art - Ann Smith.

The M & S Dental Care Trophy for the most points in the Baking and Produce - Louise

Pescod, Corpach. The Tradewinds Trophy for most points in Arts & Crafts - Marion Malcolm. The Marion Cameron Laxdale Memorial Cup for best exhibit in the Arts & Crafts - Ann Smith.

Best Exhibits: Playgroup - Drew Drysdale; Nursery - Kalina; Primary 1-3 - Banavie School; Primary 4&5 - Abby MacKay; Primary 6&7 - Ciara Muir; Aged 12-14 - Katrin Muir.

The Corpach Hotel Trophy, best exhibit in the Children's classes - Ciara Muir. The Corpach in Colour Trophy, most points overall - Louise Pescod.

Ukulele orchestra adds another string to Arisiag Primary School's musical bow



Arisiag Primary have created a new ukulele orchestra.

ARISAIG Primary has added a new string to its musical bow - after setting up the first school ukulele orchestra in the Highlands.

Head teacher Martin Jones bought the small instruments after seeing them for sale online and offered them to any pupils who were interested.

And despite the youngsters already playing a number of instruments such as piano, guitar and cello, the demand almost outstripped supply.

Mr Jones told The Oban Times: 'I couldn't believe how quickly I sold them to the pupils. I sold 20 almost immediately.'

'Nearly all of them play instruments already, but we've included a few who didn't play anything before. Now nearly every pupil at the school plays an instrument.'

'They are really easy to play because they're quite small and they are soft on their fingers. The children are all having a great time with them.'

The orchestra, featuring pupils aged seven to 12, plan to show off their skills with performances for local senior citizens in coming months.

Judge's rating leaves band feeling off key

Glen Mor Pipe Major to complain about marking at 'the worlds'

GLEN MOR Pipe Band is writing a letter of complaint to their governing body after controversial marking at the World Pipe Championships left them feeling distinctly off-key.

The highly unusual action, being taken only reluctantly by Pipe Major Willie Evans, follows the Fort William-based ensemble's appearance in the Grade 4B competition at the showpiece event in Glasgow last month.

Glen Mor marched through from the 66-strong field to the final 15 after coming second in their heat. Playing last, the band performed well and earned a first, a seventh and an eighth from adjudicators.

But their day turned sour when the fourth judge graded them 15th and last - relegating Glen Mor to eighth when a top three finish looked on the cards.

The disappointing ranking

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

cast a shadow over their big day out - and means the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) may not promote them to Grade 3B when they make their assessment in December or January.

However, Glen Mor's performances earlier in the season - second at the British Championships at Forres and first in the Scottish Championships at Dumfries - may yet prove enough.

Nonetheless, Mr Evans feels an injustice was done at 'the worlds' and is asking the RSPBA to investigate. He declined to speculate as to why here had been such a discrepancy in the marking. Mr Evans told The Oban Times:

'It totally destroyed our day. We still might get upgraded but it is a real shame.'

'We ended up eighth overall, but if that judge had marked us similarly to the others we would have ended up third.'

'We are still hoping to aim for 3B because you can play your own material, which the band would be much happier with. In 4B, the RSPBA sets the tunes.'

He added: 'It will be a big jump for us but we will be ready for it.'

RSPBA chief executive Ian Embelton told The Oban Times: 'Any complaint received will be fully investigated and a written response given.'

On a lighter note, the band is holding an end of season celebration in Lochaber Rugby Club's clubhouse at Banavie tomorrow, Friday September 13, at 6pm. Spooky fancy dress, a bouncy castle and bouncy slide will all feature.



Glen Mor Pipe Band were delighted to reach the Grade 4B final - but there the harmony ended.

Ferry delayed after tyre fouls propeller

OBAN-BOUND passengers on CalMac's MV Lord of the Isles were delayed for three hours on Saturday afternoon after a tyre fouled the ship's propeller shortly after leaving her Lochboisdale berth.

Strong winds meant the ship could not return to port on her second engine so the captain elected to drop anchor until divers freed the propeller. The ferry got underway again just after 6.30pm.

A CalMac spokesperson told

The Oban Times: 'She had been delayed in Lochboisdale due to weather but shortly after leaving at 3.25pm the port propeller was fouled with a tyre. She could not return to port on one engine due to the weather so she anchored in Loch Boisdale while she waited for divers to clear the obstruction. This was eventually done and she sailed to Oban at 6.35pm. Passengers were kept fully informed throughout and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Barra lifeboat, already in the sea loch after evacuating a seriously ill Faroese fisherman from a trawler in the Minch, stood by the ferry in case passengers had to be taken off.

Torshavn coastguards in the Faroes has requested help for the man who was suffering abominable pains.

Barra lifeboat ferried him to a waiting ambulance at Lochboisdale to be taken to Benbecula hospital for treatment.

Rural crime spree prompts Police Scotland to hold series of presentations offering security advice

SOUTH Lochaber properties have been hit with three robberies in less than a week as the spate of rural thefts affecting the West Highlands continues.

A house in Onich was broken into with a large quantity of jewellery and a camera stolen between Thursday August 29 and Monday September 2.

A quantity of cash was taken from an unlocked guesthouse in Glencoe village between 11pm on Sunday September 1 and 6.30am the next morning.

Thieves broke into a house in North Ballachulish between Friday August 30 and Tuesday September 3 with jewellery and food stolen.

Meanwhile, a metal box containing cash was

stolen from a business at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William between 10am and 4pm on Wednesday September 4.

Two roller joints were stolen from a boat trailer on a footpath at the rear of Glenkingie Street, Caol between Friday August 9 and Thursday September 5.

In response to the thefts, Police Scotland are to hold a series of meetings across Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh in coming weeks offering advice on rural security.

Local crime prevention officers will hold hour-long presentations providing guidance on how to prevent falling victim to the thieves, with a question and answer session afterwards.

The dates and locations of the meetings, which start at 7pm, are: Acharacle Primary School,

Thursday September 12; Ballachulish Village Hall, Friday September 13; Mallaig Mission Cafe, Tuesday September 17; Spean Bridge Primary School, Wednesday September 18; Sunart Centre, Strontian, Monday September 23; Lochcarron Village Hall, Wednesday September 25; Kyle of Lochalsh Hall, Thursday September 26; Portree Community Centre, Friday September 27; Broadford Village Hall, Tuesday October 1.

'Operation Engage' was launched by police last month to tackle the large number of rural thefts - nearly 80 since April - with extra officers drafted in and road checks set up.

More than £75,000 worth of items have been stolen, with homes, sheds, garages and industrial sites all being targeted by the thieves.

Plan to transform canal building into bunkhouse

A 200 YEAR-old building on the Caledonian Canal could be given a new lease of life as a bunkhouse - but only if £500,000 can be found to pay for the refurbishment.

Telford House, near Gairloch, has lain empty for 12 years but Scottish Canals are now planning to renovate it.

Keith Mackie, development surveyor for Scottish Canals, acknowledged the project faced difficulties, but said they were 'determined to make it happen'.

He said: 'There's a strong feeling that everyone wants Telford House put back into use, as we do. It's going to cost approximately £400,000 to £500,000 to put it back into economic use as a bunkhouse.'

'As a project, it unfortunately doesn't make money. We would need grant funding to do it and we're looking at various options.'

Mr Mackie said more funding options

would be available if there was community involvement with the project. He told Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council: 'If there was a will within the community to take it on as a project, we could help you. If it's a community run project, or there was some kind of community use, that would make funding a lot easier.'

In the meantime, the company plans to install three wooden camping pods in the grounds behind the house, with a further three planned if the scheme proves successful. Locals had complained about the original plans to place the pods near the canal lock. Telford House was constructed during 1815-20 and used by engineer Thomas Telford and his supervisors during construction of the canal. It was later used as lock keepers' accommodation.

Pet owners invited to have animals checked for free

HIGHLAND Council and veterinary charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) are inviting Lochaber dog owners to bring their pets along for a free well-being check today and tomorrow.

The mobile service will set up in an Air

car park, Fort William, from 9am-4pm. An on-board PDSA vet nurse will examine weight, body-shape, teeth, eyes, coat and general fitness of canine visitors.

Free expert advice about how to care for other pets will also be offered.

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November - 5/6, Dunoon; 18/19, Helensburgh; 19/20, Campbeltown

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October - 1, Mull; 30, Inveraray

November - 19, Dunoon; 28, Oban

December - 11, Helensburgh



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Laundrette blaze not suspicious

POLICE in Oban say there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding a fire at the town's laundrette on Tweeddale Street. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue was called to deal with the blaze at the premises at around 4am last Friday.

It is understood the fire started after a machine ignited. Oban Police confirmed there was no criminal investigation.

Wetherspoon hopes to open in Oban in New Year

OBAN may not be home to JD Wetherspoon this year - but the pub giant is anticipating opening its new premises this coming January.

A spokesman for the company confirmed this week a building warrant has been secured for converting the premises at Railway Pier.

Work must be completed in four months' time, but the firm is in discussion with the owner of the premises for the proposed pub, the former Caithness Glass shop, to start the work as soon as possible.

Rumours had been spreading in the town that Wetherspoon was considering pulling out but a spokesman dismissed the claims.

He said: 'Wetherspoon is still very much set on opening a pub in the town and keen to complete on the deal as soon as possible.'

Celebration of country dancing

AROUND 230 dancers will descend on Oban's Corran Halls as the town hosts a 90th anniversary celebration of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS).

The Lorn (Argyll) branch will host society members from Lochaber, Mid Argyll, South Argyll, Helelsburgh, Islay and further afield on September 21.

'Skinny' on the run

OBAN man David 'Skinny' MacInnes will tomorrow (Friday) attempt to run from Ibrox, Glasgow to Oban's Corran Halls - in just 24 hours.

The 33 year old, who is running in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, will begin his ambitious 100-mile run at 2pm and aims to be home at 2pm on Saturday.



Mum Dolina MacDonald is one of the first to congratulate her boy after he finishes his big run. 15_t37daniel03

Cheers and tears greet Daniel after gruelling marathon run

CHEERS and tears greeted marathon man Daniel MacDonald as he crossed the finishing line at Taynuilt Hotel after an 80-mile fundraising run.

At 6pm on Sunday the 22-year-old joiner completed the equivalent of three back-to-back marathons, from Glasgow to his home village, joined at various points by friends, family and Taynuilt Shinty Club teammates.

His remarkable feat of endurance has raised more than £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Yorkhill Children's Charity, two charities held dear by his family.

And on finishing his three-day ordeal an emotional and exhausted Daniel, whose legs were heavily strapped to ease the pain of a knee injury, struggled to fight back the tears as he was greeted by a small army of supporters.

After crossing the finish line, he told The Oban Times: 'Today was the hardest day but there were moments last night and this morning that I thought I wouldn't do it - I have never been in so much pain. The Rest and Be Thankful almost killed me and about six miles before Inveraray I was going to give up but my friends and family kept me going. It feels amazing to have finally finished.'

Daniel praised sports therapist Andrew Johnston, who helped him cope with his injury. 'I couldn't have done it without him,' said Daniel. He was like my Mr Miyagi!

Daniel ran his last 25 miles on day three in four hours and 17 minutes, having completed runs of 27 and 28 miles the previous two days.

Donations to Dan's Big Run can still be made by logging on to justgiving.com/teams/dansbigrun.

Residents demand heating bill probe

Tenants forced to choose between feeding their families or turning on electric heaters

SOCIAL housing tenants across North Lorn are choosing between feeding their families and turning on their heating amid demands for an investigation into years of alleged overcharging for electricity.

It is feared scores of families could have been paying hundreds of pounds extra each month for up to six years through exorbitant tariffs following the installation of heaters and meters under a renovation of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) properties.

Some claim bills jumped by as much as £700 per quarter in the winter after they opted for a new 'wet heating system', which replaced old storage heater units.

Now calls have now been made for ACHA, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and wet heating manufacturer Dimplex to get together to sort things out before the winter chill hits.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

sflanangan@obantimes.co.uk

Soroba resident and young mother Francis Cooke watched her bill soar by at least £600 per quarter in winter when her meters and heaters were changed three years ago.

She told Soroba Community Association on Monday: 'I'm terrified of the winter. I'm really dreading switching the heating on. We were told with the wet electric system we'd get a cosy house, it'd save us money and we could put it on whenever we want.'

'My electricity bill went from £20-30 per week with storage heaters to about £70 per week with wet electric.'

'At one stage we were all sitting there with the heating off, wearing blankets. It was a case

of, do I feed my kids or do I feed the meter?'

Lyn Ferguson moved into her Dunbeg home at Camus Road in April 2010, just after new heating and meters were installed.

She said: 'My first bill was for £1,000 for the quarter, the second was the same.'

After several complaints, ACHA sent out Heat Argyll, now known as ALIEnergy, to monitor appliances in Ms Ferguson's home - and found Ms Ferguson's 'wet electric' boiler was costing approximately £18 per day to run - or £888 per month.

The meter was installed wrongly and now, more than three years later, SSE has fitted a new meter - but Ms Ferguson doesn't know if she's getting a refund.

Councillor Fred Hall believes the problem is widespread across Argyll, saying three homes in Tiree have also been affected

by hugely inflated heating bills. He said: 'If people have been overcharged over a period of years I don't just expect a refund - I expect people to get refunded the interest on their payments too.'

'I'm keen to get a meeting between Dimplex, ACHA and SSE to fix this. The heating system has to be the right spec for the right house, for the right meter.'

ACHA has told The Oban Times that it is keen to work with anyone if there is a problem with the metering and has urged anyone who believes they are being overcharged as a result of a change to their heating system to contact them on 0800 028 2755 or email housing.lorn@acha.co.uk.

Have you had problems with your heating bills? Contact The Oban Times on 01631 568000 or email sflanangan@obantimes.co.uk.

Fed-up resident demands safety barrier

A NORTH Argyll man fed up with vehicles skidding off the A82 into his driveway submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request into the number of road crashes near his home.

And when Bridge of Orchy resident Joe Barnwell got the figures, he was shocked to find police had logged 22 crashes within 200 metres of his property in the past 10 years - three of which wrecked his fence.

Now Mr Barwell is stepping up his campaign for a roadside barrier outside his home - and has persuaded roads and transport representatives to meet him on a site visit to the isolated hamlet on September 23.

The retired forestry worker has endured years of worry living next to the busy route, especially since a guest was injured when a car careered off the road into his car as he was unpacking luggage



A picture of Joe's damaged roadside fence and driveway following a recent crash.

just seconds after he arrived. Mr Barwell said: 'There are more than 20 incidents recorded near my house in the period requested in the FOI but you can treble

that with the number of near misses there's been. I have since discovered that the people who lived here before I bought it 10 years ago also raised concerns

about the number of crashes. It just seemed like everyone was waiting for a fatality before something got done - but this site visit is a big step forward.'

Representatives from BEAR Scotland, Transport Scotland and Police Scotland will visit Mr Barwell after a site visit to the newly-constructed £1.8m bridge at Allt Chonoglais over the River Kinglass outside of Bridge of Orchy village.

At last Wednesday's Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting Dalnally policeman Iain Young and community councillors pledged their support to Mr Barwell's campaign.

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TAYNUILT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

RESULTS 2013

OPEN CLASS FLOWERS

One vase annuals: 1 Brown; One vase sweet peas, mixed, 12 spikes: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 A Pringle; One bloom dahlia - giant or decorative, 10" or over: D McDougall; One bloom dahlia - giant or large cactus, 10" or over: D McDougall, 2 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - medium decorative, 6-8": W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - medium cactus, 6-8": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown, 3 W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - small decorative, 4-6": 1 W Hay, 21 Brown, 3 D McDougall; Three blooms dahlias - miniature decorative, not over 4": 1 D McDougall, 2 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - small cactus, 4-6": 1 D McDougall, 21 Brown, 3 A Pringle; Three blooms dahlias - small ball, 4-6": 1 Brown, 2 W Hay; Three blooms dahlias - miniature ball, not over 4": 1 Brown, 2 W Hay, 3 A Pringle; Five blooms dahlias - pompom, not over 2": 1 D McDougall, 21 Brown, 3 H MacKenzie; Three blooms dahlias - collarette: 1 D McDougall, 21 Brown; Three blooms dahlias - miniature cactus: 1 D McDougall, 21 Brown; One vase four asters: 1 A Pringle, 2 H MacLeod, 31 Brown; 2; One vase four Scotch marigolds: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 L Scott; One vase four African marigolds: 1 H MacLeod, 21 Brown; One vase four French marigolds: 1 L Scott, 21 Brown, 3 A Pringle; One vase four sp antirrhinums: 21 Brown; One vase four roses: 1 Brown; One vase one rose: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 H MacKenzie; One vase six pansies or violas: 1 Brown, 2 H MacLeod, 3 L Scott; One vase three gladioli, large flowered: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 D McDougall; One vase of one gladiolus: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 W Hay; One pot plant in bloom: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacLeod, 3 G Morse; One orchid: 1 H MacLeod, 21 Brown; One foliage plant: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Garden News Top Vase Competition: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 M Montgomery.

OPEN CLASS: VEGETABLES:

Collection of vegetables: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 W Hay; Four potatoes, coloured, one variety: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 L Scott; Four potatoes, white, one variety: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 W Hay; Two cauliflowers: W Hay; One cabbage: H MacLeod; Two heads celery: 1 H MacLeod, 2 W Hay, 3 D McDougall; Three carrots - long: H MacLeod; Three carrots - stump rooted: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Three beet, round: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacLeod; Three leeks, long: 1 H MacLeod, 2 D McDougall; Three leeks pot 4 - 6 inches to button: 1 H MacLeod, 2 W Hay, 3 D McDougall; Three onions (not from sets): H MacLeod; Two lettuce (cabbage): H MacKenzie; Four tomatoes: 1 L Scott, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 H MacLeod; Nine pods peas: 1 H MacLeod; Nine pods broad beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Nine pods French beans: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Nine pods runner beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; Four shallots: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; Three onions (grown from sets): 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 D McDougall; One cucumber: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 L Scott, 3 H MacLeod; One marrow: 1 H MacLeod; Three parsnips: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 W Hay; A Garden News Top Tray: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie.

AMATEUR CLASS FLOWERS

One vase annuals: 1 L Servant; One vase sweet peas, nine spikes, mixed: 1 L Servant, 2 R Horn, 3 M Montgomery; One vase perennials: 1 L Servant, 2 M Brown; One vase three dahlias: 1 D McDougall, 2 G Morse, K Clayton; One dahlia, large or giant decorative or cactus: 1 D McDougall, 2 K Clayton, 3 L Servant; One vase dahlias, three blooms, medium cactus: D McDougall; One vase dahlias, three blooms, cactus: D McDougall; One vase dahlias, three blooms, poms: 1 D McDougall, 2 K Clayton; One vase dahlias, large poms, three blooms or honeycomb: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three blooms, miniature cactus: D McDougall; One vase four Scotch marigolds: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant, 3 L Scott; One vase four French marigolds: 1 L Scott, 2 K Campbell, 3 D McDougall; One vase four African marigolds: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; One vase six violas or pansies: L Scott; One vase four phlox: 1 L Servant, 2 M Brown; One pot plant in bloom: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery, 3 D McDougall; One foliage plant: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery; One vase three gladioli: D McDougall; One vase one gladiolus: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; One vase four asters: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall, 3 L Scott; One vase single rose: 1 R Horn, 2 M Montgomery, 3 L Scott; One vase three spikes floribunda roses: M Montgomery; One vase three carnations: D McDougall.

AMATEUR CLASS: VEGETABLES

Collection of vegetables, four kinds: Mercer Cup: L Servant; Three potatoes, coloured, one variety: 1 L Servant, 2 L Scott; One cabbage: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; Three carrots, long: L Servant; Three carrots, slump rooted: L Servant; Two heads celery: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three parsnips: L Servant; Three garden turnips: L Servant; Three onions (grown from sets): D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three beet, round: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant; Three beet, cylindrical: L Servant; Three leeks, long: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall; Three leeks pot 4 - 6 inches to button: 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three onions (not from sets): 1 D McDougall, 2 L Servant; Three courgettes: L Servant; Nine pods French beans: L Servant; Nine pods runner beans: 1 L Servant, 2 M Montgomery; Four shallots: 1 L Servant, 2 D McDougall, 3 L Scott; One pot parsley: 1 L Servant, 2 R Horn; One cucumber: L Scott; Collection of vegetables, Challenge Cup, Tray: L Servant.

FLORAL CLASSES

An arrangement of mixed flowers in a basket: I McNab; A gent's buttonhole & lady's corsage: I McNab; An arrangement with driftwood: I McNab; An arrangement with a Commonwealth Games theme: I McNab; An arrangement in a one pound weight jam jar: I McNab; An arrangement for frontal effect: I McNab; Photo 6" x 4" mounted not framed of a sweet pea stem: 1 Mr D Campus, 2 R Huntingdon; An arrangement for a dining table: I McNab; An arrangement of foliage, seedheads and berries: S Sage.

BAKING & JAMS

Sultana cake: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Madeira cake: 2 B MacLean; Gingerbread (8oz flour) melting method, no fruit: 1 S Huntingford, 2 B MacLean; Fruit loaf, no yeast, dark: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Chocolate sponge filled with chocolate butter icing: 1 S Huntingford, 2 B MacLean; Victoria sponge, no filling, plain, in two parts: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; Queen cakes, four, with fruit: 1 B MacLean, 2 S Huntingford; One apple tart 7": 2 S Huntingford; One loaf, brown, made with yeast, machine: 1 B MacLean, 2 T Sage; Four square fruit slices: S Huntingford; Six pieces tablet (not fudge): B MacLean; Six pieces coconut ice: K Campbell; One raspberry jam: 1 K Campbell, 2 Mrs Potter, 3 J MacFarlan; One rhubarb and ginger jam: 1 C Potter, 2 J MacFarlan; One lemon curd: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 C Potter; One bramble and apple jelly: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 K Campbell, 3 C Potter; One marmalade: 1 S Huntingford, 2 C Potter; One blackcurrant jam: 1 K Campbell, 2 J MacFarlan; One blackcurrant jelly: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 K Campbell; One strawberry jam: 1 J MacFarlan, 2 Mrs Potter.

SPECIAL CLASSES

Best all round garden in Taynuilt postal area: 1 L Scott, 2 L Servant, 3 Mr & Mrs MacLean; Best flower garden in Taynuilt postal area: 1 L Scott, 2 Mr & Mrs MacLean, 3 L Servant; Best vegetable garden: 1 L Servant, 2 L Scott, 3 Mr & Mrs MacLean; Best Flower plot: 1 G Morse, 2 A Gray, 3 Mrs Potter; Best garden in Achlonan housing scheme: 1 Mr & Mrs MacLean, 2 Mrs J Cameron, 3 Miss A Gray; Best garden in Cruachan Cottages housing scheme: 1 G Morse, 2 Mrs C Potter, 3 Mrs J Reffin.

CHALLENGE CUPS & TROPHIES

Society's Challenge Cup for most points in the open class vegetables: H MacLeod; Taynuilt Hotel Cup for most points in open flowers: 1 Brown; Munro Cup for Best Exhibit in Horticultural Classes (30): H MacLeod; Cruachan Cup for most points in amateur class, flowers: D McDougall; 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; Mercer Cup for Best Collection of Vegetables (Amateur 84): L Servant;

Brochroy Cup for most points in Floral Section: Islay McNab; Society's Cup for most points in Preserves Section: Jessie MacFarlane; Muckairn Cup for most points in Baking Section: Brenda MacLean; Neil Jackson Memorial Cup for Best Exhibit in Amateur Class, Horticultural: D McDougall; Mrs C Campbell Memorial Cup for most points in baking classes (120-124): Brenda MacLean; Challenge Cup for Best Exhibit in Collection of Vegetables (110): L Servant; Jack Brown Memorial Cup for Best Vegetable Garden: L Servant; Andrew Cameron Cup for most points in Amateur Classes 66-68: L Scott; Special Prize for best set of leeks in show: H MacLeod; Special Prize for best vase of dahlias in show: D McDougall.

CAN YOU HELP HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

By committing time to the Children's Panel you can improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people in your area. You don't need experience or qualifications, you just need to care. To get involved, call 0844 848 3407, text HELPER to 61611 or visit childrenspanelscotland.org

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children's hearings scotland

Lorn Lines



Chrissie Muir, right, receives her bouquet from Marjorie Milton.

THE PRESIDENT of Oban and Lorn Senior Citizens Committee, Chrissie Muir, recently stood down from the position after five years at the helm. Ms Muir was presented with a bouquet of flowers by group member Marjorie Milton and thanked for five successful years. Past presidents of the committee have included well known figures, such as the late Mary Dairon and the late Cathy Gemmell. The committee was formed before the First World War as the Oban and Lorn District Old People's Welfare Committee and now runs an annual Christmas dinner, monthly ceilidhs and various other hugely popular events. New members are sought to maintain 100 years of good work of this committee.



OBAN has been shortlisted in the 'Britain's favourite market town' category in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2013. The 10 nominees in the favourite market town category were selected by travel writer Brigid Benson, who said of Oban: 'Walk up to the hilltop folly of McCaig's Tower for panoramic views, or sip a wee dram of whisky at the harbour side.' Now in their third year, the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards are a celebration of our countryside and its people. The public is being asked to vote for their rural favourites and details can be found on BBC Countryfile Magazine's website at countryfile.com/awards.



The crew of Oban's Lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, receive a cheque for £2,800 raised at the Oban Sea Kayak Race. Treasurer Les Stewart receives the cheque from the race's masseuse, Donna Barr. 16_t37seakayak1

OBAN Lifeboat has benefited to the tune of £2,800 thanks to competitors who participated in the Oban Sea Kayak Race. In total, 85 people took part in this year's race, which was led on August 24. Participants covered 20km in a route that begins and ends at Oban, circumnavigating the Isle of Kerrera on the way. Event organiser Gus Brydon said: 'The organisers of the Oban Sea Kayak Race would like to thank those businesses and individuals around Oban who supported this year's event.' It takes the total raised for the lifeboat by the event since it started in 2010 to £7,300. Meanwhile, all 700 raffle tickets printed giving an opportunity to win a rare bottle of Oban Lifeboat whisky were sold. Winning the bottle was Mr D Isaac, of Glenmore Road, Oban. The raffle raised a further £700 for the lifeboat.



The team from Oban Express has won the award for gaining the most sponsorship in this year's Oban Raft Race. 'Pirates of the Carriers Being' was crewed by Daniel Parrott, Gary McCormick, Stevie Hannah, George McMillan, Hamish Meryyn and Ian Gibb in the race, held last month in Oban Bay. James Strachan, who helped with the construction of the raft, joined the crew as they were presented with the cup by Bill Coutts, president of Oban and Lorn Lions Club. The raft race raised more £2000, £510 of which was collected by Oban Express.

Teenagers make switch from social media to scone making

OBAN teenagers are dispelling the myth they are only interested in computer games - preferring instead to cook, learn new skills and play board games. Xboxes, Playstations and computers are lying unused at Oban Youth Café as kids opt for activities their parents and grandparents took for granted. The switch from social media to scone-making is something café staff want to encourage - and now local people could be drafted in to encourage the trend. Lori Hannah, a youth worker at the café, said games consoles were getting covered with dust as the youngsters get busy in the kitchen. She said: 'We've been here for 13 years and we do see patterns of things and different trends. When I first started eight years ago, Facebook hadn't even really

started yet but when it came in it was one of the main things the guys wanted to do. They're not into it as much though. My own thought is they can access this stuff all the time and the novelty has totally worn off. We recently got a fitted kitchen - it took us three years to get it as it's not something people generally want to fund. We saw it as something we needed though. We now get the guys who will come here to cook scones after school without a recipe. They grow herbs and add them to their soup, make their own pizzas and even put together their own version of a Pot Noodle. We still get a couple of kids still really into their computer games, but the majority of the kids now would rather do more social things - a deck of cards can

keep us busy for a fortnight.' She added: 'People underestimate the kids. They maybe see them in big groups or maybe swearing and make a judgement. If you look past that you see what's underneath. The kids are looking up to us as adults and it's people's attitude towards them that makes the difference.' Ms Hannah visited the Soroba Residents' Association on Monday to talk about running a café drop-in the housing scheme's community flat. The association gave the proposal its full backing and while full details are to be finalised, the Soroba café will run on Saturdays, with the first hoped to be held in November. Ms Hannah told the meeting: 'I think it's something really exciting for this end of the town.'

North Argyll road policing unit returns

A NEW road policing unit will be operational in North Argyll from next month as Police Scotland looks at modernising its service.

While covering north Argyll and north Lorn, the new unit will be based in Fort William. Its introduction coincides with moves to make the processing and clearing of crash scenes more rapid in the wake of recent criticism that some incidents see roads closed for overly long periods for accident investigations. The reintroduction of the road policing unit comes more than two years after the Argyll unit was disbanded, which saw officers formerly attached to the unit having their duties merged into the regular shift pattern. It is hoped the shake-up will help reduce accidents on local roads, with particular emphasis placed on targeting speeding motorists.

Announcing the new road policing unit and plans to deal with the clearing of crash scenes more quickly, Oban's Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'It's all coming together. This has come about through discussions on how we can improve our service. We're looking at reorganising some things and that includes creating our own bespoke road policing unit again.' Confirming the new unit, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan

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

allayed fears it would mean fewer officers deployed on the beat, adding he would 'work to get a few more cops into Argyll and Bute.'

He said: 'If we look at budget - how do I get them in - I have to search somewhere else. We're embarking on that reorganisation now. There's a bit of work where in can look at shared services with Argyll and Bute Council.'

Meanwhile, local cops are also looking into using the Service Point system introduced by the council as another means of contacting police in remote areas should the station be unoccupied or officers out on a call.

CS McEwan said: 'One area some really good work is being done is about service points. For example, the council have a service point on Mull and one at Bowmore.'

'When members of the public want a council service, they go to this point. It'd be crazy if we didn't get involved. If there's no cops in the station, they could go to the service point and speak to an officer almost straight away.'

CS McEwan said he was in talks with Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, Sally Loudon, about the possibility of sharing the service.

Triplets share mum's race delight



Lizzie Rose is congratulated by her triplet daughters Sylva, Indira and Eowyn Rose Price after finishing the running section of the Craggy Island Triathlon.

A SUPER-fit mother, whose active lifestyle was put on hold after she gave birth to triplets last October, returned to competitive action in this year's Craggy Island Triathlon.

Kilchrean's Lizzie Rose took part in the running section of the Kerrera-based triathlon on Sunday, September 1 - her first sporting event since becoming a mother to triplets Sylva, Eowyn and Indira Rose Price on October 3 last year.

And Lizzie's daughters joined dad Philip Price at the event to cheer her on.

Lizzie said: 'It was a goal of mine to complete the full triathlon but the girls are so full time that I haven't been able to train and I didn't think I would do it.'

'My friend Gemma Bruce hurt her ankle in the build up to the triathlon, so I did the run for her. Running the race gave me a bit of the 'old me' back. I really enjoyed it.'

With no preparation ahead of the event, Lizzie was pleased with her time of one hour, seven minutes and 51 seconds for the gruelling eight-kilometre hill run of the triathlon.

Pre-pregnancy, Lizzie was a member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team and regularly competed in endurance events, such as triathlons and hill running. She also took part in adventure racing, a discipline that uses a combination of two or more events, including cross-country running, mountain biking and paddling.

'I really wanted to get active again and next year I plan to complete the whole triathlon,' she said.

'It was great having the girls there to support me - I think they are a triathlon team for the future!'

Sparrowhawk flits from Homebase store to MacQueen Bros

A SPARROWHAWK which took up residence on Oban's Homebase store has flown the coop - but not before making a stopover at MacQueen Bros Ltd's warehouse.

The beady-eyed predator flew into Homebase last Monday and for four

days showed no interest in the great outdoors.

The bird eventually left on Friday - but instead of making a break for freedom winged its way to MacQueen Bros for a two-day stay. Homebase manager Andy Spence said: 'I had [MacQueen

Bros owner] Graham MacQueen on the phone on Friday looking for a refund. I told him no problem, as long as he brought it back with a receipt.'

'It's obviously enjoying nice, warm warehouses and not being outside in the wind and rain!'

The sparrowhawk became something of a celebrity after news of its Homebase holiday appeared in last week's *Oban Times*.

'There was huge interest,' said Mr Spence. 'Lots of people came in to see him - then he left.'

Speaking on Tuesday, Robin MacQueen said: 'We think it has left already. I saw it on Saturday but not since. Hopefully it made it out.'

'We had one guy though, Travis Smith, who is terrified of birds. He just said 'I'm not going near it.'

Residents honour seamen on Merchant Navy Day

SEAMEN who died during the Second World War were remembered on Islay when residents marked Merchant Navy Day.

People from the twin villages of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss gathered on September 3 to remember the 32,000 Merchant Navy sailors who gave their lives to keep the Atlantic channels open.

Of those who died, around 10,000 were Scots and a disproportionate number of them came from the Highlands and islands. The war memorial for the two villages is unique, as the names

depicted were all merchant seamen. Seumas MacArthur, who helped to organise the commemorative event said: 'Merchant Navy Day should be properly commemorated throughout the land, but sadly this does not appear to be the case.'

'In our community many ex-seamen flew the Red Ensign to commemorate this day. The community hopes to hold an annual event and use the occasion to raise money for the island's lifeboat service. This year, the community raised £179.53.'



Flags flew in Portnahaven for the recent Merchant Navy Day.



Keeping you in the picture

Information Event - Mull Water Improvements

Scottish Water would like to invite you to come along to an information event regarding Mull Water Improvements.

Date: Wednesday 18 September 2013
Time: 4pm until 7pm
Venue: Western Isles Hotel Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute PA75 6PR

You are welcome to come along and meet the project team including representatives from Scottish Water and our contractors. We will be available to answer any questions that you may have about our investment and see plans of the work.

If you have any questions, or if you are not able to make it along but would like more information then please call our Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855 quoting "Mull Water Improvements".

Improving services in your area

Argyll and the Isles cream of the crop make awards shortlist

ARGYLL and the Isles is the toast of the Highlands' food and drink businesses, with six businesses proving themselves to be among the cream of Scotland's crop.

The Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards has announced its shortlist for this year's competition, with nominees from across the northwest faring exceptionally well in the list.

From Argyll, Mull's Ninth Wave Restaurant has made the grade in two categories - the Environment Award where it is up against neighbouring Mull business Island Bakery Organics, and the hotly contested Restaurant of the Year Award where it will face Eighteen69@Auchranne on Arran and The Whitehouse Restaurant at Lochaline - as well as three other quality restaurants around the Highlands and Islands.

Other shortlisted finalists include The Puffer Bar and Restaurant in the Best Eatery Award, the Old Post Office and Lochbuie Larder, Mull, in the New Business Award and Gigha Seafood in the New Product

Award for its smoked Gigha halibut. Great Glen Game in Roy Bridge, Lochaber, is nominated the same category for its Scottish pork pepperoni.

Other local nominees include the Red Roof Café Gallery on Skye in the Best Eatery category, Buth Beag, Kyle of Lochalsh as Independent Retailer of the Year, Lewis' Hebridean Sea Salt in the New Business and New Product categories and Skye's Glenview in the Restaurant of the Year Award.

Judging panel
The 15-strong judging panel is chaired by Stephen Rankin, director of UK sales at sponsor Gordon and MacPhail and comprises experienced individuals from all sectors of the food and drink industry. Mr Rankin said: 'Being shortlisted for a Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Award, given the high level of entrants, is a truly fantastic accolade.'

The awards dinner and ceremony will take place at the Drumossie Hotel in Inverness on Friday October 25.

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Finlay Wild shows his delight as he claims his fourth Ben Nevis Race in succession. 10_137race05

Four wins in a row for Fort's Finlay

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCAL GP Finlay Wild became the first ever Scottish athlete to win the Ben Nevis race four times in a row when he charged home more than seven minutes ahead of his closest rival on Saturday.

The sizeable crowd lining Fort William's Claggan Park were hoping for a local victory as almost 500 athletes lined up for the 1pm start.

And they were not disappointed when Fort William man Finlay broke the tape in a time of one hour 30 minutes and six seconds, just nine seconds shy of his fastest time set last year.

The flying medic reached the 4406-foot summit faster than he had ever done - just 30 seconds over the hour - and while it looked as if Kenny Stuart's record of 1:25:34, which has stood since 1984, would be in danger.

But heavy underfoot conditions in key sections, combined with the absence of close pursuers, meant the descent was not quite as quick as Finlay had hoped.

To the super-fit GP, who is currently working in Oban, that mattered little as he was swamped by well-wishers at the finish line.

Looking remarkably fresh after the punishing 10-mile race, he told The Oban Times: "That was a personal best to the top and I think overall I was just nine

seconds slower than last year.

"The race went really well, there were a couple of guys ahead of me lower down but I took the option of sticking to my own route and came out in front of them then managed to pull away.

"It was a bit wet underfoot but it was quite warm with a wee bit of wind on top. There were a lot of people at the summit and I gave them a massive shout 'get out of the way!'

"Last year I was chasing till half way down so this year the plan was to push hard to the top then be solid going down and not go over on an ankle."

A bit special

He added: "To be the first Scottish runner to win four times in a row is a bit special."

Local Forestry Commission Scotland ranger Ruari Watt was second Lochaber AC runner home in a personal best 1:41:51 - good enough for ninth place overall.

He said: "Conditions were perfect - no wind and good visibility."

Ruari was closely followed by team-mate and trials biker Gary MacDonald from Kinlochleven, whose 1:43:14 was also a personal best.

The trio's superb performances meant Lochaber AC claimed the team prize, with Hunters Bog Trotters in second.

Lochaber AC also won the ladies team title with Diane Baum, Sarah MacKenzie and Amanda Blackhall running strongly to

finish in just over two hours.

Aberfeldy runner Angela Mudge of Carnethy HRC was fastest woman home for the fifth time in 1:52:40.

Sam Tosh of Lancashire club Rossendale Harriers made a big impact in his first Ben Nevis Race, coming in second in a time of 1:37:27.

He said: "I would have liked to do a faster climb but I did not know the route which probably lost me a bit of time. I will definitely be back next year."

Murray Strain of Hunters Bog Trotters was third in 1:38:34. Lochaber AC's Ryan Denny was best local under-23 runner, finishing in 2:23:11.

Clubmates Alistair Meikle and John MacRae were best local veterans in the 40+ and 50+ categories, respectively.

Lochaber AC veteran Jimmy

Jardine sounded the claxon to get the 2013 Ben Nevis Race under way - then joined the field to compete for the 40th time.



Angela Mudge of Carnethy Hill Runners was first woman home. The 43 year-old from Aberfeldy won the women's title for the fifth time. 10_137race02



Finlay Wild is congratulated by Ben Race chairman Michael Whitehead and Jim Beattie of Rio Tinto Alcan's Lochaber Smelter. 10_137race04

Fort William on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

FOOTBALL

FORT William have the chance to make it to through to the second round of the William Hill Scottish Cup for the first time in the club's history when they welcome South of Scotland League side Newton Stewart at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Danny Conlon's men will be buoyed by last weekend's 0-0 draw away to Buckie Thistle, as well as the news that the club has signed goalkeeper Robbie Donaldson.

Conlon told The Oban Times he was confident of getting a result.

He said: "We've never been past the first round, but we should have a chance of getting something out of this game. Before the draw I would have taken this."

Conlon said 16 year-old Robin Harvey had played well against Buckie, but said the signing of Donaldson would help his side.

"He's a good addition to the squad. That's now two good keepers we've got on board, with Robin as the younger, more inexperienced one."

Iain MacLellan, Duncan Campbell and Donaldson are all added to the squad for this weekend, but Sean Grant and Gordy McCarroll may miss out due to work commitments.

Andy Martin is seeing a specialist this week after complaining about pain in the arm his injured last season and is a doubt for the game.

Portuguese left back Pedro Direitinho will be unavailable for the foreseeable future due to work.

Ten pin bowling league to start

TEN PIN BOWLING

THE LOCHABER Building Supplies winter 10 pin bowling league will start up later this month in the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

Teams of four are being invited to enter, and anyone interested should contact John Weller on 01397 708508, 07710 940917 or email camdale@hotmail.co.uk.

The weekly league starts at 7pm on Monday September 30, with a practice night on Monday September 23.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's September medal was won by Dougie Duncan with a score of 72 on Saturday.

Keith Sangster took second place with a 74, while David MacPherson was third with a 75.

In the 15-28 handicap section, David Cameron took first with a round of 78. Alec McSorely was second with 87, and Gerry Conaghan was third on 89.

The ladies medal was played earlier in the week with Kim Topping's round of 69 giving her the win. Iona Cameron was second with a round of 77, and Hazel Cameron took third with a 77.

The seniors medal on Sunday saw Dave Smith's round of 67 give him a two shot win over Robert McCover. Toby Richardson was third with a 70.

Neil wins at Plockton

AFTER two races for the Visitors' Cup three-race series for local boats at Plockton, three boats were tied at four points each - Colin McAndrew (Sirius), Douglas Hamilton (Ajax) and Neil MacRae (Rona).

The third race on Saturday, August 24 was cancelled after the calm evening forced the boats to row home, then was scrubbed for a second time the following Saturday because it was too windy.

The last race was eventually held last Friday and unfortunately Colin could not compete as he had agreed to take his boat to Kyle for the lifeboat day.

SAILING

Conditions were excellent and the race was tagged on to the Jubilee (Islay) Trophy.

Four boats sailed for the Visitors' Cup and as a result of winning the race, Neil MacRae in Rona took the cup with five points. Ajax finished fourth but was runner-up overall with eight points. Malcolm Mackenzie was second in Taeping.

Four centreboards joined them for the Jubilee Trophy with Duncan Bullivant (Vision) winning from Ian Taylor (Bata Gorm) in second and Neil MacRae in third.



The recent Alanajude Pairs competition at Lochaber Bowling Club's green at the BA Club was won by Bill Clark and Wilson Thain. The pair finished just one point over second-placed Tina Abberley and Bobby Lawson. Alan Robinson of sponsors Highland Soap Company presented the prizes to the winners.



Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club recently took home nine medals from the Newton Aycliffe Open in County Durham. The Lochaber skaters won two golds and seven bronze medals. Meanwhile, there is no club show planned for November as incorrectly stated in last week's Oban Times.

Archers pick up gold

ARCHERY

FIVE members of Kinlochleven-based South Lochaber Bowmen (SLB) have returned from the two-day 2013 STAAFA Field Archery Championships with Scottish titles.

Caitlin Irbhinn, Andrea Koster, Charlie Staniforth, Dubh Irbhinn and David Todd all struck gold at the event outside Linlithgow at West Lothian Archers Field Range.

SLB president Dubh Irbhinn said: "Despite rain and high winds it was a very competitive and friendly tournament.

"We are delighted that five local archers came back home

with gold medals and Scottish titles.

"Our cub Caitlin did really well, after the indoors at Strontian where she, along with her team mates, won the indoors."

SLB are now gearing up for the STAAFA 2013 Outdoor Target Championships being held in Fort William and hosted by local archery club Garrison Bowmen on October 19.

SLB hold their club nights on Mondays and adult shoots on Tuesdays.



A Fort William woman has become the first Lochaber bowler in nearly 50 years to win the Scottish national ladies' singles title. Liz Kennedy, of Fort William Railway Association, beat off strong competition from across the country to lift the RSAS Scottish Ladies Singles trophy at Beechwood Bowling Club in Corstorphine, Edinburgh. There was also joy for Fort William in the mixed pairs, with Agnes Thain and George MacKay teaming up to win the event.

Weather

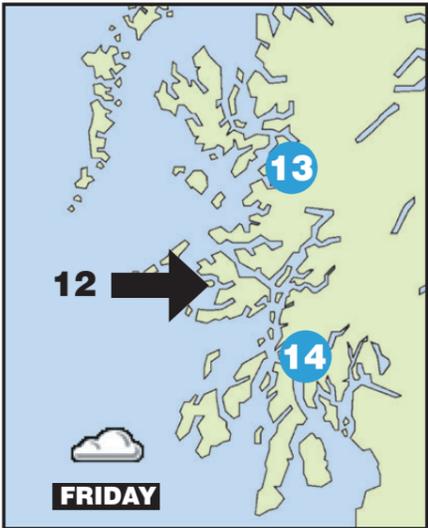
Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 14°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 5, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.42 3.8 11.44 0.8 17.49 4.0 *** **	
Fri	00.18 0.9 06.14 3.9 12.16 0.7 18.19 4.1	
Sat	00.49 0.9 06.40 3.9 12.47 0.7 18.47 4.1	
Sun	01.17 0.8 07.05 3.9 13.19 0.7 19.15 4.0	
Mon	01.45 0.9 07.36 3.8 13.54 0.8 19.48 3.9	
Tues	02.18 1.0 08.12 3.6 14.35 1.0 20.25 3.7	
Wed	02.58 1.2 08.55 3.5 15.24 1.2 21.09 3.4	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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